Life celebrated at memorial mass

Friends remember Connor Sorensen as tough, passionate, selfless

By JACK ROONEY
Associate News Editor

Connor Sorensen was a fighter.
Friends said he fought playfully in annual games of Humans vs. Zombies on Notre Dame’s campus. In a more literal sense, Sorensen fought against lifelong lung disease and numerous health issues, a battle he ultimately lost Dec. 20, 2013.

Friends and family gathered in the Morrissey Manor chapel Sunday afternoon to celebrate and remember Sorensen, who was known as “the science guy” among his friends and lived in Morrissey Manor.

Professor discusses U.S. empire

By JACK ROONEY
Associate News Editor

On Friday, Laura Briggs, a professor of women, gender and sexuality studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, delivered a lecture titled “Imperialism as a Way of Life: Thinking Sex and Gender in American Empire,” in which she argued for the necessity of feminism in scholarship and activism.

The lecture was the keynote address of the two-day American empire conference, which was sponsored by several Notre Dame departments within the College of Arts and Letters.

Briggs framed her argument within the field of U.S. empire studies, which was the focus of the conference and said the scholarship within the field is influential, though it is hard often difficult to see the results.

“We live and work in the belly of a great war-and-money-making machine and if we’re serious about challenging it, we’re going to feel the sting,” Briggs said.

“No one is going to thank us for our services as intellectuals, but when we do it, it matters.”

IBM VP discusses future of computers

By JESSICA MERDES
News Writer

John Gordon, vice president of marketing and strategy at IBM’s Watson Solutions Division said the question at IBM right now is: how do we start applying technology to solve problems, creating something meaningful that would have an impact on people’s lives?

Gordon spoke Friday in Jordan Auditorium at the Mendoza College of Business as part of a one-credit course called “Notre Dame Ten Years Hence Speaker Series: The Future of Energy” that brings speakers to campus who will explore issues, ideas and trends likely to affect society in the next decade. Gordon’s is the fourth lecture in the series.

Gordon is a graduate of Notre Dame in philosophy and computer science who has been working in the technology world since receiving his MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

In his speech, Gordon discussed the future of computer systems and software — how it is changing and how it is expected to change over the next decade.

“With the help of 400,000 employees, we focus on innovation that brings speakers to campus who will explore issues, ideas and trends likely to affect society in the next decade. Gordon’s is the fourth lecture in the series. Gordon is a graduate of Notre Dame in philosophy and computer science who has been working in the technology world since receiving his MBA from the University of Texas at Austin. In his speech, Gordon discussed the future of computer systems and software — how it is changing and how it is expected to change over the next decade.”

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Students join Hannah and Friends dance party

By CHELSEY FATTAL
News Writer

Hannah and Friends’ “March Dance Party” brought student volunteers and disabled participants together to stomp, jump and groove Saturday.

Hannah and Friends is a national organization that works to improve the lives of children and adults with special needs. Saint Mary’s students visit the residential home owned by Hannah and Friends every Wednesday to volunteer with special needs residents.

Once a month, Hannah and Friends holds a dance party at its 30-acre farm in South Bend. Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame students joined in on Saturday.

Student coordinator Emily Hazen, a Saint Mary’s junior, visits local grade schools to help spread the message to “be a friend to all people with all different abilities.”

“We’re just working to help spread their [Hannah & Friends] message of awareness and compassion on SMC and ND’s campuses,” Hazen said.

Hazen said she was first drawn into the Hannah & Friends organization because of a dance party; she attended during her freshman year.

“It’s great,” Emily Small, a first-year at Saint Mary’s College, said. “It’s so happy here!”

Small and her two friends, Kelly O’Kelly and Meghan McDonough, attended the dance party because they wanted a different service experience.

“The best part is the atmosphere,” McDonough said.

“Instead of building machines to do what we want, we want to build machines that we can tell what to do,” Gordon said.

He said the goal of IBM is to create a system that learns and grows by experience.

“We want to create a system that augments human cognition — systems that don’t just give output but explain it,” Gordon said.

He said this system would encompass a whole new system of reasoning that can help us figure out what is out there.

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The weekly Observer is published Monday through Friday by students of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content. Letters to the editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to the editor-in-chief, managing editor, assistant managing editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters to the editor and paid viewpoints are subject to editing and may be edited for content and style. Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the editor must be signed and must include contact information.


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Question of the Day:

Have a question you want answered? Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com

Includes

Monday
“Behind the Kitchen Door”
Hesburgh Library
7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Lecture on restaurant workers’ rights.

“Casta Paintings”
Information Technology Center
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Lecture on casta paintings and race.

Tuesday
Women’s Softball
Melissa Cook Stadium
6 p.m.-8 p.m.
The Irish take on the Northwestern Wildcats.

Wednesday
“The Death of God & the War on Terror”
Eck Visitors Center
6 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Lecture by Terry Eagleton

Thursday
“Travails of the Irish Language”
Eck Visitors Center
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Lecture on history of the Irish language.

Friday
ND Relay for Life
Compton Family Ice Arena
6 p.m.-10 p.m.
Fundraiser for cancer research.

Men’s Tennis
Eck Tennis Pavilion
3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
The Irish take on the Duke Blue Devils.

The NEXT FIVE DAYS:

What was your reaction to hearing that Dayton upset Syracuse Saturday night?

Frank Wamsley
freshman
Duncan Hall
“I didn’t see it coming.”

Andrew Brady
senior
Duncan Hall
“I was pretty flabbergasted.”

Brad Gonzalez
freshman
Keough Hall
“I cried. Anger, confusion, all-around bad time.”

Stephen Fox
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“I was kinda bummed. I hurt my bracket but I was happy because Dayton celebrated the right way.”

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“They weren’t even supposed to make the tournament.”

Jewell Loyd, Michaela Mabrey and Ariel Braker, members of the women’s basketball team, answer questions from the media after a 93-42 win over Robert Morris University on Saturday. The Irish will play Arizona State University tonight at 6:30 p.m.

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Saint Mary’s welcomes prospective first years

by HALEIGH EHMSEN
News Writer

Accepted members of Saint Mary’s class of 2018 were invited to the College Sunday for Meet Me at the Avenue, a program for students to meet each other and learn more about the campus community.

“This is the first opportunity for students to meet each other and for prospective students because it is often a young woman’s first visit to campus and the first opportunity for students to meet one another. Students get to talk to other students and meet their future classmates,” Bowe said.

“There are still many months to make decisions about college so Meet Me at the Avenue allows students to answer questions they have.”

The day began with a ceremony to welcome accepted students to campus, Bowe said. Saint Mary’s president Carol Ann Monney welcomed students, as well as Sister Veronica Viedove, vice president for Mission. Incoming student body president McKenna Schuster welcomed the young women on behalf of Student Government Association and the larger student body.

Bowe said the prospective students heard from many departments on campus throughout the day, including Information Technology, Sodexo Dining Services and Student Accounts, to discuss the next steps of the acceptance process. This year, the admissions office received the largest number of applications in the recorded history of Saint Mary’s, Bowe said. The office received about 1,660 applications, but Saint Mary’s plans to keep the class size at about 430 women.

Current students served as greeters, panelists and tour guides in each of the buildings on campus, Bowe said.

“We always get comments from visitors about how friendly our students are,” Bowe said. “We want to thank the community for their help.”

Junior Rachel Wall served as a student liaison this year to help study abroad program at the event. She spoke with students interested in the program about her own study abroad experience in Rome and how it shaped her overall Saint Mary’s experience.

“The College offers such a unique experience to its students that it would be a shame for anyone to pass it up,” Wall said. Wall said she hoped to get the prospective students and their parents excited about the opportunities that Saint Mary’s and the Rome program have to offer.

The day provided an opportunity for current students to interact with prospective students during the academic open house, Wall said. Students and professors from their respective departments discussed what common classes and study abroad experiences are like at Saint Mary’s.

“Meet Me at the Avenue is important to Saint Mary’s because it’s a pleasant reminder of her own study abroad experience and it’s something important we can finally see themselves at Saint Mary’s heart for Saint Mary’s College.”

Wall said the event served as a pleasant reminder of her own decision to come to Saint Mary’s.

“Being involved with Meet Me at the Avenue has made me realize how quickly my time at Saint Mary’s has flown by,” Wall said. “Not too long ago, I was in the shoes of the seniors visiting the campus. It’s incredible now to think that all of these young women will find a special place in their heart for Saint Mary’s College.”

Contact Haleigh Ehmsen at hehmse01@saintmarys.edu.

Shades of Ebony to host Women’s Week

by EMILY McCONVILLE
News Writer

This week, Shades of Ebony hosts its second annual Women’s Week, a series of presentations, discussions and other events designed to celebrate women at Notre Dame.

Carina Reich, secretary of Shades of Ebony, said the intent of this year’s event is to continue a discussion about the role of women on campus, in the workforce and in society.

“We see Women’s Week as our little Shades of Ebony meetings at large, because we get together as a women’s group every other weekend to discuss topics on women that are important to us, and we want to share it with the rest of campus,” Reich said.

The first Women’s Week in 2013 coincided with the 40th anniversary of the introduction of coeducation at Notre Dame and consisted of a dinner, a prayer service and a service event at St. Margaret’s House. Rayvon Jones, President of Shades of Ebony, said the positive response to the club received last year prompted them to expand the number and size of the events this year.

Many of the week’s events are sponsored by other organizations including Campus Ministry, the Gender Relations center, several individual coming, people are saying that they want to celebrate women and that women are important to the campus, and it’s something important for us to be promoting,” she said.

Contact Emily McConville at emcconville@nd.edu.
Sorensen lived in Morrissey for three years before receiving his degree last fall. In his homily at the memorial mass, Fr. Ronald Vierling, the rector of Morrissey Manor, said Sorensen lived the virtue of defiantly fighting with faith and determination.

"The important thing to know about Connor, I think, is that he fought the good fight," Vierling said. "And although his body gave out, his spirit did not."

Senior Sean Brady, one of Sorensen's close friends, said Sorensen's toughness was evident throughout his entire life.

"He was really tough. There were times when he would try and handle his condition through sheer force of will," Brady said. "He was so stubborn and so tough. It was amazing how tough he was and how self-confident and courageous he was."

Brady said Sorensen strove to make the most of his time at Notre Dame and fought to stay a part of the Notre Dame community as long as he could.

"When he came here, he didn't think he was going to be living very long, but he really wanted to come to Notre Dame and he really wanted to go to college," Brady said. "He didn't want to let the fact that he may have to make it to his next birthday dictate his life, and so he came here and he fought to stay here ... His doctors wanted him to leave before he did."

Senior Matt Jewell, who lived with Sorensen in Morrissey, said Sorensen refused to give up despite his physical condition.

"He never quit," Jewell said. "He might be slower than the group because his lungs were never functioning properly so he would have to slow down, but he would never stop. He would never quit."

Sorensen's friend, senior John Mundaden, said Sorensen frequently defied others' perceptions of his ability to live his life to the fullest.

"He was the last person who would use a wheelchair or have any handicaps, and he was very driven and passionate person and he lived out the ideal of putting others first before himself," Ayala said. "Something remarkable about him is that he always had this desire to help people. In particular, he wanted to help people who were in the same position as him ... so he would go to his doctors and he would read up on new treatments and basically volunteer himself for science to a point."

This selflessness was on display when Sorensen returned to Morrissey last November to tell his friends he did not have much time left, Mundaden said.

"When he came by like a week before Thanksgiving to let us know basically that he didn't want to ruin our holidays," Mundaden said. "Let us know basically that he didn't want to ruin our holidays," Mundaden said. "That's what he was worried about it." Despite all of his health struggles, Jewell said Sorensen never breathed a word of complaint about his situation.

"He would not accept special treatment or really any sort of pity or anything," Jewell said. "He never complained once."

According to an online remembrance, Sorensen, in addition to participating in Humans vs. Zombies, played the saxophone in the Notre Dame hockey band his freshman year, performed chemistry research and attained the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank of Eagle Scout. Through all of his hardship and strife, Vierling said Sorensen's bravery and courage represented the spirit of Notre Dame in a unique way.

"Connor's attitude of defiance toward his illness and struggles represents the spirit of Notre Dame to a degree I don't think others can," Vierling said.

Contact Katie McCarty at kmccar61@nd.edu

Professor wins engineering education award

By KATIE McCARTY News Writer

The American Society of Engineering Education recently featured Jason Hicks, assistant professor of chemical and bio-molecular engineering, as a "Leader in Engineering Education."

Hicks earned the recognition due to his contributions and dedication, both inside and outside the classroom to the engineering program, according to a press release. Hicks, a Kentucky native, attended Kentucky Wesleyan College and graduated with a B.S. in chemistry. He then attended Vanderbilt University to obtain a B.E. in chemical engineering and Georgia Institute of Technology for his graduate work in chemical engineering. He attributed his abilities as an instructor to several of his own professors throughout his education.

"I had multiple remarkable instructors who inspired me to pursue a career in education," Hicks said. "They were clearly dedicated to their students, and they spent a lot of time investing in me. They imparted knowledge, skills and passion for learning and being creative to me, and this career gives me the opportunity to regularly self." Hicks mol.

Hicks teaches several classes within the department of chemical engineering and conducts research on the synthesis and characterization of materials and catalysts for energy applications.

"We are focused on developing new catalysts to generate clean liquid fuels," Hicks said. "This includes removing sulfur from diesel fuels, converting (carbon dioxide) to liquids, producing biofuels from non-edible biomass feedstocks and producing chemicals from renewable resources."

Hicks said the feature was especially meaningful given his relatively short time as a professor.

"This is my fourth year at Notre Dame teaching primarily senior undergraduate students, and I am very excited to be recognized as a junior faculty member," Hicks said. "The [department of chemical and biomolecular engineering] has excellent educators, and I have had many opportunities to learn from my senior faculty." Hicks said he receives his passion for engineering from its potential to enhance lives.

"An engineering education provides students with skills needed to design, construct and operate processes that impact our society," Hicks said.

"Engineers are needed to develop technologies for energy, food, pharmaceutical, textile, manufacturing, transportation and computer industries. I am passionate about engineering because we can use this knowledge to directly and indirectly enhance our lifestyles."

Contact Katie McCarty at kmccar61@nd.edu

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Acceptance by

Christina Ortega

Monday, March 24, 2014
Jordan Auditorium
Mendoza College of Business
4:30 p.m.
Satellite detects possible Malaysian jet debris

Associated Press

PERTH — Rain was expected to hamper the hunt Monday for the missing Malaysian Airlines jet, as a growing number of planes focus on an expanded area of the southern Indian Ocean where a French satellite detected potential debris.

Australian Maritime Safety Authority’s rescue coordination center said the search area was expanded from 59,000 to 68,500 square kilometers (22,800-26,400 square miles), including a new separate area because of data provided by France on Sunday.

The U.S. Pacific command said it was sending a black box locator to the region in case a debris field is located. The Towed Pinger Locator has highly sensitive listening capability so that if the wreck site is located, it can hear the black box pinger down to a depth of about 20,000 feet (6,000 meters), Cmdr. Chris Buddle, a U.S. Seventh Fleet operations officer, said in a statement.

Two Chinese Yi BuShi 11-67 planes joined the search from Perth, increasing the number of aircraft to 10 from eight a day earlier, AMSA said.

It said the weather in the search area, about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) southwest of Perth, was expected to deteriorate with rain likely.

Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss said “nothing of note” was found Sunday, which he described as a “fruitless day.”

“It’s going to be a challenge, but we’ll stick at it,” he told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio before the first aircraft left Perth at dawn.

He said that the latest search area, which radar data was 850 kilometers (530 miles) north of the previous search zone. He said it was not the same area as a debris field identified as the most likely place where the aircraft may have entered the sea, “but... we’ve got to check out all the options.”

“We’re just, I guess, clutching at whatever little piece of information comes along to try and obtain the data that will enable us to concentrate the efforts,” he added.

A cyclone bearing down on the Australian northwest coast could stir up less favorable weather, he said.

Flight 370 vanished March 8 with 239 people aboard while en route from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing, setting off a multinational search that has turned up no confirmed pieces and nothing conclusive on what happened to the jet.

The latest French satellite data came to light on Sunday as Australian authorities coordinating the search sent planes and a ship to try to locate a vessel in one of two huge arcs: a north-to-south corridor stretching from Malaysia to the Strait of Malacca, with its communications systems dis-abled. They are unsure what happened next.

Contact Chelsey Fattal at cfattal0@saintmarys.edu

Empire

continued from page 1

calling to people’s conscious what they know or suspect about academic freedom and educational opportunities. ... And even worse, I want to tell you this is what success looks like.

“In all my years as an activist I have never found myself on the front page of the New York Times, nor cited by the researchers I have never found myself in empire studies.

I remember feminism’s importance and environmental issues, and we want to contest U.S. empire without an analysis of the narratives of rescuing women and gays. We cannot, finally, do the scholarly or activist work that we want to contest U.S. empire without feminism.”

Contact Jack Rooney at jrooney3@nd.edu

Gordon

continued from page 1

it would be able to evaluate all possible responses in hundreds of thousands of ways, and as it grows in experience, it will learn and become more precise. “These systems could lead to breakthroughs in many different areas — medicine, environment, space exploration, etc.” Gordon said. “As the entire spectrum grows, the industry will grow and will continue to inspire us in different ways.”

Contact Jennifer Merdes at jmerdes@nd.edu

Dance

continued from page 1

Katelyn Smith said her brother, who suffers from downs syndrome, involved in the special needs community. “The Hannah & Friends Dance Party is a fun way to get involved and everyone benefits,” said Smith.

Our Dame seniors Amanda Frick and Gable Brady got involved with Hannah & Friends through their previous work experience.

“I worked with AmeriCorps in the summer of 2012 and I also helped with a Hannah & Friends summer camp in tandem. So I decided to come back today, just to help in any way that I can,” Frick said.

“Meeting with these participants is rewarding,” Frick said, motioning to the gaily of the dancers at the Hannah & Friends facility. “Having friends is an organization of welcoming and genuine people.”

Hazen said students can get more involved by visiting hannahfriends.org.

Contact Chelsey Fattal at cfattal0@saintmarys.edu

On Paris, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal said in an interview with The Associated Press that the satellite radar data helped identify some debris that could be from the Malaysian Airlines airplane.

The spokesman said that these echoes “provide images with a definition like a photograph, but they do allow us to identify the nature of an object and to localize it.”

“The French government has decided to increase its satellite monitoring of this zone and try to obtain radar data,” Nadal said.

Gathering satellite echo data involves sending a beam of energy to the Earth and then analyzing it when it bounces back, according to Joseph Bermudez Jr., chief analytics officer at AllSource Analysis, a commercial satellite intelligence firm.

Satellite radar echoes can be converted into an image that would look similar to a black-and-white photo, though not as clear, he said. “You’d have to know what you’re looking at,” Bermudez said.

A Malaysian official involved in the search said the French data located objects about 930 kilometers (575 miles) north of the spots where the objects in the images released by Australia and China were located.

One of the objects located was estimated to be about the same size as an object captured Tuesday by the Chinese satellite that appeared to be 22 meters (72 feet) by 13 meters (43 feet), said the official, who declined to be identified because he wasn’t authorized to speak to the media.

It was not possible to determine precise dimensions from the French data, the official said.

U.S. underwater wreck hunt leader David Mearns on Monday described the French satellite images of potential debris as a “positive development,” although he was unaware of the full details.

Mearns was an advisor to British and French search authorities following the loss of Air France Flight 447 in the Atlantic in June 2009. Air France Flight 447 went from Brazil to Paris in 2009.

He warned that it was running out to find confirmed wreckage that could lead searchers back to the aircraft’s black box. He told the AP that two satellite images of a large object spotted in the southern Indian Ocean two days apart could be the breakthrough needed to find the wreck.

“The odds are still against the plane being found at the moment, but at least we have a glimmer of hope that we didn’t have two days ago,” Mearns said.

“Right now, time is running out very quickly.”

The southern Indian Ocean is thought to be a potential area to find the jet because Malaysian authorities have said pings sent by the Boeing 777-200 for several hours after it disappeared indicated that the plane ended up in one of two huge arcs: a northern corridor stretching from the southern tip of New Zealand to Central Asia, or a southern corridor that stretches toward Antarctica.

Malaysian authorities have not ruled out any possible explanation for what happened to the jet, but have said the evidence so far suggests it was deliberately turned back across Malaysia to the Strait of Malacca, with its communications systems disabled. They are unsure what happened next.

Authorities are considering the possibilities of hijacking, sabotage, terrorism or issues related to the mental health of the pilots or someone else on board.
Embrace Earth Hour

The hour is upon us! Earth Hour, one of the year’s biggest sustainability events is upon us, and I guarantee it is a bigger deal than you think.

Earth Hour “got big” in 2008 and has been one of the most participated in sustainability events every year. During one evening hour late in March, all businesses, governments and people are asked to pull the plug on all of their electronics in a moment of solidarity.

You may have images of hippies dimming their LED light bulbs or hipsters unplugging their hybrids shooting through your head, but this event goes far beyond individuals. Last year notable landmarks like the Burj Khalifa, the Eiffel Tower, China’s bird’s nest stadium, Big Ben and all 30 Canadian Hockey League arenas doused their spot light. If the Canadians are willing to forgive hockey for an hour, its got to be legit, right? Earth Hour is definitely drawing some attention.

The big news though is the reception it is receiving state side. This year, LAX and the Empire State Building have both announced their participation, but that’s not surprising considering Notre Dame is leading the way.

That’s right, the planes headed to the South Bend Regional Airport will need to find another guide as the approach because the Main Building and the Hesburgh Library will be going dark this Saturday.

Although the solidarity of Earth Hour is impressive, the combined impact of all of the lights around the world going dark pales in comparison to the movements it has spawned. Last year, the “I Will if You Will” program used Earth Hour as a launching point. The program, started by the president of Botswana, set the goal to plant 1 million trees over four years. Programs like this are the magic of Earth Hour. Yes, Earth Hour is a symbolic event, but something about the solidarity of most of the world’s countries coming together brings out the best in people. I encourage all of you to participate in this year’s Earth Hour. I know I will.

In fact, I will be exercising my creativity by taking a ceremonial nap because naps are awesome.

However, you should do something boring like going outside and connecting with your youth. Play some hide and seek, buy a glow-in-the-dark volleyball or go for a night run. Take an extended trip to the Grotto. Bonus points for people who take some time out to reflect on what they can do to live a more sustainable life. The opportunities are really endless, and it would be amazing to see the Notre Dame community come together for this event.

Email your predicaments to The Greenman at askthegreenman@gmail.com and let him answer you with a sustainable twist.

The Greenman will be here every other week to provide you with insights you never knew you were missing out on until now.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.”

Confucius
Chinese philosopher

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Reform food stamp system for ex-cons

Brooke Justus  
Guest Columnist

In my Center for Social Concerns’ Advocacy for the Common Good course, my classmates and I have been focusing on various instances of injustice in the social and political arena. In our research into the issue of food justice in Indiana, our attention was drawn to the Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act and its significance for certain vulnerable populations in Indiana.

In 1996, this act amended the welfare system to prohibit anyone with a drug related felony conviction from receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, commonly known as food stamps, for the rest of their lives. This short-sighted and unjust measure makes no exceptions or provisions for demonstrated good behavior, successful completion of a rehabilitation program or the need of minor dependents. So far, 39 states have passed legislation to amend or remove these restrictions. Indiana is not one of them.

If America wants to get serious about making significant strides against our societal ills of hunger, hyper-incarceration and recidivism, we must look at the structural faults in our own backyards that are prohibiting progress. When released into our own backyards and social stigma, in this crucial period of assimilation into the workforce due to their record and social stigma, in this crucial period of transition, unemployment compounded with food insecurity fosters desperation and increases the likelihood of resorting to crime, prostitution or other risky behaviors to obtain food, encouraging recidivism.

Far from solely punishing offenders, the exclusion from SNAP food stamps also has detrimental effects on their children. With the current arithmetic, the ex-offender is simply not counted when determining their family’s eligibility. It is unrealistic to believe that the parent will just go hungry and thus, the already small food rations will be spread thinner. Many parents will wait to eat, eating only after their children. Older children soon realize their parents’ sacrifice, and the child will eat less to leave food for their parents in return. Single parents with a history of a drug related felony conviction face a particular dilemma. Even if their income might qualify them for food assistance, the system keeps them from being eligible. Instead of being recognized as a two-person household, parent and child, single parent households may be counted as only a one-person household. This is because the parent cannot qualify for SNAP benefits due to their criminal history. In this situation, the child will not receive the nutrition they need and deserve. It’s time to rethink and remove this legislation that unfairly targets innocent youths for their parents’ pasts.

The equity of targeting drug offenders also has an alarming racial component. Although the majority of illegal drug users and dealers in America are white, three-fourths of people imprisoned for drug offenses are Black or Latino. Due to this act, minority populations are systematically barred from receiving federal benefits. This disconnect between the drug using populations in this country and those being penalized for it commands us to reevaluate our judicial failings and not reinforce them by withholding food from the needy. Rather than recognizing the issue at hand and undergoing preventative and systemic change, Washington and Indianapolis have continued along the path of the 1996 act. The 2013 Federal Farm Bill cut funding to food stamps in half, making it more difficult to gain traction for allowing rehabilitated ex-felons to be included in the funding.

Indiana Senator John Broden (D) introduced a bill in 2014 to amend the ban by making ex-felons eligible after five years of good behavior and after the completion of a rehabilitation program. However, Indiana Senator Brent Steele (R), the Chair of the Committee on Corrections, Criminal and Civil Matters, refused to commence a hearing for Broden’s proposed bill. Regardless of Steele’s decision, this issue must be brought to the public consciousness.

My hope is that after becoming aware of this injustice, people will be compelled to educate themselves and those around them on this issue, and will make their voices heard by Indiana State senators and those in positions of power. The individuals suffering from this injustice need responsible citizens to voice their concerns and support the amendment of federal regulations on SNAP benefits. This bill and the individuals for whom it is a crucial lifeline deserve a second chance.

Brooke Justus is a freshman studying political science. She can be reached at bjustus@nd.edu

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Ring food stamp system for ex-cons

Don’t hate the prostate

Dear Bookstore-Basketball-Name-Evaluation Committee,

Prostate cancer is the second-most common cancer among American men. One in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. About one in 36 men will die of prostate cancer.

Dr. Pizzat’s Prostate Exam is — was — a group of five young men trying to raise awareness of this serious disease, until we were unfairly wronged by an ignorant and insensitive committee.

We specifically mentioned in our application that our team name stood for men’s health awareness. Do you not like Dr. Pizzat? Are you against men’s health? If the former is true, we assure you Dr. Pizzat is a respectable doctor and a tremendous activist for men’s health. If the latter is true, you are contributing to the “awkward gender stereotypes” so talked about at Notre Dame.

“Dallas Buyers Club: Aiding You With Love” is a clear reference to AIDS, a prominent theme throughout the aforementioned movie and one of the worst diseases known to man. That team pokes fun at the disease and is rewarded with a Top-Ten Name, while support for men’s health is rejected.

We would like a formal apology and official recognition of our team name — Dr. Pizzat’s Prostate Exam. The ball is in your court.

Jonathan Gordon
DJ Augenblick
Eric Palutsis
Pat Dorin
Juniors
Knott Hall

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Comedy Central has done it again.

After introducing a string of quality new shows (“Broad City,” “@midnight”) and renewing series that have noticeably improved in recent seasons (“Kroll Show,” “Key and Peele”), the network has found another gem with new series “Review.”

Starring the tragically underrated Andy Daly, “Review” features Daly as “life critic” Forrest MacNeil. MacNeil is the hilariously ignorant host of a TV show in which he tries out and rates life experiences rather than books or restaurants. He tries everything from prom and hunting to addiction and divorce. As expected, these attempts at “reviewing life” go horribly awry, but always close with an earnest rating on a scale of five stars.

“Review” is adapted from an Australian comedy “Review with Myles Barlow,” and plays out largely as Forrest’s television show, “Review,” itself (think “check it out! With Dr. Steve Brule!”). But while each episode begins and concludes with MacNeil and his co-host sitting in a beautifully gaudy, “Entertainment Tonight”-style green-screened room, we get behind the scenes looks into the making of the show-within-the-show as well as Forrest’s personal life. Forrest’s overly enthusiastic producer shows the chaos happening behind the scenes while his wife, who suffers through her husband’s twisted experiments, reveals Forrest as a wonderfully clueless family man.

Daly shows off his improv chops as Forrest, and it is a love/hate relationship. Forrest is lovable in his steadfast attempt to qualify life experiences sent in as suggestions from fans. After introducing the experience to review, the show cuts to segments in which Forrest fully submerges himself in the challenge. The greatest part about the show is the integrity and sincerity of idiot Forrest. Devoted to trying out anything thrown at him, Forrest goes all-out in each segment. He becomes a criminal and ruins relationships, but all with an admirable dedication to his craft. His unwillingness to turn down any challenge shows that Forrest actually cares about trying out life experiences, though he chooses those that should never be just tried out. Each segment is simultaneously offensive and heroic, then hilarious as it spins into absurdity with Forrest’s chipper voice narrating all the while.

Reviews of life range from silly, like being Batman or eating 15 pancakes, to downright grave and wildly inappropriate, including racism and drug addiction. But the juxtaposition of the dramatically different topics of review only up the humor. Already in the series’ three-episode run, “Review” has dabbled in topics that could easily turn horribly unfunny, but instead play out with only Forrest at the expense of the humor, a testament to Daly as a comedian.

The laughs lie not in the experiences themselves, but with the horrible repercussions felt by the foolish, privileged Forrest when attempting to dabble in them. Forrest is lovable in his steadfast attempt to qualify life experiences that aren’t his own, always with a smile on his face, but his blatant stupidity and arrogance makes his de-mise undeniably funny. This balance is struck expertly in the show’s first two episodes, making the third episode an incredibly funny and dark look at the unraveling of Forrest MacNeil. As the show moves from episodic bits characterized by funny segments to behind-the-scenes story lines that carry over from week to week, it’s clear that the excellent “Review” is just getting started — and is something you won’t want to miss.

“Review” is available to watch online at cc.com or on Thursdays at 10 p.m. on Comedy Central.

By ALLIE TOLLAKSEN
Scene Editor

Matt McMahon
Scene Writer

On Friday, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center screened the 2003 independent film “The Room” as part of its “Late Night at the Browning” series. Akin to midnight showings of cult classics like “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” this screening of “The Room” encouraged audience participation throughout, including a number of gags familiar to fans. The movie bombed when it was originally released, due to poor promotion and even poorer filmmaking. However, it has gained a large fan base because of its over-the-top, “entertainment Tonight”-style approach to filmmaking.

The movie is an unapologetic, unabashedly bad film, and the screening was no exception. The audience immediately got involved, setting the tone for a rather long hour and a half. Members of the crowd had something to say for every moment, shot and beat. During the opening credits, the chanting of “Water!” accompanied scene-establishing shots of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge, a chant that would erupt anytime water was seen on screen. Similar chants were induced whenever a character parked a car, and any appearance of a spoon, an unexplained phenomenon, prompted the throwing of plastic spoons.

These traditions all feel rather forced, or at least did in the Browning cinema the other night. Rather than playfully enjoying the movie’s lack of quality with the occasional riff, the audience much more mean-spiritedly harped on something — or perhaps more accurately, anything — every second. There was nothing inherently important, good or bad, about pointing out a shot containing water. Still, they unrelentingly shouted about it during these, and other like moments, becoming more annoying than any of the films out of focus shots. As much as a continuity error between cuts or an obvious green screen might take some one out of a movie, this constant negative presence does so even more.

I can appreciate the humor found in a poorly made movie, contemplating how all the people involved could have considered their work viable for any audience at all. I can even play along and make jokes about acting decisions and the comedy of each scene’s ridiculous elements. Still, this rigid midnight-showing setting does not encourage this behavior or commentary. It is one thing to make fun of “The Room” while watching with a group of friends, but once, it is completely different in this cult format.

Furthermore, I do not have the ability to overlook the details surrounding the making of the movie. For those familiar with the stories accompanying its production, I feel as though they hinder enjoyment. In fact, they are as uncomforting as the number of awkward, extended sex scenes and their incorporation into the movie. If you are not familiar with the movie, the details or both, I’ll issue a disclaimer: The information about the movie may give more insight into why it is one of the worst films ever made, but also provides too personal a look at the film’s creator.

A handful of scenes from “The Room” are worth watching to see just how bad, and subsequently how funny, the movie can be. However, the film just doesn’t lend itself to this type of screening, for reasons ranging from annoying to unsettling.

Contact Matt McMahon at mmcmaho@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Maria Magaia | The Observer

CONTACT ALLIE TOLLAKSEN at attollaks@nd.edu
It makes sense to start with a very simple, appropriate metaphor: Freddie Gibbs and Madlib’s “Piñata” is very much a piñata. It’s chock full of candy — class-A, tasty beats done justice by a skilled wordsmith. The pieces here are unified by each artist’s recognizable style — Gibbs’ smooth yet highly-focused flow and Madlib’s penchant for slightly off-beat, sample-rich instruments.

Yet there is no greater concept at work in “Piñata”; it’s simply a showcase for the musical talent of the collaborators. Is that a bad thing? Given the consistent quality of the tracks on “Piñata,” the answer is a quick and resounding no.

“Piñata” hits the ground running with intro “Supplier,” which melds themes of artistic ambition with Gibbs’ rough past as a drug dealer over an incredibly groovy drum sample. “Supplier” then leads directly into “Scarface,” an account of the past hinted at in the intro over another groove-tastic beat. “Piñata” remains in very similar territory for the entirety of the album; beats meld over another groove-tastic beat. “Piñata” is chock full of candy — class-A, tasty vocals samples while Gibbs weaves conflicting feelings about women into a tale of infidelity. The conflicting intensity and complexity of such feelings become more urgent against Madlib’s smooth production. On “Shitville,” one of the record’s fastest, most intense tracks, Freddie’s flow races note-for-note against a violin sample. This in turn pushes the song’s topic, a harsh criticism of gangster pride, to the forefront.

In addition, the album boasts a plethora of left-turns that reward continued listening and close attention. On “High,” the lightweight beat dissolves into an even hazier affair following the last verse, mirroring the subject matter in the song to great effect. Closer “Piñata” melds Hollywood arpeggios, eastern-sounding strings and a Halloween orchestra sample to create a strangely intimate soundscape.

After six minutes, the beat drops into a bare-bones, infomercial-like tomtom beat. Then a vocal sample of a tense argument crawls out to top it, creating an altogether confusing and eerie affair. This is immediately followed by a humorously bad, and hardly understandable, a cappella improvised song. But through such twists and turns, the artists are able to flaunt their skills while keeping the record light-hearted and approachable.

Another factor that keeps the record afloat is the impressive guest roster, which spans from established pride, to the forefront.

“Piñata” does not disappoint. It’s a demonstration of experts at work. It’s simply the product of a group of experienced artists doing what they’re best at; the product is a very consistent, high-quality rap record. Sure, “Piñata” doesn’t break down walls or present a grand message, but it doesn’t need to. “Piñata” is great rap music, nothing more and certainly nothing less.

Contact John Darr at jdarr@nd.edu

“Piñata”
Freddie Gibbs and Madlib
Label: Madlib Invazion
Tracks: “Supplier,” “High,” “Deeper”
If you like: Madvillian, Action Bronson, Danny Brown

By JOHN DARR
Scene Writer

By MEGHAN CLEARY
Scene Writer

On Friday evening, Student Union Board brought comedian Byron Bowers to Legends. After having previously seen some of Bowers’ stand-up performances online, there was an apprehensive air to what the audience would experience. Would they be treated to a joke-a-minute routine, or would the comedian be able to display their ability to think on their feet? At a certain point, Bowers asked audience members, “What is your major?” When given responses, he would delve into what was funny about each. Science-Business was thrown Bowers’ way, and without hesitation, jokes alluding to a Walter White lifestyle were bouncing back at the audience. Bowers’ interaction with the audience, and consistent question asking, was remarkable. Along with this, it was a true testament to his abilities as a stand-up comedian.

Using these comedic strategies, Bowers warmed the audience up for a step beyond the comfort zone. Jokes that may not be passable in an immediate presentation worked so well because Bowers took the time to “get to know everyone.” Jokes that frequently are followed up with, “Too soon,” worked perfectly because he kept things tasteful and placed jokes appropriately throughout the show.

Both Garvin and Bowers performed outstandingly at Legends. This show was certainly worth the trip and keeps me on my toes for the next Student Union Board comedy show.

Contact Meghan Cleary at mcleary2@nd.edu

Earl Sweatshirt and Danny Brown to up-and-comers like Casey Veggies and Mac Miller (up-and-coming in the experimental/indie scene vs. the popular rap scene). Each artist is placed in a suitable context, each rapper matched with a theme they’re experienced rhyming about. This highlights and makes the most of each feature while complementing Freddie’s ability to hop from topic to topic. From its solo affairs to its guest features, “Piñata” is a demonstration of experts at work. It’s simply the product of a group of experienced artists doing what they’re best at; the product is a very consistent, high-quality rap record. Sure, “Piñata” doesn’t break down walls or present a grand message, but it doesn’t need to. “Piñata” is great rap music, nothing more and certainly nothing less.

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Contact Meghan Cleary at mcleary2@nd.edu
Baseball out of place in Australia

There are currently seven active Australians in the league, and none of them are exactly superstars. The closest would be Grant Balfour of the Rays, who made an appearance in last year’s All-Star Game, but he is not a household name by any means. In fact, only 31 Australians have ever competed in the MLB. There are way more than 31 active players from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela in the league now, and the current numbers from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Japan and Canada are just under 31.

So, why choose to hold opening day in Australia? Obviously, Venezuela and Mexico would not be the safest locations for a trip, the Dominican Republic has nowhere near the GDP and money to offer that Australia does and traveling to Cuba would be a whole other headache to sort out. But Australia just does not seem to make sense.

Even some players were outspoken about their discontent with the choice of location. Dodgers starter Zack Greinke said he had “zero excitement” to start its season in Sydney. Greinke and outfielder Carl Crawford and Matt Kemp — three of the Dodgers’ biggest names — did not make the trip because of injury or personal reasons. Or maybe they just found something better to do than sit on a 14-hour plane ride. This would be a good experience for any person, professional athlete or not to have, traveling to a new country, bringing along members of your family, hanging out with your friends and doing it all for free — being paid to do it, in fact. But it would still be a good experience in another country that had shown more support for your game and your league in the past.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen@nd.edu.
The views expressed in this Sports Authority are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Cavaliers defeat Knicks

Jarrett Jack scored a season-high 31 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers won 106-100 Sunday night to end the eight-game winning streak of the New York Knicks, who wasted a chance to pull within two games of a playoff spot.

Hours after being handed a chance to get closer to the final spot in the Eastern Conference when Atlanta blew a fourth-quarter lead in Toronto, the Knicks responded with an inexplicable lull.

They couldn’t stop Jack and couldn’t get a basket from Carmelo Anthony, who missed all five shots in the final period and finished with 32 points. Jack scored 23 in the second half and finished with 10 assists for the Cavaliers, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Don Waiters scored 22 points and Luol Deng had 13 in his return from a three-game absence with a sprained left ankle for the Cavs, who didn’t have All-Star Kyrie Irving for a second straight game.

New York was missing all-star Iman Shumpert, their best perimeter defender who surely would’ve given a chance to defend Jack since nobody else could.

The Knicks, who suddenly were back in the playoff race after looking out of it after a seven-game skid dropped them to 21-40 after a loss in Detroit on March 3, will have to bounce back on the road. They leave for a five-game Western Conference trip that begins Tuesday against the Lakers.

The Hawks had already lost at Toronto by the time the Knicks showed up for work Sunday. Coach Mike Woodson said he was glad but didn’t appear overjoyed, realizing the Knicks still have plenty to do to get to the 35 to 40 wins he thinks will be necessary to earn a playoff spot.
Tar Heels top Irish

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame was unable to keep up with No. 10 North Carolina, and the Tar Heels their match to the Tar Heels by a score of 6-1 in Chapel Hill on Sunday.

The Irish loss concludes a weekend in which they were unable to defeat two teams ranked in the top 10, starting with a match at Virginia on Friday.

North Carolina (16-3, 5-1 ACC) features four singles players ¾ freshmen Hayley Carter and Jamie Loeb, junior Carole Price and sophomore Whitney Kay ¾ and two doubles teams ranked in the ITA. Carter and Loeb form one of the doubles teams and are ranked seventh in the country. Loeb is currently the No. 1 singles player in the country, while Carter is currently the No. 3.

The lone victory for the Irish (8-8, 2-6 ACC) came from sophomore Quinn Gleason, who was able to hold off Carter by winning back-to-back sets, 6-4, 6-4. Senior Brittany Sanders also put up a strong performance against Loeb, dropping the first set 6-3 but forcing a tiebreaker in the second, which she eventually lost, 7-5. Loeb and Carter also defeated Gleason and Sanders in doubles play, beating the Irish pair, 8-3.

Perhaps the tightest match came during the singles competition between Price and Irish senior Jennifer Kellner.

Although Price came out on top in the end, Kellner forced extra games in both sets, ultimately coming up short, 7-6, 7-6 (7-5).

Notre Dame resumes play Wednesday against Marquette. Match play is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Against the Irish (16-3, 3-1 ACC) on Friday, the Irish quickly fell behind, dropping the first two points of the match, before storming back to claim the 5-2 victory. Irish coach Ryan Sachire said the win was especially encouraging because the team played well outdoors after failing to do so against USC.

“The USC match was a good thing for us,” Sachire said. “It helped us realize some things about ourselves that we needed to work on. In practice we worked on being more patient when we needed to be outdoors and really focused on point construction. … We’re just as good outdoors as we are indoors.”

The match with the Yellow Jackets (7-7, 1-3) on Sunday was moved indoors, but the Irish grabbed the doubles point and never looked back, surrendering just one singles point for a 6-1 win.

“(Against Georgia Tech), we actually wanted to play outdoor matches,” Sachire said. “We just did a great job of battling through.”

Irish senior Greg Andrews led the way in both contests, taking both of his singles matches in straight sets. Against Clemson, Andrews took down junior Hunter Harrington, ranked 90th in the nation. While he and sophomore Alex Lawson dropped their first doubles match against Clemson, they recovered against Georgia Tech for an 8-6 win. For the No. 28 player in the nation, it was a welcome return to form after tough individual losses against Virginia and USC, Sachire said.

“It was great to see Greg get those wins this weekend,” he said. “He’s had some ups and downs this season, but he’s done a heck of a job remaining positive and working hard. He’s poised to have a great few last months of his career, and it was nice to see him bounce back and beat two good players very easily.”

Andrews’ fellow senior, Ryan Bandy, also played a key role in the Irish victory. Playing at the No. 3 spot for Notre Dame, Bandy forced tiebreakers in both matches, pulling out wins by the scores of 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 1-0 (10-8) against Clemson junior Alejandro Augusto and 7-6 (7-3), 5-7, 11-9 against Georgia Tech freshman Carlos Benito.

“Ryan’s doing a great job for us,” Sachire said. “He’s a senior who’s done things the right way for a long time, and it’s nice to see him get that payoff. He won two great matches against two really good players. It was about him competing and doing the things he had to do and, as a coach, there’s nothing more gratifying than seeing a guy like him succeed.”

With the wins, Notre Dame took down No. 11 Duke on Friday at 3:30 p.m.
Bears crush Creighton

Associated Press

Too big. Too strong. Too fast.

Baylor was too much of just about everything for Creighton and Doug McDermott to handle. And because of it, the sixth-seeded Bears are rolling out of Texas toward California and the NCAA tournament Sweet 16 after an impressive 85-55 win Sunday night in the West Regional.

Isaiah Austin and Brady Heslip each scored 17 points and Baylor used suffocating defense to shut down McDermott, ending the career of one of college basketball’s most prolific scorers.

“We did a good job making it tough on him,” Bears coach Scott Drew said.

McDermott, who averaged 27 points this season, finished with 15 but had just one field goal as a Bears player. McDermott ranks fifth on the NCAA career scoring list with 3,150 points.

“Baylor’s defense was all that muscle in the lineup,” McDermott said. “They were brimming with confidence to take it to us, and that’s exactly what we were expecting from them.”

Baylor (26-11) had five players score in double figures as the Bears flexed their muscle early and often with a lineup built for the rigors of the Big 12. Austin is 7-foot-1 and had 20 points and eight rebounds. McDermott had taken only three shots, made one and had two fouls.

The Bears came out blazing and for all the talk about the Big 12’s reputation for defense, it was Baylor’s zone defense and its deep assortment of guards that carried the day.

“Everybody has bought into the one goal that we have in mind and that is winning a national championship,” Drew said. “Everybody has bought into the one goal that we have in mind and that is winning a national championship.”

Baylor plays No. 2 seed Michigan State on Thursday in Memphis. The Bears flexed their muscle for the first time since 2008. “They don’t hang Sweet 16s up in Pauley,” Austin said.

No, they don’t. Expectations are always high in Westwood because of the 11 national championships banners hanging in Pauley Pavilion, the first 10 coming under John Wooden and the last one coming in 1995.

The fourth-seeded Bruins (28-8) will play Florida, the No. 1 seed, in the South Regional semifinals the following day. The Gators also eliminated the Bears in the second round in 2011.

Florida beat UCLA in the national championship game in 2006 and again in the national semifinals the following season. The Gators also eliminated the Bruins in the second round in 2011.

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Associated Press

Bruins return to Sweet 16

UCLA is back in the Sweet 16 for the first time in six seasons, a big step in the right direction for a program whose status was tarnished in recent seasons.

The Bruins don’t want to stop there.

“We’ve had a good overall season but our work isn’t done,” sophomore forward Kyle Anderson said Sunday after the Bruins beat Stephen F. Austin 77-60 reach the NCAA tournament regionals for the first time since 2008.

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The 54-hole tournament is broken into three rounds with the first two played Monday and the final round completed Tuesday.

Men’s Golf

Irish travel to Lone Star State for invitational

Observer Staff Report

The Irish begin play in the two-day Lone Star Invitational Monday at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

The tournament, which is held at the Briggs Ranch Golf Club, is hosted by the University of Texas-San Antonio and has a 15-team field, including Baylor, Central Arkansas, Houston, Louisiana Tech, New Mexico, North Texas, Purdue, Rice, Sacramento State, South Dakota State, Southeastern Louisiana, Texas State and UT Arlington.

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Irish win one game drop two against Hokies

By MARY GREEN / Sports Writer

Notre Dame opened up its first "home" series away from the familiar confines of Frank Eck Stadium by collecting its first ACC victory over Virginia Tech on Friday, but the Irish lost both games over the next two days to give the Hokies the series win.

"We're right there, but sometimes we're not making those plays, be it mentally or physically or even sometimes both," Irish coach Mik Aoki said. "I think our hearts are there, but it's been enough where we can't overcome making four or five different mistakes in every game."

In Friday's opener at Four Winds Field in South Bend, senior right-hander Sean Fitzgerald pitched his first career complete game en route to a 2-1 Irish victory.

The matchup was scoreless until the bottom of the fifth, when back-to-back singles from sophomore centerfielder Lane Richards and sophomore centerfielder Kyle Richardson put Irish players on first and second. Junior designated hitter Conor Biggio then hit a fielder's-choice groundball to knock in Richards and put a run on the board for Notre Dame.

That momentum carried through to the next inning, when junior first baseman Blaise Leyzynski set up the winning run with a single up the middle and eventually crossed the plate on a wild pitch from Virginia Tech senior starter Brad Markey, who took the complete-game loss.

The Hokies, however, did not make the win easy for the Irish. Virginia Tech redshirt freshman centerfielder Saige Jenco reached base with a two-strike double and headed home on an RBI single from junior second baseman Alex Perez in the following at-bat. However, three outs in the next three at-bats sealed Notre Dame's first ACC win and Fitzgerald's third victory of the season.

"At this point, with the way the season is going, we're relieved to just get wins, whether they're conference or not," Aoki said.

Saturday was not as productive for the Irish, as a move to Grand Park in Westfield, Ind., brought an 8-3 loss. Virginia Tech picked up all of its runs in the first two innings as sophomore right-hander Nick McCarty gave up seven runs and five hits and an error later on in the third to tie the game. McCarty left the game after allowing five hits and two walks in one-and-a-half innings and is still looking to collect his first win of the season.

"I certainly think that a couple of instances have been tough for him," Aoki said. "[Saturday] was just one of those days where he wasn't good. Sometimes that happens, and obviously the whole situation gets a little exacerbated when you're 0-4 going into it."

Notre Dame got on the board with a run in the second inning and two more scores in the fourth, but it could not muster enough of an effort to complete the comeback.

With a mark in the win column for each team, Sunday's cold and snowy finale brought a hard-fought, 5-4 loss for the Irish in 12 innings at Grand Park.

A successfully executed double steal plated a run in the first inning for Virginia Tech, but Leyzynski tied the game up in the bottom of the inning by driving in freshman second baseman Cavan Biggio with a two-out, RBI line-drive single.

After a single from sophomore right fielder Ricky Sanchez moved him up to second, Leyzynski stole third and headed home on an errant throw from the catcher. Giving Notre Dame a 3-3 lead at the end of the first.

A two-hit second inning cut the Hokies' deficit to 3-2, and Virginia Tech tagged on another run in the third to tie the game.

Junior starter Pat Connaughton exited in the fourth after giving up three hits and a lead-off walk in two of those innings.

In the sixth, the Irish loaded the bases, and senior catcher Forrest Johnson delivered a one-run single to reclaim the lead for Notre Dame. Two Irish runners originally crossed the plate and would have given the team a 5-3 lead, but Sanchez was called out after failing to touch third base.

"I think there's a lot of things that conspired against us," Aoki said. "Unfortunately, right now, it's a little indicative of the way we're playing. It's just a handful of mistakes, be it mental or physical, that are keeping us from winning some of these games."

The Hokies responded in the next inning when junior catcher Mark Zagnis picked up a two-out, RBI single to knot the game at four.

The score remained tied until Virginia Tech freshman rightfielder Tom Stoffel knocked in Zagnis on a fielder's choice to take the lead and the 5-4 win in the top of the 12th. Sophomore left-hander Michael Hearn was charged with the loss in his eight-and-one-third-innings performance.

"I thought Michael pitched great," Aoki said. "I thought he pitched out of some tough spots that we created for him. With regards to Mike, he's been really good about every single time he's taken the ball for us, and I was really pleased with the way Michael threw the way."

The Irish look to rebound against Illinois-Chicago on Tuesday at Four Winds Field. First pitch is set for 5:35 p.m.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen@nd.edu

Irish beat old rival, 12-8

Observer Staff Report

The No. 6 Irish cruis ed past their former Big East Conference rival Villanova on Sunday in a convincing 17-8 victory.

The match featured goals from ten different Irish scorers, including freshman midfielder Emma Claire Fontenot, who scored her first goal of the season and her career. Fontenot notched the final tally of the game for the Irish (8-3-I-ACC) with less than two minutes to play.

Wildcat junior midfielder Hannah Goforth answered Fontenot's goal with 17 seconds left to round out the game's scoring.

Goforth and freshman midfielder Becca Hetrick led the Wildcats (4-4-0 Big East) with two goals each.

The Irish attack featured hat tricks from two sophomores: attack Kiera McMullan and midfield Brie Cusits. Freshman midfielder and attack Courtney Fortunato led the team in assists. Fortunato and McMullan tied for point leader with five apiece.

In the defensive end, the Irish held the Wildcats scoreless for numerous stretches throughout the game.

The Irish defense and freshman goalkeeper Liz O'Sullivan were rock-solid, and proceeded to keep the ball out of the Irish net for 23 consecutive minutes at one point in the second half.

O'Sullivan took over for junior Allie Murray in net after the first half. O'Sullivan and Murray collected two and three saves, respectively.

For the Wildcats, sophomore goalkeeper Jaclyn Fraum tallied eight saves.

Fraum was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll last week.

Despite this distinction, Fraum was unable to stave off an Irish attack that had outscored its opponents by a combined margin of 126-95 in the season.

The victory over Villanova marks another game played without junior defender Barbara Sullivan, who will be out for the rest of the season with an injury. Sullivan had been a team leader in draw controls.

Against the Wildcats, freshman midfielder Casey Pearsall took it upon herself to take the majority of the draw controls for the Irish, winning nine.

Pearsall now leads the team in draw controls with 23 on the season.

The Irish return home next weekend for a match-up against No. 15 Stanford. The two teams faceoff at 12 p.m. Saturday at Arlotta Stadium.

Women's Softball

Weather details softball series

Observer Staff Report

The Irish were supposed to play their first home games of the season over the weekend, but all three games against Pittsburgh were postponed due to weather.

Atlantic Coast Conference policy sets a minimum temperature at which games can be played. The high temperature on Saturday was 47 degrees Fahrenheit, with temperatures dipping into the 30s, and the mercury remaining below freezing for all of Sunday.

According to und.com, officials are unsure if the three-game set will be rescheduled for later in the season.

If weather permits, of course, the No. 24/25 Irish will host No. 23 Northwestern at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Melissa Cook Stadium.

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W Basketball

players contributed 42 of the team’s 93 points. Sophomore guard Michaela Mabrey led all scorers with 16 points, subbing in five minutes into the game to hit her first three attempts from behind the arc. Eleven of her points came in the first half, which Notre Dame closed with a 50-15 advantage. “Michaela Mabrey was really critical today, coming off the bench,” McGraw said. “She is always ready to shoot the ball. She shot it extremely well. I think the zone gave her some good looks.”

McGraw said junior guard Madison Cable, who was 3-for-4 from 3-point range en route to a 13-point performance, also put in good minutes off the bench for the Irish. Junior forward Markisha Wright logged 21 minutes in the frontcourt after senior forward Ariel Braker and freshman forward Taya Reimer each picked up two early fouls in the first half.

“I think everyone on the team wants to contribute in some way, and we tell them what their role is, and they all accept their role,” McGraw said. “Markisha Wright didn’t have a lot of points, but she did her job defensively.

“I think that everyone is doing a really good job — they are playing because they all want to win. They are unselfish, and they’ll do what it takes.”

Five Irish players — Mabrey, Cable, Braker (10), senior forward Natalie Achonwa (15) and sophomore guard Jewell Loyd (15) — scored in double figures, while freshman guard Anna Niki Stamolamprou (12 points) was the only Colonial to do so.

Notre Dame repeatedly doubled and triple-teamed Robert Morris senior forward Artemis Spanou, limiting the Colonials’ leading scorer to seven points, well below her season average of 18.8.

Braker, Loyd and Cable helped the Irish take a 45-22 advantage on the glass, and not back down.

“Rebounding is a big part of our game, and when shots aren’t falling, we obviously have to rebound,” Braker said. “Everyone just has that mindset. Rebounding is effort, and everyone just had really good effort getting to the boards today.”

Notre Dame will look to take that effort into its second-round contest against No. 9 seed Arizona State, which advanced after defeating Vanderbilt, 69-61, on Saturday.

Redshirt sophomore guard Katie Hempen led the Sun Devils (23-9, 11-7 Pac-12) with 16 points off the bench, while three of her teammates also reached double figures.

“ASU is a team that is so balanced, you can’t key in on one person,” McGraw said. “It seems like in the ACC, we’re always saying you have to guard these players or this person in particular, but with that team, everyone is good.”

Arizona State received an at-large bid to the tournament, finishing fourth in the Pac-12 in the regular season and falling in the quarterfinal of the NCAA tournament to USC.

The Irish and the Sun Devils tip off in the second round of the NCAA tournament Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Savage Arena in Toledo.

Contact Mary Green at mgreen8@nd.edu

Irish freshman guard Lindsay Allen drives against Robert Morris on Saturday. Allen led all Irish players with a game-high seven assists.

M Hocke

have a lot of meaning. You have to take advantage of it when you can,” Jackson said. “Conference championships used to be everything. That’s what we should all be striving for.”

Still, the Irish received a bit of a lift Sunday morning when the team watched live the announcement of brackets for the NCAA tournament and learned they would get another shot at a St. Cloud State team that knocked Notre Dame out of the tournament a year ago. Cheers erupted in the team auditorium at Compton Family Ice Arena as the team watched the selection show and saw the pairing of the Irish and the Huskies.

“We’re really excited to get another shot at St. Cloud,” senior defenseman Stephen Johns said. “I think we sort of let it slip through our hands last year, and it’s pretty exciting to get another crack at those guys.”

The Irish take on the Huskies at 9 p.m. Saturday at the XCEL Energy Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Sophomore left wing Mario Lucia drives to the River Hawk goal on Saturday. The Irish qualified for the NCAA tournament on Sunday.

Contact Connor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

Informational Meeting

Philosophy, Politics & Economics Concentration

Tuesday, March 25 · 7:15 PM · 217 DeBartolo

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Happy Birthday: Redefine what you want to accomplish and chip away at your goals, one step at a time. Your determination and tenacity will help you reach your destination without interference. Emotional matters can be expected, but communication and commitment can continue to disperse any stress that encourages greater success. Neal deals by getting what you want in writing. You need to say yes to 3, 17, 21, 28, 33, 38, 44, 51-Access discreetly. Envision your future, as well as your skills, knowledge and expertise, will pay off. Remember, help will help you make a choice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to instructions and finish whatever is unfinished. Once time constraints are off your back, you will feel free to create and develop something that interests you. Pushing your position, the right time to make a breakthrough is now. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Live and learn. The change going on around you at home and in other aspects of your universe will give you a fresh start and you will take a leap in the right direction. Someone special will give you hope and encouragement. Love: Yes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Time is an opportunity and you have to take advantage of it. Don’t let someone’s negativity stop you from doing something you’ve been wanting to do for some time. Keep your focus on the fastest way to reach your goals. Love: Yes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You’re in an emotional state and you will need someone’s encouragement. Someone may try to trick you into believing something that isn’t true. An emotional matter will surface and can end up being costly if you haven’t protected your assets. Stick to the truth.

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Irish beat Robert Morris, advance to second round

By MARY GREEN
Sports Writer

If Notre Dame had any first-round jitters, it masked them well as the Irish cruised to a 93-42 victory over Robert Morris to begin the NCAA tournament Saturday at Savage Arena in Toledo, Ohio. The No. 1 seed Irish (33-0) jumped out an early lead over the No. 16 seed Colonials (21-12), opening the first 11 minutes of the game on a 28-6 run. The rest of the match-up followed that trend, as the ACC champions never let up, and Robert Morris never picked up enough momentum to make a run that threatened Notre Dame’s lead.

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Irish senior forward Ariel Braker rebounds against Robert Morris on Saturday. Braker was one of five Irish players to score in double digits.

Irish make NCAA tournament despite loss

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

As senior Irish goaltender Steven Summerhays has shown with his play over the last month, a hot goaltender can make all the difference in a game, and the No. 10 Irish ran into a scorching hot one Friday night as sophomore goaltender Connor Hellebuyck stopped all 35 Irish shots to lead No. 7 New Hampshire 4-0 victory over Notre Dame in a Hockey East semifinal match-up at TD Garden in Boston. The loss knocked the Irish out of the Hockey East tournament, but the team found out Sunday morning its season will continue in the NCAA tournament with a first-round match-up against No. 8 St. Cloud State. Both with the Irish and the River Hawks coming off of three-game quarterfinal series, Lowell struck first to take a 1-0 lead 10:13 into the first period. Sophomore defenceman Christian Folin sent a puck to the front of the Irish net that looked to be heading wide until it deflected off the skate of Irish senior defenceman Kevin Lind, who was clearing a Lowell forward from the front of the net, and sailed past Summerhays to the glove side for a 2-0 lead.

“We thought it was going to be a low-scoring game, so to see them come out and score two quick goals like that is pretty frustrating,” senior centre T.J. Tyran said. “You have to give a lot of credit to them. Even though we played pretty sluggish for the first half of the game, they played tight defense.”

The River Hawks added two insurance goals in the second period with freshman forward Evan Campbell converting a rebound on the power play at 3:35 and junior defenceman Zack Kamrass once again banking a shot off the skate of an Irish defenceman to beat Summerhays.

Despite outshooting Lowell 35-22, the Irish were unable to crack Hellebuyck, a first-team Hockey East selection who earned his second conference championships MVP award after Lowell defeated New Hampshire 4-0 in the championship game Saturday to repeat as Hockey East champions.

“A couple of the goals went off of us, and that happened earlier in the year, but it hasn’t happened in the last few weeks, but when they get traffic to the net, that’s what happens,” Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. “We didn’t have the same kind of traffic to the net.”

Irish senior goalie Steven Summerhays guards the crease against Massachusetts-Lowell on Saturday. Summerhays allowed four goals. Though the Irish will continue in their season in the NCAA tournament with a shot at a national title, Jackson said that the disappointment of not earning a conference championship would stick with his team.

“I’m a big believer that conference championships...”

Reaney shines at championships

By KIT LOUGHRAN
Sports Writer

Junior Emma Reaney dominated the pool at the NCAA championships. Reaney won the national championship in the 200-yard breaststroke at the NCAA championships on Saturday night. Reaney, who set an American record in the event one month ago at the ACC championships, broke her own NCAA, U.S. Open, and American records with a winning time of 2:04.06. She is the first swimmer from Notre Dame to win an individual title.

“I personally could not imagine a better way [than winning a national title] to represent the University that I love so much,” Reaney said. “I thought a school not known for swimming like Notre Dame could be on top of that podium and it feels great to prove them wrong. I’m so proud to be Irish.”

With her record time, Reaney had a second and a half margin over runner-up finishers Katie Olsen of Stanford and Breeja Larson of Texas A&M, who tied for second with a time of 2:05.88. Reaney dominated the race from the beginning and had the fastest split for each lap. She swam the first 100 yards in 59.35 and the final 100 in 1:04.71. But Reaney said the race was far from effortless.

“(The most challenging part was) staying in my own lane,” Reaney said. “I’m usually not someone to get in my own head during meets, but this one...”