Vidal, Devine to present report to Trustees

Outgoing administration will offer recommendations to improve University’s mental health resources

By MARGARET HYND
Newspaper Editor

On Thursday, student body president emeritus Lauren Vidal, student body vice president emeritus Matthew Devine and student body chief of staff emeritus Shannon Montague will present recommendations to the Board of Trustees for how the University can improve mental health resources for students.

Each spring, the outgoing student body administration has the opportunity to present recommendations on an issue they are passionate about to the Board. Vidal said.

Vidal said her administration has been working on the mental health issue for quite some time; she, Devine and Montague gave a “pilot project” to the Board of Trustees on stress and student well-being in October. Vidal said the former administration began the report by assessing the resources on campus and how students use them.

“We found that we have all if not more resources than what universities across the nation have, so in that respect we are doing a good job,” Vidal said.

SMC president responds to ‘The Hunting Ground’

‘THE HUNTING GROUND’

FEB. 27: ‘The Hunting Ground’ released
APRIL 9: Film screening and panel discussion at Saint Mary’s
APRIL 17: Film screenings and panel discussions at Notre Dame
APRIL 28: Panel discussion at Notre Dame; student-led discussion at Saint Mary’s
APRIL 28: Students-only conversation with SMC President Carol Anne Mooney

By LALEH EJEMEN
Newspaper Editor

Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney will host a students-only conversation about sexual assault Tuesday at 5 p.m. in Verner Veneri Theatre, in light of discussion surrounding the CNN documentary “The Hunting Ground.”

Director of media relations Owen Brien said Tuesday will be the best opportunity thus far for dialogue between administration and students. She said Mooney is committed to the topic of sexual assault and wants seniors to have a chance to discuss their concerns before graduating.

“Carol doesn’t intend to leave this topic at the end of the semester,” Brien said. “This conversation will continue.”

Brien said the conversation will involve only students, with the exception of Connie Adams, director of the Belles Against Violence Office. She said the discussion is necessary in order to make progress.

“(Tuesday) is a time for students to have the opportunity to view this documentary and then discuss the issue.”

Professor to walk 30 miles to raise money to build well

BURKINA FASO WALKS IN ONE WEEK TO OBTAIN AND BRING BACK 30 MILLION FRENCH FRANCS FOR $1 EACH FROM TABLES IN FRONT OF KEENAN AND DILLSON HALL TO THROW AT MEYER AS HE WALKS BY.

Michael Meyer, an associate professional specialist in the Mendoza College of Business, will walk 30 miles around campus while carrying two gallons of water Sunday to raise money to build a well in Burkina Faso.

Meyer will do 20 laps of a 1.5-mile route around campus, to accomplish a total of 30 miles, which represents the distance a typical village resident of Burkina Faso walks in one week to obtain and bring back water. For half of his walk, Meyer will begin the walk at 6 a.m. in front of Keenan Hall. From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., students and others onlookers can purchase water balloons for $1 each from tables in front of Keenan and Dillon Hall, to throw at Meyer as he walks by.

“I will admit my wife is very concerned that this will turn out to be a stoning, and I will get injured as students hurl water balloons at me,” Meyer said. “I have confidence that even with the frustration of throwing water balloons at me, the money will make it.”

OUTatND seeks to promote LGBTQ rights on campus

OUTatND, a grassroots movement, aims to change this title and developing Notre Dame as a true safe space for LGBTQ students, said founder Jake Bebar.

“Currently, there is a lot of ambiguity around the term ‘ally’ on this campus,” Bebar said. “To some people, you can be an ally even if you don’t support marriage equality. To others, you can be an ally even if you don’t support LGBTQ relationships.”

“OUTatND believes that being an ally means supporting equality in every sense—relationships, marriage, gender identity and everything else mentioned on our website. We don’t want there to be any ambiguity around the term,” said Bebar.

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WALK PAGE 5

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:
What are you doing this summer?

Adrienne Bruggeman
sophomore
Le Mans Hall
“I’m working on a campus research team in organic biogeochemistry and taking naps in the sunshine.”

Ashley Watkins
junior
Le Mans Hall
“Living on campus, working and road tripping out west.”

Julia Sturges
freshman
McCandless Hall
“Working at a camp.”

Kate McGowan
freshman
Le Mans Hall
“Soaking up the sun.”

Kayla Zellmer
freshman
McCandless Hall
“Going to Charleston, South Carolina.”

Stephanie Israel
junior
Regina Hall
“I’m going to learn all about promoting Tiny Houses.”

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?
Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Monday
Spring Concert
Washington Hall
8 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
A cappella concert by Halftime.

Notre Dame Day
Campus wide
All day
Celebration of the University’s founding.

Tuesday
Snite Salon series
Snite Museum of Art
6 p.m.-5:45 p.m.
Collegial discussion and exchange.

Baseball
Frank Eck Stadium
6:05 p.m.-8:05 p.m.
The Irish take on Michigan State.

Wednesday
Thanking Mom
Hesburgh Reflecting Pool
2 p.m.-6 p.m.
Celebration of moms.

Grotto Trip
Bond Hall
10 p.m.-11 p.m.
Hosted by the Asian American Association.

Thursday
Mindful Meditation
Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Practice in meditation.

“Grey Gardens”
(1976)
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Free for ND students.

Friday
Grounds and Hounds
Brownstone Hall
2 p.m.-4 p.m.
De-stress with dogs and free coffee.

Baseball
Frank Eck Stadium
6:05 p.m.-8:05 p.m.
The Irish take on Northwestern State.

A student stands behind a mosquito net during Notre Dame’s Initiative for Global Development Challenge on Monday. As part of Notre Dame Day, the challenge hopes to raise money for Connectivity, Electricity and Education for Entrepreneurship in Uganda.
Alumni create philanthropic clothing company

By MADISON JAROS
News Writer

Three brothers, all Notre Dame graduates, created an apparel company called Free World United in November 2013 with the idea that “every dollar earned is a dollar that gives back.”

Company co-founder Francisco Diez, class of 2003, said the company was created to be “a source for fundraising, a different option for nonprofits to raise funds, and to engage their donor base.”

Free World United creates apparel collections and unique landing pages with a handful nonprofits that range from wildlife conservation to the support of children in developing countries.

When a customer purchases one of Free World United’s T-shirts, $10 goes to the nonprofit of the buyer’s choosing.

Diez said the inspiration to create Free World United came from the brothers’ love for their home community of Bend, Oregon. That’s how the group started working with the Galapagos Conservancy, their first nonprofit.

“The Galapagos Islands are part of Ecuador, and our parents have a tourism business there,” Diez said.

“So we’ve always been close to the Galapagos Islands, and we’ve grown up with the issues facing the Galapagos. So we wanted, initially, to help the Galapagos any way we could. When we started thinking about it — we all have business degrees from Notre Dame, so we put our heads together and said, ‘you know we all actually know about business’ — and that led down the path of creating T-shirts — and that’s where the whole idea of Free World United took shape.”

Word of mouth spread the company’s name from there, Diez said. This spring, Free World United created a campaign called Earth Day called Earth Day Army. The company hoped to raise funds for the Galapagos Conservatory and the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund. A late start hurt Free World United’s efforts, but the company plans to continue the fund into 2015, Diez said.

“We turned the Earth Day Army into a year-long campaign, that is going to build up all the way until Earth Day,” he said. “Now that we have an idea of the dynamics of working with the network and the length of time it takes — we realize that we need to start this way ahead of time. And building it into a year-long model is going to help us create the sort of snowball (effect) that we want.”

But this campaign is just the beginning, Diez said.

“We want to, essentially, grow from being an apparel company to, essentially, a lifestyle company,” he said. “Where most of your everyday products, we’re going to offer in our store, and every single one of them is going to give back to a cause.”

Giving back to the community is at the core of Free World United’s mission, Diez said.

“We grew up in a — I guess you could say a Third World country. I guess for the last 20 or so years, Ecuador was considered a Third World country,” he said. “Everyday, you see poverty, and you see how the rainforest is being cut down, and how a small economy tries to cope with growth by doing things that maybe shouldn’t be done. But when you grow up in a place like [Ecuador], you feel that you have to give back for all the things you do at some point.”

“People in First World countries, they love to give back … what we want to do is take that spirit but offer it in a day-to-day basis.”

Contact Madison Jaros at mjaros@nd.edu

Office of Housing returns to old inspection policy

By MATTHEW McKENNA
News Writer

This year, preliminary end-of-the-semester student room inspections took place in some residence halls the Sunday before finals week, in lieu of class breaks. This change is a transition back to the policy of prior years; last year was the only year in which inspections took place during finals week.

Karen Kennedy, Director of Housing, said the “change” in procedure is to provide a transition back to the procedure that was observed for more than a decade.

“The practice of requiring all student rooms to be inspection-ready by 10 p.m. on the Sunday before the last week of classes has been long standing at the University,” she said.

“Last year’s move-out process was handled differently and, because those changes did not produce positive results, it was decided to return to the previous time line for readiness for room inspections.”

Kennedy said there are two goals for student rooms to be ready for inspection by Sunday at 10 p.m.:

“One is to provide for the University to be able to inspect rooms for critical repairs that must be made as soon as students move out, and the other is to confine the noises associated with furniture moving and assembling/disassembling prior to the start of study days and finals,” she said.

Kennedy said the procedure benefits students as they study and rest for finals.

The transition back to the old policy is a direct result of the negative feedback and logistical issues created from the change last year, Kennedy said. “We received feedback from both students and hall staff that the procedures implemented last year provided for additional noise throughout final week; that the move-out process was move-out inspections more challenging, resulting in untimely damage billing charges and other challenges to prepare the halls for Commencement and summer guests,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said students who fail to complete the required move-out procedures may be subject to a fine.

“These fines help ensure compliance and, when applicable, cover the costs of repairs, undue cleaning and lost keys,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said elevated beds, which are permitted to be constructed in residence halls without modular furniture, have been required to be down by 10 p.m. on the Sunday before the last week of classes for at least a decade.

“Students who choose to construct elevated beds are notified of and agree to this when they sign the elevated agreement at the beginning of the year,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said this procedure are always being revised according to feedback received from individuals throughout the Notre Dame community.

“I understand and appreciate the concerns shared with me by students, and will take student feedback into consideration when looking toward how move-out and room inspections will be handled in future years,” Kennedy said.

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmcken12@nd.edu

College celebrates 30 years of Gay and Women Studies

By OLIVIA JACKSON
News Writer

This year, the Gender and Women’s Studies (GWS) program at Saint Mary’s is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Department chair Stacey Davis said the program officially began in September of 1985 as a minor only.

“Over the last 30 years, women’s studies had been offered since 1972,” Davis said. “We started teaching an introductory course in 1994, and we had student-designed majors from the mid-1990s until 2013. This is our first year as a department with a major, so the 30th anniversary is a celebration of that accomplishment.”

Davis said the GWS program has a strong presence throughout the Saint Mary’s curriculum.

“The major would not have happened without the support of our faculty, who teach classes in over a dozen departments and programs that count for GWS,” Davis said. “Currently, we have five majors and 14 students will graduate with a minor in GWS this spring.”

Sophomore GWS major Michaela Gaughan said the program is important because it lends light on important issues related to gender on a global scale.

“I think it is important for colleges to have GWS programs because they promote gender differences, create an understanding about gender and [challenge students to think about the concept of gender],” Gaughan said. “I think it is important for women’s colleges to have GWS programs because historically women have faced inequality on both sides of the gender. I believe GWS programs provide insight to students about historical struggles women have endured along with present current challenges women face.”

Sophomore GWS major Kylee Garabed said joining such a program on campus is beneficial because it can create a “feminist presence.”

“A feminist presence will make sure that the student body is aware of the social issues by holding lectures and events, and this will bring the issue of inequality to the minds of the student body,” Garabed said.

Davis said the Saint Mary’s GWS program has hosted several events on campus and in the community. It co-sponsored panels on the films The Hunting Ground and Fifty Shades of Grey, South Bend’s first Slutwalk and an event with the Girl Scouts with Michiana. The program also sponsored a talk by Joel Barrett, a writer who spoke about his experiences with gay therapy.

Garabed said she has found the GWS program to be a rewarding experience.

“This program is truly amazing. The professors are all great and so passionate about what they are teaching,” she said. “All of the classes that I’ve had to take for my major are so interesting and fun. I believe GWS programs can provide a student with a new perspective on many social issues and inequalities. Saint Mary’s has a GWS program that is open to all individuals who share different perspectives and beliefs. The best part about going to class is knowing it is going to be discussion-based, and you’ll have the opportunity to share your perspective as well as discover something new.”

Contact Olivia Jackson at ojackson0@stmarys.edu

Due to technical difficulties, Notre Dame Day will be rescheduled for a time following the final three hours of the program from 8 p.m. – 11 p.m. Tuesday, which will allow everyone the opportunity to watch, give, and vote for their favorite areas of interest. All activity will be made available through notredameday.nd.edu
President CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to speak candidly with Carol without the media present, be- cause it really is about the stu- dents," she said.

O’Brien said she hopes stu- dents will be honest with President Mooney because that is the best way for the con- versation to continue.

Over the past several weeks, “The Hunting Ground” has sparked discussion and debate on both Notre Dame’s campuses. The college screened the documentary April 9, which features Notre Dame as a school that ineffec- tively responds to sexual assau- lt allegations, some against Saint Mary’s students. Mooney introduced the film, and from the audience during the panel, she addressed concerns that she had disregarded a student’s sexual assault complaint.

A second panel discussion, run by students, April 20 cov- ered a range of issues and proposed a list of recommen- dations for the Saint Mary’s administration on providing more support to victims of sex- ual assault.

Alumnae, as well as stu- dents, have expressed con- cerns about the issue raised in the April 20 panel.

2013 graduate Jessica Bebar created an online petition. Lopez said the petition, which resulted from an iteration that arose from the April 20 panel discussion, has 301 signers, with a goal of 500.

The petition seeks to grab the attention of Saint Mary’s administrators, specifically President Mooney. A sec- tion of the petition written to President Mooney reads, “as the first lay alumna presi- dent of Saint Mary’s College, you have the power to make a truly significant impact on the history of our college. You can encourage your fellow adminis- trative officials to make sexual assault a priority issue and add sex to the agenda.”

Lopez said there are several reasons alumnae are signing the petition.

First, we love our school, we support its mission, and we want to hold it accountable for its actions,” she said. “Second, we support our students and advocate for their safety. Third, we have been impacted by sexual assault either per- sonally or through a friend, and we don’t want the past to repeat itself. We expect better outcomes for the current and future stu- dents of Saint Mary’s College.”

Lopez said she saw “The Hunting Ground” on April 9 when it showed in Bloomington, Indiana. During her time at Saint Mary’s, Lopez was a history and humanistic studies double major with a minor in Gender and Women’s Studies (GWS), and she heard about the documentary on the GWS Facebook page.

Lopez said she decided to draft the petition for alum- nae because of her love for the college. “I think it is important that the voices of its students are not only heard, but that their requests are acted upon,” Lopez said. “Saint Mary’s is a community of strong, educat- ed women who believe in their school’s ability to lead in this mission for change.”

The main platform for ad- vertising the petition is social media. Lopez said. “With our current access to social media, the relationship between student and alumnae has never been stronger,” she said. “I want the students to know that alumnae are listening and support their cause for change.”

The response to the petition has been exciting and speaks to the Saint Mary’s experience, Lopez said. “I am delighted with the re- sponse we have had from the alumnae so far,” she said. “It truly goes to show how tight the bonds of sisterhood are at Saint Mary’s. At times we have to be our own advocates, and this is that time.”

Lopez said current students have been the guiding force behind drafting the alumnae petition. “Their passion and activism truly inspired me to hold myself accountable as an alumna and fulfill the pledge I made after graduating from Saint Mary’s, that is, ‘to continue the mission of Saint Mary’s College by integrating the core values of learning, community, faith, spirituality and justice into my life beyond Saint Mary’s.’”

“The students are the great- est resource [and] our school, our administrators, can ben- efit from listening to their experiences.”

Contact Kaylor Mullen at kmullen2@nd.edu

OUTatND CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he said. The organization is independent of the University and is focused on promoting equality, visibility and solidarity for the LGBTQ commu- nity at Notre Dame, Bebar said. The organization is composed of undergraduate, graduate, fac- ulty and alumnae, according to the OUTatND website.

“We believe in equal rights, priv- ileges and resources for the entire LGBTQ community,” the website said. “We believe that members of the LGBTQ community deserve access to rights including but not limited to marriage rights and spousal privileges, relationship equality (i.e. the right and safety to engage in an open, honest, and public non-heteronormative rela- tionship), [and] sexual orientation and gender identity inclusive non- discrimination clause in Notre Dame policies.”

The group also wishes to ensure equal access to Notre Dame re- sources, such as housing and rest- rooms, and to promote visibility of the LGBTQ community on cam- pus, the website said.

“We believe that all members of LGBTQ communities should feel free to openly demonstrate pride toward their respective gender, sex- uality and gender identity, and to engage in activist practices that cel- ebrate the embodiment of non-nor- mative sexual and gender identities and/or gender,” the website states.

“We also believe that through our organization, we can establish an open and secular network of support for individuals who may be questioning their sexuality or gender identity,” it said.

The group is launching its first initiative today in recognition of the marriage equality case that is also being heard by the Supreme Court today, Bebar said.

“We’ll be launching a video fea- turing a number of out students and faculty,” Bebar said. “At the end of the video, we will be encouraging out ND members and alumni to upload videos of themselves shar- ing their ND experience. We really want to celebrate this.”

“Both LGBTQ individuals and allies are encouraged to participate in our photo campaign by upload- ing a photo of themselves holding a sign showing their support for the LGBTQ community.”

OUTatND recognizes the activ- isms that has led to the creation of PrismND, which provides a space for respectful dialogue about LGBTQ issues, but PrismND has its limitations, Bebar said.

“We are conscious of the limi- tations of PrismND because of LGBTQ rights that remain unre-ognized and needs that remain unmet, such as the support of gay relationships,” Bebar said.

Knowing that PrismND pro- vides a necessary resource for many students and that its ex- istence could be put at risk if it were involved in this initiative, OUTatND operates 100 percent in- dependently of both PrismND and the University of Notre Dame.”

Ultimately, Bebar said, the goal of OUTatND is to advocate for the needs of LGBTQ students at Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and in the South Bend community as a whole.

“We want every openly LGBTQ, closeted, or questioning student to know that we are here,” he said.

Contact Nicole Caratas at ncاراتas01@saintmarys.edu and Martha Reilly at mreilly01@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s hosts Second City improv troupe

By NICOLE CARATAS and MARTHA REILLY

Improvisational comedy group Second City, which came to Saint Mary’s for a weekend of teaching classes as the Margaret M. Hill Endowed Visiting Artists, held a press conference and performance in O’Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary’s on Monday.

According to troupe member Casey Whitaker, Second City loved interacting with Saint Mary’s stu- dents through these events.

“Anytime there’s a group of strong women anywhere, it’s go- ing to be awesome,” Whitaker said. “Everyone is so supportive and so open, and you can tell that you guys care and love each other, and that’s great when doing improv be- cause you’re open and supporting each other.”

Troupe member Jamison Webb said the improvisation group in- cluded some material exclusive to Saint Mary’s throughout its performance.

“There’s some improvisation throughout the show where we get suggestions from the audience to inspire scenes or moments within

Students, staff and members of Second City, an improvisation group from Chicago, after the troupe’s performance Monday. The group held a press conference for the SMC community in O’Laughlin Auditorium.

ultimately responds to sexual assau- lt allegations, some against Saint Mary’s students. Mooney introduced the film, and from the audience during the panel, she addressed concerns that she had disregarded a student’s sexual assault complaint.

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The petition seeks to grab the attention of Saint Mary’s

CREATE NEW STORY | The Observer


teraction.

“Any kind of have an advantage going into improv and sketch com- edy because you already know about emotion and commitment,” Whitaker said. “When you’re im- provising a scene, you’re writing as

you go. So it’s kind of a completely different muscle. You can’t go home and practice your lines a bunch. You just do it in that moment, so you have to be super present when you’re improvising, which could of course then lead to a great scene.”

Contact Nicole Caratas at ncاراتas01@saintmarys.edu and Martha Reilly at mreilly01@saintmarys.edu
Christopher Newton
Stepping Out Of The Cave

No, we are not there yet, so stop asking. While it is my last column, I promise to largely adhere to the foreign affairs commentary and not provide you with a diary entry or pretend I have a loyal following (I estimate regular readership at an optimistic four). For those who are not familiar, we are speaking of Plato’s allegory of the cave, or what you will. It has several names, but boils down to the difficulty of changing a person’s perspective when they have become deeply rooted in one way of seeing the world. Woe to the writer who believes it is a mere matter of eloquence or even evidence. If you are not a fan of Plato, imagine living your entire life within a single dorm party and then having someone attempt to describe darbies.

The careful reader may have noticed my title happens to be rather similar to my byline, a reflection of my intentions with these Viewpoint columns. The goal of this apologetically irregular column was always to shed a bit of light on issues of international security and to show in some small way that the world is not the great mass of baffling chaos it often appears to be. I have attempted to unravel bits and pieces of issues related to Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, the Islamic State (IS) and the like, seeking to challenge prevailing opinions of hostility, confusion or sticking your head-in-the-sand-because-reading-is-harmful, digressing the Middle East and Central Asia. Many people look at these regions and see only homogenous masses of angry Muslims, endless violence and a series of complex issues that are not worth the time it would take to understand them. It is an uphill battle and I certainly claim no expertise — I write Viewpoints, not peer-reviewed articles or pieces for “The Economist.”

Allow me, then, to briefly touch on a few of the major issues of my favorite regions of the world before signing off. I came into this university on the heels of the Arab Spring and was granted the opportunity to write about the subsequent winter. Over the past year, the metaphorical snow has begun to accumulate.

The Islamic State has reached its high water mark in terms of territorial aggrandizement. While it may prove to be an adept terrorist organization in the coming years, it is at present acting as a beneficiary of the ongoing civil war in Syria, and certainly does work for the Islamic State to claim to be the new caliphate. Amidst an absolutely fascinating and not necessarily those of The Observer.

The need for theology

The curriculum review committee is discussing eliminating or weakening the theology requirement. With the notable exception of Carolyn Woo, most of the pushback has come from theology professors and majors. It is not surprise theologians value theology, but this gives a false impression. We, the undersigned, are not theology majors, but we recognize theology is a vital part of a Catholic education because it is a tool to keep the theology core requirement. Catholic universities must educate their students’ hearts along with their minds. Notre Dame is the foremost Catholic university in the world, and as such we must also offer an example of how to combine faithful witness and academic excellence. Eliminating the theology requirement would frustrate our mission and bring Notre Dame closer to being another good school among many.

Theology courses are the most direct encounter students can have with “the big questions” from the perspective of what God has revealed: What are we doing here? Why does it matter? How do I relate to God and to those around me? Thus, theology is in a unique position to change students’ lives.

Some have suggested that classes about Catholic themes — such as classes about the history or sociology of Catholicism — could replace theology. Such courses are important, but cannot replace theology. Theology is central to a Catholic education because its distinctive subject is God’s self-revelation and our place in the world in light of that revelation. Every discipline is valuable, but theology’s perspective is unique.

Furthermore, the core requirement gives structure to the theology department. Since every student has to take two courses, the theology department has more faculty and graduate students than other departments. This offers students more perspectives along with more role models who can guide them on how to live their faith. Weakening the requirement will slim down the department and make Notre Dame a much poorer place to be a Catholic.

Thus, we the undersigned oppose any effort to elimi- nate, reduce or dilute the theology requirement.

Brian Stahl
history
Keenan Hall
April 24
Let’s do this together: a letter from Fr. Jenkins

Sexual assault has no place at Notre Dame, where we promise to take care of one another and care for ourselves in creating a community that cares. Regrettably, Notre Dame isn’t immune to sexual assaul, as our annual crime reporting indicates. In fact, we’ve seen spikes in reporting in recent years, which may be an indicator of a courageous willingness of survivors to come forward. These are not instances where assailants are strangers who jump out of the proverbial bushes, but in which students are known to one another. A review of conduct hearings over the last decade shows that all students who have been found responsible for non-consensual sexual intercourse were permanently dismissed from the University. Still, combating sexual assault is an ongoing concern and a priority of mine.

I have asked Erin Hoffmann Harding, Vice President for Student Affairs, to write separately and in greater detail to all students to remind them how to report sexual assault, what support services are available, and what more we can do collectively to prevent it.

Meanwhile, in encouraging students to report crim inal conduct to the police and/or administratively through the University’s conduct process, we want to support them fully in the process. That’s why we have hired more investigators and more professional staff to walk students through the process and to support their decision-making throughout. It’s also important to me that investigations of sexual violence are conducted without fear or favor.

As important as is support for survivors, prevention is critical. That’s why the University has expanded bystander intervention training and other strategies to deter sexual assault in the first place. Our student leadership is to be commended for being in the forefront of these and other education efforts including conversations of progress and change.

Our country was started in a bipartisan way, a land whose freedom guided the most challenging conversations. We were a nation that together, fought for our moral commitments. We raced to the moon. We aspired to intelligence, not to credentialization. We led the world in the classroom, in the laboratory and on the Olympic field. We could succeed in these ways and we could shine a beacon of light because we were informed. Ironically, information is both the defining characteristic of the twenty-first century, but it also chains us. Inundated by possibilities, we forget to focus.

Notre Dame should be seen as a microcosm of the United States. Although our University does not operate as a democracy, our campus presents an opportunity for us, as citizens, to interact meaningfully with leadership and to ask the right questions in order to receive desired results. If we want to walk hand in hand with faculty and staff towards a common goal, we as students must engage. Transparency exists only in the worlds of those who make a persistent effort to keep it alive.

This needs to be a partnership, but we have to meet them halfway. Step outside of the classroom and apply what you’ve learned in real time. Read your emails, follow University Press releases, ask the difficult questions and be persistent about getting the answers. Go to your elected officials, work with your senators and attend collective discussions. Require your representatives to represent you. Make use of the Senate floor. Senate is a place for the student voice; it is held for the few, but it is a place for the few to attend. Ask your current leadership to invite administrators to the floor, so that students have another way to communicate with Main Building.

Let us condition ourselves to participate as committed citizens of any community. Let us sculpt the future of our generation’s interaction with government, religion and macro-level discussion. Let us engage with one another meaningfully in order to inspire change that can only come from honest and calculated conversation. Together, we can set the tone and reflect what it means to be today’s Fighting Irish and what it means to be a young American.

Internalizing the true value of freedom requires us to continually monitor its health and magnify its necessity.

This is your University. Take your opportunity to engage as both a privilege and an obligation, for with great power comes great responsibility. I am honored to be a member of the Class of 2015 and a member of the Notre Dame family. I look forward to seeing my peers rise to unparalleled heights, to reading about our students setting agendas in public and private arenas and to witnessing a class of individuals leading with their hearts and learning with their spirits. Now and forever, let’s go Irish.

Lauren A. Vidal
Student body president emeritus

April 27

Meet the administration halfway

Too often our students speak of the ‘mysterious administration’ that actively seeks a barrier between us and the leadership of this University as an adversary. One? We want to, or is there an ugly form of peer pressure that would you feel if your mother or grandmother had one simple answer: Ask. University decisions are not made with the deliberate effort of keeping students out of the conversation. As a matter of fact, most divisions, departments and committees are throng for student input; I would know, I spent a year crossing that imaginary line. I believe in meaningful citizenship. I believe in a population dedicated to conversation and improvement. If, as leaders, we strive for perfection in communication and strategy, we will land somewhere near excellence.

Our Notre Dame community is a magnificently one, characterized by intelligence, talent and devotion. We are a team of students working to lead every field of study on a national and global level, but how can we do this if we continue to treat our relationship with the leadership of this University as an adversarial one? So close to the real world, two weeks from graduation, I will soon join working America as a representative of a Notre Dame education, but also as a representative of our generation. We are a generation typically characterized by impersonal interactions, an addiction to digital entertainment and an attention span far shorter than that of our grandparents, which leads me to worry for our patience in wanting to, or is there an ugly form of peer pressure that would you feel if your mother or grandmother had one simple answer: Ask. University decisions are not made with the deliberate effort of keeping students out of the conversation. As a matter of fact, most divisions, departments and committees are throng for student input; I would know, I spent a year crossing that imaginary line. I believe in meaningful citizenship. I believe in a population dedicated to conversation and improvement. If, as leaders, we strive for perfection in communication and strategy, we will land somewhere near excellence.

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The common ground

Stephen Raab
Let’s Talk Smart

April has been Sexual Violence Awareness Month, and the last two weeks have only strengthened the ground-swell against rape on Notre Dame’s campus. Staff and students alike have been eager to counter the trou-bling accusations raised in Kirby Dick’s “The Hunting Ground,” as well as the all-too-familiar email reporting a sexual assault.

I have nothing but support for the anti-rape activism as it stands. The prayer services, Take Back the Night, Marches and Denim Day are all great ideas. My hands are reddened with applause, though I do wish it didn’t take the scrutiny of a major motion picture to spur the University into such visible action. The text of the mes-sage is on point. I merely take issue with the subtext.

Consider one of the most popular slogans of the modern sexual assault prevention movement — “Don’t teach women how not to get raped, teach men how not to rape.” It’s a simple message that calls to mind many of the societal failures of cases like the Steubenville rape, in which media voices sympathized with the perpetra-tors and the “promising futures” they had lost, rather than with the traumatized victim. Further, it illustrates the utility of consent education, as many who commit sexual assault do not understand that their actions constitute rape.

University of North Dakota professor Sarah Edwards published a 2014 study in which one-third of reporting men admitted they would force a woman into sex if they would suffer no consequences, but only 13 percent reported they would “rape” a woman under the same circumstances.

However, such thinking also perpetuates a dangerous false dichotomy by suggesting that anti-sexual assault efforts ought not merely to expand their scope and reach out to men, but to also stop educating women on how to reduce their likelihood of victimization. The subtextual message is that women don’t need to take any precau-tions against criminals, because that would be “victim blaming” and it’s the criminal’s responsibility not to commit crimes. Obviously, this puts women at risk — some rapists will not accept or will actively reject at-tempts to “train” that behavior out of them, and anyone who fails to take precautions will be statistically more likely to be victimized.

This is in no way to say that women who fail to take precautions are to blame if they are sexually assaulted. The rapist will always bear full legal and moral respon-sibility for his (or her) deplorable actions. However, the matter of where the blame rests is trivial compared with the trauma suffered by the victim of a sexual assault, which we should be trying to avoid altogether. If you drive without a seat belt and do not watch out for other drivers, you are statistically more likely to be in a fatal automobile accident with a drunk driver. You won’t have been “asking for it,” and it won’t have been your fault, but you will still be dead. Just to be on the safe side, isn’t it best to teach defensive driving and seat belt usage?

One common response to such logic is that women are already bombarded with information on rape avoid-ance, and any further advocacy would be wasted effort. While it would be nice to think so, this is apparently not the case. I recall one prominent feminist in The Observer who stated her goal was a campus in which she could go running around the lakes at night, alone, with her headphones in, and not have to worry about becoming the victim of a crime. Unfortunately, you can spend all the time and money you want educating men, and that wish will never come true.

And there’s the rub — the anti-rape activists on cam-pus seem to feel we must choose one strategy to the exclusion of the other. In reality, the best results will be achieved when women take precautions against victim-ization and men are simultaneously socialized not to become rapists. I’m an engineer — redundancy is key to preventing a system from failing those who rely on it. Maybe the best way to solve this problem is a semantic shift. Instead of marketing these tips to women as useful to avoid rape, it might work better to market them to the full student body as tips to avoid becoming the victim of a crime. After all, most of these tips (stick with a buddy and watch for people messing with your drink) work just as well at preventing assault or robbery as they do at preventing rape. And while no one would argue that someone who’s mugged while stumbling home drunk and alone deserved their victimization, everyone would agree that such an incident could probably have been prevented.

Some headway is finally starting to be made in the college sexual assault problem. Let us use all available resources to end this problem for good.

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.

Encountering Roe v. Wade part II

Tiernan Kane
Guest Columnist

This past weekend, the University’s Center for Ethics and Culture hosted its annual Evangelization Vice President Dinner. Regrettably, the event was indoors and no roasted pig was to be found. On the other hand, there was stirring witness to the intrinsic value of every hu-man being, regardless of age, stage of development or condition of dependency. More than 40 years after Roe v. Wade, the pro-life movement has not only survived but thrived. Indeed, it has even given birth to a daugh-ter movement for marriage. This week, as the Supreme Court hears a case that may become Roe v. Wade II, daughter stands to learn much from mother in the way of wisdom and courage.

If the original Roe v. Wade is any precedent, the pro-marriage movement should not expect the Supreme Court to correctly identify the question at hand. In that case, the Court failed to grasp clearly that the contro-very was about which human beings possess intrinsic value such that their lives deserve equal protection of the laws.

In the same way, given past jurisprudence, it would be remarkable for a Roe II decision to address the cen-tral point of contention. The marriage debate is not an inquiry as to whether human beings who experience same-sex attraction (or sexual attraction of whatever kind; possess inherent dignity. (Even if that proposi-tion were not easily affirmative, the arguments of the pro-life movement settle the issue.) Rather, the marriage debate about whether there is intrinsic value in a com-promising sexual (in other words, male-female) union inherently oriented toward the procreation and rearing of children. One side rejects marriage so defined as con-straining and dishonest to one’s own feelings, and there-fore, they seek to redefine (“extend”) it. The other side understands marriage to be a real good, a worthy project of human charity. The human organism society should welcome and encourage (though never try to coerce).

When the original Roe v. Wade case was decided, the debate was expected to end. The justices thought his-tory would vindicate their allegedly statesmanlike act. Pro-life advocates like Sen. Ted Kennedy and Rev. Jesse Jackson evolved with respect to their views on abortion, letting go of pro-life principles. To do otherwise, it would have been “asking for it,” and it won’t have been your fault, but you will still be dead. Just to be on the safe side, isn’t it best to teach defensive driving and seat belt usage?

One common response to such logic is that women are already bombarded with information on rape avoid-ance, and any further advocacy would be wasted effort. While it would be nice to think so, this is apparently not the case. I recall one prominent feminist in The Observer who stated her goal was a campus in which she

self-proclaimed feminists support aborting a female baby on the basis of sex! LGBT activists boycott self-identified LGBT business owners for holding the wrong views about family life or for meeting with a pro-marriage public official! Such actions are symptomatic of an advanced case of confusion, as the public can come to see.

In response, pro-marriages should stand ready to provide truth-seekers a sort of seamless garment of re-spect for basic human goods. For it is necessary but not sufficient to stand unequivocally in support of human life against abortion. Unborn or born, a child has a right to life, but other rights too. Centrally important is the right to live in a family with his or her biological mother and father. All those who care for a child’s right to life in the womb should care for that same child’s right to be raised by the parents who brought him or her into the world (unless truly compelling circumstances call for the heroic love of adoptive parents). Protecting marriage as an inherently child-oriented institution is the best way to respect the full equality of every human being from the very start of his or her beautiful life.

Roe v. Wade II may come, or it may not. Company at the party of Supreme Court failures such as Dred Scott and Roe hangs in the balance. For the rest of us, what-ever the justices on high may say, the fulfilling work of building a robustly pro-life, pro-marriage culture calls. Rest up this summer.

Tiernan Kane is a graduate student living in Zahm House and president of SCOP. He can be reached at tkane4@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The double standard of Notre Dame parties

Anne Wooding
Guest Columnist

Last Friday I awoke to a stinging email. I, along with off campus residents of the Lewis Hall community, would not be allowed to attend our signature Crush week. I had been charged with distracting the community and promoting underage drinking (read here: putting underclassmen at risk). I was allowed a refund of my four dollars and told my “secret” will be available to talk with (me) about how (she) reached this decision.” These accusations perpetuate the double standard, which extends off campus and into the community, would not be allowed to attend our signature events. The majority of male dorms have to do when they decide they want a party is turn in a social gathering form and give the alcohol and their furniture to one room. There is simply no way for women to drink socially on their own turf. Women must resort to locking their doors, turning their “up” to barely audible levels and sipping on their mixes while trying to squash the overwhelming paranoia that the whole hall staff is currently charging down the hall to get them. So, if girls want party to want for a party to want for an outside environment — either in a male dorm or off campus. Given the culture of the campus, the majority of off-campus parties are thrown by men. Last week’s incident with the Crush SYR is a clear indication that this double standard extends off campus and further compounds these gender issues. The discipline thrust upon the off-campus women of Lewis hall is unheard of consequence for male off-campus actions. While many accept this as an unfair bias that women at Notre Dame just have to live with, what many students don’t realize is that our University has created a party environment that places its women at higher risk for experiencing sexual assault. It is down to the simple idea of control. Since men are the people who are allowed to throw parties at Notre Dame, they control all aspects of the party environment. These aspects include inputs such as alcohol, an appropriate venue, music and guests. These environments are also sexually charged and young female guests feel an uncomfortable pressure of compensating the hosts. Women often feel obligated to talk, flirt, dance or be more intimate with a guy if they’ve received an invite to a party or a drink from him. This factor, when mixed with a deficit of familiar surroundings and alcohol consumption, can leave girls in a vulnerable position. I am not trying to say this environment causes men to take advantage of women; I am saying this environment makes it easier for a man who does want to take advantage of a woman to do so. Notre Dame may claim to do all it can to protect its women from experiencing sexual assault, but with one simple cultural change like allowing women to throw their own parties, it can limit the male-dominated environments that are a major cause of sexual assault. If women at Notre Dame are allowed to throw their own parties, they have control over their own party experience. When women throw parties, they are in locations that are familiar to them, they are able to invite those whom they trust and feel safe around, they make their own drinks and they feel obligated to no one because of their opportunity to party. This is not going to be a cure-all to the problem of sexual assault. Unfortunately, when alcohol is involved, the opportunity for women to be taken advantage of will always be present. However, I wonder if the University has ever stopped to consider that an effective way to protect us is allowing us to protect ourselves? I implore Notre Dame to consider the consequences of a set of procedures that consistently deems the freedom of its women.

Anne Wooding is a senior living in Lewis Hall. She can be contacted at awooding@nd.edu

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Going home

Kitty Baker
British Invasion

At the moment, everyone in the London program is reminiscing about the wonderful time we had and how sad they are to leave. To lighten the mood, I’ve decided to come up with a few things I am very excited to return to when we get to the States.

Money: You never know what you’ve got till it’s gone, and all of my money is gone (mostly because the exchange rate is ridiculous). Never again will I complain about having to pay 12 dollars for a movie ticket, never again will I complain about how much it costs to ride the New York subway (the cost is basically a dream come true after the Tube) and never again will I ever complain about the costs of food. Ever. Never. Ever. You want to know (and my parents certainly don’t want to know), how much I paid for drinks.

Burgers: This one seems pretty cliché, but it’s true. The English just cannot make a good burger. Yes, there are plenty of things they do so much better (roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, digestive biscuits). But a simple burger just isn’t one. Apparently beef on a patty with a bit of lettuce, tomato and ketchup just isn’t enough, and they then have to add on some gourmet cheese, a little bit of prosciutto, a talisman from the ancient Egyptians, donkey tongue and some other rather extravagant (and not very tasty additions). I’m not sure how (or why) I’m going to want it in London (and it actually might be quite nice.) So, when I get home, I will be having a plain burger, and I will enjoy it very much.

American TV Shows: It’s not to say British TV shows aren’t good, there are just some American TV shows I have not been able to watch here, because they are so (behind and) really need to look forward to the day when we get British TV shows the day they come out in England, and Brits get to watch American TV shows only after they come out in America; it would make everything so much simpler). The final season of Mad Men is happening, and I cannot watch it. My friend Sarah missed the final episodes of the final season of Parenthood. It really shouldn’t be that big a deal (and has sort of made me realize how much I love television), but it is. I miss it, and I will look forward to binge-watching when I get home.

Phone: I am beginning to see that a lot of these are electronic items and food, and I’m not sure how I feel about this. However, I am so done with having to type on my very very old British Nokia phone. I do not understand why I was younger I was embalmed with typing very very slowly on a phone that was so tiny, but the nostalgia for better days is gone. I will never want the Motorola Razr again. Never in a million years. As soon as I touch base in the U.S. I will be testing everyone on its iPhone, just because I missed it so much, and I will never complain about its weird hiccups again. (Also, as an add-on to this, I really miss just being able to plug my phone and computer into the wall without a converter.)

Notre Dame: I don’t think this one really needs any explanation. These are just a few of the things I’ve missed about America, and there are quite a few things I will miss about being in England. Being able to see my extended family, the fact that everyone drinks tea (America really needs to stop discriminating against my tea habit). I will miss the weather. (I miss the soft, warm breeze that I can feel here in London, when it’s not too windy, and it actually might be quite nice.) So, when I get home, I will be having a plain burger, and I will enjoy it very much.

Words from a grateful heart

On May 17, the Class of 2015 will walk across the stage at graduation to accept our diplomas. We will laugh, we will celebrate, we may cry. But then we will leave Notre Dame. Leaving this beautiful campus — the places and people we have grown to love — will be difficult. Starting out in a new city with a new job and new friends will be difficult. But I have been given too much in my time here to be sad or anxious about leaving. Instead, I am choosing to be thankful.

Thanks, Notre Dame, for a liberal arts education. From Presidential Leadership to Philosophy of Law to Wood Sculpture, I have developed a love of learning new things that will not end with graduation. Thanks for my political science courses that taught me how to write clearly and argue effectively, how to look at issues from the perspective of the most marginalized and how to be a better citizen.

Thanks for my education, schooling and society classes that sit me in a fire I didn’t know I had.

Thanks, ND, for the opportunities I’ve had to learn off-campus — in South Bend, the Appalachian region, Honduras and London.

Because of these experiences I better understand the world and my place in it.

I have been immensely thankful to professors who have also role models and mentors. They are not only devoted to spreading knowledge but are also invested in our development as people.

Thanks to my classmates who humbled, impressed and motivated me with their work ethic, brilliance and kindness. Thanks to the Class of 2015, who I’m confident will change the world for the better.

Thanks to my friends. Through them, I have learned my strengths and many faults. Thanks for reminding me everyday how lucky we are to go to school here.

Thanks, most of all, to my parents, who I first introduced me to this special place, whose undying support I don’t deserve (but very much appreciate) and to whom I owe more than I have.

I am a better student, leader, daughter, sister, friend and Catholic for having spent four years here. Thank you, Notre Dame, for giving me so much to be grateful for.

Maria Murphy
Senior
Pangborn Hall
April 26

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Viewpoint

Viewpoint
So here we are once again: finals week. The time where you buckle down, become super efficient, freshen up on a semester’s worth of material, constantly pour over old exams and quizzes and lectures and… well, if you’re anything like me the thought of it all is truly daunting. But try being Billy Madison, he whizzed through elementary, middle and high school in a matter of months, finishing each grade in a semester’s worth of material, constantly pouring over old study later. Every two weeks? What else are you supposed to do? Study.

“Billy Madison” Yes, finals are upon us, but honestly, people are making way too much of it. Look at it this way: you’re trying to get through a semester’s worth of material in a week. Inconvenient? Yes. Stressful? It sure is. But try being Billy Madison, he whizzed through elementary, middle and high school in a matter of months, finishing each grade in a couple of weeks. Imagine nonstop cumulative finals every two weeks? So sit back and relax, you’ll have time to study later.

“Breaking Bad” Okay, by this point you’ve wasted more time than you would probably care to admit. Your first final is tomorrow but one thing turned into another and here you are with a daunting task and limited time. As you grow desperate your final exam outlook grows darker, so you open a darker show. Like anti-hero Walter White, you’ve likely adopted the “by any means” mindset. Maybe you’ve even turned to using and abusing some chemicals to stay awake and power through all those lecture notes — I’m talking about 5 Hour Energy shots and Monster Energy drinks, of course. Don’t fret because those exams will realize that you are indeed the one that knocks. Yeah, science. Magnets, oh.

“Game of Thrones” How many hours have you been up straight? How many nights have you spent watching all those hour-long episodes of “Breaking Bad” and, maybe, occasionally looking at some old PowerPoint slides from class? Those long nights in the library basement are getting colder and colder… brace yourself, finals are coming. Similarly to the different kingdoms of “Game of Thrones,” it’s going to take meticulous planning, careful strategy and a bit of luck in order to make it through this dreadful week.

“Grown Ups” You’re physically, mentally and emotionally spent from the grind of the school year. You need a break. Whether it’s the countless hours you’ve spent staring at a computer screen (either dedicated to reviewing for your finals or to binge watching) or the Vitamin-D deprivation you’re experiencing from being holed up in the library, the thought of summer is the only thing keeping you going. “Grown Ups” is exactly what you need: a nice, easy-to-watch summer film. Also, it’s pretty much guaranteed that once you hear the phrase, “I want to get chocolate wasted,” you’ll treat yourself to a nice healthy portion of chocolate. After all, you’ve worked hard — you deserve it.

“The Office” The light at the end of the tunnel… kind of. Realistically, by the end of finals week you’re over everything. You’ve mailed it in and, just like all of our favorite employees at Dunder Mifflin, you’re waiting for the clock to strike so that you can clock out and go home. In the truest sense of procrastination, fire up your favorite episodes of “The Office” and appreciate the masterful work (or lack thereof) of Michael Scott, waiting for his free pretzel on Pretzel Day; maybe plan out a few pranks in the spirit of Jim Halpert, instead of actually, you know, doing work. Summer’s just around the corner, it’s not a matter of if, but when.

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

Contact Miko Malabute at mmalabut@nd.edu

Miko Malabute
Associate Scene Editor

The Birdsell is opening its doors Wednesday through May 7 as a study destination. Head over between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. (2 p.m. through 8 p.m. on Sunday) to share space, art, food and coffee on the first floor of the mansion.
There will be separate rooms for quiet studying and socializing, as well as a communal table where Zen Café will provide coffee and brain-food. Choose from desks, couches and rocking chairs to study or relax in. Head outside for a study break to play Frisbee, golf or take a nap in the sun. There will also be an exercise bike if you need to relieve some stress and a bed if you need to give up.

The communal table will feature pour-over coffee, loose teas, an organic oatmeal bar, local eggs, muffins, baked sweet potato fries, homemade bread for sandwiches, nuts, salad, fruit and crock-pot soups, chilis and curries throughout the week. Everything available is help-yourself with a suggested donation. The Birdsell does not have Wi-Fi so make sure to download your PowerPoint before heading over for a study session benefit of Internet procrastination.

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This Thursday through Sunday the Sounds by South Bend music festival will be taking place at over 20 various local venues. Featuring over 45 acts, the festival boasts something for everyone. The Scene staff picked the bands they will be listening to.

**Miko Malabute**

So I admittedly didn’t know anything about this year’s SXSB lineup, but I gave it a quick look-over and I was very pleasantly surprised — Santiago x The Natural, coming out of Chicago, are going to be performing Saturday night at River Race Townhomes. “Miko,” you begin, “Who are Santiago x The Natural? I have never heard of any of their work at all!” Yes, yes you have. Garnering attention from ESPN for their hit song “Warriors,” which was the theme for the 2012-2013 season (i.e. our latest national championship run season), the very catchy song is just a small sample indicative of how great their work is. They even worked with Talib Kweli, and their other hit song “Got a Hold of Me” was featured on ESPN Unite and ESPN First Take. And, if you needed any more reason to show them some love, they’re a couple of Notre Dame grads. Make sure to see them May 9 at 10:15 p.m. on the Main Stage at River Race Townhomes. “Warriors, ay ay ay, we’re the warriors …”

Recommended track: “Warriors”

**John Darr**

This duo makes real pretty music with lovely vocal harmonies and pretty little guitar-driven ditties. The songwriting is highly melodic and easy-going, evoking easy days in the sun. It’s safe to say that Scuttlebugs is one of those bands that would blow up if they hit a lucky spark to set them off; their music is pretty, catchy and very well-produced on their debut record “A Little Less.”

On the other hand, Scuttlebugs also seem comfortable straying from the summer-daze feeling. “Hot Little Minute” rushes along with a relentless guitar groove reminiscent of Modest Mouse, and “Tom Everett Scott” employs atmospheric wavering pedal guitar to evoke the alt-country of Beck’s “Sea Change.” If their record is any indication, Scuttlebugs boast the musicianship and tight songwriting to make for one hell of a concert. It’s definitely enough of a reason to catch their set May 10 at 7 p.m. at The Birdsell.

**Caelin Mitko**

I’ll admit that before we decided to do this feature, I knew little to nothing about the Sounds by South Bend Festival, despite being invited to the event on Facebook. But, I sat down and looked through the list — and realized I knew none of the artists on there. As such, I tried listening to a couple, and while they were all very respectable, Eric Lee Carpenter was by far my favorite. He reminds me of a mix between Noah Gunderson and Joel Crouse, which makes me just a little bit happy. On his 2014 EP “A Good Place to Start,” he starts it off quickly with two songs that just kind of make you want to dance. “We’re On Fire” is particularly catchy. Then it slows down with “Life is Beautiful.” Personally, I prefer him on his more up-tempo tunes, but I can see the appeal of slowing it down a bit. See his set on May 9 at the Exchange Whiskey Bar from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Recommended Track: “We’re On Fire”
Before the culmination of the Class of 2015’s Notre Dame undergraduate experience, the culmination of Zachary Wendelin’s thesis will come to fruition in the form of the interactive theatre experience “Field Below,” opening at The Birdsell Mansion, Thursday night at 8 p.m.

“Field Below,” based on Wendelin’s creative writing honors thesis, offers a glimpse into the lives of several members of a 1950s town in Iowa. It explores themes of trauma, betrayal, sexuality and mental illness during that era, an era that Wendelin explains today’s society mostly views through rose-colored glasses as the “golden age” in America.

“Field Below” narratively is a very loose adaptation of the myth of the Rape of Persephone from classical mythology; Wendelin explains, “In writing [my thesis and the production], I explored two main source texts in which this myth appears: Ovid’s ‘Metamorphoses’ and ‘The Homeric Hymn to Demeter.’ I then recontextualized the setting from its original classical one to a fictional 1950s town in Iowa, ‘Ashen Meadows.’

This production offers a theatre experience with an immersive twist. It’s far more involving than what audience members might ordinarily expect as they are allowed premium access into the lives of Wendelin’s characters. Audience members are flies on the wall; each character can pick and choose which character they choose to follow and where they travel as the narrative progresses. The characters live out their narratives in various rooms throughout the mansion setting.

“The narrative is performed [three], allowing audiences to piece together the story however they choose based on who they follow each loop. I think I can speak for everyone involved when I say that we were all drawn to the show due to its unique style of performance, one that we have not worked with at all in our time at Notre Dame.”

Each night, head of marketing Amanda Bartolini said, “the narrative is performed [three], allowing audiences to piece together the story however they choose based on who they follow each loop. I think I can speak for everyone involved when I say that we were all drawn to the show due to its unique style of performance, one that we have not worked with at all in our time at Notre Dame.”

Opening night for “Field Below” is Thursday night at 8 p.m. at The Birdsell Mansion. Tickets are $12 general admission, $8 for students and $5 each for parties of 10 or more.

Contact Miko Malabute at mmalabut@nd.edu
In speaking of the creative process, there is the “usual way.” Then there is the Disney way, in which limits are only fables and possibilities reach “to infinity and beyond.” The Disney theme park is guided by its creator's foundation of imagination and innovation which established a universally recognized mantra, “If you can dream it, you can do it.” Since the world first beheld Walt Disney’s biggest dream, Disneyland, on a hot, sticky California morning in 1955, the awe and potential of Walt’s world has touched nearly every corner of planet Earth, from swampy Florida to bustling Tokyo.

If you have ever been blessed to visit and play in one of the happiest places on Earth during a period of construction, one of the omnipresent quotes displayed on wallpapered sections within the park echoes Walt’s love of progress: “We keep moving forward, opening new doors and doing new things, because we’re curious, and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.” A handful of guests grip about the blessing of a day spent at Main Street in Magic Kingdom, but what they miss entirely is the brewing excitement of “the usual way.” Then there is the “usual way.” Then there is another country’s culture, right?

Contact Emilie Kefalas at ekefa101@ud.edu

**DISNEY WAY**

**Disney’s Animal Kingdom**

By the time I graduate college in 2017, Disney’s Animal Kingdom will unveil “Pandora: The Land of Avatar,” a themed-land intended to boost the roster of Disney’s youngest park. With the creative assistance of producers James Cameron and Jon Landau, the area will be an immersive world based upon the fictional exoplanetary moon of Pandora. According to press releases, it will include Pandora’s floating mountains and bioluminescent plants. Mainly referred to as “Avatar Land,” the area is expected to span several acres and feature multiple rides, attractions, entertainment, audio-animatronics and 3-D holograms as well as retail, food and beverage outlets. “Avatar Land” will include elements from the original Avatar film as well as its three, yet-to-be-released sequels.

Also in the works is Animal Kingdom’s first ever night show, “Rivers of Light.” It has been described as an innovative show with live music, floating lanterns, water screens and swirling animal imagery similar to Disney California Adventure’s “World of Color.” The show will come to life on the stage of the Discovery River between Discovery Island and Expedition Everest.

**Downtown Disney**

Guests need not pay admission to enter what has been called “Disney for Adults,” but they will soon have to fork over cash to eat at some of Disney’s most popular restaurants or shop the streets of merchandise shops. Downtown Disney is currently undergoing a name change to the less flashy “Disney Springs.” This marks a rebranding of the shopping and dining district as a unique destination that will treat guests to significantly more shopping, dining and entertainment amid open-air promenades with “meandering springs and waterfront charm.”

**EPcot**

This is the park Walt wanted “the Florida Project” to be known for. His Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow projects his legacy of progress and innovation from Future World to World Showcase. Of WDW’s four theme parks, EPCOT is the one many would prefer to see updated, as its ideals of “future” seem to be frozen in the 1980s. Speaking of frozen, the movie “Frozen” has once again come to conquer the world, and by world I mean World Showcase, aka the Norway pavilion. A “Frozen” attraction is set to open in place of the pavilion’s past ride, “Maelstrom.” According to press releases, Princess Anna and Queen Elsa will take guests on a new journey to Arendelle through an immersive guest experience including many popular moments and songs from the film. A royal greeting location where guests can meet Anna and Elsa is also in the works. Let it go! Not as long as little princesses want Olaf dolls. At least they’re learning about another country’s culture, right?
NFL should fear expansion to LA

Marek Mazurek
Sports Writer

After the National Football League owners met in March, one thing is abundantly clear: there will be an NFL franchise in Los Angeles and soon.

While it has been no secret the NFL wants a team in America’s second largest city, its shocking that goal may be realized as early as the 2016 season with the Saint Louis Rams, the San Diego Chargers and the Oakland Raiders all vying for a spot in the supposed golden market.

Notice how I said “supposed”? That’s because in their rush to tip into what looks like a great market, the NFL and the three franchised mentioned above have overlooked the fact that Los Angeles is in fact, not a great market for an NFL team.

What is seductive about Los Angeles is its size. It is America’s second largest city with more than 16 million people and more people equals more fans, right? Not necessarily.

According to Forbes, the 10 best fan bases (based on stadium attendance, television ratings, social media reach and merchandise purchases) are Dallas, Green Bay, Pittsburgh, New England, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Denver, Baltimore, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. Based on this list, the most important thing a successful NFL city needs to have in its fan population is that it is not Hispanic.

Hispanics generally prefer soccer to other American sports, and thus, a city with a large Hispanic population will be less likely to care about an NFL team, and this is bad news for Los Angeles.

Of the cities Forbes listed as the best fan bases, the average Hispanic population is 15 percent of the total population according to U.S. Census data. Los Angeles’ Hispanic population is 48 percent of its total population, 33 points above the average for the top-10 successful cities.

If you’re looking for a counter-argument (which I invite you to do), you may cite the fact there are some successful outliers among the list from Forbes. Dallas has a 42 percent Hispanic population and Chicago is 30 percent Hispanic. If the most successful fan base in America is 42 percent Hispanic, surely Los Angeles can succeed too right?

Unfortunately for Los Angeles, Dallas and Chicago have other advantages offsetting their large Hispanic populations. Dallas lies in the heart of Texas, a state famous for its football culture and Chicago, a city enrenched in football tradition, has a had a team since 1920.

Los Angeles has neither the football culture nor tradition of Chicago or Dallas, and its large Hispanic blue-collar population will not be able to support an NFL franchise.

One may also observe that the Forbes list includes many of the most successful fan teams, and in that case, does a successful fan base merely reflect a good team? It is true most of the teams on the list are successful year in and year out and, yes, fans are more likely to buy tickets and merchandise if the team is good, but what does that mean for Los Angeles?

Again, unfortunately, not much. Of the three teams fighting for Los Angeles (the Rams, Chargers and Raiders), none of them are particularly likely to be good in the foreseeable future. The Rams will start a streaky Nick Foles at quarterback and the Rivers is near the end of his career at quarterback in San Diego, and the Raiders are just plain bad.

Any way you slice it, the future looks bleak for an NFL franchise in Los Angeles. As a city with a large Hispanic population, the team that lands a spot in Los Angeles will have to work hard to generate interest among an ethnic group not traditionally concerned with traditional American sports.

This will take more than the NFL’s current token “Hispanic Heritage Month,” and it is a process that will not be accomplished in just a few years. In order to succeed, the owners of the new Los Angeles team need to make a real and concerted commitment to growing their fan base among Hispanics.

The Los Angeles market has already overlooked one NFL team (the Rams). Whether or not the Rams can learn from the organization’s past mistakes or whether Oakland or San Diego will fare any better remains to be seen. The only certainties are the challenges ahead for whatever organization finally settles in Los Angeles.

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Belles clinch spot in MIAA tournament despite losses

BY DOMINIC BUSH
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s clinched a post-season birth despite being swept in the final series of the season by Trine, falling in a Sunday doubleheader 5-2 and 9-0.

The MIAA is comprised of nine schools but only the top four qualify for the conference tournament. Saint Mary’s (22-12, 9-7 MIAA) edged out Adrian for the final spot by one game in the conference standings.

The 22 victories are the most for the Belles in a season since 2012 — their last conference tournament appearance. However, the team will look to improve on their 2012 tournament performance, going 0-2 in double elimination.

Head coach Kelli Zache said the season has been a major success for the Belles, and left fielder Kaitlin Naught did too.

“After the weekend, the Belles had already clinched the No. 4 seed with Adrian’s loss to Hope on Friday. With their tournament spot guaranteed, Saint Mary’s traveled to the defending MIAA champs for an afternoon doubleheader.

Trine — who went a perfect 16-0 in conference play last year — fell behind early in game one thanks to some of the Belles biggest bats.

Belles junior catcher Jillian Busfield initiated the scoring with a one-out RBI single in the first. Freshman right fielder and team home-run leader Makenzie Duncan added an RBI of her own via a double to center later in the inning.

Belles freshman pitcher Morgan Raynor did her best to keep the Trine batters quiet but mistakes in the third and fifth innings resulted in two home runs for the home team. In all, Trine tagged Raynor for five earned runs and nine hits over 2 2/3 innings of work.

The Belles failed to score again after the first frame. The loss dropped Raynor to 5-5 on the season.

“We didn’t get enough people on base when we needed to. We have to score to win ball games,” Zache said.

In game two the Thunder did not wait as long to jump on Saint Mary’s pitching.

The barrage began with an RBI single from the two hitter and left fielder Kaitlin Clark. Belles’ starter freshman Emily Naught gave up two more runs before being replaced in the first by junior Sarah Burk. Burke surrendered three hits and three earned runs in 2 1/3 innings of relief. Her replacement — freshman Jessica Alberts — finished the game giving up three earned runs in five hits.

Trine starter Bre Fuler held the Belles scoreless to the tune of a five hit, five-inning shutout. The loss marked the first time the Belles were mercy-ruled since March 26, but Zache said she remained optimistic about her team’s rematch with Trine in the first round of the MIAA championship.

“We were right in the first game,” Zache said. “If we play solid like that we have a fair shot at beating Trine.”

Zache said the tournament strategy for her team is simple:

“In order to make it out of tournament play, we have to win every inning, every game.”

The tournament also begins Thursday as the Belles travel back to Angola, Indiana, for the rematch with the Thunder. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

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The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame Office, 108 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without refunding.
Belles conclude season with 8-6 win over Dallas

Observer Staff Report

In the final game of their 2015 season, Saint Mary’s was able to end on a high-note Sunday afternoon after defeating nonconference foe Dallas, 8-6.

Belles sophomore attack Emilie Vanneste looks to pass during a 19-4 setback against Calvin on April 15.

Belles freshman attack Abby Krauss led off the scoring six minutes into the game after capitalizing on a pass from senior attack Colleen Conway, who was playing her last game for the Belles (7-10, 2-6 MIAA). It was the first assist of Conway’s career.

Saint Mary’s added to its lead when sophomore attack Emilie Vanneste scored to make it 2-0 with nearly 20 minutes remaining in the first half. The Crusaders (5-7) quickly struck back however, scoring on their very next possession.

Following the score by the Crusaders, the Belles were able to capitalize on good passing by their offense, and goals from sophomore attack Clare Theisen, junior attack Maria Roberts and Vanneste extended Saint Mary’s lead to 5-1.

With around five minutes left in the first half, Dallas found the back of the net to stop Saint Mary’s scoring run and draw within three. Good defensive play from both sides continued for the next several minutes, but as time wound down in the first half, Belles freshman midfielder Mary Grace Hellek connected on a shot to make the score 6-2 as the game headed to halftime.

Much like the first half, the Belles broke open the scoring in the second half when Theisen netted her second goal of the game.

The Crusaders, down 7-2 at this point, made the game interesting with a 4-1 scoring run of their own to make the score 8-6 with just over five and a half minutes to go. Sophomore goalkeeper Shannon Weyer was able to come up with several big saves in the final minutes for Saint Mary’s, and the Belles survived going down a player after being issued a yellow card with 1:45 left in the game to hold on for the 8-6 win.

As a team, the Belles out-shot the Crusaders, 30-21, and held the edge in ground balls recovered at 41-32. Vanneste registered a hat trick and Theisen was right behind her with two goals of her own.

With their win against Dallas, the Belles finished up their season with a record of 7-10 overall while going 2-6 in MIAA play.

Cycling finishes season, Ultimate ends undefeated

Special to The Observer

Cycling

Notre Dame cycling club team hosted the other Midwest Cycling Conference teams over the weekend in the final action of the regular season. Team time trials and road races took place Saturday in Niles, Michigan, while the team’s criterium race was held Sunday around Eddy Street Commons.

The Irish finished second overall for the season, behind only defending national champion Marian.

On a rainy and cold Saturday, both the women’s B and men’s D squads took home titles in the team trials, while the men’s A team finished in third, only a second behind second-place Lindenwood.

Graduate student John Cerney won the afternoon road race in the D category, sprinting to the line ahead of a pack of riders that included his teammate, graduate student David McKenna, who crossed the finish line in fourth. Sophomore Sarah Cullen finished second in the women’s B race, falling just short of the victory while teammates freshmen Kelly Valenzi (fourth), junior Maggie Schmid (ninth) and Saint Mary’s sophomore Emma-Kate Conlin (13th) rounded out the top-15 riders the Notre Dame team.

Sophomore James Pratt (10th) and graduate student Tom Frederick (21st) struggled in the men’s B race, but seniors Jim Snitzer (seventh) and John Pratt (10th) and graduate student Luke Tilmans (13th) all worked their way to top-15 finishes in the men’s A race.

Cerney lead the men’s D race for most of the event, holding off a charge from a few riders late to claim the victory Sunday in the short-course event. Valenzi also claimed victory in the women’s B race after being placed in strong position by her teammates. Graduate student Lillie Riemerse (fourth), Cullen (fifth), Schmid (seventh) and Conlin (11th) also earned strong finishes in the race.

John Pratt also sprinted to a third-place finish in the men’s A race. Pratt and Snitzer will represent the club in Ashville, North Carolina, at the collegiate nationals May 8-10.

Ultimate

The No. 10 Notre Dame women’s ultimate team defeated rival Michigan in the regional tournament final last weekend in Rockford, Illinois. The victory earned the undefeated Irish a spot at the College National tournament in Milwaukee, which will take place over Memorial Day weekend.

Notre Dame reached the regional tournament on the heels of allowing only four points in 24 minutes of play during the conference tournament. The Irish met Purdue in the conference finals, emerging with a 12-9 victory to claim the top spot in the regional tournament the next weekend.

Notre Dame defeated 2013 national qualifier Northwestern (13-3), Michigan B (13-2) and Purdue again (13-4) in pool play. The Irish advanced to the finals with victories over Indiana (15-4) and Illinois (15-5) in the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively.

Awaiting the Irish in the finals were the rival Wolverines, last year’s national qualifier. After trading points early, Notre Dame pulled away to an 8-5 halftime lead and extended the lead to as much as 12-7 before Michigan eventually rallied off four straight to pull within one at 12-11. Notre Dame slipped in a final point to ice the game as time expired to reach the final margin, 13-11.
Belles ready to begin postseason against Hope

By DAISY COSTELLO
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s begins post-season play this Thursday after snagging the fourth spot in the final conference standings. Saint Mary’s will begin the MIAA tournament against top-seeded Hope. The Flying Dutch (18-4, 8-0 MIAA), the regular season MIAA champion, defeated the Belles (11-9, 5-3 MIAA) earlier in the season by a score of 9-0. Saint Mary’s three conference losses all came against the other teams in the MIAA tournament, including a loss to second-seeded Kalamazoo to end the season.

Nearly two months later, the Belles are a different team than they were in their first conference match of the season against Hope. Belles head coach Dale Campbell said, even after a tough loss to Kalamazoo last week, Campbell said his team has come a long way throughout the course of the season and has all the tools to orchestrate an upset of the No. 1 seed.

“We are more aggressive and have gained a lot of experience with our partnerships,” Campbell said. “Teams are talking better and pick each other up when needed.”

Campbell said their Thursday match will be a battle of short rallies and long, drawn out points. “We have to slow them (Hope) down before we beat can beat them, it’s not simple,” Campbell said. “We have to play long points and test them physically a bit.”

The Belles’ and Flying Dutch’s lineup match up well in comparison to each other. The Belles have just one more freshman than the Flying Dutch, but Campbell said for the most part the Belles will be relaxed in terms of player-to-player matchups. However, he said there are key matches that, with wins, the Belles can use to swing momentum in their favor down the stretch.

“We need to win at least one of the doubles matches, maybe two,” Campbell said. Hope will be a test of endurance considering their proficiency in all aspects of the game as the Flying Dutch did not suffer a single conference loss on the season, Campbell said. In order to pull off the upset though, he stressed the importance of notching single wins as well.

“We [also] need to get ahead early in some of our singles matches and show that we can fight them out, and then others can draw on that momentum,” Campbell said.

The Belles look to punch their ticket to the MIAA championship match Thursday in their semifinal matchup against Hope. Play is slated to kick off in Holland, Michigan, at 4 p.m.
Irish took first place. Grahek shared medalist honors after shooting a 36-hole score of six-under-par.

Senior Patrick Grahek competes at the Notre Dame Challenge at Warren Golf Course on Aug. 31, where the Irish took first place. Grahek shared medalist honors after shooting a 36-hole score of six-under-par.

The Irish took to the links one final time this season, finishing in 11th place at the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament at Old North State Club in New London, North Carolina.

Because they compete in the ACC, Notre Dame was forced to compete against some of the toughest competition in the nation. The conference boasts ten teams in the top 50 of the GolfSat rankings and five in the top 30, including No. 1 Florida State, No. 11 Georgia Tech, No. 19 North Carolina, No. 23 Wake Forest and No. 28 Virginia, while the Irish check in at No. 154 in the national rankings.

Georgia Tech ultimately prevailed over the field to capture its second conference title in as many seasons. The Yellow Jackets won the team championship after a two-hole playoff against No. 37 Clemson. Both the Yellow jackets (284-279-282) and the Tigers (281-283-281) carded team scores of 845 to tie for first place, edging out the top-ranked Seminoles, 846, by a single stroke (282-282-282).

Meanwhile the Irish competed as well as expected in what head coach Jim Kubinski has repeatedly called a transitional season, with a team led largely by underclassmen.

Sophomore Blake Barens paced the Irish over the weekend, finishing in a tie for 43rd place with a score of 11-over-par 227 (77-76-74). Sophomore Matthew Ruchton and junior Cory Scupider came in immediately behind Barens with scores of 12-over-par 228, good enough to tie for 46th place.

Other members of this Irish squad who played over the weekend included senior Tyler Wingo and freshman Thomas Steve. Wingo finished tied for 52nd place with a final score of 14-over-par 230 (76-78-76), while Steve came in at 58th place with a 20-over-par 236 (79-81-76).

Ultimately the Irish compiled a team score of 911 (303-305-303) to finish 47-over-par, edging only Boston College, who ended the tournament with a 913 (303-311-299).

With the ACC tournament now in the rear view mirror and no invitation to the NCAA tournament at the Concession Golf Club in Bradenton, Florida, Notre Dame will have to turn its focus to the fall and the season ahead of them next year.

Because of the nature of this year’s transitional team, the Irish will have a lot to build on and the pieces with which to do it. Other than Wingo and seniors Patrick Grahek and David Lowe, next year’s team will be composed much of the same key young players who now have extensive experience under their belts.
**Baseball**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20**

Michigan State has four players — junior outfielder Cam Gibson, senior first baseman Ryan Krill, redshirt senior infielder Mark Weist and senior outfielder Anthony Cheky — with batting averages currently above .300. Smoyer can succeed against the Spartans lineup if he pitches to his strengths, Aoki said.

“For Ryan to be successful, he’s got to do a good job commanding his fastball and be able to use one of his off-speed pitches to kind of get them off the fastball a little bit,” Aoki said. “We sort of rely on pitching and defense and counting on balls being put into play in the manner in which we want them to be put into play.”

Notre Dame and Michigan State find themselves closely ranked in terms of their RPIs. Michigan State has the No. 31 RPI nationally, up from No. 37 last week, while the Irish possess the No. 38 RPI in the nation, down from No. 33 last week. The Irish have only lost two midweek games all season, falling at home to Toledo on April 15 in addition to their defeat against the Hoosiers in Indianapolis one week ago. Despite Michigan State’s ranking, the Irish will approach the game in the same manner they would for any other midweek opponent, according to Aoki.

“Baseball’s one of those sports where you never know,” he said. “It doesn’t matter whether you’re playing Chicago State or a Mid-American Conference school or this kind of school or an ACC school. So much is dependent on what you get out of your pitching and then timely hitting.”

Notre Dame and Michigan State are scheduled for the first pitch to be thrown at 7:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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**ND Softball**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20**

“‘We’re going to treat the Michigan State game like it’s the most important game of the year,’” Gumpf said.

Although the Spartans have struggled this season, losing 15 of their last 16 contests, Gumpf said Michigan State will present a challenge to the Irish offense.

“Their pitching is solid, so we’ll have to find a way to scratch across some runs against them,” Gumpf said.

Notre Dame will face off against Michigan State at Secchia Stadium in East Lansing, Michigan, with first pitch scheduled for 4 p.m.

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**Panel Discussion to Follow May 7 Screening**

**Championed by the English Labor Studies Association and the Harry Ratzman Institute for European Studies**

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**Irish senior outfielder Robert Youngdahl looks to connect on a pitch during a 4-2 loss to North Carolina State at Frank Eck Stadium on April 18. Youngdahl is second on the team with 26 RBIs.**

**Irish sophomore right-hander Ryan Smoyer delivers a pitch during Notre Dame’s 8-3 win over Central Michigan at Frank Eck Stadium on March 18. Smoyer is 6-0 with a 2.14 ERA this season.**

**Irish sophomore outfielder Karley Wester waits on a pitch during a win against Georgin Tech on March 21 at Melissa Cook Stadium.**
HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Keep your life simple, focused and on track. You will be taking your time in (19) if you are not willing to help others achieve. Better you master your own goals. Deal with emotional situations before they have a chance to escalate. It will be your pragmatism and your strong sense of justice that will prevail. Learn as you go. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 22, 27, 31.

Birthday Baby: You are observant, charming and persuasive. You are brave and adventurous and have a flair for the dramatic. You need to be challenged.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aim to improve. Love is in the rise and romance in the stars. No matter what your focus is, do your best. An old relative will appreciate your concern. Success is not a rule in the way a situation unfolds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to a set formula or conservative strategy when it comes to budgeting and making your next egg grow. Don’t feel pressured by what others do or say. Think for yourself, do your own thing and avoid emotional conflict.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on home, family and self-pampering. Do whatever it takes to keep things running smoothly. A problem when dealing with institutions will crop up. Put off any legal, financial or medical matters for now. Love is in the stars.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Overstating will not help you avoid disputes at work or at home. Make whatever changes are necessary and do your best to take care of your responsibilities to avoid complaints or criticism. Discipline and hard work will be your best responses.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Live and learn. Ask questions and respond with confidence. Taking part in community events or traveling for business will be emotionally draining, but will give you plenty to think about. Progressive actions will pay off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect the unexpected. Learn to go with the flow and you’ll keep the peace as well. Don’t get involved in a joint venture or put cash into something that is aimed to help someone else instead of helping you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take an introspective look at your life and the way you’ve been living will help you make some necessary adjustments that will lead to a more creative and interesting future. Your love life is on the rise and romance is highlighted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are looking ahead to new experiences, and you will avoid a loss. Positive thinking will get you through the day. Self-confidence will help you avoid a roadblock.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will appreciate your concern. Success is not a rule in the way a situation unfolds.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Expect a last-minute change someone makes must not alter your plans or leave you feeling confused.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your skills to improve your surroundings. Think for yourself, do your own thing and avoid emotional conflict.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FUDIL
SUES
ALOPPT
GLYTN

Jumbles: RODED PROXY UPHOOT WILLOW
Answer: When it came time to raise money for a new billiards table, they did this — POOLED IT

Puzzles

NEWSPAPER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community. Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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ND SOFTBALL

Notre Dame hits the road before ACCs

By BEN HORBATH
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will wrap up its regular season with a trip to East Lansing, Michigan, to square off against Michigan State in a one-game series Tuesday afternoon.

The contest will mark the first time Notre Dame (39-12, 17-6 ACC) has played a road game since April 12, as the Irish are coming off a nine-game home stand.

Despite not playing a road contest for over two weeks, Irish head coach Deanna Gumpf said she expects her team to perform well based on the high number of road and neutral-site games the squad played during the first half of the season.

“I think we play very well on the road typically,” she said.

“We played the first two months on the road, so it’s nothing new to us.”

The Irish began the year with 26 straight road and neutral site games. Their first home matchup did not come until March 18.

Tuesday’s game against Michigan State (17-33 overall, 2-19 Big Ten) will mark the 29th nonconference game the Irish have played this year. Notre Dame is 22-6 against opponents outside the ACC, and Gumpf said she believes her team is prepared for a nonconference test prior to entering the ACC conference tournament.

“I’m glad we have Michigan State before we jump into postseason tournament,” Gumpf said.

With its victory in the second game of Sunday’s doubleheader against North Carolina, the Irish clinched the three seed in the ACC conference tournament, which is slated to begin next Thursday in Blacksburg, Virginia. As the third seed in the eight-team tournament, the Irish will square off against the sixth seed.

Currently, that slot belongs to Pittsburgh (10-11 ACC), whom

ND WOMEN’S GOLF

Irish set to host regional at Warren

Observer Staff Report

After a sixth-place showing at the ACC championships, Notre Dame earned the eight seed in the NCAA tournament’s South Bend regional to be hosted at Warren Golf Course on May 7-9.

The bid marks Notre Dame’s 10th overall trip to the NCAA regionals and also extends the program’s streak of consecutive appearances to eight years.

The Irish finished in the top-10 of every tournament this season and finished sixth at the ACC championships with a 12-over-par score of 876. It rained the entire weekend, and conditions were less than ideal, but Notre Dame improved from its struggles at the Bryan National and managed the weather. Junior Talia Campbell again led the way for the Irish with an 11th place finish and score of 215 (71-72-72), and she was followed by freshman Kari Bellville and senior Ashley Armstrong, who both shot 220 and tied for 26th.

In order to advance to the NCAA championships in Bradenton, Florida, on May 22-27, the Irish must secure a top-six finish in the regional. They are seeded eighth out of 18 teams, and their regional includes four other conference foes: Second seed and defending national champion Duke, fourth-seeded Wake Forest, 11th-seeded Louisville, and North Carolina, which earned the 13th seed. Other teams in the regional include Oklahoma State, University of California-Davis, Pepperdine, Tulane, Purdue, Kent State and San Jose State, all ranked in the top 50 nationally. Kentucky, Harvard, Troy, Eastern Kentucky and Youngstown State — making its first NCAA regional appearance after winning the Horizon League championship — also join the 18-team field.

Topping the regional is Arizona, the Pac-12 champion led by Notre Dame transfer Lindsay Weaver. Weaver played her freshman season with the Irish, sharing medallist honors in the Big East tournament with Campbell. Weaver was also selected as

BASEBALL

ND aims to bounce back, hosts streaking Spartans

By BRIAN HARTNET
Senior Sports Writer

After losing its first weekend series in nearly a month, Notre Dame will look to rebound against Michigan State at Frank Eck Stadium on Tuesday night.

The Irish (28-15, 12-12 ACC) dropped two of their three games to Wake Forest on the weekend, losing 5-4 in 11 innings Sunday. Prior to the weekend, the Irish had not lost a conference series since being swept by Virginia on March 28-29.

Irish head coach Mik Aoki said the team has done a good job of putting the weekend’s results behind itself.

“I think by the time we were rolling back into town, the guys were fine, just looking forward to the upcoming week and looking forward to a good challenge with Michigan State (on Tuesday),” he said.

The Spartans (25-17, 9-6 Big Ten) will enter the nonconference matchup having won nine of their last 11 games. Over the weekend,

Irish senior infielder Katelyn Haus readies for a pitch during a win over Georgia Tech that was part of a doubleheader March 21. Haus leads the Irish with 11 home runs and 31 RBIs this season.