ND Shakespeare Festival engages students

Students and ND community members to audition for parts in summer festival’s productions Saturday

By COURTNEY BECKER

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival (NDSF) is offering students the opportunity to work with world-class theater professionals this summer.

This Saturday, Ryan Producing Artistic Director of the NDSF, Grant Mudge and the two directors for this summer’s main shows, Pironne Yousefzadeh and West Hyler, will hold auditions for students and other members of the Notre Dame community for the festival.

“We have a mission that primarily is to explore the plays of William Shakespeare but focus on our surrounding communities,” Mudge said. “One of our key components is providing opportunities for students with the pros. That’s how Shakespeare’s Company did it. … So it’s an unusual program in that regard and I think it’s a very special program because of that.”

Mudge said in addition to undergraduate and graduate students, the Company hires professional actors from surrounding communities to participate in the festival.

“We have a young company … that’s undergraduates, grad students and recent grads who

see NDSF PAGE 4

Doctor analyzes health policy

By ALEX WINEGAR

As part of the Saint Mary’s Department of Justice Education Symposium about different aspects of health care, Dr. Ellyn Stecker, a family physician, spoke on women’s health justice.

Stecker started her presentation by emphasizing the importance of health care. Health care is a basic necessity for human survival, she said.

“It’s special because it requires a certain educated cooperation of group members,” Stecker said. “Health management is not always obvious or intuitive.

see HEALTH CARE PAGE 3

Professor explores adolescence

By MATTHEW McKENNA

Professor of psychology, Daniel Lapsley, said the majority of teenagers violate the law in some way; he stole a Bob Dylan album when he was younger, but this behavior is not indicative of a teen at risk of a life of crime.

Lapsley, who also serves as the chair of the Psychology Department, spoke in the Eck Visitors Center auditorium Thursday evening about adolescent development and its effect on behavior and the formation of identity. Lapsley’s talk was titled “The Promise and Perils of Adolescence” and was sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley.

Lapsley said changes in the way the brain processes serotonin and dopamine during adolescence can affect the way an adolescent weighs decisions and their consequences.

“The teen is more drawn to the potential benefits of a decision than the potential

see TEENS PAGE 4

Campus Ministry hosts first “Fr. Ted Talks”

By AIDAN LEWIS

“From a life of faith, what is important to me?” Edward Hums asked during the inaugural Fr. Ted Talk Thursday evening at Recker’s. Hums said he finds the lives of saints to hold the most importance in his faith life.

Hums, a professor of accountancy in the Mendoza College of Business and a faculty-in-residence in Lyons Hall, said he holds several saints very close to his heart due to specific events they relate to in his life.

“I have an informal litany of saints, saints that mean something to me. Not that it’s because this is what the saint did, but that the saint represents life events in my life of faith,” Hums said.

Hums said. 

One of these saints is St. Mark, whom Hums’ hockey coach at Notre Dame always prayed to before games. For this reason, Hums said St. Mark reminds him “of the people who helped [him] through Notre Dame.”

To Hums, St. Mark is representative of the help and support everyone needs in their life. “You can never get anywhere by yourself,” he said. “You didn’t get to Notre Dame by yourself, and you will not get through by yourself. … There are so many people you owe so much to.”

St. Joseph is another saint who has distinct significance in Hums’ life. Hums said the feast day of St. Joseph, March 19, coincides with the date 26 years ago when Hums had his last drink.

“That was a tough time period, going through something that you needed help getting through, and St. Joseph always reminds me of that day,” Hums said.

Hums said another saint

see SAINTS PAGE 3

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TO UNCOVER
THE TRUTH
AND REPORT
IT ACCURATELY

Doctor analyzes health policy

Professor explores adolescence

Campus Ministry hosts first “Fr. Ted Talks”
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you could be any cartoon character for a day, who would you be?

The next five days:

Friday
Laudato Lunch
Gates Hall
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Discussion about Notre Dame at Paris Climate Conference.

Hockey vs. Massachusetts
Compton Ice Arena
7:35 p.m.-9:35 p.m.
ND takes on Wolverines.

Saturday
Shakespeare Festival
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Auditions for “Pericles” and “The Tempest.”

“Anchored in Hope”
Keenan Hall
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
The Voices of Faith Gospel Choir Concert.

Sunday
Violin Performance
Snite Museum of Art
2 p.m.-3 p.m.
Faculty member Tricia Park and guest Taylor Morris will perform.

Crèche Pilgrimage
Eck Visitors Center
2:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
Visit nativity exhibits around campus.

Monday
Advent Vespers
Regina Chapel
8:45 p.m.-7:15 p.m.
Join the community in prayer during the Christmas season.

Piano Masterclass
Snite Museum of Art
3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
Learn from pianist Svetlana Belytskaya.

Tuesday
“Do You Hear What I Hear?”
Lewis Hall
8 p.m.-9 p.m.
Unchained Melodies winter concert.

By KEYNOTE EXAMINES HEALTH CARE

The Saint Mary’s Department of Justice Education organized a day-long symposium Thursday about different aspects of health care. The keynote speaker for the event, St. Joseph Health System President and CEO Albert Gutierrez, gave a presentation titled “How Catholic faith informs the practice of health care.”

Director of the Justice Education Program Adrienne Lyles introduced the day’s events.

“Today’s Health Care Justice Symposium is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, rational inquiry, respectful dialogue, civil responsibility, and the practice of justice and compassion,” Lyles said. “Health care is a commodity that concerns and affects all human beings.”

Gutierrez said Saint Mary’s and Saint Joseph Health System, which is part of Trinity Health, are sister institutions because the Sisters of the Holy Cross founded both of them. He also said the Health System is an extension of the Catholic Church through its relationship with the Sisters.

The biggest issue when it comes to health care in America is difference between equality and equity, Gutierrez said. “Equality is sameness, giving everyone the same thing,” Gutierrez said. “It only works from our view if everyone started from the same place. … However, we believe in health care that equity is something that we’re looking to strive to achieve.”

Gutierrez showed a graphic that depicted equality versus equity and showed three people of different heights trying to look over a fence. Under equality, all had the same size box to stand on, and the shorter people could not see. Under equity, the people had a different number of boxes to ensure each person could see over the fence.

“If you follow the theory of equality, you could still have people that are left out,” Gutierrez said. “We must first ensure equity before we can enjoy equality.”

Gutierrez said Trinity Health looks at all factors needed to ensure the best health care when it develops business and management plans to improve the hospitals. He said the quality of care is only 10 percent of community health, and in previous decades it was the only factor hospitals prioritized.

“I have a bright, shiny hospital does not improve the overall health status of individuals in a community,” Gutierrez said. “If you only believe that we’re going to save you in the hospital and then we’re going to send you back on the street, that is a very, very limited view of health care.

“We are now in our strategic plan operating under the model that health does not begin in a doctor’s office. We have chosen, as a health system, to inject ourselves in the entire ecosystem,” Gutierrez said. “Gutierrez said he cares for patients because people are made in the image of God. He said because all people have dignity, they all deserve reverence, and he creates plans to ensure the hospital follows through on that.”

“Catholicism must be like section. “All of this goes back to biblical concept,” he said. “Whether you have earned it or not, we will care for you.”

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

By NICK YEO

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our errors.

THE OBSERVER | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015 | NDSM OBSERVER.COM

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Health care
continued from page 1

Moreover, achieving good health affects not only one individual but also the entire group. Stecker said the U.S. has faced major problems with the way care has been divided in our health system.

“In the United States we have a hodgepodge of our health care system,” she said. “We don’t insure basic healthcare for everyone nor do we insure catastrophic care. What you get depends upon your sex, ethnicity, marital status, status as a citizen, immigrant or undocumented, faith, age and the availability of medical providers near you.”

The U.S. federal government offers programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Health Administration, Indian Health Service, volunteer clinics and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, she said, but does not have universal coverage.

“What we do not have, however, is universal health coverage, we are one of the few industrialized countries that does not,” Stecker said. “Attempts to improve coverage have always been foggy. Our goal is to have all people covered. The plan is still being implemented even as there are political actions to dismantle.”

Before the Affordable Care Act, the month after students graduated, they were generally not covered under a parent’s or school’s insurance, she said.

“If you bought your own insurance as a woman, you often paid a higher rate then men,” she said. “Things are better for your generation than they were in the 1960s. Women now have a much better chance to enroll in college. … However, we are not yet finished with those years of prior, same discrimination.

“In your family or in your work, you might care for women who took time out of the labor force who cared for children or other family members and who did not have access to a college education, may have been forced to quit working when they married or lost their job when World War II ended and the men came back and took all of the jobs back.”

Stecker said, “People do not get social security credits for society care work. Women have done a greater part of that work and both social security or competent pension is not as great as [for] a man in the same age group. Thus, older women have not been benefitted as much from the pay equity legislation that got passed and they are living out the reality of hundreds of thousands of dollars [in] pay difference.”

Stecker said in the past year, LGBTQ partners have benefited from their partner’s pension, medical insurance and social security benefits.

“When people are married and have those benefits, health is better,” Stecker said. “With these changes in the way we treat LGBT individuals, the most pressing argument in the medical community, and in the discussions that I had, it wasn’t a matter of what is right, what is wrong. Health is better for the families and for the children in those families.

“Good health is a mixture of heredity, nutrition, nurture, location and avoidance of toxins. … And then there’s luck,” Stecker said. “Some things we have control over and those are the things we should manage in a good way. If we need less care, then there is more care for others. If we need more care, then we can be most grateful that we have access.”

Stecker said the U.S. spends more money on health care than other countries but does not have the best health outcomes overall nor cover everyone that needs to be covered.

“Is universal access necessary for justice? Yes I think so,” Stecker said. “Moreover I believe it’s the smart thing to do. … A healthy population makes a stronger country.”

Saints
continued from page 1

In his informal litany is St. Anthony, the patron saint of lost items. When talking to students, the professor said he often notices “they are missing something.”

“They’re looking for something, and that something is faith,” Hums said.

Hums has experience with this, since he said he once struggled with faith himself. However, St. Anthony helped him through this time, he said.

“At one point in time I think I was a little bit lost too. But I got found,” Hums said.

A final saint Hums said played an essential role in his life is St. André Bessette, formerly known as Brother André of the Congregation of Holy Cross. At one point in Hums’ life, his mother was very sick, to the point that Hums said he couldn’t properly care for her anymore.

After leaving her at the Schubert House, an assisted living facility, he went to a nearby statue of Brother André.

“Brother André,” he said in prayer to the statue. “There’s nothing I can do. I’m a failure. I turn her care over to you, because I trust. Whatever you do, I know it’ll be God’s will.”

In her time at the Schubert House, Hums’ mother went from a wheelchair, to a walker, to a cane, to being able to walk on her own, Hums said.

“The last few years of my life, through Brother Andre, I got my mother back. They tell you miracles do happen … That’s a miracle from Brother André. That’s why he means so much to me,” Hums said.

Hums closed by saying everyone must find time for God in their busy lives, whether it’s through a litany of saints or some other form of prayerful reflection.

“Close your eyes, just relax, and into that silence, surrounded by all the business, this is where God comes in.”

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Write News.
Email us at news@ndsmcobserver.com

Corby Books Event

Monday December 7th
4:30-6:30 PM

Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore Lobby

Join the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore and Corby Books for a celebration of Notre Dame authors and titles.

Attending authors include: Jim Langford, Kathy Sullivan, John Gaski, Brendan O’Shaughnessy, Susan Guibert, Fr. Ayo and Charlie Adams

Contact Alex Winegar at alexwinegar1@saintmarys.edu
tour a Shakespeare play or a classical play all throughout Michiana,” he said. “They ... form a part of the professional company, which are [Actor’s Equity Association] actors from the local professional ac- tors and local pros, designers and coaches that come from all over the country and work at Notre Dame in the summer. ... [Students] would be working right alongside Tony award nominees and Chicago’s ver- sion of that, Jeff awards.”

Aside from the hired actors, Mudge said he is particularly excited to work with Hyler and Yousefzadeh, who will be di- recting “The Tempest” and “Pericles, Prince of Tyre,” the festival’s two featured shows this season.

“[Tempest director Hyler] has a bunch of great experience that he has brought from the Bay Area, and he has next year. He’s directing the first ever Broadway production by Cinque Du Soleil, which is the biggest acrobatic company in the world,” Mudge said. “This is the first time they’ve ever been on Broadway and he’s the stag- ing director. What that means is because we’re Notre Dame, and because, also, it’s really a lovely kind of family atmosphere and a lovely feeling to come to work, he returns and works with us on multiple years even though he could be off doing anything.”

Dundie said Mudge’s broad experience, NDSS, is able to ex- eriment more than they have in the past, Mudge said.

“If anybody has tumbling, gymnastics or musical skills, we want to see them, or at least know it,” Mudge said. “Vest is going to be adding elements of modern circus arts into The Tempest.”

Mudge said Yousefzadeh, who is directing Pericles, brings a slightly different perspective than Hyler.

“Shelby just has that kind of ter- rific perspective you want in someone who works with un- dergrads,” he said. “She treats them seriously, makes sure that they have a chance to be as creative as professionals, rec- ognizes that sometimes at that early career phase you don’t quite know where you’re re- ally going. So she knows when to step in and guide a little bit more. [She has a] really great sensibility for that.”

Mudge said NDSS also gives Notre Dame faculty a chance to showcase their skills, too.

“Festive is an all-University festivity,” he said. “Marcus Stephens teaches scenic design and other theater courses, and he’s a brilliant de- signer who always brings a dif- ferent lens through which to see the play and through which to create a different habitus to the play. He has a tremendous creative brain that I very much value and enjoy working with.”

The first priority of NDSS, however, is to ensure that the basic foundation of Shakespeare plays — the text — shines through, Mudge said.

“Our focus, always, is on great storytelling and compelling narrative,” Mudge said. “If there is a core to [NDSS], it’s ensur- ing that the phenomenal lan- guage with which Shakespeare crafted the plays rings through very clearly. So I’ve got all the effects in the world but you can’t hear ‘to be or not to be,’ something like that.

“Students who audition and aren’t cast in the Company or would prefer not to act also have an opportunity to work on the festival. Junie Mary Patano worked as an assistant stage manager during last summer’s festival.

“I had never really done a lot of stage management before, so I wasn’t really sure what to ex- pect, but it made me appreciate all of the work that goes into the shows,” Patano said. “I helped with some of the set building, I helped with costume changes. I was there for teching the lights, the sounds and all of these wonderful things that people put so much work into just kind of made the show. It’s a lot of work.”

Patano also said she enjoyed interacting with students out- side of the festival.

“You all live together in the houses, so you have these din- ners, and everyone comes to- gether and it’s a lot of fun,” she said. “I really liked living in the house. We had a super-fan house where everything was covered in Notre Dame stuff.”

Because of the valuable expe- rience and the bonds created, Patano said she recommends students get involved.

“I’ve never regretted audition- ing for something, because you learn that if you don’t audition or don’t try it, it’s an automatic no,” she said. “So giving it that shot, I think, is worth it, especially for NDSS, especially because Shakespeare’s so relatable to ev- eryone. ... I learned how to take initiative and work with people who aren’t just students. You’re working with professionals... You can’t beat their experience.”

Mudge said students like Patano who participate in the festival use the experience they learn for years to come.

“These is the basic duality of hum- an existence. We all want to be independent and autono- mous, but we don’t want to be isolated or alienated or lonely. “As much we yearn for at- tachment, union and love, we don’t want to be enmeshed in our relationships. We must strike a balance, and a lot of the pain of adolescence is try- ing to find out where that bal- ance is.”

He said improving the abil- ity of a child to cope with ad- versity doesn’t take anything exotic; it just takes the forma- tion of meaningful, healthy relationships.

“The most important part of resiliency is that a kid has one good relationship with a caring adult who conveys that to the child,” Lapsley said. “Children bring a lot to the table, but the most impor- tant thing is that this recruit the attention of an adult in a child’s life.”

Lapsley said he hopes his audience identifies with his topics in the same way he identifies with them.

“I think that’s why I got into this,” he said. “I think that’s why I study adolescence, be- cause at the end of the day the topics that are of inter- est to me, that I like to study and write about, are things that I think I’ve wrestled with myself.”

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmckenna12@nd.edu
The cast of nine Notre Dame students perform a variety of monologues and skits, dramatizing stereotypical attributes of both men and women. Whether through comments from husbands claiming that men will forever lose arguments to their wives or charges that men never listen to their spouses, the Notre Dame Student Players present a comedic and relatable representation of gender relations in today’s world.

“Yes, guys and girls are different,” Patano said. “But when it comes down to it, we all want the same things. We just go about it in different ways.”

Patano said she has been pleased with her actors’ performances and their overall chemistry, both on and off the stage. Casted immediately after Fall Break, the players would go on to meet one-on-one or in small groups to rehearse the 19 monologues and skits separately.

Right before Thanksgiving, the entire cast joined forces for the first time to run through the entire show. “It can be scary to work on something for a month only to meet the rest of your cast two days before a show,” Patano said. “But they’ve really come together.”

Patano said she attributes the immediate chemistry of cast and crew members both to the nature of the show and to the nature of the actors. “What’s awesome is that we have people from different grades and majors in the show. It’s not just one group of people,” said Patano. “The great thing about theatre is that you can take people of any different [background] and put them together to create something as a whole. That’s what’s so great about having a cast and crew like this.”

Chemistry and culture are evident throughout the performance, as each character shares his or her own story to convey the humor, irony and satire that comprises basic male-female relationships. With characters providing representations of various attributes of a man and woman’s brain and body, the show encourages audience members to pay attention and think critically about each scenario.

“Naked Mole Rats in the World of Darkness” will show Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 4 p.m., in Washington Hall’s Lab Theatre. Students can buy tickets at the door or at the LaFortune Box Office for $5.

Patano said the cast and crew encourage Notre Dame students to attend their performances. “I’m really excited for people to see this for the first time and be caught off guard a little bit,” Patano concludes. “They’ll be pleasantly surprised by what’s in there.”

Contact Kathy Minko at kminko@nd.edu

By KATHY MINKO
Scene Writer

This weekend, the Notre Dame Student Players will put on “Naked Mole Rats in the World of Darkness” at Washington Hall, and junior director Mary Patano promises a humorous show to entertain all. “I picked [the show] out in the beginning of June,” Patano said. “I feel like with a name like this, people are going to want to come see it.”

“Naked Mole Rats in the World of Darkness” — an intriguing title indeed — satirizes gender relations between husband and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend, and platonic friends. Naked mole rats [are] blind their entire lives, ... but they mate for life,” Patano said. “I think that has to do with [the fact] that men and women are often times just kind of flying blind and going wherever, but they’re still together.”

By ADRIAN LORE
Scene Writer

It’s a normal Halloween at the office. People are dressed up, and an older man looks innocent enough wearing a costume of blood splattered all over his white dress shirt. He stands around nonchalant, but when the camera takes him aside, he concedes: “It’s Halloween. That is really really good timing.”

Evidently, the blood was part of no costume, but that should come as no surprise to any consummate Creed Bratton fan, who knows all about [and therefore least about] this innocent-looking geriatric’s vaguely and not-so-vaguely clandestine antics beyond his role as quality assurance representative for Dunder Mifflin Paper Company, Inc.

And in his constant evasion of the police, this elusive figure that nonetheless became a fixture throughout the nine seasons of The Office is coming to perform at Legends at 10 p.m. on Saturday, sponsored by SUB. But many fans of the show will be surprised to find that his performance will be not so much centred on Bratton the TV series character, but rather on Bratton the musician.

Indeed, not many know that before Bratton began his long run on The Office, his entertainment career began as a professional musician, a pursuit he continues today. Born into a family of musicians, in his early years during the ’60s he was a member of folk rock band The Grass Roots, who were no mere bedroom band but a nationally-acclaimed group with two gold albums and several chart-topping singles during the height of their fame. He was very active during those years, and certainly a part of the television character’s eccentricity is based on Bratton’s actual life: During those early years he traveled around the world, playing guitar at festivals from San Francisco to Israel.

He left The Grass Roots just as the decade came to a close, and it was not long after his departure from the band that Bratton began his acting career in earnest. He made appearances in movies and television shows alike during the subsequent decades, but his musical output stagnated. Interestingly enough, it was at the turn of the century, not long before his first appearance on The Office, that Bratton began to release music again, this time as a solo artist. Since then he has been quite prolific, having released several albums in the past decade, even as he doubled as Creed Bratton the television character and worked several other roles, even performing as a voice actor for popular cartoon program Adventure Time.

Admirably, though he has acknowledged his influence and popularity as an actor and skill as a comedian, he remains true to his roots as a musician, and has not neglected this passion in recent years. This, in fact, seems to be why he chooses now to perform shows in which these distinct sides of him blend. And thank goodness, because as much as we may all have enjoyed his role in The Office and the beloved (or feared) fictional character of Creed Bratton, it is certainly exciting that we will be able to experience his talent in a different way that represents who this peculiar man really is.

The event starts Friday at 10 p.m. at Legends. Admission is free for students with a Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s or Holy Cross I.D.

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Beauty in the ruins

Chelsey Fattal
News Writer

When I studied abroad in Argentina last spring, my program immersed me into the resplendent culture and city of Córdoba for six months. Landing in Córdoba on Feb. 7, I was a naive dreamer who had no idea of her place in the world. Looking back, I never expected to accomplish what I did during my time there. It was truly a miracle.

Living roughly 4,900 miles away from my home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and approximately 3,500 miles from school in South Bend, Indiana, by April I remembered sitting in my bedroom, when I felt empty. I sat alone in my host family’s house in pain and heartbreak. Not only had I failed to fulfill my goals while being abroad, but I did not yet feel like people there. Deciding to rid myself of my sour outlook, I de- vised a plan to do something about it — I had to be bold before I returned home in July, with no regrets. With this plan in mind, a trip to see the ruins from the past.

At the whimping age of 22, I needed to travel fearlessly, in whichever direction my sojourning spirit was guiding me. Consequently, my spirit seemed to be calling me towards Peru and I was afraid of what I was afraid to ask myself: do what? I was asking myself to risk. Muttering all the courage I had, I took the plunge to “trek Peru.” You see, I chose to go to Machu Picchu because there was beauty in the ruins. Beauty I struggled to understand. More simply, I personally refused to see how bad something was in my life, until it did not exist between me and the past I find the roots of a civilization, who had successfully reconstructed their beauty through a refined “brokenness”.

About all, there is the fascination at Machu Picchu to “find yourself” and to answer the impor- tant “questions of life” — whether it is underneath the ancient people who built it, the ancient architecture, the food, the smells, the culture and the ruins from the past.

A sermon on hatred

Gary Caruso
Column Comments

A current Notre Dame senior administrator’s spouse — a fundamentally conservative Catholic who unquestionably follows every entrenched exclusionary edict espoused by the likes of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan — several years ago told me to leave Catholicism if I did not like it. To this day it angers me to recollect that moment of segregation, which fortunately today Pope Francis has rejected in favor of ministry, forgiveness and inclusion. I, a card-carrying lector and weekly at- tending parishioner at St. Matthews Cathedral with just as much right to worship as anyone else, chose to fight for change within the Church structure. Unfortunately, others with a lower tolerance for con- frontation from a similar slight simply channel their rage in other tragic, lethal ways, most notably mass shootings.

Obviously, violent mass shootings like this week’s massacre in San Bernardino that killed 17 unarmed health department employees emanate from some form of derangement, rage or hatred. Authorities have yet to determine the exact motives behind U.S. citizen and local county health inspector Syed Rizwan Farook and his foreign-born wife, Tashfeen Malik. The couple, dressed in body armor and black tactical warfare gear, brandished 223-caliber as- sault rifles, semi-automatic handguns and explosive devices. The husband-wife team met through an Internet dating site. Farook identified himself as a Chicago-born Muslim with the username “fa- rooksyed449.” Authorities are still working to unravel their history.

Some theorize the wife, Malik, may have created a nexus to foreign terror in this case when she radi- calized her husband to the point of inciting him to prepare for and retaliate against something — the government, religious infidels or possibly fellow county workers. We do not know as of this publica- tion, but eventually the mystery will be unwound. Whatever their motives, they mark this year’s 355th mass murders, and more casual and tiny devices. They have identified as the “Machu Picchu of Horror”. They turn the page to show the lines of a civilization, who had successfully reconstructed their beauty through a refined “brokenness.”

About all, there is the fascination at Machu Picchu to “find yourself” and to answer the impor- tant “questions of life” — whether it is underneath the ancient people who built it, the ancient architecture, the food, the smells, the culture and the ruins from the past.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director at the U.S. House of Representatives and in President Clinton’s administration. His column appears every other Friday. Contact him on Twitter: @GaryJCaruso or email: GaryCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

Have a Conscious Christmas

I’m writing this to let the Notre Dame community know about a unique Holiday sale, the 7th Annual Conscious Christmas Handicraft Sale, happening today from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This event showcases fair trade gifts handcrafted in Nepal, many of which are designed by Notre Dame’s own Art and Design students. They spend 10 weeks each summer working with artisans to modernize their products. This year’s sale is even more critical, with 100 percent of proceeds going to rebuild efforts after last April’s devastating earthquake. There is still so much work to be done.

Contact Chelsey Fattal at cfat401@ndmails.nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Observer,

I have a question about the fair trade gifts handcrafted in Nepal. How are the profits from the sale distributed to the artisans who made the products? Also, how does the scholarship fund benefit the students involved in the sale?

Sincerely yours,

[Name]

Contact Chelsey Fattal at cfat401@ndmails.nd.edu

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INSIDE COLUMN

A sermon on hatred

Gary Caruso
Column Comments

A current Notre Dame senior administrator’s spouse — a fundamentally conservative Catholic who unquestionably follows every entrenched exclusionary edict espoused by the likes of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan — several years ago told me to leave Catholicism if I did not like it. To this day it angers me to recollect that moment of segregation, which fortunately today Pope Francis has rejected in favor of ministry, forgiveness and inclusion. I, a card-carrying lector and weekly attending parishioner at St. Matthews Cathedral with just as much right to worship as anyone else, chose to fight for change within the Church structure. Unfortunately, others with a lower tolerance for confrontation from a similar slight simply channel their rage in other tragic, lethal ways, most notably mass shootings.

Obviously, violent mass shootings like this week’s massacre in San Bernardino that killed 17 unarmed health department employees emanate from some form of derangement, rage or hatred. Authorities have yet to determine the exact motives behind U.S. citizen and local county health inspector Syed Rizwan Farook and his foreign-born wife, Tashfeen Malik. The couple, dressed in body armor and black tactical warfare gear, brandished 223-caliber assault rifles, semi-automatic handguns and explosive devices. The husband-wife team met through an Internet dating site. Farook identified himself as a Chicago-born Muslim with the username “faroosyed449.” Authorities are still working to unravel their history.

Some theorize the wife, Malik, may have created a nexus to foreign terror in this case when she radicalized her husband to the point of inciting him to prepare for and retaliate against something — the government, religious infidels or possibly fellow county workers. We do not know as of this publication, but eventually the mystery will be unwound. Whatever their motives, they mark this year’s 355th mass murders, and more casual and tiny devices. They have identified as the “Machu Picchu of Horror”. They turn the page to show the lines of a civilization, who had successfully reconstructed their beauty through a refined “brokenness.”

About all, there is the fascination at Machu Picchu to “find yourself” and to answer the important “questions of life” — whether it is underneath the ancient people who built it, the ancient architecture, the food, the smells, the culture and the ruins from the past.

Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director at the U.S. House of Representatives and in President Clinton’s administration. His column appears every other Friday. Contact him on Twitter: @GaryJCaruso or email: GaryCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The world is facing a crisis. A crisis full of many emotions — pity, terror, empathy, anger, sadness, fear. Sire the beginning of the Syrian Civil War in 2011, an estimated more than 9 million Syrians have fled their homes in search of refuge. Either relocating domestically or internationally, families have uprooted their lives and their children, leaving their friends, relatives and any sense of normalcy. They leave not out of desire to find a new job. The refugees are not looking to seek a new lifestyle in a wealthier country out of greed. They are not pretending to flee a deadly war in order to inflict more violence abroad on Americans and Europeans. Rather, they leave for one reason — fear for their lives. The same fear that the city of Paris, the country of France and the whole world felt after the attacks a week ago. I am in no way trying to belittle the atrocities that took place in Paris, but rather I am trying to highlight the atrocity that the world has committed by turning a blind eye to Syria and the victims of its civil war.

The Paris terrorist attacks were devastating not only because innocent lives were taken but because it took the murder of these 129 innocent lives to make the world speak up. Why are the 250,000 deaths in Syria in the past four and a half years not enough? Why are the 1,500 civilians that were killed in one day by the oppressive Assad regime through chemical weapons not enough? Why are the 2,800 refugees that have died while trying to fleeing the violence that Paris saw for one night not enough? The answer is because the biggest emotion in this crisis is not anger or sadness but fear. The terrorists have this figured out. It is the very essence of their name — terror. Their strategy works because the more they make us feel threatened and fearful for being who we are, the more we let them win. Paris has sparked a conversation because this time is act at it. It is time to stand up to the violence rather than letting fear hold us back. The only weapon that is capable of defeating us is fear. We are strong and can defeat terrorism by not succumbing to the fear within us but rather turning it into conviction and desire for peace. To make life the image of freedom through all this war is to not let fear suppress our moral obligation to stop violence and help those who are seeking refuge.

In December of 1938, 88 percent of college students did not support accepting Jewish refugees from Central Europe. If it is time to step up and say we are not going to let another genocide happen. We have the power to hold our nation and our world to a higher standard and provide for (those in need. A harsh winter is coming and unless you plan to ignore the real problem while hundreds of thousands of people will freeze in refugee camps, forests and dirty streets, cry out for morality and justice. Cry out for peace and humanity. It starts here in our community at Notre Dame for we are the young voice of America and we can cry out for change. Cry out for our nation to follow the likes of Germany and Canada to aid the refugees. Cry out and mourn for the deaths of not only the Pakistanis but also the Syrians. Cry, cry — but act, for to be human is to love and to love is to provide for those in need.

“We must not let ourselves be moved by fear in this country. We have seen that too many times in other countries. Sometimes I worry about the possiblity that we will follow their example.” — Eleanor Roosevelt, 1939 on the overwhelming American fear of Jewish refugees.

Monica Montgomery
freshman 
McGillin Hall
Nov. 19
CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 "The Black Station" hero and others 37 First
8 Blown boy, say 39 Bluff
6 Option for reduced fare 42 Fortuitously
12 Pitbox relative 46 Member of a loving trio
16 New York City has six 47 On the way out?
17 Onetime 50 Azadi Stadium ruler
21 Elephant 51 "Great"
34 Potential result of fear 54 Sure to be won
41 Into your touchdowns 55 Lanza Turner’s co-star, 1991
52 Many man caves 105 They get boasted
11 Detective work 106 Options for out of the fare
36 Statement resulting in hand-rasing 14 In heat
38 Minimal conflict

DOWN
3 1990’s Senate majority leader and family
2 Nudge a p. and a wait-second or two
3 Like a pout and a wait-second, etc.
8 Being done by
9 Informed alerts
10 Ball fish for pie angling
11 Unbending
13 Fire caught in a pail
15 Shish
16 They get boasted
17 Options for out of the fare
18 In heat
19 Mimic Max West
20 Simon of opera
23 William of “My Three Sons”
24 Dish garnished with crushed peanuts
25 Getting a charge out of
26 Speed Six winner
27 Maker of seven novels
30 "B" .., ".."
31 Death weapon
32 Refuel, in a way
33 Like Elvis Costello, but not Elvis Presley.
35 Match with ("Shorts"")
36 Final commandment?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Review old ideas and reconcile with people you have worked with in the past. The information you receive may not be accurate, but it will spark your interest and allow you to turn a questionable idea into a viable venture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid anyone trying to put pressure or demands on you. Gravitate toward people who offer stability and security, not those who offer change or excitement. Use your knowledge and your experience to your advantage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your ego may be responding. Focus inward instead of on what others do or say.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you can keep your emotions in control, you will end up on top.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): When it comes to your health and personal skills and appearance, make sure all your paperwork is in order.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your numbers are 7, 12, 18, 21, 27, 33, 47.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 104 South Dining Hall. Deadline for Monday classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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Name
Address
City
State
Zip

ANSWERS TO JUMBLE

Jumble: GOOSE CURVE WEAKEN MANNERY Answer: The children’s birthday party turned every section of the house into a “WRECK” ROOM
If everything goes according to plan this weekend, the College Football Playoff’s Selection Committee will have about as easy of a job as it ever will.

Clemson will remain No. 1 with a win, while No. 2 Alabama, No. 3 Oklahoma and the winner of the Big Ten Championship Game between No. 4 Iowa and No. 5 Michigan State will follow the Tigers into the four-team playoff.

With a check full weekend end of the season, the only scrutinizing the committee can expect to face will be its decision on whether Oklahoma or the Big Ten champion will be seeded third to face the Clemson Tide.

In a way, that’d be a little unfortunate.

The playoff system we have now is inherently better than its predecessor, the much-maligned BCS, but that doesn’t mean the current members of the committee is doing its job as well as it should be.

In last week’s rankings, Oklahoma was ranked top to No. 3, remaining there this week after the conclusion of their season. The Sooners had previously been hurt by their loss to Texas — but after a win over TCU, the committee ceased its punishment of Oklahoma for the bad loss Oct. 10.

The rationale was that the Sooners had proven enough since their loss that the committee was willing to look past it — and more specifically at the team’s recent results. In short, what Oklahoma did in October was no longer relevant, as it was playing so well in November to warrant its dismissal.

But on the flip side, the committee has still opted to punish North Carolina for what it did in September, starting with a loss against South Carolina and two wins over FCS opponents. Granted, none of that looks particularly great, especially when considering those Gamecocks lost to The Citadel in November, but North Carolina’s play has more than proven it’s worthy of being in the picture for a playoff spot, even with its best wins coming against Pittsburgh and Notre Dame.

And that’s not to say the committee hasn’t made the right call. The Tar Heels are No. 10 this week — quite frankly, I think it’s a fair spot — but if North Carolina’s able to match the upset Saturday, they’d be more than deserving of a spot in the four-team playoff, ahead of Clemson, who they face in Saturday’s ACC title game, Ohio State or a Pac-12 champion.

Because here’s the thing: Michigan State has played a couple top-tier teams already — Ohio State and Ohio State — and ran the table through those games. While the Spartans might not be, or look, that great at times, they’ve proven this season they’re capable of beating the top teams in college football.

That is to say, they may be the best team in the country. If North Carolina wins Saturday against Clemson, it will have passed its only test of the season against a top-tier team.

As surprising as it would be, that team is going to be the Tar Heels.

But would the committee throw the Tar Heels into the playoff over the same Clemson team they beat, Ohio State or Stanford, one of whom would have as good a win as North Carolina would?

It’d come down to whether or not the committee wants to follow the same rationale used to vault Oklahoma to No. 3. Teams like Oklahoma State, TCU and West Virginia have been punished in the rankings this year for what they did in September, playing weak nonconference schedules.

And as long as a team hasn’t done anything particularly noteworthy since, that’s completely fine.

But if North Carolina tops Clemson on Saturday, it will have amassed a win that should render its early-season adventures moot.

Over the last two seasons, the committee has exhibited its fair share of recency bias — favoring teams that are playing well at the time of the rankings — but has also punished a fair share of teams for playing weak September slates.

It shouldn’t be able to have it both ways.

So instead of watching Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney dance Saturday night, I wouldn’t mind seeing a Tar Heels win.

Just so the committee has something worthwhile to do.

Contact Alex Carson at acarson@nd.edu

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

By BRENA MOLKEY

US prosecutors indict 16 more in FIFA scandal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As members of FIFA’s executive committee prepared to vote on reforming soccer’s scandal-plagued governing body, Swiss government agents swept into a luxury hotel before dawn for a second wave to arrest 14 worldwide officials and other competitions.

It was an other sweeping indictment by U.S. prosecutors.

Five current and former members of FIFA’s ruling executive committee were among 16 additional men charged with bribes and kickbacks in a 92-count indictment unsealed Thursday that took down an entire generation of soccer leaders in South America, a bedrock of FIFA and World Cup history.


Agents from Swiss federal police at Zurich’s Baur au Lac hotel were joined by agents from Paraguay, president of the South American confederation (CONMEBOL), and Alfredo Hawit of Honduras, head of the North and Central American and Caribbean governing body (CONCACAF).

The arrests — at the same hotel where initial raid occurred in May — came just before FIFA’s executive committee met to approve reform and transparency measures long resisted by soccer’s top leaders but ones that gained traction in the aftermath of the scandal.

Rafael Callejas, Honduras’ president from 2008-94 and a current member of FIFA’s television and marketing committee, was indicted, as was Hector Trujillo, a judge on Guatemala’s Constitutional Court.

Also among those charged were Ricardo Westermann, former president of Brazilian soccer from 1994-2012. Teixeira is a former son-in-law of Joao Havelange, who was FIFA’s president from 1974-98. In addition, guilty pleas were unsealed for former CONCACAF President Jeffrey Webb and former executive committee member Luis Bedoya.

The 236-page superseding indictment was handed up by a grand jury in New York on Nov. 25.

Eleven current and former members of FIFA’s executive committee have been charged in the investigation, which alleges hundreds of millions of dollars in illegal payments over the past quarter-century that involved the use of U.S. banks and meetings on American soil. The last three presidents of CONCACAF and CONMEBOL have been indicted.

“The message from this announcement should be clear to every culpable individual who remains in the shadows, hoping to evade our ongoing investigation: You will not wait us out and you will not escape our focus,” Lynch said.

Honduras said later Thursday that the United States had requested Callejas’ extradition and the Central American nation would cooperate with Washington.

“Nobody is above the law,” President Juan Orlando Hernandez’s government said in a statement.

At a news conference in the capital, Tegucigalpa, Callejas said his lawyers were studying the indictment, considering what steps to take.

“I will fight unaveringly to clear up my legal situation in the United States,” the former leader said.

Fourteen men were charged in May, when four additional guilty pleas were unsealed, with prosecutors alleging bribes involving the media and marketing rights for the Copa America, the CONCACAF Gold Cup, World Cup qualifiers and other competitions.

Eight more guilty pleas were unsealed Thursday, including three by men indicted in May: Webb, marketing executive Alejandro Burzaco and Jose Morelos, described by prosecutors as an intermediary. Also pleading guilty were former Colombian federation president and former Chilean federation president Sergio Jadue.

Webb, a Cayman Islands citizen, was arrested in April on bail and is largely restricted to his home in Stone Mountain, Georgia, pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy, three counts of wire fraud conspiracy and three counts of money laundering conspiracy. He agreed to forfeit more than $6.7 million.

**SPORTS/AUTHORITY**

**Committee deserves chaos**

**By Brenna Moxley**

Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s fell 48-36 Wednesday night on the road against Benedictine after hitting a second-half dry spell.

The Belles (0-7, 0-1 MIAA) trailed by seven after the first quarter, and after scoring only four points in the third quarter they were unable to make a comeback.

Belles head coach Jennifer Henley praised her defense, but she said the Belles’ inability to score following halftime eventually doomed the team.

“I thought we did a great job defensively [Wednesday night],” Henley said. “Our offense went cold in the third quarter, and we struggled to overcome that.”

The Belles were led by senior center forward Krista Knopke who had 12 points and six rebounds on the game. Fellow captain and senior guard Maddie Kohler had seven points, four rebounds and four assists while sophomore forward Gabby Dittrich dropped in another six points, five rebounds and a pair of assists.

Junior forward Kelsey Ronan also contributed in the losing effort with five points, three rebounds, an assist and a steal.

Saint Mary’s went 14-of-57 (24.6 percent) on field goals, compared to Benedictine’s 21-for-58 (36.2 percent). Benedictine also held a 44-38 advantage in rebounds, including a 12-4 advantage on the offensive boards, but Saint Mary’s won a perfect 6-for-6 on free throws.

The Belles never led in the contest, as ties at 2-2, 4-4 and 8-8 in the opening minutes of the first quarter were the closest the Belles came to holding the advantage.

Belles have their second conference game at Calvin on Sunday at 3 p.m. The Knights are currently 5-8 and have scored more than 80 points in each of their games this season.

Contact Brenna Moxley at bmxoyle1@smmary.edu
by against at home 75-72. Connecticut ran away from the Buckeyes, 100-56, in Columbus, Ohio, on Nov. 16. As if the task of playing the Huskies was not daunting enough, the Irish will also have to do so short-handed yet again. For the fourth-straight game the Irish will be without reigning ACC Player of the Year sophomore forward Brianna Turner. Moreover, the team will soon find out if it can expect Turner back in the lineup at any point this season, Irish head coach Mick McGraw said.

“[Brianna] is either going to have [season-ending] surgery right away, or try to play in a brace,” McGraw said. “She can’t play in the next week or so, so they’ll have some time to think it over.”

Missing Turner’s presence in the interior forces the team to mix defensive schemes and play better team defense to prevent conceding easy baskets, McGraw said.

“She makes such a difference for our team,” McGraw said. “We just don’t have the shot-blocking, and I thought [Ohio State] made a lot of shots around the basket that [Turner] maybe would have altered. We gotta do a better job of not letting them get that far. We gotta get more physical, help down, trap the block and be a little more active defensively.”

Graduate student guard Madison Cable said the team did not play strong team defense against the Buckeyes and needs to do more to compensate for Turner’s absence.

“It’s a really big presence around the hoop,” Cable said. “She either blocks the shot or alters it, so we have to play better defense.”

However, the injury bug has been a challenge the Irish have managed to play through and remain unscathed in the loss column thus far. And, on a more positive note, junior forward Taya Reimer continues to increase her playing time after being cleared to return from injury earlier this season, McGraw said.

“[Reimer] is allowed to play,” McGuay said. “It’s kind of up to her pain tolerance, so we’re going to have to manage that and figure that out.”

Given the injuries and tight games the team has played this week, McGraw said the big goal for the Irish right now is to find a way be productive in practice while giving everyone, like junior guard Lindsay Allen, the rest they need before Saturday’s game. Allen played 39 of the 40 minutes in Wednesday night’s victory over Ohio State.

“We got to rest a little bit,” McGraw said. “[Sophomore forward Katheryn Westbeld is] playing a ton of minutes inside. I think the guards can handle the minutes because we got some depth at guard, but the post is gonna have to rest a little bit.”

Defensively, the Irish plan to continue practicing the Princeton offense that suits the roster’s current makeup best in preparation for the Huskies, McGraw said.

“Playing four guards is really great for our offense,” McGraw said. “… I think that we have the stuff that we need, we just have to work together a little bit more in it.

“I think that we’ll see some similar things that we saw [against Ohio State] defensively, so we got a good chance to work on some of them.”

Ultimately, McGraw said the most important thing for her team is to carry confidence into the game and believe it can come away with the victory when the Irish and Huskies tip on Saturday at 5:15 p.m. at Gampl Pavilion in Storrs, Connecticut.

 “[Belief] is really important,” McGraw said. “I think that’s such a big part of the game no matter who you play. You have to believe in yourself and think you can win.”

Contact Ben Padanilam at bpadanil@nd.edu

MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Freshman left wing Joe Wegwerth skates during Notre Dame’s 3-2 victory over Hockey East opponent Northeastern on Nov. 12. The Irish continue conference play against UMass this weekend.

Contact Brett O’Connell at bocconnel@nd.edu

Respect Life Mass
Monday, December 7
5:15 pm
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Please recycle
The Observer.
six weeks of college basketball. Although freshmen do see the floor on Mike Brey-coached teams, not many have seen it so often early on like Ryan has, averaging 15.3 minutes per game right off the bat. In a short amount of time, Ryan said he has already learned a lot.

“[Number one thing is] just letting the game come to you,” Ryan said. “If you try to force anything and play faster than you can, then you’ll mess up. You’ve got to compete 100 percent on the defensive end, but on the offensive end you’ve got to stay patient and play within the offense, play within yourself and trust your teammates.”

Ryan will be the first to admit he hasn’t shown off everything he can do so far. The freshman said he is simply finding his role on the team and helping out in whatever way he is asked.

“I’m just being patient, not trying to force anything offensively,” Ryan said. “Defending, rebounding, just doing whatever I can. Right now spotting up shooting — that’s how I’m helping the team right now.

... A few dribbles here and there, get other people involved whenever I can. They don’t limit me, but I’m just picking my spots now, staying patient.”

While noting Ryan has been humble about his impact, Brey has been more effusive about how big a difference the 6-foot-8 swingman has on the team already, more than just the 5.1 points he averages per game.

“I think he’s going to be a key guy for us,” Brey said. “I thought during our win against a very good team in Iowa he was fabulous for us, and he rebounded for us. The one thing he does is he can put his body on people physically and defend. He can rebound, and we know he can make shots. I thought he made some big passes in the Iowa game so I want to keep teaching and building his confidence because he’s a key guy for us.”

The Iowa game last weekend was Ryan’s best of the season, as he logged 26 minutes and scored 11 points on 3-for-5 shooting. But Ryan has had some growing pains as well, totaling 18 minutes and zero points combined in Notre Dame’s two losses so far this season. Although Ryan wasn’t even on the team last year, he already sounds like a veteran when talking about the differences between this year’s squad and last year’s.

“We had so much success last year,” Ryan said. “We know we’re a whole new team. We lost a couple close games but I think it’s good for us in that we got a couple losses out of the way. A couple bumps in the road, but I think we’ll be good going forward.”

Ryan said the key for him through the ups and downs of the early going has been learning from the other successful shooters Notre Dame fields in junior guards Steve Vasturia and Demetrius Jackson and junior forward V.J. Beachem.

“It’s great being able to watch them,” Ryan said. “A bunch of veteran guys ... (think teaching) always moving in the offense, picking your spot on the offense — especially when Demetrius is coming off so many ball screens. Interchanging with the guys, not just standing still.”

While Ryan has come a long way since he first stepped foot on campus, he will be the most inexperienced in the rotation as the Irish progress through the season.

“I love our group,” Brey said. “My frame of mind has been teach, teach, teach, and it will probably be the case up through February.”

Maybe one day Ryan will fully flourish in Brey’s system, setting records and guiding the team as a leader. For now, though, he said he’s just trying to soak up as much as possible.

Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamondon@nd.edu
MEN’S BASKETBALL

Ryan developing into key player for Irish

By BRIAN PLAMONDON
Sports Writer

Freshman forward Matt Ryan has only played in seven games for Notre Dame, but a quick look at his bio on Notre Dame’s official sports website and makes it seem like the Cortland Manor, New York native could one day etch his name in the Irish record books. “A true pure and skilled scorer who could become one of the special scorers in the history of the program,” one description reads. “Will be a player that will flourish in Mike Brey’s system at Notre Dame given his shooting ability,” says another.

Maybe one day Ryan will be the big shot Brey hopes can stretch defenses along perimeter, but for now he is just soaking in his first Irish season.

Blue and Gold kicks off campaign

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Writer

Tomorrow marks the beginning of the track and field season as the Irish host the Blue and Gold Invitational at Loftus Sports Center.

Though the bulk of the indoor track season will come in January and February, Irish head coach Alan Turner said he is excited to see what his team can do in a competitive setting this weekend.

“I am looking to see where my team is at and their fitness level,” Turner said. “This serves a couple purposes. Number one, just to gauge where we’re at as a team in an actual competition. ... I have to stress with the kids, ‘This is a real competition, not an exhibition.’

“Obviously we don’t have to move mountains and set records, that’s not the goal here. I just want to see where we’re at before the break to confirm what we’ve been seeing in training and just break up the monotony of running against ourselves for the past three months.”

Competing against the Irish at the meet will be a number of schools from the midwest including Bethel, DePaul, Detroit Mercy, Marquette and Northern Illinois. Turner said he is hoping for a high volume of first-place finishes from his team, but he still expects the meet to be competitive.

“I think we’re going to come away with a lot of first places,” Turner said. “This isn’t a knock on the DePaul, Marquette, Illinois, Detroit Mercy and Bethel. Their kids are going to come ready to compete. It’s like when we compete in any sport at Notre Dame: When you come to Notre Dame, when you face Notre Dame, we’re getting the best out of our opponents.”

The Irish return 11 of their 15 starters from last year’s national championship run. Since that title, the Irish have toed the line, saying they are not and will not be defending champions.

ND to host UMass for pair of games

By BRETT O’CONNELL
Sports Writer

The Irish continue their Hockey East campaign this weekend as they host Massachusetts for a pair of conference games.

This series will mark the first time the two conference foes have met since last year’s Hockey East tournament, when the Irish (6-4-4, 3-1-2 Hockey East) dropped the first game against the Minutemen (6-5-2, 2-2-4) in what became the longest game in NCAA history.

Current Massachusetts senior forward Shane Walsh scored the game winner in the fifth overtime following 151 minutes and 42 seconds of game play, over two-and-a-half times the usual 60-minute regulation time.

The Irish bounced back, however, winning games two and three to claim the series. The two teams enter this weekend tied for third place in the Hockey East, though Massachusetts has played two more conference games than the Irish.

Sophomore winger Anders Bjork has faced the Minutemen five times in his young Notre Dame career, tallying two assists against the Minutemen. Bjork paced this year’s Irish squad in plus-minus and trails only senior assistant captain and center Thomas DiPauli and fellow sophomore winger Jake Evans for the team lead in points with 12.

According to Irish head coach Jeff Jackson, Bjork has noticeably improved since last year.

“He’s been doing better,” Jackson said. “I think penalty killing is a part of it. He’s on the power play, he’s on the penalty kill — as a sophomore he has a lot of responsibilities. He just has to recognize that he has to do things a bit more disciplined, especially on the penalty kill, if he’s going to be successful.”

Bjork’s recent success comes despite some frustrations with pressing too much on offense, Jackson said, but the coach also said Bjork’s ambition may open a number of doors for him, including a possible roster spot on the 2016 U.S. World Junior Championship team that begins play Dec. 26 against Canada in Helsinki.

Notre Dame set to travel to top-ranked Huskies

By BEN PADANILAM
Sports Writer

It’s not too often that a team’s biggest challenge comes in the eighth game of its season, but Saturday’s game on the road against No. 1 Connecticut in the Jimmy V Classic might just be No. 3 Notre Dame’s toughest test this season.

Following tight wins over No. 24 UCLA and No. 10 Illinois earlier this week, the Irish (7-0) now prepare for a road test against the Huskies (5-0), who have won 42 straight games dating back to last season and are the reigning three-time national champions — a title they beat the Irish to earn the last two seasons.

On paper, the challenge the Huskies present is daunting. The last game they lost at Gampel Pavilion was in fact to the Irish, but it was three seasons ago in the 2013 Big East Championship game. Additionally, they dismantled the same Buckeyes team the Irish just squeaked past in a regular-season game this season.

The Huskies enter the game as the nation’s top team in the AP Poll, No. 3 in the coaches poll and No. 3 in both the top 25 polls.

The Huskies have swept the Irish in their last two meetings, winning in overtime in 2013 and in regulation in 2014.

Irish junior forward Michael Mayer joins the all-division team for the past three seasons, being named to the ACC all-division team three times.