Coulter delivers Lincoln Day address

Columnist and author speaks on health care reform, gun control and immigration

By JACK ROONEY
Associate News Editor

Conservative political pundit Ann Coulter addressed a standing-room only crowd at the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library on Thursday night as part of Notre Dame College Republicans’ Lincoln Day event in a speech centered on health care reform, gun control and immigration.

Coulter said the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as “Obamacare,” made the familiar American concept of health insurance illegal in the United States and instead instituted a welfare program funded by insurance premiums.

“Obamacare has made actual insurance illegal,” she said. “Insurance is … when a lot of people pay a small amount to a program, and then if catastrophe strikes, that will be paid for by the program. “Hopefully you will lose your premium, hopefully you will not have a catastrophe

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Students meet policymakers

By MADISON JAROS
News Writer

Student body president Lauren Vidal and vice president Matthew Devine, both juniors, traveled to Washington earlier this week to discuss the interests of the Notre Dame student body with policymakers as part of their involvement in this year’s Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Student Advocacy Trip.

The trip, which drew representatives from 11 ACC universities, focused primarily on the importance of federal funding to support undergraduate research and financial aid, Devine said. Collectively, students were advocating the continued support of research and filling what they referred to as the ‘innovation gap,’ in terms of developing countries and looking at continuing federal support of research opportunities,” he said.

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Event examines religion, spirituality and well-being

By MACAILA DeMARIO
News Writer

This week’s exploratory spirituality session, Spirituality Monday, took place Thursday and examined faith in the context of aging populations.

Senior biology major Haley Koth shared her senior composition project research findings at the Saint Mary’s Center for Spirituality-sponsored meeting.

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Committee to unveil The Shirt

Irish head coach Brian Kelly stands before a crowd at the unveiling of The Shirt 2013. He will reveal The Shirt 2014 at a ceremony Friday.

By CHARLIE DUCEY
News Writer

The topic of federal funding is one that is important to Notre Dame not only because of the importance of research and financial aid to the University, but also because of Notre Dame’s status as a private university as well, Vidal said.

“Notre Dame has a lot of institutional funding from our endowment, especially when we’re dealing with student financial aid — a lot of

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What color do you want The Shirt to be?

Bill Bloebaum  
Freshman  
Keenan Hall  
“Gold.”

Brendan Lesch  
Junior  
Kroc Hall  
“Red, white and blue. Like America.”

Chris Hubbard  
Freshman  
Alumni Hall  
“Gold.”

Doug Randolph  
Freshman  
Duncan Hall  
“Blue.”

Natalie Thomas  
Freshman  
Badin Hall  
“Gold.”

Vince Cicciarelli  
Junior  
St. Edward’s Hall  
“Camo. please.”

Today’s Staff

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Corrections

In the April 9 edition of the Observer the acronym for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was misspelled. It is NAACP. The Observer regrets this error.
By WEI LIN

Students will pledge to give up their shut-eye this Friday to learn about the crisis in Syria, to raise money to help Catholic Relief Services (CRS) bring aid to those suffering. Junior Shara Smith said, “Sleepless for Syria, an event organized by the Solidarity with Syria Coalition, will take place from 7 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday. The Solidarity with Syria Coalition is a committee comprised of representatives from various student organizations and individual members.

“I think what’s so cool about what we’re working on right now is that this was something started by Matt, myself and other students just at the beginning of the year when we really realized that this was an issue that was striking a chord with us and that we were concerned with,” Smith said. She said the Solidarity with Syria Coalition provides its members with an opportunity to have conversations about the pressing issues affecting Syria and enables them to act through the planning committee.

Junior Mathew Capanigro said since the unrest began in 2011, the Syrian civil war has killed over 140,000 people, stranded over 4.5 million Syrians without homes inside the country and forced over 2.5 million refugees to flee to countries surrounding Syria. Factions from both the government and opposition forces have been accused of war crimes, consequently affecting Syria’s innocent civilians caught in crossfire, he said.

An inter-faith prayer will kick off the night, Capanigro said. He said Fr. Daniel Groody, associate professor of theology and director of the center for Latin American Studies, and Imam Rashied Omar, research scholar of Islamic studies and peace building at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, will offer prayers to commemorate the vigil.

Capanigro said Groody also will speak about some of his experiences on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops delegation that observed the situation of Syrian refugees in fall 2012.

Capanigro said a living rosary will take place at midnight, during which participants will hold can- dles to represent each bead and place the lit candles on the ground at the front of the group to represent the group’s continued prayers as the participants enter an hour of silence.

Throughout the night, hourly reflections will feature guest speakers and their stories, as well as readings from the Bible and the Quran that pertain to traveling populations and displaced citizens, Capanigro said.

Manuad Hocha, a senior involved with GlobeMed, will talk about some of the health issues in refugee camps that plague Syrian refugees in particular, Capanigro said.

Capanigro said Jennifer Betz, the Midwest coordinator for CRS, will present on the organization and its work with refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, including the education programs they offer displaced children and the medical services they provide.

The event will also feature musical performances from various artists such as Ameer Armaly, a graduate student who will play the traditional Levantine oud, the traditional Notre Dame community to stand in solidarity with Syrians.

Capanigro said people can donate either at the event or online through Notre Dame’s online student shop. He said the goal of Sleepless for Syria is to raise at least $1,500.

The planning committee was able to cover all the operating costs due to the support of the many co-sponsors and local businesses, so every penny earned will go towards the CRS, Capanigro said. Smith said the event had a large potential for fundraising and for drawing attention to the crisis.

“Every drop in the bucket will add up and pool it together it really makes an impact,” Smith said. “It gives me hope that my one little act can join with everyone else.”

Contact Wei Lin at

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By HALEIGH EHMSEN

Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

Mary’s students can now choose their dorm room for the following year online, since the Office of Residence Life moved the room selection process online using the eResLife system. For the first time this year online, since the Office of Residence Life moved the room they offer displaced children and the medical services they provide.

The event will also feature musical performances from various artists such as Ameer Armaly, a graduate student who will play the traditional Levantine oud. The event will also feature musical performances from various artists such as Ameer Armaly, a graduate student who will play the traditional Levantine oud. The event will also feature musical performances from various artists such as Ameer Armaly, a graduate student who will play the traditional Levantine oud.

We always reach a point with rising sopho- mores where some of our students are not currently physically on campus during their room selection time to have control over their process instead of asking a friend to proxy for them,” she said.

Tchakerian said the online process is similar to the old process of standing in line according to the lottery number, but with the new system, students are given a specific time slot according to their lottery number to pick a room online. “We decided to move student assignments to an online process to allow for more transparency in the process and [to] allow the students to select a roommate and a housing assignment in accordance to what is most important to them,” Tchakerian said.

“The software [allows] our students to be able to make changes to their applications themselves and [for] our students who are not currently physically on campus during their room selection time to have control over their process instead of asking a friend to proxy for them,” she said.

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Student Affairs recognizes student leadership

By KAYLA MULLEN
News Writer

Notre Dame’s Division of Student Affairs presented awards to seven students at the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet on April 1, according to a University press release.

Senior Jenna Ahn received the Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., Leadership Award for her work with Campus Ministry and the Center for Social Concerns (CSC). She has served as a leader in efforts to unite students working in both offices, the press release stated.

“I think it’s essential that Campus Ministry work together with the CSC because the two, faith and justice, are deeply connected,” Ahn said. “Collaborating between Campus Ministry and CSC reminds us to always be contemplatives in action where what we contemplate will be put into action and where our actions will become forms of contemplation.”

Senior Elizabeth Tucker, a four-year member of the varsity women’s soccer team and two-time captain, won the Ray Siegfried Award for Leadership Excellence, the press release stated. She has combined community service with her athleticism, having her team adopt a patient from the local hospital and organizing tutoring at a local elementary school, Tucker said.

“My junior year … I decided that it would be really cool to get involved with the Fighting Irish Fight for Life program, because it was a way the soccer team could adopt a little sister and bring someone in and bring so much happiness,” Tucker said. “It’s been really fun for me because I’ve gotten to know her very well.”

Senior Julia Steiner, former editor-in-chief of Scholastic magazine, won the Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism. The magazine has devoted more attention to the topic of diversity under her leadership, the press release said.

“I think it’s really interesting to not only understand the differences that we all share on the outside, but to strike up these conversations and to begin to understand how we all think differently, how we see the world differently,” Steiner said. “...We did not have an outward push for diversity; it was kind of a thread that seemed to weave in throughout the year.”

Steiner said she also credits the magazine’s success to all of the staff.

“I accepted [the award] individually, and I am proud of the work that I’ve done, but at the same time, it was really a group effort,” she said. “That’s probably what I’m most proud of; Scholastic won News Magazine of the Year for the second year in a row in the state of Indiana.”

Senior Edithstein Cho received the inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Award for her role as co-founder and producer of “Show Some Skin,” a student production that aims to shed light on students’ stories about diversity and identity, according to the press release.

“I saw minority students on our campus talked amongst themselves and did a lot of problem identification on race issues, which is articulating what is insensitive or racist,” Cho said. “To go beyond problem identification and to engage and change how people engaged race, three of us [Cho, senior Hien Luu and JeJeun Choi, class of 2012] wanted to hear deeper narratives.

“The monologues [in ‘Show Some Skin’] show that the writers are human beings who have flaws and prejudices of their own, alongside having their own baggage that determines how they orient themselves. We named our production, ‘Show Some Skin,’ in order to challenge our community to dig deeper into their identity and experiences to create a starting point for dialogue. ‘Show Some Skin’ is a form of art for social justice.”

Karen Antonio, a doctoral student in the department of biochemistry and chemistry, won the Sister Jean Lenz, O.S.F., Leadership Award for her contributions in promoting women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields through her organization of monthly lunch meetings for women to present and hear research presentations, the press release stated.

“You have this informal, comfort way of talking to faculty and staff,” Antonio said. “You get a different side of professors; you’re eating lunch, talking about what you do, your family, your pets, whatever you want, and it’s not that constraining, professional box that you are usually in.

“As far as women in science go, you’re able to unite people in a very comfortable way that probably would not have been available otherwise.”

Senior Alex Coccia, student body president emeritus, won the Rev. A. Leonard Collins Award, which is given to a senior who has made large strides toward advancing the interests of Notre Dame students, according to the Student Affairs website.

Coccia worked to improve the campus climate for LGBTQ students, undocumented students and students affected by sexual violence, the press release said.

“I want to ensure that all students feel welcome at Notre Dame, and breaking the silence on issues that create oppressive environments is the first step towards that goal,” Coccia said. “Ultimately, the student experience is sacred, and we must ensure that we as students do all we can to create a welcoming environment for all.”

To nominate a student for next year’s awards, visit the Student Affairs website.

Contact Kayla Mullen at kmullen2@nd.edu
Coulter
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

strike, and their premiums will go to pay for other people’s catastrophes. That is not Obamacare. Obamacare is a welfare program, and money is collected via insurance premiums.”

Coulter said the policies written into the Affordable Care Act make it “the most regressive tax in history.” “It is mathematically impossible to have all insurance companies cover everyone else’s smoking cessation programs, marital counseling, gambling addiction therapy, aroma therapy, speech therapy, hearing therapy and have insurance companies cover people with very, very expensive medical problems and provide insurance to people who aren’t paying their own insurance premiums and also cover me if I get cancer,” she said. Coulter compared the Affordable Care Act to using car insurance to fund the United States Department of Defense.

“It would be as if we funded the Defense Department through car insurance payments,” she said. “So every month your premium would be $20,000, and your car insurance wouldn’t pay for both collision and liability. Either it would pay collision or liability, but it would buy car air fresheners for everyone. That’s Obamacare.”

Coulter said the passage of the Affordable Care Act would be almost impossible to explain to someone unfamiliar with the law. She said it passed because the Democrats claimed a majority in the Senate.

“If an alien landed and said, ‘Why did you people pass Obamacare on we’d have to explain because the Democrats had 60 votes,’” she said. “That’s it. This major change to our health care was passed with one party saying, ‘Ha ha, we’ve got 60 votes.”

“Never before has a major piece of legislation changing everyone’s life like this been passed on pure party-line votes without a single vote from the opposing party.”

Ann Coulter
political commentator

“Never before has a major piece of legislation changing everyone’s life like this been passed on pure party-line votes without a single vote from the opposing party.”

Coulter said the Affordable Care Act fails in line with the history of liberal political ideology, which she said leads to inefficiency.

“The history of liberalism is replace things that work with things that sound good on paper,” she said. “So now our entire health care system is going to be run by the people who run the Department of Motor Vehicles.”

Coulter said as public support for the Affordable Care Act has decreased, the only Democratic defense against criticism has been the lack of a Republican health care reform alternative. She offered her own solution based on free market competition.

“I have a plan,” she said. “It’s a little something I’ve been working on. I like to call it free market capitalism. My thought is we force insurance companies to compete for our business by offering good plans at good prices.”

Coulter cited the tax code, public education, the U.S. Postal Service and Social Security, among other examples, as economically inefficient results of government intervention.

“Liberals can’t learn from what is right in front of them: Anything provided on the free market gets better and cheaper,” she said. “Anything provided by the government gets worse and more expensive.”

Coulter also addressed the issue of gun control, particularly in light of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Conn., in Dec. 2013.

“After Newtown, [Democrats] were all on their high horses … but then senate leader, Democrat Harry Reid, couldn’t even get enough Democrats to hold a vote on the so-called assault weapons ban,” she said.

Coulter said the liberals cite “bogus statistics” in an attempt to scare people away from guns, but she said she has to believe their arguments so long as liberals themselves continue to utilize “armed security,” such as bodyguards.

“Have a plan,” she said. “I’ve been something I’ve been working on. I like to call it free market capitalism. My thought is we force insurance companies to compete for our business by offering good plans at good prices.”

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“Liberals can’t learn from what is right in front of them: Anything provided on the free market gets better and cheaper. Anything provided by the government gets worse and more expensive.”

Ann Coulter
political commentator

“As soon as politicians and these media bigwigs give up their guns or their armed security, they tell me that guns aren’t helpful,” she said. “Then, they’re like stockbrokers telling you to ‘buy, buy, buy,’ while they’re selling, selling, selling.”

“I think Americans know this. They won’t hold-faced hypocrisy when they see it.”

Coulter said the issue of gun control highlights her “Ann Coulter theorem” that the more people know about a subject, the more conservative their views tend to be.

“After all the liberal panic reigning around after Newtown … one year after the shooting in Newtown, support for gun control was the lowest it’s been in decades,” she said.

“And this is a corollary of the Ann Coulter theorem that the more people know about a subject, the more conservative they are. What happened after Newtown is there was a lot of talk about gun control on TV, and people who had never given it any thought got to hear the facts, and support for gun control plummeted.”

Coulter said she wished gun rights advocates would transfer their fervor into the immigration debate.

“If only immigration patriots had the self-confidence of gun enthusiasts, I don’t think we’d have to keep going through this amnesty debate every year,” she said.

“The pro-mass-immigration people have the entire Democratic caucus. Recently, they have the media. They have many, many Republicans on their side. The only special interest group the amnesty people don’t have on their side are the American people.”

Coulter said the concept of “anchor babies,” foreigners coming to the U.S. for the sole purpose of birth tourism, to get their child on American soil, stems from faulty logic and is truly the purpose of the fourteenth amendment.

“The theory of anchor babies is ‘if I successfully break into your house, I get to own it. And if in the process I cause at least my kids do, but don’t punish the children, I told them to own the house,” she said.

Coulter said a shift in thinking has caused Americans to change immigration in a skewed way.

“It’s this weird idea that’s taken hold that it’s somehow unfair for African Americans to skin the cream to get the best immigrants we can get,” she said. “I think we ought to be bringing in people who are better than us, not worse than us.”

What is the point of bringing in people who simply need the taxpayers’ help? We’re not talking about our native Americans here. We know how to take care of them. Why are we bringing in people we have to help?”

Coulter said the accusation that she is a liberal is a “misunderstanding” in the immigration debate almost always misinterpret the issue, as immigration that harms African Americans.

“Whenever this talk of immigration comes up, it is just convenient for them, and their self-serving logic is that immigration harms African Americans.”

Coulter said the debate would be altered if immigrants brought high-skilled labor and were more competitive in the labor market.

“I think if the immigrants we were bringing in were competing with senators, with journalists, with umpires who need maid and nannies, we wouldn’t hear so much about compassion toward the rest of the world,” she said. “No, it hurts the most vulnerable in our society.”

“It’s one thing to apply quotas to make up for the Democratic policies of Jim Crow. It’s another thing to have affirmative actions and quotas for people who have never set foot in this country. We owe you nothing. If you have grievances, go back and address the perpetrators.”

Contact Jack Rooney at jrooney1@nd.edu

NEWS

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Advocacy
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

that comes from the institution, more so than other ACC schools that may be public,” she said.

Vidal said she and Devine also used the opportunity to discuss other important campus issues with Indiana state representatives.

“The ACC focused on the idea of federal aid and what it means to students on our campus, but we also used the opportunity to speak directly (about) our school when we were in individual meetings with representatives from Indiana,” Vidal said. “We really tried to capitalize on that opportunity and speak to the issues of Notre Dame specifically.”

A major issue they discussed with representatives was the Health and Human Services mandate, which has been controversial not only for the University administration, but for many students as well, Devine said, especially those looking to enter the medical field.

“[Students’ concern] was something that I think hasn't been addressed from the university level … but something that I think students are worried about,” he said.

Vidal said the discussions that addressed student opinions of current issues at Notre Dame allowed congressmen to gain a better understanding of campus life and important campus issues.

“This trip is a way for students to express the sentiment on campus from a personal standpoint where legislators and individuals who work in Washington, D.C., to represent schools of tentimes … don’t have the direct connection to the students,” she said.

This is the second year the ACC has sponsored this trip to the nation’s capital. Vidal said she hopes Notre Dame student government will continue its involvement.

“Every year that they have been in existence we have participated, because we think it’s important as a University and as a student body,” Vidal said. “It’s only the second year, but we hope to continue it. We think it’s a great opportunity.”

Contact Madison Jaros at mjaros@nd.edu

Event
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

While religion is, “the active expressing of spiritual beliefs through traditions in an organized faith community,” spirituality is comprised of the “personal attitudes that come from belief in a higher power,” Koth said. They are considered separate from but can include religion, she said.

Koth sought to relate the two distinct terms with the help of 23 sisters from Saint Mary’s Convent and 17 residents of Holy Cross Village, a senior living community. All participants but one identified as Catholic; one individual was Protestant, Koth said.

“I set up meetings with people who demonstrated interest,” Koth said. “We discussed the benefits and the risks and the confidentiality and objectives of the study.”

With the information from residents aged 60 through 100, Koth began to analyze her research, Koth said she discovered “people who reported significantly higher levels of religiosity and spirituality also tended to report significantly higher levels of health and well-being.”

Koth said it is important to note that “this [correlation] is their perception of their own health and it is not an actual measure of how healthy they are.”

According to Koth, there have been more than 2,000 studies on religion and spirituality, and basic information questions.

When she concluded and began to analyze her research, Koth said she discovered “people who reported significantly higher levels of religiosity and spirituality also tended to report significantly higher levels of health and well-being.”

Koth said she conducted her research in a short time period and she wondered how the results would change if her study continued through a time span of multiple years.

“It would be interesting to see whether a person’s spirituality fluctuates along with changing health over a period of time,” Koth said.

Koth, a biology major with minors in chemistry and religious studies, has studied both fields and brought them together in her research.

“I kind of look at religion and spirituality from a scientific type of standpoint,” she said.

The next event in the Spirituality Mondays series will take place Monday in the Student Center. Jill Vihtelic, professor of business and economics, will discuss spirituality and global business.

Contact at Macaila DeMario mdemario01@saintmarys.edu
The Shirt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

[marching] band."

Wetzel said he expects a large turnout at the unveiling ceremony due to favorable weather and student discounts.

“We’re expecting a couple thousand students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members to show up for the unveiling this year, especially if the weather is as nice as predicted,” Wetzel said. “Students will also receive 15 percent off up to two shirts that they purchase at the unveiling ceremony.”

Marketing manager and senior Catherine Simonson said the local frozen yogurt shop Let’s Spoon and Barnaby’s pizzeria would provide catering.

In addition to the entertainment lineup and free food, Simonson said attendees could participate in multiple other activities before Irish coach Brian Kelly officially unveils the new shirt at 6 p.m.

“We’re offering a couple different interactive booths, such as face painting, a guessing station allowing people to predict the color before it’s unveiled — which is all polled through Twitter, a photo booth where we’ll be bringing out all the previous shirts and allowing people to try them on or hold them up and take pictures with their favorites — a really rare opportunity to see the whole collection — and a color stations allowing guests to design their own shirt templates.”

Along with expansions to the unveiling ceremony, The Shirt committee has broadened its media presence for the 25th anniversary, Simonson said.

“We’ve really bolstered our social media,” Simonson said. “We created an Instagram account over the summer and have used that as a central platform for growth. Right now, we’re finishing up a scavenger hunt we’ve been running for several weeks now via all of our social media platforms, including a newly designed website.”

According to a新鲜man committee member Mackenzie Smith, the social media outreach aims to highlight the charitable impact of The Shirt, which helps to fund student activities.

“One of our goals for the year was to promote what exactly The Shirt Project is and where the money goes,” Smith said. “Most people don’t know that the proceeds from buying The Shirt go straight back to the students and to campus through our The Shirt Charity Fund and the Rector Fund.”

Simonson said she hopes the 25th anniversary edition of The Shirt will excite Notre Dame fans and sell in record numbers.

“This year’s Shirt takes on a whole different vibe than any of the previous years’ and we’re really looking forward to showing it off,” she said. “I’m predicting significantly higher sales than last year, which sold 156,000. I’d love to hit 160,000 or higher.”

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HHS Secretary Sebelius issues resignation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Embattled Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is resigning as the White House seeks to move past the election-year political damage inflicted by the rocky rollout of President Barack Obama’s signature health care law.

Sebelius’ resignation comes just over a week after the sign-up surge closed for the first year of insurance coverage under the so-called Obamacare law. The opening weeks of the enrollment period were marred by widespread website woes, though the administration rebounded strongly by enrolling 7.1 million people by the March 31 deadline, exceeding initial expectations.

Enrollment has since risen to 7.5 million as people were given extra time to complete applications. Even with the late surge in sign-ups, the law remains unpopular with many Americans and Republicans have made it a centerpiece of their efforts to retrace the Senate in the fall.

Sebelius’ resignation could also set the stage for a contentious confirmation hearing to replace her. In a sign that the White House is seeking to avoid a nomination fight, the president was tapping Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, to replace Sebelius. Burwell was unanimously confirmed by the Senate for her current post.

A White House official requested anonymity to confirm Sebelius’ resignation and Burwell’s nomination ahead of the formal announcement. Obama has not nominated anyone to replace Burwell as budget director.

Obama remained publicly supportive of Sebelius throughout the rough rollout, deflecting Republican calls for her resignation. But she was conspicuously not standing by his side last week when he heralded the sign-up surge during an event in the White House Rose Garden.

The official said the 65-year-old Sebelius approached Obama last month about stepping down, telling him that the sign-up deadline was a good opportunity for a transition and suggesting he would be better served by someone who was less of a political target.

A spokeswoman for Sen. Pat Roberts, a Republican from Sebelius’ home state of Kansas, called the resignation “a prudent decision” given what she called the total failure of Obamacare implementation.

Sebelius dropped no hints about her resignation Thursday when she testified at a budget hearing. Instead, she received congratulations from Democratic senators on the sign-up surge.

A popular former governor of Kansas, Sebelius has been one of Obama’s longest-serving Cabinet officials and his only HHS secretary. She was instrumental in shepherding the health care law through Congress in 2010 and implementing its initial components, including a popular provision that allows young people to stay on their parents’ insurance plans until age 26.
A call for empathetic dialogue

Opportunities for conversation and dialogue are constantly available in many forums, especially on the Internet. It is incredibly easy to comment on a viral video, show symbolic cyber support by liking a status or jump into an argument about controversial issues. However, when participating in any type of conversation — particularly in an online setting — it is vital to keep in mind that the gift of this connectivity must be utilized in a productive and respectful manner. It becomes dangerously easy to abuse the chance to type exactly what we feel when we believe we are protected behind a computer screen and the veil of anonymity offered by the Internet. It becomes especially sensitive when it happens in a relatively small campus community.

We are not suggesting the Notre Dame community should avoid arguments and fear conflicts. In fact, we urge everyone who feels passionate about something to speak out. Ask difficult questions. Research the topic, read up on the issue. Formulate your opinion, and maybe even write a letter. Make a genuine attempt to understand the other side of the story. Learn something.

We would like to challenge all those at Notre Dame to engage in dialogue in a way that is respectfully aware that those on the other side of the argument are fellow human beings and not just fingers on a keyboard or letters on a page. They are our friends, classmates and professors alike.

While it is easy to get caught up in the heat of a disagreement, we must not allow emotional responses to cloud our rationale. Likewise, we must not dismiss legitimate, well-grounded arguments as being merely the result of emotion.

When faced with an opposing perspective, it is convenient to focus on one potentially problematic aspect of the argument, which consequently blinds us to the overall message. This sort of refusal to see beyond our own stubborn, one-sided position creates an unsurmountable obstacle towards any future constructive conversation. A willingness to respond must also include a willingness to listen and to understand.

Whether we jump into a debate in the line at Starbucks or in the online comment section of a Viewpoint column, we must remember to approach any issue with a tone of empathy, awareness and respect, allowing room for neither unfounded animosity nor ignorance.

As part of our final editorial of this school year, we set forth the hope that all in our community will be willing to work together towards becoming informed, open-minded participants in all future discussions. More importantly, we ask our fellow students to remain conscious of the fact that people are much more than the title of the clubs they belong to, the positions they take on the issues that divide us or even the alias they assume online.

We all walk the same campus grounds each day. This weekend, we will once again unite as a campus to participate in the long-held traditions, including the Blue-Gold Game. We hope events such as these may remind us that, despite our differences, we are all bound by the history, tradition and strong sense of community that unites us as Notre Dame.

Emilie Kefalas
News Writer

Up until May 18 of last year, I had never used my phone to make actual calls more than once an hour. Anxious to please fresh out of high school, I was well aware that this would not change. Completely out of my comfort zone after those five calls to city officials asking for their availability, I thought my skills to be inefficient and a radio gal.

"Hello, yes, may I please speak with Representative Mitchell? Do you happen to know at what number I may reach him?" This is Emilie Kefalas from Talk 101 FM with Busboom and Wolfe.

"No matter how many times I had to say this one line, I never grew tired of proclaiming it. For the first time, I had a side other than "student.""

"Yes. Ok. Could you please? I would greatly appreciate that. Thank you very much. You too. Ba-bye." This formula for contact was, as I would discover several times, my official baptism as a go-getter. I needed to do something different. I was pushing myself completely out of my comfort zone.

The lack of salary did not dampen my momentum. I had a job to do. Letting Scott Busboom down was equivalent to disturbing the deep end of the communal pool. If I thought my skills to be inefficient and lacking in any urgency, word would quickly ripple to the water’s edge.

Now that I recall that day and setting, though, I am reminded of a greater gamble, a jeopardy with stakes slightly elevated above the height of the billboard telling Decatur to “Wake Up With Busboom and Wolfe!”

The listeners. Why I cared about Busboom and Wolfe’s ratings as much as Busboom and Wolfe did not exactly puzzle me as much as it motivated me to rise to an unexplored level of greatness in my own mind. Proving myself was my personal mile marker, one that would be reached every time I booked the next big name, the impossible “got.” Getting the impossible was worth it. For loyal listeners, it provided relevance and intrigue. For me, it unofficially officially baptized me as a go-getter.

And a radio gal.

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

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VIEWPOINT

Radio gal

Emily Kefalas

The Observer Editorial

"Before we get too depressed about the state of our politics, let’s remember our history. The great debates of the past still stirred great passions. They all made somebody angry … What is amazing, is that despite all the conflict, our experiment in democracy has worked better than any form of government on earth."

Barack Obama
President of the United States

Inside Column

"I couldn’t see the forest for the trees."
When I was little, I hated math. It was unfamiliar and didn’t make sense to me. My father, a chemical engineer, was as- signed the task of helping me understand the concepts. Although my father is a man of great patience, I always seemed to try that best by ignoring him for what seemed to be an unreasonable amount of time. We would work through problems together. The concepts were so simple to him, and he sometimes couldn’t see why I just didn’t get it. In return, I fought against learning math because sometimes I felt judged for not understanding something I had never been exposed to before. Since basic math is necessary for functioning in society, my father persisted out of love and consideration for my personal development.

He found new, relatable ways to present information, allowing me to see from a different perspective. And I grew more receptive, eventually understanding enough to make it into what I consider one of the finest universities in the country. From these memories, considering the situation occurring on our campus right now, I can extrapolate several memories into what I consider one of the finest universities in the country. From these memories, I can extrapolate several memories into what I consider one of the finest universities in the country.

First, there is nothing inherently wrong with ignorance. In first grade, I was igno-rant about mathematical concepts, and, as a child, this was understandable. Often, ignorance is also understandable given an individual’s background. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, ignorance is “a lack of knowledge, understanding, or educa- tion.” One might question why I make comments out of ignorance. However, Christ calls us to instruct the ignorant. Ignorance is an invitation for education and for asking someone to consider something in a new way. Although statements made in ignorance can be hurtful and offensive (and are in no way justified or acceptable), the correct response is not anger and hatred. Even when dealing with the ignorant, begin with respectful dialogue. Judgment and anger breed defen-siveness and resentment, halting all forward progress. Rather than making sweeping statements, ask questions and be ready to be taught, individually or group, begin asking “Why?” Finding out why a person holds certain be-liefs is key to identifying misunderstandings and initiating change. Incredibly sheltered upon my arrival at Notre Dame, I held beliefs about groups of people that I now realize were ignorant and unfair. But I had only been exposed to one perspective, and I had honestly never thought to question the information given to me by adults. New information widened my perspective in a way that attacking my opinions never would have. No one responds well to condescension and judgment, especially when they might not even realize that there is another reasonable side to the argument.

This being said, bigotry is unacceptable and, by definition, cannot exist within respectful dialogue. Bigotry is separate from ignorance. A bigot is “a person who is obesi- nately and intolerance devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices.” Only after re-jecting attempts at respectful dialogue with- out fair consideration does one become a bigot. There is no point engaging in an argu-ment with a bigot person because a logical argument implies a search for truth, and a person who is bitter is already rejecting attempts at respectful dialogue “bigot and prejudices” has already found his or her truth; all that is remains to be respectful, while declining unproductive dialogue that will only serve to further spread intolerance.

Second, finding common ground is es-sential. My father had to get creative when he taught me. It was important enough for me to understand that he tried new ways of explaining the information he had been teaching finally made sense. Consider the person next to you, those in your classes, your dorm. All of these people have their own unique stories. They are also entitled to their own opinion. As we engage in debate, let us not forget this common humanity. Creating an “us vs. them” mentality only tears apart our com-munity, deepening the wounds preventing us from reaching a common understanding or at least loving and respecting one another. Look into your hearts, your lives, your faith, your academic interests, your geeky hobbies or your taste in music (Try Disney movies, those are a pretty good bet). Chances are, the person shares something with you that will humanize them. When we humanize rather than generalize, we empower ourselves to remain respectful despite difference in opinion, because we see the other person as an individual.

Third, we must be receptive to new infor-mation. I had to be willing to learn math, although it was unfamiliar and uncomfortable. In order to avoid bigotry, we have to be open to dialogue. Dialogue is “an exchange of ideas or opinions.” That doesn’t mean one side telling the other side what to believe. Both sides must recognize that they might not have all the answers. The beauty of dialogue is seeking truth together, not beat-ing someone over the head with an ideol-ogy. The emphasis on “I’m right and you’re wrong” is so loud that it drowns out all else. Even for conflicts that have no resolution because of a fundamental differ-ence in understanding, there is something to be learned from opposing views, and respect remains necessary to make progress. We can learn so much from realizing that we are not always right. In fact, we’re often wrong. But by engaging with multiple perspectives and remaining open to new and valid ideas and opinions, we fulfill the true purpose of a university and can move forward together. If we believe we have the potential to find much greater peace through education and unceasing dialogue. While all problems and misunderstandings in the world are not as simple as explaining why 3/4 is bigger than 5/8, the problems we have placed on the table at Notre Dame are so much more important. They are among the defining issues of our generation, and discussion on such issues makes me incredibly proud of our wonder-ful University. Everyone wants to defend his or her beliefs, and we are striving to shape the world we live in. However, the hatred and vitriol I have seen directed towards other members of our Notre Dame family in some comments is not productive. Our com-ments both sadden and disappoint me. Our collective ignorance cries out for understanding. Love one another by educat-ing one another; don’t contribute through belittlement to the hatred you are trying to prevent. I know we, as a student body, are capable of so much more, and I challenge those who decide to speak up to do so with respect and openness, as well as humility. Let us not begin to shout louder and louder until we are a sea of incoherence, unable to hear truth that is spoken. Instead, let’s begin a conversation together.

Samantha Lessen
Lewis Hall
April 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let’s have a conversation together

“As I was in South Dining Hall, feasting on corned beef and cabbage, garbed in green and surrounded by an emerald brigade of students and staff, I realized something. Although the U.S. celebration of the feast of St. Patrick is a commemoration of Irish immigrants, a rich patchwork of races and nationalities is also why my grandmother, who became a U.S. citizen a few years ago was asked whether she wanted to change her name (“Divina Gracia Corpuz Llanes”) to some-thing a bit more homogeneous which (she) thanks be to God, refused, relying in her characteristic proud manner that her name reflects her Catholic faith and means “Divine Grace” and “Body of Christ.”) While I do contend that melting pot im- agery does indeed have its benefits, I prefer the more contemporary idea that the United States is a salad bowl society, not to a nutritional vegan utopia, but to a society wherein diversity is celebrated and not merely tolerated. Salad bowl symbolism recognizes that people may be around, yet never subsumed into a particular one — slicing and dicing stereotypes and gormandizing them with the flavorful creations of coexistence. “Americanism” should not be measured by how similar we all are to each other, but by the diversity that renders our great nation unique. Ours is a common heritage that distinguishes the United States, but to do so in a manner which does not actively erad-icate our differences or ignore their existence altogether.

As a member of the Diversity Council of Notre Dame, I actively choose to celebrate all forms of diversity. It would be foolish for us to consider “diversity” as applying only to non-whites. While many individuals on campus do hold this belief, this is an atti-tude that ignores the distinctive differences between Germans and Spaniards, between the French and the Polish, between Russians and Italians. The Diversity Council wel- comes all perspectives to our meetings and events, as do the so-called “racially exclusive special interest clubs,” which compose the bulk of the student body. It is true that The salad bowl society — “National Society of Black Engineers” or “Latino Student Alliance,” the cultural clubs may appeal to those who do not fit into the preconceived categories of pre-established clubs should not, however, be reduced to mere gatherings of people who look the same. We are welcomed to participate in such student organizations and experience the sense of belonging they offer to those who may feel different. As a campus community, we should attempt to better understand this nebulous notion of “being different” which affects one half of the University and seems to be irrelevant for the other half.

I write as a registered Republican and a Filipino-American wanting to express the importance of conducting a frank dialogue about diversity and inclusion. I write as a Californian who grew up in one of the poorer cities in America, in the Central Valley heartland cultivated by generations of Filipino and Mexican migrants. I write as a concerned Notre Dame student who rec-ognizes that the fruit of the ongoing debate about Ann Coulter is that people are now willing to talk about race relations. It is true that we no longer live in an age of rampant racism, but we should not remain stagnant in the opposite extreme and pretend that we have already established a society free of cultural stigmas and prejudices, a post-race utopia. So go: cry wolf and awaken others from their slumber of indifference. Be bold and let your opinions, your prejudices and your ideas out. Risk being correct and risk being corrected. A dialogue can only be mutu-al if both parties are willing to talk about race relations.

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Elkhart’s Lerner Theatre will be hosting pop singer/songwriter Gavin DeGraw next week after recently returning to the U.S. from an international tour earlier this year. The platinum-earning musician will be accompanied by openers Parachute and Rozzi Crane at the April 15 show.

DeGraw has just released his fourth studio album, “Make a Move,” in October 2013 to largely positive reception. The album’s first two singles, “Saturday Night” and “TURN,” had made appearances on the Billboard charts in the last six months, and the album peaked at No. 10 on the U.S. charts.

But this isn’t DeGraw’s first showing on the charts. The musician burst into the pop scene in 2003 with the release of his debut album, “Chariot.” The album sold more than one million copies and put DeGraw on the map as a hitmaker. DeGraw followed up his debut with his second studio album, “100 Miles of Happiness,” in 2006, which also debuted at No. 10 on the Billboard charts.

“Don’t Want To Be,” which gained fame as the theme song for “One Tree Hill” and hit number one on pop charts. The debut album’s second single, its title track, also went platinum and established DeGraw as a hitmaker.

DeGraw followed up his debut with a remarkably successful sophomore album, a self-titled LP that debuted at No. 1 in digital sales in 2008. After releasing a collection of live recordings a year later, DeGraw continued his prolific streak with “Sweeter,” his third studio LP, in 2011. “Sweeter” also proved to be a success, especially its single “Not Over You,” a songwriting collaboration with OneRepublic’s Ryan Tedder that became a Top 40 hit. Now with the recent release of his fourth studio album, DeGraw has demonstrated his staying power in the pop charts.

DeGraw will be joined by Parachute, a band based out of Charlottesville, Va. After releasing a third album in 2013, the band has toured, playing their pop-rock music with bands such as The Script and Goo Goo Dolls.

Also opening for DeGraw is Rozzi Crane, the first artist signed to Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine’s label. Described by “Teen Vogue” as a “rock star in training,” she is an up-and-coming singer/songwriter to look out for in coming years.

The Lerner Theatre will be hosting DeGraw, Crane and Parachute on April 15 at 7:30 p.m. To purchase tickets for the Gavin DeGraw concert, go to www.thelerner.com, call the Lerner Theatre at 800-294-8223 or visit the Lerner Box Office at 110 S. Main St. Elkhart, Ind. A student discount is available, and for more information about this discount, contact the box office.

Contact Allie Tollaksen at atolaks@nd.edu

If you’ve been paying any attention to pop culture in the last couple months, you’ve almost certainly heard the Oscar-winning song “Let It Go” from “Frozen.” If you follow BuzzFeed, you’ve almost certainly seen numerous adaptations and versions of the song. One of the most popular is Sam Tsui’s mash-up of the hit with Passenger’s “Let Her Go.”

On Friday, Notre Dame students will have the opportunity to see the YouTube celebrity live at Legends. The Asian American Association and Legends are hosting Tsui as part of the “Springboard Music Fest,” which featured YelWolf on Thursday and will feature Vicetone on Saturday night.

Tsui is known particularly for his covers, most recently of Bastille’s “Pompeii” and Jason Derulo’s “Talk Dirty.” Tsui started posting his top-40 covers to YouTube while studying at Yale. Some of his most popular creations are mash-ups like the “Let It Go / Let Her Go” video, which has over eight million hits.

Recently, Tsui has released his first album, titled “Make It Up.” The album was financed through a Kickstarter campaign he ran with his producer and longtime classmate, Kurt Schneider. In an interview with TheWrap, Tsui said he chose not to work with record labels in order to maintain creative control on the album.

“I’m not opposed to working with other writers in the future, but what has drawn people to me is that when they watch a video, whether it’s a cover or an original, they know there is no middle man. It’s a direct to audience kind of thing,” Tsui said.

Though his original intent was to get involved with musical theatre, his YouTube covers and mash-ups led him down the path of pop music that is now bringing him to perform at Notre Dame.

The songs from his original album are available on his YouTube channel (TheSamTsui). Three of them feature original music videos. Tsui said in the interview with TheWrap that his time doing covers has helped find what works for him as an artist.

“My writing voice is a little quirkier, more singer-songwriter-y than the top-40 stuff I cover. It was still heavily influenced by the fact that I’ve spent three years doing covers; it gave me exposure to songs from diverse genres and I learned what works for me in songs.”

His mash-ups of popular songs include ones of “Timber” and “Counting Stars,” and another of “Payphone” and “Telephone.” In conjunction with Schneider, Tsui has become known for his annual medleys of popular songs from the year. The 2013 medley features songs like “We Can’t Stop,” “What Does the Fox Say?” and “Mirrors.”

Sam Tsui’s show is sure to feature a fan mix of his covers, mash-ups and original work. For those familiar with his work, it will be fun to see some of his most popular hits live and for those who aren’t, I suggest roaming his YouTube channel for a couple minutes. You’re sure to find something you like.

Tsui will be performing at Legends at 10 p.m. Friday. Admission is free for Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students with an ID.

Contact Caelin Miltko at cmoriari@nd.edu
By MATTHEW McMAHON

Filmmaker and Renaissance man Spike Jonze cultivates emotional resonance in the strangest places. His team-ups with Charlie Kaufman, the most adept and peculiar writer in cinema, have seen tremendous heartbreak and consciousness despite — or, more appropriately, through — absurd, surreal premises. With 2013’s spectacular “Her,” Jonze continues his streak of unriviled filmmaking in his first individual directing and writing effort. The film opens with the first of many subversions, as Jonze explores his newest playground. Anyone vaguely familiar with the plot of “Her” seeing it for the first time assumes they are being plant-killed inside of the middle of the story; instead, Jonze slowly introduces main character and personalized greeting card writer Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix), along with the extremely intimate, close-up direction employed throughout the film. Despite the dramatic subject matter, Jonze naturally weaves in Jonze takes in portraying the relationship holding her back from salvaging. In this case, the two face very opposing issues attached to their states of being: Samantha yearns to evolve, not confining herself by the limitations of humanity, while Twombly, stunted by his human- ity, rehashes the difficulties he saw with his wife. These pangs come to a head when both have pivotal interactions with those outside the scope of their very intimate, artificial relationship. Only after Twombly falls in love with Catherine again does he remember their struggles, for some of which he was responsible. He has his issue and seeking comfort in a rapidly advancing OS might not help him address them. Meanwhile, Samantha sees the disparities between humans and artificial intelligence through contact with other operating systems. In a gradual and beautifully implicit turn of realization, she determines not only is the relationship holding her back from technologically evolving, but equally it is holding Twombly back from emotion-ally evolving.

“Her” is playing on campus as the sub counterpart. Melding all of his varied, complex ideas into not just a clear and digestible, but immensely enjoyable, movie, Jonze has created another one of his most thought-provoking, stunning and all-around well-made films in recent cinema. “Her” is playing on campus as the SUB Movie of the Week. The movie is showing Thursday-Saturday in DeBartolo 101, and tickets are $3.
Noah should be more appreciated

Casey Karnes Sports Writer

Not much is pretty about Bulls center Joakim Noah's game. His jump shots spin like a tornado, and he runs like a baby giraffe taking its first uneasy steps. With his unique style, he is a graceful and awkward rendition of a finger-guns celebration, Noah has more in common with the typical energy plays that are on display for the NBA's do-anything star. Yet despite his gaudy appearance and arguably ugly style of play, Noah has surpassed all expectations to become one of the top players in the league.

Drafted seventh by the Bulls after leading Florida to back-to-back championships in the 2006 and 2007 NCAA tournaments, Noah's lack of bulk and underdeveloped offensive game elicited concerns that he would be lost at the college level. Luckily for the Bulls, after a rocky rookie campaign Noah soon developed into a double-double machine and defensive menace, with his passionate, loud style of the court jiving well with young star point guard Derrick Rose's more reserved approach.

The Bulls hired Tom Thibodeau in 2010, and the defensive mastermind's system quickly established Noah as the lynchpin of the defense using his quickness, length and leadership. Since Noah and Thibodeau's union, the Bulls have finished top two in fewest points allowed per game each season, including a first-place mark of 9.6 this season.

The suffocating defense headed by Noah and small forward Luol Deng paired with Derrick Rose's ascension to MVP status allowed the Bulls to capture the number one seed in each of the last two playoffs and doubts began to set in again.

Rose returned for a short and unproductive stretch during the Bulls' 102-87 win over Minnesota, but the bulls limped out to a 14-18 start, leading Chicago's front office traded leading scorer Deng and center Joakim Noah's game. His
doubts began to set in again.

Noah responded with his finest performance in a season yet, averaging career-highs in 14.2 points and 11.2 rebounds, and his 5.2 assists per game are more than any forward or center in the league not named LeBron or Durant. That unique vision has also enabled him to lance Stephon Marbury for the NBA lead-with four triple-doubles on the season. The fourth came Tuesday in the Bulls' 102-98 win over the Wizards during which Noah also broke Chicago's franchise record for assists in a season.

Out of the shadow of Rose and Deng, Noah is starting to get the appreciation he deserves, earning MVP chants from his home crowd and a place on the NBA's All-Star weekend roster. That night Noah proved he should be Defensive Player of the Year. McHale said. "He's been a lot just on his energy and effort, determination and confidence.""He should be Defensive Player of the Year," McHale said. "He's been a lot just on his energy and effort, determination and confidence. He doesn't care about his own stats," Thibodeau said. "He just cares about winning. To me, that's what separates him from most. So while Noah's game might be unimagining, NBA fans should enjoy their chance to watch the Bulls' center's development of passion against aggression, precision passing, defensive prowess and all-consuming desire to win. Above all, Noah's consistent effort is a reminder that in basketball, sometimes ugly is beautiful.

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — No nerves. No worries. Adam Scott never knew the opening round at Augusta National could be so enjoyable.

With his green jacket upstairs in his room and the Masters' defending champ, Scott made only one bad swing that cost him two shots in a round of 3-under 69. It was the lowest opening score by a defending champ in 13 years, and it left Scott one shot behind leader Bill Haas on an opening day demanding day.

"It was really how you how to come out and play at any major," Scott said. "And there's no doubt winning the Masters last year had me a little more comfortable on the first tee than I've ever been in the past, because I didn't have the lions harking and jangling for six or seven holes like usual.

It was with a rich family history at Augusta that includes a green jacket for his great uncle Bob Gooby, settled down after an opening round of 70 and a combination of good birdies and an 8-iron to 5 feet for birdie on the 18th for a 68.

It was the first time in 18 ma-
jors that Haas has had the lead after any round. That only gets him a crystal vase for the low round, but that's the only one.

"I should be Defensive Player of the Year," McHale said. "He's been a lot just on his energy and effort, determination and confidence." But then," he said with a smile, "I went and hit it in the water." Scott's tee shot bounced off the front slope and into Rae's Creek — amazingly, he said it was his first shot into the water all day — and he made double bogey to fall out of the outright lead. He picked up a birdie on the 14th, and three- putted for par on both the 5th and 9th.

Still there were few complaints.

Augusta National officials knew this would be a gentle day of weather, and it was clear they made the sure thing was any-
thing but that. The hole loca-
tions were severe for an opening round. With endless sunshine, the greens became firmer and quad- rusted.

So many others paid the price.

Jason Dufner took a quadrup-
ple-bogey 9 on the 13th hole with only one penalty shot. The worst of his woes was a wedge from the drop area that didn't even make it to the creek. He wound up with an 86 in the first round in a major since winning the PGA Championship last summer.

He was in good company. Phil Mickelson had a pair of 7s on his card for the first time in five years at a major, and his 76 matched the highest opening round score of his career — he was in the drop area that didn't even make it to the creek. He wound up with an 86 in the first round in a major since winning the PGA Championship last summer.

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Irish to host three teams during weekend

Observer Staff Report

After losing three of their last four matches, the Irish hope to return to the winner’s circle against two ACC opponents this weekend at their home Eck Tennis Pavilion. The No. 12 Irish (14-8, 4-4 ACC) face Miami at home on Friday and host Florida State and Valparaiso on Sunday.

In their most recent match, the Irish were upset on the road by North Carolina State, losing by a 4-3 margin in Raleigh, N.C. Against the Wolfpack, the Irish found themselves in a deficit after dropping the point in double play. Senior Greg Andrews, ranked No. 29 in the country, senior Ryan Bandy and freshman Eddy Covalschi all won their singles matches what was eventually a losing effort for the Irish the losing effort.

The Irish, currently 4-4 in ACC play, will need to beat Miami to remain above .500 in conference play.

Florida State (15-9, 3-5 ACC) will also enter competition having lost its last four ACC matches. The Seminoles fell at home to the Tar Heels and Blue Devils on April 4 and 6, respectively, both by the score of 5-2.

The Seminoles will head to Notre Dame with two players ranked in to top 100 for individual play. Seminole juniors Dominic Cotrone and Christian Gonzalez Mender are ranked nationally: Andrews and sophomore Quentin Monaghan, who is currently No. 89. Before Sunday’s matchup with Notre Dame, Florida State is slated to face Boston College on Friday afternoon.

Valparaiso (15-6, 1-2 Horizon League) enters the weekend on a mini-losing streak. Last weekend they fell on the road to Green Bay, 6-1. Before facing the Irish, the Crusaders will play Detroit on Friday. After this weekend, Valparaiso still has three more regular season matches before they compete for the Horizon League postseason championships.

After this weekend, Notre Dame will head to Massachusetts on April 19 to face Boston College at the Flynn Recreational Complex. The match will be their regular season and conference finale before the squad will head to the ACC championships in Cary, N.C., April 24-27.
85% of LGBTQ teens report being verbally and/or physically harassed or assaulted based on their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity.

“We welcome all people, regardless of color, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, and nationality, for example, precisely because of Christ’s calling to treat others as we desire to be treated.”
- The Spirit of Inclusion at Notre Dame

GRC

Day of Silence • April 11
Vow to take a form of silence to call attention to the
TRACk AND FIELD

Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame will compete at the Border Battle in Kentucky this weekend after a drive to the University of Louisville.

This marks the third weekend of the outdoor season for the Irish, and while the men’s team is currently unranked, the women are No. 22 in this week’s poll.

Last weekend, both squads travelled to the Stanford Invitational in Stanford, Calif. There, Notre Dame runners posted some of the best times thus far in the NCAA. There, Notre Dame and Louisville will also join forces against Indiana and Purdue in a battle of future-ACC teams against Big Ten schools.

Notre Dame races to Kentucky for Border Battle

By BRIAN PLAMONDON
Sports Writer

After nearly a month off, No. 9 Notre Dame will return to action in warmer weather in Folsom, Calif., for the Lake Natoma Invitational.

The regatta, just outside of Sacramento, will be the first of three straight weekends the Irish will be in competition.

“I think we’ve seen some signs that people were getting antsy during the last eight to ten days,” Irish coach Martin Stone said. “Now I think we’ve planned it out so we know in advance that it is tough coming back from the West Coast and then immediately training again. We will see what we need to do and quickly make the adjustment for the next race.”

Notre Dame is coming off a strong showing in the Oak Ridge/Cardinal Invitational, where they swept West Virginia and split their six races with Louisville on the first day of competition.

The following day, the Irish took home three more victories. The team was pleased with their showing, but wanted to compete better against No. 3 Virginia, Stone said.

This weekend, the Irish will face a strong group of schools that will provide a great gauge for the competition they may see in the NCAA championships. Notre Dame will compete Saturday morning against No. 4 USC and Kansas, and in the afternoon against No. 1 California and Oklahoma. The Irish will close Sunday with No. 7 Stanford and No. 20 San Diego.

“This is a level of competition we will only see in the NCAA,” Stone said. “We’ll have raced three of the top 10 teams in the country — pretty special.”

This regatta will be unique in that the Irish will not race against any Atlantic Coast Conference foes.

Despite the switch from the Big East, where Notre Dame won 11 straight conference titles, to the ACC, Stone says the goal has not changed.

“We want to win conference titles and NCAA titles,” Stone said. “I don’t think the ACC is that different, and we raced those teams anyway in the past.”

As the Irish prep for their big weekend out west, confidence seems to be running high, Stone said.

“The team is in a good place, they’ve worked really hard,” Stone said. “It’s going to be a pretty fun time.”

The Lake Natoma Invitational begins with races Saturday in Folsom, Calif.

Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamond@nd.edu

Notre Dame senior Alex Anson races during the Notre Dame Invitational on Jan. 25. The Irish head to Kentucky for the Border Battle today.

Irish compete in Folsom, Calif.

By BRIAN PLAMONDON
Sports Writer

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Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamond@nd.edu

Irish senior Alex Anson races during the Notre Dame Invitational on Jan. 25. The Irish head to Kentucky for the Border Battle today.

PARTNERSHIP

Irish compete in Folsom, Calif.
Irish host Virginia Tech for senior day

By ZACH KLONSINSKI  
Sports Writer

Looking to continue their recent surge, Notre Dame welcomes Virginia Tech on Friday afternoon in the final home match of their inaugural year in the ACC before traveling to North Carolina State on Sunday. The Irish (12-8, 4-6 ACC) are on a roll as of late, winning their last four matches by a combined score of 28-0, including last weekend’s sweeps of Maryland and Pittsburgh. The Irish have won seven of their last nine matches, with the only two losses coming on the road at the hands of now-No. 4 Virginia and No. 3 North Carolina. Despite their recent hot streak, the Irish dropped from No. 20 last week to No. 26 in the polls this week.

With the weather forecast for Friday looking pleasant, it is possible the Irish and the No. 64 Hokies (11-9, 3-7 ACC) could meet outside Friday afternoon. It would only be Notre Dame’s second home match played outdoors due to the late spring, after the victory over Pittsburgh last Sunday. Ideally, the majority of spring matches would be played outdoors, said Irish coach Jay Louderback.

“We don’t get a whole lot of home matches outdoors, so when we get the opportunity to get outside at home it’s very nice,” Louderback said. “If we end up hosting at the NCAAs, we play outside, so it’s good to get some matches outdoors at home.”

While Notre Dame has played outside on road trips this season prior to last weekend, many schools in the ACC have been able to play in the sun for a couple months now. Since the Irish have flipped between the faster inside game and the slower outdoor game a number of times now, Louderback sees his team being able to transition and play either game fairly well now.

“We’ll be out(side) one day and then indoors two … I think we’ve had to do that so often that adjusting for us is getting easier,” said Louderback. “Outside you have to be a lot more patient with the ball, points last longer.”

In addition to battling the elements, another part of the game the Irish have been battling all season has been the play of their doubles teams. There have been eight different pairs who have seen ACC playing time for the Irish, with the only mainstay being the pair of senior Brittany Sanders and sophomore Quinn Gleason. However, Louderback’s tinkering with the teams may have unlocked something for the Irish, having won the doubles point in all four matches of their current win streak.

One such key has been the emergence of the doubles duo of junior Molly O’Koniewski and freshman Mary Closs. The pair played together for the first time last weekend, winning their two matches by a combined score of 16-3.

“Molly’s really solid off the ground, doesn’t miss returns, lobs well,” Louderback said. “Mary has a great serve and cuts balls off really well, so they complement each other really well.”

Another key for the Irish of late has been their depth in the singles lineup. At the four, five and six positions, the Irish have fared pretty well all season, with Closs, classmate Monica Robinson and sophomore Julie Vrabel seeing the most playing time.

“We won a lot early, too, but now I feel like we’re playing even better at four, five, six,” Louderback said. “Julie Vrabel had a lot of three-setters earlier. She won a lot of them, but now she’s starting quicker. You start getting match tough from playing a lot, and I think all three of those guys have done a great job as the season’s gone on.”

The Irish will continue to draw on this depth and doubles improvement Friday at 3:30 p.m. as they look to win their final regular season home match against the Hokies at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zkronsin@nd.edu
Belles trump Bethal, 7-2, in conference match

The Belles returned to winning ways yesterday with a convincing 7-2 win over local rival Bethel. The Belles (7-5, 2-1 MIAA) began strongly in the doubles, winning two of three matches. The sophomore pairing of Margaret Faller and Andrea Fetters led the way with an 8-3 victory, and this was quickly followed by another convincing 8-1 win from freshman Sam Setzerblad and junior Shannon Elliott. Unfortunately, senior Mary Catherine Faller and junior Kayle Sexton were edged out of a close game, losing 9-7 after going up 7-6. Mary Catherine Faller also ended up on the losing end of an intense singles match, just falling short 10-6 in the super tiebreaker. However, St Mary's were able to pull back to win her match in a close game, losing 9-7 after going up 7-6. Again, Margaret Faller and Fetters led the way, both with comfortable 6-2, 6-2 victories. Elliot continued the winning streak with a 7-3, 6-2 win in the fourth singles match while Sexton overcame a second-set deficit to win 6-3, 6-4. In a similar fashion, junior Jackie Kjollede, who was trailing in the first set, came back to win her match in another super tiebreaker (10-5).

The Belles hope to continue in this form in their senior day conference match against Alma at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

MLB

Yankees top Red Sox, 4-1

Associated Press

NEW YORK — This much is clear: Michael Pineda had a dark substance smudged on his pitching hand during his first win for the New York Yankees.

Pine tar or dirt? We might never know.

Pineda took a two-hit shutout into the seventh inning, and Jacoby Ellsbury hit an RBI single off old roommate Clay Buchholz in his first game against the Boston Red Sox. The Yankees’ 4-1 victory Thursday night left a bit of a mystery: Were Pineda’s pitches plain old nasty, or was something more sinister involved?

“It’s dirt,” Pineda said. “Between the innings, I’m sweating too much, my hand. I’m putting dirt — I’m grasping the dirt. … I’m not using pine tar.”

Ellsbury drew all the pre-game attention after switching sides in the rivalry during the offseason. But it was the dark brown, seemingly tacky substance on the lower palm of Pineda’s right hand that became the focus.

Close-up camera shots showed Pineda (1-1) pitching during the early innings with something on his hand, and there was speculation it was pine tar to help him get a better grip on a chilly night. The game was never stopped for an umpire to examine him, and whatever it was, it was gone by the fifth.

“I became aware of it in the fourth inning through the video that someone had seen,” Red Sox manager John Farrell said. “And then, when he came back out for the fifth inning, it looked, based on where it was told to me it was located, it looked like the palm of his right hand was clean.”

Yankees manager Joe Girardi essentially repeated the same answer five times during his postgame news conference.

“I never saw it. There’s nothing really for me to talk about,” he said.

Making his first Yankee Stadium start 27 months after he was acquired from Seattle, Pineda appeared completely recovered from the shoulder surgery that sidelined him for two years. Throwing at up to 95 mph, he allowed four hits, struck out seven and walked two.
**M Lacrosse**

Continued from page 20

man-up goal opportunities. The Irish may outperform the Colonials with an average of 11.56 goals per game and a record of 21 for 37 on man-up goal opportunities, but Corrigan said that the Colonials will still be a challenge for his team’s defense.

“Robert Morris is another team that like us plays a smart controlled offense with a lot of great skill,” Corrigan said. “With a lot of great offensive players on their team, we need to make sure we are playing really sound defense to force them into bad shots and turnovers.”

In addition to playing solid defense, the Irish offense will also need to apply consistency to its efforts to get past the Colonial defensive front.

“At the other end, we need to be aggressive in the offensive opportunities we are getting,” Corrigan said. “We need to continue to be productive there and get better in our 6-on-6 play, which has been our most inconsistent thing this season.”

Senior midfielder Jim Marllatt, junior attack man Conor Doyle and sophomore attackman Matt Kavanagh lead the Irish offense. In the past two games, the Irish offense has been slow to start in the first half and instead has made strong runs starting in the second half. Against Duke, the Irish only tallied two goals in the first half, but managed four goals in the fourth quarter alone, while against Marquette on Tuesday, the Irish scored five of the last six goals. Despite the appearance of a weak offensive start, the explosive nature of the Irish attack in the second half is exactly what Corrigan said he expects from his team.

“Part of the slow start is that we want to play better as game goes along, and within each game our decision making gets better,” Corrigan said. “Could we get off to a better start? Yes. I would like to see us playing a more competitive energy at the beginning, but what we aren’t doing is taking ourselves out early in games.”

“You have to be careful for what you wish. If we get too aggressive, that could lead to more mistakes.”

With that approach, and their main focus on building smart decision making, the Irish cannot afford mistakes against Robert Morris that arise from fundamentals. Saturday’s game is all about balanced consistency, Corrigan said.

“We need to find the right balance of energy and preparation early and continue to get better as game goes on.”

**Irish freshman midfield Sergio Perkovic watches the ball during an exhibition match against Bellarmine on Feb. 2. Notre Dame will take on Robert Morris on Saturday at 1 p.m.**

**Softball**

Continued from page 20

Waldorf boasts a 0.83 ERA. Waldorf was also named ACC Softball Pitcher of the Week on Monday.

Senior pitcher Laura Winter leads the Irish from the circle with a 2.11 ERA in 21 appearances. Winter has an opportunity to meet and pass the 100-win benchmark this weekend. She currently sits at 98 career victories, and two wins will make her the first pitcher in Irish softball history to hit the century mark in this category.

Winter will pitch against a squad of Seminole batters who have outscored their opponents 290-70 in 43 games. Redshirt junior shortstop Maddie O’Brien leads Florida State with 57 hits, 16 home runs, and 64 RBIs. O’Brien was also named ACC Softball Player of the Week on Monday. Redshirt senior second baseman Tiffani Brown has scored the most runs for the Seminoles, with 49 on the season.

For the Irish, junior outfielder Emilee Koerner leads in runs and home runs with 32 and eight, respectively. Sophomore infielder Micaela Arizmendi has earned 29 RBIs to lead Notre Dame in that category.

Looking ahead, the Irish have less than a month left in regular-season play. The majority of the remaining 17 games — including this weekend’s series — will be played at home.

The Irish have the opportunity to add three more tallies to the win column Sunday and Monday. ACC extensions will heat up at Melissa Cook Stadium when the Irish take on the Seminoles on Sunday at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. and again Monday at 7 p.m.

Contact Christina Kochanski at chokchanski@nd.edu

**Baseball**

Continued from page 20

to raise awareness for it and for Pete.”

Before beginning his career at Notre Dame (12-20, 1-14 ACC) four years ago, Aoki coached at Boston College (10-22, 2-13 ACC). When Aoki began as an assistant at Boston College, Frates was beginning his freshman year. Frates became Aoki’s first captain during his first season as the Eagles head coach. “[Frates] is just a phenomenal kid from a phenomenal family; a really, really good kid and a high-energy kid,” Aoki said. “He would fit on the Notre Dame campus just the same way he did on the Boston College campus.”

Started in 2012, the Pete Frates #3 Fund has had a variety of fundraising events over the years, including Plunge 4 Pete, a December dip into chilly Gloucester, Mass., water.

“The foundation’s fund that we have goes in large part to trying to raise awareness as well as covering his medical costs,” Aoki said. “At this point he needs an automated wheelchair, he needs a computer that allows him to continue to communicate with the outside world because that’s becoming more and more difficult for him. There’s a ton of costs, things that you and I take for granted, like changing our clothes and brushing our teeth and things that people have to do for him at this point.”

During his senior season and Aoki’s first as a head coach, Frates hit .242 with five home runs, 27 RBIs and 12 stolen bases.

“This weekend means a lot to me, and we’re just trying to raise some money for Peter to cover his medical costs and help him in his battle to raise awareness of this disease,” Aoki said. “He has tackled it head on. He’s been such an inspiration in the way that he has gone about this. It would have been really easy and really understandable for him to just go into his shell and feel sorry for himself about this thing, but he hasn’t. He’s taken the absolutely opposite of whatever that would be. He’s a kid that I love dearly, and I want to help him and his family to the best of my abilities.”

Though both teams have continued to place an emphasis on Frates and this cause, Boston College and Notre Dame still do face each other as an ACC matchup. “Obviously this is a team that’s struggled a little bit in the conference but they’ve pitched pretty well and we’ve pitched pretty well from time to time, so I think it will be a good, competitive series,” Aoki said. “Obviously there’s a little bit of a rivalry factor between BC and Notre Dame, the two major football-playing Catholic universities in the country. We’re going to continue to get better, more like the team we were [against Michigan].”

Though Boston College has a team batting average of .225 and a team ERA of 4.31, those marks are below Notre Dame’s team batting average of .248 and team ERA of 3.35. “[The Eagles] play really hard and they’ve gotten some good pitching performances, in particular, out of their top two guys, [junior right-hand- ed pitcher] John Gorman and [redshirt sophomore left-handed pitcher] Andrew Chin,” Aoki said. “Those two are certainly capable of shutting anybody down. I would say [Boston College] pitch it fairly well; they’re struggling a little bit at the plate; they defend it okay. Though both teams have struggled in the ACC, combining for only three wins, the teams combine for 19 non-conference wins.

“I think they’ve been competitive all year long. I think they’ve been very similar to our tale, a lot of close games where they’re right on the doorstep but haven’t been able to walk through, so I think it’s one of those things where we have to go there, we have to worry about ourselves and play well.”

The first game will be played today at 8:05 p.m., followed by a 3:05 p.m. game on Saturday and a 2:05 p.m. game on Sunday. All three games will be played at Chicago State University Baseball Stadium in Chicago, Ill., where all ticket revenues will directly go to the Pete Frates #3 Fund.

Contact Kit Loughran at kloughr1@nd.edu

The Irish host Robert Morris on Saturday at Arlotto Stadium at 1 p.m.

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**Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at assantmil@nd.edu**
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May your year be filled with new opportunities and challenges. Be prepared mentally and physically at all times and you will be able to take advantage of opportunities that come your way. This is a proactive year that must not be overridden by unexpected setbacks. Face challenges head-on and proceed. Your numbers are 4, 7, 15, 24, 26, 39, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do your best to achieve your goals. Show how competitive you can be. Attract attention and make new friends who are just as enthusiastic as you are. Socializing with progressive people will lead to long-term alliances.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid telling others how to do things or you will end up with an enemy, not an ally. Concentrate on self-improvement and doing a good job.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Avoid self-criticism and take part in things you enjoy. You will bypass some troubles that can develop at work. A lack of honesty is apparent and can lead to poor choices. Make positive changes at home as well as personal improvements.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Build your resume and add to your skills and knowledge, and it will be easier to deal with the changes occurring at work and within your industry. Stability should be your concern and moderation your safety net.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Strive for perfection. Your ability to see situations from all sides will help you mediate any disagreement or debate that arises. A change in position will help you build a strong portfolio and improve your standard of living.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work diligently toward your own goal. Avoid telling others how to do things or you will end up with an enemy, not an ally. Concentrate on self-improvement and doing a good job.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Tread carefully when dealing with friends, family or partners. Put time and effort into getting your chores out of the way and living up to any promises you made. You may feel like making a personal or physical change, but be wary of a sales pitch that promises the impossible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make positive changes at home and follow through with creative endeavors. Expand your circle of friends to include those who share your interests. Last in the cycle, you are a positive influence and will benefit you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do what you can to improve your surroundings. Social activity will bring you in touch with someone you find appealing. Get physical and improve your health and overall appearance. An emotional problem will surface if you haven’t been upfront.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don’t let your finances get you down when a strict budget and greater control over family or domestic spending will get you back on track. A business partnership must delegate responsibilities before you move forward.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use what you know to advance. Express your interests and set up interviews or talks with those in a position to help you reach your goals. Aggressive action will bring results and position you to do well on upcoming projects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make your moves with precision. Research you do will make a difference to the way you view what’s going on around you. A partnership will stabilize your position and encourage you to expand your interests. Romance is highlighted.

Birthday Baby: You are quick to respond. You are intelligent and generous.
Irish face Boston College in emotional series

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

When Notre Dame and Boston College meet in Chicago for a three-game series, the games will be about more than baseball. All the ticket revenue generated from the series will be donated to the Pete Frates #3 Fund, a foundation set up by former Boston College outfielder and current director of baseball operations Pete Frates. In March of 2012, at the age of 27, Frates was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. “ALS has really begun to take a physical toll on him, the way that this horrible disease does,” Irish coach Mik Aoki said. “So we’re using the weekend and trying to do a lot of good and make some memories for Pete.”

Irish junior pitcher Matt Ternschoek throws a pitch during Notre Dame’s 6-2 victory over UIC on April 2, 2013.

Notre Dame hosts Florida State

By CHRISTINA KOCHANSKI
Sports Writer

The No. 23/25 Irish host No. 7/8 Florida State in a three-game series this weekend at Melissa Cook Stadium.

The two ACC rivals face off Sunday at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. and again Monday at 7 p.m.

The Irish (24-4, 5-3 ACC) are coming off of a two-game series sweep of another ACC rival, the North Carolina Tar Heels. This triumph marks the first time the Irish have swept an ACC team this season.

When Florida State (38-5, 15-2 ACC) faced the Tar Heels (21-18, 12-7 ACC) in late March, the Seminoles claimed victory in all three games of the series.

Florida State is coming off of a loss to No. 8/6 Florida. The defeat marked the end of a 17-game winning streak that dated back to mid-March. The Seminoles have not lost two consecutive games this season.

This weekend’s games present an opportunity for Irish coach Deanna Gumpf to add her name to Notre Dame’s record books. With a victory in any of the three games against the Seminoles, Gumpf will tie former baseball coach Paul Mainieri for second-most all-time wins in Irish baseball and softball.

In order to beat the Seminoles, the Irish have to best Florida State’s junior pitcher Lacey Waldrop (25-3). Waldrop is the Seminoles’ leading pitcher with 30 appearances.

Irish junior pitcher Matt Ternschoek throws a pitch during Notre Dame’s 6-2 victory over UIC on April 2, 2013.