Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s closed due to inclement weather Monday and will remain closed until Tuesday evening.

Only essential employees are required to remain on the College’s campus, according to its emergency announcement. In Notre Dame’s emergency notification email, the University instructed snow-essential personnel to contact their supervisors.

As of press time, the dining halls at Saint Mary’s will remain open during their normal operating hours.

According to a campuswide email from University spokesman Dennis Brown, Notre Dame’s dining halls will operate on a limited schedule Tuesday. Brunch will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The LaFortune Student Center and limited eateries will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for students seeking shelter and food.

South Dining Hall manager Marc Poklinski said the University’s closure challenged dining hall staffs to maintain services.

“The staff has been doing a really good job. … It’s an all-hands-on-deck situation,” Poklinski said. “We were getting killed today. Some student staff are staying from the breakfast shift [to help with] the dinner shift tonight. There’s been a lot of confusion with the University closing. It doesn’t mean we don’t have to come in. We are emergency staff members.”

The weather emergency that occurred Monday prompted the University’s closure, according to a message sent to students via ND Alert, the University’s emergency messaging service.

Under the weather warning, drivers on the roads after 7 p.m. Monday, except for those with emergency reasons, will be ticketed and fined.

According to a Jan. 7 report in The South Bend Tribune, South Bend Police Capt. Phil Trent said this fine might total 500 dollars if individuals are cited under the state statute that says ignoring a city’s emergency declaration is a misdemeanor.

Lt. Matt Blank of the St. Joseph County Police Department told the Tribune that drivers are more likely to be cited under a county ordinance violation, which carries a fine of up to 2,500 dollars. A representative from the South Bend Police Department said, however, that South Bend police officers plan to work off of the city ordinance regarding emergency declarations, which would levy a 25 dollar fine against drivers.

SMC alumnae volunteer in Ghana

By HALEIGH EHMSEN
News Writer

Listening to people’s stories is one of the best gifts Saint Mary’s alumna Monica Murphy said she has received through the College’s post-graduate service program.

Murphy, a social work major, said she arrived in Ghana last August and will teach at Our Lady of Holy Cross School in Kasoa until mid-June.

Murphy said she decided to spend the year in Ghana because she has always been a service-oriented person.

“Serving in Africa has been a dream for years, as the stories of the children touched me in a personal way,” Murphy said.

The program in Ghana allows Murphy to gain experience in many different aspects of school life, she said. “I am teaching a few English classes to the ‘Basic One’ students, another term for first grade,” Murphy said. “[I] am also doing social work, which involves meeting with students individually and sometimes their parents.”

Murphy said she also serves as the school’s librarian, with the help of another volunteer. She and other volunteers brought suitcases full of books when they arrived in August to replace the old, torn copies currently in the school’s possession, she said.

“In the library, I am reading to students and am helping them expand their reading vocabulary,” Murphy said. “The students love when I read to them.”

see GHANA PAGE 3

‘Purple Week’ raises Relay for Life funds, awareness

By MEGHAN THOMASSEN
Managing Editor

This week, Notre Dame’s club for the American Cancer Society will host Purple Week, a series of events to raise funds and awareness for the March 28 Relay for Life at the Compton Family Ice Arena.

The Relay for Life is an event designed to honor cancer victims and survivors and to raise funds for research projects in the pursuit of a cure for cancer, according to the event’s website.

Student organizer Jack Szigety said one goal for Purple Week, named after the signature color of the American Cancer Society, is to increase the number of student teams signed up for the race.

“Purple Week is like our pump up for Relay for Life,” Szigety said. “Right now we have 23 teams. … We’re trying to have a captain at each dorm, but we only have 11 registered so far, so see PURPLE WEEK PAGE 3
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What are you going to do on your snow day?

Patrick Krach  
junior  
Alumni Hall  
“Flood the courtyard of Alumni so we can go ice skating.”

Ryan Lopez  
sophomore  
Alumni Hall  
“Exploring the secret steam tunnels.”

Tony Villano  
junior  
Duncan Hall  
“Watching ‘Frozen.’”

Alex Vega  
junior  
O’Neill Hall  
“Playing video games and staying warm.”

Saad Khan  
senior  
off-campus  
“Having an existential crisis/stopping genocide.”

Aniekeme Ukpogu  
freshman  
Morrissey Manor  
“Studying.”

During a blizzard in the winter of 1978, residence halls held a snow sculpture contest on North Quad. Monday, after South Bend and St. Joseph County officials declared a winter weather state of emergency, the University closed until 6 p.m. Tuesday.

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Purple Week continued from page 1

we’re going to work on that this week.”

Events for Purple Week will run from Monday through Friday, Szigety said. A campus-wide “purple-out” decorating contest was scheduled for Monday, when The Observer spoke with Szigety early Monday afternoon he said he thought it was probably going to be cancelled due to the University closure.

If the University reopens as scheduled tonight at 6:00 p.m., however, student organizers for the Relay will be recognized at the Coaches vs. Cancer men’s basketball game at 9:00 p.m. against Virginia, Szigety said. Irish coach Mike Brey will also be honored for his involvement in cancer fundraising research, he said.

“This is something that happens across the NCAA every year,” Szigety said. “We’re also hoping to sell the t-shirts during the game, but we haven’t gotten the okay on that yet.”

T-shirts for the Notre Dame Relay for Life are $10 and will be on sale, in addition to various baked goods, in LaFortune on Friday from noon until 3 p.m.

Szigety said the dining halls also will make “as much purple [food] as possible” on Thursday night. This will be the third year in a row that the dining halls participate in fundraising for the Relay for Life, South Dining Hall manager Mike Poklikowski said.

“It will be similar to what we did last year,” Poklikowski said. “We’ll have cake and cookies with purple icing and rumble-berry crisp.”

In addition, Rolfs Sports Recreation Center will host a blood drive from 11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Purple hair extensions will also be on sale from 12 until 4 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center. All proceeds from the events of Purple Week will be directed to the American Cancer Society, the website said.

Contact Meghan Thomassen at mthomass@nd.edu

Ghana continued from page 1

Working with the nursery class is also a part of Murphy’s service, she said. “In nursery, I sing songs with the kids, play with them on the playground, and assist in creative art activities,” Murphy said. “I sometimes feed them during lunch. They are so cute, I cannot help [but] baby them.”

But by far, Murphy said her most treasured experience has been watching the children grow and interact with each other.

“The children here appreciate the smallest things, like bubbles. [They] serve as a reminder of what is truly important in life,” Murphy said. “Having the opportunity to capture some of their dreams, hopes, challenges and fears has allowed me to live through their eyes. It is beyond gratifying.”

Helping the school’s children take control of their futures has been rewarding for her, Murphy said.

“They are born leaders and can tackle their dreams, despite any obstacle,” she said. “When we show children love, they are more motivated to reach for their dreams, to think differently about their lives, believe with a can-do attitude, have boundless courage and in a way are more inspired to re-capture their goals.”

Murphy said her experience in Ghana has helped her to live a more meaningful life and inspired her to maintain and build relationships.

“Relationships are one of the greatest gifts of all,” she said. “I see many people living with empty souls, focused on the wrong things in life. I love the stories people tell, especially here in Ghana, and have been inspired by their wisdom.”

Most of all, Murphy said her time thus far in Ghana has guided her spirituality, as well.

“In life, we are called to respond to the Gospel — for me that was traveling across the world, into the unfamiliar,” Murphy said.

Contact Haley Ehmsen at hehmse01@saintmarys.edu

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"They are born leaders and can tackle their dreams despite any obstacle."

Monica Murphy
Saint Mary's alumna

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INSIDE COLUMN

Snow day fun

Emily McConville
News Writer

I’m actually pretty excited about these snow days. The campus is pretty. I don’t have classes. I can sleep in. Most of all, I can finally sit down and catch up on all those new Zimbio.com quizzes.

Personality quizzes have always been my guilty pleasure. During my teen years I would tear through Girl’s Life and Seventeen, looking for those pages that would tell me what my friends thought of me, where I should live or which Disney Channel star would make the best boyfriend for my unique disposition. Later I found whole databases of online personality quizzes, ranging from the somewhat-normal (“What kind of wedding should you have?”), to the strange (“Are you a born kingpin?”), to the this-really-shouldn’t-be-in-quiz-form (“Which voice part are you?”). There’s just something reassuring about having someone else, albeit someone of dubious credibility, explain your identity to you.

That said, some personality quizzes are better than others. Some, like the ubiquitous Myers-Briggs Test, are so professional and thorough that you actually have to think hard about the answers, which is no fun at all. Others have answer choices so obvious that you know the results of the quiz before it’s over, taking away all the mystery (for example: “What do you do in your free time? (a) roam the halls of Hogwarts as a cat, (b) hang out with my two best friends in the Slytherin common room or (c) What free time? I have to use a time-turner just to get to all my classes.” Please.)

The perfect personality quiz is intelligent. Its questions are inclusive and pointed but not overly telling. It is well formatted. The font is clean, the questions are varied and, if it’s online, the page doesn’t reload every time you click an answer. It is relevant. My favorites are the ones that tell me which book, movie or TV show character I am.

That’s why I’m pumped about all these Zimbio pop-culture quizzes. The design is slick, the questions are unexpected and I don’t have to sacrifice my individuality to find out which Disney Princess I am. After just a few minutes, I can say with perfect certainty, I am Ned Stark — honorable, hardworking and “an inspiration to us lesser mortals.” I am Princess Leia — bold, diplomatic and confident. I am Hermione Granger — intelligent and loyal. The quizzes are more than just a fun way to procrastinate during a snow day. They play a crucial role in shaping identities, in helping young people realize their full potentials and... wait a minute. I’m Haymitch Abernathy? That old drunk who barely got Katniss and Peeta through the first Hunger Games? How embarrassing. These quiz things are total scams. I’m out.

Contact Emily McConville at emcconv1@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A response to Johnny Whichard

This morning, I stumbled across Johnny Whichard’s response to Katrina Linden’s article (“‘Post-racial America’ isn’t a thing,” Jan. 23) on the topic of racial inequality. In his response, Mr. Whichard claims “You, and I, will succeed, or fail, not because of our skin tone or ‘ethnic-sounding’ names.” I would invite Mr. Whichard to read an article published in 2003 in “American Journal of Sociology,” entitled “The Mark of a Criminal Record,” by Devah Pager. Using an audit study, Ms. Pager finds that “even whites with criminal records received more favorable treatment (17 percent received callbacks from employers) than blacks without criminal records (14 percent). In other words, white male criminals have a better chance of getting a job than black male non-criminals, all else being equal. I hope that, upon realizing his claims do not stand up to scientific evidence, Mr. Whichard will consider the ways many individuals, including himself, unknowingly and perniciously perpetuate racism in America. Thank you for your consideration.

Nick Bloom
alumnus
Class of 2010
Jan. 28

EDITORIAL CARTOONS

Interested in writing a column for Viewpoint? | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com
The State of our Union is...

John Sandberg
Senior Writing Assistant

Let me start by saying this was never a fair fight.

It takes up to three months or longer for the president and his speechwriters to complete the annual State of the Union address. Last year’s speech ran close to 7,000 words in length.

The president will deliver his finished product to 535 members of Congress, dozens of distinguished guests and millions of Americans watching at home. The address likely will last for more than an hour, all inside the historic House chamber beneath the brilliantly lit Capitol rotunda.

I’ve been given a few days and no more than 800 words (about 600 of which, I learned, will actually be read) to write this column. My remarks will be delivered on a less-brilliantly lit webpage or on newspapers spread out over lunch tables throughout our campus today.

It’s not that I’m complaining; all writers crave any platform. You’ll just have to forgive this particular writer if his prose lacks the pomp and eloquence we are likely to see from that of the Commander in Chief this evening.

The State of our Union is, nonetheless, the topic of the day. And what a topic it is.

Ask some and they’ll tell you our union is, politically speaking, divided and in a state of disaster.

What used to be the most mundane legislative tasks in Congress are now too often knock-down, drag-out fights that leave a trail of black and blue egos and burned bridges scattered across Washington. In a place that depends so heavily on working relationships among the oversized yet delicate egos that call it home, there’s no denying this is a problem.

The state of our union is unequal. It is unequal in income, as President Obama will address, but the inequalities run much deeper than the differences in figures on paychecks. Our unions live in the same family history or zip code, among other uncontrollable circumstances, are a disturbingly accurate predictor of what type of education you will receive and the success you will see in life.

The state of our union is uneasy. Gun violence tears apart many of America’s inner cities, and mental illness is a problem that we are still trying to find the best way to address.

Meanwhile, terrorism remains as real a threat as ever, and America’s proper role in checking the nuclear weapons capabilities of other countries is uncertain.

The state of our union is slow, unfortunately. We are a country with our share of problems, be it poverty on the streets, a broken immigration system or inadequate management of our schools. Our response to these problems often lacks the sense of urgency the issues deserve. And yet, for all the reasons for cynicism that cast their dark shadows on America each day, our union is illuminated, today as ever before, by rays of hope.

Our country remains a land of success stories. Be it the first-generation college graduates or the ex-convicts who have turned their lives around for the better, our places are brimming with individuals who achieved more than was expected of them, whose will-power alone allowed them to overcome their negative circumstances and enjoy real success through hard work.

It is a country that comes together when it is needed the most. The way the American people united behind the city of Boston in the wake of the marathon bombings last year is just the latest in a long list of reminders of how Americans remain united in the face of great challenges.

The state of our union is innovative, with bright minds and new companies springing up each day from coast to coast.

The state of our union is connect- ed. We are a texting, tweeting, sharing and updating mass of individuals with the potential to share information more quickly and the capacity do more good with the power of communication than any generation before.

The state of our union is aware that we must do better, that we can do better.

The state of our union is imperfect, to be sure. Yet it is capable, as well. Indeed, as the president will remind us this evening, the state of our union is strong.

John Sandberg lives in Fisher Hall and is a senior studying political science.

He can be reached at jsandbe1@nd.edu

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

The Harvard Crimson is the independent student newspaper serving Harvard University.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The venerable Fr. Edward F. Sorin, CSC, or at least his Twitter account @FatherSorin, contacted The Observer on Tuesday to weigh in with his thoughts on the so-called snow days. Needless to say, the snow day wasn’t his idea.

I don’t believe in “Snow Days” or, for that matter, “Cold Days.” If I had believed in them, this place never would have been founded. I had to trudge through a couple feet of snow just to get to Steve Badin’s cabin. And then all he had was cheap, local wine. Nevertheless, I founded this fine University in the midst of a good, old-fashioned, Midwestern snow storm. And I never looked back.

Sure, some of you wish I would have founded the University in California. But, I might remind you that California was part of Mexico in 1842. Some of you wish I would have founded the University in Chicago. But, I might remind you that they’re not doing any better with the cold than we are right now — and besides, the Indiana land was pretty much free (thanks to my skills at Baccarat and the Bishop’s dangerous gambling habits). But thank God and his mother that I didn’t venture into that land of desolation and misery called Michigan. We were saved by Providence.

I’m pretty sure all of your dorms are heated. That wasn’t always the case. So, get tough; rely on the strength of your ancestors; imagine living in St. Edward’s with one cast-iron stove for the lot of you. Not fun — and smells pretty bad. Imagine living in Zahm … Whoa … Imagine living in Zahm under any circumstances … but I digress. Think of living in That Hall without heat. Perhaps that might be better, since it would make the cold-blooded residents go to sleep sooner than 3 a.m.

I’m not saying you have all gone soft. But I am. Yes, it’s great to miss classes and slide down the front steps of Main Building on dining hall trays. Yes, it’s enjoyable to be told to sleep like an indigent and drink beer at will because you don’t have to report for classes. But that’s not the Notre Dame way. We muscle through all adversity and fight on to victory, no matter what the inconvenience or the cost in discomfort. We wouldn’t be the winningest college football team in history — or the best soccer, basketball, fencing … you name the sport … team in the country if a little crystallized water offended us. And you can drink the celebratory beers all you want AFTER you win.

So, yes, I’m carping about “kids these days.” It’s not that I don’t love you all — I do. It’s just that I want you to set your jaws, duck your heads, plow your ways out of your halls and get the job done. If you want me, I’ll be enjoying the warmth and comfort of Rozum’s couch — and a couple of Bourbon cocktails.

Edward F. Sorin, CSC

Contact Father Sorin at his parody twitter account, @FatherSorin.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Since their establishment, major Grammy awards have gone to solely popular artists. For this reason, a shockwave went through the music community when the 2011 Grammy for Album of the Year went to Arcade Fire, a Canadian indie-rock band. Although musical hipsters (myself included) nationwide rejoiced, most Americans responded with dismay and confusion.

The older generation — who grew up listening to mostly blues, rock, and roll — have gone to solely popular artists. For this reason, a new generation of awardsee as a result. It is the least likely to be written about, but it is the most likely to be admired by the industry. Perhaps, hoped music enthusiasts, the Grammys were adapting to two new forces in music: the independent label and music blog-based criticism.

However, the next year saw indie music disappear from the album of the year nominations. Then, in 2013, Mumford & Sons’ “Babel” won the award over several albums with far greater critical acclaim. In this context, Arcade Fire’s win seemed like a fluke. The Grammys seemed to be fading back into a mere extension of the Billboard 200.

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The power of their characters — with that scene in the hospital — is never fully developed — never giving the audience a clear vision of her motives and certainly never explaining the transitions she undergoes. This is perhaps the weakest part of the movie. For all that Apple goes through, it is never clear when or how she undergoes.

“Gimme Shelter” is worth seeing.

**“Gimme Shelter”**
Director: Ron Krauss
Studio: Roadside Attractions
Starring: Vanessa Hudgens, Brendan Fraser, James Earl Jones, Rosario Dawson

That being said, the movie is still well worth seeing. The scenes where Hudgens silently wanders the city streets, seeking shelter in unlocked cars and eating food straight from the dumpsters will tug anyone’s heartstrings and certainly the number of babies in the end of the movie will make anybody smile. While it may not be a cinematic masterpiece, “Gimme Shelter” is worth seeing.
Futbol foes turn violent over years

Vicky Jacobsen  
Sports Writer

Editor's Note: This is the seventh in a 10-part series discussing the best rivalry in sports. In this installment, Vicky Jacobsen argues for Argentina-Brazil soccer. Join the discussion on Twitter by using #BestRivalry.

Don’t get me wrong. I love a good, old-fashioned American rivalry. As a dedicated Red Sox fan, I was raised to believe that “Yankee” was a dirty word. I have personal loyalty to North Carolina, but I will drop everything to cheer for the Tar Heels when they play the devastating Duke Blue Devils. And I attended high school with enough rabid Redkinks to know there are plenty of people — especially around our nation’s capital — who vehemently deny that the Cowboys are “America’s team.”

But if we are being honest, declaring any singular intercollegiate or regional rivalry the best in sports is rather provincial. To find truly fitting recipients of this title, we must look to the world’s most popular sport, played by two of the game’s most successful national sides, represented by two of the greatest players of all time. We should look south — way south.

This year will mark the 100th anniversary of the first meeting in the “Battle of the South Americans” (the soccer version, that is), and the results have been remarkably even — 36 wins for the Brazilians, 35 for Argentina, 24 draws (or something like that). The exact figures vary depending on whether you ask the Argentine or Brazilian governing bodies. This year will mark the 100th anniversary of their first meeting on the pitch, and since then the two South American superpowers have collected a combined seven World Cup titles (two for Argentina, five for Brazil), two Olympic gold medals (both by Argentina) and 22 Copa America trophies (14 for the Argentines, eight for the Brazilians).

It is natural for two competitors with such distinguished histories to develop a professional, respectful rivalry — for an American parallel, just take a look at Tom Brady and Peyton Manning. But the relationship between the two South American giants has been decidedly more adversarial.

As the story goes, during the summer, we could be in for some heated measures on the field, escalated, and the crowd in Buenos Aires began to taunt Brazilian players with verbal attacks on the field. And since then the two South American rivals have been decidedly more adversarial.

In 1945 and 1946, successive incidents of rough play and broken legs led to an on-pitch brawl with police in the South American Championship final (notice a pattern here?). And the crowd spilled onto the field before the matter could be settled. Argentina went on to win, 2-0, and the two teams did not play for the next 10 years.

The accusations continue to fly to this day. In the 1982 World Cup, Argentina legend Diego Maradona received a straight red card when he kicked Brazil’s Joel Batista, presumably out of pure frustration (Brazil won, 3-1, in their meeting in the Group Stage). The last time the two teams met in the World Cup, in 1990, Brazil’s Branco accused the Argentine training staff of giving him a water bottle spiked with tranquilizers. (Argentina coach Carlos Bilardo says the “Holy Water Scandal” never took place, and Branco’s main evidence was that he was suddenly drowsy and had trouble keeping up with Maradona.)

Football fans around the world — and in Brazil and Argentina in particular — like to debate the merits of Brazilian great Pelé and the aforementioned Maradona. Pelé, whose career stretched from the 1950s into the 1970s, was a part of three World Cup-winning squads and scored 128 goals, 77 for his national side. He played 136 games, more than twice as many as Maradona’s 589. About 20 years later, against a more advanced field of competitors, Maradona scored 34 goals for his national team, winning one World Cup.

But what more could you expect from two next-door neighbors who happen to be home to some of the world’s most dedicated soccer fans? And with the World Cup headed to Brazil this summer, we could be in for some more fireworks. Let’s just hope they stay on the pitch.

Contact Vicky Jacobson at vjacobse@nd.edu

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The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame Office, 104 South Dining Hall. Deadline for mid-day classifieds is 2 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. 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.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT
Freshmen adjust and excel in early going

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

Freshman sprinter and hurdler Conner Stapleton is only a few meets into his college career, but he’s already noticed a huge change from high school.

Between the daily practices, weekend meets and other responsibilities of the student-athlete, he said he’s had to search for an extra gear to keep pace with the higher expectations.

“We have a meet every weekend, and you’re always expected to perform, whether you’re ready or not,” Stapleton said. “You really have to prepare yourself every way to run 100 percent and give it the best, whereas in high school, I remember being fresh all the time.”

Thus far, however, Stapleton and the rest of the freshman class seem to have adjusted quite easily to the increased responsibility. Stapleton notched a top-five finish in both the 400-meter dash at the Simmons-Harvey Invitational in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Jan. 18 and the 500-meter dash at the Notre Dame Invitational last weekend.

Two pairs of freshmen finished first and second in their events in Ann Arbor, with Alex Groesch (49.55) edging Harvey Smith (49.81) in the 400-meter dash, and Jacob Dumford (1:53.78) squeaking by teammate Chris Marco (1:54.13) in the 800-meter run. Dumford followed up that performance with a second-place finish last weekend in the 1,000-meter run.

Irish coach Joe Piane said he sees great potential for Dumford and Marco for the mile run.

“I think their future is definitely in the mile,” Piane said. “It’ll be interesting to see how well they could do this year, but they are the next two really good Notre Dame milers.”

Piane also singled out Patrick O’Connell, who won the 800-meter race last weekend, as another freshman off to a great start.

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O’Connell, Marco and Dumford all competed for the Irish cross country team this fall, and Dumford said that experience was great preparation for the track season.

“I’m probably running 15 to 20 miles more a week this spring than I was in high school,” Dumford said. “But cross country was really helpful in the transition for me because … I was able to use most of the fall to put in a lot of miles and get really fit.”

Smith said there was also a lot of work the freshmen had to put in off the track.

“They put me on an eating plan, so I can’t eat stuff like chocolate,” Smith said. “I was on a strict protein diet earlier in the year, but it’s not as bad now. I don’t get as much sleep as I probably should, but … I try to get my homework done early so I can get a full night.”

Smith and Groesch also run two legs of the Irish 400-meter relay. While some might feel pressure about joining a team that competed in the NCAA meet last season, especially when the
M Basketball

“Different guys have done it at different times for them,” Brey said. “That’s the most difficult kind of team to prepare for that’s coming at you with a lot of different guys, and it can be anybody on any given night.”

The Cavaliers enter with the nation’s No. 3 scoring defense, surrendering just 56.2 points per game, trailing only Clemson and San Diego State, who both allow 56.1 points.

“They’re just really effi- cient offensively and rock-solid defensively,” Brey said. “They’re doing it at both ends and they’re a confident basketball team, especially after that stretch at home when they won three convincingly.”

Notre Dame is averaging 76.3 points per game, good for a tie for second in the ACC. But the Irish give up 70.9 points per game, which ranks second-to-last in the conference.

Notre Dame will again be without sophomore forward Austin Burgett, who will undergo a heart procedure Tuesday. Burgett missed the loss to Wake Forest and will be out at least seven to 10 days after the procedure.

Graduate student forward Tom Knight returned to the rotation against Wake Forest after missing four consecutive games with an ankle injury and an illness. He had eight points and three rebounds in 17 minutes Saturday.

Notre Dame will host Boston College on Saturday and travel to Syracuse next Monday as it tries to avoid falling too far in the ACC standings.

“Some nights we’re better in conference play. And they have all performed even better in conference play. But a large part of those increases is due to the departure of Grant. Notre Dame’s veterans have stepped up their play, but it clearly has not been enough to fill the void. The team’s scoring average is a paltry 69.4 in ACC games, well below the overall average of 76.3 points per game.

Grant’s suspension has not been the only impediment to Notre Dame’s success this season. Injuries have chased graduate student forward Tom Knight and sophomore forwards Zach Auguste and Austin Burgett at various times.

Freshmen have found themselves logging huge minutes against tough matchups and in crunch time. What Irish coach Mike Brey had referred to before the season as one of his deepest squads in memory has often had nowhere to turn.

Notre Dame has not been able to figure out a consistent starting five due to injuries and underwhelming performances.

And yet Brey persists in towing the merits of his team. For every close loss he endures, Brey delivers at least one rendition of “I love my team” in the postgame press conference. And that is not to say he is wrong, or that he should not express the sentiment.

The truth is, despite their 11th-place standing in the conference rankings the Irish still have a few bright spots. Sherman, Atkins and Connaughton tallied all rank in the top 17 of the ACC in scoring. Sherman is second-to-last in the conference and leads the league in field-goal percent-age, Connaughton is sixth in rebounding and Atkins has the third-most assists of anyone in the ACC.

For a number of reasons, Notre Dame is about as far away from the team it was five weeks ago, the team poised to improve to 9-3 with a marquee win over Ohio State. Just like in each of Notre Dame’s most recent five losses, if things had gone slightly different the team could be looking at different results.

There is still plenty of season left to play, but for the Irish every loss from here on out is another step away from the promising team they were and another step closer to the bottom of their new conference.

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

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Happy Birthday: A positive change will help you put the past behind you. Greater opportunity will come as you explore your talents and use your knowledge to help you gain the confidence of others. This is a year to flourish, be your best and reach your goals. Don’t let insecurity hold you back. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 22, 25, 31, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take pride in what you do and aim to be proactive when it comes to making decisions and doing your best to help others. Take charge and use persuasive tactics to ensure that you get what you want and prosper emotionally and financially.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put greater emphasis on who you are and what you can do for others. Learn from past encounters and mistakes and you will reach the destination you choose.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Discuss your goals or options with colleagues or someone who is available to help you advance. Good fortune will be yours if you show greater interest in a project. Charm coupled with a heart-to-heart talk will bring good results.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Relationships are featured. Do your best to share your feelings and to secure your personal connection to someone special. Make personal changes that will encourage compliments and boost your confidence. Romance is on the way and plans should be initiated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be upfront about your intentions and plans. Check out your options and ask questions. Clear up any confusion that may be standing between you and a decision you are expected to make. Don’t let someone’s lack of support sway you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are overdue for a little fun, pampering or anything else that will add to your comfort and pleasure. Love is in the stars, and making plans with someone special will help you make an important personal decision. Avoid impulsive spending.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Protect your home, family and future. Listen carefully and observe how others react. Use your head and think matters through. Look for a unique way to handle any difficult matter that arises and you will bypass a setback.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus cautiously. Let your intuition guide and protect you from others who are not always what they seem. A helpful friend or a new romance will be a great surprise if you show interest in a project.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A quick reaction will help you maneuver into a prime position. Using the element of surprise will help you avert a deceptive ploy to take advantage of you. Keep your emotions in check and stay in front of the competition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on your goals, not on what others are up to. Feeling pressured or trying to keep up with someone who is unpredictable is a waste of time. Base your actions on facts and reason. Common sense will win out in the end.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your intuition to the test. Make changes based on the way you feel and you will find a way to get ahead emotionally and financially. A good idea must not be allowed to expand too quickly. What you do must be durable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It’s what you do to make amends or help others that will make a difference to the outcome of a situation you face. Good things come to those who wait. Bide your time and do things properly the first time around.

Birthday Baby: You are confident, innovative and challenging. You are quick, curious and playful.

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**Men’s Basketball**

**Clash with the Cavaliers**

_Squad looks for much-needed ‘W’ vs. surging UVA_

By MATTHEW DefRANKS
Assistant Managing Editor

Virginia will bring its recent hot streak into frigid South Bend for a matchup with Notre Dame on Tuesday night at 9 p.m.

Even with the University’s closure effective until Tuesday at 6 p.m., the game is still on as scheduled, according to a Notre Dame spokesperson.

The Cavaliers (15-5, 6-1 ACC) have won six of their last seven games, including their last three. Virginia’s lone blemish in 2014 was a four-point loss at Duke on Jan. 13. The Irish (11-9, 2-5), meanwhile, have lost five of their last six games.

“Sometimes one good win can jumpstart you,” Irish coach Mike Brey said during a teleconference Monday. “Right now, we’re a group that’s searching for that.”

Since the loss to the Blue Devils, Virginia has won each game by an average of 15.7 points. For the first time in school history, all of Virginia’s ACC wins have come by double digits.

Virginia’s 6-1 start is the team’s best start in conference since the loss to the Blue Devils, which leads all NCAA goalies.

Senior guard Joe Harris leads the Cavaliers with 11.6 points per game, while red-shirt sophomore Malcolm Brogdon adds 11.4 points and 5.3 rebounds.

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

**Hockey**

_Irish go as goaltender Summerhays goes_

Coming down the stretch of its schedule with nine games left to play, No. 14 Notre Dame will need to finish the regular season off strong if it wants to improve its postseason prospects.

And lately, as senior goaltender Steven Summerhays has gone, the Irish have gone, as well.

This weekend’s series against No. 10 Northeastern was a model of Summerhays’ impact. On Friday night, Summerhays allowed four goals on seven shots (albeit several from high-scoring areas) and was pulled by Irish coach Jeff Jackson in the second period to shake the team up.

Senior guard Chad Katunar came in and made seven saves and stop the bleeding, but the Irish came up well short in a 4-0 loss.

“I think if you’re a goaltender, you’re gonna have those games,” Summerhays said following the loss. “Even the pro guys get pulled quite often, so it’s something that comes with the position. Sometimes you’re not playing the best you can and sometimes it’s to shake the team up. It’s one of those things that does wake you up and get you out of your comfort zone, but then, at the same time, you’ve got to turn the page and move forward.”

Despite Friday’s performance, Jackson chose to stick with his two-year starter, putting Summerhays back in net on Saturday night. Summerhays responded to that trust with flying colors, following up his three-save showing with a 36-save masterpiece to lead the Irish to a 3-0 victory. The shutout was Summerhays’ fifth of the season, which leads all NCAA goalies.

After Saturday’s turnaround, Summerhays said he needed a response following his showing on Friday.

“Yeah, it was definitely a challenge. [Jackson] was showing he had the confidence in me to play me again tonight,” Summerhays said. “He asked me how I thought the game went and obviously not the ideal way I wanted it to go, but I said I was ready to go [Saturday].”