New administration takes office

Vidal, Devine reflect on past year’s impact

By MARGARET HYNDS
News Editor

As their tenure came to a close March 31, outgoing student body president and vice president Lauren Vidal and Matthew Devine reflected on their year in office, sharing in hindsight the issues that proved to be their greatest triumphs and challenges.

In particular, the two said, they took pride in the wide range of programming and initiatives they took on to respond to the diverse opinions and needs of the student body.

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Basilica prepares for Holy Week

By KAYLA MULLEN
Associate News Editor

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“No Easter Sunday, we do a couple of things — we add a Mass and we allow more times for the Masses because the crowds are so big,” Fr. Peter Rocca, rector of the Basilica, said. “We have an 8 [a.m.] Mass; the only other time we have an 8 [a.m.] Mass is on football weekends — that’s the kind of crowd we get.”

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The dorms are selected by a committee consisting of the HPC Executive Board, the Judicial Council President and two student Senators, Wadja said. The selection committee focuses on how the dorms embodied “mind, body and heart,” based on their Hall of the Year presentations and monthly Rockne submissions.

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HPC awards Walsh with ‘Hall of the Year’ title

By KAYLA MULLEN
Associate News Editor

The Hall Presidents Council announced the Hall of the Year awards at its weekly meeting Tuesday, with Walsh Hall winning Hall of the Year, Keenan Hall bringing home Men’s Hall of the Year, and Farley Hall taking Women’s Hall of the Year.

Michael Wajda, co-chair of Hall Presidents Council (HPC), said, “All three dorms had enthusiastic and sustained participation in their hall events, achieved in large part through their personal outreach to all members of the dorm communities,” Wadja said in an email.

The dorms are selected by a committee consisting of the HPC Executive Board, the Judicial Council President and two student Senators, Wadja said. The selection committee focuses on how the dorms embodied “mind, body and heart,” based on their Hall of the Year presentations and monthly Rockne submissions.

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY:**

What is your favorite April Fools’ Day prank?

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**Erin Callaghan**

Freshman  
Breen-Phillips Hall

“Putting fake bugs in lampshades.”

---

**Mel Ricker**

Junior  
Breen-Phillips Hall

“Putting a rubber band around a faucet to spray water.”

---

**Corey Chiavelli**

Sophomore  
Morrissey Manor

“Making a scavenger hunt for a friend to find his headphones.”

---

**Josefinia Durini-Wollak**

Freshman  
Lewis Hall

“A guy burned lots of fires at the mouth of a volcano, making the city think the volcano was active.”

---

**Rebecca Wiley**

Freshman  
Cavanaugh Hall

“A guy tortured everyone in his class’s backbacks.”

---

**Katie Mackin**

Freshman  
Breen-Phillips Hall

“Covering the toilets with saran wrap.”

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Bikes emerge again on campus as the warm weather melts away the last of the snow, leaving many paths clear and open for riders to pedal about the grounds. Sunny skies and temperatures in the 60s are in the forecast today.

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**THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:**

**Wednesday**

MFA Student Reading  
Harmes Bookstore  
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Reading sponsored by English Department.

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**Thursday**

*“Behind the Beautiful Forevers”*  
Delbartos Performing Arts Center  
7 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

National Theatre Live.

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**Friday**

*“Prayer from Around the World”*  
Coleman-Morse Center  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Jewish Seder meal.

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**Saturday**

The Paschal Vigil Mass  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
9 p.m.

Holy Saturday mass.

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**Sunday**

Easter Sunday Mass  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Easter celebration.

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**Easter Sunday Vespres**  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
7:16 p.m.

Easter prayer service.
Nun speaks out against death penalty

By EMILY McCONVILLE
Associate News Editor

Sr. Helen Prejean, whose book about her experience as a spiritual adviser to two death row inmates inspired the Academy-Award-Nominated film “Dead Man Walking,” spoke about her spiritual journey and anti-death penalty advocacy at Our Lady of the Road Church in South Bend on Tuesday.

The lecture was sponsored by the Michiana Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker and the Center for Social Concerns.

Prejean said her story is one of awakening to a gospel of justice. She recalled a privileged childhood in Louisiana during the Jim Crow era, when she said she never questioned segregation or understood the legacy of slavery, which led to the disproportionate imprisonment of African Americans.

It was only later, after she became a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph and the Second Vatican Council emphasized a preferential option for the poor, that her “awakening” took place.

“We have 10 major housing projects in New Orleans, and I had never been to one of them,” she said. “When I woke up — and that’s the first part of ‘Dead Man Walking,’ was waking up — and I got it. The Gospel of Jesus is about people that don’t have a voice, that people look down on, people despise, people call them losers — these are marginalized people.”

Prejean moved into the St. Thomas Housing Projects, where she witnessed poverty and how the poor were affected by police brutality and bad education and healthcare. She said she realized then that living the gospel meant leaving her own privilege behind.

“It was like the world, it was always there in the inner city, but I had no anchor to it,” she said. “God put me there. We never wake ourselves up.”

While she was working at St. Thomas, Prejean began a correspondence with Elmo Patrick Sonnier, who was on death row for murdering two teenagers. Prejean later visited him in prison and became his spiritual adviser, the only person allowed to spend time with him in the hours leading up to his execution. In the electric chair, her face was the last one Sonnier saw before the hood was pulled over his head.

“Knowing what I’d just seen, having learned, beginning to learn about the death penalty, how it worked, who got it, who didn’t and how race place a part and how poor people get — everything I learned, I thought to myself — I wasn’t picturing your faces, but I was thinking of you, because I (thought) the American people will never be close to this, to see this,” she said.

Executions are a secret ritual done behind prison walls, and people are never going to be there to see those things through. As long as we don’t see it, we don’t care — there was a crime, justice was done, and so we don’t even think about it because it’s so removed from us. I was a witness, I had to tell the story, and my mission began that night.

Prejean worked with many other death row inmates and started advocating against the death penalty. In 1993, she wrote “Dead Man Walking,” about her experience with Sonnier and another inmate, Robert Lee Willie. The book found its way to actress Susan Sarandon, who showed it to her then-partner, Tim Robbins. Working with Prejean, Robbins wrote the screenplay for the film of the same name and cast Sarandon as Prejean and Sean Penn as a composite of the two inmates.

Prejean said a person’s position on the death penalty is often portrayed as a choice between convict and victim.

“When we hear about the death of innocent people who were killed in cold blood, there’s a part of us that experiences rage. Whoever did that, who carjacked that mother with those children, deserves it. That’s what the death penalty’s for,” she said. “Do we serve to kill?”

Prejean told part of her own moral journey was learning to reach out to victims’ families as well as death row inmates. She was reluctant to contact the parents of the teenagers Sonnier murdered, Loretta Anne Bourque and David LeBlanc, especially after she learned the details of Sonnier’s crime.

“I felt this guilt ripple through me,” she said. “What am I doing? I’m with them. I’m a spiritual adviser to the two people who killed these innocent kids, what am I doing?”

Prejean encountered LeBlancs parents at a hearing of the Louisiana pardon board, where she was testifying on Sonnier’s behalf. LeBlanc’s father asked her why she had not reached out to them before, but to her surprise, he also invited her into their lives.

“This man takes me into his heart,” she said. “He was the first victim’s family, even though I had done him wrong, who takes me into his heart, and I go pray with him.”

The LeBlancs, Prejean learned, were under tremendous pressure to be in favor Sonnier’s execution. Instead of letting anger consume him however, LeBlanc’s father forgave his son’s murderer, even visiting Sonnier’s mother at her house. Prejean said Lloyd LeBlanc was the hero of “Dead Man Walking.”

“He was the first victim’s family that taught me that what forgiveness means — when you give it, is not so much what you do for the one who hurt you to relieve their burden, though it may in fact do that, but to save his own life,” she said.

Prejean said she met many families like the LeBlancs; when New Jersey was in the process of eliminating the death penalty, 62 families testified in favor of the ban.

“When we meet those people who have been thrown in that fire, and we see the call of grace in them, it calls us,” she said.

Prejean ended the talk by telling the story of Pope Francis, who left his own life of privilege to work with the poor in Buenos Aires, and encouraging those in attendance to advocate for the end of the death penalty.

The talk also featured Misty Wallace and Keith Blackburn from Bridges to Life, an organization that connects victims of crimes with prison inmates. In 1992, Blackburn shot Wallace in an attempted carjacking and spent eight years in prison. Wallace later found Blackburn on Facebook and forgave him, and the two now travel together, discussing forgiveness and redemption.

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Hall

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through their Harry Potter Week, their Black Sister Bromback and their Soul Sister discussion series,” Wadja said.

“They are a Wild’ initiative also highlighted all of the cultures within the dorm in a way that was inclusive and engaging.”

According to the Hall of the Year results on the Hall Presidents Council website, Felary placed second, trailing Walsh by half a point.

“Farley engaged both the women within the dorm as well as the entire campus community with their variety of events and invited all residents to ‘Come Share Life,’” their new Hall motto, Wadja said.

“Farley’s award affirmed the attitude that has been seen throughout the year,” Casey Skevington, president of Farley Hall, said.

“Farley - just one week ago, Skevington said. “To me, it means home, family and friends all wrapped into one lovely experience that has been blessed to watch and be a part of the growth of our community all year long.”

“I would not be more proud of the women that live within the Finest dorm on campus.”

Keenan placed third in the overall competition but first out of all men’s residence halls and earned the highest presentation score of all dorms as well, according to the results.

“Keenan in particular revealed that they made the decision to focus on events to individuals who might not necessarily be the first ones to participate in events but are important to the community nonetheless,” Wadja said.

Howard came in fourth but earned the highest score in Rockne category, according to the website.

“We heard from so many presidents and vice presidents about events, processes and structures which reflected the unique cultures of their residence halls,” Kathleen Clark, co-chair of HPC, said at the awards.

“They each found a personal leadership style which matched the greatest need of their dorm. We will give out three awards tonight, but we are immensely proud of each of you and what you were able to achieve this year. All of you deserve recognition for a job well done.”

All three winners will receive a monetary award from HPC, Wadja said, while Keenan Hall and Walsh Hall will receive Dome Dances next year.

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health, homelessness, employment, caregivers, services and policies.

The event — which was organized by students in the Social Work 236 Human Behavior and Social Environment II class — included panelists such as South Bend Mayor Peter Buttigieg, who took a leave of absence to serve in Afghanistan in 2014; U.S. Representative Jackie Walorski, who is known for her services in the House Armed Services; Veteran’s Affairs and Agriculture Committees and Chairs the Nutrition Subcommittee; and Dr. Kent Laudeman, who served in the U.S. Army since 1968 and is currently as a retired Lieutenant Colonel.

Despite the speakers’ variety of perspectives and personal experiences of working with veterans, they all advocated making a difference by working as a community first.

“Regard veterans not as liabilities but assets. This will help more veterans to find a place in the community,” said Buttigieg. “We can do right by everybody who serves by welcoming them into the community more than just saying, ‘Thank you for your service.’”

Laudeman currently serves as the Director of the Robert L. Miller Sr. Veterans Center, which is connected to the South Bend Center for the Homeless. The temporary housing hosts veterans in need of help for two years without having to pay a cent. “That goal of the facility is to get them back on their feet with shelter, food, a warm shoulder and a warm shower,” said Laudeman.

Laudeman said his personal experience from fighting in Vietnam for a year inspired him to begin working with veterans.

“There are some experiences that I don’t want to remember, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything in my life,” said Laudeman. “I’ve grown.”

Walorski went on to discuss the problems that veterans face after coming home from war. Twenty-two American veterans commit suicide per day, she said, and more than half of the suicides are due to sexual assault.

“They are tens of thousands of veterans today that have suffered sexual trauma that have never been reported,” said Walorski. “The greatest catastrophe is the issue of suicide.”

Laudeman agreed and said that another major issue of homecoming troops is drug and alcohol abuse. Most cases are the result of PTSD, of which one in every five soldiers is a victim because they are trying to numb the pain of their memories, said Laudeman.

“There are mountains facing our veterans when they come home,” said Walorski. “I have such a profound respect for the American Reserves.”

Buttigieg said although every veteran’s return home is different, they are all difficult. The South Bend mayor or civilian should set aside common assumptions that they have.

“You come home, and you come to this radical change,” said Buttigieg. “There’s no question there are heroes — the things they did with no regard for their life or safety. In our rush to be complementary, we’ve created the T-ball effect, where everybody gets hit [with gratitude] — but not everyone comes back feeling like a hero. Not everyone is damaged either; most veterans don’t regard themselves as victims. Everyone has a very different experience.”

Walorski said that whatever the condition the soldiers are in when they come home, they need help from civilians to advocate for them so that they can get as little or as much help as they need.

“We have a half a million veterans and their families in our state [Indiana],” said Walorski. “It’s the greatest reward I’ve ever had to sit across from a veteran.”

“We want to do them right for the sake of right.”

All three panelists said they were frustrated about what the government is doing to help veterans on a national level.

“We are passionate about veterans because we are outraged,” said Walorski. “I think there’s a way that Saint Mary’s can rise up and be a part of a national model in a way that people have never seen.”

Walorski said she wants to implement a new national program that more veterans could have advocates to get the help they need.

“I think it would be incredible if we could start a national model through Saint Mary’s students,” said Walorski. “We could get social-work students at Saint Mary’s to be an advocate for so many of our veterans across the country.”

Freshman Anna Riddle said she found Walorski’s idea appealing and inspiring.

“I think it would be a good idea if we get Saint Mary’s involved in the National Program,” Riddle said. “I think it would show that it doesn’t just have to be the government providing aid. People have the power to provide aid.”

Sophomore Abbie Spica said she was concerned about peers who were just entering the military.

“Personally, I have community members I know enlisting, and they have concerns about problems coming back. I like the idea of first focusing on community involvement,” Spica said.

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Panel

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Ricketts
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freshman class, Ruelas said. The pair will also create an ad hoc department that addresses mental health at Notre Dame, Ricketts said. This new resource, combined with a confrontation of the climate that surrounds student mental illnesses on campus, aspires to increase the ease with which these students can publicKey.

“We have to say, ok students with mental illness... are we in a climate where they feel comfortable seeking treatment and talking openly about it?” Ricketts said. “And students, when they recognize someone (struggling with mental illness), are they ready to respond? We don’t think we’re there yet. And that’s part of our goal to make that a reality.”

Ricketts said the team also plans to create an online forum where students can have lower communication between students and campus administrators. “They need to create a way to bridge the gap between students and administrative, so people know what’s going on and can appreciate the work that administers are doing for the students, and students have the opportunity to discuss our concerns, and know that they’re being heard,” Ricketts said.

Ruelas said she and her partner are especially looking forward to talking to the students themselves. The team’s residential advisor sees these people whenever, wherever, all the time,” she said.

“The idea of the question of what will be most exciting is always so overwhelming, because there are so many things to get excited about,” Ruelas said. “I’m really excited about Senate and chairing Senate – that’s one of my biggies. And I’m really excited to get to meet all the representatives from the dorms. But in addition to that, just any day-to-day things, like interacting with people that really is my passion, I think, and why I ran for this position.”

Although the pair’s distinct vision for the next year in office separates them from outgoing student body president Lauren Vidal and vice president Matt Devine, Ricketts and Ruelas hope their term will have a big positive effect on campus, Ruelas said. “I feel that we have a very distinct vision, that’s the one we articulated throughout our campaign, and we firmly stand by that,” she said. “We want to carry that out throughout the whole remainder of our term. And in terms of meeting with Matt and Lauren, they’ve been great resources; they’re very engaged with our campus. And we just hope that we can fill their shoes and hopefully come with new initiatives to student government and also have the same effect that they had.”

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Vidal
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

so many people and to learn many perspectives and stories through these different threads that we’ve done this year,” Devine said.

Highlights
In particular, Vidal said this administration tried to focus on the Student Conduct and Disciplinary Review Board, which the University “China Policy” — she and Devine struggled to connect with the feelings of the student body with the University’s administration.

“We really tried to engage the campus, reach out to my allies,” she said. “… We did get some pushback after the fact; students were discouraged by the fact that they thought that they didn’t have enough of a forum for conversation or input. We understand that a gap between students and administration has always been present.

“That’s something that every student administration has tried to do, and this administration has tried to do,” Devine said. “And I’m essentially possessed that we would be promoting a supportive environment in the coffee.”

The Student Union Council will continue to address the Alma Mater policy annually. Devine said he and Vidal hope the 2018-2019 initiative would go beyond the holiday season and become a permanent fixture on campus. As of right now, a student conduct forum group has been assembled to review the program, and Vidal estimated that 10 to 15 residence halls will participate in events with their assigned families.

“[For 29] was a really organic effort to bridge our understanding of how students see the South Bend area but also at the same time develop really strong relationships with needy families around the community and to bring them to campus to be honorary members of the dorms,” Devine said. “The goal was to enrich students’ understanding of South Bend, but also to develop those personal connections.”

Challenges
Vidal said throughout the process of working with the University’s Undergraduate Council — which administered the “University’s China Policy” — she and Devine struggled to connect with the feelings of the student body with the University’s administration.

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Basilica
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“What is interesting is that at the end of that mass, I make an announcement on how to exit the Church because people are asked to exit through only certain doors,” Rocca said. “At the other doors, there are hundreds of people wait- ing in line to come in (for the next mass).”

However, while the Easter Sunday Masses draw the largest crowds, the Basilica has many events planned for Holy Week, Rocca said. The Basilica celebrates Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday in the entire weekend, the period of three days between sunset on Holy Thursday and sunset on Easter Sunday. According to the list, they are the Lord’s Supper, Rocca said.

“That Mass is most noted for two things,” Rocca said. “First, the Lord’s Supper itself, which is symbolic of our call to service. Then, we celebrate the Institute of the Eucharist and how that should touch our lives.

“As we eat Christ’s body and drink his blood, we do not only do it for ourselves, but we take that strength, that grace (from communion) to serve others, and that is beautifully portrayed in the Mass.”

Following this Mass, the Basilica celebrates Holy Saturday for “shadows,” at 11 p.m. Holy Thursday.

“This is a prayer service that originated in the Middle Ages in the Church, and it took place in the early, early hours of the morning of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday,” Rocca said.

“The monks would gather in their monasteries in darkness within their cloister, and would sing psalms and listen to lessons from the Old Testament, during which they would ex- alt their passion and old.”

One candle would remain ignited but would be hidden, plunging the whole monas- try into darkness, which Rocca said.

“The monks would take their books and bang them on the church steps to drive away any sound, called streptes.”

“it was supposed to be the symbolize the chaos that would occur when darkness reigns supreme.”

“Then the candle would come back in, and the banging would stop.” It would then be placed in the candlebra and would symbolize the light of Christ that would shine ever so bright at the Easter Vigil.

Students pack this service, Rocca said. “It’s like anything else they have experienced in Church before.”

“The music is very classical — a lot of chanting from the Book of Lamentations, a lot of polyphony, a lot of Latin,” Rocca said. “It is just a different kind of music that we would normally hear at Mass.”

Last year, Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the South Bend-Fort Wayne diocese presided over the Tenebrae service. He loved it so much that he asked us to receive the service at all other year.”

“IT is just great for all of the students to be able to see our chief pastor, our diocese Bishop, there, and he does such a wonderful job,” Rocca said.

This service concludes another important and major event leading into Good Friday. The chief celebration on Good Friday is the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion.

For those who cannot make the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, the Basilica also of- fers Stations of the Cross at 7:15 p.m., Rocca said.

Events are planned for Holy Saturday, since it is meant to be a day to commemorate the Lord’s death and burial, he said. At 9 p.m., the Basilica will gather in the Basilica for the Easter Vigil.

“We celebrate, in addition to the resurrection of Christ, is the elect, also known as catechumens, and their re- ception into the Church by receiving the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Holy Communion,” Rocca said.

Following the homily, the elect receive the rites of bap- tism and confirmation, Rocca said. When confirmation begins, he said, they are forward to receive their first Holy Communion, Rocca said.

“This is just a glorious cele- bration; the Liturgical Choir sings and there is just so much energy,” Rocca said. There will also be a 9 p.m. liturgy specifically for stu- dents, Rocca said.

“This was started years ago by a former director of Campus Ministry, Fr. Richard Warner, who is currently our Superior General and lives in Rome.”

“He just thought it was a great idea to bring the whole community together, especially since it is geared for the students.”

It is important, however, to note that the celebration of Holy Week represent one liturgy, Rocca said.

“The Mass on Holy Thursday night does not really have a dismissal,” Rocca said. “The liturgy just pauses and people come back to continue the liturgy with Good Friday.”

“It is basically three sepa- rate liturgies — the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion and the Easter Vigil — but the Church considers it one continuous liturgy over those three days.”

Prior to the celebrations of the holiday, the Congregation of Holy Cross ords some of their deacon- s on the Saturday following Easter, Rocca said. There are six deacons becoming ordained priests this year, he said.

“It is just a great time — be- ginning with Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday and end- ing at the Easter Vigil — it is just a wonderful time for the Holy Cross community.”

Contact Kayla Mullen at kmullen2@nd.edu
Dangers of ditching diplomacy

March 31 was the deadline to reach a nuclear agreement with Iran. It is too late to act or the opportunity to recognize what exactly is at stake. One need only consider the alternatives to diplomacy in order to see that any efforts to undermine a deal with Iran would be a major mistake. The alternative to the current negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program is no deal at all, an outcome detrimental to all parties involved.

Experts such as Ali Vaez, the International Crisis Group’s senior analyst on Iran, would agree that negotiating a deal, Iran will have the opportunity to increase its uranium enrichment capacity. That means if the U.S. and Iran fail to reach an agreement — which several members of Congress are trying to ensure — Iran would be several steps closer to acquiring a nuclear weapon and bringing the nuclear club to 10.

If we back away from the negotiation table too quickly, it is highly likely harsher sanctions will be imposed on Iran, resulting in further isolation and the potential for hostilities. The dangers of ditching diplomacy are real. Abandoning a deal with Iran could escalate into a march to war — with costs far greater than any of us can afford.

As president of Global Zero, Notre Dame, I’m committed to supporting negotiations with Iran because we know what is at stake. I hope our elected officials do too.

Theresa Rinaldo
junior
March 31

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Winter is here

Christopher Newton
Stepping Out Of The Cave

Incessant warnings about looming catastrophe typically have the unintended and counterproductive effect of desensitizing people to an issue. Think of warnings about climate change or the effects of binge drinking on your liver function. Better yet, consider the Game of Thrones refrain “Winter is Coming.” Said so often, they tend to be ignored until calamity strikes. As I’ve argued in this column before, my own personal mantra has been “Yemen is collapsing.” Lo and behold, the country now stands at the brink of not only a multi-sided civil war, but also a Hobbesian war of all against all. Already a state resting on crumbling foundations, and the tectonic geopolitical shifts across the broader Middle East are now toppling the entire edifice of the Yemeni statehood and threatening numerous others.

The poorest of the Arab states, Yemen possesses the second highest guns per capita in the world, depleted oil reserves, a corrupt and illegal government, and a struggling economy and120 nonsignificant political institutions. In a land filled with guns, but lacking exportable commodities, water and any means of nonviolent redress, violence and extremism have become aspects of daily life. Repeated rebellions in the north, a simulating secessionist movement in the south and the world’s deadliest al-Qaeda franchise are hallmarks of modern Yemeni politics.

Holy warriors, members of a minority sect of Shia Islam, have moved from their mountain redoubts to not only seize the capital, Sana’a, but major ports such as Mocha and a string of military bases. They now march south, engaging military units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was ousted in the Arab Spring protests, as well as those who remain faithful to current president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continues to control its own southern and western territories, waiting for the opportunity to expand its influence amidst a growing security vacuum.

As the fighting intensifies, with each faction backed by various states and other organizations, the violence will further distract Yemenis and the international community from the country’s real problems. Its economy and natural resources will continue to suffer from neglect and exploitation, and in turn, feed back into the basic motivations for violence. As geopolitical concerns assume greater prominence in the conflict, this downward cycle will only grow in speed and intensity, much to the detriment of the average Yemeni.

Failing in the footsteps of Syria and Iraq, Yemen is rapidly becoming yet another battlefield for the region’s major powers, an opportunity to extend one’s own influence and to reduce one’s rivals’. Iran, Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf Coast, Egypt, and the United States have staked to the state, proferring interventions of various forms alongside platitudinous claims of safeguarding Yemen’s sovereignty and regional stability. In a region where several centers of power have vied for supremacy since the close of World War II, any instability is akin to blood in shark-infested waters.

Iran backs the Shia Houthis, providing intelligence and logistical support and seeking to expand its reach deeper into Saudi Arabia’s backyard. The Gulf States do not so much back the irrelevant Yemeni government as they oppose Iranian encroachment, with their airstrikes targeting Iranian facilities more than strategic Houthi positions. The United States, already set to lose its primary Special Forces base, schizophrenically seeks to counter Iran’s moves in Yemen while also aligning with its involvement in Iraq and negotiating a possible nuclear deal in Switzerland. Egypt’s Abdul al-Fattah al-Sisi is more than willing to commit Egyptian ground troops to the fray to serve its own interests. AQAP seems to have been almost lost in the shuffle.

Yet Yemen stands as one arena among several in the broader Arab world. Libya, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and the Orthodox Palestinian Territories all provide possible arenas for the extension of this or that regional power’s influence. With so much instability, it appears to many westerners that the Arabs may be experiencing their own, tempered version of Europe’s tumultuous 1980s and 1990s. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton was the first to bring al-Qaeda to the United States, listing it as a terrorist organization.

Andreas Schuller followed the debacle that was the Yom Kippur War, the ideological void was filled with a dictionary of secular automatons like Hafez al-Assad, Saddam Hussein and Hosni Mubarak on one side and dynastic thrones like the House of Saud and the Iranian ayatollahs on the other.

This dichotomy held throughout the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s until its contradictions boiled over with the rise of violent Islamic fundamentalism and the Arab Spring uprisings. These trends swept away the post-Nasser paradigm, ushering in a new period of political reorganization, historically a bloody affair. Not only has despotism been questioned as a legitimate form of rule, but also Sykes-Picot itself is in jeopardy.

Yemen is the canary in the coalmine, the first alarm to sound of catastrophe over the horizon. If there is indeed to be a geopolitical reshuffling of the Arab world, Yemen will not be the only failed state. Libya is about to follow suit, Syria stands at the edge, Iraq is at risk for dismemberment and Lebanon remains ready for implosion at a moment’s notice. Yemen has collapsed, just as climate change is a reality, our lives may need a check-up and winter will fall upon Westeros. What will follow will likely not be a peaceful series of events.

Christopher Newton is a political science major and international development analyst on the Inside Column team. He can be reached at cnewton@nd.edu.

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

Outside Column

Joy in failure

I was walking down the street near sunset. The sky was painted blood red, and a cathedral bell echoed in the distance. I was the only person in sight. I turned the corner not entirely sure what to expect. A man with a vague resemblance to Freddie Kreuger was waiting for me and jumped at me before I even have a chance to react. I died quickly and painfully.

Over the weekend I began “BLOODBORN,” the latest video game by legendary designer Hidekata Miyazaki and his team at From Software, the makers of the infamous “Dark Souls” and “Demon’s Souls” games.

Like Miyazaki’s past works, “BLOODBORN” is a cruel, grueling and honest examination of probably one of the most miserable gaming experiences I have ever encountered. Monsters of all shapes and sizes are always lurking around the corner, waiting to strike and end whatever traction you’ve gained in the game. Experience does not add up unless you make it to the end, your game’s few safe havens. “BLOODBORN” forces you to play by its rules and punishments you severely whenever you make even a slight mistake. A massive “You Died” appears on the screen each time you fail, and it feels like the game is mocking me for even trying. The game seems to hate my guts, but I hate it more.

Every time I fail, I learn something new. Maybe I should have dodged left when the Freddy Kreuger-esque character was going for a jump, but instead I chose to fighting him head on. Maybe I should have taken a different path away. Each failure gives me an opportunity to learn something new about “BLOODBORN” and about myself. The missteps make the game that much more worth it though, because the defeats add up to a much more satisfying experience when I finally achieve a goal.

Failure is as integral to any part of our lives as it is to “BLOODBORN.” Whether it be a bad grade on a test, a rejection letter from a dream job or a poorly written Inside Column, failure is bound to occur at some point in our lives. Fortunately none of these missteps have a giant “You Died” message attached to them.

Rather, failure just means another opportunity to try again or the option to explore a new path. If we believe in ourselves, we can take these opportunities and make something wonderful out of them. So relax and take joy in failure, knowing that each defeat shapes us, and lets us grow into who we are meant to be.

Contact Jimmy Kemper at jkemper2@nd.edu.

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

Something with which I’m sure many of you can sympathize is the utter disconnect that one feels from the outside world while being a college student. I am often so immersed in my courses that I have a complete lack of awareness of the entirety of national and world events, leaving me with only Twitter as a barometer for inflammatory incidents. As I’m sure many of you have become aware, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is this week at the top of the list of things that are prompting rants and blow-ups on Twitter and other social media. Just today, in fact, I read a headline that read, “Mike Pence Legalizes LGBT Discrimination.” I then continued to scroll to see more and more statues saying, “Whatever happened to separation of church and state?” and “I thought this was supposed to be land of the free,” and, my personal favorite, “I’m moving out of Indiana.” While all of these opinions are valid with regard to that particular headline, as it relates to painful and engraving imagery from the events of civil rights issues that have polluted our history and poisoned the integrity of the culture of our great nation, I cannot help but see the flaw of this particular uproar. Many are petitioning to kill the bill and call Mike Pence, but have they even read the bill? Do they even know what it’s about? I’ve taken the liberty of giving it to you.

The bill states the following, as shown on the Indiana General Assembly 2015 Session website:

“Religious freedom restoration act. Provides that a state or local government action may not substantially burden a person’s right to the exercise of religion unless the government action is substantially justified in furthering a compelling governmental interest and the government action is the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest.”

Regardless of whether the state or a political subdivision of the state is a party to the judicial proceeding, allows a person who asserts a burden as a claim or defense to obtain appropriate relief, including: (1) injunctive relief; (2) declaratory relief; (3) compensatory damages; and (4) recovery of court costs and reasonable attorney’s fees.”

Basically, it just states that if you feel that your right to act in a manner congruent with your religious beliefs is being threatened or extinguished, you have the ability to not participate in that interaction. As you can see, there is no mention of LGBT populations or values related to a particular religion. The idea behind the bill is to protect a person’s right to act in a way that is in keeping with their personal religious views in their churches, homes and workplaces. For instance, let’s say you’re an anesthesiologist. You’re being asked to anesthetize a girl for an abortion, but you have deep personal convictions about abortion and simply don’t believe it’s right. This bill gives you the right to abstain from participation in what you believe is morally wrong according to your religion. Let’s say you belong to a Jewish family that owns a sign making company. If you were hired to print a sign with an anti-Semitic message, this bill would protect you from having to do so. While talk of LGBT discrimination may bring concerns, for instance, that a same-sex couple would be ejected from a restaurant simply because they are gay, that is surely not the content or intent of the bill. The place of the law is to protect the rights of the individual, not impose the particular opinions of any group on the individual, and I think this law does just that. If the girl wants to be anesthetized for her procedure, she can still have that done by another anesthesiologist. If the anti-Semitic customer wants his sign printed, he can go to any other sign maker to get that done. It would be out of line for him to pick on the sign maker for not participating in his prejudice and legally harass him for lack of accommodation, would it not?

Thoughts on the RFRA

For those of you who still have concerns that this bill puts LGBT individuals in a negative position, I have one word-solution: capitalism. If a company or business has a policy that you disagree with, take your business elsewhere. Better yet, organize a boycott. America is the land of the free. People have the freedom to express themselves how they want, hence why we have narrow-minded individuals and why we have prejudiced jerks. If we who combat those close-minded mentalities are to truly give ourselves credit for being accepting and tolerant, we have to engage in acceptance and tolerance even when it’s uncomfortable for us. Our tolerance must include those that we disagree with (after all, isn’t that the fundamental nature of tolerance, enduring that which you don’t necessarily personally subscribe to?). While the law can’t necessarily legislate to the degree of the moral convictions that you feel, it is absolutely within your power to contribute to a positive change in culture where we, the people, stand up for one another in the face of injustice. It is the responsibility of the people to promote the values with which we expect one another to respect one another. So be vocal and be bold, but make sure you’re directing that audacity towards the source of the problem, which is the organizations that participate in discrimination, not the bill that protects someone’s right to believe and act as they desire. When you accidentally take aim at the wrong issue, you become the oppressor who shoots down freedoms instead of the defender who promotes them. And finally, when you allow yourself to be swept up by extremely biased second- and third-hand information, like intentionally inflammatory headlines, you underestimate your own deliberateness and credibility, so be cautious and selective with what you choose to fuel your passion.

Gabrielle Weldy
freshman
March 27

Powdered alcohol approved for sale

Nasheva Babaw
The Daily Texan

The U.S. Alchol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau recently approved the sale of powdered alcohol, which is expected to be available to purchase this summer, although possibly not in Texas.

Powdered alcohol, or palcohol, is a powder that can be mixed with liquids — similar to the way Kool-Aid is mixed with water — to create an alcoholic beverage that can have alcohol content levels equivalent to a shot of vodka.

Six states have banned the product, while more than two dozen others have introduced bills to do the same. The House Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee approved a bill Monday banning the product’s sale in Texas. Palcohol has the same potential dangers as normal alcohol, according to Jessica Cane, chairperson of the High Risk Drinking Committee for UT’s Wellness Network.

“Technically it is alcohol, so we know what alcohol does to us,” Cane said. “Knowing what potential side effects powdered alcohol could have on individuals or the public at large, we don’t know yet.”

Students might be enthusiastic about the new product because it can be an alternative to waiting in long drink lines at concerts, according to government senior Javier Abrego.

“If it works the same way as alcohol, then I don’t see what’s wrong with it,” Abrego said. “Colleges have been known to have alcohol problems and drug problems on campus, so I guess it’s easy to conceal or hide powdered alcohol versus if you have a whole bottle of alcohol.”

English senior Miles Hosanna, director of the Pearl Street Co-Op, said he does not see powdered alcohol gaining a lot of popularity because alcohol is already easy enough to obtain at parties.

“I don’t reckon you can buy a keg of powdered alcohol, so I don’t think it will affect us at all,” Hosanna said. “I guess I can see it being something on sale at a convenient store, which would be cool, but I don’t know if it will ever be the same as a beer or anything.”

As long as students are cautious and stay educated on the project, there shouldn’t be trouble, Cane said.

“I’m really hesitant from the public health perspective to say that something is horrible and to sound the alarms,” Cane said. “There are reasons to be cautious about this product, and, as with everything, I think having the combination of education and surveillance of the data is the best thing we can do.”

The Daily Texan is the student newspaper serving University of Texas at Austin’s community.

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

In this time of oscillating winter and summer, a season many other areas of the world can simplify call “spring,” it gets difficult to keep your outfit on fleek from one day to the next. For when the sun’s rays actually do break through the Indiana permafrost, check out a few of these style tips to best show off your winter weight room investment.

The Jean Jacket
It’s iconic for a reason. You see it on runways, at metal concerts, on the backs of boy band members and on the ruggested of dudes out there. What’s awesome about a jean jacket is that it’s simple in design, but it adds a boat-load of character with the colors and accessories you choose. Black and blue are awesome, but if you’re looking to be extra bold try on a white and a tan one, or even change up the material!

For the chillier days, throw on a snugly fitting jacket as another layer, replacing the vest portion of a three-piece. Then, as the sun shines brighter, it can be mixed with a button-down and tie to channel your inner urbanite. And if you get too hot in the mid-day sun? Go Call on your jacket and tie it around you waist for bonus sartorial

points; it won’t care.
Just don’t go Canadian tuxedo on me.

Measuring Your Shorts
Don’t let your shorts get confused with your chubbies. This means that the “below the tips of your fingers” rule from Catholic school doesn’t apply to shorts in the same way as it did to skirts. This summer, keep the hems of your britches cut above the knees. Any longer, and you have the horrid capris on. Shorter? Just consider how little sun your thighs got this past winter.

For styling: slim and printed. T-shirts aren’t the only place for graphic designers to go wild, and shorts are a great location to show off some creativity. Stripes and polka-dots are good for beginners, then go for some heavy prints as you get more comfortable. Checking out a sailboat-printed pair? Those are for people who either own a boat or at least know how to use one. Plan accordingly.

The Little Things
Time to give yourself the “pop” you may have been missing. My personal goal is to invest in my wrists this summer. No Apple Watch for this college student, which means the focus is on “dumb” watches and bracelets. All on a budget.

Some of my shopping pet peeves are the accessories

that high-end stores peddle, where they offer a leather bracelet for the price of their finest suit. To save your cash for a dapper blazer, try creating your own wrist bling. Black and brown leather strips are available at most hobby stores, and just by adding a clasp you could be ready to go. If you have an ache for something fancier, try weaving a few leather strips together or making a minimalist bead bracelet.

For watches, DIY is less of an option. To avoid blowing your ring-by-spring budget on your tick-tock, check out Timex’s collections. The Weekender collection puts an affordable $40 price tag on casual watches with great designs that will be with you through both summer camps and internships. Although the brand isn’t the best for formal wear pairings, the “Timex Originals” can get you through a black-tie event if needed.

For the rest of the body, look for better lapel pins and rings that make even Frank Underwood jealous. A floral fabric pin or a metal badge adds extra styling to your go-to suit and comes as an easy way to match the liveliness of the season. For rings, experiment according to your comfort level. I’m a minimalist guy, so I’m on the hunt for a simple, cast-iron-esque piece until I can start knocking my class ring around.

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By KEELY BERGIN
Scene Writer

“The Casual Vacancy” by J.K. Rowling was released under a pen name in 2012 where it was greeted with minimal fanfare and was generally not well reviewed, even after she was revealed as the author. It was called “not only disappointing — it’s dull,” according to “The New York Times.” Rowling also released another book under a different pen name, called “Cormoran Strike,” which was received much more enthusiastically. The negative reviews that “The Casual Vacancy” received may have prevented some Rowling fans from actually giving the book a shot. It may be that when reading “The Casual Vacancy,” many Potter fans were looking for that same sense of magic which they simply did not find in the bleak village of Pagford.

However, new life has been breathed into the book by HBO and BBC One. The book has been transformed into a three part miniseries. There seems to be brighter prospects for the story as a miniseries, with the adaptation credited to Sarah Phelps, who wrote scripts for “Great Expectations,” “Camelot” and “EastEnders.”

The cast brings in “Harry Potter” alum Michael Gambon. Gambon previously starred as Albus Dumbledore and will now star as Howard Mollison, owner of a delicatessen in the seemingly idyllic town of Pagford. Rory Kinneor, who recently starred in “The Imitation Game,” will take on the role of Barry Fairbrother, a councilman whose death opens the series.

Other cast members are up and coming stars, like Abigail Lawrie. While the cast may not be completely stacked with huge names, the trailer for the series looks promising. The illusion of the idyllic town is stripped away quickly, with the plot revolving around the town’s reaction to Fairbrother’s death and the ever present resentments within the town of Pagford.

Some considered the story to be too dark — almost an antithesis to “Harry Potter” — but it can also be viewed as dealing with many of the same struggles present in “Harry Potter” from a more “muddled” perspective. Within the story, there is a wealth of struggles among all manners of people: rich against poor, teenagers against parents, students against teachers, to name a few. While these struggles are used in many different mediums, Rowling’s darker take on these issues creates a more compelling drama for television.

For those who have read the book, don’t expect it to be a word for word translation. As with most adaptations, allowances must be made for the medium the story is told in. Phelps has revealed that she to have the “grim, grim, grim” ending of the novel and put in “some kind of redemptive moment” to make the story work for television.

Rowling fully supports Phelps’ adaptation choices, calling her “a writer at the top of her game.” Rowling had discussed Phelps’ vision of “The Casual Vacancy,” making Rowling “happy and confident to hand over the job” of shaping the story for television.

The series has already been released in the United Kingdom, and the reviews are promising. “The Telegraph” describes it as a “biting, blackly comic drama” with “an elegiac feel.” It might not be a feel-good series, but given the past successes of Rowling and Phelps, as well as BBC One and HBO in the production of mini-series, “The Casual Vacancy” will undoubtedly be an excellent production.

The series was released in the United Kingdom on BBC One on February 15. Just in case you wanted to do some pre-reading days procrastination, the first two parts will be released on HBO on April 29, and the third part is due April 30.

Contact Keely Bergin at kbergin1@nd.edu

By EMILY DANAHER
| The Observer

By DANIEL BARABASI
Scene Writer

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Contact Keely Bergin at kbergin1@nd.edu
On Tidal, streaming services and the value of music

Matthew Munhall

On Monday afternoon, Jay-Z assembled a cabal of A-list musicians in New York to announce the relaunch of Tidal, the Swedish streaming service he bought for $56 million earlier this year. The press conference and the accompanying promotional video had the star power of an Illuminati meeting framed with the significance of a historical event. Alicia Keys delivered a speech filled with the vague platitudes of a high school valedictory address, calling the day “a moment that will forever change the course of music history.” Then, all of the artist’s present went up one-by-one to sign a document commemorating the launch, as if they were the Founding Fathers signing the Declaration of Independence.

Tidal is being touted as the first “artist-owned” music platform and represents a growing pushback against the corporate ownership of artists that were the hallmark of the major labels. The founders of Tidal are among the artists’ founding owners, who all have an equal stake in the company’s equity. “The challenge is to get everyone to respect music again, to recognize its value,” Jay-Z said in an interview with the New York Times. “Everyone knows that the pay system is unfair to artists.”

In one sense, Jay-Z is correct in his assessment that the Internet has conditioned listeners to expect music for free and that streaming services do not fairly compensate artists. Last year, Taylor Swift’s decision to pull her catalog from Spotify, which she classified an “experiment,” was well publicized. Scott Borchetta, the CEO of Swift’s label Big Machine, alleged the label received less than $500,000 from streams of Swift’s music on Spotify over a 12-month period.

Yet, it’s not Swift, or the artists onstage at the Tidal launch event, who are ultimately hurt the most by streaming services. Even with Spotify’s payout range — which the company states is between $0.006 to $0.0084 per stream — Swift was still receiving six figure sums. It is the independent artists who receive nowhere near the number of streams as major-label acts who are hurt the most by streaming services’ devaluation of their music.

In addition to the involvement of artists, Tidal is attempting to carve out a niche for itself with a Neil Young-like obsession with high-fidelity audio and exclusive content. At its launch, these exclusives included Daft Punk’s 2006 film “Electroma,” a video of the White Stripes’ first TV performance and curated playlists by Jay-Z and Beyoncé. Unlike Spotify, however, Tidal does not offer a free option — a “Premium” subscription starts at $9.99 per month, with a $19.99 per month tier offering higher sound quality.

Tidal foreshadows a splintering of content among different streaming services. It’s not difficult to imagine that Rihanna and West, who are both due to release new music this year, might make their albums available to stream exclusively on Tidal. Apple plans to launch a subscription service this summer and reportedly hopes to have a similar focus on procuring exclusive content. The idea of a single service that offers listeners access to nearly every artist’s discography on demand is likely to be threatened as these multimillion-dollar companies compete over the next few years.

For me, the act of buying and owning music, both physically and digitally, holds more appeal than ever. Even if an artist pulls their music from a service, you can still play vinyl on a turntable or an MP3 on your computer. Owning music is also an ideological act of supporting artists whose music enriches your life; it signals a conscious decision to recognize the work of artists whose music resonates with you on some level. Despite the ridicuously grandiose rhetoric surrounding Tidal, it nonetheless brings attention to the necessity of reimbursing artists for their work. Whether the service succeeds or not, it will hopefully continue conversations about fairly compensating musicians, especially independent artists, and what value music should have in the digital age.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Matthew Munhall at mmunhall@nd.edu

On Tidal, streaming services and the value of music

Matthew Munhall

Sufjan Stevens’ coming of age in ‘Carrie & Lowell’

By KELLY MCGARRY

We could have guessed from the title, “Carrie & Lowell,” that Sufjan Stevens’s new album would be something deeply personal. The names Carrie and Lowell refer to Sufjan’s mother and stepfather, respectively, though the album focuses mainly on Sufjan’s mother, who was spooky and radical in his life, and his complicated experience with her death in 2012. In the opening track “Death with Dignity,” he repeatedly warns us “I don’t know where to begin,” and thus begins a confused exploration through a dark tangle of emotions.

In a sort of coming-of-age work, he abandons the clutter of fantastical lyrics and electronic experimentalism of his recent albums to embrace a raw autobiographical expression of his own experience. Returning to his guitar-based folk roots, Stevens’s resulting music is bare to the point of being criticized as boring. The consistent lightness and ease of the melodies and vocals are sharply contrasted with the unease of the lyrics. The album is certainly not fun to listen to, but it is definitely worthwhile as it captures a deep and painful journey. With a title that refers so explicitly to Sufjan’s mother, no part of the album can be disentangled from her memory, so by necessity it maintains a serious, genuine tone.

In modern music, we’ve come to expect most religious references to have a mocking attitude, but Sufjan is known for having a strong connection with his religion. The references in “Carrie & Lowell” can be interpreted as sincere and deeply personal. He includes religion as an influence in the discussion of suicide, expressing that it is “the only thing that keeps me from driving this car, half-light, jack knife into the canyon at night.” He also references a dependence on his religion, pleading “Jesus, be near me, come shield me,” and an experience with doubt, asking, “How, God of Elijah?”

The entire album showcases a hushed battle with grief. The music itself is slow, almost hesitant. It doesn’t attempt any grand claims. It proceeds steadily throughout, with no definitive climax. In the album’s fifth track “Eugene,” Sufjan himself wonders, “What’s the point of singing songs if you know they’ll never hear you?” He identifies the whole album as an exercise in futility, acknowledging there really is no purpose. Faced with grief, there is no definite response. This album is instead an honest account of the maturity caused by loss. Though it may not necessarily be the album we want to listen to on every occasion, it’s the kind that we sometimes need to hear.

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When it comes to tradition in baseball, change is tricky. The sport needs changes to keep tradition alive in a new era. But too much change can push away the folks who’ve been watching for ages and liked the game the way it was, thank you. And if the changes don’t bring in new view- ers, well, then Major League Baseball loses everybody. This season, MLB will introduce the pace of play rules it experimented with during the Arizona Fall League and spring training. A play clock of sorts will give teams 2 minutes 25 seconds, or 2:25 in games on national television, between each half inning and pitching change. Fines could punish those who violate the clock. Players also won’t be allowed to leave the batter’s box if they didn’t swing at the previous pitch unless the umpire gives them permission. That’s a new one on us. Baseball is all about finding a groove, but batters can groove in the batter’s box and waste an inordinate amount of time. The quirks of players’ between-pitch routines will live on, although perhaps with less velcroing and un-velcroing of batting gloves.

MLB.com reports these measures could take away over 10 minutes off Arizona Fall League games, and it should be a success in the majors this upcoming season. For those who don’t want to meddle with baseball’s slug- gish traditions, have no fear. In 1960, the average baseball game lasted just under 160 minutes. In 2013, the average game took over three hours, according to statistics compiled on FOXSports.com. The average game length hasn’t been on a continuous upward trend; there have been peaks and valleys. But since around 1978, the average game length generally has climbed and has not dipped back below that year’s average. The point is, there’s a good deal of baseball history before 1978 featuring shorter games. Now, the MLB should be careful here and not get carried away with introducing clocks and time limits. Much of what makes baseball interesting are the mind games between pitchers and batters. (Am I going to pitch now? How about now? Or now?) Micromanaging the game would take away players’ individual styles and also the relaxed dimension of the game. The key is to remember what baseball is not. It is not foot- ball, driven by high-octane physically. Really, baseball is weird.

On one hand, baseball provides October drama, the suspense of the bases-loaded- two-outs-bottom-of-the- ninth situation and New York Yankees fans who just excused themselves to run over their Red Sox fan neighbors to buy flowers. But baseball also provides the opportunity for Sunday afternoon outings in July and the “I just came here for a hotdog, a sunburn and some America” attitude.

Baseball fans tend to enjoy both the intense and laid-back elements of baseball, believing each type of game-watching experience has its place. Because of this, I mean it when I say good luck to the executives trying to run baseball. It’s an odd, finicky sport that’s difficult to manage everyone’s satisfaction because it means a lot to a variety of people at different times. Hopefully we’ll see a new pace of play rules work. Some fans won’t like it, and shaving time off games isn’t always easy, but we should push baseball in a positive direction.

Baseball games will always take a while, and that’s part of their charm. But that doesn’t mean players should have the liberty to waste tons of time for the fun of it or because of sluggish habits. The new rules are geared to cutting down on unnecessary delays, not the game’s characters. The changes are tricky, but they should pay off.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu

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By HUNTER McDaniel  
Sports Writer

Irish head coach Jim Kubinski was excited about his team's chances this weekend when it traveled to the Legends Club in Nashville for Vanderbilt's annual spring tournament.

"There's a lot of strong competition at Vanderbilt, which is what we'll face at ACCs," Kubinski said. "This week offers us another chance to get out and compete, which is part of the development process with a young group. We're hungry for success, so every time out is exciting for us.

Once they get to Nashville, Kubinski said the Irish have a plan of how to finish the season strong.

"We're a team that needs to keep building confidence and trust. That's our No. 1 goal now," Kubinski said. "Whether in Nashville or here on campus, we're excited about every opportunity to compete. It's competition that offers young players the most. It looks like one starter, [junior] Cory [Sciwroda], will be our No. 1 singles player with an injury, but that should also provide an opportunity for another young guy to step up."
Irish look to improve at Stanford Invite

By ANDREW ROBINSON
Sports Writer

After kicking off their outdoor season at the Texas Relays and Bobcat Invitational last weekend, more than 50 Irish athletes will travel to Palo Alto, California, to take on a large field at the Stanford Invitational, beginning Friday.

Coming off its opening meets of the outdoor season in Texas, Notre Dame had a combination of positive and negative takeaways, Irish head coach Alan Turner said.

"Last weekend" was a little bit mixed," he said. "Some people performed extremely well, and there were other performances that it just looked like we were out to lunch a little bit."

Among the standout performances was senior Jade Barber, who toppped her own school record of 12.93 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing second at 12.81.

Turner also noted how senior All-American Chris Giestling ran impressive splits in the 4x400- and 4x200-meter relays, just as junior Margaret Bamboose ran a strong split in the 4x100. Turner said he feels like Barber, Giestling and Bamboose are all coming into top form as the outdoor season gets underway.

"My really, really good kids are ready to run fast this weekend at Stanford," he said.

Turner said he was also impressed by senior Carly Leofel, who finished seventh out of 18 in her return to the track in a heptathlon field Turner described as "stacked." Adding to the list of promising outcomes from the first weekend was freshman Greg Bombara, who finished second in the javelin throw (59.61).

Turner said he was disappointed, however, by the final scores of some of the relay teams.

"I'm looking for much better performances [this upcoming weekend]," he said.

In the upcoming Stanford Invitational, there will be roughly 100 colleges represented, though many teams will only be bringing a few athletes. Those bringing full squads includes Texas A&M, ranked first on both the men's and women's sides, as well as No. 6/7 Arkansas, No. 14/12 Stanford, Ohio State, Minnesota, Wisconsin and a mixture of smaller California schools.

"Competition is going to be very good this weekend," Turner said. "It's not quite as deep as other meets, but in almost every event, there's probably going to be someone who's already an All-American in it."

After taking a week of rest while teammates were in Texas, the distance runners will return this weekend at the Stanford Invitational, and Turner said he expects to see some good times.

Junior Molly Seidel, who earned indoor All-American honors, will compete in the 5,000-meter race on the women's side; meanwhile, juniors Michael Clevenger and a returning Timothy Ball will compete in the 5,000 meters on the men's side.

Junior Danielle Aragon will represent the Irish in the 1,500-meter race.

"This should be a good meet for our athletes," Turner said. "Everyone will get a good chance to [compete in] their main events, in good weather against good competition."

The Stanford Invitational will take place Friday and Saturday at the Cobb Track and Angell Field in Palo Alto.

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Softball
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been and will continue to be successful if the Irish focus on beating opponents in two out of three categories: pitching, hitting and fielding.

“Usually, when we do two of those things better, we’ll win ball games, and that’s what we have done recently,” Gumpf said.

Seven out of the past nine victories have come against ACC opponents, something Gumpf said will help the Irish as they advance toward postseason play.

“Every game is important, [but] obviously we want to put ourselves in a good position for the ACC tournament and get a good seed, so that’s something we’ve been focused on,” Gumpf said.

And although the Irish have won nine straight, Gumpf said there are always things she believes the team can improve upon: better at-bats offensively and exploiting opposing hitters’ weaknesses defensively.

“I think we need to make sure we’re hitting the ball in good counts, not allowing too many strikes to go by,” Gumpf said. “I think pitching-wise, we need to be sure that we’re forcing their hitters to hit the ball where we want them to hit it.”

If the Irish are to complete the perfect home stand — and extend their overall win streak to 10 — they will have to contain Eastern Michigan’s strong offense, Gumpf said.

“Eastern Michigan can hit the ball well — they’re a live-hitting team and they score a lot of runs,” Gumpf said. “We need to control their hitters and be certain that we’re taking care of the ball on the pitching end.”

Notre Dame will face off against Eastern Michigan on Wednesday at Melissa Cook Stadium.

first pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

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W Lacrosse
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

last Saturday against the Tar Heels at Arlington Stadium.

Halfpenny said after this loss her team emerged with a renewed sense of fight and determination.

“All 32 kids come away going, if we can [play like against North Carolina] every time out, we have the confidence now to understand that we’re positioning ourselves to continue to earn a spot in the NCAA tournament by winning these games,” Halfpenny said. “By closing these out, by making a couple more plays, that’s all we’ve got to do.

“There was some serious spirit out there. There was another level of speed that I hadn’t seen yet.”

Against the Tar Heels, the Irish not only managed to overcome a six-goal deficit, but they also won many of what Halfpenny called the “hustle stats.” Notre Dame outshot UNC 31-18 in the game, including a 14-6 edge in the second half — as well as winning the ground ball and turnover battles.

Notre Dame also rang five shots of the post over the course of the game, and opposing Tar Heel sophomore goalkeeper Caylee Waters stopped 13 Irish shots to match a career high. The Irish will face another goalkeeper coming off a strong performance in Virginia’s Rachel Vander Kolk. The freshman earned ACC Defensive Player of the Week honors yesterday in large part due to her 18-save performance in Virginia’s 15-13 upset over previously-unbeaten Boston College on Saturday. The Cavaliers were outshot 41-26 in the game, but rode Vander Kolk to victory, a talented backstop Halfpenny said the Irish are well aware of.

“(Vander Kolk) was a great goalie in high school,” Halfpenny said. “I remember recruiting her … and now she’s getting her opportunity at Virginia. … You’ve got to make this goalie move though, because she does really good holding, she’s got great hand-eye coordination, and so we’re definitely going to have to move her and get this ball around her.”

Halfpenny said this weekend will be important for the Irish to keep their postseason hopes alive because the NCAA mandates a team be over .500 before it will even be considered for the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame currently sits at 6-5, and with a schedule 16 games long, the Irish will need to win three of their remaining five games to qualify. In addition to Virginia, Notre Dame also has No. 7 Syracuse, No. 6 Northwestern and No. 10 Louisville among its final five games, meaning the Irish need to beat at least two teams ranked in the top 10 and unranked Michigan to qualify.

“Here we find ourselves now in April,” Halfpenny said. “We got our legs under us in February, we learned a lot about ourselves in March, and now it’s time to really just grab this identity we have … and find sixty minutes of that against another No. 4 team in the country.”

While the Irish are desperate for a win this weekend, there is also a chance at history in Charlottesville. Neither Halfpenny — including her time at William & Mary and Notre Dame — nor the Notre Dame program have ever beaten Virginia on the road. Don’t try to tell Halfpenny though.

“I know it’s going to sound boring, but [a win] just means we’re 7-5,” Halfpenny said. “ … We’re just focused on getting that seventh win right now.”

Notre Dame looks for its seventh win against Virginia at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon at Klockner Stadium in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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Irish senior infielder Katey Haus gets ready to swing in Notre Dame’s 13-0 win over Georgia Tech on March 21 at Melissa Cook Stadium.

Irish junior attack Rachel Sexton takes a shot against Syracuse on April 19 in an 18-10 loss at Arlotta Stadium. Sexton has recorded 23 goals and three assists this year.
Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

but returned to South Bend for one more workout, which he said will prepare him for the NFL Combine in February.

“I feel like [today] went good,” Daniels said. “I did better at the Combine. I think there were two normal players to run routes for former Irish quarterback Andrew Hendrix.

Daniels is projected as a late-round pick in the NFL Draft, with analysts praising his physical abilities but critiquing his academic trouble.

“I just want to be put in a good situation,” Daniels said. “Anywhere I go, I know what I can do, and I’m just going to give that team my all.

“Regardless of what happened and stuff, I think we all handled it. We moved on and made good decisions to turn our lives around and took something positive out of it. We came out here today and took another step in that direction.”

Linebacker Kendall Moore, who lost his 2014 season due to the academic investigation, worked out as well, posting an unofficial 4.57 second 40-yard dash and took something positive out of the experience where he said he would do at the combine.

Koyack said he would do at the combine, but returned to Notre Dame's Pro Day at Loftus Sports Center on Tuesday.

Koyack, who is projected to be a mid- to late-round draft pick, caught every pass during his position drills and ran a 4.72 40-yard dash.

“I’m just trying to show [the scouts] my name should be called sooner, not later,” Koyack said. “I’m trying the cemement myself as a guy they see as a kid that’s not a top prospect, see as someone they could put into any situation.”

The lone player to venture outside on the day was kicker Kyle Brindza, who worked out at LaLab Practice Complex. Brindza kicked both field goals and kickoffs, connecting on 10 of 12 attempts from 33 yards or longer and missing a touchback just once on his kickoffs.

While it is usually difficult for kickers to get drafted at all, Brindza said he had met with several teams who were interested in his ability to both kick and punt and said he was “draftable.”

“I have worked my butt off so hard this offseason to prepare not only for the combine but for Pro Day and just continue to elevate my game,” Brindza said. “I’m not too worried about being drafted, being undrafted, being a free agent. The biggest thing I’m worried about is being able to prove that I’m able to go into camp and compete and cut my butt off and win that job.”

Defensive linemen Justin Utupo and Eban Johnson also participated in the Pro Day, with Utupo working out at every drill and Johnson missing only the 60-yard shuttle.

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Baseball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

baseman Zak Kutsulis. “There were situations where we needed to do it; we just need to be able to go up there with the proper approach and execute,” Acki said.

“It doesn’t always end up with the appeal of a hit, but those times are just as important. The name of the game is not trying to get a great batting average; the name of the game is trying to cross home plate more times than they do.”

Notre Dame was aggressive on the base paths early, recording the first three innings. A stolen base in the second inning set up Notre Dame’s first run, as senior right fielder Riley Hughes stole second and Youngdahl stole second and then made it home on sophomore catcher Ryan Lidge’s blooper to left field.

Aoki said the Irish were able to get good jumps against Eastern Michigan freshman left-hander Adam Bratton, who was making his first collegiate start. Horstna was removed with no outs in the fourth inning after surrendering four runs on five hits.

“If the numbers add up right, [Horstna] was pretty slow to the plate,” Aoki said. “I thought that his move was pretty readable, so we were able to put some pressure on him that way. We just looked at it as an opportunity that presented itself, so we tried to take advantage of it.”

Smokey, Notre Dame’s usual midweek starter, outlasted his former career high of 5 1/3 innings pitched in Tuesday’s complete-game performance. Smokey allowed hits in all nine innings of the game — but repeatedly pitched out of trouble, something Aoki said is one of his strengths.

“That’s kind of why and what Ryan is,” Aoki said. “Ryan’s a kid who throws a lot of strikes — he relies on his ability to command pitches, whether it’s a curveball, slider, fastball, that sort of thing.

“He gives up a hit, but he manages it. He does a good job inducing some groundballs.”

Notre Dame recorded its only two extra-base hits in a two-run eighth inning. Youngdahl drove in senior left fielder Ryan Bull with a double, and two batters later, Kutsulis slammed a triple to score him. Notre Dame looked to rebound from its last two conference series — sweeps at Marquette (17-16, 4-8) and No. 9 Virginia, respectively — when it travels to Pittsburgh this weekend to face the Panthers (11-16, 4-8).

Despite their recent conference struggles, this weekend’s series isn’t any more important or crucial for the Irish, Aoki said.

“I think we just continue to sort of stay the course,” Aoki said. “We went through a stretch with two elite pitching staffs. In one of those series, we didn’t have two of our better offensive series.

“I think we just continue to concentrate on having quality at-bats and making quality pitches and playing defense. And I think when it’s all said and done, we’ll be fine.”

Notre Dame and Pittsburgh are both 1-1 in conference series at Charles L. Cost Field in Pittsburgh starting Friday at 3 p.m. Saturday’s game is also scheduled for 3 p.m., while Sunday’s series finale is set for 1 p.m.

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M Lacrosse

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is on both sides of the ball.”

“We look to play both ways,” Near said. “We have offensive guys who can play defense, and I think that’s going to be important as we go down and make a playoff run. It puts a lot of pressure on the other teams.”

Sophomore goalkeeper Shane Doss, who made 12 saves against the Orange on Saturday, said the plan for the rest of the season is for the team to continue to maximize the abilities of everyone on the team.

“It’s incredibly hard on other teams to game plan against us,” Doss said. “There’s no way for other teams to really predict what’s going to happen, that makes us a really dangerous team, and that’ll be good for us going down the road for the rest of the season.”

The Blue Devils can be just as dangerous as an offensive team Saturday. The defending national champions already have four players who have notched 20 goals or more on the season — freshman attack Justin Gutierrez (33), junior midfielder Myles Jones (26), junior midfielder Deemer Class (23) and sophomore midfielder Jack Bruckner (21). Jones has also tallied a team-leading 22 assists so far.

Although Duke is coming off two straight losses to Syracuse and No. 8 North Carolina, Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan said the Irish are very aware of Duke’s abilities as a top-tier ACC team.

“We compete like hell Monday through Friday,” Corrigan said. “I love this conference because every game is a big game. Every game is meaningful, and that’s the challenge of it, but it’s also the joy of it.”

In the battle between two potent offenses, Notre Dame will travel to Durham to take on Duke in a rematch of last year’s national championship game at 5:30 p.m. at Koskinen Stadium.

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CAROLINE REED/SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE Former Irish running back Cam McDaniel looks for a pass at Notre Dame’s Pro Day at Loftus Sports Center on Tuesday.
Happy Birthday: Good fortune is heading your way. Put more time and energy into improving your skills, knowledge, experience and get good professional opportunities. You can make a difference to your standard of living if you use access competently and selling to learn as you go. Adaptability will prove to others that you have what it takes to be successful. Your numbers are 8, 18, 26, 29, 35, 82.

TAurus (April 20-May 20): Nothing will be totally crystal clear. Dig deep and dig out what others are waiting for. Listen and learn. Have a go at an alternative that interests them. Don’t let mundane jobs take up all your time. Do something that appeals to you. ● ● ●

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Present what you have to offer. The moves you make now could help you get your way. A partner will show greater interest and contribute to something that means a lot to you. A competitive challenge will end up in your favor. ● ● ●

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Don’t take your eye off the ball. As soon as you let down your guard, someone will jump in and take over. You have to use your imagination and stay ahead of any competition you face. Don’t give in to pressure. ● ● ●

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your eye on the ball and make a move when you know it will count. You will be a reminder of what you wanted to aspire to. You can use your skills and talent to bring your best self to the fore. Someone will step in and take over. ● ● ●

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotions will surface, putting you in an awkward position. Look at the big picture and put it all into a bigger issue what do you need. Love is highlighted, and making a romantic gesture will improve your personal life. ● ● ●

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You’ll be tempted to take a risk or to get involved in something that isn’t for you. Focus before you take a leap of faith, and focus someone who is offering something that sounds too good to be true. ● ● ●

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A conservative in your approach to helping others. Your assets and protect your possessions. ● ● ●

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Greater cash flow. A competitive challenge will get you heading in a new direction. Consider ways that you can use your skills and tap into to bring in extra cash. A partnership with someone with lot to offer will result in solutions you’ve never seen before. ● ● ●

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your numbers will be a reminder of what you wanted to aspire to. A partner will show greater interest and contribute to something that means a lot to you. A competitive challenge will end up in your favor. ● ● ●

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on learning, sharing information and visiting people who can help you get ahead. Reclaim from taking on too much such as helping someone else when you should be trying to make your own dreams come true. Invest in your future. ● ● ●

Birthday Baby: Self-confidence and the ability to challenge and compete with anyone who tries to match what you can do are astute, competitive and willing to learn as you go. Adaptability will prove to others that you have what it takes to be successful. Your numbers are 8, 18, 26, 29, 35, 82.
Eleven former players return for Pro Day

By GREG HADLEY
Editor-in-Chief

As Sheldon Day looked on Tuesday, the group of 11 former Irish players he considered joining this winter went through the paces of Notre Dame's Pro Day at Loftus Sports Center.

Scouts from 28 NFL teams were present, but the absence of Day and senior offensive line- man Ronnie Stanley, who both decided to return for their final season, from the drills meant two of Notre Dame's top potential prospects were not on the field.

Five of the 11 players who did participate suited up for the Irish in 2014, but perhaps the biggest name present was some- one Notre Dame missed all season: DaVaris Daniels. The re- ceiver spent the entire year un- der investigation for suspected academic dishonesty.

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Senior Sports Writer

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