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Lecture suggests ways to be LGBT allies

University staff and faculty emphasize understanding and improving self-esteem at 'Queer Queries'

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

University staff and faculty spoke about being allies for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) in a Thursday panel discussion presented by the Progressive Student Alliance.

To oppose hatred against those who identify as LGBT, people must prepare to face indignity, Miguel Franco, staff psychologist at the University Counseling Center, said.

"In quest of anything noble, indignity is going to come your way and the indignity is going to be commensurate to the size of the nobility," Franco said. "You're going to get tired."

Franco warned attendees that as allies to the LGBT community, they must not become self-righteous. They will still make mistakes of judgment in words and actions.

Allies should also not be defensive, Franco said.

"You want to be approachable to people, and you cannot be approachable if you have defense

mechanisms going off left and right telling people 'I'm hurting' [when you encounter opposition]."

The solution to improving others' self-esteem is growing one's own, Franco said.

"I'll argue that if you want to cultivate self-esteem in yourself and other people, the answer is altruism," he said. "Give of yourself to other people."

Professor of sociology Dan Myers said allies must understand their context.

"Here at Notre Dame, we have a certain idea about what we think this context is, and I don't think it's entirely accurate," Myers said. "We think that the people around us think about [LGBT issues] a certain way ... that's relatively unfriendly. There's a very different reality than what people expect."

Myers emphasized the importance of understanding what issues are important to the LGBT community and educating yourself about them.

"When you're new to an issue or an environment, take it easy as you figure out what's up and what you can best contribute instead



Psychology intern Allison Kozonis (left), Director of Undergraduate Studies for Gender Relations Abby Palko (middle) and staff psychologist Miguel A. Franco (right) speak at Queer Queries on Thursday.



PAT COVENEY / The Observer

of rushing in full blast with your righteous indignation," he said.

Try not to get frustrated, Myers said. Some people will not agree with you, even though you think they should.

"There are people in the LGBT community itself that aren't going to appreciate you and your intervention and your presence in their community," Myers said. "Remember that you're not actu-

ally a member of the community ... You don't have to pay the same cost for talking about and acting on these issues."

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Vermin welcome Christmas



JULIE HERDER / The Observer

The men of Carroll Hall welcome in the 2010 - 2011 holiday season at last year's Carroll Christmas. This year's event will take place tonight from 6 to 10 p.m. in Carroll Hall.

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

Students clad in ugly sweaters and Santa hats will flock to Carroll Hall tonight from 6 to 10 p.m. for the annual Carroll Christmas.

"It's a great, festive time to get in the Christmas spirit," Carroll Christmas commissioner junior Mike Weiss said.

Weiss said the event includes

a performance from the Glee Club, a tree lighting ceremony with a 17-foot tree, pictures with Santa, free food and much more.

Weiss said he is most looking forward to the annual cookie contest, which will take place at 8 p.m.

"For the past two years I've been in the picture ... and I missed the cookie contest both years," Weiss said. "One of the

R.A.'s moms has won it for three years in a row, and I'm dying to eat these award-winning cookies."

The trek to Carroll will be easier this year, thanks to funding from the Student Union Board (SUB) for a horse and carriage to take students from the LaFortune Student Center to Carroll Hall between

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Voices of Faith choir sings a song of community

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

Music, community, fellowship and faith are four words that immediately come to the minds of Voices of Faith gospel choir members when asked why they enjoy spending time together.

"We're more than just a choir. It really is a community," junior Nicole Campion said. "Yes, we practice singing, but it is also a time of faith and fellowship."

Director Eugene Staples, a senior and four-year member of Voices of Faith, invoked the group's motto when discussing its communal and spiritual atmosphere, his favorite aspect of the choir.

"We are a student-run, faith-based choir," Staples said. "Singing is my favorite part, but it's definitely not more important than the fellowship and community. I really enjoy the group's union of singing with doing something good for our Christian faith."

Senior Amanda Meza echoed Staples' remarks when asked about her favorite part of participating in the choir.

"The fellowship you develop

would have to be my favorite part. It's more than just singing," Meza said. "We grow together in our faith, and this is something I really cherish and wouldn't change."

Voices of Faith, a choir marked by cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, provides a home for those searching for alternative ways to grow in their spirituality outside of an exclusively Catholic context.

"We provide a home for those who feel alienated," Staples said. "I come from a Baptist church, and I still feel alienated by some of the Catholic structures. Voices of Faith really is a home away from home for those who don't understand the Catholic traditions."

Meza, also a member of the Baptist Church, wanted to continue singing and focusing on her spirituality as she had at home. She said she quickly discovered Voices of Faith during her freshman year.

"I'm not Catholic, but I wanted to sing Christian music," she said. "I went to the concerts my freshman year, and they were

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HIGH
LOW

Research cuts experiment time

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

Senior Ethan Ferguson, a biochemistry major, and a team sponsored by the Dow-Corning Company have developed a more precise mass spectrometry method for the diagnosis of porphyrias, helping streamline sample times and ultimately help in the medical and industrial fields.

Ferguson said porphyrias is a group of rare diseases characterized by the over-production and accumulation of porphyrins, or chemical precursors to the creation of heme molecules, in the bio-synthetic pathway, causing neurological or skin problems. Porphyrias are uncommon, but occur occasionally due to pesticide in soil and food, he said.

“Heme is an important molecule in the production of hemoglobin and is responsi-

ble for catalyzing redox reactions. It’s essential for life,” he said. “When precursors build up, they cause problems in its production.”

The team’s new method cut down sample time, which helped determine the toxicology of compounds used in silicone product studies by the Dow-Corning Company much faster than the traditional method.

“The existing method used High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) to separate compounds, which took hours and was not very accurate. The flagship of our technique was using mass spectrometry to detect the molecules by looking at liver tissue, blood and feces samples,” Ferguson said. “Basically it operates at higher pressures to cut down on sample time.”

The technique would be applicable in medical and industrial studies, he said. The rapid detection system could be easily modified to identify other classes of molecules to diagnose other diseases.

“It’s an important test and an easy one where physicians can send off a blood or urine sample to rule out porphyrias as options,” Ferguson said, “or in an industry setting it would let the researchers know whether the drug compound or cosmetic product they’re developing interacts with the heme biosynthetic pathway.”

Ferguson said the group was waiting for approval from the legal department at Dow-Corning before it published the research.

“The manuscript is finished and ready to submit at any time,” he said. “We’re looking to see if patenting is a possibility, but once it’s in literature, it will probably be fair game.”

Other industries and physician groups will adopt the study and use it well after he graduates, he said. Ferguson said the research provided valuable experience since he plans to attend medical school next year.

“It’s really a rewarding thing for everyone involved,” he said.

Ferguson said his advice to undergraduates is to be aggressive when looking for research opportunities and to start early. He said he began the summer after his sophomore year researching in a group led by Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Professor Jennifer DuBois.

“Professors and undergrad advisors can be really helpful, but they’re busy and sometimes it’s not the first thing on their mind. Especially for science majors, you have to show you want to do it,” he said. “Like a good Notre Dame student, use your resources.”

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Carroll

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6 and 8 p.m.

Carroll SUB commissioner, sophomore Ethan Montemayor, said the carriage rides will be a big draw, but the walk to Carroll will be equally as pleasant.

“The path will be lined with luminaries, so it is a very pretty walk on a nice December evening,” Montemayor said.

Also new this year will be a service project that visitors can complete during the event, Weiss said.

“It is in conjunction with another club,” Weiss said, “and it is writing letters to soldiers abroad or people in underdeveloped countries.”

Because Carroll is such a small dorm, everyone pitched in to help with their signature event, Weiss said.

“Everyone has been downstairs, decorating every night,” Weiss said. “It’s a big community-building event.”

Montemayor said the willingness of all the Vermin to set up the event makes Carroll Christmas so successful.

“Everyone’s been pitching in a bunch,” he said. “It’s really nice to see all years here

at Carroll, from freshmen to seniors, all pulling for this event to happen.”

Montemayor said the multiple contributions from dorm residents has made the decorations quite impressive.

“The halls are decked,” he said.

In addition to decorating, the men of Carroll also took shifts to publicize the event.

“I would say half the dorm signs up for a shift to hand

out fliers and candy canes outside both dining halls Thursday and Friday afternoon,” Weiss said.

Weiss said the men of Carroll are very excited for their signature event.

“It’s the week we all look forward to, despite the fact that everyone has finals and all sorts of papers due in the next two weeks,” he said.

Montemayor said he is expecting a large turnout for the event.

“It’s a great time to come out, have a bit of a walk, meet some great people, have some food, have some cookies, take a picture with Santa, listen to the glee club — you can’t go wrong,” he said.

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‘Toys’ exhibit showcases handcrafted trinkets

By BRIDGET FEENEY
News Writer

Santa Claus will have an extra helper when spreading holiday cheer this year as the “Toys” exhibit comes to Saint Mary’s College.

“Toys,” a presentation of handcrafted wooden toys and puzzle pieces, will be on display in the lobby of the Cushwa-Leighton Library from Dec. 6 through Jan. 12. The exhibit will feature toys created by George Efta, other crafts that were given to him as gifts and pieces that he purchased. Efta is one of the nation’s leading craftsmen of handmade wooden toys and puzzles and is married to Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney.

Bob Hohl, reference librarian and curator of the exhibit, said the Saint Mary’s community is excited to host Efta’s public debut.

“What is more quintessential of Christmas than a toy handmade and given with love?” he said.

According to Hohl, the Cushwa-Leighton Library is decorated every year for Christmas, and

“Toys” will be a nice addition to the Christmas trees, wreaths and other seasonal decorations.

“We are all ‘Gettin’ merry like Christmas,’ as Maya Angelou has written,” he said.

A press release from Saint Mary’s said Efta has been designing, building and selling his handiwork for more than 35 years. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1972, Efta was inspired to create his own wooden crafts after he discovered a toy store in a Minnesota mall.

“I thought to myself, ‘I can do that,’” Efta said, “And I couldn’t. But about three months later, I was actually making toys.”

According to the press release, all of Efta’s pieces will be made from wood and include planes,

cars and other types of toys.

“What really intrigues me is the whole range of toys and things that are childlike,” he said. “I have pieces from France, Egypt, Italy, England and other countries. Toys are universal.”

Hohl said he expects that the exhibit, which is free to the Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame communities as well as the general public, will serve as a unique way to recognize the holiday season.

“We hope that Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame students will enjoy this exhibit during the next two weeks as the academic semester draws to a close; but we also invite families of the larger community to visit during the holidays to celebrate the special joys of the season,” he

said.

In addition to the wooden toys crafted by Efta and the other artists, the exhibit will also include handmade puzzles, some of which are double layered.

“George’s double-puzzles are a delightful surprise two puzzles in one and when you remove the top puzzle, there is another un-

derneath,” Efta said. “My favorite is the fishbowl with two curious and hungry red cats underneath.”

The Cushwa-Leighton Library will also host a reception with Efta open to the public Monday, Dec. 12, from 4:40 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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“I have pieces from France, Egypt, Italy, England and other countries. Toys are universal.”

George Efta
craftsman



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Voices

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extremely moving with their incorporation of Bible passages and prayers. I was looking for the Christian identity at the core of the Catholic identity. I was looking for something like home, and I found it with Voices of Faith.”

While the music initially grabbed Campion’s attention, she said the community’s diversity is one of the most rewarding parts of participating in the group.

“I really like having the opportunity to be friends with such a diverse group of individuals, especially considering Notre Dame’s relative lack of diversity,” Campion said. “I sometimes get bored with the mainstream culture, so the diversity at Voices of Faith almost represents a different culture to me.”

While diversity has always characterized Voices of Faith, Staples, Campion and Meza all remarked on how this year’s group has brought religious, ethnic and cultural diversity to another level.

“This is our most diverse year ever,” Staples said. “We are so much bigger and so much better. I guess we’ve done great marketing through our performances.”

Campion said the group’s constant clapping and cheering during performances often surprises people, but ultimately leads to an enjoyable experience.

“Energy is one of the hallmarks of our music,” Campion said.

Voices of Faith will host its winter concert this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Student tickets are \$5.

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LGBT

continued from page 1

Because their risks are smaller than those of LGBT

community members, allies should let the community members lead all anti-hatred initiatives, Myers said. “You should be willing to take some risks for the group and for the cause,” he said. “You may be

able to bear these risks better than some of these other people [in the LGBT community] ... Recognize that what you do is really pretty small compared to what other people have going on in their full-time lives.”

Despite the challenges of being an ally, Myers said people should not give up. “Part of doing anything that matters is persistence,” he said. “These are challenging situations and they get tiring, but as

the ally, you can make a huge difference by consistent, even small, behaviors. They can add up to a monumental difference.”

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Campus Ministry



SUZANNA PRATT / The Observer

The Christmas tree in the Main Building sparkles with ornaments. The maintenance department put up decorations in most campus buildings.

Notre Dame decks the halls for Christmas

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

With lights lining the dining halls, Christmas music blasting out of windows and wreaths dotting the doors of buildings campus-wide, the only thing keeping Notre Dame from being a winter wonderland is the conspicuous lack of snow, though students are still decking the halls.

McGlinn and O'Neill Halls put up large wreaths the week before Thanksgiving break. According to McGlinn rector Sister Mary Lynch, the wreath is a beloved tradition.

“Our shamrock wreath was made by one of the McGlinn residents a few years ago,” Lynch said. “She made it with wire, and we had the maintenance shop back it with metal and hang it up each year since.”

The wreaths, shaped like the McGlinn shamrock and the O'Neill “O,” are not necessarily Christmas themed, but Lynch finds them seasonally significant nonetheless.

“We thought about keeping them up all year, but then it would lose its wintertime effect,” she said.

Not content to have decorations exclusively outdoors, freshmen roommates Maggie Lawrence and Rachel Miceli of McGlinn Hall decorated their room on the first day back from Thanksgiving break.

“We have Christmas lights up, gingerbread men across the window and paper chains in Christmas-inspired colors zigzagging across the ceiling,” Lawrence said.

“Our entire section decorated, so there are giant paper snowflakes and ornaments dangling in the hallways,” Miceli said. “There are bells on the doorknob and giant red bows on the door too.”

According to the maintenance office, trees have been set up in Bond Hall, O’Shaughnessy Hall, the Jor-

dan Hall of Science, the Hesburgh Center, the Basilica, the Eck Visitor’s Center, the Main Building and the Stepan Hall of Chemistry. The individual departments purchase the ornaments and decorations, and maintenance teams have been working to set up the arrangements according to the departments’ instructions.

Employees decorated the dining halls, and many hall council members oversaw the decorations for their respective dorms.

Notable decorations beyond the wreaths on McGlinn and O’Neill Halls include the “Have a Phoxy Christmas” banner outside Pangborn Hall and the cutouts of Santa and Mrs. Claus in the lobby of Walsh Hall. Other campus traditions include Carroll Christmas, an annual Christmas party put on by the men of Carroll Hall, complete with a tree-lighting, a Glee Club performance and refreshments.

Another major event is the Dillon Hall Light Show on South Quad, which begins with a performance Sunday at 7 p.m., another show at 9 p.m. and continued performances throughout the week. According to senior Thomas Catanach, one of the organizers, about 6,000 LED lights are used to create the show.

“Basically, we have a bunch of strands of Christmas lights suspended from the building and divided into different sectors,” Catanach said. “The sectors are choreographed to Christmas songs, and it’s all coordinated by computer.”

Although impending finals can add great stress to the last few weeks of the semester, many students said they refuse to let them put a damper on their holiday joy.


“We make up for the sadness and stress that finals bring by decorating and celebrating Christmas,” Miceli said.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Down on the farm

I had a moment of clarity when I began to slide in the manure. "Oh my goodness," I thought. "I'm not cut out for the dairy farm business."

I didn't fall face-first, but my clothes were not anywhere near as clean when I left the Clayton Crest Dairy Farm as when I arrived.

"Wear clothes you can hose off," John Clayton, one of the farm's owners, told me.

My time spent at the farm, on the several occasions I have visited the Middlebury, Ind., property, has been filled with cow manure, barn cats, mooing, milk and baby calves. My mom is dating John Clayton, and I have tagged along when they go to do chores. I may not be cut out to dairy farm full-time, but I do enjoy spending time on the farm.

The Claytons have a unique situation. They do not own the farm that their cows live on — instead, they rent out some space on a much larger farm. They do this for multiple reasons — chief among them is that the entire family has full-time jobs on top of dairy farming. In fact, John Clayton's day job is in the mental health business, and he works on the dairy farm and farms corn and soybeans.

And I feel out of breath taking the stairs to my dorm room.

While the Claytons may not own the farm, they are responsible for the chores related to their cows. That means someone from the family, whether rain, sleet or snow, has to go out to the farm to feed and water the cows, as well as take care of the calves and help the pregnant heifers.

I had the pleasure of feeding the newborn calves in the "nursery," as they call it on the farm. My first calf, a small bull calf only a day and a half old, was already on his feet and curiously wandering about.

John showed me how to hold the bottle properly and how to hold the baby's neck, but it wasn't easy. Eventually I had one leg over the calf, straddling him and forcing the bottle between his lips. He would drink and drink, cough, shake his head violently and then want more milk. The trick was timing when he would shake his head so I didn't get covered in his food.

Beyond using these cows for milk, the Claytons show some of their cows. The family genetically breeds some of their cows for show, where they can sell embryos and eggs for thousands of dollars if their cows perform well.

What the Clayton family and others like them are doing is much more than just milk and pails. They are part-time geneticists, hairdressers on show days, baby-sitters and technicians on farm equipment — all on top of being dairy farmers.

As I stood there, ankle-deep in manure (my poor, poor rain boots), I realized that working with these animals has given me a greater appreciation for what it takes to be a farmer in today's economic climate. Keep these men and women in mind — especially as you slurp that bowl of milk and cereal in South, perusing The Observer before your morning class.

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



Amanda Gray

Assistant News Editor

'20-12' in 2012

Mark Easley

Elephant in the Room

Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain has come up with a bold plan not just to reform the current tax code, but to replace it. It's called '9-9-9' — perhaps you have heard of it. It is both elegant and simple in execution: 9 percent personal income tax, 9 percent corporate tax, and 9 percent national sales tax. This both significantly decreases taxes for all Americans while increasing the efficiency and simplicity of tax collection. While this is one possible and popular tax code reform, other tweaks can also be made to achieve similar or better results. The tax code debate is here, ladies and gentleman!

The one good thing about this recession and the failed economic policies of President Obama is we finally will be able to get this nationwide burden rectified. The middle class is increasingly pushing this issue to the forefront because our tax code is so bad. If you get the code printed by the U.S. government printing office, it amounts to well over 16,000 pages. These are rules, exemptions and regulations written by Congress and the Internal Revenue Service. Inside these pages are loopholes for rich and poor alike to cheat the system and pay much less than their due. This creates a system that is unfair to everyone and generates momentum for class warfare. Everyone hates to see big companies like GE (a company favored by the Obama administration, hmm...) or Google pay little or no taxes.

Meanwhile, the middle class hates the fact that only half of Americans actually pay taxes, and only the top 1 percent pay the majority of the taxes that are collected. Lowering the taxes via a flat taxation scheme will simplify the process, create certainty in the market, reintroduce fairness to the tax code, and eliminate the power of lobbying and crony capitalism.

Presidential candidate Rick Perry has proposed a flat tax alternative that will set both personal income tax and corporate taxes at percent. This maintains a flat and simple tax code without the potential disaster of enacting a national sales tax. This is a very reasonable proposal but I would do it one better in typical Herman Cain theatrical fashion. '9-9-9' sounds good, but what about '20-12' in 2012. '20-12' will stand for 20 percent corporate tax, 12 percent personal income tax and 0 percent national sales tax. This would

lower the corporate tax from 35 percent to 20 percent, making America a much more competitive place to do business. The days of China as a cheap place to manufacture things are coming to an end. Studies show that in the next decade it will begin to be cheaper once again to produce products that are sold to Americans in America. This is due to wage and price inflation in China as they become richer. We can accelerate this process and bring some of those factories back by lowering our corporate taxes (and encouraging energy independence, but that's for another discussion). U.S. companies want to be in America, but it doesn't make business sense to do so if America remains non-competitive in the global marketplace.

A 12 percent personal income tax will drop the income tax significantly for most Americans. That means when you get your paycheck you suddenly have 10 to 20 percent more cash than you did before. How awesome is that? What are you going to do with that money? Well you are going to buy more stuff you need, invest it or save it in a bank so it gets loaned out to people that need it. Multiply this effect by millions of Americans, and you can see how this plan is going to rev up our economic engine and get us back on track. Government can never spend money more wisely than you can. Never forget that. And frankly, I don't care if you only made \$100 this year, you can pay your \$12 contribution to our nation just like the guy that pays \$12,000 on his \$100,000. No more loop holes and exceptions. We are all citizens of this country, and we should all pay in something for our benefits.

The 9 percent sales tax is quite worrisome to many conservatives because of the potential negative effects it will have on the poor and the economy as a whole. By adding a sales tax, you artificially increase prices across the board, which can have much greater long-term negative effects than just making the consumer pay more for products. It also complicates an otherwise simple solution to our tax problems. Leave it out, and instead let's adopt '20-12' in 2012 because not only does it sound good, but it's going to feel good, too.

Mark Easley is a senior computer science major. He can be contacted at measley@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."

Albert Camus
French existentialist,
author & philosopher

Submit a
Letter to
the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Set all things in their own peculiar place, and know that order is the greatest grace."

John Dryden
English dramatist & poet

VIEWPOINT

‘Tis the season

‘Tis my favorite season of the year. Why you might ask? Take a look around. Green is literally everywhere. Trees, wreaths, those awesome, Christmas sweaters, jackets, scarves — I’m almost overwhelmed. It’s fantastic. Since most of you are already wearing green this season, why not go green as well?

Anna Gorman

Let’s start with decorations. I’m *The GreenMan* impressed with the work I’ve seen so far. However, for those of you though who haven’t started, or who will be adding to your already extravagant displays in an effort to procrastinate during finals, I ask you to consider three things: reusing last year’s decorations, LED light strings and your recycle bin.

If you feel like your old decorations are looking a little drab, take some time to revamp them. A little arts and crafts can go a long way and is always a higher priority than finals. LED lights are a bit

more expensive, but they do save energy. And they’re cool — literally! LED lights don’t heat up like incandescent.

Now for your recycle bin. My challenge to you is to take one item from it and turn it into a decoration. Turn all of those old, unread copies of The Observer piled up in your room into snowflakes or use snack wrappers as a type of papier-mâché.

For tree decorations, reuse your tinsel! String popcorn and spray paint pinecones. Make those adorable, edible gingerbread ornaments. String up some clementine peels and fill your home with a citrus smell. If you have old puzzles lying around that are missing a few too many pieces, glue and spray paint them into lovely picture frames. Most importantly, when it comes to the end of the season, please(!) don’t pitch the wrapping paper from your door or the garland hanging in the halls. Reuse and recycle!

When it comes to gifts, remember it’s

the thought that counts. First, for the packaging: If you still have newspaper leftover after the snowflakes (or if you’ve convinced yourself that that’s asking for a bit too much creativity), use it for gift wrap! You know what also makes for wonderful wrapping paper? Old grab-and-go bags.

For those of you who opted against using reusable bags, this is one way you can make it up to me. Instead of ribbons, consider using shoestrings or tape measurers.

Second, for the stuffing: While stores may tempt us with sparkly tissue paper and noisy bubble-wrap, consider some earth-friendly alternatives. Stuff your packages with dry pasta you never got around to eating, or scraps of fabric from old shirts.

Third, for the gift itself: If you haven’t gotten the hint yet that I love home-made, I’m suggesting the technique yet again. Family members always seem to appreciate these. If purchasing new is

really your only option, take reusable bags to the store with you and opt for things that are made in an eco-friendly fashion. Have a coffee-lover in the family? They sell nifty reusable filters for most coffee pots. Help them stock up for next year with a bag or two of Fair Trade coffee beans. Or there are always numerous reusable mugs to choose from ... You get the idea.

‘Tis the season to be green, so go out there and make me proud. Happy green-ing and happy holidays!

Email your predicaments to The GreenMan at askthegreenman@gmail.com and let him answer you with a sustainable twist. The GreenMan will be here every other week to provide you with insights you never knew you were missing out on until now.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The cost of death

Despite the common misconception, the death penalty isn’t a moral issue. It is a public policy issue: a bureaucratic issue, a systematic issue and a cost issue. Sure, the death penalty may be a government administration of “justice,” but it is more fundamentally a government administration. And when we, as Indiana residents, start evaluating government policies such as the Indiana death penalty (or the same policy in our home states), we must look at the effectiveness, fairness and cost of the program compared to other alternatives.

Currently, California spends \$137 million on the death penalty, while the alternative of life imprisonment is estimated at \$11.5 million. In Texas, the average death penalty case costs \$2.3 million, or three times the cost of maximum security imprisonment for 40 years. Last year, a report by Indiana’s State Legislature found that the average cost of a death penalty trial was 10 times that of a trial for life without parole — causing the state to pay over \$10.5 million for death penalty cases since 1990.

Furthermore, taxpayers are burdened with the cost of a death penalty trial even when the death sentence is not carried out. Even in Texas — the

most active state in carrying out executions — less than 40 percent of death sentences are imposed.

In a 2009 poll, police chiefs across the country ranked the death penalty as the least efficient use of taxpayers’ money. “If you look at this from a public policy perspective, from a taxpayer’s perspective, in either case the person is going to die in prison. The only question is who picks the date.”

First and foremost, the death penalty is a government policy. It therefore must be evaluated as an imperfect construction of government before it is evaluated on grounds of morality or justice.

If there is a more effective, more cost efficient way to both deter criminals and punish those who commit crimes, it should be implemented. Life without parole is just as effective and yet an exceedingly more cost-efficient alternative to the death penalty. Pressuring our state representatives to abolish the death penalty in Indiana would free up funds for better uses of taxpayers’ money.

Amanda Koziel
senior
Pangborn Hall
Dec. 1

Too fast, too furious

Here’s an idea: let’s arm known weapons traffickers in the hopes of tracing the weapons back to Mexican drug cartels. Sounds absurd, right? Not according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) and the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Project Gunrunner.

Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious was launched with the goal of tracking “straw buyers”: people who could legally purchase weapons in the United States and in turn illegally transport them to Mexico to sell to drug cartels. By forcing gun shops to sell to these individuals rather than report them and have them arrested, the BATFE hoped the straw buyers and weapons would lead them within the Mexican drug cartel hierarchy.

On Dec. 14, 2010, Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was shot and killed while conducting a Border Control Tactical Unit Operation in Arizona. Two of the guns found at the crime scene had matching serial numbers to guns that were purchased by Jaime Avila, a suspected straw buyer who was being monitored by the BATFE after purchasing large quantities of assault rifles at a Phoenix-area gun shop.

Since the “gun-walking” operations for Project Gunrunner began back in 2006, American agents Brian Terry

and Jaime Zapata have been murdered with fast and furious guns. Furthermore, over 200 Mexican lives have been claimed with weapons traced back to Operation Fast and Furious.

Rather than lead law enforcement to Mexican drug kingpins, fast and furious operations wound up increasing the firepower of cartels and drug-related violence with the more than 2,000 weapons that were “walked” across our border.

Rep. Darrell Issa and Sen. Charles Grassley have teamed up to investigate Project Gunrunner and to hold the individuals within the BATFE and DOJ accountable for the failed operation. Pressure has piled on Attorney General Eric Holder, who is responsible for the BATFE, regarding his knowledge of Project Gunrunner and why the failed project was approved in the first place. While Holder denies knowledge of the gun-walking operation, subpoenaed memos and emails sent to Holder’s office show that top Justice Department officials had received at least partial briefings.

Such a program never should have been permitted to exist. Who will be held accountable?

Eric Robinson
senior
off-campus
Dec. 1

UWIRE

Facebook settlement reminds us to protect information

Ever since social networking sites gained popularity among, well, nearly everyone, the question of online privacy on sites such as Facebook has entered the public eye. After a few too many run-ins with angry users and some questionable privacy settings, Facebook has settled a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission regarding user privacy violations.

In the settlement, Facebook is required to undergo privacy audits by an independent third-party every two years for the next two decades.

Most of the FTC’s complaint related to Facebook changing its website privacy models without informing users. Information that was once private was made public without notification.

Under the terms of the settlement, Facebook must now get permission from users before they alter the visibility of a user’s personal information.

We are students applying for scholarships, internships, professional jobs, graduate school or other professional positions in this age of the Internet. We must be mindful of how we present ourselves on the various social networking sites and the information contained therein.

Keeping your information protected on the internet goes beyond making sure nothing embarrassing pops up when you’re trying to make a good impression. Information posted on social sites like Facebook can also be used to steal your identity or plan a robbery when you leave for vacation.

The current Facebook privacy settings can be set to “public,” “friends” or a customized option for status updates

and photos. Further privacy settings can alter things such as who can look up your information, who can write on your wall or who sees which apps you use.

Most people don’t give much consideration to the privacy settings that Facebook automatically assigns their profile. The default for many settings allows everyone to see your information. Unless you specifically go into the privacy controls and change this, your personal information is visible to the world.

While Facebook will continue to address user concerns about privacy issues as they arise with new changes to the website in the future, it is the responsibility of each person to make sure that their own information is secure and they are satisfied with their visibility on the site.

No one will baby-sit your private information on the internet, even if you restrict access to only those that you have

friended. Continue to be cautious about identifying information. Often we add acquaintances to our circle of friends without knowing much about them, entrusting little more than strangers with our profiles.

Facebook will be doing their part by participating in privacy audits, but users must take responsibility for securing their own information as well. Like many things, it simply comes down to being smart about what you reveal. Next time you log in, take a minute to check your privacy settings and information before posting that next status.

This article originally ran in the Dec. 1 edition of The Iowa State Daily, the newspaper serving Iowa State University.

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

Editorial Board

Iowa State Daily



“Home Alone”

There was a time when Macauley Culkin was the coolest kid around. Though that time has passed, his Christmas classic “Home Alone” remains a favorite for younger generations. Though the movie itself doesn’t center on Christmas, the holiday is an important plot point. The story of a boy who defends his home from burglary may not sound like typical Christmas fare, but the Christmas carols, decorations and triumph of valiant youth make for a perfect Christmas flick.

“Elf”

While this 2004 film hasn’t reached 24-hour marathon status, it is quickly becoming a Christmas classic. Will Ferrell delights in this movie as Buddy the Elf, a human raised by elves. He returns to New York City and his birth father (James Caan) only to discover that he is -gasp- on the naughty list. Buddy brings Christmas joy and laughter to all in this film with his disarming smile and indefatigable enthusiasm. At all the right points, the film is touching, hilarious, tear-jerking and uplifting. Do not forget to include this in your Christmas movie marathon list this year.

“Miracle on 34th Street”

Deciding which version you like better, the 1947 classic starring a very young Natalie Wood or the 1994 remake with the precocious Mara Wilson, says a lot about a person. Then again, it probably says more about which one your parents chose to sit you in front of as a kid. No matter which one you’re partial to, this story of a department store Santa who might just be the real thing is always charming to watch. You can’t help rooting for Kris Kringle as he tries to prove his case in court at the end.

“National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation”

This movie starts out in a very optimistic way with Clark Griswold preparing everything needed to make this the best Christmas ever. He invites the whole extended family to town (a few unwelcome guests show up as well) and decorates the house lavishly. He is eagerly awaiting the arrival of his Christmas bonus when he finds out that his miserly boss has decided to cancel them this year, making many of Clark’s plans go awry. Despite this sad occurrence, hilarity ensues, including Clark’s boss being kidnapped by his cousin. However, everything works out in the end and Christmas is saved.

“Die Hard”

This holiday film has everything you could ask for in a Christmas classic - family reconnection, a father’s redemption, Bruce Willis and, above all, the selfless spirit of helping one’s neighbor. Willis plays John McClane, an overworked New York City police officer whose wife has moved to Los Angeles with their two children to pursue a career opportunity. McClane is visiting for the holidays, but it seems like he’ll need a Christmas miracle to keep his family together. Thankfully, one arrives in the form of Alan Rickman and a bunch of international terrorists.

“A Christmas Story”

Have you ever gotten your tongue stuck to a metal pole or worn so many layers that you couldn’t put your arms down? If you answered yes, then “A Christmas Story” might seem eerily similar to your holiday season. This 1983 film set in our beloved Northern Indiana follows Ralphie, a little boy on a mission to get a BB Gun for Christmas. With a family almost as crazy as yours and a plight that those who have wanted a “dangerous” toy for Christmas can relate to, “A Christmas Story” is a classic for a reason. TBS will be airing “A Christmas Story” in a 24-hour marathon beginning at 8:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

“Love Actually”

This was the original Holiday-themed ensemble romantic comedy, following nine interconnected love stories during the Christmas season. There isn’t much not to love about “Love Actually.” The film features some of the UK’s most famous actors, including Alan Rickman, Kiera Knightly and rom-com titan Hugh Grant. With just the right amount of British humor (or should I say “humour”) and heartwarming romance, “Love Actually” is the perfect movie to watch when you’re looking for a crunch time pick-me-up. Through the end of the semester, campus television station NDtv will be playing “Love Actually” on channel 53, giving you plenty of opportunities to snuggle up and watch during the cold days ahead.

“The Holiday”

Jude Law. Kate Winslet. Cameron Diaz. Jack Black ... Jude Law. What more do you need in a holiday film? Maybe a little romance, the most charming home in England and adorable little girls that give you hope not all kids are devils? “The Holiday” has all of that and more. Grab a mug of hot chocolate, a handful of your best friends and snuggle in to watch a film that will raise your spirits as you curse the fact that Law lives thousands of miles away.

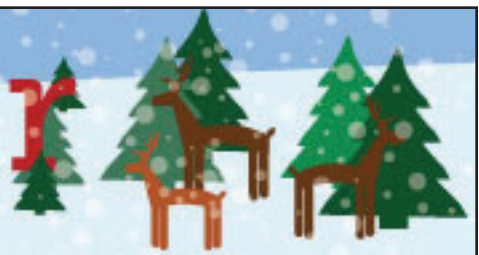
“It’s a Wonderful Life”

If you haven’t seen this movie, you need to stop everything you are doing-even if it is writing a term paper-and rent it. George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) finds himself down on his luck and imagines what life would be like if he had never been born. Luckily, his guardian angel Clarence (Henry Travers) is there to help him out, showing him all the lives he has touched and the difference he has made for his small town. This touching drama brings out all the important themes of Christmas in a beautifully acted package, inspiring Christmas spirit in audiences of all ages.

“Muppet Christmas Carol”

This classic film takes the traditional story of “A Christmas Carol” and the meaning of Christmas and tells it using the Muppets. What could be more fun? The story tells of a man named Scrooge, who cares more about himself and his money than others. With the help of the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and Future, Scrooge comes to realize what an unfulfilled life he is living and learns the true spirit of Christmas. The story ends on a happy note, but you’ll have to watch it to see exactly what it is. If nothing else, watch it for the Muppets.

Beautiful Time of the Year 'bests' of Christmas



"Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy"

Bing Crosby and David Bowie made this Christmas mash-up a hit in the 1970s with a delightfully awkward video on the TV special, "Bing's Crosby's Merrie Olde Christmas." While the video reeks of an old-time feel, the song remains a mainstay on the best Christmas playlists.

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Nothing's better than a truthful song, and you know Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year. Andy Williams' classic about the joys of the holiday season has aged well, and the magic certainly has not been lost. So pop in the song, get out your hot chocolate and be of good cheer!

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"

This classic song really gets you in the mood for Christmas, no matter who you are. Whether you're young or very old, you will find something in this song to make you smile. Sung by the wonderful and popular Bing Crosby, this song talks about the signs that the Christmas season is beginning, like snow, music, decorations, bells, Christmas trees, toys, general merriment, etc. Everything that is mentioned in this song instills in the listener a sense of warmth and excitement (except maybe the part about wanting school to start again). No matter where you are in life, even if you are frantically studying for finals, this song can still bring happiness to your heart.

"The Christmas Song"

Cole's Christmas classic simply must be on everyone's Christmas playlist. It has everything we love about Christmas, Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, and it gives you that good old-at-home feeling that makes you want to curl up with some hot chocolate.

"The Office" — "Christmas Party" Episodes

Any Christmas party episode on "The Office" is guaranteed to be one of the best episodes of the season. The people at Dunder Mifflin never fail to throw a bizarre holiday party that always creates the perfect personal drama, crammed with comedy in between.

"The Year Without a Santa Claus"

This film was originally a Christmas TV special, and while it still plays often during Christmas season, it has become so popular that it has been released on DVD. Santa wakes up on Christmas with a terrible cold and is advised by his doctor to take a holiday off instead of deliver presents because no one seems to care about Christmas anymore. Elves Jingle and Jangle must find people who still believe in Christmas, and their adventures outside the North Pole are entertaining. Oh yeah, and this film features the musically talented Heat Miser and Snow Miser, the memorable duo who never get along but must in order for Christmas to happen. It's a touching Christmas classic that you shouldn't miss.



"12 YATS of Christmas"

Those of us from Louisiana (or more generally the South) will already have this song very close to our hearts. However, even if you are from somewhere far away, this song is so full of fun that you should still check it out. It takes the popular classic "The 12 Days of Christmas" and turns it on its head by changing the lyrics to reference pieces of Louisiana culture. From the Lower 9th Ward to the popular phrase, "Ate by yo momma's," to a crawfish taking the place of a partridge, this song is full of unusual rhymes and innovative uses of the numbers themselves. No matter where you're from, this song should be in your repertoire.

"Do You Hear What I Hear"

Bing Crosby made this classic Christmas tune popular in the 1960s, and its popularity has only skyrocketed since then. Performers like Carrie Underwood and the "Glee" cast have recently released versions of the song, joining the likes of Bob Dylan, Whitney Houston and Robert Goulet. The song is a beautiful plea for peace that was written during the Cuban Missile Crisis but still resonates today. Its lyrics are touching, and Crosby, whose version is still the best, has a wonderful voice sure to bring Christmas cheer.

"The Christmas Song"

Cole's Christmas classic simply must be on everyone's Christmas playlist. It has everything we love about Christmas, Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, and it gives you that good old-at-home feeling that makes you want to curl up with some hot chocolate.

"Santa Claus is Coming to Town"

No song does a better job of getting to the holiday season's bottom line than "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Be good so that Santa will bring you presents. That is a simple message that kids can understand, and it offers an incentive for good behavior for all those children who have a hard time with morality and stuff. First heard on Eddie Cantor's radio show in 1934, the tune has since been recorded by over a hundred artists, but the most popular version today might be the one by Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

Skip the Jim Carrey version of this movie, whose only redeeming moment is Cindy Lou Who (Taylor Momsen) singing, "Where Are You Christmas?" The animated version, made in the 1960s and based off the Dr. Seuss book, is still the best version of the movie.

Mean Mr. Grinch tries to steal Christmas from the Whos, but he can't steal the spirit and joy of the holiday, just like finals and airport delays will never kill the joy for all of us as we struggle towards Christmas break. The film is a moving testament to the true meaning behind Christmas.

"Rugrats" — "A Rugrats Chanukah"

The Rugrats always had very active imaginations, and in this holiday episode they put them to good use, envisioning themselves as the actors in the Hanukkah story and explaining the holiday to all their young viewers. The show was one of the first specials recognizing a Jewish holiday and, while a childish interpretation of the story, still promotes the lesser known holiday to the masses of children that loved following the lives and adventures of Tommy and his pals. It provides innocent fun, so consider putting it on your watch-list this holiday season.



"Seinfeld" — "The Strike"

This memorable episode of the hilarious series introduced to the world the holiday of "Festivus." Frank Costanza's father (Jerry Stiller), hating the commercial and religious aspects of Christmas, makes up his own holiday. The holiday includes the airing of grievances, feats of strength and a Festivus pole instead of a tree. The holiday, of course, is a source of tension in the Costanza family, but that just makes the episode even funnier. If you are looking for an alternative holiday to celebrate this winter, look no further than this "Festivus for the rest of us!"

"A Charlie Brown Christmas"

Charlie Brown finds himself depressed as Christmas approaches despite all the festivities and presents he sees around him. He is determined to discover the real spirit of Christmas, and it takes a school pageant to remind him that he doesn't have to get dragged down by the commercialization of the holiday, but can rejoice in the true meaning of Christmas-the birth of Jesus Christ.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

The 12 Gifts of Sports

To quote a popular Christmas carol (and a possibly more popular ESPN commercial), it's the most wonderful time of the year.

The holiday season is upon us, which means not just celebrations and parties, shopping and gift-giving, but also sports. In the spirit of the 12 days of Christmas, I give the you the 12 best things about sports during the holidays.

12. Baseball's Winter Meetings

Often the most important off-season moves are made at these meetings in early December, and this year should be no different, as big-name free agents Albert Pujols and Prince Fielder are currently on the market. The Yankees will spend too much money, the Red Sox will try to keep up, small market teams will barely get involved and Cubs fans will once again proclaim that this is their year.

11. Fantasy Football Playoffs
Week 14 of the NFL season is certainly not the start of the playoffs for the real teams, but for fantasy football players, things are starting to heat up. Because teams who have already clinched playoff spots have a tendency to sit their starters for the last week or two of the season, fantasy players move their playoffs back a few weeks and get even more excited about individual performances than normal.

10. NFL Playoff Races
9. Quest for Perfection (or lack thereof)

For those who prefer real football, the holiday season brings playoff races in the NFL. Teams will battle for one of six playoff spots in each conference, some making late season runs and others unbelievable collapses. Teams like the Indianapolis Colts will make a strong run for the leagues worst team and the right to draft Andrew Luck, while the Green Bay Packers will make their attempt at perfection.

8. College Basketball Conference Play

The holiday season also means that college basketball teams finish with their out-of-conference schedules and start conference play. Whether you're looking for a classic Big-10 matchup in which the two teams struggle to combine for triple-digits or a Big East game pitting two of the top teams in the nation, conference play surely will not disappoint.

7. The NBA on Christmas Day
Sports fans expect to be entertained every day of the year, and the NBA takes up the task of doing

so on a day on which every other American gets to stay home. This year's games will be even more exciting, since they will be the first games of the year in a lockout-shortened season. All the stars will be out on Christmas — let the LeBron bashing begin.

6. ESPN's Bowl Game Coverage
5. Ridiculous Quarterback Play
ESPN is often accused of over-coverage, and the bowl season is no exception. But thankfully, when it comes to bowl games, there is no such thing as too much coverage. Also, because most bowl games are played in warm climates and because the MAC does not believe in defense, the early bowl games always have the potential to be incredibly high scoring, which is nothing if not entertaining.

4. Heisman Trophy Ceremony
Once again televised by ESPN, the awarding of the Heisman Trophy gives analysts and fans alike the opportunity to celebrate the great seasons of the best players in college football (Andrew Luck, Trent Richardson), remember the best Heisman winners of the past (Tim Brown, Tim Tebow) and laugh at those who, after winning the Heisman, couldn't stay on an NFL roster (Eric Crouch, Charlie Ward).

3. SEC Domination Over the Big-10

2. Bowl Games on New Years Day (or the day after)

Most years, Jan. 1 is a day chock-full of high-quality college football games, including three match-ups between the SEC and the Big-10. And while college football fans will have to wait until Jan. 2 this year because of NFL games on New Year's Day, the nation's most talented conference will still run up and down the field on the nation's most overrated conference. Last year the SEC defeated Big-10 teams by a combined 93 points. Can they make it 100 this year?

1. Watching Sports with Family

The holiday season often offers a unique opportunity for families to watch sports together. Whether it's ordering a pizza and watching a bowl game with your dad and brothers (or, in my case, dad, uncle and cousins) or eating a delicious home-cooked meal with an NBA game on in the background, sports is for many an integral part of the holiday experience and a great way to bond. So when your mom asks you to turn off the TV and sit down to eat, remind her of all the ways sports bring people together. Then turn the TV off anyway — she's your mom after all.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu
The views expressed in this Sports Authority column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Eric Prister
Senior Sports Writer

NBA

NBA players return to practice

Associated Press

Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony returned to work Thursday — and immediately were asked about working together.

Dallas Mavericks players took the floor without knowing if starting center Tyson Chandler would ever join them, and the Miami Heat team they beat in the NBA finals arrived to some bad injury news.

Finally, NBA players are back.

Owners opened the doors of their facilities to players for the first time since locking them out July 1. Exactly one month after the regular season was originally scheduled to begin, players could work out but their coaching staffs couldn't be present because there isn't a new labor deal yet.

"I've got to be the happiest person in the world right now just to be back in the gym, getting a chance to work out with a couple of my teammates," Paul said in New Orleans. "I'm just happy to be back and be back on the court, as I'm sure all the players are."

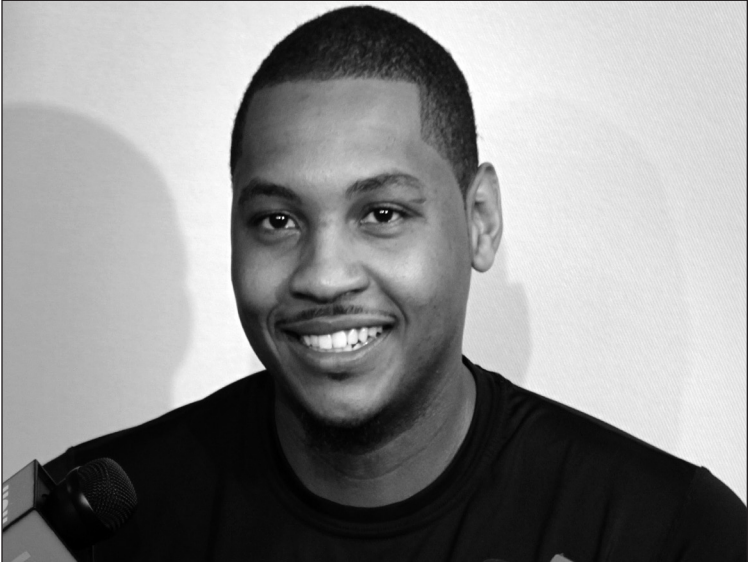
League officials hope to open training camps next Friday, and that stayed on track Thursday when more than 300 players submitted signatures authorizing the reformation of the players' association. That paves the way for negotiations to continue on the remaining issues, and both sides hope the deal is ratified sometime next week.

The league planned to return player content, images and videos to NBA.com and its other media by Friday morning after removing it when the lockout began. With the lengthy labor fight all but over, a sense of excitement has returned.

"Yeah, it was," Milwaukee general manager John Hammond said. "Since it was announced that the potential deal was imminent, it occurred immediately. I think immediately, you could kind of feel that in your gut: 'Here we go, we're getting ready to get started again.' I think as each step progresses, that will continue."

In the meantime, the big news remained the focus on the headliners of the 2012 free agent class, which also includes Dwight Howard.

The agent for Deron Williams told The Record of Bergen, N.J. that his client would opt for free agency instead of a contract extension with the Nets, and Yahoo Sports



AP

Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony takes questions from the media after working out at the team's practice facility Thursday.

reported that Paul's agent informed the Hornets that he wanted a trade to the Knicks.

Paul and Anthony are friends who spent time together this summer and it's long been speculated they wanted to play together, but Anthony denied trying to recruit his Olympic teammate.

"As far as me recruiting Chris Paul, no, not at all," he said at the Knicks' training facility. "We're very close friends. I'm pretty sure you guys saw him in New York a lot due to the player meetings and stuff like that, but we've never had any conversation about him coming to New York. That's something that I would leave up to him, him and his family. I'm staying away from that."

The Anthony trade saga lasted from the summer of 2010 until Denver finally dealt him to the Knicks in February, and he said he doesn't think the NBA needs a repeat of it now. Yet, he also realizes that "regardless of what I'm saying right here today, that will be the biggest topic, the biggest discussion, at the beginning of the season, the beginning of training camp."

Paul will do his best to ignore it.

"I don't think about it, to tell you the truth," he said. "I'm just ready to get out here and compete and hoop. This is what I do."

In the meantime, the status of the current free agents must be solved. Chandler is one of the biggest, and though he provided the Mavericks the interior defense they needed to finally win a title, they may not spend the money necessary to bring him back.

"You can't see my fingers or toes, but they are crossed hoping that Tyson's coming back," guard Jason Terry

said. "He was a big part of what we accomplished here. We've laid a foundation. To take a step backward would be terrible. I'm not saying that we wouldn't have a chance to win this year if Tyson doesn't come back, but it definitely puts things up against us."

Chris Bosh, looking more muscular, arrived at Miami's facility, where LeBron James and Dwyane Wade aren't expected until next week. The Heat also were without Mike Miller, who has battled injuries since signing there last summer. He will miss about eight weeks while recovering from hernia surgery this week.

There was no guarantee Miller would return anyway, given the considerable speculation the Heat would waive him via the amnesty clause that will be in the new CBA.

"I know Mike. He's a strong guy, he's going to stay positive and he's going to get back as soon as he can," said Heat forward Udonis Haslem, who went to the University of Florida with Miller and considers him one of his very closest friends. "The key with Mike is, we've got to fight him not to get back too fast. He's going to want to be out there. He's going to want to play. He's got to just pace himself and get healthy."

Otherwise, the news around the league was positive. Golden State GM Larry Riley was greeted with a warm welcome from a security guard upon his arrival at Oracle Arena.

"That guy greeted me with a huge smile and just happy to be back," Riley said. "I think that's the opinion, that's the feeling that we're going to see out of a lot of people. Now he's a happy guy anyway. But he was overly happy today."

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Investment property in South Bend. 1333 Belmont. New remodel with new kitchen and bath. (apox. 1600 SF finished) Paint and carpet new ready to move into. Four potential bedrooms and a full basement. All new appliances. Call Jim 574-329-2368 for a showing and more details. See it at: MichianaOnlineRealty.com

PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Don't go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit ND's website at: <http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

General Christmas Facts

The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531

In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

In 1856, President Franklin Pierce decorated the first White House Christmas tree.

December 6 is St Nicholas's Day - the first of the gift giving days, especially in Holland and Belgium.

The first American Christmas carol was written in 1649 by a minister named John de Brebeur and is called "Jesus is Born"

Mexicans call the poinsettia "Flower of the Holy Night" - the Holy Night is the Mexican way of saying "Christmas Eve".

The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas.

On Christmas morning since medieval times, church bells have been rung to announce the coming of the saviour. It was customary from the 18th century to wear clothes and carry a small bell to signify the birth of Christ. The ringing of the bells was to signify the importance of the His Birth.

Santa's Reindeers are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

A wreath with holly, red berries and other decorations began in the 17th century. Holly, with its sharply pointed leaves, symbolised the thorns in Christ's crown-of-thorns. Red berries symbolised the drops of Christ's blood. A wreath at Christmas signified a home that celebrated the birth of Christ

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day 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.

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's looks to snap three-game losing skid

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

This weekend Saint Mary's will attempt to snap a three-game losing streak when it hosts Alma on Saturday. The Belles struggled offensively in a 67-59 loss to Trine on Wednesday, shooting just 31 percent from the floor.

"We played good stretches

of defense, more in the second half, against Trine last night," Belles coach Jennifer Henley said Thursday. "We had a great comeback in the second half and had better rhythm on offense, we just ran out of time."

Senior guard Patsy Mahoney and senior forward Jessica Centa lead the Belles (2-5, 0-1 MIAA). Mahoney averages 14.9

points per game and recently earned MIAA conference player of the week honors, while Centa chips in 11.9 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. Along with improving its shooting, Saint Mary's will focus on containing Alma (1-4, 1-0) defensively.

"We still need to put together longer stretches of good defense, but we are getting there," Henley said.

Alma's freshmen pair of guard Grace Wheeler and forward Morgan Henry have made an instant impact for the Scots. Henry has been the team's leading scorer for most of the season, and Wheeler averages 8.4 points and 6.2 rebounds per game.

"Alma is young, but very well coached," Henley said. "They are coming off a big win against Adrian on Wednesday night."

"We need to find a way to contain their guards and continue to improve our



COURTNEY ECKERLE/The Observer

Senior guard Maggie Ronan drives past an opponent during Saint Mary's 66-63 victory over Wheaton on Nov. 17.

transition defense in order to win," Henley said.

Saint Mary's and Alma will face off at 3 p.m. Saturday at

the Angela Athletic Facility.

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SMC SWIMMING AND DIVING

Price leads Belles with a personal best

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

A monster one-mile swim from senior captain Megan Price highlighted the Belles' first day of competition at the Calvin Winter Invitational.

Price swam the 1,650-yard freestyle in 11:27.50, a personal record by 28 seconds

and one of the most impressive mile times in school history. Her time should secure her 20th place overall, but timing difficulties in some of the mile heats prevented meet officials from publishing official times or team standings.

Junior Liz Palmer also competed in the mile, also setting a new personal record with a time of 11:56.21.

"Definitely some of the best swims came from the two girls who we had swimming the mile. Liz Palmer started us off, and she had a great swim herself, she dropped eight seconds," Belles coach Mark Benishek said. "Then we had an absolutely amazing time from Megan Price, one of our team captains. She dropped 28 seconds and she just missed the top-five list for the

program, so some absolutely great times, especially for the midway point of the season."

Price also led off the 800-yard relay, the only other event of the afternoon. She teamed up with sophomore Sarah Thompson and fellow senior captains Katie Donovan and Audrey Dalrymple to finish 16th in 8:26.89, over a second below their seeded time.

Benishek said he is looking forward to seeing Dalrymple compete in her signature event against some stiff competition.

"Tomorrow we have the breaststroke, which is definitely a big event for Audrey Dalrymple," Benishek said Thursday. "I think she's seeded quite high; she's in the top 16 I think, which is great,

especially with some of the teams in there. We have quite a few Division II teams at this meet, and there's one Division I team as well, [Valparaiso], so there's some great competition and some great results."

Benishek added that he expects to see fast times from his swimmers in the 50-yard free-style.

"There's the [50-yard free-style] we have quite a few swimmers in that," Benishek said. "We're looking for quite of few of them to see some time drops. We had a little bit lighter week with the taper going into this meet, so

I think all around we should definitely see a lot of time drops."

Benishek said that he has so far been impressed by the strength and depth of some of the Division II schools competing at the Invitational.

"Some of the teams that definitely are very strong include Grand Valley State. They just naturally have a large, large team, and with the entries being unlimited, we're kind of at a disadvantage being a smaller squad," Benishek said. "They're definitely up there, as well as the University of Indianapolis they're very strong. We were racing them two weeks ago at Wabash College, so we have seen some of that talent here as well, so definitely two very strong squads."

The Belles return to the water Friday for the second day of the Calvin Winter Invitational at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at
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McGraw

continued from page 16

for us to see how we do with what we've been working on all week at practice, which has mostly been rebounding."

McGraw has continually stressed Notre Dame's need for improvement defensively, particularly after giving up 95 points to No. 1 Baylor on Nov. 20. Facing another top-10 team in No. 7 Duke, the Irish continued to struggle defensively in the first half. According to McGraw, the turn around in the second half showed Notre Dame's potential on the defensive end.

"We were really disappointed with the defense in the first half, and I thought we really took more pride in the second half," McGraw said of the Duke game. "I thought we got really determined and we made some really good plays, some really smart plays. I was really pleased we were able to hold them to 54 points when they're averaging [77 points entering the contest], so that's really great defense."

The Irish look to continue the momentum from their strong defensive showing against Duke.

"It's tough when you have Friday-Sunday games, especially when you have to travel in the middle of it, so we really need to stay focused and take care of what we need to work on," McGraw said. "We need to be sharp defensively and offensively. We certainly haven't played our best game yet, so we really have a lot of things to improve on, so we're anxious for another game."

"We need to be sharp defensively and offensively. We certainly haven't played our best game yet, so we really have a lot of things to improve on, so we're anxious for another game."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach



TOM LA/The Observer

Senior guard Natalie Novasel darts around a defender during Notre Dame's 98-43 win over Hartford on Nov. 17.

Pennsylvania (4-1) is enjoying its best five-game start in school history and will travel to South Bend fresh off two wins on the road. Sophomore guard Alyssa Baron, last season's Ivy League Rookie of the Year, leads the Quakers' offensive efforts. Baron was

also the first freshman in Ivy League history to lead the league in scoring, averaging 16.6 points per game in her first season.

"They have a really good guard in Baron and she's averaging about 20 points a game," McGraw said. "She's a really good three-point shooter and she's really crafty with the ball. They're off to their best start ever, so they're

coming in with a lot of confidence, and she's a really good player."

The Irish take on the Quakers tonight at the Purcell Pavilion at 7 p.m. before traveling to Omaha, Neb., to face Creighton (3-2) on Sunday.

Contact Kelsey Manning at kmannin3@nd.edu

Barnes

continued from page 16

rather than focusing on the standings in Notre Dame's final meet of the calendar year.

"There will be six sessions in this national format invitational," Barnes said. "We need everyone to swim well and give it their all. The beauty of a three-day meet is you can assess your growth and progress daily."

The Irish (3-3) are coming off a tough 188-112 loss to Big East conference opponent Louisville. The Irish hope to grow from this setback and educate themselves in this three-day competition, Barnes said.

"This meet will not only be a physical meet, but it will help our team grow as a whole," Barnes said. "We will

learn from the championship format, find our mistakes and learn from them after each day. Each member on the team will play a big role in their own learning process."

The Irish will not only look for strong performances in the water, but they will also try to polish up the mistakes.

"We have plenty of opportunities to race and perform with the championship format. We will have to swim fast, recover quickly and educate ourselves in the process."

Brian Barnes
Irish coach

"We hope to race and execute the details we have been working on in practice," Barnes said. "We have plenty of opportunities to race and perform with the championship format. We will have to swim fast, recover quickly and

educate ourselves in the process."

The Ohio State Invitational begins today and continues all day Saturday and Sunday in Columbus, Ohio.

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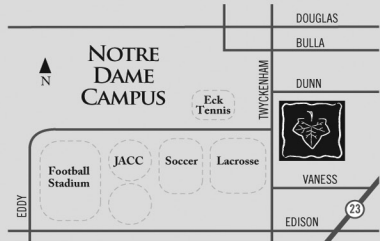
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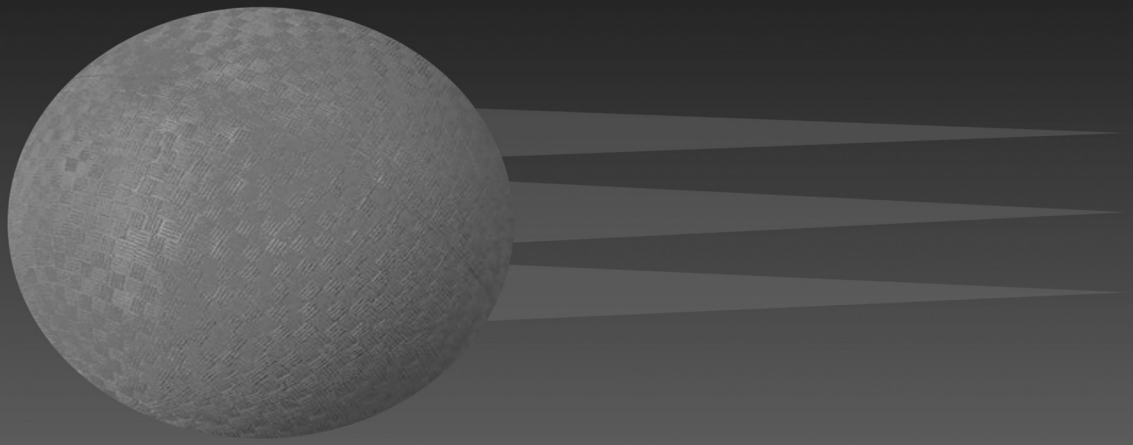
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DILLON WEISNER/The Observer

Sophomore guard Jerian Grant dribbles down the court during Notre Dame's 93-69 victory over Delaware on Nov. 18.

Turnovers

continued from page 16

then.”

To cut down on turnovers, the Irish will rely on sophomore guards Eric Atkins and Jerian Grant, who Brey called the “BW (Baltimore-Washington) Parkway guards” after Sunday’s 84-59 win over Bryant at the Purcell Pavilion. Both play-makers come from the D.C. area and will return home to take on the Terrapins (3-3) as Notre Dame’s leaders in points and assists per game.

Grant and Atkins have each averaged 13.8 points per game through the first eight games and combined for 22 points against Gonzaga (5-0). But the “BW Parkway guards” also combined for 10 turnovers against the Zags, mostly due to the team’s inability to get open, Brey said.

“Jerian is maturing and getting older ... But [we] kind of hung [Atkins] out to dry a little bit and Gonzaga contested us. It is really tough when you are dribbling out there without any receivers.

“This is a good test for our resiliency. We are going to be in some tough things and are trying to figure out who we

are. How do we respond and come back the next game is where we are kind of at with this group day-to-day.”

Brey’s team will have to respond against a resilient Maryland squad hungry for a win after a 71-62 loss to undefeated Illinois on Tuesday. The Terrapins’ three losses have come against teams with a combined 18-1 record, including a 62-42 loss Nov. 17 against No. 12 Alabama.

Maryland is led by versatile sophomore guard Terrell Stoglin, who has averaged 24.5 points in his last four games.

Brey said his team knows what to expect from Maryland, especially after the shaky showing at Gonzaga.

“There are some things to build on and there are things we have to accept responsibility of being better at,” he said. “The book on us is going to be to pressure the heck out of us, which has kind of been the book on us for 10 years. Getting up on the ball and

press is where we are going to really be tested.”

Notre Dame will take on Maryland at the Verizon Center in the BB&T Classic at 4:45 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastell1@nd.edu

“Jerian is maturing and getting older ... But [we] kind of hung [Atkins] out to dry a little bit and Gonzaga contested us. It is really tough when you are dribbling out there without any receivers.”

Mike Brey
Irish coach

“The book on us is going to be to pressure the heck out of us, which has kind of been the book on us for 10 years. Getting up on the ball and press is where we are going to be really tested.”

Mike Brey
Irish coach

Jackson

continued from page 16

Jackson emphasized that he did not want his young squad to get complacent as the Huskies (4-7-2, 3-7-2 Hockey East) come to town. “They’re still a young team, and they’ve still got to figure things out in some ways,” Jackson said.

“Just because we had some success, we’re not going to get sweet on ourselves and start taking shortcuts. We can’t do it on the ice, and we can’t do it off the ice.”

After struggling early in the season, Northeastern is riding a three-game winning streak highlighted by a 4-1 victory at No. 11 Michigan on Nov. 25. The Huskies showed early signs of their potential, taking then-No. 1 Boston College to overtime on Oct. 22 and falling in extra time to current No. 1 Merrimack on

Nov. 5.

“They’ve played well here in the last month. Going to Yost [Arena] and beating Michigan handily is pretty impressive,” Jackson said. “They’ve won their last three, [and] they’ve given Merrimack and BC fits even though they haven’t beaten them. They’ve got a great goaltender, three solid lines offensively, so I expect this is going to be a pretty challenging weekend.”

The Huskies play an up-tempo style typical of the Hockey East, and the quick pace of the game will challenge the Irish, who move to the Hockey East beginning in 2013.

“We’re trying to develop a team that plays that kind of game, so it’s always good to play those kind of teams,” Jackson said. “It forces your players to make plays under pressure and helps them learn poise. When they don’t play with poise against teams like that, then they have trouble

“Northeastern will come at us. They’re not going to sit back. They’re going to come after us, and we’re going to have to make plays under pressure.”

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Sophomore defensemen Kevin Lind looks for the puck in Notre Dame’s 3-2 victory over Boston College on Nov. 18. The Irish have lost only one game in the new Compton Family Ice Arena.

because they turn pucks over. “Northeastern will come at us. They’re not going to sit back. They’re going to come after us, and we’re going to have to make plays under pressure.”

As the Irish prepare for a break in the nonconference slate, Jackson said Notre Dame must focus on playing consistent hockey for the duration of the game. The Irish have struggled early in games this season.

“In any team that I’ve ever coached, I’ve never had a team that had three great periods ... As long as it’s not the third period, that would be the one I’d be more concerned with, but it’s hard,” Jackson said. “That’s the objective, is to try and play 60 minutes of hockey, and being ready for the start of the game is a big part of it. But it’s just as important to me to play well in the second and the third, especially the third.

“These are important games for us. ... In the big picture, they’re just as important as any conference game, so we’ve got to be focused and ready to play.”

The Irish host the Huskies in a two-game series at the Compton Family Ice Arena on Friday and Saturday. Both games begin at 7:05 p.m.

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

MEN’S TRACK

Coaches, players utilize first meet as starting point for season

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

On Friday, Notre Dame looks to kick off its season when it hosts the annual Blue & Gold Invitational. This meet will be the first of four home meets held at the Loftus Center.

Competing against the Irish will be five other schools: Bethel College, Butler, DePaul, Detroit and Marquette. Despite the staunch competition, the Irish look to compete well in front of a home crowd, where they possess certain advantages.

“Competing at home is always an advantage,” junior All-American runner Jeremy Rae said. “We meet for practice every day at Loftus, so going and racing there is almost like another workout.

“We’re always comfortable and never get too nervous about it,” Rae said.

As the first meet, this competition provides a unique opportunity for the team and coaches to evaluate where the Irish stand as a team.

“It’s a meet to find out where we are in terms of our conditioning,” Irish coach Joe Piane said. “A lot of people haven’t competed yet this year unless they ran cross country, so it’s an opportuni-

ty to see where they are with their conditioning.”

Some of the distance runners coming off a grueling cross-country season are not even competing. Rae, who earned All-Big East honors this fall, helped the Irish finish 24th in the nation.

“This meet is really for the sprinters and the field guys,” Rae said. “They haven’t had the advantage of competing yet this year while we’re coming off a full-cross country sea-

“Anytime you go out and compete, it’s a big deal, so it’s still very important in that respect. We’ll do very well. We have to.”

Joe Piane
Irish coach

son.”

Even though some of the top runners aren’t competing, Piane said Notre Dame’s competitive fire continues to burn.

“Anytime you go out and compete, it’s a big deal,” Piane said, “so it’s still very important in that respect. We’ll do very well. We have to.”

The Irish return a great deal of talented competitors who will be vying for top placements. With this talent comes leadership and experience that spans a variety of events.

“Our leadership is headed by [senior middle distance runner] Randall Babb, [senior pole-vaulter] Kevin Schipper and [senior thrower] Andy Hills,” Piane said. “They are all seniors and all three are

very good competitors.”

The three leaders were met by considerable success last season, especially Schipper, who won the Big East championships for the second year in a row. Yet, all three are expected to reach new heights and push hard once again through the entire season.

“I have no doubt in my mind that they can take their success even further this year,” Piane said.

“This is an opportunity for us to get going, and that’s what we hope to do.”

They will look to do just that Friday evening at the Loftus Center. The field events start at 5:00 p.m., while the track events kick off at 6:00 p.m.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu



SARAH O’CONNOR/The Observer

Junior Jessica Rydberg races during the National Catholic Championships on Aug. 16. Rydberg begins her track season Friday.

Impact

continued from page 16

Senior Maddie Buttinger ended last spring’s outdoor season on a strong note by competing in the heptathlon at the NCAA championships. She also earned All-Big East honors last spring for her second-place performance at the Big East Outdoor championships.

Three sprinters are looking to continue the success they enjoyed last spring. Junior Nevada Sorenson and sophomores Michelle Brown and Megan Yanik all earned trips to the NCAA regionals last year. Junior pole-vaulter Chrissy Finkel and middle-distance runners junior Rebecca Tracy and sophomores Kelly Curran and Alexa Aragon also represented the Irish last spring at the meet.

Senior distance runner

Rachel Velarde and junior distance runner Jessica Rydberg are both coming off outstanding cross-country seasons and hope their success carries over to their track events. Rydberg paced the Irish in six of seven meets during the cross country season and earned All-Region accolades.

The Blue & Gold Invitational is the first of four home meets Notre Dame will be

hosting this year. The others include the Notre Dame Invitational on Jan. 21, the Meyo Invitational from Feb. 3 to 4 and the Alex Wilson Invitational from March 2 to 3.

Friday’s meet gets underway at 5 p.m. with the women’s high jump. The track events begin at 6 p.m. with women’s 60-meter hurdles.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

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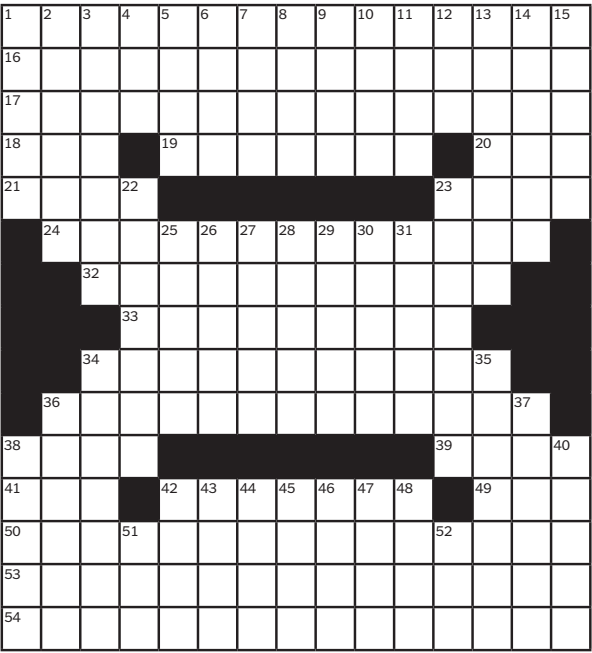
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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Silverman, 41; Nestor Carbonell, 44; Bette Midler, 66; Woody Allen, 76.

Happy Birthday:Get serious about your goals. Honesty will play a major role in your future and your emotional well-being. You have everything to gain if you learn from past mistakes. Stabilize your life using discipline and the hard work required to do your very best. Do what's right and best for you. Your numbers are 9, 15, 27, 34, 37, 46, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Not everything will be visible. Step back and observe what everyone else is doing. Don't let your heart rule your head, especially if money is involved. A good decision will be based on fact and practicality. Make your move cautiously. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Open your heart and share your thoughts and plans for the future with someone you feel you can trust. The input you get will help you make up your mind and move forward. A chance to advance is more promising than you think. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Anger will mount if you are too pushy or you exaggerate the facts. An unexpected turn of events or last-minute change will leave you in the lurch. You'll have to think fast and cover up for something or someone.★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put love first. Whether it's love for someone special or for something you do, put in your best effort and you will not be disappointed. You can stabilize your future if you are responsible and attentive. Protect your home, family and partnerships. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Have fun, but don't overspend or you will have regrets. A change of scenery or pace will lift your spirits. Getting together with people who can offer you information, adventure or a unique variation to your lifestyle will encourage positive change.★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Bide your time and hold your thoughts. Sharing your true feelings will only lead to an argument you cannot win. Focus on love, learning and self-improvement, and look at your personal options. Love rules, anger loses. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Say what's on your mind. You may not please everyone, but you will have the edge when it comes to support. A change is inevitable, so don't fear the outcome. Be honest, elegant and true to you. Money is on the way. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love will bring insightful ideas and plans to the forefront. Share with someone you believe in and you will prosper. Be honest about your feelings and don't let ulterior motives steer you in the wrong direction. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't get flustered by what others do or say. Pursue your own opportunities and don't look back. You don't need anyone else to bring about the changes that will put you in a better position for the future. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Opportunity knocks. Be willing and ready to take advantage of what's being offered. Alterations to your home or living arrangements look positive and can bring financial stability. Don't hesitate. Grab what's yours. ★★★★★

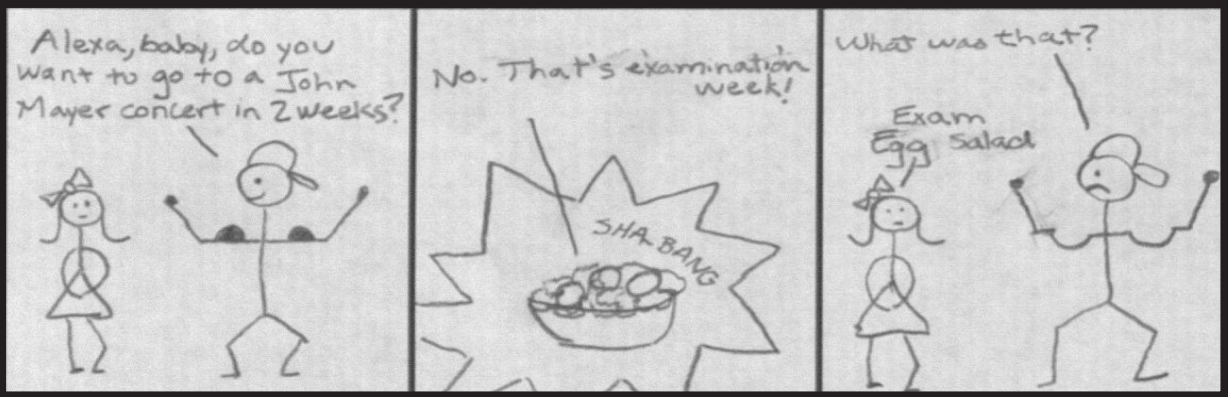
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let your imagination flow, especially when making changes at work that will allow you to get more done, with better results. A partnership will inspire you to resurrect old ideas and plans. Don't let emotions hold you back.★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to your priorities and forget about emotional temptation. You have to do a good job for the right reasons. Ulterior motives and dishonesty are present in you or someone else, and should be monitored carefully. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are creative, sensitive and outgoing. You are disciplined and observant.

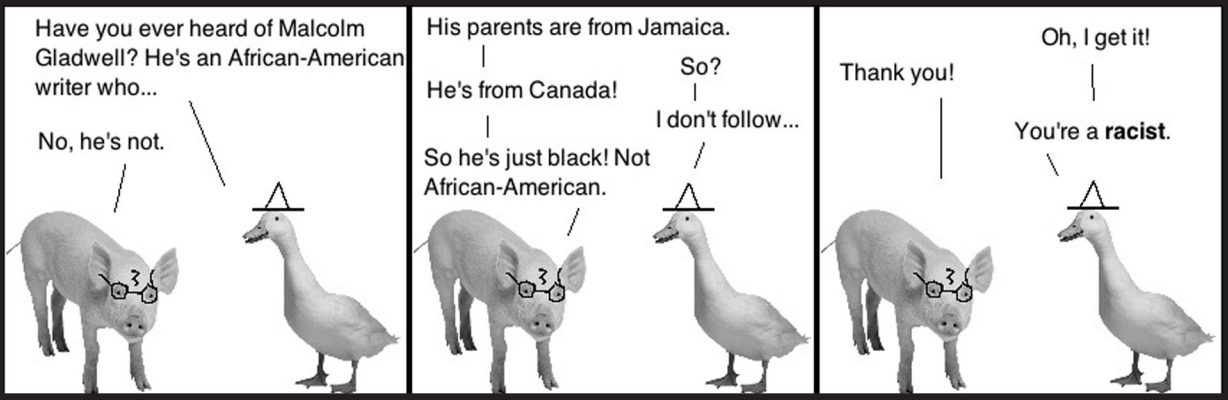
THE CLAMMY HANDSHAKE

KELLY LYNCH AND JOE MILLER



THE LONDON EXPRESS

ALEX GRISWOLD AND LEE HAGGENJOS



JUMBLE

HENRY ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

TNOEF

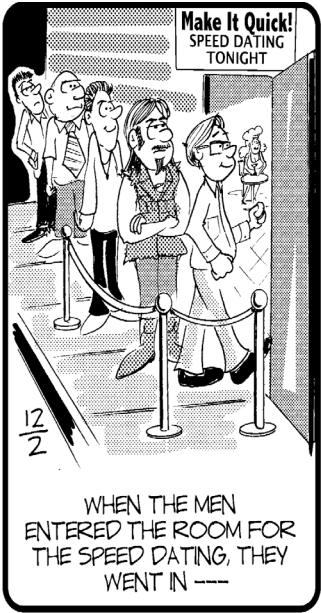
LGSIL

EIOCTX

ULEEDG

Answer: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: YAHOO PRESS PRANCE ODDITY
Answer: When he was a boy, the future football star measured his success — IN YARDS



THE OBSERVER

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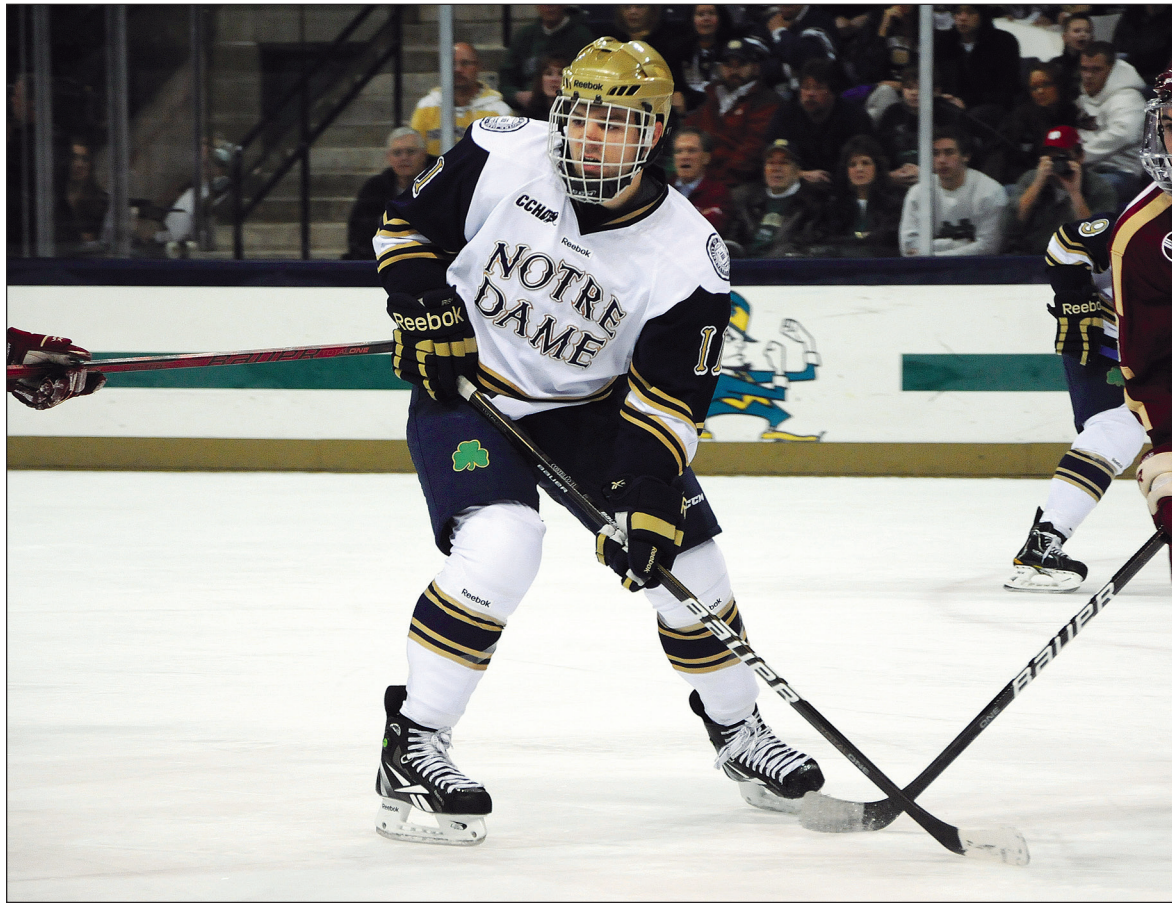
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HOCKEY

No shortcuts allowed



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Sophomore left wing Jeff Costello waits for a pass during the Irish 3-2 overtime victory against Boston College on Nov. 18. Notre Dame hosts Northeastern tonight in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Editor

On Oct. 21, No. 2 Notre Dame opened the brand-new Compton Family Ice Arena with a 5-2 win over Rensselaer. In doing so, the Irish (10-3-3, 7-2-3-0 CCHA) also kicked off an 11-game unbeaten streak that seemed to peak last Friday with a dominant 4-1 win at No. 14 Lake Superior State.

That all came crashing down in the second leg of the series, however, as the Irish dropped a 5-2 decision to the Lakers on

Saturday. This weekend, Notre Dame hopes to erase that bitter taste as it hosts Northeastern.

"[The players] should be upset about how that game went last Saturday night, because ... we went from one of our best games of the season on Friday night, in my opinion, to being loose with the puck," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "It was the seventh game in 15, 20 days, but ... it isn't an excuse, none of it's an excuse, because if we eliminate the penalty-killing goals against,

we're right in that game."

Jackson said he had been pleased with his team's progress on both special teams until this past weekend.

"We were going really good there for a while until this weekend," he said. "Our power play's been more consistent, a work in progress in some ways. I think our penalty had made real good strides until Saturday night ... but I thought that we had been doing really well."

see JACKSON/page 14

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Irish prepare to take on conference rivals

By ANDREW CARDOZA
Sports Writer

The Irish will travel to Columbus for the Ohio State Invitational this weekend to compete in the biggest meet of their season thus far.

"This meet gives us the opportunity to see where we are this far in the season," Irish coach Brian Barnes said. "This is the first meet this year that will be in championship format. There has been a lot of preparation and hopefully it will lead to high performances."

In this three-day meet,

the Irish will face four Big Ten rivals including the hosting Buckeyes, Michigan State, Purdue and Penn State. Purdue defeated the Irish 168-131 in South Bend earlier this season.

"This will be a great meet," Barnes said. "We are competing against some great competition. In this three-day meet everyone will be looking to swim well. I expect nothing but big performances and a fantastic finish to the weekend."

Barnes will look for team improvement and growth,

see BARNES/page 12

ND WOMEN'S TRACK

Exhibition meet sets groundwork for success

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish kick off their season Friday when they participate in their annual Blue & Gold Invitational at the Loftus Center.

Along with Notre Dame, competing teams include Butler, DePaul, Detroit and Marquette, as well as Bethel College of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Irish coach Joe Piane said the meet will be used as a practice run for all teams

involved.

"It's an opportunity for student-athletes who don't run cross country but have been training all fall to see where they are at in terms of their training and conditioning," he said. "It compares to an exhibition game for basketball. This is sort of an exhibition for us and probably the other teams as well."

Looking to make a big impact for the Irish this season is a handful of competitors.

see IMPACT/page 14

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Brey shows optimism as team heads to Maryland

By ANDREW GASTELUM
Sports Writer

If Spokane, Wash., was the frying pan, then Washington, D.C., may as well be the fire for the Irish. Notre Dame, fresh off a blowout 73-53 loss to No. 18 Gonzaga on Wednesday, will make a cross-country trip to take on a dangerous Maryland team Sunday.

The youthful Irish (5-3), whose roster only features one healthy senior compared to last season's four, looked rattled at Gonzaga's McCarthy Athletic Center, turning the ball over 17 times, including 11 times in the first 12 minutes. But Irish coach Mike Brey was optimistic after Wednesday's game, praising the effort of his big men

while realizing the team's maturity will come with experience.

"Tom Knight gave us some good stuff and that is his first time in big-time action," Brey said in a postgame radio interview with UND.com Wednesday. "And we have got to build on that. Jack Cooley too. Those guys battled."

"I think our maturity level is still something that has to come. The great thing is that we get back to practice Friday and can get better before we go on the road again to play Maryland Sunday."

"[We need] some more toughness, [to be] better with the basketball on Sunday, and I'd like to see the results

see TURNOVERS/page 13

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

McGraw readies ND for Penn

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

Following a last-second victory over Duke that featured a school record-tying comeback, the No. 3 Irish return home to face Pennsylvania, a program that has never beaten a top-25 opponent, on Friday.

Nevertheless, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Notre Dame (3-1) has no intentions of losing focus and emphasized the importance of tonight's contest.

"This is a really big game for us because our rebounding has been so bad," McGraw said. "We need to get back out and play. We've had a week off, so we've had a chance to work on some things, and tomorrow's going to be a big test

see MCGRAW/page 12



TOM LA/The Observer

Junior guard Skylar Diggins breaks away down the court during the Irish 98-43 defeat of Hartford on Nov. 17.