University announces expansion project
Notre Dame Stadium to incorporate 750,000 square feet of academic, recreational additions

By MEGHAN THOMASSEN
Managing Editor

The University revealed plans Wednesday for its largest construction project yet: a $400 million expansion of Notre Dame Stadium, titled the Campus Crossroads Project.

The Notre Dame Board of Trustees has endorsed the University moving forward with the project, Notre Dame spokesperson Dennis Brown said. The 33-month project will add three eight-story buildings, totaling 750,000 square feet on the east, west and south sides of the Stadium, said University President Fr. John Jenkins. The construction will also add more than 3,000 open-air club seats to the existing structure, he said.

Pending sufficient funding, the project could begin as early as after the 2014 football season.

This model of the expansion project shows the three new structures to be built on the west, south and east sides of Notre Dame Stadium. The 33-month project could begin as early as after the 2014 football season.

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Assistant Managing Editor

The University is hoping to begin massive construction on Notre Dame Stadium after the conclusion of the 2014 football season. University President Fr. John Jenkins said in an interview with The Observer.

While gaining the Board’s endorsement is a big step forward for the University, Jenkins said Notre Dame would still need to raise the funds for the project. Notre Dame’s policy to have 100 percent of the funding promised and 50 percent in hand before construction begins, “We need to find benefactors who will support this project because we won’t go ahead unless the funding is in place,” Jenkins said.

“So, it’s contingent on that. We’re optimistic about getting that done. … But until we get that, we can’t say definitely, we’re doing it.”

Incoming Editor-in-Chief names supporting staff

By MEGHAN THOMASSEN
Managing Editor

Hartnett will serve as Managing Editor, the No. 2 spot at the paper, while Lorton, Song and Zuba will serve as Assistant Managing Editors. They begin their new roles March 17.

As Managing Editor, Hartnett will be responsible for assisting Jakubowski in supervising The Observer’s editorial departments. A junior majoring in marketing with a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy, Hartnett is a resident of Carroll Hall currently studying abroad in London.

The Clark, N.J., native served as The Observer’s interhall editor in Fall 2012 and covered Notre Dame women’s basketball on its run to the Final Four in 2013. He also served as a beat writer for Notre Dame women’s soccer and women’s lacrosse, among other sports. “The Observer has been a major part of my Notre Dame experience, and I want to give back to all those who help make the paper a daily reality by helping to steer it to an even more promising future.”

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Physics professor explains theory’s shortcomings

By HENRY GENS
News Writer

It may be surprising to some to hear a widely-advanced theory at the forefront of fundamental physics described as lacking quantitative data, but this is exactly the state quantum chromodynamics (QCD) is in today.

To address and expound upon the current nature of research in the field, assistant professor of physics at the University of Michigan Christine Aidala gave a talk Wednesday titled, “From Quarks and Gluons to the World Around Us: Advancing Quantum Chromodynamics by Probing Nucleon Structure.”

QCD, formulated in the 1970s, is the theory of the strong force, one of the three fundamental forces in the universe; the other two are the electroweak force and gravity, Aidala said. Her research focuses on understanding the invisible matter in the universe in terms of the fundamental quarks and gluons of QCD, she said.

“Studying nucleon structure gives us one way of pushing forward our understanding of quantum chromodynamics,” Aidala said. “What I’m talking about is color confinement — the fact that the colored quarks and gluons of quantum chromodynamics can never be observed together in isolation — and asymptotic freedom, the idea that even though these quarks and gluons are confined in bound states, if you probe them at high enough energies they behave as nearly free particles.”

Aidala said the importance of understanding these processes in current physics research is...
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
Who is your favorite superhero?

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

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
Circle K serves community beyond

By MACAILA DeARIO
News Writer

Saint Mary’s Circle K chapter participates in weekly community service projects that serve the South Bend community, from tutoring and providing meals at the South Bend Center for the Homeless, to working with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and hosting a variety of events for The Sisters of the Holy Cross Covenant located on the Saint Mary’s Campus.

Junior Jaclyn Voltz, president of Circle K, said the organization, sponsored by Kiwanis International, chooses volunteer projects based on certain goals.

“Circle K clubs focus on the three tenets of service, fellowship and leadership,” she said.

Voltz said the goal of the club is to give back to the South Bend community.

“Service is the heart of Saint Mary’s College Circle K,” she said. “We are dedicated to providing a variety of service opportunities that reflect the interests of our members and the needs of the South Bend community.

“There are service projects each week varying in date, time, length and focus. Our projects span a wide range of interests including children, education, healthcare, elderly, hunger, housing, animal care and environmental issues.”

Voltz said one of the club’s regular activities is assisting nuns at the Sisters of the Holy Cross Convention on campus.

“Every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Circle K volunteers go to the Sisters of the Holy Cross Convention to socialize with the nuns and provide activities for the sisters – game show nights, craft projects, Notre Dame football tailgate parties, bingo and social nights,” she said.

“The sisters truly appreciate the company and have so many incredible stories to share. Circle K members are also active at the Center for the Homeless preparing and serving meals.”

Kathleen Dunn, a first-year student and Circle K member, said she enjoys volunteering with the club because the activities are “creative.”

“During the fall semester we hosted a milkshake and Pictionary night, as well as a reverse Trick or Treat for the sisters … volunteering with Circle K at the convent is a great way to connect with women who have lived adventurous and meaningful lives. They have a lot to teach us.”

According to the Circle K website, upcoming events include the Hannah & Friends Karaoke Night and the Chicago March for Babies, a walk that will take place on the Le Mans Hall basement, according to the Circle K website.

Contact Macaila DeARIO at mdeario01@saintmarys.edu

Group changes voting method

By MARGARET HYNDS
News Writer

At Wednesday’s senate meeting, the student group passed two resolutions proposing amendments to the student government constitution.

The first resolution, written and presented by Judicial Council president Michael Masi, proposes to amend the constitution so the Judicial Council president would be responsible for “verifying the validity of all votes cast in any election.”

“I know that some people are nervous about giving all the power to one person,” Masi said. “The goal, he said, is to make the process more efficient by having one person in charge of recording and verifying the votes.

The amendment would also require that dorms comply with the constitution by running ball elections through the Judicial Council, Masi said. In 2013, 23 out of 29 residence halls did so, and Masi said he hopes to have all 29 on board for the 2014 election.

With the amendment, all election this year would take place through Google docs, which would be set up by an independent student leader that only the Judicial Council president and his Student Activities Office (SAO) advisor would have access to.

Department of Internal Affairs director Dan Colston also produced and presented an amendment which came up for vote at Wednesday’s meeting.

This amendment establishes a “48-hour rule” that will apply to future resolutions and agendas for the Senate.

Colston said when resolutions have been circulated too soon to their votes, “ability to make an informed vote — based on what your constituents want — was impaired,” because the senators did not have time to think them over and present them at their individual hall councils.

Earlier versions of the constitution had a “three-day rule” in place, but the new amendment calls for only 48 hours in order to give student body vice president Nancy Joyce as well as other members of the cabinet time to put together the necessary documents.

In the event of an emergency, the amendment stipulates that a resolution may be voted upon without prior notice if the members of student senate unani mously agree that it should be voted upon, particularly in cases where the senate wishes to express its appreciation, support or congratulations to a group or person in a timely manner.

The group also discussed several upcoming student government events. The student body debate between presidential and vice-presidential candidates will take place Monday in the basement of LaFortune Student Center. In addition, information sessions for those interested in running for class council will be held Tuesday, Feb. 4, and elections for student body vice presi dent will take place Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Contact Margaret HynDS at mhynds@nd.edu

Physics

“I like the fact that I’m studying something as fundamental as the strong force, but I also like the fact that I’m studying something as down-to-earth as the proton, quarks are elementary particles that combine to make up hadrons. They are a type of elementary particles and their role is to act as the exchange particles for the strong force between quarks, they said.

“Since the development of QCD as our fundamental field theory we’ve been able to move forward and do ab initio calculations of atomic structure, and even moving to more complex atoms than Hydrogen, and people are even looking at molecules,” she said.

“However, of the fact that we had our fundamental field theory [with QCD] in terms of these quarks and gluons that were confined to the bound state we never worked with an individual quark and gluon in the lab the progresses into ab initio calculations of QCD bound states did not push forward the same way QED calculations did. Although progress in the last several years has been rapid, said Aidala she knows there is still a long road ahead to resolving some of the more difficult issues in QCD theory.

“We still have a ways to go from the quarks and gluons of quantum chromodynamics to full de scriptions of quarks in the nucleus in the world around us,” she said. “Work related to the intrinsic transverse-momentum of quarks within the proton has opened up a whole new area research in spin-monumentum correlations in QCD. We’ve made good progress into ab initio calculations of the vacuum, and des- pite all of the press that the Higgs boson gets in terms of its role in generating mass, the quarks are actually responsible for more than 95 percent of the visible matter in the universe.”

“‘If I went on a strict Higgs diet, my body would weigh less than three pounds,’” Aidala said.

Contact Henry Gen at hgen@nd.edu
winter career and internship fair
and diversity & inclusion reception

Wednesday, February 5

12:30 - 2:30 pm

Diversity & inclusion reception
A networking opportunity for students and organizations embracing diversity and inclusion
Monogram room, Joyce Center

All are welcome to attend

4:00 - 8:00 pm

Career & internship fair
Joyce Center Fieldhouse
Student ID required

The Career Center
University of Notre Dame

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careercenter.nd.edu

Every college, every major, internships, full-time
Jenkins said, “It’s the most ambitious building project in the history of the University.” Jenkins told The Observer.

The west side of the Stadium will feature a new student center and the south will hold music department offices, library and practice spaces. The east side will include a digital media studio and the anthropology and psychology departments, Jenkins said. He said the administration logged 3,000 hours consulting faculty on its departments’ needs.

“The east side will ... help with the broadcast but also for classes with professors want to film a class or [if] students want to use it, too,” he said. “(The psychology department) does a lot of work with people coming from town, and they feel with their space now, they can’t have people come in very easily. Having the social sciences together makes sense.”

On the west side, the first few floors of the student center will provide space for student clubs and organizations, lounge space and eateries, Vice President of Student Affairs Erin Hoffmann Harding said. “To make this a really successful set of facilities ... we’re really interested in getting student input as we get close to the next stage in terms of what types of spaces are exciting [and] are needed for students,” she said. “We’ve actually had some of our architect friends doing some informal interviews on campus ... last late fall, but I think that will ramp up over the next few months.”

The third and fourth levels of the student center will be a RecSports facility, while the fifth floor’s Career Center will serve both undergraduate and graduate students, Hoffmann Harding said. A 10,000-square-foot balcony will also be available for student dances when not being used for game day entertainment purposes, she said.

So you can think not just of one half’s dance, but potentially two, and it will have views back to the west towards campus, of the Dome, of the Basilica, and I think [it will] create new opportunities for speakers and student programming,” she said.

Hoffmann Harding said with the new student center, Notre Dame would no longer fall 100,000 square feet short of the national standard for student center space according to student population. She said LaFortune would also remain a staple of student life on campus.

“LaFortune isn’t going away and we’ve actually worked really carefully here to ensure that LaFortune can complement this new facility and ... offer new spaces that we don’t have available in that part of campus today, but not cannibalize and threaten what we do believe is a really vibrant place for student life as well,” she said.

Hoffmann Harding said she believed the location of the facility will serve off-campus seniors and graduate students who already park in the stadium lots. The new facility will also benefit from its close proximity to student foot traffic patterns during class hours, she said.

“This new facility needs to bring students from a different time of their day and different types of activities,” she said.

Jenkins said the University is committed to keeping the campus compact enough for students to walk easily from residences to academic and extracurricular buildings.

“You have to find a way to bring key buildings together,” he said. “And I think that’s important for community... So people don’t just get in cars and never see one another. We’re compact enough to walk and not have to drive to get there.”

The structure will also add an element of beauty to the area surrounding the Stadium, Jenkins said.

“(The stadium) is a beautiful structure inside ... but outside it’s just a wall, just a dark wall. But there may be elements that will beautify [the stadium] and will bring people to that area so it’s not just an obstacle you have to walk around,” he said.

“What I’m most excited about is the social sciences to us,” Jenkins said. “If I look back at my predecessors here, it’s always been a vision that’s driven this. Even Rev. Fathers hadn’t had a vision of the possibilities. ... It’s a vision of uniting various parts of the University in a single structure.”

Contact Meghan Thomasen at mthomass@nd.edu
Different people, same problem

Amanda Peña
The Bubble

São Paulo reminds me a lot of New York. It is the financial center of South America and the largest city in the southern hemisphere. There is great wealth here, and on the outskirts you’ll find deep poverty as well. The streets are crowded with cars, buses and taxis as joggers and dog walkers line the sidewalks. But there is something immensely different about the Brazilian culture. Here, relationships and personal connections are vital and genuinely sought out. People aren’t numbers; they’re family. It’s partially why a hug and kiss on the cheek are considered proper greetings and handshake are offensive. Extending your hand out puts space between you and the other person, creating a divide that says, “keep your distance.”

Last Saturday on the Aniversário de São Paulo, my friend Elizabeth and I decided to wander over to a nearby park to hang out and talk. Much to our surprise, the park was filled with vendors, exercise groups, children running and playing, music floating through the air and a myriad of places to relax and enjoy the scorching Brazilian sun. (Sorry for those of you who have probably never experienced that thinking too much or too much.
Shake it up before it’s over

When we came to Notre Dame freshman year, we were in a completely new environment, with lots of fears, hopes and dreams. Two of the questions on the forefront of our minds were: “Where will I fit in here?” and “Who will my friends be?” No one really knew anyone unless you came from the same school. So what did we do? We signed up for too many clubs, and we went out of our comfort zones to meet people! And the friendships/from the same school. So what did we do? We signed up for too many clubs, and we went out of our comfort zones to meet people! And the friendships/ and we went out of our comfort zones to meet people! And the friendships/

Bianca Almada
This is Real Life

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bianca Almada
This is Real Life

A recent Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life national survey inquired about American knowledge of religion — particularly, individuals’ knowledge of their own religions. The survey included fairly basic questions about famous spiritual figures, fundamentals of belief and religious practices. Disappointingly, the average respondent answered correctly only 50 percent of the 32 questions correctly, with the majority of people incorrectly answering questions pertaining to their own faiths. On average, Catholics scored lower than Jews, Protestants, Mormons and atheists. An overwhelming 45 percent of Catholics answered incorrectly when asked if their church said the Eucharist was a symbol or the actual body and blood of Christ, even though the miracle of the Eucharist is a fundamental Catholic belief.

Catholicism, and religion in general, can be an excellent institution. I admire those with a steadfast devotion to their faith, as I constantly work on improving my own spirituality and relationship with my Catholic religion. However, it is frustrating to encounter those who preach creeds with which they are unknowingly unfamiliar or who blindly accept a religion based on instruction or routine rather than on personal discovery. Worse, it is maddening to encounter those who try to pass off their own socio-political views as tenants of their religion. I find that one aspect of Catholicism with which Catholics are continually unfamiliar is that of Catholic Social Teaching. At my Catholic high school, an entire required religion course was devoted to this topic, so I was shocked to be greeted by a Notre Dame student body that is, generally speaking, ignorant about each of its tenants and its implications.

There is more to Catholic thought than abortion, gay marriage and premarital sex. Though the Catholic Church does offer steadfast positions on these issues, they are by no means the sole focus of all of Catholic ideology; and I would argue they are often not the most important issues with which the Church deals. However, these issues comprise the major, at times sole, socio-political focus of a huge number of Catholics and in turn influence the way they vote, the organizations they support and the way in which they present themselves. In doing so, what I argue are more important issues — poverty, racism, illiteracy — take on a less important, or at least less impassioned, role. Very often, these same Catholics resist political measures such as welfare policy, universal health care or the rights of labor unions.

The common misconception is that all Catholics are called to be politically conservative because of issues such as the ones I previously mentioned, but the truth of the matter is that a vast amount of Catholic Social Teaching leans toward the left. For example, two of the seven key themes of Catholic Social Teaching are “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable” and “Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.” The official document states, “the economy must serve the people, not the other way around,” and official church positions support labor unions, immigration reform and universal health care (with the exception of contraceptives.)

Pope Francis asserted, “A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being.”

People should educate themselves about official Catholic Social Teaching before they make claims about what political implications it does or does not have. If people are attempting to follow these Catholic principles, then it may require a shift in their views. And if people respectfully disagree with the Catholic position on certain issues, that is also okay. Few Catholics agree with every single Catholic position, and everyone has a right to his or her own opinion. But people need to admit when they disagree with the Church in their positions and be okay with it, or at the very least, do not claim that their views are supported by the Church when they are not.

Bianca Almada is a sophomore residing in Cavanaugh Hall. She is studying English, Spanish and Journalism. She can be contacted at balmada@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

EDITIORAL CARTOON

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Identity crises are nasty, but unfortunately quite common occurrences in the development of every individual. The good thing about being a person is when you’re having an identity crisis you can just lock yourself up for a bit, and come out with your head screwed back on.

Unfortunately for corporations, it’s a bit hard to get out of the spotlight, especially when they have to respond to a trend of failure.

That’s where Nintendo stands this past week, after having released reports of an 8.1% drop in revenue in the last three quarters of 2013. In response, Nintendo’s CEO Satoru Iwata has announced he will slash his own earnings by half for the next five months, with board members also seeing a 20 to 30 percent pay reduction.

But I’m not here to pat Nintendo corporates on the back for doing the right thing when they’re losing coins, fast. The biggest problem the company is facing is figuring out what they’re going to sell, because the consensus is the Wii U won’t be cutting it.

During the buzz about Nintendo’s financial future, Asian business review publication “Nikkei” published a report detailing how Nintendo plans to adapt “progressive” content to smartphones, thus tapping into what many have called “free” loads of money available in the mobile industry.

Since then, Iwata has come out to decline the validity of such rumors, stating what “Nikkei” had produced was a compilation of offhand remarks he had put forth at past conferences.

I’ll give you a moment to take a sigh of relief.

The truth is, Nintendo does not belong on the iPhone, or even on a tablet. For any of you who have used an emulator to play Pokemon during class, you quickly realize that while it’s easy to battle electric mice: blasting rockets and executing wall jumps get extremely complex with the not-so-multi-touch screen.

Nintendo knows this as well as any other pot-throwing, fireball-hurling adventurer. If they wanted to hit the mobile department, they’d have to drop half the concepts they built their company on, or build a handheld attachment to complement the mobile phone.

Thankfully, Nintendo also has seen this and realized neither works perfectly. Those consumers who’d buy an attachment for their iPhone to play games either already have a Nintendo gaming system like the Wii U, or already have some sort of DS incarnation. Furthermore, dropping the basis of Nintendo’s gaming style would be an even worse tactic because their best selling games are the franchises that have been around for decades.

What Nintendo needs to do to conquer the heart containers of its lost audience is go back to the titles that sent Peach into captivity in the first place.

The Wii U needs its own in-stallment of “Mario Kart,” “Super Smash Bros.,” an original Zelda, while also pushing original titles, similar to the “Wii Sports,” “Wii Play,” and “Wii Party Resort” that made the Wii so appealing. We’re finally getting the first two items on this wish list, but only after a whole two years of sales struggling more than generations of frustrated gamers on the water temple level in “Ocarina of Time.”

Also, it’s time to make the Wii U cheaper. A brand-new copy, with a game, costs $300 today, which is only $100 cheaper than the much more tech-savvy PS4. Nintendo, in my lifetime, has been the choice of the social and stingy kids, and that little of a difference looks like a great deal for “real” games.

So, Satoru Iwata, if you’re out there, and listening here’s the summary — make more Mario games. I’ll buy your damned console if I can see my favorite, pudgy little characters running around again.

Oh, and make “Animal Crossing” even more cute and addicting than before.

Thanks.

Contact Daniel Barabasi at dbarabasi@nd.edu

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John Darr

If I had an owl for every zero-star review of Owl City on the internet, I could find an actual city of owls. Poor Adam Young is one of the least critically respected musicians in America. His whimsical lyrics, straight-forward production style and unrestrained pop tendencies make him a consistent target for “all that is wrong with electronic music” declarations. Even worse, his innocent, bleep-bloop electronica follows in the footsteps of The Postal Service, a revered side project of Death Cab for Cutie frontman Ben Gibbard. Even though Young’s music is thematically and structurally different than The Postal Service’s, the comparison is always made. In every comparison, The Postal Service is good. Owl City is evil.

Stumbling upon a plethora of scathing reviews of Owl City’s latest album a couple months ago, I found myself listening to “The Midsummer Station” to see what all the hype was about. I couldn’t really figure it out. It was catchy, it was sunny, it was hopeful and it did not sound like the negative 60-degree weather outside. Sure, the production held nothing new or interesting and some lyrics delved into Kraft-level cheesiness, but I didn’t mind. It was if my brain needed a break from the usual ‘arty’ or ‘quality’ music I often subjected myself to. Owl City was a breath of fresh, albeit sugary, air.

Upon doing more research, I found that “The Midsummer Station” was considered a disappointment by the Owl City fan base. Excited, I dove back deeper into the catalog, jumping straight into “All Things Bright and Beautiful” and “Oceans Eyes.” The albums took what I liked on “The Midsummer Station” and amplified them to the point where Owl City exceeded your average pop artist. The production was vivid, colorful and exciting. The melodies were more infectious and numerous. The lyrics were irresistibly optimistic and joyful.

The Owl City catalog is the candy shop of the music world — everything shines so bright that it’s hard not to leap from treat to treat. Yet upon rereading some of Owl City’s less favorable reviews, I realized that most criticisms still held up. Owl City’s lyrics are often overwhelmingly cheesy. The production, while clean and exciting, isn’t experimental or forward-thinking. And the songs are structured like normal pop songs with verses, choruses and bridges.

But it was also clear to me that these criticisms were misguided. Owl City isn’t supposed to be artsy or groundbreaking — it’s supposed to be life-affirming and hopeful and sweet. The lyrics are silly in a sort of ridiculously magical way, sweeping a listener off into an alternate world where life is more straightforward and focused on love, happiness and being yourself. It’s about finding the brightness in everyday things and the power in the imagined. What could be healthier for a person to listen to?

I can still remember the day I downloaded “Fireflies.” Owl City’s breakout single, in seventh grade. I would listen to it all the time, especially before I fell asleep at night. The magic held me more powerfully then — Owl City wasn’t famous enough to draw the negative attention I’d soon encounter. That enchantment was severely damaged when the single became famous and Pitchfork, my favorite music website, ripped it to shreds. I abandoned it because the innocence and joy it held were ridiculed and made uncool.

Thankfully, Adam Young is a musician whose mission is to counter that negative force. No matter what is considered ‘valuable’ or ‘high-quality’ in the music scene, Owl City will be making music to inspire happiness and celebrate simple things in life. Owl City has a lot to offer that critics ignore, even scoff at. Sure, if you’re looking for the next great existential experience or the next milestone in music history, then Owl City is to be ignored or set aside. But if you’re just in search of a sunny day, a good time or just some hope in the world, then you’ll find it here.

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identity crisis

Daniel Barabasi
Scene Writer

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Contact Daniel Barabasi at dbarabasi@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The Dark Knight Rises” and 2013’s “Iron Man 3”.

It looks like this trend is not going to slow down any time soon, though. This year alone, we’ll see a new Captain America movie, an “Amazing Spider-Man” sequel, “Guardians of the Galaxy”, and the latest X-Men movie. Marvel Studios alone has plans for the previously mentioned Avengers sequel, an Ant-Man movie and three other unannounced films before the end of 2017. Columbia has two more “Amazing Spider-Man” sequels, Fox has another “X-Men” and an “X-Force” movie slated, and even Walt Disney Animation Studios, the team behind “Frozen”, is releasing a superhero themed film next year. The sheer number of films coming out right now is absolutely incredible, and it is honestly surprising that people are not sick of this genre yet and that the market is not totally saturated.

Some of the studios seem to be avoiding that fate by investing in lesser known franchises in the hopes that they will spark new life into a genre that is slowly growing stale. The fact that Marvel’s “Guardians of the Galaxy” and “Ant-Man” are actually becoming realities is testament to this, although these are more risky financially than well-known superheroes.

Also notable is the very recent shift of focus from storytelling toward visual presentation. Although last year’s “Iron Man 3” did have a coherent plot, it was lost in the wake of the final epic battle and numerous explosions. And “Man of Steel” almost spent more time focusing on the destruction of Metropolis than on any relevant character development. If this trend continues, people may soon get tired of seeing the same characters deal with potentially world-ending evil over and over again.

Although this has happened, there is the strong possibility that this new Batman vs. Superman film has the potential to be a paradigm shift in the way that “The Dark Knight” was back in 2008. The film is supposedly going to be based off of Frank Miller’s “The Dark Knight Returns”, a take on Batman’s return from retirement to stop crime. “The Dark Knight Returns” is regarded as one of the greatest Batman comics of all time, so Warner Brothers has a very good source material to work with. Additionally, if based off this comic the film would be much darker than the lighthearted action-based romps set to be released by other studios over the next few years, setting it apart by a fair amount.

Rumors have also circulated that Warner Brothers is planning to use this film to set up a future Justice League movie, in a move similar to Marvel’s Avengers initiative. Whatever may happen, this film has great potential and could possibly redefine the way we look at superhero films.

Contact Jimmy Kemper at jkemper2@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Tiger vs. Phil is a hole-in-one

The Observer | Thursday, January 30, 2014 | ndsmcobserver.com

Tiger Woods

Alex Wilcox

Sports Writer

Editor’s Note: This is the ninth installment in a 10-part series discussing the best rivalry in sports. In this installment, Alex Wilcox argues that Tiger Woods vs. Phil Mickelson deserves the top spot. Join the discussion on Twitter by using #TigerLives.

Allow me to dream, if only for a moment. For a brief, beautiful moment, I was whisked far away from the snowed-in polar vortex of South Bend to a warm April Sunday in August, Ga. The azaleas are in full bloom, and as the sun sets, a roar erupts from an otherwise tranquil evening as Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson walk up to the 18th green at The Masters. This simple image is what makes this rivalry the best in sports.

Tiger and Phil have been inex- tricably linked ever since Tiger turned professional in 1996. At that time, Phil already had nine tournament victories under his belt. But Tiger quickly stole the spotlight of the young player to ever win a major at age 21 when he won the 1997 Masters with a tournament record score of 18-under par. While Phil was still recog- nized as a world-class golfer, the emergence of Tiger added a certain mystique: best golfer without a major.

That stigma would dog Phil throughout the late ‘90s and early 2000s as he fought to win eight major championships, while Phil could only lay claim to two. Tiger was a force to be reckoned with, but Phil quickly stole the show when he became the 2001 Masters champion, resulting in Phil giving the green jacket onto Tiger Mickelson. Phil appeared to have every- thing going for him. After winning the Masters that April, he walked the 18th tee box at Winged Foot, leading by a stroke at the 2006 U.S. Open and about to claim his second straight major championship. He was about to break out, at last this was Phil’s chance! He appeared destined to go on a run not seen since Tiger Woods’ four straight majors spanning the 2000 U.S. Open through the 2001 Masters.

But golf is a cruel game. When all he needed was a par on the last hole to win, and a bogey to force a playoff, Phil double-bogeyed in one of the most dramatic collapses in golf history, leaving him, once again, second best.

Geoff Ogilvy was the lucky benefactor of Phil’s misfortune, and in some sort of poetic jus- tice, Tiger went on to win the final two majors of the season. As both golfers fade out of their primes, the legacies of each are left to consider. Tiger will assuredly go down as one of the, if not the, greatest to ever play. Phil, meanwhile, will al- ways be loved by fans, if not the golf gods.

Regardless, their legacies will forever be intertwined. One cannot mention Tiger Woods without Phil Mickelson is always, just as one cannot mention Phil Mickelson without Tiger Woods. What makes Tiger Woods vs. Phil Mickelson the best rivalry in sports is actually rather simple: Whenever the two of them are in a tournament, no matter how low or high the bar, there is always the feeling that at any moment, history is about to be made.

Contact Alex Wilcox at awilcox1@nd.edu

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

Sochi Olympics present big risk, reward for Russia

Alex Wilcox

Sports Writer

The winner? Tiger Woods, of course. The 2005 Masters in Berlin, which the Nazis used to promote their concept of racial supremacy. Andrei Illarionov, Putin’s economic adviser from 2000 to 2005, says the Sochi Games have become a celebration of “Russia’s muscle-flexing leader.”

In a recent interview with Russian and foreign TV sta- tions, Putin said the Sochi Olympics should be seen as proof of Russia’s economic re- surgence during his 14 years in power. He also hoped the games would lead people “to take an unbiased and fresh look” at what he called the new Russia.

“Tiger and Phil have been inex- tricably linked ever since Tiger turned professional in 1996. At that time, Phil already had nine tournament victories under his belt. But Tiger quickly stole the spotlight of the young player to ever win a major at age 21 when he won the 1997 Masters with a tournament record score of 18-under par. While Phil was still recog- nized as a world-class golfer, the emergence of Tiger added a certain mystique: best golfer without a major.”

More important, Putin add- ed, is for Russians to see that their country is capable of pulling off such a magnificent event and to regain some of the na- tional pride lost in the years following the 1991 Soviet collapse.

The Sochi Olympics are the first for Russia since the Soviet Union held the Summer Games in 1980 and were boycotted by the United States and dozens of other coun- tries because of the war in Afghanistan.

Putin’s Olympic show al- ready has been tainted by two suicide bombings in late December in the south- ern city of Volgodost that killed 7 people and injured many more. Islamist militants in Russia’s North Caucasus as- serted responsibility for those bombings and have threat- ened to strike Sochi.

A terrorist attack would be a major embarrassment for Russia. Sochi would become a demonstration of his and Putin’s muscle-flexing leader, a demonstration of his and Russia’s physical, intellectual and economic might.

The Sochi Olympics present big risk, reward for Russia

Associated Press

MOSCOW — For Vladimir Putin, the Winter Olympics he brought to Sochi have always been about far more than sports. The games will benefit the Russian president expects from holding the games range from im- proving Russia’s international standing to instilling a sense of national pride to turning around the country’s demo- graphic decline. And of course Putin wants to be seen, at home and abroad, as the man who made this all possible. That’s a tall order for an in- ternational sports event.

And what if terrorists strike the Olympics, which are tak- ing place Feb. 7-23 just a few hundred miles (kilometers) west of a region where Islamic insur- gents carry out bomb- ings and other attacks almost daily? Or if a winter storm rips through the Black Sea resort, knocking out its hastily fin- ished electric grid? Or even if Russian athletes in Sochi repeat their dismal perfor- mance of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games?

“Has Putin over-invested in these games?” Stephen Sestanovich, a Columbia University professor and Russia scholar, asked rhetori- cally. “Almost surely. And I think the disproportion of the investment will be clearer if the Russians don’t bring home a trove of gold medals and if the security situation goes badly.”

Putin has made the 2014 Winter Games his personal project from the very begin- ning, directing an ambitious undertaking to transform Sochi, a once-tacky Soviet-era summer resort, into a world- class winter sports center.

Along the way, the games took on a state propaganda aspect that one of Putin’s for- mer advisers says has not been seen since the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, which

You, ifall classifies for content without issuing refunds.

For Sam Gans: “Why do you have to go and make things so complicated? I see the way you’re act- ing like you’re somebody else. I’ve had enough. Lito’s like this

Smartly Furnished. $132,500.

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By ANDREW ROBINSON
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s men’s basketball played a game of give and go against Adrian College on Wednesday night. The Belles led the Bulldogs throughout most of the game, holding a 52-40 lead with 12:18 remaining.”

The balanced Saint Mary’s offense continued to create good chances against Adrian’s athletic zone defense, and with 5:33 to play, the Belles held a 23-21 lead. But Bulldogs senior guard Lauren Rhoads drained a 3-pointer to shift the momentum, and the half ended with Adrian leading 34-31. Bulldogs senior guard LaQwana Dockery began the second half with an early basket. Rhoads then made 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions to put the Bulldogs up 52-40 with 12:18 remaining. Saint Mary’s put up a fight offensively, with sophomore forwards Eleni Shea and Krista Knapke each scoring eight in the second half. Junior Ariana Paul was the next individual to find the holes on the other end of the court, scoring eight in the second half. She finished with five points and eight rebounds.

Saint Mary’s will travel to Trine University this Saturday at 3 p.m.

Contact Andrew Robinson at arobins6@nd.edu

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

The Irish jump back into their own waters to host the annual Shamrock Invitational on Friday and Saturday at Rolfs Aquatic Center. The No. 24 Irish prepare to defend their home ground with a 309-60 victory over Towson. Reaney said the team could have fast suits on but most of them are still in the pool, which makes the meet challenging.

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The team’s main focus is to race,” Irish coach Brian Barnes said. “It’s an interesting time of the year because we are focusing in on this weekend and then also three weeks down the road to our conference meet.” Notre Dame is set to dual Iowa. The last time the Irish and Hawkeyes met was at the Hawkeye Invitational from Dec. 6-8. The Irish won the meet to beat out second-place Boise State by 80.5 points. “We want to focus on putting together our best lineup to beat [Iowa],” junior Emma Reaney said. “It will be a good tune-up for conference.” After a tough 171-129 loss to Louisville last weekend, the Irish look at the Shamrock Invitational as another opportunity to move forward. “It’s never good to go on the road and take a loss,” Barnes said. “But what I like about the team right now is that the results get better and better as we move forward.”

There weren’t any huge issues that needed to be fixed at the Louisville meet,” Reaney said. “We were just tired.” Last year, the Irish had an impressive performance at the Shamrock Invitational. They defended their home ground with a 309-60 victory over Towson. Reaney won five individual events, including the 100-yard freestyle and 200-yard individual medley.

Reaney said the team could view last year’s performance as a motivation for the team. “I think it’s a good place [for the team] to start,” Reaney said.

Even with the motivation to defend their title, the Irish must endure two days of demanding competition and are not without their challenges. “The biggest challenge will be stamina,” Barnes said. “It’s a three-session meet, and that’s a great challenge. We are going to have to do within those days and the recovery in between will be challenging.”

Reaney agreed. “I think our greatest challenge will be remaining positive about how we feel and what our times are since it is a strange point in the season,” Reaney said. “We will have fast suits on but most of us won’t be fully tapered so we will probably feel pretty terrible in the water.” Despite those challenges, the Irish do have their strengths, and this competition is in their home pool.

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Despite those challenges, the Irish do have their strengths, and this competition is in their home pool.

“If we can’t find a way to get stops, we’re going to be in trouble regardless of who our opponent is,” she said.

Saint Mary’s will travel to Trine to take on the Thunder this Saturday at 3 p.m.

Contact Kit Loughran at klough1@nd.edu

Women’s Swimming

ND hosts weekend meet

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PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

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Please email abartoli@nd.edu with your qualifications if you are interested. All photographers must have his/her own access to a professional camera.

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

The Irish jump back into their own waters to host the annual Shamrock Invitational on Friday and Saturday. The No. 24 Irish prepare...
Squad to lean on younger fencers

By REBECCA ROGALSKI
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to continue their success this weekend as they travel to Northwestern on Saturday for the Northwestern Duels, with teams such as Duke, Northwestern, Stanford and Princeton all in attendance. This will be one of the largest meets of the season for the Irish.

“Teams from various parts of the country will be partaking in this tournament, all who have highly-ranked fencing programs that will challenge us this weekend,” Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

The Irish performed well in last week’s NVU Invitational, winning almost every bout on both the men and women’s sides. The team hopes to continue that success by competing at a high level this weekend in Evanston. A major challenge for the Irish in this weekend’s Northwestern Duels will be the loss of the majority of the team’s leading fencers.

“Our best fencers were called to the stands for the United States to qualify for the World Championships, as well as the Olympic games,” Bednarski said. “Without these individuals here this weekend, we will need to rely heavily on many of our younger, less experienced fencers.”

Bednarski believes this will be a wonderful opportunity for the newer fencers to gain more experience and skill, as well as a great chance to prove their leadership.

“Junior Nicole Amell will step up in place of sophomore Lee Kiefer and junior Madison Zeiss for the women’s side,” Bednarski said. “Various newcomers on the men’s side will also be ready to fence in place of senior Gerek Meinhardt and senior Ariel DeSmet.”

With such a young team competing this weekend, Bednarski hopes these fencers grow from the experience, and give their best efforts possible.

“I cannot say that we will have easy matches against our opponents, but I feel confident that the fencers that we have will put in their all,” Bednarski said.

The Northwestern Duels will take place Saturday at the Henry Crown Sports Pavilion and Norris Aquatics Center (SPAC) in Evanston, Ill.

Contact Rebecca Rogalski at rrogalski@nd.edu
With all his natural ability, things tend to come easily for Peter Schneider. But that doesn’t mean he hasn’t worked hard to get them.

Growing up in Austria, Schneider learned his native language, German, then picked up Slovak and Czech while playing junior hockey in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. He learned his fourth language, English, when he came to Indiana to play for the Indianapolis Ice of the USHL. His game did the talking from there, as his speed and skill caught the attention of Notre Dame, who offered him a scholarship less than a month into his time in the States.

Now, after two years of grinding out a spot in the lineup, the junior winger has emerged as a regular contributor for the Irish, scoring two goals and two assists in his last three games.

“He played well in the first half, but I think he’s been even better since we got back from Christmas,” Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. “He’s feeling it a little bit. He’s scored a few goals here in the last few weekends. I think that can do a world of good for his confidence.”

Schneider’s hot streak has coincided with Notre Dame’s, as the Irish (15-9-1, 4-6-1 Hockey East) have won five of their last six games and are looking to climb out of the bottom half of the conference standings. Schneider has climbed up in the lineup as well, as injuries and his recent performance earned him a spot on a line with two of Notre Dame’s top scorers, sophomore Mario Lucia and freshman Vince Hinostroza.

Schneider looked at home in his new role on Saturday, pitching in a goal and an assist in a 3-0 win over Northeastern.

And while his scoring touch has brought the junior plenty of confidence, he only sees it as a small part of his game.

“I definitely try to bring a lot of energy, get the bench going and finish some hits — even though I’m from Europe,” Schneider said. “Just skating fast, putting pressure on the opponents and getting some shots on net, too.”

Schneider brings that same energy in practice, which has helped him gain more responsibility on the team. His hard work on the scout team penalty kill caught the attention of his coaches, and he has gradually moved into the team’s rotation on the kill.

His shorthanded ability was on display this weekend, as Schneider used his speed to turn nothing into something, the hard way.

Down a man, senior forward Jeff Costello corralled a loose puck in the Irish zone, and Schneider took it down the ice, speeding past Northeastern’s point men. Costello hit Schneider in stride with a saucer pass, then Schneider made a move to his backhand and lifted the puck over Northeastern goaltender Clay Witt for the score.

“I haven’t had a lot of success with my backhand move; my coach in juniors used to make fun of me for it,” Schneider said. “I was thinking about it a lot before, and the play before we went out on the ice, I told [Costello] that ‘If I get a breakaway, I’ve got to go backhand and score.’ And this time I did.”

Taking the harder route paid off for Schneider on that play, as it often does off the ice, as well. Schneider is a finance and economics double major, with a minor in mathematics. Even with the difficulty of his course load and commitments, Schneider maintains a GPA above 3.9, and his Dean’s List credentials resulted in his inclusion on the CCHA Scholar-Athlete Team last season.

“I just try to make the best of all the time in the day,” he said. “School has always come easily to me. But I think I’m a hard worker and I prepare well … I think that pays off.”

So far this season, it certainly has.

Contact Jack Hefferon at wheffro@nd.edu
Irish prepare for showdown with Hokies

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

When No. 2 Notre Dame hosts Virginia Tech tonight, it also plays host to one of the most talented players in the ACC. Hokie senior forward uju ugoka is averaging 20.2 points per game and 10.3 rebounds per game, good for second and third in the ACC, respectively.

“She’s really, really talented and is going to be a challenge for us defensively,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “She’s quick, she’s strong and she’s one of the best scorers and rebounders in the conference. She’s just going to be a challenge to defend.”

Notre Dame (19-0, 6-0 ACC) entered the week in the top 10 in the NCAA in rebounding margin at plus-12.0. but the Irish struggled in the department in a 87-83 win over No. 8 Maryland on Monday night. Against the Terrapins (16-3, 4-2 ACC), the Irish gave up 17 second-chance points. Maryland senior forward Alyssa Thomas finished with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

“The reason [defending ugoka] is going to be such a challenge is that we are coming off a game where we had trouble containing a strong post player,” McGraw said. “That was a weakness of our game Monday night, so we need to have a little bit more of a team attitude about our defending. I think we need to work a little bit harder and have a little bit more effort. That will help us with our rebounding and our boxing out.”

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The Irish did have a strong individual performance of their own Monday night. Sophomore guard Jewell Lloyd finished with 31 points, while collecting seven rebounds and six assists.

“I think she needs to continue to be aggressive offensively,” McGraw said. “I was pleased to see her get to the foul line, which is something that she has really been working on a little bit more this year. She was really effective driving the ball a little bit more and she shot the ball really well. That let her mix it up a little bit more offensively, but going to the basket is one of the strengths of her game and I want to see more of that tonight.”

Virginia Tech (10-9, 0-6) brings a balanced offense to Notre Dame, as the Hokies, like the Irish, have three players averaging double figures in scoring.

“They have some really good 3-point shooters on the perimeter,” McGraw said. “[The Hokies’] inside game is strong as well, which gives them versatility on offense. We have to be ready to defend all aspects of their game. They are a smart team that plays well defensively as well, so we have to be ready.”

Notre Dame plans to upgrade both WiFi and cellular service as part of this project.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

The Irish will look to contain the Virginia Tech offense tonight at 7 p.m. in Purcell Pavilion, as the team seeks its 20th straight win to start the season.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu

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Stadium

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

“We’re not ready to announce that either,” he said. “That’s something to think about, I know Jack is thinking about it. At this stage, haven’t made a decision.”

Swarbrick said a decision on the surface would be made in January or February. The costs of re-sodding Notre Dame Stadium and installing artificial turf were roughly the same, Swarbrick said.

New improvements

The University will add 3,000 to 4,000 premium seats Jenkins described as club level outside seating to Notre Dame Stadium’s 80,795 current capacity. The club seating will be located on both the east and west sides of the Stadium, according to the University release.

The addition on new premium seating would not affect the basic seating configuration for both the current and upper bowls. The gold seats on both sides of the field will remain the same. Fees changes would be made to Notre Dame’s locker room but some of the surrounding areas will be improved to better serve the football team on game day.

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Happy Birthday: You are best to be secretive about your whereabouts and transactions. Keep close tabs on health and financial matters that have the potential to spin out of control. Taking charge of whatever situation you come up against will help you avoid interference. Approach whatever job you are asked to do innovatively and with finesse, and you will excel. Your numbers are 2, 12, 20, 27, 34, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refrain from making changes without proper documentation or the go-ahead from whatever source necessary. Keep both your home and professional life free from complications. Follow the path that is presented, adding minor refinements as you push ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Show enthusiasm and you will draw attention and advance. Deal with individuals directly and be precise about what you expect, want and are willing to give in return. A personal relationship will take a favorable turn due to your honesty and straightforward approach.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Present a plan and see what kind of interest you receive. Don’t be disheartened by someone conservative. Focus on people looking for something fresh and you will be given an unusual opportunity. Make sure your idea is feasible before you share your plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put more effort into your relationship with others. Whether you are doing business or making a personal connection, you must ensure that you are giving and receiving as much as whoever else is involved. Compassion and understanding will help seal a deal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talk is cheap and with the information you gather, you will be able to make a substantial move forward. Add a little charm, mystery and intrigue into the mix, and you will make a powerful impression. Your intuitive intelligence will not lead you astray. Proceed with caution.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A bad transaction will have a ripple effect. Do your best to make up for any loss you incurred by promoting something unique that you have developed. A change looks positive if you stick to what you do best.
BY MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Assistant Managing Editor

With the approval of a new construction project around Notre Dame Stadium, the Irish basketball teams will have a practice facility in the process.

“The Rolfs Sports Recreation Center will become the practice home for the men’s and women’s varsity basketball teams,” a release from the university said.

The Notre Dame board of Trustees okayed a $400 million construction project that would add three buildings to the Stadium and 3,000 to 4,000 premium club seats to the 80,795 capacity.

The plans for the “Campus Crossroads Project” also include adding a student center, which will include a student recreation center, on the west side of Notre Dame Stadium.

In a December interview with The Observer, Notre Dame Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick said if a student recreation center were added to Notre Dame Stadium, Rolfs Sports Recreation Center could be used as a basketball practice facility.

“As the idea of ‘Does it make sense to move recreation into the CCPD’ came along, then the question was raised ‘Well, if you do that, what do you do with Rolfs?’ That’s how we got there,” Swarbrick said in December.

University President Fr. John Jenkins, in an interview with The Observer, said that was still the plan. However, Jenkins said the construction surrounding the Stadium was contingent on raising the necessary funds.

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Video board and FieldTurf?

While the rest of the Stadium could be getting a facelift, Jenkins said no decisions have been made regarding the potential additions of a video board or FieldTurf.

“I think we are always talking about the fan experience, and if [a jumbotron] enhanced it, then that would be part of it, but I want to make it clear that I’m not saying it will be part of this,” Jenkins said.

Initial and more recent renderings of the project depict Notre Dame Stadium without any visible video boards.

A new scoreboard, however, will be added on the south side of the Stadium.

“Some of that will be addressed through enhanced broadband connectivity and some by the introduction of video, though the shape that will take has not yet been finalized,” the release said. “However, to the extent the University provides video, whether in the course or in the stadium itself similar to the philosophy in Purcell Pavilion and the Compton Family Ice Arena, there will be no commercial signage or advertising.”

Jenkins said Notre Dame has not decided what playing surface will be in the Stadium next season either.

Construction project to impact facilities for student-athletes

Rolfs to be converted into basketball practice facility; video board status still undecided

see STADIUM PAGE 14

YESTERDAYS’ SCOREBOARD

SMC Basketball vs. Adrian L 76-66

TODAYS’ EVENTS

ND Women’s Basketball vs. Virginia Tech 7 p.m.