Presidential hopefuls square off in debate

Candidates for Notre Dame student government’s top positions expound on campaign platforms

By EMILY McCONVILLE
News Writer

Student body presidential candidates, junior Bryan Ricketts and sophomore Neil Joseph, and their respective running mates, junior Nidia Ruelas and sophomore Noemi Ventilla, answered questions from the Notre Dame Judicial Council and student attendees during a debate Monday night in the basement of LaFortune Student Center.

Joseph, the current treasurer of the sophomore class, said his ticket’s biggest priority is increasing communication between students and the University administration. Ventilla, the current sophomore class president, said she and Joseph hope these lines of communication last beyond their term in office.

“Students do so much at this University, but unless you have the administration backing you up, things can’t really change,” she said. “I don’t know if you guys are in clubs and know how difficult it is to get funding, but those are systematic changes that you can only achieve by dealing with the administration and having a positive relationship with them.”

Ricketts, president of PrismND and a Gender Relations Center (GRC) peer educator, said his ticket’s biggest priority is its “identity-based initiatives.”

“What we can provide is a way to make sure that students feel seen and heard,” Ricketts announced.

Sophomores Neil Joseph and Noemi Ventilla, left, listen while juniors Bryan Ricketts and Nidia Ruelas respond to a question during Monday's presidential debate in the basement of LaFortune Student Center.

see DEBATE PAGE 5

SMC Diversity Board hosts authentic Tunisian dinner

By KELLY KONYA
Saint Mary’s Editor

Monday evening, the Saint Mary’s Student Diversity Board (SDB) hosted the third Diversity Dinner of this academic year in Regina Hall’s South Lounge for students to come together over a family-style Tunisian meal.

Student government association (SGA) international co-chairs senior Catherine Sullivan and sophomore Ngoc Truong pictured above.

Saint Mary’s students taste a family-style Tunisian meal at the third installment of Diversity Dinner in Regina Hall on Monday.

see DIVERSITY PAGE 5

SMC lecture series to celebrate St. Teresa of Avila

By KELLY KONYA
Saint Mary’s Editor

The Center for Spirituality (CFS) at Saint Mary’s announced its spring 2015 lecture series entitled “St. Teresa of Avila: Carmelite Mystic and Doctor of the Church.”

The series will include two talks and one panel discussion, marking the 500th anniversary of Saint Teresa’s birth. According to a press release, the Saint Mary’s College Annual Endowed Lecture Series Fund will sponsor the lectures, which are free and open to the public and will take place in the Vander Vennet Theatre.

see TERESA PAGE 5

Unity Games aim to connect multicultural community

By MEGAN VALLEY
News Writer

This week marks Notre Dame’s Multicultural Community Week, sponsored by the Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS), and this year’s theme is “The Unity Games.”

Participants will be split into teams that will compete against each other in challenges throughout the course of this week, ultimately competing for the grand prize of $100 Donor Dollars for each team member, according to the games’ website.

Katherine Hernandez, a freshman pre-medical student who signed up to participate in the games, said she saw the event as an opportunity to connect with other students on campus.

“I joined because it seemed like a good way to involve the whole community,” Hernandez said.

see UNITY PAGE 4
QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What did you think about the results of the Super Bowl?

Jacqueline Adams
freshman
Cavanaugh Hall
“Richard Sherman’s face was pretty priceless when the second down was intercepted.”

Nadezhda Braun
freshman
Howard Hall
“I didn’t care about the game but the puppies in the commercials were cute.”

Amanda Leung
senior
Lyons Hall
“I was wondering why there were so many sharks on the internet today.”

Maggie Blaha
sophomore
Breen-Phillips Hall
“I don’t know why all those football players were at the Katy Perry concert.”

Jasmine Salazar
sophomore
Le Mans Hall
“Surprised, I thought the Seahawks would win.”

Ryan Brickner
freshman
Zahn House
“GO PATRIOTS!”

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Tuesday
“Crafting a Strong Grant Proposal”
Brownston Hall
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Undergraduate workshop.

“From ‘Awkward Black Girl’ to Media Maven”
Carey Auditorium
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Lecture by Issa Rae.

Wednesday
Basketball Game
Purdue Pavilion
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Men’s basketball takes on Boston College.

Grotto Trip
Bond Hall
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Organized by the Asian American Association.

Thursday
Film: “The Missing Picture”
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Nominee for Best Foreign Language Film.

Friday
Graduate Student Mass
Basics of the Sacred Heart
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Occurs every Friday.

Women’s Tennis
Eck Tennis Pavilion
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Women take on Stanford.

Saturday
Annual Bride Expo
Joyce Center
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Print ticket online for free admission.

National Theatre Live: “Of Mice and Men”
DPAC
3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Open to the public.
University remains open after record snowfall

By RACHEL O’GRADY and LESLEY STEVENSON
News Writer and News Editor

From Saturday night into Monday morning, the South Bend area accumulated record-setting amounts of snow, but the University of Notre Dame remained open.

“As fun as it would be to have the day off, that’s not why we’re here. As long as it is safe for the teachers and students to go to class that’s what should happen,” senior Patrick Hagerty said. “It’s when it’s no longer safe that the University needs to seriously consider taking action to keep their students and staff safe.”

According to the South Bend Tribune, the snowfall reached unprecedented levels.

“South Bend broke a record for snow on Feb. 1 with 14.7 inches,” the report by Howard Dukes stated.

“That broke the 2011 record of 8.4 inches. Sunday’s record-breaking snowfall in South Bend is nearly equal to the monthly average for the entire month of February (15 inches).”

Although the University did not cancel classes, students expressed little discontent with the snowy situation.

“I wasn’t too upset school wasn’t cancelled today, because I didn’t expect it to be at all,” junior Erin Wischek said. “Notre Dame has set a precedent of staying open even in the most extreme conditions. Last year, it took the entire city of South Bend to shut down for school to eventually be cancelled.”

The snow did not pose a major problem for on-campus students, as they did not have much difficulty traveling to their classes, Wischek said. “I didn’t struggle to get to class today,” he said. “I live in Dillon Hall, so all I had to do was lace up my boots, throw on a coat and hat, and keep my balance walking for five minutes.”

Students noticed the work of Notre Dame Landscape Services, better known as the Toolcats, were able to take care of sidewalks.

“Students traverse campus during the record-breaking snowfall Sunday. South Bend experienced an unprecedented 14.7 inches of snow for February during the ongoing Winter Storm Linus.”

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Students noticed the work of Notre Dame Landscape Services, better known as the University’s grounds crew, as they worked through snow to travel across campus.

“If you walk to class, you really have no reason to complain,” freshman Ryan McKeown said. “There was maybe an inch of snow on the sidewalks. Notre Dame never gets snow days. I was not expecting one, so today was a regular Monday.”

For off-campus students, the Notre Dame Security Police recommended making sure their cars were prepared for the conditions and the snow plows had the opportunity to do their work.

“I didn’t have any difficulty getting to class, but I can’t speak for the kids who live off campus,” Wischek said. “If they were risking their well-being in any way to get to class, the administration made the wrong call.”

Off-campus senior Shannon Kirk said her normal route from Irish Row to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC), which takes 15 minutes by car or 10 to 12 minutes by bus, lasted 45 minutes Monday morning.

“First, I waited in the cold for 10 minutes for the bus that never came,” she said. “Then I finally decided to drive, and when I arrived at school at 9:05, the C1 lot ... was blocked off because they were trying to plow it.”

“If they are going to have class, they should have campus roads and parking lots plowed by the time people are arriving for their first class,” Kirk said.

According to Kirk, senior Nick Munench, whose car does not have four-wheel drive, opted for an Uber ride to campus.

Off-campus senior Arturo Chiquitato said he and fellow senior Alejandro Peraes were able to take the TRANSPO bus from University Edge to get to class on time.

“It took a bit longer [to arrive at Notre Dame] because [the bus] went slower, but I felt safe,” Chiquitato said. “I was fine with it. Most of the roads were clear.”

According to the faculty and staffnewspaper, ND Works, it takes more than 500 tons of salt and 25 trucks of several varieties to clear the snow each year. Eight Bobcat Tcdcats are used to clear the sidewalks, which is perhaps the most vital task in ensuring students make it to class on time.

“We are here to learn and pay a large annual sum for that purpose,” sophomore Louis Bertolotti said. “I’m glad that the University allowed us this great day of knowledge.”

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer
Lecture examines missionary foundations of democracy

By J.P. GOSCHWIND
News Writer

In a lecture Jan. 27, Robert D. Woodberry, associate professor of political science at Northwestern University, explained the role of Christian missionaries in the growth of liberal democracy.


“The narrative of democracy is usually told in a secular way,” Woodberry said. “I argue that, building on what Protestant missionaries are responsible for a lot of reforms that led to liberal democracy.”

By examining consistent historical patterns and statistical data from the 19th century, Woodberry said, the influence of religion on the growth of liberal democracy can be demonstrated and compared to the influence of the Enlightenment or various economic systems, Woodberry said. His statistical analysis considered other contextual factors to show the political impact of missionaries.

Woodberry said the word “liberal” is an important qualifier because it means governments have ensured rights for opposition groups and minorities. He explained the role of missionary foundations of democracy.

“They pioneered classroom techniques using texts designed for children,” Woodberry said.

Citing the example of the Belgian Congo, he said “liberalism” means being responsible for reporting abuses and reigning in abuses of colonial power.

“Missionaries limited colonial abuses but were not necessarily anti-colonial,” he said.

Woodberry said missionaries advocated the idea of trusteeship, particularly in British colonialism because they believed it was their duty to bring salvation to the colonized areas. He showed the results of a study performed comparing female literacy and infant mortality rates across regions in India with locations of missionary centers to fortify his argument.

Christianity profoundly shaped the judiciary and the religious incentive of missionaries, and their reforms are crucial to the concept of liberal democracy,” Woodberry said.

Contact J.P. Goschwind at jgoschwin@nd.edu

DFA explores strategies to reduce food waste

By Samuel Chan
News Writer

Monday night marked a major milestone for the Design for America (DFA) candidate chapter. Notre Dame’s DFA chapter entered round two of the four-step application process to become an official studio by hosting a creative workshop.

The two-hour event at West Lake Hall focused on ways to reduce food waste in the dining halls, which the co-organizers said amounts to about 1.2 tons per day.

According to its website, DFA is a nationwide network of interdisciplinary student teams and community members using design to create local and social impact. The 2,000 student-strong organization, which was founded in 2009 at Northwestern University, focuses on tackling “over 100 local and social challenges annually” in the areas of economy, education, environment and health.

Seniors Brian Donlin and John Wetzel and junior William Picoli lead Notre Dame’s DFA candidate chapter. DFA fellow and mentor Julian Bongiorno led Monday’s workshop with the assistance of the three co-organizers.

Wetzel said DFA differs from the seemingly similar Student International Business Council (SIBC) in that the “purely business” SIBC faced criticism in the past for accepting only business students, a policy that the SIBC leadership has since reversed.

“If you look at all the different organizations on this campus, there are very few that are truly interdisciplinary,” Wetzel said. “You bring all that together and use that to your advantage as a strength. That’s something our University as a whole has kind of struggled with in finding how all that fits in.”

“We’re hoping to be part of something that can bridge that gap and unite students from all those groups to work together.”

During the workshop, the co-organizers asked for a show of hands to indicate their areas of study. These varied from industrial design to computer science.

Initial, each group was assigned a persona and tasked to argue from that perspective. They had to research from a fictional Notre Dame Food Service administrator to a “filler upper” student, to rationalize their behaviors described and how this relates to serving, preparation, consumption, cleaning and disposal. Participants then attempted to brainstorm as many solutions as possible to the problems that arose.

“Maybe if we make Grab and Go bags that are interesting or funny, they’ll become a commodity for people to get food with,” freshman Kevin Ramos said, expanding on the proposition to extend the life of the existing disposable paper bags and cut down on waste.

“It would be cool if we could give students more accessibility to feedback, whether giving ratings on food or offering recipes,” senior Julia Bontempo said. “Students could suggest what they want and it will be revealed. Maybe one day a week.”

Commenting on another suggestion to increase the use of reusable bags, junior Hannah Chiarella said, “I always feel stupid taking the same plate going back.” She added she doesn’t reuse cups for refilling drinks.

Other students suggested mandating feedback similar to Courtrip, instructing feedback, the current system used to rate academic teaching quality, in addition to being able to rate the food itself through the My Notre Dame application for all students to see. Another popular suggestion was to compartmentalize the dishes or trays to reduce the amount of clutter, food taken and need for washing dishes.

“The whole idea is not so much about what to eat and how much to eat, but the main point is the waste. It’s more about being a responsible consumer,” sophomore Daara Jallali said.

Following this workshop, the candidate chapter will have one month to work on an idea to compete against eight other schools, including University of Southern California, to be judged by DFA on which “creates the most impact.” About half of these hopefuls will be selected to become official DFA studios.

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Unity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seemed like a good way to meet some new people and, of course, the possibility of winning 100 Diner Dollars.”

Events will include Family Feud, social media contests, trivia, games, an open skate and a sports day. All of these events are intended to expose the participants to different cultures and religions. Teams will receive points based on their participation and their performance.

The Unity Games kicked off Sunday with the opening ceremonies.

“The opening ceremony, despite the fact that not many people showed up, turned out to be really fun,” Hernandez said. “It was a great way to meet your team members and start working as a team playing the games. I’d say about 20 people showed up.”

The eight teams, or districts, will be awarded points based on their level of participation in each event. Each team has six or seven people.

“IT was a great way to meet your team members and start working as a team playing the game.”

Katharine Hernandez, freshman

“IT was a great way to meet your team members and start working as a team playing the game.”

Katharine Hernandez, freshman

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**Debate**

Comfortable, feel safe and feel welcome as a community at Notre Dame, and that is why we wish to pursue these policies as our primary goal," he said.

Ricketts said his administration would also want to recognize undergraduate students through the host family initiative and by creating a database for scholarships and internships available to students.

In response to a student’s question about how Ricketts and Ruelas would address minority students in the context of student government, Ruelas said that she and Ricketts would also implement student-generated ideas such as hosts for international students during breaks.

"These ideas that students bring to the table, we would be willing to consider, but in the context of student government," Ruelas said.

Ruelas said that she and Ricketts also wanted to recognize undergraduate students through the host family initiative and by creating a database for scholarships and internships available to students.

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"Our platform is not meant to be exclusive, and that’s why we have our open-door policy," he said. "We are not asking for any significant milestones.

Ruelas said that she and Ricketts in- tended to include all students in dis- cussions about race and ethnicity on campus.

"A very important part of that, which I think radiates in our platform and which we stress as important, is that we as students in the relationships we have built, is to realize that this is a structural problem," she said. "A lot of the race relations problems are structural problems and should not be seen as personal attacks. Stressing this point is how we wish to include everyone in this conversation."

"We believe the relationship with the administration is a two-way street," he said. "When you come to us, we promise that your comments will be put directly to the administration, and when the administration makes their decisions, we promise that they will put your decisions on your feedback in mind and make the announcements recognizing the contributions that students have made."

In response to a student’s question about the Joseph/ Ventilla platform’s new course syllabi available in online class descriptions. Ventilla said his administration would also prioritize creating opportunities for students who face barriers to success.

"We need a better way of keep- ing students engaged in what they’re teaching us and making an easier way to know what you’re get- ting your classes in terms of class requirements and perspectives."

Ruelas said that she and Ricketts would also work to publish syllabi on the class search page, encourage teachers to provide syllabi in the GCIF, and work with students and professors to talk to computer science majors to sim- plify the GCIF system. Ricketts said the student government would also work on providing students with a variety of online resources, allowing them to sell apparel through football weekends and holding a "Dorm Week."
Conference debate

How easy is this year’s “Best Conference Debate”? Though this debate has an inherent subjective quality to it, I like to believe that most years in college basketball there is a right answer (or, at the very least, an answer that narrows it down to two or three conferences) when discussing best college conferences. So how about 2015? What conference (or conferences) seems to be deserving of the “nation’s best conference” accolade? To most people that affiliate themselves at all with college basketball, all signs seem to indicate that — if there were a debate to be had this year — it would be between the Big 12 and ACC.

Conference debates can be very complicated. In terms of talent, contenders for the final four at this moment, the ACC has at least three (no way that neither Notre Dame or Louisville is) and the Big 12 has really only one at best (and that would probably be Kansas, who is less talented and experienced than when their team won one tournament game last year). Obviously, not accommodating for tournament surprises — which seem to happen annually these days — but with regard to elite teams, the ACC has a very clear advantage over the Big 12.

Any Big 12 advocates will probably argue in terms of a comprehensive conference approach. Coming into the week, the Big 12 had six of its ten teams ranked in the AP poll and eight legitimate NCAA tournament contenders. While the ACC also entered the week with six teams in the AP poll, four of its 15 teams currently boast sub-.500 records. By comparison the Big 12 has zero teams with more overall losses than wins.

One would be foolish, though, to point to the ACC’s inferiority as sufficient evidence for Big 12 supremacy. The ACC not only has an incredibly potent top of its conference, but also has solid NCAA tournament contenders like Syracuse and North Carolina State that provide depth in its middle and lower half. Yes, the ACC has four undeniably bad teams, but no one will argue that TCU and Texas Tech are feared opponents in the smaller Big 12 either.

This year’s “Best Conference Debate” in college basketball is not very difficult. The ACC is a pretty clear number 1.

Contact Ryan Klaus at rklaus@nd.edu

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

Stephen Raab
Let’s Talk Smart

Like the rest of America, I tuned in on Sunday to watch the Super Bowl. I must admit my enthusiasm for the event was somewhat deflated (har har) by the NFL’s sundry controversies. Nevertheless, I determined to do my patriotic (I’m sorry, the puns just happen) duty and enjoy the show while inhaling handful upon handful of Grab-and-Go popcorn.

During the commercials and quieter moments, I took the opportunity to revisit an old friend — Kurt Vonnegut’s short story “Harrison Bergeron.” In this masterpiece of a dystopia, government edict renders all people equal in every way. The strong and fast are weighted down with lead ballast, the beautiful are covered up with ugly masks and the intelligent have noises piped into their heads to break their concentration. When athletic genius Harrison Bergeron tries to rebel against the society that has scorned him, he is brutally suppressed.

The story remains to this day my favorite work of Vonnegut’s, and it even got a TV movie in 1995 starring Sean “Rudy/Samwise Gambge” Astin. Every time I read it, I feel the vague apprehension that comes with reading great dystopia. This time through the Big Game, with its most wonderful celebration of excellence — was a welcome antidote. Our beloved country is safe from the tyranny of conformity.

Or is it? We certainly celebrate astounding feats of physical ability — to a fault, at times. Yet we fail to show the same reverence for our top-tier intellects. The names of the great athletes persist through history, while the scientists and philosophers fade into obscurity. This is particularly strange, as any impartial observer (an alien, say) would view the thinkers’ achievements as more worthy of commendation than those of the ball-players. As much as I love the sport of baseball, how can we esteem Babe Ruth’s home runs more greatly than Norman Borlaug’s genetic engineering, the savior of a billion lives?

To be fair, a lot of the disparity can be explained away by the fact that science, to the uninstructed, can look dull. Try as hard as we might, even something as primal and revolutionary as the splitting of the atom can’t compete with the tension of a fourth-and-inches. (Perhaps if we got Katy Perry to perform midway through the Super Bowl, we’d make up some of the deficit.) But that still doesn’t account for everything. There remains some undercurrent in our society that’s made us suspicious of the intellectual elite.

Ah, there’s that word “elite.” I’ve always been puzzled as to why it’s such a snarl word these days. If you want to undermine a scientist or economist’s credibility, there’s no need to formulate a counterargument — just accuse them of being an elite, and they’re suddenly reduced to nothing!

For some reason, this doesn’t work when the target is not part of the intelligentsia. Those who spent the run-up to the Super Bowl slandering Tom Brady and Russell Wilson never got around to calling them elites, even though such a designation unquestionably fit both of them. Whether it’s the NCAA’s Elite Eight or Pokémon’s Elite Four, the suggestion of excellence doesn’t seem to be a categorical insult. The only places where excessive competence is considered a liability appear to be science, the arts and of course, politics.

I’ve never seen people try to distance themselves more violently from their education than they do in politics. Candidates desperately attempt to out-“down-on-the-farm” their opponents, scrabbling for the populist vote. Consider the case of Jodi Ernst (R-IA), who gave the Republican response to the most recent State of the Union. Did her campaign advertise her as a high school valedictorian with a bachelor’s in psychology? Of course not, that would be elitist. Instead, Ernst told tales of her childhood on her family’s farm, castrating pigs.

This is particularly baffling given how many of America’s founders would today be ostracized as elites. George Washington was a multimillionaire with an 8,000-acre farm. Thomas Jefferson was a polyglot who graduated from William and Mary and founded the University of Virginia. And don’t even get me started on Benjamin Franklin!

The Harrison Bergersons of history built this country and this world. These so-called “elites” deserve our praise, not our scorn. Hopefully one day we’ll live in a world where the brightest minds of the day are held in the same high regard as their athletic counterparts on the gridiron. And no one will point and sneer, “Elitists.”

Stephen Raab is a junior studying chemical engineering. He resides in Alumni Hall and welcomes discourse at sraab@nd.edu

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

Erin Thomassen
The Examed Life

New Year’s Day sales were great. Being called “ma’am” was not.

The beaming employee in Macy’s meant no harm. That made it worse. She thought she was being polite, that she might get a gold star from her manager. She didn’t realize that when she was ‘ma’am’ing me, she was maiming me. I’m being a smidge dramatic, but I can’t help it: I’m in the middle of a quarter-life crisis.

I used to be a Miss. I never minded hearing, “Miss Thomassen is an exquisite being” or, “Why can’t you be more like Miss Thomassen?” (The sentence choice was arbitrary.)

I do not like hearing, “Can I help you, ma’am?” when I am trying to browse. I want to be left alone in peace to stroke the silky scissors. Later, I will need a changing room to try on five dresses and buy none of them. For now, I would like to be left alone to enjoy my thread therapy session.

One might ask: “Why did you, Erin Thomassen, need therapy?” I will answer nicely because One called me Miss. Well, it was New Years Day, and I realized that in 178 days I would turn 20. I would enter the roaring 20s, the I’m-roaring because-I’m-not-a-teenager-anymore 20s. I like being a teenager.

Twenty times four is 80. I can do math, yay. I can also compare this number to 78.7, the average U.S. life expectancy in 2011. Oh, wait, I already passed the quarter mark. Pro: that excuses last year’s moodiness. Con: that means I’m closer to death than I thought.

Maybe I will live past 80. Maybe I will die tomorrow. Maybe I have high cholesterol. Must purchase Cheerios. Cannot pick flavor. Darn the more than a dozen delicious varieties. Multigrain vs. ancient grain? Frosted vs. fruity? I JUST NEED NORMAL CHEERIOS NOW BEFORE MY CHESTOLETER KILLS ME.

If I can’t choose and crunch Cheerios in my mouth, I might as well crunch them with my feet. I was about to rip the boxes off the aisles and stomp on them when I remembered: General Mills made up high cholesterol to sell more Cheerios. I swirled away from Buzzy the Honeybee and snagged the box(es) of Krave instead. I put myself on the back for my healthy decision, which is harder than it looks, especially while balancing three cereal boxes between my other arm and knee. Stop laughing at my short arms.

Speaking of arms, I should probably take this quarter-life crisis as a reminder to take better care of my body. It may have to last me a long time. It would be nice to have teeth left at 60 and my original hips at 65. As a teenager, I poured on the pavement day after day thinking my knees are indiscernible and my body is Holy Half? My joints are crying and I ignore them, shout at them and tell them to push through. I am a mean coach.

Changing my habits and respecting my body may be simple. It would turn my fear of old age into a positive opportunity. Hmmm, what else could I do?

I could ponder death deeply and write about it. That’s never been done before. I could ask God to increase my faith in His promise of eternal life. I could stop worrying and put my energy toward being a good and faithful servant instead. That would be a good thing to do.

I could realize that my fear of death implies that I love life. I love sipping mint tea and stretching to classical music. I love the downward dog and my dog at home. I love swirling until my butt hurts, reading until my eyes hurt.

I love sweet potatoes. Heaven may not have sweet potatoes. I panic momentarily. Then I remember: heaven will have sweeter things to offer, like pure love in the form of God. That may trump an entire day’s dose of Vitamin A.

The day I die will actually be an amazing day. “MISS Erin!” One may remind me, “It may not be a day since you may no longer be in the dimension of time.” Thanks, One. I can always count on him to spot holes in my logic and socks.

Anyways, back to before One interrupted me: I am not looking forward to being laid in a coffin, but I suppose I am looking forward to heaven. Wait, what am I saying? Of course I’m looking forward to heaven.

I may not have mint tea, or even my oatmeal sweater hand lotion, but I will not need or miss it. The God-shaped hole in my heart will be full, and I will scoff at the days when I yearned for youth, to be mistaken for a Miss. “Aren’t you better off now?” I will ask myself. “Yes ma’am.” One will reply. I won’t even smack One, for hitting isn’t allowed in heaven. There will be greater joys.

Erin Thomassen is a sophomore studying mechanical engineering. She welcomes your comments or questions about her sanity at ethomass@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Three minutes to midnight

“The leaders of nations cannot become complacent, but rather should renew their commitment to disarmament and to the banishment of all nuclear weapons.” — Pope John Paul II

Nuclear weapons are an economic problem. They are a physics problem, a medical problem and a psychology problem. They are a political problem and a theological problem, and above all, they are a physics problem. They are a medical problem and a psychological problem. They are a political problem and a theological problem.

Brandon Roach
campus outreach coordinator

Nuclear weapons are an economics problem. They are a physics problem, a medical problem and a psychology problem. They are a political problem and a theological problem, and above all, they are now our problem. But we are moving in the right direction — negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program are progressing, and we need to help maintain that momentum. The nuclear question can render us cynical, doubtful of others’ motives. But we as engaged students have the ability to work towards eliminating the nuclear question altogether, one step at a time. “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead

Brandon Roach
campus outreach coordinator

Tess Rinaldo
president

Megan McCormick
advocacy coordinator

Brenna Gautam
social media coordinator

Megan McCormick
advocacy coordinator

Ralph Price
advocacy coordinator

Global Zero: Notre Dame Feb. 1

Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com
SUPERBOWL COMMERCIALS

By KELLY McGARRY
Scene Writer

Based on the number of people who watch the Super Bowl, typically upwards of 100 million, there’s no way that everyone tuning in is a football fan. I’m not ashamed to admit it, we’re here for the commercials. This year, I planned all bathroom breaks and snack runs accordingly, to be sure I didn’t miss a second of the real action. Which brands were on their commercial game this year?

Super Stars

Snickers: In my opinion, Snickers made the best casting decisions. Their commercial starred Danny Trejo (“Sons of Anarchy”) as Marsha Brady and Steve Buscemi (“Fargo”) as Jan in a play on “The Brady Bunch.” BMW: Today show co-hosts Katie Couric and Bryant Gumbel were featured in a nostalgic clip from the 90s, asking “What is the internet?” Aside from featuring big names, this was a commercial that really made you think.

Other celebrity appearances included Kim K for T-mobile, Mindy Kaling for Nationwide, Snoop Dogg for Eat24 and Bryan Cranston (“Breaking Bad”) for Esurance. Esurance also featured Lindsay Lohan — if you still consider her a celebrity.

Sexy Sellers

Some of the least-sexy products imaginable really went all-out in this category. Cat’s Jr. advertised “All-Natural” with a model that preferred to go naked and Kate Upton served as poster girl for Game of War, a cheesy app store game. Here’s to ironic advertising.

Tearjerkers

Nationwide: Is there a penalty for pulling heartstrings? The ref should have thrown a flag at this depressing ad that featured child deaths by poison, a car crash and a falling TV. The fact that it’s an insurance company isn’t comforting, unless you’re looking to cash out on the death of a child. To say the least, this dark commercial didn’t exactly pump up my Super Bowl party.

Coca-Cola: This was another dark one, a modern twist on the ‘70s “I’d like to give the world a coke” ads, it referenced cyber-bullying. But alas, a splash of coke on the computer led to a happy ending. Cute!

Budweiser: No one could help but fall in love with the adorable pup who finds his way back home to his best bud.

GoDaddy: This leads me to the winner for most controversial, a parody of the adorable Budweiser commercial, the lovable puppy finds his way back home, only to find that his owner has used GoDaddy to sell him. The pre-release received such an inflammatory response that GoDaddy ended up pulling the commercial, so it never actually aired during the Super Bowl.

Always: Inspirational advertisements were a theme this year. Always aired a cut version of a video that went viral earlier this year about what it means to run like a girl, throw like a girl and fight like a girl. A call to action to increase girls’ self-esteem, the ad was appropriate for the feminine product.

Dove, Toyota, Nissan and Microsoft all fell into the emotional range, as well.

Favorites

Mopbie: You know a commercial is a big-budget when it could pass as a movie trailer. In this clever ad that particularly resonates with Notre Dame, God’s dead smartphone battery causes the apocalypse.

Bud Light: I may not be up for “anything,” but I’d definitely be up for some real life Pac-Man. I may have enjoyed this one purely because it realized my wildest fantasy.

SquareSpace: I present my personal favorite. Don’t know what Squarespace is? Neither did I. I still really don’t. What I do know is that they advertised Jeff Bridge’s “Sleeping Tapes” (found at dreamingshithjef.com). Anyone offering me to be lullled to sleep by the soothing voice of “The Dude” is a friend of mine.

I think the public is past our screaming goat phase, and they don’t really pass for a commercial. However, I did enjoy clever, hilarious advertising by Avocados from Mexico portraying the first draft ever, Terry Crews’s Old Spice and a cute simple ad from Doritos.

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GROUNDHOG DAY
A HISTORY

By HANNAH ECKSTEIN
Scene Writer

With Sunday’s Super Bowl excitement, it was easy to forget that Groundhog Day fell on Monday. Unfortunately, the shadow of last night’s game wasn’t the only shadow that Punxsutawney Phil faced this week.

Early Monday morning, thousands gathered in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to get a look at the furry meteorologist and see his predictions for the upcoming weeks of winter. If you’re currently in denial at the thought of six more weeks of snow and thinking “Where did this crazy tradition come from? Who let the groundhog decide?” you’re not alone. However, with an 80 percent accuracy rating according to AccuWeather and a long history of prognosticating, there is evidence that Phil might be more than just a bashful, lazy groundhog.

The Groundhog Day tradition stems from a Germanic tradition called Candlemas. In this Germanic tradition, a hedgehog would predict the weather for the coming months. However, according to National Geographic, when German immigrants came to Pennsylvania, they were unable to find hedgehogs and opted for the next best thing — groundhogs. The timing of Candlemas also favored using a groundhog to predict the weather. According to Nat Geo, groundhogs typically emerge from hibernation during February to look for mates in the spring. After the males and females have paired off, they return to hibernation for a few more weeks.

Since this hibernation hiatus occurs at the beginning of February, it is theorized that the Pennsylvania Dutch saw many groundhogs and chose them as the hedgehog replacement. Despite the uncertainty behind the history of Groundhog Day, Phil’s decision seems to be indisputable, at least to those in Punxsutawney. Whether you believe that Phil really saw his shadow, was simply looking for a lady groundhog or was just avoiding all those eager onlookers, something made him jump back into his climate-controlled, man-made burrow. And you know what that means, six more weeks of winter. Thanks a lot Phil.

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What is it about documentaries that make them so appealing? Is it our desire as human beings to want to know the truth and only the truth? When truth is transmogrified by directorial choices, artistic intent and finite filming opportunities, does the "production" of a film blur its accuracy, its "whole story?"

The 26th annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival, hosted in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center this past weekend, gave visual evidence of this desire for truth. The festival’s highest quality films came from a genre typically known for being solely informational, perhaps to the point of being dry: documentaries.

The genre shed its Dateline-esque recipe long ago with films like "March of the Penguins" and "Super Size Me." A documentary’s selected scenes, respective transitions (assisted in some cases by Morgan Freeman) and the soundtrack take the chaos of the everyday and hone in on a message. Documentaries feed into our problematic voyeuristic tendencies while simultaneously informing or entertaining us with issues common to the collective consciousness of a variety of viewers.

Somehow, documentaries seem to come off to viewers as "more important." It’s as though their instructional value or conjuration of empathy are inherently more seductive and persuasive than an imagined fictional film.

At this year’s festival, for instance, there were three documentaries that outshone the rest. With three very different subjects—a woman with ALS, a nine-year-old cross-country cyclist and a local after-school program—the films managed to incite tears of compassion, grief and laughter. The authenticity portrayed by the directors and experienced by the audience was a far cry from the expected emotions of horror or cursory intrigue.

The directors of the documentary, therefore, manipulated the story to achieve an impressive universality where viewers, like our friend, cannot discern the theatrical hero from the tangible one right down the road. The film could’ve taken place anywhere, but can a program in South Bend faithfully stand in for everywhere? And should it?

"Eat Ride Sleep," directed and produced by Mike Nichols and Lauren Josephson, was another outstanding favorite of the festival. The documentary’s sequence of shots portrayed a 9-year-old cross-country biker CJ Borfuld on the road. However, instead of only including the Channel 4 news interviews that were broadcast nationwide, the directors chose to also reveal CJ as an everyday hero—hilarious and imperfectly perfect. The film flashes between actual news coverage of CJ, the motivated cyclist inspired by God, and CJ as "a real boy," who has not reached double digits and must be home-schooled during breaks.

Coverage of his good-natured family, who followed behind CJ in a rented RV, was limited on Channel 4’s reports, but the documentary’s inclusion of familial interactions enriched the experience. Another hilarious detail left out from local news reports was CJ’s journal he kept throughout the duration of his trip, from which his mother read his angst aloud. CJ sat coyly as she read forth a lot of “I hate —” followed by parental units or anything that required hard work except biking. "I love biking," it was clear what made him happy.

He also wrote in the same journal that his mom is awesome, perhaps the coolest ever. "Well, which is it?" Mrs. Burford asked. "A mix," CJ answered. DPRC’s audience at Friday night’s 6:30 showing erupted.

It’s this combination of classic journalism and slice-of-life hilarities that make CJ’s story all the more memorable. And it’s relatability that make this young boy a hero and make him matter—he’s just a kid, but he’s also larger-than-life. Documentaries can make humans into superhumans. But does it matter that the films only feature one aspect of a subject? Who will CJ be in 10 years? "Curry & Erin," moved in a very different direction. The film’s directors, Eric O’Donnell and Maureen Gaviria, traveled to Nashville to tell the story of artist and ALS patient Erin Brady Worsham. While there, the story tellers changed their angle mid-trip. Erin’s husband, Curry, was a bass singer in the "Indian River Boys" quartet, even opening for Joan Rivers. Now, he’s spent the last 20 years taking care of his wife. The two had been married 20 years before Erin was diagnosed with the debilitating disease.

The documentary’s transitions were paired with light music. Erin told the story (with subtitles) of how her husband had "sacrificed" so much for her. She wondered aloud in a voice much like Stephen Hawking’s computerized utterers how she could ever repay him except by loving him.

As she answers deeper and deeper questions about her relationship with Curry, he remains out of the picture. The interviewer poses a question, she answers and then the following scene Curry asks Erin where he should place the roses in their garden. "Next to the roses! No! Oh, over there," when Erin, of course, cannot gesticulate in any direction. His love, and ability to understand, is transcending and heroic.

Documentaries like these are the ones that have lasting effects on the human spirit. They are not the story of Kate Hudson-Winslet-Upton and Ryan Gosling. Reynolds-Pitt, pre scripted and with a mandated happy-ending.

In fact, last year’s film festival featured quite the opposite. "The Suicide Disease" produced by now-alums Hatte Mattie, Vincent Moore and William Neal, wrecked our souls. Watching the story of former ND chief-of-staff Frances Shavers’ struggle with Trigeminal Neuralgia was overwhelming. It was one of those stories that stays with you, resting in your back pocket to grab when discussing life altering films or inspirational medical battles. We bring it up from time to time, and it was no coincidence when the film won honors at L.A.’s Sunset Film Festival.

It can’t be forgotten that documentaries can perform under the guise of truth, fitting into a manufactured and thereby fictive category just like any other film. But the stories of Erin and Curry, of CJ and family, of Brian from the Robinson Center are real. The messages told in these films are not as explicit as "Super Size Me’s" big reveal: "McDonalds makes you fat." "Americans are obese," etc. Documentaries become art when you are allowed to deduce what you will from the story. The film is not just informational, it’s thought provoking and emotion evoking and therefore, far more powerful than the rom coms and horror flicks that dominate the box office today.

After all, any story that is retold is altered from its original form. As writers for The Observer, we are considered college journalists. But journalism in itself has become a mud died, carefully constructed form of reportage. As our hero Hunter S. Thompson once said, "absolute truth is a very rare and dangerous commodity in the context of professional journalism."

Truth does not equal accuracy, and confronting this reality can leave one feeling unfairly manipulated or mousetrapped.

Just like journalism, documentaries — defined by the OED as "factual" and "realistic" — are wielded by their producers to elicit a specific response from viewers. The achievement of a good documentary is its memorable story, which can only be attributed to its good storyteller.

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By KELLY KONYA and REBECCA O’NEIL

Scene Writers
Don’t look now, but this is the most wide-open year the NBA has had in a long time. Gone are the days when LeBron and the Heat were unstoppable and intended to make the Finals and the only ones to stop them were the Thunder or the Spurs. LeBron’s Cavaliers are not that far away, and it’s fair to say that the Western Conference, with so many teams vying for the top two spots, will continue to rage on. It’s interesting to note the current situation in Oklahoma City, where the Thunder are in the conference behind LeBron’s Cavs but are still among the top contenders. The Thunder are in a bit of a limbo, as the second round of the playoffs may be the last for them, and they are likely to lose to either San Antonio or Dallas, depending on how the games play out.

The Thunder have a roster that is capable of putting up a tough fight against any team in the conference finals. However, it’s hard to see them making it past the Western Conference finals, as the Los Angeles Clippers, Golden State Warriors, and San Antonio Spurs are all strong contenders. The Thunder are likely to lose to either the Clippers or the Spurs, but it’s still an interesting race to watch, especially since the Thunder have a chance to win the Western Conference championship for the first time in their franchise history.

However, the Thunder’s biggest problem is their depth. They lack the depth to compete against the depth of other teams in the conference. The Thunder have a roster that is capable of putting up a tough fight against any team in the conference finals. However, it’s hard to see them making it past the Western Conference finals, as the Los Angeles Clippers, Golden State Warriors, and San Antonio Spurs are all strong contenders. The Thunder are likely to lose to either the Clippers or the Spurs, but it’s still an interesting race to watch, especially since the Thunder have a chance to win the Western Conference championship for the first time in their franchise history.

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Cavaliers make second-half surge to beat Tar Heels

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina—Malcolm Brogdon scored 17 points and No. 3 Virginia’s defense locked down in the second half to beat No. 12 North Carolina 75-64 on Monday night.

Justin Anderson added 16 for the Cavaliers (20-1, 8-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who responded to their first loss of the season by blowing open a tight game at halftime for an impressive road win.

Coming off Saturday’s loss to Duke in one of the program’s biggest home games in years, Virginia erased a 33-32 halftime deficit by shooting 50 percent while holding the Tar Heels (17-5, 7-3) completely in check to build an 18-point lead and improve to 8-0 in true road games this year.

After shooting 52 percent in the first half, UNC went just 11-for-29 (38 percent) after halftime while pre-season ACC player of the year Marcus Paige struggled for open looks against Brogdon’s constant defensive harassment.

Paige finished with 15 on 5-for-10 shooting, though a good chunk of that production came after Virginia had built its big lead and UNC was in desperation-comeback mode late.

Brice Johnson added 14 points for UNC, but fellow starter J.P. Tokoto managed just one point on 0-for-3 shooting.

Worse for the Tar Heels, they were unable to speed up the confident Cavaliers and turn it into an open-court game. UNC managed just two fast-break points, the lone basket not coming until the 1:53 mark of the game.

If there were any questions about how Virginia would respond after the Duke loss, this was a convincing answer that the Cavaliers aren’t easily shaken as they go for a second straight ACC title.

Stevens leads Duke in upset over Louisville

Associated Press

DURHAM, North Carolina — Azura Stevens scored 17 points and No. 15 Duke beat eighth-ranked Louisville 66-58 on Monday night.

Elizabeth Williams had 11 points and blocked five shots, while Oderah Chidom added 14 points to help the Blue Devils (16-6, 7-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) win their third straight.

Rebecca Greenwell added 13 points with three 3-pointers in the second half.

The Blue Devils overcame 22 turnovers by shooting 47 percent, forcing the Cardinals (19-3, 7-2) into two prolonged shooting droughts, and holding a 43-35 rebounding advantage.

They earned their second victory over a top-10 opponent after previously beating then-No. 8 Kentucky 89-68 on Dec. 21. Sara Hammond scored 17 points and Mavria Moore had 14 for the Cardinals, who shot 35 percent.

Duke never trailed and went up 17 by before Louisville chipped away at that lead, pulling to 56-49 on Brion Smith’s layup with about 4 minutes to play. The Cardinals didn’t score on any of their next seven possessions before Jude Schimmel’s 3 made it 62-52 with 27.7 seconds remaining.

Schimmel, who added another 3 with 2 seconds left, finished with 11 points.

Ka’lia Johnson scored 11 points for Duke, which used a 19-4 run that started in the first half and ended early in the second to push its lead well into double figures.

Stevens started it with consecutive layups, Greenwell hit two 3s early in the second half and Williams closed the burst with five straight points, capped by a layup that made it 40-23 with just under 15 minutes left.

Pelicans end Hawks’ win streak

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The Atlanta Hawks’ franchise-record 19-game winning streak was snapped Monday night in a 115-100 loss to the New Orleans Pelicans.

Anthony Davis had 29 points and 13 rebounds to help New Orleans win for the sixth time in seven games, a stint which includes victories over several contending squads including Dallas and the Los Angeles Clippers.

Jeff Teague scored 21 for Atlanta, but the Hawks fell behind by double digits in the first quarter and failed to even tie it.

Eric Gordon scored 20 points for New Orleans, while Tyreke Evans scored 15 points and tied a season high with 12 assists for the fourth time in five games.

Paul Millsap had 15 points and Kyle Korver 12 for the Hawks, who made only seven of 22 3-point attempts.

Cavaliers 97, 76ers 84

CLEVELAND — Kyrie Irving scored 24 points, LeBron James added 18 points and 11 assists, and the Cleveland Cavaliers staggered their 11th straight win, 97-84 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

The winning streak is Cleveland’s longest since reeling off 13 in a row — a franchise record — in 2008, the last season of James’ first stint with the club. The Cavs had trouble putting away the young Sixers, who did all they could to stay close but didn’t have the firepower to keep up with Irving, James and one of the NBA’s hottest teams.

Atlanta entered the week on a 19-game win streak. Kevin Love added 15 rebounds and Matthew Dellavedova made three clutch 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to help the Cavs hold on.

Jerami Grant and Robert Covington scored 18 apiece for the Sixers, who beat the Cavs last month when Cleveland was in disarray.

The Cavs’ biggest opponent may have been boredom as they played listlessly for long stretches. Cleveland built a 20-point lead in the third quarter, but the Sixers wouldn’t go away, outscoring the Cavs 26-18 to close the period and getting a quick bucket in the fourth to pull to 69-67.

Irving briefly restored order with a pair of 3-pointers to put the Cavs ahead by 16, but the Sixers rallied again and closed to 80-77 on Covington’s 3.

Irving, selected the Eastern Conference player of the week earlier in the day, then scored six of Cleveland’s next eight points and Dellavedova dropped a pair of 3s in the final 12.5 seconds of the day, giving the Cavs a 91-83 lead with 2:36 left. His final 3 made it 96-83, ending any thoughts of a Philadelphia upset.

Things have changed dramatically for the Cavs since the last time they faced the Sixers.

On Jan. 5, Cleveland lost at Philadelphia without Irving and James, who were both out with injuries. The Sixers won 95-92, getting their first home victory, and that night the Cavs traded Dion Waiters to Oklahoma City while getting both J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert from the New York Knicks.

The Cavs seemed disinterested throughout the first half. They were off target on several layups and out of sync following a tough week in which they played four games in five nights.
Irish set five pool records on Senior Day

By DANIEL O’BOYLE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame recorded 17 wins and broke five pool records at Rolfs Aquatic Center Friday and Saturday, as the Irish conquered both Incarnate Word and Iowa in the Shamrock Invitational.

The Irish (6-9) defeated the Cardinals by a score of 282-62 and the Hawkeyes, 282.5-87.5, while the team’s eight seniors were also honored for Senior Day.

Senior All-American Emma Reaney lowered her own pool records in the 200-yard individual medley and the 200-yard breaststroke, while junior Catherine Galletti broke the pool record in the 100-yard butterfly. Reaney and Galletti also teamed up with sophomore Catherine Mulquin and senior Courtney White to break the pool record in both the 200-yard and 400-yard medley relays. The Irish added wins in 12 other events, including two diving victories for senior Allison Casaretto and wins in the 200-yard, 400-yard and 800-yard freestyle relays.

Irish interim coach Tim Welsh said the team’s performance was not at all surprising to him.

“We had a great meet from start to finish,” Welsh said. “The intensity and the focus all came from within, so it was all the team’s preparation, their excitement, their enthusiasm. I think that the credit for how well they swam all goes to them. They did a great job of preparing and a great job of being ready to go. I’m really proud of them this weekend.”

Welsh also said the record-breaking times were a highlight of the event.

“This pool is thirty years old, so if you set a pool record and it’s recordable, you’re going to feel a lot of enthusiasm,” Welsh said. “The intensity and the focus all came from within, so it was all the team’s preparation, their excitement, their enthusiasm. I think that the credit for how well they swam all goes to them. They did a great job of preparing and a great job of being ready to go. I’m really proud of them this weekend.”

Irish senior Emma Reaney comes up for air in the breaststroke during Notre Dame's 170-128 dual meet loss to Purdue on Nov. 1. Reaney won two individual races and one relay at the meet.

in this pool, that covers a lot of races,” Welsh said. The other wins for the Irish went to Mulquin in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle, Reaney in the 100-yard breaststroke, Galletti in the 100-yard backstroke, Whyte in the 200-yard butterfly, sophomore Elizabeth House in the 200-yard freestyle and sophomore Katie Miller in the 200-yard backstroke. The Irish also claimed 11 NCAA ‘B’ cut times — four from Reaney, two from Mulquin and Galletti and one each from Whyte, senior Bridget Casey and freshman Sherri McIntyre.

A ‘B’ cut time does not automatically qualify a swimmer for the NCAA championship, but it makes them eligible for invitationals.

Welsh said he was especially impressed by the performances of the senior class, which was honored Saturday of the invitational.

“Senior Day always adds excitement,” Welsh said. “If you look at the seniors in particular, they swim well, and a lot of time as they approach the end of their career, seniors want to make sure they give it everything they’ve got and I think we saw that this weekend.

“A lot of parents were here, and we love it when parents come. That always adds more excitement. I think the whole ambience of the meet with all the parents really adds to everyone’s enthusiasm. Welsh said that, despite the team’s success, there is still room for improvement in every event than we were this season.

“We want to improve at the ACC championship,” Welsh said. “This coming weekend is our last chance to prep for the conference meet. I think we want to be faster at every event than we were this weekend.”

The Irish next take to the pool Saturday at noon, when they face Cleveland State at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

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Irish sophomore Katie Miller competes in the breaststroke during Notre Dame's 170-128 loss to Purdue on Nov. 1 at Rolfs Aquatic Center. Miller finished in the top five of three races at the meet.

Irish junior Julie Vrabel prepares to unleash a shot during the Notre Dame Invitational on Sept. 26. Vrabel went 1-1 in doubles play on the day and lost her only singles match.

W Tennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

were close,” Gleason said. “I think getting the doubles point was huge for us because Michigan has a very strong doubles lineup.”

Three singles matches went to a third set, and two sets went all the way to a tiebreaker.

The road ahead does not get any easier for the Irish, as they welcome No. 8 Stanford on Friday. The Cardinal are the second of three top-35 matchups for Notre Dame in a row.

“This week, it will be important for us to focus on the positives from the match with Michigan,” Gleason said. “Stanford is an incredible team and I think we’re all really excited that we get the opportunity to play them, at home especially.

“One advantage we have over Stanford this weekend is that we’re playing indoors. On Friday it will be important to capitalize on the quickness of our indoor courts at the Eck.”

Notre Dame will welcome Stanford to Eck Tennis Pavilion at 5 p.m. Friday, as it looks to rebound in one of its final matches before ACC play starts later this month.

Contact Hunter McDaniel at hmcdani1@nd.edu
Irish senior guard Madison Cable makes her way up the court during Notre Dame's 92-63 win over Wake Forest on Sunday. Cable set a career-high in steals during the game, with six.

sent the Irish on a 27-10 run. McGraw opened her post-game press conference talking about Cable's game, calling it "phenomenal" and noting in particular her defensive play.

For Cable, it was just another example of her being ready for anything.

"It's the same thing every game, they want me to go in and give some energy and be aggressive and help the team offensively and defensively, whatever I have to do," Cable said Sunday.

Cable missed her freshman season due to stress fractures in both her feet. She returned her sophomore season to play in 34 games, starting three. As a junior she played in 37 games and posted her best season averages yet, 5.5 points and 3.4 rebounds per game.

This season, Cable has played in every one of Notre Dame's 23 games and started five. She is averaging 20 minutes off the bench per game, making her one of the leading Irish reserves. She also has totaled a team-best 39 steals and has scored 5.9 points per game.

Cable has helped spearhead a potent bench that outscored Wake Forest's reserves, 34-7, on Sunday and outmatched Boston College's bench Jan. 11, 45-13.

Along with her goofy demeanor, Cable seriously knows how to lead, Loyd said. Cable, guard Whitney Holloway and forward Markisha Wright are Notre Dame's only seniors. They have been around for three Final Four appearances and two shots at the national championship game.

"Well, we won, so I'm happy," Cable said. "Being a senior, Cable understands what it takes to go to a Final Four," Loyd said. "When she has to say stuff, she will, but she's still goofy. She knows how to say something to everyone in the right way."

When asked how she felt about her strong individual performance against Wake Forest, Cable had just one thing to say.

"Well, we won, so I'm happy," Cable said.

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M Tennis
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

win, the Irish gained the a one-point lead heading into the No. 1 and No. 2 singles matches. The clinching win came from junior Quentin Monaghan in the No. 1 slot, as he bounced back after losing the second set on a tiebreaker to secure the victory for the Irish.

“All of the guys competed as well as they possibly could considering the intense environment, and we’re all really proud of the effort,” Sachire said. “We’ve done a good job winning the double point. It’s definitely a strength of the team. It’s a big momentum and energy boost not only for the crowd, but also the team, so the value of winning double points extends far beyond the extra point.”

After the Irish had already taken the overall win, No. 82 Hagar lost to the Wildcats’ No. 108 Kircheimer at the No. 2 singles slot.

Many of the recent Irish matches have been decided by razor-thin margins, with all three of their wins coming by a 4-3 score. That, combined with some of their struggles in the singles round, means the team needs to practice performing under pressure in extremely decisive matches, Sachire said.

“We need to get more consistent with [our] level of play in the big moment,” Sachire said. “This season we’ve had plenty of chances to step up and assert ourselves and it hasn’t always worked out. We need to have confidence and trust in our ability to dictate and control play in crucial moments of the match. It’s all about being in the right mindset.”

Moving forward, the Irish will take on Ball State on Sunday at 10 a.m. at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

Across
1 Rock legend Jonny
5 In the midst of
10 Rockus
13 Extract with a solvent
15 Manuscript sheet
16 One of the Manning brothers
17 Wanted poster word
18 Longtime "Nighttime Host"
20 "Stop talking over that!"
22 Govt. divisions
23 Brevity
24 Woodcutting tool
25 Lanolo's title
26 Long-running PBS film
27 Pub jour
29 Lively dance
32 "Quick ______!"
34 Succeed, but just barely
36 Red snapper fish
44 Growl
45 Old name for Titikaka
50 Any ship
51 Gradually slowing, in mus.
54 Letters after a long ago date
56 Corned, as a wild animal
58 Violin V.I.P.
60 Henrik Ibsen, for one
62 Workout reminders
69 Workout
70 Haggard hatchet’s goal
71 Johnny who played Sweeney Todd
72 Abba’s “______, the One in the Middle”
74 Rocker Laget
75 Legally bar
80 Candy with a collective disperser
82 Shop front
86 Prince ______ Khan
91 Jack that’s one-eyed and lacks a tooth
97 Curriculum

Down
1 Ring, as church bells
2 gasped
3 Standout performance for 1-Acros
4 1-Acros
5 Avian transactions, e.g.
6 Old Spousal
7 Homer’s hangout on “The Simpsons”
8 or 9, canasta
9 Suffix with rest or best
10 Bargain hunter’s goal
11 Abba’s “______ the One in the Middle”
12 Picture postcard
13 Rolls Onlay Diagonals
14 Aries Basic Ath

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

Across
1 Rock legend Jonny
5 In the midst of
10 Rockus
13 Extract with a solvent
15 Manuscript sheet
16 One of the Manning brothers
17 Wanted poster word
18 Longtime "Nighttime Host"
20 "Stop talking over that!"
22 Govt. divisions
23 Brevity
24 Woodcutting tool
25 Lanolo's title
26 Long-running PBS film
27 Pub jour
29 Lively dance
32 "Quick ______!"
34 Succeed, but just barely
36 Red snapper fish
44 Growl
45 Old name for Titikaka
50 Any ship
51 Gradually slowing, in mus.
54 Letters after a long ago date
56 Corned, as a wild animal
58 Violin V.I.P.
60 Henrik Ibsen, for one
62 Workout reminders
69 Workout
70 Haggard hatchet’s goal
71 Johnny who played Sweeney Todd
72 Abba’s “______, the One in the Middle”
74 Rocker Laget
75 Legally bar
80 Candy with a collective disperser
82 Shop front
86 Prince ______ Khan
91 Jack that’s one-eyed and lacks a tooth
97 Curriculum

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SUDOKU | THE MEMPHIS GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4
2 3 4 1
3 4 1 2
4 1 2 3

SOLUTION TO MONDAY’S PUZZLE

1 2 3 4
2 3 4 1
3 4 1 2
4 1 2 3

CAKE PUZZLE BY REBECCA HOPPER

Across
37 Coral Island
38 Number of prime numbers on Downing Street
40 Lundy’s “Main Girl”
41 Signs of deep sleep on an electroencephalogram
44 Growl
45 Old name for Titikaka
50 Any ship
51 Gradually slowing, in music
54 Letters after a long ago date
56 Corned, as a wild animal
58 Violin V.I.P.
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HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER

DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

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SUDOKU | THE MEMPHIS GROUP

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CAKE PUZZLE BY REBECCA HOPPER

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HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER

DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
McGraw praises Cable’s competitive nature coming off the bench

‘Goofy’ but great

By SAMANTHA ZUBA
Assistant Managing Editor

When asked to describe senior guard Madison Cable, junior guard Jewell Loyd laughed.

“Maddie is just so goofy,” Loyd said after No. 4 Notre Dame’s 88-77 win over No. 6 Tennessee on Jan. 19.

“That’s a good word for her,” sophomore forward Taya Reimer chimed in.

“She knows how to make everyone laugh, and she knows what to say at the right times,” Loyd continued. “She’s awesome.”

Goofy doesn’t capture it all though. After the win over Tennessee, Irish coach Muffet McGraw praised the Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, native’s tenacity.

Cable came off the bench in that game to tally six points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals in 22 minutes.

“Maddie is competitive,” McGraw said. “I think she’s one of the most competitive people on the team. I mean, she is so feisty inside. She’s going to get a rebound, and she’s not going to let it go.”

Not only did Cable post solid overall numbers, but she also kept coming up with important plays at the best times, McGraw said.

“She came up with a big steal late,” McGraw said. “She had some big free throws. She was a big factor. I thought, in the win, especially down the stretch.”

In Sunday’s 92-63 win over Wake Forest, Cable turned in what McGraw called one of her best performances of the season.

Cable totaled 12 points, a game- and career-high six steals and three rebounds.

Along the way, she completed a four-point play, a momentum-changing score late in the game.

Iowa senior guard Madison Cable looks to pass the ball during Notre Dame’s 92-63 win over Wake Forest on Sunday at Purcell Pavilion.

By HUNTER MC DANIEL
Sports Writer

Sunday afternoon, No. 19 Notre Dame fell to visiting No. 15 Michigan, 5-2, at Eck Tennis Pavilion, losing its first match of the season.

Junior Quinn Gleason said the Irish (2-2) were disappointed to fall at home so early in the season, but also kept the loss in perspective.

“We were definitely disappointed that we lost, but I think we’re all optimistic coming out of it, because Michigan is a great team and we were right there,” Gleason said.

This clash of top-20 teams was the first of the season for the Irish. The squad started strong in doubles, as the No. 16 duo of Gleason and sophomore Monica Robinson upset No. 10 senior Emina Bektas and freshman Alex Najarian, 6-4.

The pairing of sophomores Mary Closs and Jane Fennelly also came up with a victory, giving Notre Dame the doubles point of the competition.

Fennelly also came up with a focus on the bench this weekend, as she was named the Irish women’s basketball team’s captain.

“Goofy” but great

By CHRISTINE MAYUGA
Sports Writer

In yet another nail-bitingly close match, No. 14 Notre Dame topped No. 30 Northwestern, 4-3, on Friday at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The win featured four individual matches that went to third sets in singles, in addition to four singles sets and one doubles match that were decided by tiebreakers.

“I think it was a great match,” Irish coach Ryan Sachire said. “Northwestern is a top-notch team and we knew going in that it was going to be a very competitive one. We were fully prepared for it and we did pay off.”

The Irish’s two top-ranked doubles pairs, No. 8 senior Billy Pecor and junior Alex Pasareanu and sophomore Sam Shropshire, respectively.

It was the first time this season the two pairings have both won their doubles matches.

In the No. 4 singles round, junior Eric Schnurrenberger dominated junior Mihir Kumar, 6-4, 6-4, but a series of close matches clinched by the Wildcats tied the team score at 2 at the No. 3 singles slot, Covalsi lost to freshman Logan Staggs, while at the No. 6 singles slot, Lawson fell behind after winning the first set on a tiebreaker, eventually losing to sophomore Alp Horoz.

In the No. 5 slot, Pecor continued his undefeated singles streak this season, managing a 7-6 (8-6), 4-6, 7-5 victory over junior Fedor Bav. With Pecor’s win, McGraw praised Cable’s competitive nature coming off the bench.

Pecor leads ND to victory with doubles, singles wins

Wierda in the No. 3 doubles spot, 6-3.

Michigan (4-0) bounced back strong in the singles competition, however, as the Wolverines won five of the six total matches. Only Fennelly, competing at the No. 6 spot, came away with the win, defeating senior Kristen Dodge, 6-3, 6-2.

“I was really proud of Jane Fennelly this weekend, as she won both her singles and doubles matches,” Gleason said. “She has been working really hard, so I’m excited to see that her effort is really paying off. She’s a very solid (No. 6) singles player, and I’m confident she’ll have a great season.”

Other than Fennelly, however, the rest of the Irish struggled against a strong Michigan squad. Gleason fell to Bektas, ranked 18th in country, at the No. 1 singles spot, Robinson fell to No. 23 junior Ronit Yurovsky in the second slot and senior Julie Vrabel lost to No. 38 Sarah Lee at No. 3.

“When the score was 5-2, a lot of the singles matches were really close,” McGraw said. “But I was really pleased with the way we’re finding ways to compete.”