Senior shares experiences as gay athlete
Tennis player Matt Dooley works to bring You Can Play organization to ND

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

Matt Dooley returned to campus around 2 a.m. Monday after the Irish lost to Virginia on Sunday in Charlottesville, Va. A second-semester senior, Dooley is taking six credits, and he doesn’t have class on Mondays until 12:30 p.m. So he set his alarm for 11 a.m.

“I woke up at like 10:30 to my phone going nuts,” Dooley said. Dooley wrote an article on Outsports.com that detailed his life as a gay athlete at Notre Dame. In the article, Dooley said he attempted suicide in 2011 because “death was better than accepting — or revealing — that I was gay.” In September, two years after attempting suicide, Dooley came out to his teammates. A few months later, Dooley became ready to go public with his story.

The original piece on Outsports.com had been tweet-ed more than 550 times and shared on Facebook more than 5,600 times as of Wednesday afternoon. Dooley said since that 10:30 a.m. wake-up call, “it’s been 24-7,” receiving countless phone calls, texts, tweets, emails and more.

“So far it’s been all positive. I’m still waiting for that first negative,” Dooley said of the reaction he’s received. “We’ve gotten emails saying we’ve already saved people’s lives, which has been great.

“I’m not a Twitter guy, and it blew my mind how fast every aspect of my life could be reached in one second, because I was getting calls and texts from people I went to high school (with), people I played tennis with, people from all over the country. D-I tennis programs all over, people text me, ‘Do you mind if I share this with my team? It’s such a powerful message.’ It’s like, how did you know about this already? Wow. It was published an hour-and-a-half ago. So it’s been wild. Obviously he’s probably saying it lightly.”

Database promotes undergraduate research
PROJECT LEVER DATABASE

Matches students to advisors
Increases quality and quantity of senior thesis
Includes professors, courses, and grants
Political science and economics departments

By GABRIELLA MALESPIN
News Writer

The University of Notre Dame is currently in its trial phase of integrating a new undergraduate research database, Project LEVER, as part of an effort to increase undergraduate research. Developed by Harvard

Conference cultivates naval leadership

By CATHERINE OWERS
News Writer

On Feb. 20-23, Naval ROTC midshipmen from units across the country gathered to participate in Naval Leadership Weekend on Notre Dame’s campus.

Junior Max Brown said the conference emphasized developing ethical and effective leadership.

“About 150 midshipmen and staff members came from all over the country to listen to really prolific and nationally outstanding leaders in the military,” he said. The conference provided midshipmen the opportunity to prepare for and examine ethical dilemmas, Brown said.

“We can all sit around the table and share and understand and form our own character and moral compass and ability to answer hard questions that we will be faced with as military officers in the future, beforehand, so that we’re ready to go forth when the time comes,” he said.

There is also an ethical component to the conference, which Brown said emphasizes character development.

“In the Navy, there are three things that we work for in midshipmen development: moral, mental and physical development.” he said. “Physical is making sure everyone is keeping in shape, mental is high standards for academics. “Notre Dame has always been able to lend a particularly salient perspective to character and moral compass and ability to answer hard questions that we will be faced with as military officers in the future, beforehand, so that we’re ready to go forth when the time comes,” he said.

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Professor named AERA fellow

By HENRY GENS
News Writer

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) recently named Notre Dame sociology professor Mark Berends a fellow in recognition of his scholarly contributions to education research.

Berends was accepted as one of 22 members of the association’s class of 2014, which is currently composed of 557 AERA fellows. He will also act as the program director for this year’s AERA meeting, a conference with more than 2,400 presentations and dozens of features of leading researchers in education.

“Part of this AERA fellow is recognizing people that have had a long history of research that is informative and helpful to the field, so I’m very humbled by it,” Berends said.

“It’s a great honor. AERA is an organization with some 25,000 people — there’s a whole array of people that do work like I do and people that do other work, so one never knows how they’re going to get recognized in that.”

The AERA fellows are selected on the basis of sustained excellence over a long period of time, and Berends said his career began at the RAND corporation, an independent objective “think tank” that does research to inform policy. He said that’s where he began applying sociology.
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
Where is your ideal spring break vacation destination?

George Fillion
sophomore
Kough Hall
“Tallahassee, Florida.”

Sarah Motter
sophomore
Lyons Hall
“Panama City Beach.”

Nico Zienielski
sophomore
Lyons Hall
“The Caribbean.”

Harriet O’Sullivan
sophomore
Lyons Hall
“Cancun.”

Emily Kalish
senior
Lyons Hall
“The Bermuda Triangle.”

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:
Want your event included here?
Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

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<td>McKenna Hall</td>
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<td>LaFortune Student Center</td>
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<td>Tickets free for students to watch Irish take on the University of Louisville.</td>
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Hypatia Day commemorates women in science

By EMMILIE KEPALAS News Writer

Who says mathematics and science are exclusively male-dominated areas of study? 

Saturday at Saint Mary’s College, nearly 80 seventh and eighth-grade girls defied this stereotype as they participated in various science labs and math-oriented activities for Hypatia Day.

Hypatia Day was first organized in 1993 by St. Miriam Patrick Cooney, professor emerita of mathematics. Hypatia Day is meant to provide a unique experience for young girls interested in careers in math and science, director of Media Relations Gwen O’Brien said.

The event was an opportunity for middle school girls from seven local counties to visit Saint Mary’s and be engaged and mentored by math and science majors, O’Brien said.

Senates

Student services present sexual assault reports

By MARGARET HYNDS News Writer

At Wednesday night’s Senate meeting, Dr. Bill Stackman, associate vice president for Student Services and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, initiated a conversation about sexual assault occurrence and policy on campus.

Stackman said there were 24 reported cases of sexual misconduct in the 2012-2013 school year.

According to his PowerPoint presentation, 19 of those cases involved an accused, six complainants were freshmen and five were male.

At this point, I have seen 21 cases this year,” he said. “I had seen 19 by the end of the first semester.

“The way that I’m going to take away from that is that I think we’re doing a better job at reporting. A lot of my cases come from staff and faculty. A lot of them come second and third hand sources.”

All faculty and staff, with the exception of religious professional staff in campus ministry, the University counseling center and University health services, are mandatory reporters, Stackman said.

They are required to inform the Deputy Title IX Coordinator of information shared with them about a potential sexual assault.

Once a sexual assault is reported, the complainant has three options for pursuing an investigation, he said. The person may follow the University’s disciplinary process, the criminal process or pursue both simultaneously. Any complainant who chooses not to pursue any investigation or divulge the name of the accused may reopen the case at a later date when the students are still enrolled at the university.

Stackman said he thinks there are several challenges facing the university regarding sexual assault. The issue of consent often comes up, Stackman said.

“Hookup culture and alcohol make this difficult,” he said. "There’s not clear communication.”

“This doesn’t mean we don’t have perpetrators here, because we do,” he said. "This is an issue we understand." He said unilaterally know what they are doing ahead of time. But often what I see in these situations is that communication breaks down.”

Although the University received 21 incident reports, Stackman said the national average for reporting sexual assault is five percent. This means it is possible there are far more sexual assaults taking place.

“Many of us believe that we may not have as much activity in comparison in other schools — that’s my guess, if I was to guess, but what we have is horrible,” he said. "Just like your campaign, one is too many.”

Student government initiatives are key to moving forward, Stackman said.

“Students taking action is probably the key piece of anything that can happen,” he said. "Peers talking to peers — that will begin to change the culture more than anything. My office will be there to support you.”

Stackman came to Notre Dame in August 2012. As associate vice president for student services, Stackman supervises the Counseling Center, Health Services and the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education. As Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Stackman responds to all issues regarding sexual assault between students.

At the meeting, Senate also approved Farley Hall junior Kathryn Peruski for the position of judicial council president 2014-2015.

Senate also passed a resolution supporting the creation of a student advisory board for the Student News Desk. The legislation establishes one representative of student government’s Department of Academic Affairs on the advisory board.

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

Postdoc examines physics of aging and death

By CHRISTIAN MYERS News Writer

Dervis Can Vural, postdoctoral fellow in the school of engineering and applied sciences at Harvard University, is conducting research on the consistency of aging and death in the lecture "Statistical Mechanics of Aging and Death," held in St. Mary’s College on Wednesday.

According to the physics department website, Vural said the purpose of his work is to better understand why so many organisms follow a similar trajectory of aging and death.

"Nearly every complex organism follows a life-long deterioration followed by a catastrophic collapse at the end,” he said. “Furthermore, the statistical characteristics of the collapse are remarkably similar for a diverse range of organisms ranging from worms to mammals.”

Vural said his hypothesis for why humans and other organisms age is based on evolution. For example, natural genetic mutations may cause the evolution of disadvantageous traits, he said. Despite being potentially harmful, these traits persist in many organisms due to the presence of positive traits compensating the effects of natural selection. The term for this process is neutral drift.

“We age because we have a long neutral drift that leads to a change in the population,” he said. “We can think of this process as neutral drift in the world of cancer treatments.”

Vural’s research aims to understand how to target these neutral drifts that cause cancer cells to become resistant to chemotherapy.

The consistency in the time it took such systems to crash, Vural said, made it possible to estimate maximum lifespan based on initial factors. He said such theoretical predictions closely matched clinical observations in experiments with animal populations, from fruit flies to mice.

Vural said his work has implications for combating bactria populations if scientists use neutral constructive evolution to weaken potentially resistant bacteria within the population. The science may, over time, also apply to cancer treatments as scientists learn how to target specific cells within a tumor.

“While it seems extreme, this is where mad science begins,” Vural said.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers@nd.edu
Project Lever aims to "increase the quality and quantity of senior theses." "Project Lever is an online database that is meant to connect students with the resources that are available on their campus," Sun said. "If we see a large increase in quality and quantity, we're hoping to expand it to other departments.

Sun said the project is implemented through the College of Arts and Letters, although student government helped promote the initiative among the student body. Dean Joseph Stanfield of the College of Arts and Letters said he serves as coordinator for the project.

"It really has enhanced the educational experience of students in the college," Stanfield said. "It makes the connection with someone's raw interests in research."

According to Stanfield, representatives from Project Lever approached him on the possibility of implementing the project at the University several weeks ago. Stanfield said he chose the political science and economics departments to first sample the program due to their overlapping fields of research. He said he felt students in both departments would benefit most from the trial period.

"Dean McGreevy has made a very conscious effort to push undergraduate research and thesis writing," Stanfield said. "It struck me that this would contribute to that effort."

Although Notre Dame is still in its testing phase, Harvard, MIT, Columbia and Tufts are among a list of other universities already using the project.

"The neat thing about Project Lever is that it is continuously updated," said Sun. "It's always searching for new resources throughout campus."

Members of the Project Lever initiative include Notre Dame economics professor Mary Flannery and political science director of undergraduate studies Josh Kaplan and associate director Carolina Arroyo.

Flannery said Project Lever has a broad research focus and serves as a good introductory resource for sophomores and juniors as they investigate possibilities in undergraduate research.

"Anything that gets students thinking about doing research and looking at what kind of research professors are doing is a good step," Flannery said. "I see this ultimately as a resource for sophomores and juniors when they try to figure out what to do."

Both Stanfield and Sun said they hope the trial phase proves successful enough to allow the initiative to expand to other departments and colleges across the University.

"If the results are strong, I think [Project Lever] could help everybody," Stanfield said.

Contact Gabriela Malespin at gmalespi@nd.edu
Dooley
Continued from page 1

Dooley said he decided to write his piece to tell people in similar situations to his “it’s all right, you can play. It’s all right, you can do it. You can do it.”

Dooley’s piece to tell people in similar situations to his "it's all right, you can play. It's all right, you can do it."

"Dooley then came out to his parents in July 2012, following his sophomore year. He then came out to teammates Greg Andrews at the beginning of his junior year. "I was surprised," Andrews said. "I wasn't really expecting that when he told me, but like Matt mentioned in the article, I was like, 'Yeah, I'm surprised, but I don't care at all.' You're still one of my friends, and you're still the same Dooley to me, and it doesn't matter at all."

Dooley then came out to his coaches in early September and the rest of the team in mid-September. The team’s reaction?

"Support. It was 110 percent support," Irish head coach Ryan Brown said. "Sachire was the first to tell me that since that point in time, there's not been one awkward moment. There's not one issue within our team. So it's just simply been something [like], okay, this is a part of who Matt is. We love Matt. We care for Matt. He's a great teammate of ours and a great friend of our players and it's who he is and we love him and respect him for it and we're going to move on and be a great team."

Dooley said he wasn't too worried about coming out to his teammates.

"I expected it to be positive, but you kind of get a hard shell after a while," Dooley said. "There's a fear that I was worried about. But I also knew that if there's a room of 15 guys and two or three were negative, I would have been safed immediately. So I wasn't too worried. And like I said, all 15 were 100 percent with me."

Dooley said the support he received from his team and family has been crucial to him in taking the next step to come out publicly.

"I guess the one thing I'd tell any student-athlete is just make sure you're doing as much as you can to allow yourself to be happy," Dooley said. "You're not alone. There are other people going through the same thing. Whatever you're going to worry about, you're still not alone. And that is the biggest fear. So, one, just take care of yourself. Take care of yourself. Be who you are holding yourself back. That's the biggest thing. And two, you're not alone. No matter what it is, no matter how bad things go."

Helping others

Once Dooley told his teammates, they began reaching out to involved with helping others, Sachire and Dooley went to senior associate athletic director Mike Harrity, who serves as associate athletics director for student-athlete development and community program -- both in the Notre Dame closely with Student Welfare and Development Program co-ordinator Aly Stanton, who has been working with SEC students, to help him contact with You Can Play. You Can Play was launched in 2012. One of its co-founders, Patrick Burke, is a 2006 Notre Dame graduate. Burke's brother, Brendan, was a student manager of the Miami (Ohio) hockey team, died in a car crash in February 2010, a few months after he publicly came out as gay. Patrick, who says You Can Play is "our baby, [Burke's] brainchild," is also the Director of Player Safety for the National Hockey League (NHL). You Can Play is the National Hockey League (NHL) and Major League Soccer. The organization has also done extensive work with Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, and among others.

In the collegiate world, You Can Play has done different on-campus presentations at dozens of schools, and it has a video project in which schools can send in their own "You Can Play" videos. Burke said once Stanton got in touch with him in late 2013, You Can Play began planning its Notre Dame initia. One of those initiatives is getting Irish student-athletes to participate in a video to "show their support for LGBT athletes," Burke said.

"Our videos are pretty simple," Burke said. "Our motto is 'If you can play, you can play.' If you're good enough to help a team win, then your sexual orientation doesn't matter. So whether it's tennis, whether it's football, whether it's a contributing athlete, then who you love off the field, the ice, court, whatever, doesn't matter."

"It's a very easy way for athletes to get involved and just say, 'Yeah, I went to Notre Dame because I want to win championships. If the person next to me can help me win a championship, I'm all for it.'" Burke said they're also working through the logistics of an on-campus presentation -- either in late summer or early in the fall, if not in the spring -- in which You Can Play will address as many athletes as possible.

"They're called invisible athlete forums, and we bring in LGBT athletes to speak about their experiences in a locker room where a closeted athlete often feels invisible," Burke said.

Burke said he is not surprised at the initiatives in the works at Notre Dame.

"Nothing we do contradicts Catholic teaching," Burke said. "Our message is simply that you should treat other people with respect and dignity. And that's lifted directly out of the Catechism of the Catholic Church."

Burke said in the first couple months of You Can Play's launch, the organization received a letter from a canonical lawyer, a priest whose job is to study canon law for the Church, who said You Can Play's mission statement falls directly in line with Catholic teaching on sexuality.

"Everything we do, everything we preach -- take care of each other, show each other love and respect -- that's all exactly in line with the Catholic teaching," Burke said. "So when people ask us, 'Are you surprised that a school like Notre Dame would support a gay athlete?' I'm happy. It's come a long way since when I was there. I know that it's only been eight years now, but I can tell for a fact that a lot has changed since I left.

But I don't think it's surprising anymore. The vast majority of Notre Dame students are supportive of their LGBT classmates. ... I'm proud of Notre Dame for getting behind this, for getting behind Matt. I'm happy that they're behind it. But I don't know if 'surprise' is the right word to do this, I think that would sell Notre Dame short if I said I was surprised that they rallied to support one of their students."

And that student, in turn, hopes to change things for other students. Before heading to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, where Dooley will continue his studies (he has been exposed mostly to orthopedic surgery and internal medicine but is keeping an open mind), he wanted to embark on the You Can Play initiative "so that they can do its most beneficial work for anybody that needs it.""Going back to the roots of You Can Play, it's all respect and not politics," Dooley said. "You don't have to agree with some-one's sexual orientation, but it doesn't have to do with that. It doesn't have to do with your sexual orientation, your gender, your race. It's all about just relating to your teammates and your peers."

"Everyone can get behind that.""Sports writer Mary Green contributed to this story.

Contact Mike Monaco at jmonaco@nd.edu
Perfect your humanity

Emily Hoffman

Perfection.
I'm sure many of us know well the pressures that come with the desire to be perfect. Perhaps you may have crafted an unblemished GPA, sculpted an impeccable six-pack of abs or managed a flawless attendance for syllabus week shenanigans. In whatever capacity, perfection is something we all know, love and hate. In fact, if we are not careful it can become consuming and all too easy to lose ourselves in this desire for perfection.

I must admit, I am not immune to desires for perfection. Case in point: With spring break around the corner, I'd love that beach body. Fortunately, for me, the dire drive to tone those areas that winter sweaters so conveniently smooth over has manifested itself in a healthy resurgence of a favorite pastime, hot yoga. While I knew going into class that the benefits of yoga are both physical and meditative, I usually spent those quiet times ruminating through that day's to-do list in my mind.

The other day something the yoga instructor said caught my attention. She began class with the meditation: "Life is short. Never miss an opportunity to perfect your own humanity. Love is simple."

Perfecting our own humanity — I had never quite heard of perfection mentioned in this way but it struck a chord. As I put the pause button on those to-do lists running through my head, I started to realize the true meaning of this phrase meant. Humanity allows for failings and bumps along the way — we are only human after all. Not only that, but also there is the most basic of human virtues, virtues like truth, love, justice and an overall determination to promote individual as well as collective greatness. After class I asked the instructor where she had found the saying. She directed me to a blog that highlights a comment made about a YouTube video that has recently gone viral. The video was made to raise awareness for SOS Children's Village in Syria, an organization asking for donations of winter clothes for children in need. In true hidden-camera style, they document people's reaction as they pass a child without a jacket on a cold winter day. The reactions are beautiful. While I have no connection with the organization or its success, I encourage those interested to check it out both the blog and the quote at www.lifebuzz.com/freebuggy (Don't forget to turn on the English subtitles.)

While desiring to be perfect at anything often leads to an unhealthy obsession, never missing an opportunity to perfect our humanity offers a new perspective — a perspective which might just be a perfect middle ground.

Meg Callaghan
Syracuse University

During the last month, President Barack Obama has stuck to his State of the Union vow to advance his agenda "with or without Congress," pushing new standards and regulations to combat and mediate climate change.

Due to the pressing nature of overarching environmental issues and the politicization of politics, this decision-making power shaped and utilized by the federal government's executive branch is necessary.

While other elected politicians may not see the urgency of dealing with climate change, Obama surely sees the difference Americans have to make. During his first term, the president gave up on climate change legislation when it stalled in the U.S. Senate.

But this did not stop executive action on climate change.

Even while climate change legislation was stuck and dying, the Obama administration and the Environmental Protection Agency were beginning to produce their own solutions to the problems at hand.

While the EPA made some announcements of regulations before the State of the Union this year, such as the increase in car gas mileage standards to 50.4 miles per gallon by 2025, February has seen a roll out of new solutions one after another.

In the beginning of February, the Obama administration announced the creation of seven regional "climate hubs," where it will work to aid farmers and other farmers to adapt to climate change, including changing weather patterns and increased pests.

The following week, the president revealed a $1 billion "climate resiliency" fund for communities affected by central California's drought.

That same week, Secretary of State John Kerry directed all American diplomatic missions to make climate change a priority issue. With this, Kerry also started talks with Indonesia, which struggles heavily with deforestation, and encouraged the country to sign a major climate treaty.

Obama continued on with new regulations, ordering the EPA to develop new, tougher fuel standards for heavy-duty trucks, which transport most of our resources and goods across all parts of the country, according to a Feb. 18 New York Times article.

With new regulations in the transportation sector, our country can begin to make major cuts back on our greenhouse gas emissions, as transportation emissions are one of the top sources for greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

Combining the efforts to reduce our environmental effects while creating plans to deal with the effects we have already set into play shows our government is looking out for the future of its people. While it is unfortunate that leadership on front of planning and policy for the future, it is not a sign of a tyrannical executive branch, it is not a sign of a tyrant in office or a new "big brother" state. It is a sign that other branches are not taking science seriously and are not looking out for their constituents.

Climate change will not only affect our environment, it will affect our nation's human health and our economy. It will hurt our livelihoods and our society. In some cases, even in our own country, these changes are already hurting or endangering our lives.

When Congress is stuck in the mud, at least we have the executive office to keep our nation's health and happiness in the forefront of planning and policy for the future. The president must continue with these endeavors while other policymakers refuse to make changes, for the sake of both the planet and the people on it.

This column was originally posted on Feb. 27 for The Daily Orange, the student news organization for Syracuse University.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
A Republican stance on immigration

Mark Gianfalla
Pledging Gamma Omicron Pi

It’s not often Republicans can speak about immigration reform without being called racist or anti-immigrant, but recently, House Republicans laid out their ideals of what immigration reform should look like, and in honor of the immigration programming on campus this week, I will make you all informed as to our position.

That’s right, even Republicans are in favor of reforming the nation’s broken immigration system. Our priorities are actually fairly similar to the Democratic Party except for a few key areas. For Republicans, we acknowledge the source of the problem must be addressed first. That is why our main priority is border security.

With over 12 million illegal aliens having been able to gain entry through our country’s borders, the problem is both serious and neglected. There is currently no effective way to track people overstaying their visas after gaining lawful entry into the country, and many areas of our physical border allow for easy crossing into the U.S. It would be useless to address the issue of the 12 million illegal aliens already here if the border was still weak and making it possible for that large number to grow. Greater security along our physical border coupled with a more effective entry-exit tracking system will help solve the original problem of inflow and allow for a shift in effort.

The Republican Party also acknowledges the blatant need to address those already here, and for that we offer a practical plan. Amnesty would be sending the wrong message and would be a slap in the face to those lawfully waiting in line, like many of our ancestors did years ago. We Republicans emphasize a need for those illegal aliens already residing in our country to become current on their back-taxes and prove that they are able to support themselves. Those illegal immigrants who are currently working, or displaying a willingness to serve the United States in the armed forces, will be given priority when it comes to granting residency.

It is also necessary to improve employment verification and workplace enforcement programs to ensure that legal residents of the United States are the ones being hired and that taxes are being rightfully paid. The current bi-partisan immigration bill includes statutes for a long-term residency program to grant those here illegally who are also contributing to our economy the opportunity to become legal residents, and eventually apply for citizenship. The key point here is that illegal aliens are not given time priority over those waiting to immigrate to the United States legally.

Another key point is zero tolerance for those who took advantage of other laws while in the U.S. illegally, and that is why it is necessary to deport those with felony records or warrants as well as those with multiple misdemeanor offenses. Both Republicans and Democrats also agree that children who are brought here illegally by their parents should not suffer and should have the opportunity to become legal in the United States if they receive a college degree or join the military.

Republicans ultimately dropped the Dream Act, originally a large part of the Democratic plan for immigration reform, because of its provision to grant federal financial aid to those illegal immigrant youth. The majority who were opposed to the Dream Act held their position because U.S. tax dollars would go to provide this financial aid when most sources agree that nearly 60 percent of illegal aliens pay no federal income tax.

Another part of the Dream Act that draws criticism is the age where the law drew the line for near-amynty. I cited that children who illegally immigrated here under the age of 16 would be eligible. This creates another double standard when the legal age of reason in the U.S. is widely legally accepted to be seven years old, and many U.S. citizens can be legally charged for felonies as adults at ages much younger than 16.

In conclusion, Republicans care a great deal about immigration reform and are not just hell-bent on sending everyone back where they came from. Real reform will come from both sides and through cooperation.

Mark Gianfalla is a junior studying finance and a resident of Morrissey Manor. He can be reached at mgianf@nd.edu.

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

Giving a voice to the voiceless at Notre Dame

Katrina Linden
Kat’s Meow

I recently had the opportunity to be a guest on a California-based radio talk show. On my flight out, I had a conversation with a woman and myself discussed instances of racism on university campuses across the nation and the reasons for the rise in such incidents.

Theories varied from the assumption that the rejection of Obama fueled the animosity that ethnic individuals faced — which I found to be a stretch — to ideas that millennials taught to be “colorblind” become essentially ignorant of cultural and racial differences.

We left the conversation with no concrete answer on the idea of post-racial America. However, it was unanimous that post-racism is nothing more than a theory most individuals admit is preferred in a perfect world, but is essentially unrealistic in practice for various reasons.

During this conversation I had the opportunity to hear from black students from UCLA and Michigan who shared their experiences with racism and prejudices in which their merit was questioned because of their skin color. After listening to instances of racism across the nation, I felt inadequate in contributing to the conversation considering the progress Notre Dame has been making in becoming more inclusive and significantly less ignorant in terms of race relations.

The lack of diversity on Notre Dame has been on the forefront lately in terms of race relations, in particular with their video “33,” in which black students speak out about being a minority and feeling unwelcome at UCLA, a feeling I can guarantee more people than myself can relate with at Notre Dame. A relation can be made between public UCLA and private Notre Dame in terms of the academic rigor expected of both and the question of affirmative action that comes up for most ethnic students during their time in college but there are still distinct differences between the two.

Back to the radio show, the ignorant encounters I have faced at Notre Dame seem insignificant in comparison to the stories these men shared. I remain so focused on the negatives — the minute minority of those who voice their naïve opinions of racism and prejudices and those who undermine the concerns of minorities on campus — that I forget that there exist at Notre Dame university who are anything but ignorant.

I forget about those who care about the “spirit of inclusion” Notre Dame attempts to emit. When the well-meaning people are masked by the ignorant, it is difficult to be happy with your surroundings. Nobody wants to feel unwelcome in a place where they are automatically supposed to fit in and conform to social norms. Even further, it is difficult to accept people even when their intentions are well-meaning but wholly uninformed.

I forget about the Office of Student Affairs and the strides the University has been making in the past year alone in bringing Notre Dame closer to its roots of inclusion and acceptance. Catholicism, after all is based on inclusion and acceptance of those of different backgrounds.

We are far from a perfect university. We are not UC Berkeley. We are not some liberal arts college that embraces everyone Notre Dame is against. If that is what I wanted I should have gone there. But I didn’t.

I like Notre Dame because I am the minority, both phenotypically and mentally. As much as I like to complain about my disdain for a select group of individuals at this university, I actually enjoy it. I thrive in being able to instill commentary and reflection in others, though feedback may be negative in many cases. Even greater, there are those who cancel out the ignorance and make life here slightly more bearable.

I like Notre Dame because I can educate those who do not understand how to deal with cultural differences. I can call people out for their public ignorance and learn how to deal with difficult individuals I will surely encounter later in life. I like to think that I heighten self-awareness in those who would otherwise remain comfortable in their homogenous lifestyle, never encountering those with varying opinions or life experiences.

Further, I like to believe that I am providing people with a voice where they would otherwise be too afraid to break the fabric of homogeneity. When you feel like a character in an Orwell book for bringing up social concerns and for not absolutely loving Notre Dame, it’s hard not to feel like the secret Notre Dame allegiance committee is constantly observing you. Us outliers are out here; you just have to find us.

Katrina Linden is a sophomore English and Latino Studies major living in Lewis Hall. She can be reached at klinden1@nd.edu.
By JOHN DARR
Scene Writer

Real Estate is one of those bands that can be scary to review. Their music is so easy on the ears that one can be tempted to call them out for not being challenging. They’ve maintained a pretty uniform sound throughout the years — subtle drums that serve as a backbone to flowing guitar riffs and easgoing vocals. And yet despite this, the members of Real Estate are undeniably experts at what they do. Each track is gorgeously layered, bringing a plethora of melodies and riffs to the table every track. Though the band’s music is often calm and accessible, it’s never boring. Whenever a riff or jam section threatens to be repetitive, the Real Estate changes it up — the song structures are complex enough to keep the constant flow going. Each track is gorgeously layered, bringing a plethora of melodies and riffs to the table every track. Though the band’s music is often calm and accessible, it’s never boring. Whenever a riff or jam section threatens to be repetitive, the Real Estate changes it up — the song structures are complex enough to keep the constant flow going.

So it’s daunting to say that Real Estate’s new album, “Atlas,” is more of the same! Because it certainly is just that — more of the same. Layers of calm, subtly complex guitar riffs still have found themselves between quiet, driving drums and summer-morning vocals. The writing here is still fantastic — if you’re not sick of the Real Estate sound, then you’re not going to be sick of these Real Estate songs. In the end, though, Atlas is nothing new. So why should it deserve a trophy or a pat on the back? There are, thankfully, more than a couple reasons.

First of all, “Atlas” finds Real Estate continuing to refine its sound. In essence, it’s safe to say that the songs on “Atlas” actually take a step up from the bar the band set with their fantastic last album, “Days.” The band’s slowest songs, which strayed beyond calm into sleepy and even boring, have been left out here. The tempo alone makes “Atlas” the most engaging, memorable and re-playable record of Real Estate’s catalogue. All of these descriptions are further amplified by another trend in Real Estate’s music — catcher melodies. While “Days” and the self-titled debut had clear highlights, “Atlas” is an album of consistently standout tracks. Each song, with the exception of perhaps “The Bend,” boasts a set of appealing hooks. “Atlas” goes beyond the passive background music that Real Estate usually makes, engaging the listener far more effectively and far more often.

Second of all, “Atlas” is a treasure trove of thought-provoking, relatable lyrics. Real estate has always been the rare band that pairs excellent music with excellent words, and their newest effort is no exception. Opener “I Had to Hear” perfectly captures long distance love: “I had to hear you just to feel near you/ I know it’s not true.” Follow-up “Past Lives” sums up nostalgic sadness in a similarly simple yet brilliantly effective line: “I cannot come back to this neighborhood without feeling my own age.” The themes of painful love continue throughout the duration of the album, exemplified in “Crimes” chorus: “I don’t want her lonely and upset / I want her next to me.” More than any album in recent memory, “Atlas” manages to evoke acute emotions without resorting to drama or hyperbole.

Finally, very few bands are doing what Real Estate is doing right now. The indie rock scene has turned to danceable beats and away from prominent guitars in the last five years. Real Estate is one of the last groups that keeps instrument performance, and the electric guitar, at the heart of its music. Guitar rock is something pretty rare these days, but Real Estate continues to make a very good case for it. “Atlas” may not be new for Real Estate, but in the end, it doesn’t need to be. A brilliant third album in a discography of guitar and songwriting expertise, it’s another entry in the guitar rock canon. Though familiar, each track presents a new incarnation of the Real Estate sound. And given how good that sound is, it’s hard to pass “Atlas” up.
Spring break is finally upon us, and with it an opportunity to finally catch up on all those things you like to do for fun. Some of you may have forgotten in the midst of midterm exams and papers that such wonderful things exist as movie theaters, reading for pleasure and food that’s not from the dining hall. This week off is an opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with these pleasures before it’s back to the school grind. Whether you’re soaking up the sun or catching up with sleep at home, here are a few suggestions for your spring break enjoyment.

**To do this Spring Break:**

**To Watch**

“The Lego Movie” — Though “Lego Movie” came out last month, but there’s still time to catch it this break. With another cast full of celebrities (Morgan Freeman, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett), the animated feature has been well received by kids, adults and critics alike.

“Boy, snow, Bird” — British novelist Helen Oyeyemi is only 29, but just published her fifth novel. “Boy, snow, Bird,” this year. After winning the Shirley Jackson Award for her third novel, “White is for Witching,” and the Somerset Maugham Award for her fourth, “Mr. Fox,” Oyeyemi has release “Boy, Snow, Bird” to much anticipation in the literary world. Set in New York in the 1950s, the novel centers around a white woman running away from her home. The story uses fairytale and folklore to retell the “Snow White” story, this time exploring themes of race, gender and self-image.

“True Detective” — I have read enough about it and seen enough tweets on my timeline, I feel full invested already. The HBO crime drama, starring Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey, follows two detectives as they attempt to hunt down a serial killer in Louisiana over two decades. The show has received widespread acclaim, and HBO announced “True Detective” would return as an anthology with two new actors taking Harrelson’s and McConaughey’s places next season. With all the buzz around the show so far, it looks like this season will be a hard one to beat and one you won’t want to miss.

**To Read**

“Oxymoron” — Schoolboy Q — Despite what the Grammys or any awards might have said, 2013 was undoubtedly the year that Kendrick Lamar moved from every hip-hop head’s favorite rapper to a household name in rap music. This year, fellow Black Hippy rapper Schoolboy Q is poised to make the same transition with his second studio album, “Oxymoron.” After releasing several singles in 2013, “Oxymoron” was finally released in February and has lived up to its hype.

**To Eat**

Churro waffles — First it was cupcakes (remember those), then donuts (the cronut first, and now the dan- olli, or donut-canalé), but the next big sweet to sweep the nation is undoubtedly the waffle. There’s new waffle-based breakfast taco now offered at Taco Bell and “waffle cafes” popping up in cities, but the churro waffle is the standout. Exactly like it sounds, the churro waffle is a waffle covered in cinnamon, sugar, vanilla and whatever else goes in those delicious, delicious churros. Now is the time to utilize a non-dorm kitchen and take on a churro waffle recipe.

Ramenburgers — If you haven’t tried the ramen burg- er, made famous by chef Seizo Shimamoto late last year, the ramen burger has taken the food world by storm. A hamburger between two ramen “buns,” the dish is sup- posedly juicy, salty and absolutely ridiculous enough to justify standing in line for hours to eat. If you’re not in New York or L.A. for break but still want to try the ramen burger, there are dozens of recipes to help you make better use of your leftover midfielders Top Ramen. Go on, give it a try.

**Contact Allie Tollaksen at atollaks@nd.edu**

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Athletes to kick it with for a day

Kevin Durant: If I played two-on-two with him on my team, he would let me take more shots than him (Come on Westbrook. You should have learned by now.).

Justin Tucker: He can sing opera in seven different languages and I could use a little more high-culture in my life. For best results, hang out with Tucker after Manziel to maintain equitability in your life.

Meta World Peace: Everyone loves a good oxymoron, and here we have oxymoron in the flesh.

Victor Cruz/Jacoby Jones: I'm 22 and still need to learn how to dance. Feel free to check YouTube for their moves for further clarity.

Chad Johnson: See Rob Gronkowski. Johnson could help me with my Spanish.

Anthony Davis: I heard he is the foremost authority on the subject of cosmetology. It's always cool to meet the best in a field.

Alex Smith: For those of you who don’t know, Smith graduated from Utah while majoring in Economics. With a 3.7 GPA. In two years.

Yasiel Puig: Just in case you ever need to drive somewhere quickly.

Mike Tyson: My Bengal ri tiger has been refusing to eat lately and I think I need advice on how to train him better.

Chris Paul: If I hang out with Chris, maybe I can be lucky enough to meet Cliff Paul, State Farm superstar. So, that’s my list.

NCAA MEN’S BASKETBALL

Nebraska holds off Indiana’s charge for 70-60 win

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Walter Pitchford and Shavon Shields each scored 17 points Wednesday, and Nebraska’s defense held off Indiana’s second-half rally for a 70-60 victory.

The Cornhuskers (18-11, 10-7 Big Ten) have won seven of eight and this one strengthened their resume for the NCAA’s selection committee. It’s also the first time in six tries Nebraska has won in Bloomington.

Indiana (17-13, 7-10) was led just 36.7 percent from the field, were 5 of 21 on 3-pointers and had only three offensive rebounds in the first half.

The Cornhuskers, who are chasing their first NCAA tourney bid in 16 years, wasted no time in taking control. Pitchford scored the first nine Nebraska points, giving them a 9-3 lead. The Cornhuskers then used a 6-0 spurt to make it 15-7 and they led by as much as 27-16 with 9:16 left.

Chad Johnson: See Rob Gronkowski. Johnson could help me with my Spanish.

Russell Wilson: My beard is 6 months.

Brian Wilson: I need to get it cut. It’s also the first time in my life. For best results, check YouTube for their moves. I don’t know how the best move.

Stephen Curry: He was in the movie “Parks and Recreation”. Iipingso women flock to his presence.

Usain Bolt: Imagine getting a chance to be the fastest man in the world.

Rob Gronkowski: Else fiesta.
early December. I think this team has been able to focus on the road and been ready for every game. The leadership has been phenomenal all season and we play with an unselfish attitude.”

That unselfish attitude has shown in the offensive balance of the Irish, who rank second in the nation in assists per game and have three players that average over ten points.

“I love the balance,” McGraw said. “If we have a game where one of our top scorers comes out and isn’t playing so great, we know that we can pick up the slack. We have great contributions off the bench from [sophomore guard] Michaela Mabrey, who has had a fantastic year, and [freshman forward] Taya Reimer. We have the depth we’ve never had before.”

Notre Dame is entering their first ACC championship because we have heard a lot about it,” McGraw said. “First, the neutral court is something that we have not experienced in a long time, and that will make for a great, friendly atmosphere that we have not experienced in a while.”

The Irish will also begin the tournament with a little added confidence. Senior guard Kayla McBride, senior forward Natalie Achonwa and sophomore guard Jewell Loyd were named to the all-ACC team on Tuesday, and McGraw was voted the ACC coach of the year on Wednesday.

“I love the way Jewell and Kayla compete,” McGraw said. “We try to match them up in practice and they really go at it. They both have so much competitiveness and pride. They’ve made each other better and there’s no real rivalry between them, but they make each other better and that has made us much better too.”

The Irish begin ACC tournament play on Friday at 2 p.m., in Greensboro, N.C., against either Miami or Florida State.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu
Irish host BU in playoffs

Observer Staff Report

Coming off of two disheartening losses on the road to New Hampshire, the No. 11 Irish were just 4-8-1 in conference play and near the basement of Hockey East, facing a home series against No. 20 Maine. When the Black Bears took the first game of the weekend 2-1 after the apparent tying goal was waved off with no explanation, it could have tolled a death knoll for Notre Dame’s season.

Instead, the play lit a fire under the Irish (20-12-2, 9-9-2 Hockey East). Senior right wing Bryan Rust buried two goals in the final 1:08 of the game Saturday, lifting Notre Dame to a 3-2 win over Maine and sparking a six-game stretch in which the Irish have gone 5-0-1, including a pair of 2-0 defeats to the Black Bears. The Irish have struggled to generate goals. With Summerhays’ recent stellar play, the Irish have not needed to fill the net, managing to win their last five games despite not scoring more than three goals in any of them.

Senior center T.J. Tynan leads the team with 31 points while sophomore left wing Mario Lucia has scored a team-high 15 goals, but the Irish have struggled to win. The Irish take on Boston College in the final game of the season. The Irish, who will host the first round game, have gone 15-5-1 at home. The play of Summerhays has been a catalyst in the team’s recent stretch. Since the win in the second game of the Maine series on Feb. 8, the senior has allowed just three goals, posting a .979 save percentage during the run.

The Terriers come into the weekend after sweeping last weekend’s home-and-home series against No. 14 Northeastern, but the team has struggled mightily in the second half of the season. The 2009 national champions won just 1-12-2 in the second half before the Northeastern series, including a pair of 2-0 defeats to the Irish at Compton. The team has been particularly inept on the road, going just 0-8-0.

The Irish take on Boston University in the Preliminary round of the Hockey East tournament at 7:05 p.m. at Compton Family Ice Arena. The win is a significant one for the Irish, who have usually come up short against a Northwestern squad that won seven national championships between 2005 and 2012. Notre Dame returns home to play Louisville in the Loftus Sports Center at 1 p.m. Saturday.
Golf team travels to Arizona

Observer Staff Report

The Notre Dame women’s golf team will spend their spring break in Arizona as they prepare to host the Clover Cup from March 14-16 at the Longbow Golf Club in Mesa, Ariz.

The Irish are coming off of an eighth-placed finish at the Central District Invitational — held in Lakewood Ranch, Fla. from Feb. 16-18 — where they scored 881, 17 shots over par in the three days of the competition to finish in eighth place.

Sophomore Talia Campbell led the Irish in Florida, where she finished tied for 25th and carded a three-over-par score of 219 for the tournament.

The Clover Cup is in its third year and takes place in conjunction with the Visit Mesa College/Amateur Tournament. The 16-team field is led by the Colorado Buffaloes — the only team in the field to receive a vote in last week’s Top 25 poll — and features teams from coast to coast, including Florida International, Nebraska and San Diego State.

The Irish will also look for good rounds from junior Ashley Armstrong and freshman Jordan Ferreira, who finished with the team’s second and third best scores respectively in Florida two weeks ago.

Irish shake up doubles pairings

By MIKE GINOCCHIO
Sports Writer

After a week’s worth of rest, Notre Dame will look to end their slide before break, as they take on Clemson on Friday as well as Florida State on Sunday. The Irish (5-5) are currently in the midst of a four-game losing streak, with their most recent showing a 6-1 loss last Friday against No. 1 ranked Duke.

In an effort to shake things up, head coach Jay Louderback has added some new wrinkles to the Irish game plan, including forming a new doubles team of freshmen Monica Robinson and Jane Fennelly.

“We will continue to experiment a little,” Louderback said. “[Robinson and Fennelly] played especially well. Both of them don’t miss a lot of balls.”

Robinson was also receptive to the new configuration of players.

“We had never played [together] before so it brought a fresh perspective and put some energy on the court,” Robinson said. “Coach has emphasized just ‘don’t look back, only look forward.’ So we have got to just focus on taking this start and learning from it. I think we’ll get it and ride that wave of success, which will be nice.”

The Irish first face off against the Tigers (10-3), who are undefeated in ACC play. The toughest competition that the Irish will have to deal with is Clemson sophomore Tristen Dewar, who is currently riding a six-match winning streak, and is currently 9-2 in dual match play this season. Dewar is also part of a strong doubles team with junior Romy Koetlzer, who also put together a strong singles showing during the Tigers’ last competition on Sunday against Wake Forest, breezing through her match by a count of 6-1, 6-1.

After making it through Clemson, the Irish then take on the Seminoles (8-4), who are coming off a 6-1 victory over Boston College this past Sunday. The Seminoles rely on players such as juniors Kerrie Cartwright and Daneika Borthwick, who as a doubles team effortlessly picked up an 8-0 victory against the Demon Deacons. (8-3)

Louderback feels the high level of competition the Irish have faced recently has toughened them up to go against these two teams.

“The teams this weekend, Clemson and FSU, are two teams that don’t play a lot of indoors so that should help us. We’ve played just a tough stretch. Michigan, Georgia Tech, Miami and Duke are all teams that have been in or around the top 10. So, us having played a lot of big matches should be an advantage.”

The Irish resume play on Friday against the Tigers at 4 p.m., followed by a match against the Seminoles on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Contact Mike Ginocchio at mginocchio@nd.edu
Baseball

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your other outs productive.”

This weekend will not be the first time Notre Dame has faced a top-10 team. When Notre Dame fell to No. 9 UCLA, 2-1, last Friday, the Irish had the challenge of facing Bruins sophomore right-handed pitcher James Kaprielian. So far this season, Kaprielian has a 0.90 ERA, 37 strikeouts and only five walks.

“We don’t really change our approach when we’re facing a guy like [Rodon],” Aoki said. “You just have to go out there and play your game. If you have something that says, ‘this is what he hits the percent of the time in a particular count,’ then maybe you sit that pitch in that particular count. Individually, you play there to what you do well. You go up there with a plan and try to exe-
cute that plan to the best of your ability.”

Consistently, the Wolfpack is led by junior infielder Trea Turner. Last season, Turner led North Carolina State in batting average, runs, triples, total bases, walks, and OBP and stolen bases, despite not playing in 11 games due to injury. So far this season, Turner is hitting .370, just out-pacing his .368 mark from his sophomore campaign.

“Turner changes a lot of stuff,” Aoki said. “He’s got a little bit of a little thing.” Thankfully, we can limit him to four or five at-bats a game. We don’t have to worry about him on the bases next time all-acc performer

M Lacrosse

continued from page 16

The Irish head into the matchup with momentum af-
efter an 11-10 comeback vic-

tory over No. 8 North Carolina on Saturday. The Tar Heels (3-1, 0-1 ACC) led 8-3 at the beginning of the third quar-
ter, but the Irish overcame the five-goal deficit to clinch their first victory in their new conference. With its fo-
cus now on Denver, Notre Dame hopes to maintain the energy and intensity it exert-
ed in the second half.

“We need to carry over that momentum from the fourth quarter into this game against Denver,” O’Hara said. “Hopefully that can translate into a quicker start so that we do not have to go down there with a lot of goals to get things going.”

The Irish, determined to initiate a quicker start, are not straying from their stan-
dard play procedure and fundamentals, O’Hara said.

Heading into this game, our focus is on the things we do well,” O’Hara said. “Our strategy is set on playing as a team, IQ and trying to do the little things. ‘Our focus is on us.’

While the Irish focus on themselves, the Pioneers are looking to avenge their 12-10 loss to No. 20 Penn on Saturday. Denver could not hold off a four-goal rally by the Quakers in the last 10 minutes of play. The Pioneers boast a top-15 offense, led by senior attackman Wesley Berg and senior captain mid-
fielder Jeremy Noble. Denver has 63 goals on the season with an average of 12.6 goals per game, while allowing 9.2 on defense.

Both Berg and Noble hail from Canada, and use a dif-
ferent style of play than the Irish are used to facing. The difference in technique is something of which the Irish, particularly the defense, are acutely aware.

“Denver has a really good offense and knows exactly what it is trying to get out of it, and they have a lot of Canadians, which makes their style a little bit different than teams we’ve faced before,” O’Hara said. “We need to put extra emphasis on our communication and stick to playing our style of defense.”

With the chance to build off of their win against North Carolina, the Irish take on Denver in the Pacific Coast Shootout on Saturday at noon at Orange Coast College’s LeBard Stadium in Costa Mesa, Calif.

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The Observer apologizes for the absence of Controlled Chaos
**BASEBALL**

**ND prepares for No. 8 Wolfpack**

**By AARON SANT-MILLER**

Sports Writer

On Friday, the Irish will open a three-game series against No. 8 North Carolina State, a team only a few wins short of the 2013 National Championship. After winning the Raleigh Super Regional last spring, the Wolfpack fell in the second round of the College World Series.

“Look, NC State doesn’t have a whole lot of chinks in their arm,” Irish coach Mik Aoki said. “They are a preseason top-10. They are a returning Omaha team. This is the year, if you look at the guys they have, they’ve been really building toward the National Championship. They’ve played that way; they’ve lived up to the hype, except stubbing their toe against Canisius mor,” irish coach mik aoki said.

By Saturday and Sunday, and the Irish will face Wolfpack junior left-handed pitcher Carlos Rodon in one of those three games.

“We’re going to be facing the odds-on favorite to be the No. 1 overall pick in this year’s draft,” Aoki said. “We’re going to get in there, compete like crazy. He’s actually lost two games already this season; he’s not immortal.”

So far this season, Rodon is 1-2 with a 2.14 ERA, 23 strikeouts and only six walks.

Obvioulsy, with Rodon, you have a narrow margin for error,” Aoki said. “In basketball, when you’re facing LeBron James, you know that LeBron is going to get his points. When you’re facing a guy like Rodon, he’s going to get his punch-outs. He’s probably going to punch you out nine, 10, 12 times. That doesn’t mean you’re going to lose your game. It just means you have to make your punch-outs. He’s probably going to punch you out nine, 10, 12 times. That doesn’t mean you’re going to lose your game. It just means you have to make

**ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Second season begins**

**By GREG HADLEY**

Sports Writer

Forget the perfect regular season. Forget the all-ACC honors. Forget the high-powered, top-ranked offense. As No. 2 Notre Dame enters the ACC tournament in Greensboro, N.C. on Friday, all that matters for Irish coach Muffet McGraw is keeping her squad focused on the road ahead as the Irish (29-0, 16-0 ACC) enter the postseason.

As the No. 1 seed in the tournament and the regular season conference champions, the Irish earned a double bye into the quarterfinals, meaning that they will not play until Friday. They will play either eighth-seeded Miami or ninth-seeded Florida State, who face off Thursday at 2 p.m.

“I think the ACC is the toughest league in women’s basketball and we’ve had some great battles that have prepared us for the postseason,” McGraw said. The Irish defeated Miami (16-13, 8-8) at home on Jan. 23, 79-51, then rolled past Florida State (19-10, 7-9) with an 81-60 victory on the road two weeks later on Feb.

6, as part of a grueling ACC schedule that began on Jan. 5 and has continued uninterrupted since.

“It’s a long season,” McGraw said. “We haven’t had a weekend day off since

**MEN’S LACROSSE**

**Squad faces familiar foe**

**By KIT LOUGHRAN**

Sports Writer

No. 6 Notre Dame will take a break from ACC play and the freezing cold this weekend to travel to sunny Costa Mesa, Calif., for the Pacific Coast Shootout.

The Irish (2-1, 1-0 ACC) square off against West Coast rival No. 12 Denver (3-2, 0-0 Big East) on Saturday. The Irish and Pioneers are no strangers on the field, and Saturday’s matchup will bring the competitive history between the two programs back to the surface.

The out-of-conference rivals have battled into overtime two years in a row, with the Irish securing the win both times by only one goal.

Notre Dame rallied in 2012 to beat Denver 10-9 in triple overtime, and last season the Irish held on again to win 13-12 in extra time. This time around, the Irish anticipate another stiff challenge as they aim to continue their winning streak against the Pioneers.

Denver is a really good team, and it’s always a tough test,” senior captain and defenseman Stephen O’Hara said. “The past games in the last two years have been extremely close with just a one goal margin, and they are always good offensively and defensively and well-coached, so it will definitely be a good game this time around.”

**ND SOFTBALL**

**Irish enter ACC play on hot start**

**By EVAN ANDERSON**

Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Atlanta this weekend to face Georgia Tech for its inaugural series as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The No. 22 Irish (15-3) are in the midst of a torrid offensive start that has included several lengthy win streaks, including eight victories in a row that spanned tourneys at Auburn and Jacksonville University and a trip to California for the Mary Nutter Collegiate Classic. The team has currently won five games in a row after going undefeated last week-end at the Diamond 9 Citrus Classic in Kissimmee, Fla., at ESPN’s Wide World of Sports Complex.

The Citrus Classic was Notre Dame’s second perfect tournament of the young season and included wins over Fordham, Illinois State, Ohio State, Radford and Omaha.

Sophomore first baseman Micaela Arizimendi, whose 15 RBI in just 17 appearances has already topped her total from her freshman campaign, said that the team’s consistency during the hot start would lend momentum to the team heading into conference play.

“We’ve been feeding of off each other’s energy all year long, and there is always someone different who steps up and swings momentum in our favor,” Arizimendi said. “Especially after a 5-0 series in Orlando, we are very confident right now.

But the Yellow Jackets (12-4) have started off their