Office of Undergraduate Admissions announces record-breaking number of applicants, increased selectivity

A record number of high-achieving applicants fought for admission to the University this year, illustrating Notre Dame's increasing selectivity and marking this particular class as "a more qualified pool than ever before," Don Bishop, associate vice president for undergraduate enrollment, said.

"We had 17,897 applications," Bishop said. "And what was more interesting than just that number was there was about a 15 percent increase in the highest ability applicants, and by highest ability they would rate in the top two percent of the nation in accomplishment by national testing standards, by class performance," Bishop said.

By LESELY STEVENSON
News Editor

The basic design of the system that repairs local homes.

A community-driven organization

news writer

By ALEX WINEGAR
News Writer

ND launches mobile app

"It's an example of taking two materials that are very different superconductors have zero resistance, they expel magnetic fields, (and) they get weaker," Jankó said. "Ferromagnets are anything but that they have strong magnetic fields. So the question was, 'What happens when you take some substrate and you put a nanometer-sized magnet on it?''"

The basic design of the system Jankó's team investigated involved a superconductor laid out like flat film with a pancake-shaped nanomagnet disk on top of this substrate, with the north and south poles of the nanomagnet corresponding to the top and bottom of the disk, he said. Given the antagonistic nature of these two materials, the team was curious to see what the result of this clash would be at such a small scale.

"What the superconductor does is shield this magnetic field, so you basically induce a current in the superconductor," Jankó said. "So the total magnetic field is almost zero in the superconductor, but there is a spontaneously generated current."

The result of this induced current is a weakened state in the superconductor wherever it flows, and a plot of the strength of the superconductor over different regions reveals a "Mexican hat"-shaped potential, Jankó said. The geometry of this potential is characterized by a peak signal directly under the nanomagnet, surrounded by a valley of weaker strength that gives way to a strong signal on the circular boundary.

"When I looked at this 'Mexican hat' potential I said, 'That's just amazing, I haven't seen anything like this,'" Jankó said. "So my first thought was that this "Mexican hat" phenomenon could be used for the development of novel transistor structures."
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
Who is your superhero crush?

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

Sophomore running back Greg Bryant weaves between defenders en route to completing a 51-yard run in the 85th annual Blue-Gold Spring Football Festival this past weekend.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:
Want your event included here?
Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Tuesday
Blood Drive
Rolf's Sports
Recreation Center
11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sign up online at givebloodnow.com

Wednesday
Pill Drop
Stephan Center
3 p.m.-4 p.m.
Bring any unused pills to be disposed of.

Thursday
Morning Prayer
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
8 a.m.
Service to celebrate Good Friday.

Friday
Morning Prayer
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
8 a.m.
Service to celebrate Holy Saturday.

Saturday
Morning Prayer
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
8 a.m.
Service to celebrate Holy Saturday.

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Corrections
In the April 14 edition of The Observer, Jacob Schrimpf’s name was misspelled in the article “‘Blood Wedding’ a memorable occasion,” The Observer regrets this error.

TODAY
NDSP pill drop promotes safety

By MARGARET HYNDS
News Writer

The Notre Dame Student Police (NDSP) will sponsor its second annual pill drop on Wednesday.

The pill drop is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the greater South Bend community to “dispose of expired and unwanted prescription drugs in an environmentally safe manner,” NDSP Sergeant Tracy Skibins said.

The event is part of National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, a program run through the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice.

“This is our second medication collection event, and NDSP hopes to make it an annual event,” Skibins said. “NDSP assisted with the Mishawaka medication collection events in the past, and we thought it was such a great service, and knew this was something we wanted to offer our community.”

University spokesman and assistant vice president Dennis Brown said NDSP’s year’s drive collected approximately 760 pounds of medication.

NDSP officers will be on hand Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at Stepan Center and between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center to collect unwanted or expired drugs.

Skibins said the event required a great deal of coordination.

“Although this is an NDSP-sponsored and organized event, the Office of Sustainability, Risk Management [& Safety Department], Transportation Services and Central Receiving have all assisted with the event, and without them, it wouldn’t be possible to host it,” Skibins said.

In conjunction with the pill drop, there will be a blood drive on Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. outside the Coleman-Morse Center, junior and student co-chair of Relay for Life Andrea Romero said. The drive will also raise funds to support awareness and cancer research.

“We often partner with South Bend Medical Foundation, and they are very supportive of our event,” Romero said.

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

Bend Medical Foundation, and it is rewarding each time to see them get this opportunity to invest in the community and see what is developing in their home. “I had a case one of my first years when the husband was at work on a Saturday, and he actually drove past the house because he didn’t recognize it anymore,” Dressel said. “It looked like a completely different house. It’s nice to see everyone come together. I always have a positive experience with the volunteers, especially from their professional lives, they must prioritize their values they first assessed.”

Contact Emile Kefalas at ekefal01@stmarys.edu

Physicist

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hat potential is going to trap exotic particles, and that’s what we saw.”

The striking part of the microscopic materials medley investigated by Jankó’s team is that it behaves as a quantum analog to the classical robot model, which is equivalent to tying a string to a rock and swinging it around in a circle, Jankó said.

“The other thing we noticed is that you can put a supercurrent through and it results in tilting of the ‘Mexican hat,’” Jankó said. “It weakens the superconductor on one side so that you have a deeper well and strengthens it on the other.”

Jankó said this happens because the current flowing through the superconductor induces its own magnetic field, which changes the existing field around the nanomagnet.

“Then the classical view. What we found, quantum mechanically, is that is true but there are also more particles on the other side as well,” Jankó said. “It turns out that you are basically breaking the left-right symmetry, and these states are an equal superposition of left-rotating and right-rotating particles. So the quantum mechanical robot goes in both directions.”

The classical analog in this situation would be that of a billiard ball rolling back and forth in the groove of the tilted side of the Mexican hat but now also rolling back and forth on the other side as well, similar to two oscillating pendulums instead of the single robot, Jankó said. This dual-pendulum model prompted Jankó’s team to explore possible relations to chaos in this system.

“We immediately thought of a connection to chaos because a kicked pendulum is chaotic,” Jankó said. “Its motion is extremely sensitive to a kick. Luckily, quantum mechanics makes things a lot simpler in this case. For a quantum mechanical particle that’s spread all over the place, it couldn’t care less about being chaotic. There are no initial conditions; it just has maybe a slightly different structure of the wave function.”

In general, it is possible to go from a chaotic classical system to a quantum mechanical analog, but going back the other way is a far more difficult question, he said.

“Here we are saying that we discover rotor states, pendulum states, and the pendulum can be made chaotic if you put impulses into the current to start driving the system,” Jankó said. “And in fact, because we can change the quantum-mechanical analog of this inverted pendulum basically you have a rod and an object at the bottom of it, and you can stabilize this otherwise classically unstable inverted position. So if you perform the drive of this hinge, this motion is extremely sensitive to a kick. Luckily, quantum mechanics makes things a bit simpler in this case.”

Contact Henry Genes at hgenres@nd.edu

Rebuilding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

do not have the means to carry out projects by themselves.

“We look for a pride in ownership in the house, someone that tries to do the best they can with their house,” Dressel said.

Director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) Erika Buhring said the OCSE do-nated $3,000 to sponsor a house.

Buhring said this event provides Saint Mary’s students with the oppor-tunity to invest in the communi-ty and see what is developing in the South Bend.

“I think (students) can see that it’s good to get out into the community beyond Saint Mary’s and see such a big change so quickly,” Buhring said. “It also gives you a chance to work together for kind of a common goal.”

Dressel said this was his 11th year working as a house captain. He said he has helped with a lot of projects, and he is rewarding each time to see the volunteers, especially empowered women. Dolson said she was thankful for all of the help with her home.

“They are a whole lot of things [the volunteers] could have done with [their] weekend,” Dolson said. “There are no words that I can ever form in my brain to tell you how much I appreciate [them] being there.”

Volunteer Grace Pingel said her experience has been awe-inspiring.

“My experience has been awe-inspiring,” Pingel said. “The thing I like most about volunteer projects is getting to know the homeowner and empowering them. So it was really nice talking to Joyce and getting to know her.”

Dressel said his favorite part of Rebuilding Together is seeing the excitement and surprise in owners’ eyes when they see their home.

“I had a case one of my first years when the husband was at work on a Saturday, and he actually drove past the house because he didn’t recognize it anymore,” Dressel said. “It looked like a completely different house. It’s nice to see everyone come together. I always have a positive experience with the volunteers, especially from their professional lives, they must prioritize their values they first assessed.”

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Spiriituality Monday reflects on business, faith

By EMILIE KEFALAS
New Writer

Saint Mary’s hosted another installment of its faith-based series, Spirituality Monday, with guest speaker Jill Vitheic, professor of business and economics and chair of the Department of Global Studies, a new interdisciplinary program that Saint Mary’s launched in August of 2012. Vitheic said.

“The conversation focused on the intersection of global business and social justice and care for creation,” Romeros said.

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selective this year,” Bishop said. “... We had 6,300 applicants out of that 17,897 ... that were in the top one percent in the nation in either their high school class performance and/or their national testing, many of them both.”

“Less than half of those students gained admission. So when you have that sort of talent, you have to look at other factors.”

The “higher profile” of the applicant pool not only permitted but also forced admissions counselors to consider factors beyond a student’s test scores to create the most “well-rounded” class, Bishop said.

“We are using the test scores less,” he said. “If you look at four years ago compared to today, there’s a significant increase in our willingness to look beyond ... and the reason being is we’re getting so many high numbers that they’re now so high ...to distinguish between this score and that score is not very meaningful.”

“…we had 6,300 applicants out of 17,897 … that were in the top one percent in either their high school class performance and/or their national testing, many of them both.”

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Bishop said Notre Dame’s “core mission values” of selecting students who will be impacted by the University and then in turn impact the world makes Notre Dame unique among the nation’s top 20 private institutions.

“At other universities, there are a lot of students that believe in those things, but there’s not necessarily considered core to that university experience,” he said. “It’s not a transformational goal of the other universities, whereas here, we’re looking to transform students to be highly energetic, not only towards the intellectual but what impact are they going to have?”

Factors admissions counselors might consider beyond test scores include extraordinary talents, dedication to extracurricular activities and motivation to succeed in a particular field or with challenging coursework, Mundy said. He said more than 40 application readers try to project how a student would enhance the Notre Dame community and continue to further the University’s mission after graduation.

“I think what the staff’s been able to do is find the students [about] who they say. The way this student is currently living [has or her] life really seems to mesh well with the values that we feel make this place so special,” he said.

Mundy said the staff members in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions look forward to welcoming admitted students to campus this month.

“This time of year we literally come off this real grinding selection period or evaluation period, and there’s always just this immediate burst of excitement as you start to meet some of these admitted students,” he said. “These are the students who are going to shape this place for the coming years.

“You just meet one or two of these students, and you just feel good again. I’m really excited about this class in so many ways.

Contact Lesley Stevenson at lsteven1@nd.edu
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Inside column Memories in music

Alex Carson
Sparks Winter

I’ve now learned that when you accept the invitation to writing an Inside Column at 8 p.m., the night before it prints, it’s natural to panic. It apparently doesn’t take long to go from saying, “Sure, I’ll take it!” to thinking, “I have no idea what I’m going to write about”—just about 60 seconds in my experience.

So, naturally I started pulling out old Observers I have stored in my room, looking for inspiration for the column—don’t worry, there are plenty that I keep around, and I’m pretty sure I drive my roommate crazy. Once I got done looking through a few previous columns, I gave up and returned to my perch in the middle of my messy room and flipped on some music. I know this is unusual; the truth is, I’m not sure what I was listening to. I didn’t even notice that I had, I had it. Though the average person’s reaction to hearing a track by The Killers might be, “Awesome! I love The Killers,” mine happens to be a little different.

You see, I had a really good friend in middle school who absolutely loved The Killers. She’s the reason I started listening to them, and whenever I hear one of their tracks, I think back to our friendship. It doesn’t matter that we went to different high schools and ended up going our separate ways—I’ll always associate my Killers fandom with her because, well, she’s the one that got me into them. As I continue to flip through my digital music library, I find more and more artists who remind me of friends of ages past. Be it a song by Pete Townsend, MIKA or A The Head and The Heart, odds are I’ll be able to trace it back to those days; a reason I enjoy that band or artist’s music.

When I was in high school, I read about something known as the normalization process, which is the establishment of unwritten rules or the creation of socially-constructed norms. Socially-constructed norms occur throughout cultures but can perhaps be best understood through an example, as norms guide fan loyalties and how and where religious practices take shape.

I grew up in Indianapolis, but I was born in Youngstown, Ohio—where my dad had lived his entire life. I was indoctrinated as a Cleveland sports fan by him. But at the same time, grew up a Butler basketball fan due to living in the area and having friends that were also fans of the team.

To be fair, we typically find our moral compass through the process when we’re young, but the effect the process has on us as we get older shouldn’t be forgotten. This series is perhaps the most peculiar thing about interpersonal relationships. I’m not an expert on the subject by any means—I’m a statistics major—but I think it’s cool that I fairly regularly ask myself if I’m human or dancer just because of a friend I had when I was thirteen.

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

Don’t forget to laugh

Mike Miklivia
The Warden

“Student sometimes misunderstands his role in class.” That’s not really great advice to have under the “comments” section of your eighth grade report card, but I’m pretty sure it’s not intended for students as much as teachers. It’s probably safer to say that students sometimes wets their pants.” While I personally viewed it as something of an accomplishment — my friends all thought it was pretty badass — my parents were somewhat less amused.

I’ve since learned to not let too much of a pity laugh. Sometimes they’ll stare back with the same confused, frazzled and annoyed look on their face when I’m trying to say something in Spanish or order anything at Starbucks. Go for it anyway.

It’s worth it to try. It’s worth being ridiculous for these times it makes people laugh. It’s worth it because few things can top the moments spent laughing uncontrollably with friends. Few sounds or words or feelings are greater than the true, genuine laughter of those around you.

People have big dreams and big hopes for this world. Each and every one of us should be no different. But don’t be afraid to take a few chances. Chase down your dreams, and don’t ever forget to reach for them. Don’t be afraid to enjoy the pursuit of your way there. In the words of Andrew Carnegie, “There is little success where there is little laughter.” Don’t laugh because people expect you to. But don’t be afraid to laugh, even when the expectation you shouldn’t. Life’s too fleeting to stifle laughter, skip shenanigans or cut an adventure short. Ultimately, go forth and do great things. But don’t forget to laugh.

Mike Miklivia is a junior from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Studying political science and American history major, his favorite course is music. He’s a Warden for the “skills” portion of job applications. He can be reached at mmiklivia@nd.edu

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

Compassionate conservatism

John Sandberg
Sandberg’s Musings

It’s harder and harder to be a compassionate conservative. Just ask Jeb Bush.

The former Governor of Florida and potential 2016 presidential candidate remarked on April that immigrants who come to America illegally may be breaking the law, but that doing so is “an act of love,” not a felony. When this was mentioned by Donald Trump at a national gathering of Tea Party conservatives in New Hampshire on Saturday, Bush’s name was booed, and Trump mocked his comments.

Whatever your stance on immigration reform, think about that for a moment. Bush wasn’t criticizing for proposing any specific policy solution. He wasn’t booed for any lines enacted when he was Governor of Florida. Rather, he was jeered for simply saying that undocumented immigrants love their families.

Some will say the episode is proof Bush is not conservative enough for today’s GOP.

The truth of the matter, though, is that his comments had nothing to do with conserving politics and everything to do with a common-sense outlook on a difficult situation.

Have we really reached the point where a political figure is derided for using the term “love” as it relates to undocumented immigrants? Has the entire political environment become so vitriolic that those who mock the idea of loving one’s family are considered part of the mainstream? Do the family values promoted by many Republicans, love chief among them, not apply to those who come across the border illegally?

Too many self-proclaimed conservatives are intent on making a splash in the day’s news cycle or flipping with the most zealous, fanatical voting instincts. It’s coming in to centrist voters why conservative solutions to the nation’s troubles will benefit all Americans. It’s as if some in the party have forgotten why they became conservatives in the first place — presumably, to promote a government that will best serve the common good.

To make matters worse for the GOP, this is happening at a time when Republican candidates should be making gains among the voters, as a liberal president struggles to promote the same unconvincing policies he has pushed since he took office more than six years ago.

Still, amid all the Donald Trumps out there, those hijacking the illegal immigration platform, hope remains in those figures who still speak the language of common sense. Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky was also in New Hampshire over the weekend, and was asked about Bush on ABC’s This Week.

“I think he might have been more arthful in the way he presented this,” Paul said about Bush’s comments. “But I don’t want to say, ‘Oh, he’s terrible for saying this.’ If it were me what I would have said is, ‘People who seek the American dream are not bad people.”

However, we can’t invite the whole world.” You don’t have to agree with Paul’s official stance on immigration. But it’s hard not to respect a guy who recognizes there is nothing wrong with someone upholding compassionate passion for those who seek better lives in America.

There was a time not too long ago when “compassionate conservatism” was promoted by the leaders of the Republican Party. Part of me wonders if we’ll ever get that back.

As for the politics of today, like Jeb Bush, I wish there were more like him running for office in 2014. I hope he runs for President in 2016. But I doubt he will. With the backlash he received in the past week from those on the far right, it’s hard to blame him if he decides not to run.

Rand Paul, however, will run for President. There’s no doubt about that, I don’t know yet whether I will support him or a different Republican candidate when that time comes. But I do know the GOP and the Tea Party conservatives in New Hampshire were justifiably mad at Bush. So, naturally I started pulling out old Observers I have stored in my room, look-
Open letter from Fr. Jenkins

Abraham Lincoln worked tirelessly and ultimately gave his life to preserve a divided union and end the plight of slavery in the United States. Thus it is most unfortunate that a recent event on campus bearing his name divided our community.

I have been asked to condemn the speaker, but I will not do that. We have at Notre Dame an Open Speakers’ Policy that allows recognized student groups to “invite and hear any person of their own choosing,” and states that sponsoring such speakers “does not imply” — either by the group or the University — “approval or endorsement of their views.” We strive to create a forum in which many voices can be heard, and the merit of what any speaker says can be judged by members of the community based upon the presentation and subsequent discussion. It would be a bad precedent for the President, speaking on behalf of the institution, to either support or condemn particular presentations of individual speakers.

It is the responsibility of the President, however, to uphold the values of the institution, and among Notre Dame’s most central values is “to create a community that honors the human dignity of each member and that is characterized by a love of truth, active care and concern for the common good, and service toward others” (du Lac, Community Standards Preface). An email was sent to members of the event’s sponsoring club that used language and made assumptions that could have reasonably been perceived as demeaning to members of our community and vulnerable groups in our society. While perhaps unintended, this communication has caused pain to individuals and groups on campus and has harmed our aspiration to create an environment where all feel welcome. We must therefore use this opportunity to remind ourselves of the values our community espouses and to re-commit ourselves to those values.

As members of a community that strives to seek the truth and to honor the dignity of all, we should state our views forthrightly and argue for them passionately as we wish, but we must never express ourselves in ways that, intentionally or unintentionally, demean others. At a university, our work is reasoned inquiry and discussion and our obligation in arguing for our views should be to persuade others. Language that demeanes others closes rather than opens conversations, prevents understanding and deepens division.

Whenever we find ourselves the target of demeaning statements, whether at Notre Dame or elsewhere, let us not return insults with insults. A more powerful response is to offer your perspective with conviction, but to present your views with respect and thus rise above those who demean.

Last December, we mourned the death of Nelson Mandela. He spent 27 years in prison and was often forced, in incarceraton, to endure a regimen designed to humiliate and break him. He had every reason to respond with hatred and anger, but his remarkable accomplishments came because he didn’t try to humiliate or defeat others; he showed them respect and won them over. In fact, when his lawyer first came to visit him two months into his imprisonment, Mandela was surrounded by eight guards. After a brief greeting, Mandela said to his attorney: “I’m sorry, I have not introduced you to my guard of honor.” He then introduced his guards, identifying each one by name. Mandela’s greatness was evident in the fact that he could rise above attempts to humiliate him and treat even his captors with dignity. That quality was no doubt part of what enabled him to unite a divided people and come to be recognized as the father of his nation.

We can learn from his example.

Let us continue to embrace vigorous dialogue on our campus and renew our commitment to treat one another with respect even in our most passionate disagreements. Let us be attentive to the impact of our words on all, and especially on those who may feel vulnerable or marginalized. Let us reject polarizing rhetoric and instead strive to make our community a model for civil discourse. We are all Notre Dame. Let us treat one another in a manner worthy of the name.

Fr. John Jenkins, C.S.C.
President
University of Notre Dame
April 14

Deceptive gender wage gap

JC Sullivan
Prologue to a Farce

Last week, President Obama announced an Executive Order and a Presidential Memorandum aimed at addressing the gender wage gap that persists in the United States workforce. President Obama also encouraged Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill he feels is crucial for efforts to fight labor market discrimination. While a gender wage gap does exist, it is false. First, the statistic does not accurately define “full time.” Men are almost twice as likely to work between 35 and 39 hours a week. When controlling for these factors, for the overall pay gap rests at the 88 cent figure described above. However, further evidence suggests that a number of factors are more likely the cause of the additional 12 cent pay gap.

These factors can be grouped into two categories: career choices and family considerations. This first can help to explain why younger women make less money when they enter the workforce. Women are much more likely to interrupt their career for family considerations, including reductions in work hours and significant time off. Further, women are more likely to take advantage of short-term promotions in order to care for their families. These interruptions, on average, limit a woman’s earning potential and career advancement. The fact that single women without children — the best way to “control” for family or marriage considerations earn 96 percent of men’s earnings helps exemplify this notion.

Despite the evidence above, gender discrimination most likely contributes to this pay gap as well. However, most evidence indicates that the difference is very small and difficult to attribute to a general societal trend of discrimination. Though I agree that this form of discrimination is unacceptable, it does not warrant new legislative action, as both the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance are tasked with fighting labor market discrimination. While a gender wage gap does exist, it seems clear that it is primarily attributable to factors other than gender discrimination and more likely reflects a woman’s individual choice in education, career path and family considerations. This recent attempt by the White House to “attack” gender discrimination in the workforce is both misguided and potentially even harmful to securing a better work environment for women. Many experts have pointed to the detrimental components of the Paycheck Fairness Act, as it limits an employer’s ability to respond to the demands and needs of employees. These demands include merit pay considerations and flexibility for working mothers. Women still face a number of hurdles and challenges in the workforce that should be addressed, but the Paycheck Fairness Act does not appropriately address these challenges. Attacking a problem that is based on misleading statistics and is already being addressed by two federal agencies is a poor allocation of government resources and more importantly, does not promote a more equal workforce for female employees.

JC Sullivan is a sophomore living in Keenan Hall. He can be contacted at jsull18@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
By CAITLIN DOYLE
Scene Writer

When New York Magazine published the article “Normcore: For Those Who Realize They’re One in 7 Billion” this past February, it unleashed a whirlwind of controversy and debate within the fashion world. “Normcore,” as the fashion trend was dubbed, is characterized by its adoption of severely normal fashion — to the extent that it almost can’t be called “fashion” in the traditional sense anymore. New York Magazine describes it best as “stylized blandness.” Named for the character Norm from “Cheers,” the look focuses on unexceptional clothing choices that, honestly, look like something a dad from a 90s sitcom would wear. Birkenstock sandals, grey sweatshirts, white New Balance sneakers and light-wash Levi’s dad-jeans all bring to mind the image of Jerry Seinfeld or Chelsy from “The Parent Trap.” The sitcom-dad trope of the late 90s has turned fashion icon; Bob Saget’s sartorial style is finally coverable and cutting edge.

This isn’t the first time that NY Mag has been ahead of the curve when it comes to fashion and lifestyle trends. In 2010, they published an article about the death of the “hipster” as a sociocultural trend. In the article “What Was the Hipster?”, NY Mag asserted the “hipster” ideal had been “over” for years, while the rest of the world thought it was still very “in.” Since it has been almost four years since the NY Mag obituary featured a PBR can on display in a museum, the trendy and forward-thinking youth culture hasn’t had something this intriguing to gleam onto and make its own.

On its surface, Normcore seems like the obvious choice to inherit the void left in the fashion and lifestyle world by Hipster-dom’s demise. Both are broader ideological concepts that manifest themselves most obviously as fashion choices. While hipster-culture embraced counterculture to the extreme and clothed itself in the outrageous, Normcore does the exact opposite by embracing our non-individuality and dressing in the most unobtrusive, unremarkable way possible. Hipster style was full of irony, but Normcore doesn’t take itself that seriously.

The fashion world has been showing signs of moving toward a Normcore-inspired aesthetic for the past few seasons, before the term Normcore was ever thought up. In 2012, Birkenstocks re-emerged on the runways as part of Celine and Giambattista Valli’s spring collections, and that year’s fall runways were awash with graphic sweatshirts straight out of an episode of “Boy Meets World.”

In 2012, the style mavens tended to pair these over-trendy, hyper-normal, drab items with very high-end, fashion-forward pieces, with the mix of high-end and low-end providing an interesting contrast. Now, this type of outfit is being eschewed for a completely Normcore look. Instead of Birkenstocks peaking out from under a Stella McCartney dress, Birkenstocks are being worn with a graphic sweatshirt and high-waisted, Stonewashed denim jeans.

And in a way, the idea behind Normcore is incredibly liberating. By embracing convention when it comes to your clothes, you’re saying that you’re interesting and important without displaying that on your person. You don’t need to dress individually to be a fully-formed, interesting and valuable individual. In the face of fashion trends that have embraced individuality over the past decade — take Marc Jacobs’s skirts or Miroslava Duma’s fashion week ensembles, for example — embracing the unremarkable is somehow the most daring fashion trend of all. Normcore is about putting yourself out there without the mask of fashion as a defining characteristic of you as a person, and in that way, it is much more than just a fashion trend — it’s a lifestyle ideology that we should all embrace.

Contact Caitlin Doyle at cdoley1@nd.edu

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By KEVIN NOONAN
Senior Scene Writer

Sad pop-balladeer Lana Del Rey released “West Coast” yesterday, the first single from her upcoming album, “Ultraviolence.”

First listen — meh.

There are some Scene writers, past and present, who would call for my head at that kind of blasphemy, but truth is an absolute defense.

Would call for my head at that kind of blasphemy, but I’m not your summer anthem, unless it’s raining, and you’d be a terrible hipster because you couldn’t sing to save your life. That’s me. I’m not your summer anthem, for the most part.

Look, it’s not a bad song, Like most Lana Del Rey songs, I enjoyed it fine, and maybe someday when I feel like feeling some feelings, I’ll throw it on my “Turn Down” playlist, but it’s not a summer anthem, and anybody who tells you otherwise is wrong.

It’s moody, it’s slow, it’s all ironic about things that most people like — it’s a Lana Del Rey song. It’s got a little Black Keys twang to it, which is a nice twist on her normal sound, but it’s not a club banger; it’s not an instant pop smash, and it’s not the summer’s hottest track.

“West Coast” is a downer, and a good one. It’s really good at being a sad-sounding song, but the problem is that people will probably point right away to her 2012 single, “Summertime Sadness,” and say this is the second coming of that song. In some ways, they’re probably right. That is to say, “Summertime Sadness” didn’t exactly light the charts on fire and definitely wasn’t the anthem of the summer. 2012.

It was only after Cedric Gervais released his remix of the song in the summer of 2013 that it began to garner widespread attention outside of her devoted fan base, amazing as it is.

Which leads me to my ultimate point — this is a fine song, a very well-done Lana Del Rey song, but please, spare me blasting it on the radio and at parties all summer long, no matter who tells you it’s the definitive track of the year.

What might be, though, is the eventual remix. Lana Del Rey has reached, for me at least, the same sort of cultural status as Nicolas Cage movies, newspapers and Andy Samberg’s film career — I’ll wait until it’s on TV. For LDR, I’ll wait for the remix.

That’s not to say I don’t enjoy her music in its original form, especially when I want to feel like the world doesn’t understand me and nobody’s cool except for me — I just enjoy it so much more in upbeat, electronic dance remixes.

Does that make me a dolt, a product of the machine, a musical sellout, a part of the problem, an eventual uncoool dad or uncle and a terrible Scene writer? Yes. But the fact remains, like “Summertime Sadness,” a lot, but the remix is way more fun. Same goes for “Young and Beautiful” and “Once Upon a Dream” — well, no actually, that one’s perfect just the way it is.

It’s more than likely that I’m talking in circles to defend my indefensible position because even as I’m writing it I’m finding myself saying: “Yeah, but she’s so good. She makes real, original music, and it’s good. What have you done? You’d be a terrible hipster if you didn’t like the music because you couldn’t sing to save your life. That’s a terrible joke. You’re not funny, you’re an idiot.” And now that I’m in that sort of mood, I’m ready to go listen to some pure, original Lana Del Rey.

All I’m saying is that when I’m out at the expansive beaches of suburban Kansas this summer, I want to listen to something that doesn’t make me feel like I should be sadder than I am. And that’s why “West Coast” is not your summer anthem, unless it’s raining, and you just got fired, and your cat hates you, in which case I apologize.

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“We have found ourselves rich in goods, but ragged in spirit,” former President Richard Nixon said in his inaugural address in 1969. “Reaching with magnifi- 
cient precision for the moon, but falling into raucous discord on Earth.”

The seventh and final season of “Mad Men” picks up in January 1969, as Nixon is 
being inaugurated — a sure sign the optimism of the 1960s is coming to an 
end. “Time Zones,” Sunday night’s fantastic and foreboding premiere, followed 
the continuing “raucous discord” that belies the immaculately-maintained 
facades of the show’s characters. In an interview with Rolling Stone, the show’s 
creator, Matthew Weiner, outlined his vision for this season: “What I was in-
terested in this season was the sort of contrast between the material and the 
immaterial world.” Although Weiner is notoriously ambiguous when it comes 
to the show’s future, it’s a theme that has encompassed the show’s entire run: 
Material objects seek to create the illusion of happiness, masking the void in-
side all of us.

The episode opens with Freddy Rumsen, the copywriter once fired for drunk-
edly urinating and passing out before a meeting with a client, giving a pitch for 
Accutron watches. “Are you ready? Because I want you to pay attention,” Freddy 
asks directly into the camera. “This is the beginning of something.” Weiner — 
who wrote the premiere — is knowingly addressing the audience: It’s the be-
ginning of the end for “Mad Men,” and of course we’re paying attention.

Rumsen’s brilliant monologue feels reminiscent of the advertising genius of 
a young Don Draper. As he delivers the slogan — “It’s not a time piece, it’s a 
conversation piece” — the camera reveals Peggy Olson, who is just as stunned 
as the audience. And as it turns out, Peggy is right to be surprised. The episode’s 
final moments reveal that Don, who was put on an indefinite leave of absence 
in the season six finale, has been feeding ideas to Freddy. Don’s sense of fulfill-
ment is so wrapped up in his career that he constructs this ruse to give his life 
purpose, even lying to his wife Megan that he’s still working.

We get our first glimpse of Don in this episode as he is arriving at LAX to meet 
Megan, who has moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting. In the “Mad Men” 
universe, California has served as a golden beacon of opportunity, a paradise 
worlds away from frigid New York. Yet, on this weekend trip, Don remains 
deply unhappy louring around Megan’s new pad in the Hollywood Hills. In 
contrast, both Megan and Pete have embraced the allure of the year-round sun-
shine and spacious housing the state offers.

On his flight back to New York, Don opens up to a widowed brunette wom-
an (played by Neve Campbell), whose late husband wanted his ashes spread 
at Pebble Beach but had to settle for Tom Sawyer Island at Disneyland. Even 
Disneyland — where Don first fell in love with Megan — is a fantasy that pales 
emotional intimacy with the woman, opening up about his marriage to Megan 
and asking, “I keep wondering, have I broken the vessel?” Throughout the 
show’s run, Don has continually proven an empty vessel inside, which he tries 
to fill up with women and alcohol. So when the widow offers him a lift home 
from the airport, it’s surprising that he declines her invitation. Don is, for once, 
seemingly turning down the fantasy he constantly lusts after.

Roger continues his own hedonistic descent, as his apartment becomes a 
hippie commune teeming with orgies and psychedelics. This hippie idealism 
seemingly turning down the fantasy he constantly lusts after.

Meanwhile, Peggy is restless under new SC&P creative director Lou Avery, 
who lacks Don’s visionary outlook on advertising. When Avery fails to be overly 
excited about her reworked Accutron pitch, she complains to Stan, “I’m tired 
of fighting for everything to be better. Nobody cares about anything.” When 
she collapses on the floor of her apartment in tears at the end of the episode, 
it’s a wrenching act of desperation. Like Don, Peggy depends so heavily on her 
career for fulfillment, that when she is miserable at work her life seems empty.

Joan, too, struggles professionally, as Ken asks her to have dinner with a 
client who is considering moving advertising in-house. Even though she’s a 
partner at SC&P, the executive condescendingly sneers, “This conversation is 
best for Ken,” and brags about his business degree. Joan meets with a business 
professor for advice, and when he asks for repayment, she immediately recalls 
when the firm pipped her out to Jagsar. “This is a business school,” she snaps, 
“Doesn’t money work here?” No matter how successful she is, Joan is constantly 
reminded of the glass ceiling for women at every turn.

In the episode’s final shot, Don sits on his apartment’s balcony, freezing and 
alone against the New York skyline, as Vanilla Fudge’s cover of “You Keep Me 
Hangin’ On” plays. Is Don finally turning over a new leaf? “Why don’t cha get 
out of my life and let me make a brand new start!” the song asks. But in “Mad 
Men,” there are no true reinventions, only the cynical truth that humans make 
the same mistakes time and time again. You can change your name, you can 
move to California, you can meet your dream woman, but ultimately the bit-
ter January wind hits you with the harsh reality of your own emptiness. As the 
show enters its final stretch, its characters are very much “ragged in spirit.” Man 
may land on the moon later in 1969, but for now the characters are firmly stuck 
on Earth, and that might be the most miserable reality of all.

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It’s always sad to see the spark go out. Baseball is best enjoyed when emotions run high and tension fills the ballpark air. But lately, it seems like just about all of the Sox—those most celebrated of rivals, just haven’t been able to muster the same level of revision for each other. Frankly, the two teams have become dangerously cordial, as if they woke one morning to find the “Evil Empire” had turned into just another AL East opponent.

David Ortiz called Alex Rodriguez a “friend” and claimed the two went out to dinner after games—and separate teammates just wanted a selfie with both of them in the frame. Dustin Pedroia, the Sox second baseman whose Jack Nicholson & Derek Jeter walks second baseman whose Jack Nicholson and Russell Terrier-like persona would seem perfectly suited to generating conflict, Court-matched after a ground Derek Jeter walks through the entire frame. The Red Sox, long fueled by a jealous and a wicked inferiority complex, have now won three World Series titles in 10 years, two more than their neighbors to the south.

For fans like me who still celebrate the anniversary of the Pedro Martinez–Don Zimmer throw-down, the situation has become rather dire.

But ladies and gentleman, I have a little good news: Controversy has returned to the Red Sox–Yankees series! Sort of. The first new wrinkle came back in early December, when the sometimes-beloved Sox centerfielder Johnny Ellsbury jumped ship and signed with the Yankees for a seven-year, $153-million deal. It’s hard to find any one in baseball who really blames Ellsbury for pulling a Johnny Damon, but Red Sox fans aren’t known for being particularly reasonable, and I think it’s safe to expect a fair amount of hostility from the Fenway Faithful when the Yankees pay their first visit to Boston next week. Let’s just hope that Ellsbury and Sox fans don’t repeat the mistakes of their compatriots, many of whom reacted to the signing by declaring Ellsbury a “trader” on Twitter. After all, nothing says rivalry quite like personal attacks with amusing grammatical errors.

But the action isn’t limited to the free-agent market. The Yankees took three of four against the Red Sox last weekend but not without incident. Yankees pitcher Michael Pineda threw some filthy inside pitches on Thursday night because his hand possibly was, indeed, filthy. The Sox did not blow the whistle on what could very well have been a pine-tar stain they have pitchers of their own, after all. But that didn’t keep it from becoming the main topic of conversation for sports fans on the Eastern seaboard.

And though his anger was directed towards the officiating crew, not the Bronx Bombers, the Boston manager John Farrell lost his cool and was thrown out of Sunday’s game in the fourth inning after his replay decision went against the Red Sox for the second straight day. After the game, Farrell told the Boston Globe, “It seemed like we just couldn’t have faith in anything” in the new replay system, adding, “As much as they’re trying to help the human element inside the system, it seems like it’s added the human element at a different level.”

Other critics have noted that the replay center, which is located in New York, has yet to make a call that went against the Yankees. The fact that the season is not even two weeks old yet is usually neglected in this argument. These developments hardly compare to the epic incidents of the early 2000s. Remember when Jason Varitek stuck his catcher’s mitt in A-Rod’s mouth? I don’t see anything like that happening anytime soon, as amusing as it would be. But we know that small incidents have a way of building on each other over the course of a 162-game season. So here’s hoping to the century-plus-long feud has been rebuilt, rather than left in a small way. After all, if these two teams can’t find a way to fight, what rivalry stands a chance?

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

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**Vasquez leads Raptors**

Associated Press

TORONTO — Greivis Vasquez scored 25 points, Kyle Lowry had 24 and the Toronto Raptors set a franchise record with their 48th win, beating the Milwaukee Bucks 110-100 on Monday night.

Jonas Valanciunas had 14 points and 13 rebounds and Tyler Hansbrough had 12 points and 11 rebounds as the Raptors won for the sixth time in seven games and completed the first season sweep of Milwaukee in franchise history.

Toronto had dropped 11 consecutive games against the Bucks this season but has since won four straight.

Ramon Sessions scored 21 points, Jeff Adrien had 19 points and Brandon Knight 18 as the Bucks lost their 14th straight road game, matching a record for futility set in the 2004-05 season.

Milwaukee has not won home since beating Philadelphia on Feb. 24.

The loss guaranteed that the Bucks (15-56) will finish with the worst record in the NBA. Milwaukee came in trailing Philadelphia by two games in the standings.

Knight, Milwaukee’s leading scorer, returned to the lineup after missing 15 games because of a left knee sprain.

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**Heat lose, Pacers get top seed**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Miami Heat opted for rest on LeBron James and Chris Bosh over the pursuit of the Eastern Conference’s top seed and the Washington Wizards capitalized in a 114-93 breeze of a game Monday night that clinched the No. 1 seed for the Indiana Pacers.

Trevor Ariza scored 25 points for the Wizards, who shot 59 percent and made 14 3-pointers and remained one game ahead of the Charlotte Bobcats in the race for the East’s No. 6 seed. Washington is trying to avoid dropping to seventh so that it can avoid the Heat in the first round of the playoffs — when LeBron and Co. will be back.

Michael Beasley scored 16 points for the Heat, and Toney Douglas had 14 for the two-time defending champs, who will be the No. 2 seed when the playoffs begin this weekend.

The Heat began the day still in contention for the top spot, but they would have needed to win their last two games and have Indiana lose to Orlando on Wednesday because the Pacers held the head-to-head tiebreaker. Figuring it would be better to fresh for the postseason, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra sat James and Bosh, saying they were dealing with “the residual of a long season.”

“Nothing that’s significant enough that will keep him out. Same thing with Chris. We made this decision and everyone else is ready to go. Everything is day by day.”

James has made it part of his annual routine to rest before the playoffs. He missed the final game in 2011 and last sat out the two last in both 2012 and 2013.

The Heat went with their 20th starting lineup this season and trailed by as many as 36 in the second half.

Dwyane Wade, who needs the work after returning from a sore right hamstring that cost him nine games, started and scored nine points in 18 minutes.

The Heat have lost four of five. Miami is just 11-13 since March 4, including 3-9 on the road.

Marcin Gortat had 10 points and 13 rebounds, and John Wall added 13 assists for the Wizards, who have been third in the East all season and continue to push down the stretch but at least have found a way to escape their 3-point shooting slump. After going 6 for 50 from long range over a three-game span, they’ve since made 22 of 51 in their last two games. Ariza, whose shooting was hampered by a bout with the flu, made 5 of 8 3-pointers Monday night.

Also, Nene, who sat out the Wizards’ previous game after feeling some stiffness in his recently sprained left knee, looked more like his energetic self as he scored 18 points off the bench.

Nene converted back-to-back three-point plays in the second quarter to give the Wizards their first 10-point lead, overpowering Chris Anderson with a baseline move on the first one and taking a nice feed from Andre Miller to set up the second.

Miller supplied the game’s biggest highlight, making an overhand paint-to-paint pass to Beal that would make an NFL quarterback jealous. Miller hit Beal in stride as if it were a post pattern, and Beal made the layup in one fluid motion while drawing a foul to get a three-point play.

NOTES: The Heat were also without C Greg Oden, who is dealing with a sprained ankle and is day-to-day to D.C. because of a stomach virus. ... The Wizards sold out for the fourth time this season.

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**Randy House, “Runnin’ Outta Moonlight!” Don’t worry about ‘bout gettin’ fixed up: When you wake up, you’re pretty enough; Look out your window at the cloud of dust; That’s my headlights, that’s my truck; Come on baby, don’t keep me waiting too long; I got a reservation, Telgead for two under-neath the stars, Whoa, Girl, every now and then you get a right like this**
Bulldogs dominate Bellles

By ANDREW ROBINSON  
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s struggled to score early and found itself unable to contain the offensive firepower of Adrian in a 20-5 loss Saturday at the Saint Mary’s College lacrosse field.

The 2013 conference champion Bulldogs (6-2, 4-0 MIAA) erupted for nine unanswered goals in the first 11 minutes, four coming from senior midfielder Hannah Early, who finished the game with six. Adrian’s high-powered offense has netted 77 goals in the Bulldogs’ last four games to maintain a perfect conference record.

“Adrian is a very strong team, especially offensively,” Bellles coach Amy Long said. “We played against some very tough competition.”

The Bulldogs bolstered their lead to 12-0 until a goal by Bellles’ last four games to maintain a perfect conference record.

“Adrian is a very strong team, especially offensively,” Bellles coach Amy Long said. “We played against some very tough competition.”

The Bulldogs bolstered their lead to 12-0 until a goal by Bellles’ last four games to maintain a perfect conference record.

“Our players continued to get better and had fun during a very demanding game,” she said. “We implemented a new zone defense, and I am very proud of the way our players executed it.”

On the offensive end, Long said she has been especially impressed with Loesch, who has scored multiple goals in six consecutive games and has 14 goals on the season.

Golenbeiski has been another standout for the Bellles’ offense. In addition to her team high in goals, she leads the Bellles with 33 ground balls, 48 draw controls and 49 shots.

“We continue to improve in the offensive end,” Long said. “We are taking smart shots and striving to increase the amount of shots we take per game.”

She also pointed to Neeser and freshman defenseman Katlynn Dee as strong members of the defensive squad that will continue to help the team go forward after the loss.

Saint Mary’s now moves to a road game Wednesday against Olivet, which Long said she thinks will be a good matchup for the Bellles.

“I am excited for Wednesday’s game,” she said. “We have a great chance of winning our first conference game.”

The Comets (2-0, 1-0) are led by junior midfields Mackenzie Loman and Taylor Guarinacci, who have 16 and 26 goals on the season, respectively.

However, Olivet has fallen short in its past three games in losses to conference opponents Calvin, Hope and Albion. Like Saint Mary’s, Olivet has struggled with turnovers and has 200 on the season.

The Bellles will take on the Comets at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Cutfler Athletic Complex in Olivet, Mich.

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SMC Tennis

SMC sweeps Alma

By CORNELIUS McGrath  
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s was victorious over Alma on Saturday with a 9-0 win to mark senior day.

The Bellles (8-5, 3-1 MIAA) said goodbye to lone senior Mary Catherine Faller, who had a hand in two victories on the afternoon over the Scots (3-13, 1-7). Not only was Faller part of an 8-0 win in the No. 1 doubles match with junior Kayle Sexton, but she also overcame a 4-3 deficit in the first set of her singles match to win in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, in the last home competition of her career.

The rest of the Saint Mary’s squad followed in similar fashion with sophomores Margaret Faller and Andrea Fetters claiming an 8-0 victory in the No. 2 doubles match. In the last doubles match, juniors Audrey Kiefer and Shannon Elliott were equally dominant, brushing aside their opponents with an 8-1 win.

When it came to singles, the Bellles kept their momentum going. Elliott quickly set the tone with a 6-0, 6-0 win at No. 4 singles, and this was quickly followed by Kiefer, who won her No. 6 singles matchup, 6-1, 6-0. Fetters continued the winning streak with a 6-2, 6-1 victory, while both junior Jackie Kjøbbede and Sexton wrapped up the match with 6-0, 6-2 and 6-4, 6-1 wins, respectively.

Saint Mary’s will face Adrian on Tuesday, and Bellles coach Dale Campbell said he was optimistic about the match against the Bulldogs (9-8, 2-5).

“We hope to have a good, solid match against Adrian,” Campbell said. “We are getting better and did a good job of closing out a lot of close matches against both Bethel and Alma.”

However, Campbell said, the real focus is on the Bellles’ second match of the week.

“We also have a huge match against Hope on Thursday, who is typically one of the strongest teams in the conference,” Campbell said. "Right now, we have to take one match and one practice at a time and come ready to play every day.”

The Bellles and the Bulldogs meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at MSFC Auxiliary Gym in Adrian, Mich.

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Olivet sweeps SMC

Observer Staff Report

After starting 2-0 in conference play, the Belles extended their MIAA losing streak to four games in a pair of losses to Olivet on Saturday in Olivet, Mich.

In the first game of the doubleheader, the Comets (17-8, 5-5 MIAA)最好ed the Belles (10-10, 2-4), by a score of 5-2. Olivet scored its five runs in the first three innings, while Saint Mary’s was not able to cross the plate until the sixth inning.

Junior first baseman Cecily Reyes recorded a double to drive two runners home, but that was the last of the Belles’ offense as the game ended on a pair of groundouts.

Senior pitcher and captain Callie Selner suffered her second loss in a row, giving up four earned runs in two innings. Sophomore pitcher Sarah Burke was able to limit the Comets’ offense to zero runs, and she recorded five strikeouts after Selner’s exit, but the Belles’ offense could not take advantage of its defense in the final four innings.

In the second matchup against Olivet, Saint Mary’s was held to a single hit, recorded by sophomore designated hitter Moranda Hegedus. Burke faced more trouble against Olivet’s offense in the second game than in her first, taking the 11-0 loss while giving up nine earned runs on 13 hits in five innings of shortened play.

The Belles look to stop their four-game skid Tuesday as they face off against Calvin at 3:30 p.m. at the Saint Mary’s College softball field.

Belles shoot 332

Observer Staff Report

After a long weekend at the Ohio Wesleyan Laura Bump Invitational at Mill Creek Golf Club in Ostrander, Ohio, Saint Mary’s captured fourth place with a 332 Sunday to bring the team’s two-day score to 673.

Junior Janice Heffernan led the Belles with a ninth-place finish individually. She broke into the 70s on day two for Saint Mary’s, shooting a 78 for a two-day score of 156.

Sophomore Sammie Avrill had a consistent tournament by matching Saturday’s round of 82 on Sunday. Avrill finished tied for 11th place with a score of 164. Senior captain Alexi Brown also matched her score from Saturday by turning in an 86 for a final score of 172, tying for 28th place.

Sophomore Claire Boyle cut three strokes off Saturday’s score with an 86 to finish with a 175 and a share of 39th place. Freshman Courtney Carlson was the fifth-scoring golfer for the Belles in the team competition and shot a 94 on Sunday to finish 80th with a score of 192.

The Belles will host the first of three MIAA NCAA Qualifiers on Wednesday at Blackhorn Golf Club in South Bend starting at 1 p.m. After three rounds, the team with the lowest overall score will receive the MIAAs automatic qualifying bid to the 2014 NCAA Division III Championship, which takes place in May.
Ferreira exceeds expectations

By BRIAN PLAMONDON
Sports Writer

As Notre Dame prepares for its first ACC Championship, it needs all the experience it can get, and the Irish squad is getting it from an unexpected place — a freshman. Jordan Ferreira flashed potential during her first-ever college tournament, placing eighth at the Indiana University Fall Kickoff in September. However, her mind has been on Division I college golf since her freshman year of high school.

“I didn’t get serious until my freshman year, but by the end of it, I thought I had a good chance of playing in college,” Ferreira said.

After visits to Notre Dame, Wake Forest, Northwestern, Virginia, North Carolina and the University of California-Berkeley, Ferreira said she did not have to think twice about her college choice. “Notre Dame was definitely the dream school,” Ferreira said. “I came on my visit and immediately loved it here. The community is great, and they have a strong academic institution. And I really liked the team and the coaches.”

Even after being ranked as the 24th recruit in her class by Junior Golf Scoreboard and being named a two-time Washington State Golf Association Girls Player of the Year, it would not have been surprising for Ferreira to take time in her transition to the college game. This was not the case, however, as right from her first college round, she showed that she could compete with the best.

“I’ve really liked the transition from high school golf to college golf,” Ferreira said. “The ACC especially has really good competition, and the courses are tougher. With the players a lot better, I think the challenge is really fun.”

With her success, which also includes two rounds of 71 and another top-20 finish, Ferreira has experienced the typical challenges that every college kid faces with added commitments. “The biggest adjustment overall has all been time management,” Ferreira said. “It’s a lot to balance with golf, traveling and school.”

Ferreira said she has found that the tight-knit team aspect has helped her in her freshman year, especially the leadership of the upperclassmen. “The team is great we are all very supportive of one another,” Ferreira said. “We are all fierce competitors but want everyone to do very well. And it’s good to have someone in my class [Janie Finner], so I’m not the only freshman.”

Team chemistry is so strong that Ferreira said her favorite moment from the season had nothing to do with her own play. It was when junior Ashly Armstrong fired a final-round 69 to place second at the Mary Fossum Invitational at Michigan State in September, and the whole team rallied behind her.

Although quick to shift the focus to her teammates, Ferreira has had a stellar rookie campaign. Her 74.95 stroke average is already the best career average on the team. Furthermore, Ferreira has improved her score every day over the course of a tournament in all but two of her nine starts.

“You get to know a course better, and each day it gets a little easier,” Ferreira said. “You also want to learn from your mistakes and work on them the next day.”

Just a freshman, Ferreira is playing like a veteran at just the right time for the Irish as they head into the ACC Championships.

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Baseball
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

batting average, the best in the Big Ten. They will send redshirt senior right-hander Chase Rhiertarchik (0-2) to the mound for Tuesday’s game. Rhiertarchik has put together a 3.62 ERA in six appearances this season.

The Irish batters seem to have emerged from a collective slump that marred much of the early conference season and have finished with 10 or more hits in eight of their last 10 games.

“Obviously, you’d like to get some of those hits at times that are a little bit more timely, but I think overall, I think that we’ve been making progress,” Irish coach Mike Aoki said. “I think we have been getting better. Starting out in the league at whatever it was, 1-14, it would’ve been easy for our guys to sort of say, ‘Ah, to heck with it, we’re going to mail this in,’ and they haven’t, to their credit.”

Although the Irish (14-21, 3-15 ACC) struggled in the ACC between September and the whole team rallied behind her.

“Our midweek pitching has been really good and has given our offense an opportunity to not feel like they’re playing from behind and achieve a little comfort,” Aoki said. “We’ve been able to scuffle around a little bit of a lead. In particular, [sophomore left-hander] Michael Hearne and [junior right-hander] Scott Kerrigan and Nick McCarty have done a really good job of solidifying the midweek pitching.”

The Irish, who are now hit-ting .249 as a team, are led at the plate by junior first baseman Blaise Lenzynski, who is hitting .338 this season. Lenzynski had five hits, three RBI and a run scored in Saturday’s double-header against Boston College.

Although the Spartans lead the all-time series between Notre Dame and Michigan State, 78-54, the Irish have won four of the last five, including a 7-3 win when the teams last met April 24.

The Irish look to stretch their winning streak to three when they face the Spartans at McLane Baseball Stadium in East Lansing, Mich., at 3:05 p.m. Tuesday.

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In the fifth-semester you will learn to translate and understand classical works drawn from the major literary and artistic genres (lyric poetry, prose, theatre, epic, novel, film, contemporary song, etc.), with teaching focusing on the Italian culture and art architecture.

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pressure on them, but in a way that they cannot leverage any benefit. We don't want to create offense for them, so we will plan to be very calculated in our defensive efforts. Each of these comes back to patience.”

One aspect of the game that could prove challenging is one neither team has any control over — the location. Ohio State has won a program-record eight home games at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium this season, and Notre Dame has not been on the road since it beat Villanova on March 23. That said, Gargan said she has faith the bus trip to Columbus, Ohio, isn’t anything her team can’t handle.

“It will be a good change of pace for us,” Gargan said. “The home stand was nice after having so many away games in a very short period of time, but we enjoy traveling together and typically fare well away from Alumni.”

“The routine of an away game is a bit different, but at this point in the season, with so many away games already played, we’ll handle this fine and look forward to the game.”

Gargan said she is equally unconcerned with any worries of team fatigue. Including last weekend’s game against Duke, Tuesday’s game at Ohio State and this weekend’s game against Syracuse, the Irish will play three games in eight days. Gargan said the team was well aware of this happening and has trained itself to be ready for it.

“Fatigue isn’t something we’re worried about right now,” Gargan said. “While we may feel more tired just due to circumstance, between school, travel and the final games, but it shouldn’t affect our play because we have trained ourselves knowing this situation would arise. The workouts all year have been oriented toward combating fatigue in the end, which will allow us to continue to play our best.”

After Friday’s win over Duke, and with a date looming with No. 1 Syracuse to close out the regular season, Tuesday’s game may seem to have all the earmarks of a trap game, but team discipline will ensure the Irish do not overlook Ohio State, Gargan said.

“Our focus all year has been one game at a time,” Gargan said. “We’ve been disciplined so far in not overlooking games. At this point we have no energy to devote to Syracuse because we have Ohio State to beat first. After we do that, then we will begin to prepare for Syracuse.”

Notre Dame will take on Ohio State at 6 p.m. at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in Columbus, Ohio.

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Happy Birthday! You will have to pick and choose wisely this year. There will be too many options and not enough time to take on everything and do it well. It’s okay to be selfish and to put your needs first for a change. Don’t let guilt stand between you and the success you deserve. It’s time to take what’s yours. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 28, 32, 35, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may have to stretch your time in order to take care of business and not neglect important relationships. Spreading yourself successfully between personal and professional demands will encourage confidence as well as emotional and financial gains.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secrets must be kept if you want to avoid backlash. A lack of trust will ensue if you are suggestive or misleading. Stick to the facts and do the best job possible. Call in a favor and do extra research.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get physical and see how much you accomplish. Take the initiative to make things happen and offer help unconditionally. Concentrate on what you can do, not on the obstacles that stand in your way. Love without motive or possessiveness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can expect to face opposition. Don’t waste your time arguing or fighting a losing battle. Use your intuition to guide you in a direction that will bring you greater stability and encourage solid partnerships. Put love first.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Moving a stone or a change to the way you live will have its benefits. Opportunities will arise, but so will obstacles. Stick close to home or to those you love, trust and want to do business with. Follow your dreams.

VERG (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your desire to help others is admirable, but make sure that your recipients are worthy of your hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Partnerships appear to be abundant but questionable. Do your research and check for hidden motives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Discipline will be required. A tendency to overdo it mentally, physically, emotionally and financially will lead to setbacks. Change can and should be initiated that will separate you from any poor influences you have. A force play will develop if you procrastinate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A tug-of-war will take place if you go up against authority figures or oppose someone in charge. Let body language and intuition guide you to make the right choice. Avoid trouble and you will be able to explore interesting possibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Use your head, your knowledge and how much you believe you deserve. An emotional situation will be based on false information. Don’t get trapped in a melodrama that leads to regret. Put selfish comments about of listening ears in mind. Stick close to home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen intently, but don’t take action. Hold your tongue and refrain from jumping into an undesirable situation. Let things unfold naturally and when the dust settles, you can make your move. Take your time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look into investments and set up meetings that can lead to a higher income or better money management. A settlement or package deal may be tempting, but should be considered carefully. You are in the driver’s seat, so take your time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be open and receptive to new people, places and opportunities. Let alone overtake you. Package deals should be weighed carefully. In your best interest. Be smart and work to get the best deal and ensure your future success.

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing and competitive. You are free-spirited and a leader.
McBride, Achonwa both selected in top 10

Observer Staff Report

Two former Notre Dame stars had a short wait before they heard their names called Monday night, as Kayla McBride and Natalie Achonwa were both among the top 10 players selected in the WNBA Draft, held in Uncasville, Conn.

McBride, an All-American guard and national player of the year candidate, was taken with the third overall pick by the San Antonio Stars. Achonwa, a forward and third-team All-American, was taken ninth by the Indiana Fever, who advanced to the Eastern Conference semi-finals in 2013.

McBride and Achonwa are the fourth and fifth Irish players to be selected in the first round in the past three years.

McBride was projected by most experts to be a top-five pick but came off the board earlier than expected and ahead of Maryland forward Alyssa Thomas, who beat out McBride for ACC Player of the Year this season, as voted by the media. ACC coaches selected McBride for their player of the year award.

The Stars finished 2013 with a 12-22 record and ranked 10th out of 12 teams in field-goal percentage, hitting 40 percent of their shots. McBride leaves Notre Dame with a career field-goal percentage of 47.5 percent. She also averaged 16.75 points per game in her final two seasons for the Irish. The Stars were led in scoring last season by forward Danielle Adams, who averaged 14.4 points per game.

Achonwa’s pre-draft stock was up in the air after she tore her left ACL during Notre Dame’s Elite Eight win over Baylor on March 31, but the Fever, who acquired the ninth pick from the Phoenix Mercury, selected the six-foot-three forward anyway. Achonwa, a captain for the Irish, led Notre Dame in rebounding and was third in points this season.

Indiana also held the fifth pick in the draft and chose Florida State forward Natasha Howard, bolstering its frontcourt after ranking second-to-last in the league in points and rebounds per game last season. Howard and Achonwa were both all-ACC selections.

Less than a week after Connecticut defeated Notre Dame in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, the in-state Fever added Achonwa to its roster.

Former Irish guard Kayla McBride prepares to take a free throw against Baylor during Notre Dame’s 88-69 win March 31. McBride was selected with the third overall pick in this year’s WNBA draft.

ND WOMEN’S LACROSSE

ND looks to build off win over Duke

By ALEX WILCOX
Sports Writer

The Irish hit the road for the final time of the regular season for a top-20 contest against No. 16 Ohio State, winner of five straight games.

No. 9 Notre Dame (9-5, 2-4 ACC) is coming off its big, top-10 win over No. 7 Duke on Friday night. After dropping two straight games to Stanford and Virginia prior to knocking off the Blue Devils, senior midfielder Cahtlin Gargan said the victory was just as important for the team’s mental state as it was in its record.

“The win over Duke has definitely helped us restore our confidence, which is important for this final stretch of the regular season and into the conference tournament,” Gargan said.

“The game itself was close, but we were able to control most aspects of the game helping to prove to ourselves again that we are capable of competing against tough teams.”

The Buckeyes, meanwhile, are on a streak of their own. They have won their last five games and nine of their last 10.

“They are a skilled team with speed, but one characteristic that distinguishes them is their hustle,” Gargan said. “They’re relentless and pesky all over the field. It always seems that no matter the margin, they’re always in the game. They’re going to force us to work very hard every Tuesday night, but we gladly accept the challenge.”

The key to the game, according to Gargan, is patience.

“We need to be patient on both sides of the ball,” Gargan said. “On offense, we will likely see a few different defenses, but we are prepared for them, so we just have to remind ourselves of that so we don’t get out of sorts.

“On defense, we want to put Irish senior midfielder Julia Giorgio attempts to slow the Stanford offense during Notre Dame’s 11-10 loss March 29.