

Choosing more than a candidate

Student voters place same-sex marriage among priorities before casting ballots Nov. 6



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Senior Maura Newell said she will vote in favor of Referendum 74, which will legalize same-sex marriage in her home state of Washington, on Election Day.

By SAM STRYKER
Assistant Managing Editor



Like the other 46 states in the country, Tuesday is Election Day for Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington. But for voters in those four states, casting a ballot does not just mean choosing a new president — it also determines whether or not gay marriage will be legalized.

In Maine, Washington and Maryland, ballots feature referendums that would legalize same-sex marriages in the states. In Minnesota, a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage will be put up for a vote.

For senior Maura Newell, a native of Seattle, the fight is personal. With a gay brother, uncle and

aunt, she says gay rights issues are “very much so” a consideration next Tuesday.

“It is probably one of the deciding factors for me,” she said.

Just as voters in these four states will cast their ballots differently, the two presidential candidates stand in opposition on many gay rights issues.

Democratic candidate President Barack Obama voiced support for same-sex marriages earlier in the year, the first sitting president to do so. During his term in office, Obama also signed a repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and announced the Department of Justice would no longer uphold Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) against

see VOTING PAGE 6

Professors weigh in on weak economy

By MEGAN DOYLE
Managing Editor



The unemployment rate in the United States is 7.8 percent. The country is more than \$16 trillion in debt.

The banks received a bailout from the federal government. So did the auto industry.

At the end of the year, Bush-era tax cuts are scheduled to expire. Last year’s temporary payroll tax

cuts are also scheduled to expire, resulting in at least a two percent tax increase for workers, when the Budget Control Act of 2011 takes effect. When the nation reaches this so-called “fiscal cliff,” the United States would also see the end of certain tax cuts for businesses, the beginning of health care taxes related to the Affordable Care Act and spending cuts to a number of government programs, including Medicare and the Department of

Defense.

No wonder polls by Rasmussen Reports, Gallup, Bloomberg National Poll and numerous news organizations rank the economy as the top issue for many voters on Nov. 6.

Notre Dame economics professor Timothy Fuerst said all agree the country’s budgetary policy cannot last as it is, but the presidential candidates differ on their strategies to bring about change.

“I think the broader issue is how to deal with the enormous federal budget deficits, on the order of \$1 trillion a year,” Fuerst said. “This is simply not sustainable. Even after the economy recovers, there will be substantial deficits because of the rapid growth in spending, primarily entitlement spending such as Medicare and Social Security.”

Democrat President Barack Obama and Republican former Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney have both

failed to explain what cuts they would make or how they would change entitlement spending, Fuerst said.

“President Obama claims that his health care law will lower spending on health care and thus reduce Medicare costs,” Fuerst said. “Gov. Romney disagrees, but instead suggests other reforms such as higher retirement

see ECONOMY PAGE 5

Visitation honors Zhang’s life

By JILLIAN BARWICK and
BRIDGET FEENEY
Saint Mary’s Editor and Saint Mary’s
Associate Editor

Students, faculty and staff wore green ribbons pinned to their jackets, dresses and suits as they celebrated the life of sophomore Ziqi Zhang during a visitation service at Kaniewski Funeral Home in South Bend on Wednesday afternoon.

After procuring the necessary visas, Zhang’s parents, sister and uncle flew in from China

last week in order to make final arrangements to bring their

Ziqi Zhang
1993 - 2012



daughter back home.

Zhang, who passed away from

see ZHANG PAGE 7

Film highlights families

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

The documentary “Project Hopeful” first premiered at the 23rd Annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival in January 2012. In just 10 months, the film has been accepted to more than 15 national and international festivals, earning “Best Picture” at the RE:IMAGE Film Festival 2012 and second place at the LA New Wave International Film Festival 2012, among other honors.

2012 graduates Kelsie Kiley

see HOPE PAGE 7



Photo courtesy of Kelsie Kiley

The film ‘Project Hopeful’ depicts the everyday lives of three families who adopted orphans with HIV/AIDS.



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You too
can be a saint

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL PAGE 20

THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite pick-up line?

Have a question you want answered?

Email obsphoto@gmail.com



Annie O'Brien

junior
Lyons Hall

"How much does a polar bear weigh? It's enough to break the ice."



Michael Masi

junior
Seigfried Hall

"Are you a parking ticket? Because you've got fine, fine, fine written all over you."



Meredith Houska

junior
Lyons Hall

"Are you tired? Because you've been running through my mind all day."



Gina Rogari

junior
Lyons Hall

"Did you just fart? Cause you're blowing me away."



Scott Rousseau

sophomore
Fisher Hall

"I lost my number. Can I have yours?"



Grace Spaulding

senior
Pangborn Hall

"Give someone a sugar packet and say: 'Excuse me, I think you dropped your name tag.'"



STEPHANIE LEUNG | The Observer

Freshman Diana Vazquez donned a Quailman costume and fueled up on Five Guys to support Notre Dame's Fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases club. The popular restaurant promised to donate 10 percent of its profit to the club from 7 to 10 p.m. on Halloween.

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Thursday

A Time to Heal Dinner

ND Stadium
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Foster community healing against sexual violence.

El Dia de los Muertos

Hesburgh Center
6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Day of the Dead festivities. Free and open to the public.

Friday

Readings from Dante's "Divine Comedy"

Campus-wide
2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Public performance.

ND Chorale Concert

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
8 p.m.-9 p.m.
Renaissance to present-day works.

Saturday

Nuclear Accelerator Tours

124 Nieuwland Hall
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Tours leave every 15 minutes.

BINGO

LaFortune Student Center
10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Free and open to all students.

Sunday

U.S. Army Field Band and Soldier's Chorus

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Free concert.

Hockey Game

Compton Family Ice Arena
5:05 p.m.-7:05 p.m.
ND vs. Western Michigan

Monday

"Seed of the Church: Today's Christian Martyrs"

McKenna Hall
All day
Keynote speakers.

10th Annual Baraka Bouts Tournament-Semis

Joyce Center
6 p.m.-11 p.m.
Proceeds go to charity.

SENATE

Group works to foster inclusive environment

By **MADDIE DALY**
News Writer

After holding a diversity discussion two weeks ago, three experts on campus diversity, Emerald Woodberry, Dr. David Moss and Iris Outlaw, addressed Student Senate during Wednesday's meeting.

Woodberry, academic and university affairs commissioner for the Black Student Association, began the conversation by updating the group on

what her organization has been working on.

"We have spent our time trying to gather information from constituents of Call to Action, especially things that happened over the summer that we weren't aware of," Woodberry said. "We have focused on putting committees together since a lot of Call to Action students from last year graduated. We're actually still recruiting by contacting the multicultural commissioners from each dorm."

She also spoke about her work with Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) to enact initiatives conceived of during last spring's Call to Action Town Hall. "NDSP went through an increase in cultural competency training," Woodberry said. "We made a pamphlet with information on reporting and tried to write it in a fair tone rather than one of authorities looking down on the students. Also, for increased accountability of officers they will start carrying business cards so students

will know and be able to contact who they interacted with."

Moss, from the Office of Student Affairs, described his office's current project—a one-stop website for reporting any type of issue.

"Call to Action had a great deal of confusion on how to report, to whom, where to go... this way we'll have one website called reportit.nd.edu to report different instances of issues that don't fit into the Notre Dame environment," Moss said.

He is also currently inspecting campus websites, working on amending course syllabi and continuing to encourage student involvement.

"We commissioned an internal and external audit of Notre Dame websites, basically to see whether or not they are welcoming and inclusive," Moss said. "We are also working very hard to include on every course syllabus a phrase about valuing an inclusive environment." Later in the meeting,

Student body vice president Katie Rose transitioned to a discussion about students' opinions of the Career Center.

"Our major concern is that for a lot of students the Career Center seems only for business jobs, so if you're not interested in strictly business or graduate school you're kind of lost on where to go," Rose said. "We want to centralize all opportunities on campus because a lot of the students that fall into the gap I just mentioned are going to other institutions on campus. We would like better communication and referrals between all these places."

Chief of staff Katie Baker said the amount of resources available for students applying to graduate school is also very limited.

Keenan Hall senator John Vernon works for the academic affairs committee and voiced other student concerns.

"The days surrounding the career fair, students were really upset about Go Irish and the Career Center. They felt that it wasn't helpful or that they didn't know how to use it," Vernon said. "There was also feedback from students in the College of Science that the Career Center is not really for them, that, like Katie said, it's more geared towards business students."

McGlenn Hall senator Ali Wellman said girls in her dorm have an overall positive view of the Career Center.

"The McGlenn girls really love the Career Center because of the mock interviews, especially the College of Science girls," Wellman said. "However they said it was irksome to call in and make an appointment. Maybe they could make it online like the Writing Center and just have us fill out a timeslot. That would be really convenient."

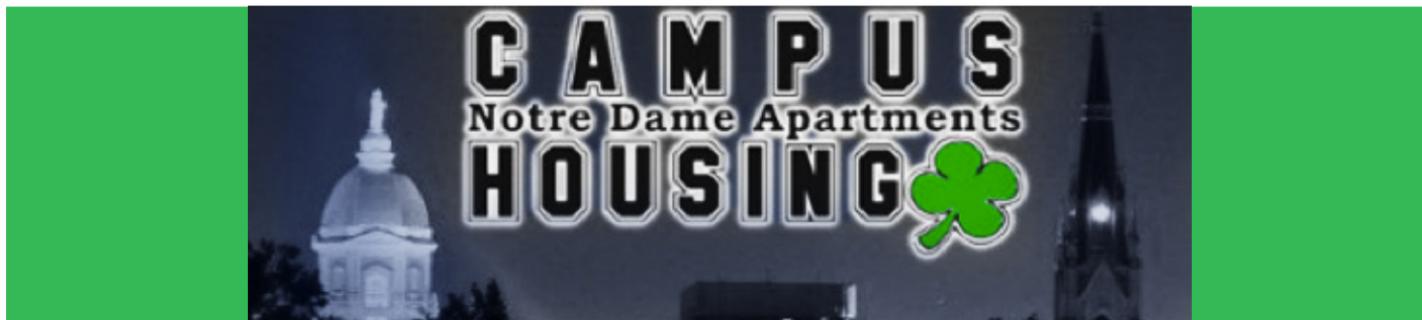
Monica Daegele, Farley Hall senator, provided perspective from the College of Engineering.

"There is a whole engineering career fair of its own," Daegele said. "However, it comes right at the beginning of the year, so a lot of students hastily put together resumes and didn't really know what they were getting into."

Class of 2014 president Lizzie Helping concluded the conversation on a positive note.

"Speaking as someone who very recently decided on a major, the Career Center was an invaluable resource," Helping said. "I think they are a completely untapped resource for many people. They have job shadows for every single job available. I think what people don't realize is what they could find out if they just went and talked to somebody there, you just have to go find them."

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Students engage in traditional Mexican celebration

By ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI
News Writer

Halloween is not the only celebration on campus this week. Festivities to commemorate the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the Great Hall of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

The event, sponsored by the Kellogg Institute, the Snite Museum and the Institute for Latino Studies, provides a way for students of all backgrounds to honor the dead and experience an important celebration of Mexican culture.

Kellogg faculty fellow and history professor Jaime Pensado said while celebrating Día de los Muertos is a very different experience here from in Mexico, it is still important to preserve the cultural elements of the holiday.

"There is definitely a nostalgia factor associated with looking back at your culture from the outside like this," Pensado said. "Many Latinos here are embracing the Day of the Dead as a time to revisit their past and a way to reconnect."

Pensado is one of the event's faculty organizers who collaborated with student groups to plan and orchestrate the celebration. Senior

Alejandro Sigala also helped with the planning and will deliver a talk at the celebration tomorrow about the "ofrenda," or altar, that students constructed as a traditional part of the celebration. Sigala said such ofrendas are put together in honor of the dead and can be personal or political in nature.

The ofrenda at this year's celebration honors the people who have died in the Mexican drug wars over the past 10 years, Pensado said.

"Ofrendas can be very specific, but this year we're going beyond a specific person and taking advantage of the opportunity to reconnect and think about the thousands who have died in Mexico over the last two years as a result of the drug wars," Pensado said. "It's an opportunity to politicize an ofrenda, and this year students put it together to articulate their own interests and concerns in Mexico."

Sigala said the ofrenda is the focal point of the celebration, and it has personal meaning to many of the students who helped construct it.

"For some of us, we have family members who have been affected by the violence of the drug wars in Mexico," Sigala said. "[The ofrenda] duals as a political statement to raise awareness of this violence and the US-Mexico relations that help fuel it."

Sigala said the ofrenda includes commemorative objects that represent the person or people to which it is dedicated.

"We included American and Mexican flags, as well as bullet shell casings, imagery associated with drugs and money and several different objects that are iconic of the drug war," he said.

Pensado said he hopes the statement the ofrenda makes at the event will help bring the drug war issues closer to home for students.

"For us, we see the violence that's taking place in Mexico as a Mexican problem and rarely see the international connection behind such violence," Pensado said. "This gives us an opportunity to talk about the issues and talk about our own involvement."

The Mexican Working Group, sponsored by the Kellogg Institute to create awareness of Mexican-American issues today, sought to use the Día de los Muertos celebration as an academic opportunity for students as well, Pensado said.

"The group helps make sure students get the opportunity to participate in the celebration, and in this case, they also will present papers on what the Day of the Dead means, and one of our graduate students will lecture on the drug war," he said. "We wanted to give our students a chance



ALISON DAMBROSIA | The Observer

Students created an ofrenda to offer a venue for students to reflect on the conflicts in the Mexican drug wars.

to improve their skills academically, and this celebration is a good opportunity."

Pensado said the academic discussion that will take place at the celebration will continue in the spring with an undergraduate student conference sponsored by the Kellogg Institute where students can present their papers on Mexican-American issues, including the drug war.

"This is all part of our attempt to give students an opportunity to engage

with their own heritage and also with political and social issues," he said.

Sigala said he hopes students of all backgrounds will come to the event and explore the culture presented.

"It's important to approach it all with an open mind," Sigala said. "You'll get a bit of history, a bit of academic learning and a bit of food and entertainment."

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakub01@nd.edu

Economy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ages and insurance vouchers that would allow retirees to

shop the private marketplace for insurance."

The candidates are opposed on tax policy as well, he said. Obama has proposed gaining revenue by

taxing those with incomes about \$1 million, while Romney wants to expand the tax base by eliminating deductions and loopholes that he has not identified in full.

Notre Dame economics professor Robert Flood said the candidates, no matter their different philosophies, would both have to take the same basic steps toward a stronger economy.

"Both need to move the budget toward balance," he said. "Both will have to raise more revenue and spend less."

Economist Austan Goolsbee is a professor at The University of Chicago's Booth School of Business and the former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors under Obama.

Obama has focused on cutting taxes for the middle class and letting high income rates rise, Goolsbee said, whereas Romney has called for "across-the-board" tax cuts that tend to benefit those with higher incomes, abolishing the estate tax and cutting capital income taxes.

"I think it's a pretty fundamental issue of the election," Goolsbee said. "Do you think economic growth comes from a small group of people at the top or from broad-based relief with investments in training, infrastructure and innovation?"

Goolsbee called Romney "factually incorrect" in his statement that the unemployment rate has been dropping because people have stopped looking for work and left the job force.

"Suggesting that nothing has improved since January 2009 is absurd," he said. "We were in the middle of an epic downturn that almost careered into

a depression. ... The route problem is that growth has been modest — around 2 percent — and that's not enough to really juice the hiring side."

Fuerst agreed with Romney's claim, saying the economic rebound after the recession has been tough on job hunters.

"The labor market recovery has been very, very, very weak," Fuerst said. "In my view, the best measure of [the job situation] is the percent of the population employed. This was just about 63 percent before the recession. During the recession, it fell to about 58.5 percent and has remained remarkably flat since then."

Shortly after Election Day, the nation could hit the approaching fiscal cliff, which Fuerst said will take consideration from more than just the president.

"My guess is that no matter who wins the election, that the Congress will push most of these issues down the road about six months so that the administration will have time to come up with a complete policy proposal," he said.

A mid-October poll from Rasmussen Reports found 50 percent of voters trusted Romney over Obama on the economy, while 43 percent favored the incumbent president. The race has only tightened as Election Day approaches, but one fact remains clear for the winner — after Nov. 6, one of these two men will have to put the money where his mouth is.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

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TONIGHT!

6–8pm

Hesburgh Center for International Studies

**This event is FREE
and open to the public.**

6:00 pm "The Day of the Dead in the Context of Mexico's Drug Wars"—lecture by Mexico expert Javier Osorio

Performances by Mariachi ND, Ballet Folklorico Azul y Oro, and Coro Primavera de Nuestra Señora

7:15 pm Merienda de pan de muerto y chocolate caliente (Bread of the dead and Mexican hot chocolate)

On display—Day of the Dead Ofrenda (altar) created by Notre Dame students







kellogg.nd.edu

Voting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

equal protection constitutional challenges brought by same-sex couples married under state law.

In comparison, his Republican opponent Gov. Mitt Romney, supports a constitutional ban on gay marriage, in addition to a ban on same-sex civil unions if they differ from marriage in name only. Romney has said he would not seek to overturn the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Newell said she is pleased with the increased discourse on gay rights, saying the issue is a "hot topic" right now.

"I just think it is going to be one of those things that we're going to look back and be [like], 'What were people even thinking?'"

A 'big deal' when casting the ballot?

Senior Pat Adams, who already has cast his ballot for Romney, said he does not support same-sex marriage because it conflicts with his faith.

"As a practicing Catholic — I am a theology major — I look to the Catholic Church to help me form my conscience on issues like this," he said. "The Catechism is pretty clear there is a distinction between orientation and action."

Gay rights issues were "relatively important" but not the most prominent issue in casting his ballot for the Republican candidate, Adams said. He said the issue of same-sex marriage and other gay rights have not been prominent in either candidate's campaign.

"To be totally honest, neither campaign talked about it a whole lot," he said. "I think it is a pretty good strategy on both sides because the focus of the election has overwhelmingly [been] on the economy."

Senior Carson Kirkpatrick, who is gay, said gay rights issues are a "big deal" for him in the upcoming

"And I think for my friends, it is too, even some of my straight friends have expressed concern whether or not they should vote for Obama or Mitt Romney," he said. "The ones that are more moderate or on the fence. ... I think where their split is their economic views and social views."

Kirkpatrick said he thinks there is a struggle for voters in choosing between candidates that may appeal to different issues at stake.

"There is no middle ground between the two candidates," he said. "You can pick Mitt Romney ... but he's going to do something you don't believe in the social area, and with Obama, some people have argued he's had a chance to fix the economy, and the economy is not fixed, but then he is on the right track socially."

Newell said she recognizes much of popular support for Romney stems from his successful business career and his economic policies. However, she said this is just one issue in determining a candidate.

"As much as that of course is important, people are people. We're not just members of this country where we work every day," Newell

said. "So that is what concerns me, that he may make progress in some arenas — but I can definitely see him putting that on the back-burner."

Senior Lauren Peartree, whose older brother is gay, said there is a momentum of support for same-sex marriage among younger generations, something she does not see totally stopping even if Romney is elected.

"I hope it will [continue]," she said. "I think it has a lot to do with our generation growing up, and how we view things."

But if Romney is elected, Peartree said she hopes the Republican candidate becomes more moderate in his views on gay rights.

"I think [a lot of what he says] is to get the conservative vote," she said. "I don't think he is necessarily close-minded. I don't know if it is me being idealistic, but it's what I would like to think."

However, she said the fact gay rights issues are an integral component of political discourse is to not be taken lightly.

"I personally don't think it is an issue to be ignored," Peartree said.

Hitting home

With several gay relatives, Newell said she sometimes forgets others may not be as personally invested in supporting same-sex marriage.

"For me, I can't imagine telling my brother or my uncle or my aunt they can't marry the person they love," she said. "I think a lot of people don't have that because they are removed from it, and they never even talked to someone that is gay. For me it is just something that is just so in-my-face, I guess I am just emotionally charged."

Most of Newell's friends are "totally on board" with Referendum 74, which would allow for same-sex marriage in Washington while also preserving the right to refuse to perform, recognize or accommodate any marriage ceremony.

"I think most people I know from Seattle, maybe because it is more liberal, it kind of is just like, 'Why are we even talking about this any more?'" she said.

Senior Molly Millet, a native of Maryland who has a gay relative, said one of the main reasons she registered to vote is to vote on Question 6, a state referendum that would legalize same-sex marriage in the state. She said while she would still be voting for same-sex marriage regardless, having a gay relative makes the fight important to her.

"I would still hold the same beliefs," Millet said. "I just think seeing it on a more personal level and having the exposure to the fact that there are people close to me I think should be able to get married."

"I think they are some of the most healthy, normal couples I have ever seen. The fact that I have had the personal exposure to it makes it that much more important to me."

Like Newell, Millet said she sees similar sentiments of support among her friends back home.

"Because it is something that a lot of young people care about

and I think are a little more unanimous on than older generations, I see a lot of my friends getting a little more involved because of this issue that might not otherwise be as politically involved," she said.

Opposing viewpoints

At Notre Dame, Adams said he feels his views are shared by many — but not the majority — because it is a Catholic university.

"Other people are coming from the same spot," he said. "I would say definitely in terms of being a 21-year-old male in the context of other universities, I don't think it is a normal position at all. But for Notre Dame, I think it is fair to say there is a pretty conservative base on campus."

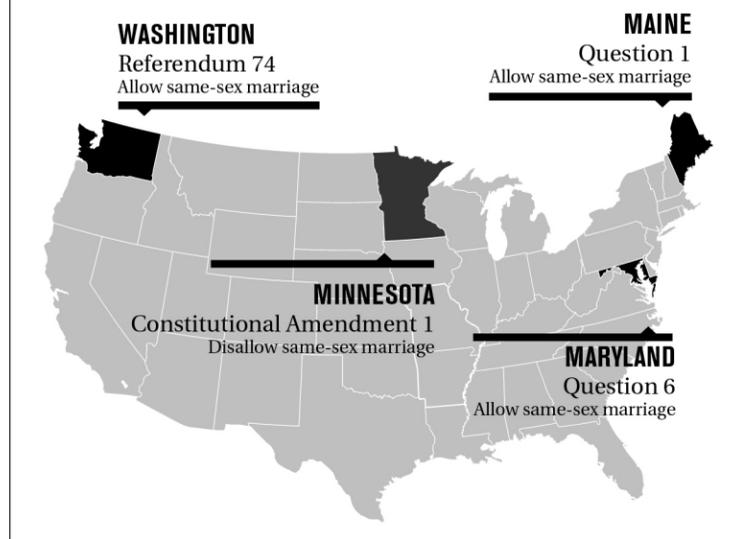
Going to Notre Dame, Millet said she has come into contact with other students who do not share her beliefs on same-sex marriage.

"I've been in conversation with people who are vehemently against it," she said. "I am not a confrontational person and I don't want to start an issue that doesn't need to be brought up, but the arguments I have heard that are against gay marriage don't make sense to me."

For Newell, those who make a decision to not support same-sex marriage based on religious beliefs without exposing themselves to the gay community is "really scary."

"It's just like they don't know it, they make no effort to know it, so that's it, their mind is made up," she said. "I don't get how other people can choose how other people's lives are

STATES WITH GAY MARRIAGE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS



BRANDON KEELEAN | The Observer

determined ... It's so archaic to me."

Political 'give and take'

Senior Tom Temmerman is gay — but he also has already cast his vote for Romney. While he said gay rights issues are "really important" to him, he has to engage in a "give and take" with respect to whom he votes for.

"I'm voting on all of the issues," he said. "I'm not super pleased with either of the candidates."

Temmerman said he feels he can vote for a candidate without agreeing with every facet of his platform.

"It's hard," Temmerman said. "It's one of those things where people are like, 'How can you even support that? They say terrible things about [gay rights], but at the same time ... if they

did say positive things, they would lose a lot of people who support them. As far as I'm concerned, I don't support that, I'm not pleased when [Romney] says stuff like that."

Temmerman said he does not take Romney's opposition on same-sex marriage personally, but he is worried if elected, Romney may slow the momentum of the gay rights movement.

"That's my only concern ... but I don't think he has the power to stop it from happening," he said. "I don't think the amount of power he has to slow it down is that great, just because it has become such a predominant issue. I think there are a lot of people who will rally in support of it and keep it moving forward."

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu

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Ziqi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

accident Oct. 18 on Route 933 just outside the entrance of Saint Mary's, was an international student from the Jiangsu Province in China. She was studying philosophy and mathematics at Saint Mary's and taking engineering classes at Notre Dame.

At the visitation, Zhang's mother received a special gift from an anonymous member of the Class of 1963. The woman gave Zhang's mother a sterling silver Saint Mary's ring with the College seal on it. The woman said she felt compelled to give the ring to her family when she heard of Zhang's passing.

"I just felt it would be a small gesture from someone in the Saint Mary's family," she said. "The Saint Mary's family extends beyond class year. Once a Belle, always a Belle."

The visitation was another chance for friends of Zhang to remember her spirit and intelligence after her sudden death. Patricia Sayre, philosophy professor and Zhang's

advisor, said she was impressed with Zhang's determination to study the subjects she wanted to, regardless of difficulty.

"On that day when I first met her, she came into my office and told me she wanted to major in philosophy because, in effect, she wanted to be able to think more freely than was possible within the constraints posed by real-world engineering problems," she said. "Ziqi was a person that knew her own mind."

Sayre said she was impressed with Zhang's courage and bravery in her studies. Philosophy, Sayre said, is a special subject that not just anyone can study.

"I would like [Ziqi's family] to know that the choice to study philosophy is not one to be taken lightly, and that it takes a special kind of courage to go down the path she was taking," she said. "I want to try to convey something about how it was a courage that extended far beyond simply being willing to go away to study thousands of miles from home. It was the courage to confront and explore

serious human issues and go off in search of the truth no matter where that search might take you."

While Zhang was known throughout Saint Mary's for her bravery in academics, she was also regarded as someone who wasn't afraid to take risks. Business and economics professor Richard Measell and his wife Nancy spend a lot of time with international students to provide comfort, entertainment and friendship to them while they are studying at Saint Mary's.

One of the favorite destinations they liked to take students to was the beach in New Buffalo, Mich. On the way home, they would stop at Oinks, a popular ice cream place in the town.

"We always stopped at Oinks to get whatever flavored ice cream the students wanted," Richard Measell said. "She got different flavors [each time]."

Nancy Measell said Zhang was someone who was always surprising people with her choices.

"She was very adventurous and always wanted to try new things," she said. "You would always go, 'Well, why would you want to do that?' She was just adventuresome like that."

The Measells also introduced Zhang and other international students to horseback riding. For Zhang, who lived in a big city, Richard Measell said this activity allowed her to get out to the countryside and see more of nature.

"She was always interested in animals, and for me, the greatest memory of her was her riding horses," Richard Measell said. "Here was somebody who maybe never even touched a horse before she came here and ... she was riding on a horse and she just loved that."

Richard and Nancy Measell said the students were supposed to just walk with their horse, but Zhang had other plans.

"Ziqi and her adventurous spirit decided, 'Let's just gallop,'" Nancy Measell said.

Contact Bridget Feeny at bfeene01@saintmarys.edu and Jill Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

Hope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Grace Johnson created the film, which follows three families from Joliet, Ill.: the Twietmeyers, Heims and Allens, who have doubled the size of their families by adopting orphans with HIV/AIDS. The families then created Project Hopeful, a non-profit organization trying to provide homes and support for children with HIV/AIDS.

"The premise of our story is just to give you a glimpse into their everyday lives and how manageable these diseases are," Kiley said.

The documentary was a project for professor Ted Mandell's documentary production class, Kiley said.

"Grace and I both knew that we wanted to create a social change documentary, so we began searching for positive human interest stories that might fit what we were looking to create," she said.

When the two found out about Project Hopeful, Kiley said they knew this was a message they wanted to spread.

"We have helped to get so much press and recognition for this non-profit, and that has become the greatest accomplishment," she said. "This reflects our greatest goal, which is to find more homes and families for more children and to spread awareness about how manageable it is to live with HIV/AIDS. Spreading this message has been such a blessing for us, and hearing how many people it has affected is more than we could have ever imagined."

Johnson said the idea of the documentary was to let these families' stories shine through without manipulating them in any way.

"We aimed to let the stories of the families speak for themselves," Johnson said. "That is why we are so proud of this project because it feels

real and a truly unobstructed account of their lives."

Kiley said she and Johnson didn't have to do much to show how special these families truly are.

"We didn't want anyone to feel like we were trying to make these people seem inspirational," she said. "They do all of that on their own."

Kiley and Johnson received the Broad Avenue Filmmakers Award, a grant through the Film, Television and Theatre Department, to fund "Project

"We aimed to let the stories of the families speak for themselves."

Grace Johnson
Notre Dame class of 2012

Hopeful," Kiley said.

"We truly couldn't have made this film or had it seen on such a grandiose level, if it wasn't for the FTT Department," Kiley said.

Because the grant enabled them to use professional equipment, Kiley said she and Johnson realized the potential the film had for reaching wide audiences.

"After the first day of shooting, I think we realized how much good this film could do," she said. "We had the power to use professional equipment to make a film that could be seen across the country, spreading news about these inspirational families and their incredible work. Our hope was that we could create something that would be meaningful, but not manipulating."

Even though Kiley has a job at Lionsgate Films and Jax Media and Johnson works at Bravo, Kiley said they plan to make a sequel to "Project Hopeful."

"We are currently in pre-production for a follow-up documentary. Our working title right now is 'Adopted: The Project Hopeful Story,' where we will be following the Twietmeyers and the Heims as they both travel to Ukraine this fall and winter to adopt more children for their already amazing families," she said.

Johnson said she would like to see more Notre Dame film students help out with the sequel.

"Whether a joint venture between current documentary students at Notre Dame or another solo project, we're hoping to receive assistance or funding in capturing more moments with these families as they continue to build their families and assist children in need," Johnson said.

To learn more about "Project Hopeful," visit www.projecthopefulmovie.com

Contact Tori Roeck at vroeck@nd.edu

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INSIDE COLUMN

'Office' downfall



Peter Steiner
Sports Writer

Bears. Beets. Battlestar Galactica. It is perhaps the most recognizable quote from the show that reigned supreme on Thursday nights for nearly the last decade. But now after years of laughter, "The Office" is dying a painful death. Most fans predicted the show's downfall when Steve Carrell announced he would be leaving "The Office" roughly two and a half years ago. Unfortunately, producers failed to contradict this prediction with last season's abysmal effort to replace Michael Scott. But if the demise of "The Office" has been a series of unfortunate events that began with the departure of Michael Scott, then last year showed "The Office" was in penultimate peril. Someone hit the panic button, because this year the show has hit rock bottom. Sure, the season premiere and second episode provided a glimmer of hope that the show might just go out in style. But after three lifeless episodes in a row, these small successes have only served to remind us how terrible the current show is in comparison to seasons before. The problems with "The Office" this season are plentiful. First is the confusing character of Nellie Bertram. Who is she and what purpose does she serve in "The Office?" Worst of all, Nellie has essentially replaced Jim as the character interacting with one of the funniest figures — Dwight Schrute.

Which brings us to the next problem: the changing personality of Dwight Schrute. "The Office" has tried to humanize Dwight. But conveying this beet farmer's soft side doesn't fit with the core of "The Office." Did Dwight not once ask: "How would I describe myself? Three words: hard working, alpha male, jack-hammer, merciless, insatiable."

This ability to quote "The Office" has been a large contributor to the show's success. In the first five episodes of the season, the memorable jokes that Michael Scott used to deliver on a consistent basis have been missing.

The biggest problem with today's office? The boss. Of course no one was going to replace Michael Scott, but who would have expected his predecessor to be so awful? Even though Ed Helms is a great actor, Andy Bernard has been a cruel and unbearable regional manager. While Michael insulted everyone in the office, they still loved him. It isn't just that Andy has not been funny, but his new persona has ruined the entertaining chemistry of "The Office."

A wise man once said, "Do I want to be feared or loved? Easy, both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me."

Unfortunately, I'm afraid of how little I love "The Office."

Contact Peter Steiner at psteiner@nd.edu

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

You could be a saint

Kate Barrett
Faithpoint

Certainly you can remember times when you've heard people say of someone heroic or who has endured great suffering with patience and grace, "She's a saint!" or, "He's a saint!" Perhaps you've even heard it said about one of your own parents (though surely not because raising you caused them suffering . . .). Though we most often think of the big names like Francis, Therèse or Augustine when we hear "saint," the Church from its beginnings used the term to mean any baptized Christian. On this Feast of All Saints, we ought to give thanks for the people we know and those we'll never know whose lives have allowed others to see God at work in the world a little more clearly.

Contrary to criticisms that we worship the saints lavishly with our statues, feast days and prayers, the Church teaches us to honor the saints. Just as we would honor people who excel in the sciences, literature, peacemaking or the arts with Nobel or Pulitzer Prizes or Laetare Medals, why wouldn't we hold in especially high esteem those who lived (and often died) to bring the world closer to the Kingdom of God through their courageous faith? Whether a well-known or anonymous holy man or woman, we can best honor a saint by imitating Christ in our lives, by being

the kind of disciples who can speak out about God's love.

Our culture holds up an almost constant stream of men and women who have achieved fame for their accomplishments in sports, film, music or simply for being widely-photographed celebrities. Most of them, if we're honest with ourselves, are not people whose lives we truly wish to emulate. What a great idea, then, for our faith to celebrate saints' feast days in order to remind ourselves of the people we really would like to imitate, and the many and various ways a person can serve God.

Have an urge for world travel? St. Frances Xavier Cabrini spent her whole life on the move, from Italy to the U.S. to Nicaragua, Panama and Peru and back. Long to serve the poor? St. Martin de Porres begged on the street for money he used for poor families in Lima. Want to get the rich to help the poor? St. Vincent de Paul was a master at it. Today we honor not one particular saint, but all who are saints, and especially the ones most of us have never heard of.

Christianity proclaims God's unconditional love, and some people just have a special capacity to disclose this love of God to the world. Think about it. If your faith in Jesus Christ, your belief in God, is alive and well today, it's because God called you through the example or witness of another person or many people. And those people grew in their faith because of the example and love of

others before them. Our faith has been handed on to us from generation to generation, and the people who have done the handing on are saints, whether publicly recognized by the Church or quietly known in a family or small community of believers.

If future generations will experience the joy of the Christian life, it will be because we allow God to work through us to proclaim it. Who will show, by word and example, the saving love of Jesus Christ to your children and grandchildren, nieces and great-nephews? Who will bring the truths of Scripture and the sacramental life to corners of the world who have never known God? Who will seek out those most in need and tend to their hunger and thirst? If you're looking around for other folks to raise their hands, quit looking and raise your own. Today of all days should remind us to answer "I" to the above questions. God can work through each of us if we let him. We honor the saints by the way we live our lives, standing on the foundation of an innumerable communion of saints who have offered us the saving love and example of Jesus Christ.

Kate Barrett is assistant director of Undergraduate Ministry in the Office of Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@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

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Thomas Edison
American inventor

WEEKLY POLL

Who is your favorite football player?

Tweet your response with #ViewpointPoll by 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Submit a Letter to the Editor | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

The case against voter ID laws

Matthew Mleczo

Guest Columnist

Given the upcoming election, attention has been directed towards the recent efforts by state legislatures to protect against voter fraud by requiring a photo ID to cast a ballot. I applaud The Observer for featuring this topic in Monday's paper, as I believe it to be an important conversation to have. I would, however, like to respectfully present the case against voter ID laws and shed light on what they mean for our democracy.

First, turnout in United States elections is abysmal. Just 55.45 percent of the voting age population casted a ballot in 2008 compared to Denmark's 83.2 percent in 2007 or Sweden's 82.63 percent in 2010. Considering the growing number of citizens — including students of this university — that throw away their votes, it's not only hard to make the case for more voting requirements that will decrease turnout even further, but also justify them on the grounds that our elections are something sacred to be upheld.

Perhaps since turnout is so low and any one vote now has more influence, the need to ensure the validity of each ballot becomes all the more important. Yet, when the top 20 percent of earners are about twice as likely to vote as the bottom 20 percent of earners in the country, it's important to keep in mind whose votes are being protected and

increasingly whose voices are being heard. The utter lack of any dialogue on issues relating to poverty or homelessness in the presidential campaign is striking. Additionally, we have the right to not vote at all and that's fine, but we are increasingly protecting the rights of people to throw away their votes while challenging the rights of people, who, in many cases, want to vote.

Moreover, when News 21 conducts a study and finds 10 incidents of voter impersonation in all elections since 2000, the idea that voter ID laws are justified is ridiculous. Our government can't bring itself to pass a budget, yet we don't seem to have any trouble passing bills that Pennsylvania's house majority leader claimed would "allow Gov. Romney to win the state of Pennsylvania." How ironic it is that one student interviewed in The Observer would think my concern is "inserting a political agenda on an apolitical issue."

On the surface, a voter ID bill seems completely reasonable, but it undeniably disenfranchises minorities, the poor, the elderly and college students. Even if these were unintended consequences, we certainly understand them now, which begs the question: If voter impersonation is such a non-issue, why are we still so adamant about these voter ID laws?

Talk to Brian Metz, a Notre Dame senior, who can't vote in this year's election because his home state of Tennessee won't allow him to cast his first ballot by

mail, even though he is registered and can confirm his identity. Talk to someone in Kenosha, Wisc., without a car or license. In the case of a voter ID law, he or she would have to miss work, somehow find a ride to the DMV out in the county where the buses don't run and wait in line to obtain an ID to vote. Talk to a resident of the South Bend Center for the Homeless, someone who wants to vote but doesn't have a birth certificate, social security card or passport to obtain a "free" ID to vote. That resident must cast a provisional ballot on Election Day, somehow go to the county-city building within 10 days after election day and, in the presence of the circuit court clerk, sign an affidavit of indigence. Then and only then, after going through the demeaning process of making it known that they are so poor they can't even prove their citizenship, will their vote be counted, even though the election will be decided well-before then.

Even if someone were to adhere to the law, nobody seems to understand it. It took numerous phone calls to the Election Division under the Indiana Secretary of State to find anyone who understood the voting process for homeless citizens. The fact that our government officials don't understand election laws that have passed, especially how they affect the poor, is highly suspect. And voter ID laws don't even skim the surface of the problem. Voter intimidation and phony voting instructions by poll workers are

an issue. Moreover, most states ban convicted felons from ever voting again.

But who cares about these people? These voter ID laws, reminiscent of Jim Crow poll taxes and literacy tests, are the nail in the coffin for people that have already such little incentive to vote. Why would these citizens vote in a system that not only ignores their interests, but has open contempt for them as people?

The persistence with which people advocate for these voter ID laws highlights the anti-democratic, intolerant notion alive and well in America: the notion that someone's right to marry somehow infringes on my right to marry, that someone's right to healthcare somehow infringes on my right to healthcare and that someone's right to vote somehow infringes on my right to vote. We need to stop framing our differences in terms of what they take away from us, but what we can give to each other. It is a privilege to live in a country that subscribes to that ideal, to live in that social contract and those that still enjoy their right to vote should set a new precedent that encourages us to live up to that ideal.

Matthew Mleczo is a sophomore economics and political science major, as well as a Hesburgh Program in Public Service minor. He can be reached at mmleczo@nd.edu

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

LETTERS

Oklahoma hospitality

As a 2008 graduate, I have seen my fair share of college football games, including Notre Dame or not. The experience I had the last weekend of October was incredible. I have not come across a friendlier and classier group of fans than the ones I encountered in Norman, Oklahoma. The overwhelming majority of Oklahoma fans were kind, welcoming and some even asked if my friend and former Zahm roommate Michael Loulan (Class of 2007) and I needed any help getting around campus. I was invited to one tailgate after simply greeting a few Sooners fans and striking up a short conversation. After the game, two separate encounters involved Sooner fans coming up to the two of us, congratulating us on our victory and shaking our hands. I had never experienced anything like this from opposing fans as a Notre Dame alumnus and fan.

Several factors are involved in why I believe Notre Dame fans were treated so well in Norman. The president of the University of Oklahoma allegedly sent fans a reminder of how well they were treated at Notre Dame in 1999. Some believe that Sooner fans' overconfidence heading into the game may have played a role in their friendliness. Also, the people of Oklahoma in general, including ones I encountered off-campus in a non-football-related manner, were friendly and hospitable. No matter the intentions behind their behavior, Oklahoma Sooners fans deserve the usual classy Notre Dame hospitality next September when Oklahoma plays in South Bend. I wish more fan bases comported themselves like Oklahoma fans in general. If this is what we potentially have to look forward to by playing teams like Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue less, I fully support it. It seemed as if Oklahoma didn't have to validate itself as a football program with derogatory comments towards their opponents. I would love to encounter more fan bases such as that of Oklahoma, and I hope Notre Dame takes this into account when creating future football schedules.

Andrew Digan
alumnus
Class of 2008
Nov. 1

Challenging 'mediocrity'

Dear Mr. Pearce,

I've read your Oct. 29 column a few times. First I rolled my eyes, not shocked by this opinion. Then, I became angry at the assumptions you made about categorizing diversity as "artificial" and personally agreeing that "struggling," underrepresented minority students switch to "easier" majors because they feel they don't belong with their peers. Your use of the "URM" acronym as a catch all for every "artificially diverse" student was also insulting. Maybe I should start referring to "majority" students as "PWMs," an equally misguided acronym. I'm not going to try and debunk all the wonderfully well-thought-out arguments in your column. But I will say this:

Last May, I graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in chemical engineering. Earning that degree was the hardest challenge I've ever taken on. It wasn't hard because I'm African American, or because I was at a university that, statistically, probably admitted me to promote "artificial" diversity or because I felt like I "didn't belong" with my peers. After reading your column a few more times, I've come to this conclusion: Thank you, Mr. Pearce. When my chemical engineering classes became exceedingly difficult junior year, it was off-hand comments and Viewpoint columns like yours that compelled me to finish my degree in this particular major. Your categorizing of people like me as "mediocre" compared to your own "excellence" drove me every night to push through differential equations, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics and 70-page lab reports. Thank you for reminding me why I stuck it out. Whenever someone remarked that people of my "mediocre" status on campus were destined to have "stunted" academic achievements to promote "artificial" diversity, I became even more convinced that I was good enough to get a degree in a "harder" major, just like anyone else.

So thanks, truly. I'm going to print off your column, stick it onto the bulletin board in my office next to my degree and picture of my chemical engineering Class of 2012 on the Dome steps and read it every time I think my top-5 ranked Ph.D. program is getting tough.

Best wishes,

Kate Turner
alumnae
Class of 2012
Nov. 1

TV FACE OFF

'THE OFFICE'

By WILL NEAL
Scene Writer

How many of you are still watching "The Office" on NBC?

From what I'm usually told, most of you stopped following the show a couple of seasons back when Steve Carell left the cast, or maybe long before that.

Fans of the show would argue the series has become monotonous (What documentary crew needs nine years of footage on a paper company?), or say the quality of the show has drastically declined in quality since it's earlier years. There were even plans for a Dwight spin-off called "The Farm" (which NBC recently passed on). The real issue isn't that the series hasn't been delivering some quality episodes the past couple of years, but that "The Office" hasn't felt like the same show fans have come to love.

For any of you who have lost faith in the show over these past few years, I'm here to tell you that your worries can be put to rest for their final season. "The Office" is good again.

There are several reasons for this turnaround. First, the original series show-runner Greg Daniels is back to take control of the final season. Not only was he behind the wheel when "The Office" was at its comical peak, but he left the show to help turn NBC's "Parks and Recreation" into the hilarious sitcom it's become.

While Daniels deserves most of the credit, it's possible that giving producer credits to John Krasinski (Jim), Jenna Fisher (Pam), Rainn Wilson (Dwight), and Ed Helms (Andy), has brought some positive changes behind the scenes as it allows the key actors to become more invested.

The story lines have not just been funny; they seem far more genuine than they have in recent years. I wasn't happy with how the show handled the Andy/Erin relationship because they broke one of the most important rules of visual storytelling: show and don't tell.

We loved those moments with Pam and Jim because we just knew from their awkward interactions that they had feelings for each other.

Andy and Erin just kept saying in interviews that they liked one another, then story lines were created to pair the two together. Thankfully, this season we're seeing a new romance between Erin and a newcomer named Pete (Jake Lacy), which works because as we are seeing a romance blossom that has yet to be acknowledged.

On the note of relationships, the writers have finally made Jim and Pam's marriage interesting again. With Jim planning to move the family out of Scranton and invest their savings into a start-up business, there's plenty of tension building between the two.

Even better is how other long time characters, like Andy and Dwight, are continuing to reveal more about their character through interesting story lines.

While I'm not trying to suggest that this season is perfect, it is the final installment of a comedy series that is greatly adored. "The Office" will never be as clever and fresh as it was in the early years (especially without Michael Scott) but it's refreshing to see the show returning to familiar roots of humor and storytelling.

"The Office" has improved, so why not see how it all ends?

'HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER'

Before I begin with the criticisms, let me just say that I love "How I Met Your Mother."

It's a show that's always thrived on well-developed characters, heart and of course strong humor. There are days where I'll find myself humming the tune of "Let's Go to the Mall" or altering my behavior to abide by the Bro Code.

That being said, from what I've seen thus far in their (potentially) final season, HIMYM is having a major case of the yips (references!).

The episodes of this eighth season have been short on laughs and even shorter on storytelling. We are expected to make it through an entire episode by relying on cheap and repetitious gags only to finish with a predictable or unsatisfying ending (the conclusion of season premiere "Farhampton" being an exception). While there have only been four episodes this season, this is becoming an all-too-familiar flaw.

Whether a ninth season happens or not, show-runners Craig Thomas and Carter Bays have stated they're moving forward as if this is the show's final run.

The central problem behind HIMYM this year is the storytelling. Fans have always recognized that the show is building up answer the "Who's the Mother?" question, and they've stuck with it for eight years because the road to answering that question has been both hilarious and heart-warming.

They've even managed to throw in a few twists and turns along the way.

The issue this season is the foundation for the ending has been established, and until those final few episodes, the upcoming storylines leave little to be desired. We know Barney and Robin will ultimately have a wedding and Ted will meet the girl of his dreams at the end of the season.

Until then, we have to sit through the "fall of break-ups" and follow story lines to events we know will already happen in unsatisfying ways (just look at Barney and Quinn's break-up).

This would be perfectly fine if these filler episodes would actually reveal more to the story or at least deliver on the humor, but they don't.

Take the episode "Who Wants to Be a Godparent?" as an example.

Here we have Marshall and Lilly deciding on their son's back-up caretakers and in order to make the choice between Ted, Barney and Robin, they create an over-elaborate (and mostly unfunny) game show.

In the end they decide on (wait for it...) all three of them to be the godparents. If that was an option in the first place, why is there an entire episode surrounding this sole plot?

Even with these lackluster episodes, we can stay faithful the cast will continue giving strong performances (even with weak material) and the show will bounce back.

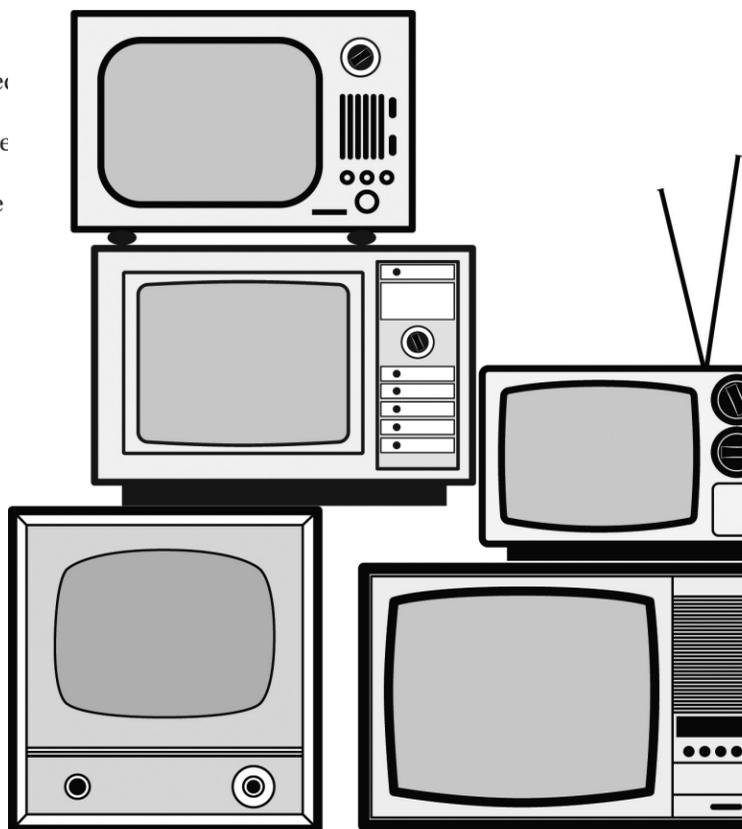
It is certainly not a strong start to their last season, but when the time comes to move the story forward, I can only hope the cast and those behind the scenes will give it their all.

I point out these recent flaws because I love this show and I hope that the final season of HIMYM will eventually deliver in a way all of the fans can be happy with.

Contact Will Neal at wneal@nd.edu

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

VS.



WEEKEND EVENTS CALENDAR

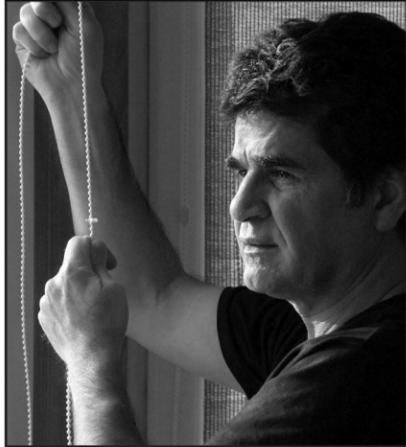
THURSDAY



What: Red Night
When: 10 p.m.
Where: Legends
How Much: Free

Graduate student and acoustic specialist Steve Asiala shares the stage with Zahm House's own Red Night at Legends this Thursday evening. Red Night, for the uniformed, is a group of juniors who rock real hard all the time. They started mainly as a Green Day cover, but the man couldn't hold them down there, and they've since branched out to cover other bands.

FRIDAY



What: "This Is Not a Film"
When: 7 p.m.
Where: DPAC
How Much: \$4

Iranian director Jafar Panahi shot this 2011 documentary in secret, and partially from an iPhone. Panahi was on house arrest in Tehran for anti-Iranian themes and, as he was not allowed to make any films, was forced to smuggle this film out of the country in a cake to France in order to enter it into the Cannes Film Festival.

SATURDAY



What: Bingo
When: 10 p.m.
Where: LaFun Ballroom
How Much: Free

Student Activities Office hosts bingo Saturday in LaFun. It's at 10 p.m., which has got to be the latest start time for any bingo game ever, not to mention what will most certainly be the youngest average age of participant (Guinness Book of World Records, where you at?). No word yet on what flavor of Jell-O they'll be serving, but prizes include \$250 gift cards to Chipotle and Papa Johns and a golf cart for a week.

SUNDAY



What: Broomball Classic
When: 4 p.m.
Where: Compton Ice Arena
How Much: \$30

St. Ed's Hall puts on its second annual Broomball Classic tournament this Sunday at the Compton Family Ice Arena. Each team is guaranteed at least two games, free pizza and the opportunity to go to Mass at midnight in Compton. Each team must consist of three men and three women.

CAMPUS MUSICIAN: WILL SIEVERN

By MEGHAN THOMASSEN
 Scene Writer

Tucked into the leftmost practice room on the second floor of Crowley Hall on Wednesday, pianist Will Sievern, a junior music and pre-med double major, practiced his piece for the upcoming Concerto Competition. Two music books, both Chopin, lay on top of the small Steinway & Sons piano.

"He's the best," Sievern said. "I go on binges for composers and for the past year I've been reading books and playing a lot of music, just trying to soak in Chopin's life, because he's really interesting to me. He only wrote for piano, so a lot of pianists feel a connection with Chopin."

Chopin wrote his first concerto to establish himself as a pianist in Europe. Sievern will play the same piece for his first competition since high school this Friday at the Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competition. Every November, student musicians compete to play with the orchestra the following spring. Sievern will play

against violinists, vocal performers and other pianists for the same prize.

"A concerto is written to be played with an orchestra, but most people don't get to play a concerto with an orchestra in their whole life," Sievern said.

Sievern gave a sneak preview of the concerto he will perform in Friday's competition. He played the first resounding lines triumphantly and then eased into a lovely, complex melody. His hands were nimble and strong on the keys and his expression was firmly concentrated, even though he played the entire piece from memory.

Sievern's love affair with Chopin began when he picked up Chopin's first piano concerto, which he started practicing the piece last January.

"It's really emotional," he said. "It really tells a story to me."

Extending his long fingers, he played a bittersweet piece that rose gracefully to passionate heights and fell slowly to melancholic lows. "It feels so real to me, what Chopin was writing," he said

as he played. "What's awesome about it too, it changes character again at the very end. It goes up to some kind of a happy ending. Maybe this is the grieving process for someone."

Sievern began his career when he was 6 years old. His father, who gave up his career as a trumpeter early on in life, encouraged him to play the piano.

"I didn't really know what I was getting myself into," Sievern said.

With natural talent talent, Sievern practiced and competed, but his plans for college track crowded out any time for piano.

"I threw [piano] aside, and then injuries and other things

kept me from fulfilling my potential in track, so I quit and I wanted to play the piano," he said. "I had been taking lessons, and I was already a music theory and history major along with Arts and Letters Pre-Professional."

Sievern said he started preparations for the Concerto Competition with the help of associate professor John Blacklow in the Department of Music.

"I put a lot of time into it, more than I usually do for a piece," he said. "There's different kinds of practicing. You can practice and not really concentrate and just play the notes and get along with it. Or you can practice and

take every ounce of concentration that you have and pour into it, and it's exhausting. But once I wanted to do it, it became a lot easier to do it. I'm really happy with how I'm playing now."

When it comes to performances, the pressure can be overwhelming for competitors. To cope, Sievern said he practiced two hours a day for the past nine months.

"And it all comes down to a 15-minute time window in a competition," he said. "If I screw up massively, it seems like all the work has gone completely to waste. There's always the chance that you'll mess up. There's always a margin of error. You're going to play a little bit differently every time, and some of those difference manifest in mistakes."

"Once you have a large sample size of performing and competing you always know there's going to be another time if you screw up. But it's a huge monster to tackle."



MEGHAN THOMASSEN | The Observer
 Junior Will Sievern practices for his upcoming performance in Notre Dame's Symphony Orchestra's Concerto Competition.

Contact Meghan Thomassen at mthomass@nd.edu

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Length of season hinders NBA



Matthew Robison
Sports Writer

Like it or not, the NBA is back. For the next eight months, the world of sports will be filled with stories of what Kobe Bryant's hand feels like at the moment, how many wins the Heat will hypothetically win in the regular season and where Deron Williams might be dealt before the trade deadline.

The NBA definitely has its merits. Basketball fans get to watch the world's greatest athletes go toe to toe night in and night out. Watching LeBron James and Derrick Rose play basketball is a privilege. They do it better than anyone else on the planet. For that reason, I understand why plenty of people love the NBA.

But professional basketball certainly has its drawbacks.

The season, and especially the postseason, is simply way too long. Playing 82 games over six months is exorbitant.

Other than being turned into an everlasting drama by the media, I have one major beef with the NBA. And I think it accounts for the many of the problems we see with the league.

The season, and especially the postseason, is simply way too long. Playing 82 games over six months is exorbitant. Inevitably, certain players go down with injuries, from fatigue or otherwise, and the season is immediately impacted. While it was somewhat of a freak injury, Derrick Rose's ACL injury during the opening round of the postseason would have been avoided with a shorter season. Dirk Nowitzki, one of the league's most popular players, is out for the first 10 games of the season because of a knee injury resulting from overuse.

Because of the season's length, older players don't play every game. Frequently, veterans take extended breaks during the season so they can gear up for the postseason. On top of that, it's easy to see teams concede games if they fall way

behind. Unlike college basketball, professional football and college football, regular season games simply don't carry the clout they would carry if the regular season were shorter.

Important players rest against weak opponents. Coaches pull their starters if a game is out of reach. Players give up in games. It's something that's rarely seen in any other league. But I've seen it happen all too often in the NBA. I do not doubt the work ethic of the players, the strategy of coaches or the desire to win. I just think it's hard to put so much effort into one game when the season is made up of 82.

Even further, more than half the teams make the playoffs. If a team is in good position in the conference, they need not worry about their positioning as it relates to one game. Sometimes, teams even take

a look at the standings and decide they would actually prefer to lose. For example, if the Heat see a dangerous-looking Hawks team sitting at No. 4 in the standings. They might rather play the third-seeded Pacers in the second round, whatever the case may be. Because of the length of the season, they could actually manipulate their wins and losses to create this scenario. This may happen in other sports, but I don't think it's nearly as feasible as it is in the NBA.

The solution is simple. Shorten the season. I know owners might gripe about lost revenue. But in the end I think the NBA brand would be strengthened.

But just like you might have mixed feelings about this column, love it or hate it, the NBA is back — and for a while.

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu.

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

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Baylor favored in Big 12

Associated Press

There is no way Brittney Griner and Baylor can win 40 games again this season. As for winning another national championship, why not?

Every starter returns, including preseason All-Americans Griner and junior point guard Odyssey Sims, from last season's undefeated title team that was the NCAA's first 40-game winner.

The simple math of fewer games this season won't let them get to the 40-win mark again.

Top-ranked Baylor is so talented, so deep and so tall behind the 6-foot-8 Griner, they've seemingly relegated the Big 12, considered the toughest conference in women's basketball, to a race for second place.

"It's not in our books to go undefeated, but it's hard not to think about it after going 40-0," said Griner, one of five Baylor seniors. "It'd be nice to do it again, but our main goal at the end, win those six games and get a national championship."

Griner has career averages of 21.6 points and 8.6 rebounds a game with a Big 12-record 599 blocked shots, 64 shy of breaking the NCAA mark. And don't forget the seven dunks.

Sims had 174 assists last season while averaging 14.9 points a game. Destiny Williams, a 6-1 senior, averaged 10.1 points and 9.1 rebounds.

"Last season, we didn't care about 40-0. Our deal was to get back to where we lost," said Williams, referring to the Lady Bears' loss to eventual NCAA champ Texas A&M in



Baylor's Odyssey Sims, center right, celebrates with Mariah Chandler after the Bears won the NCAA National Championship last spring.

a regional final in 2011. "Our goal was to get back there and take it a step further. ... We have to do the same thing this year."

Coach Kim Mulkey has given the Lady Bears a challenging non-conference schedule.

They play sixth-ranked Kentucky in the second game, and also have games before Christmas against Tennessee and Notre Dame, that one a national title game rematch. Baylor plays out of conference only once after New Year's Day, at Connecticut on Feb. 18.

"If I can't get their attention, that schedule will get their attention," Mulkey said. "Then you make sure you keep them focused to the extent that they're still hungry, they're not complacent, they still have goals, they still have individual goals that will make our team better, and you just challenge them."

The rest of the Big 12:

OKLAHOMA: Coach Sherri Coale, who has more Big 12

wins than any other coach, returns all five starters after the Lady Sooners finished second in the Big 12 last season. The only senior is All-Big 12 guard Whitney Hand (13.3 ppg, 7.1 rpg), but there are two other double-figure scorers returning in junior guards Aaryn Ellenberg (14.6 ppg) and Morgan Hook (10.9 ppg). Oklahoma also added junior college transfer Portia Durrett, a 6-1 forward.

WEST VIRGINIA: Big 12 newcomer West Virginia, which went from the same conference with Connecticut and Notre Dame to the same league with Baylor, was set to return its entire starting lineup. But the Mountaineers, a regular in the NCAA tournament, lost 6-4 senior center Aysa Bussie (12.1 ppg, 6.6 rpg) to a season-ending knee injury the second day of practice. Coach Mike Carey said the injury at least gave his experienced team time to respond and learn new roles.

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By Taylor Swift

It feels like a perfect night to dress up like hipsters

And make fun of our exes, uh uh uh uh

It feels like a perfect night for breakfast at midnight

To fall in love with strangers uh uh uh uh

Yeaaaah

We're happy free confused and lonely at the same time

It's miserable and magical oh yeah

Tonight's the night when we forget about the deadlines, it's time uh uh

I don't know about you but im feeling 22

Everything will be alright if you keep me next to you

You don't know about me but I bet you want to

Everything will be alright if we just keep dancing like we're 22, 22

It seems like one of those nights This place is too crowded too many cool kids

It seems like one of those nights We ditch the whole scene and end up dreaming instead of sleeping

Yeaaaah

We're happy free confused and lonely in the best way

It's miserable and magical oh yeah

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Campo attempts to develop Kansas defense

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Dave Campo has a national championship, three Super Bowl rings and 23 years of NFL experience.

So what's he doing at Kansas?

Taking on the challenge of his life.

A year ago, the Jayhawks were ranked 120th nationally in total defense. Eight games into this season, Campo's defense has climbed to 81st and is ranked 58th against the pass.

"As bad as it is being the head coach, I think the worst job in the Big 12 is to be a defensive coordinator," said Kansas coach Charlie Weis,

"As bad as it is being the head coach, I think the worst job in the Big 12 is to be a defensive coordinator."

Charlie Weis
Kansas coach

who made hiring the former Cowboys coach one of his priorities when he took over a program that won just twice last year.

"I mean, you should just sign up for gray hair, you know, because it's a tough job."

Perhaps the biggest improvement under Campo has

"I mean, you should just sign up for gray hair, you know, because it's a tough job."

Charlie Weis
Kansas coach

been in the red zone. While the Jayhawks are still just 1-7, and 0-5 in the Big 12, they've been in a handful of games into the fourth quarter due in large part to a defense that is only allowing teams to score 69 percent of the time.

That statistic is a conference-best and 13th ranking nation-wide.

Kansas held Oklahoma State, the No. 1 offense at the time, to 20 points. Last Saturday, the plucky Jayhawks held Texas to 21 points — less than half of its season average.

"We've improved in a lot of areas on this defense and I think we have a lot more we can improve on," said linebacker Toben Oporum, arguably the team's top defender.

This is the third coaching staff for Oporum and the rest of the Jayhawks' senior class — those who were recruited five or six years ago. And judging by the fact the defense has already come up with nine interceptions and forced eight fumbles, it appears to be the most effective.

"His knowledge of the game has earned respect from the players," Weis said of Campo, whom he shares a long history dating to their days in the NFL. "He is a good teacher."

Campo said he realizes how much Kansas has struggled in the past, and he also knows that he's basically starting from scratch after working with polished professional players. But he's also keen on tackling the challenge of making the Jayhawks relevant again.

"I only know how to do it one way: Make sure we're grinding on our guys and making sure that they know we have to be disciplined and do the things we are doing," he said, "and not throwing in the towel and saying, 'We're not good enough.'"

The next step is for those improved defensive numbers to add up to victories.

"I don't know that our guys really understand what it takes to win right now, and that's



Kansas head coach Charlie Weis watches his team during the Jayhawks' 20-6 loss to TCU on Sept. 15. Kansas is 1-7 on the season.

what we're pushing and that's what's got to happen," Campo said. "It is still a process."

It sounds easy enough to change the atmosphere, but competing in the Big 12 brings a new set of challenges, even for someone with Campo's resume.

"This league is a unique league from the standpoint of the fire power offensively," he said, "and I think that's an

"He really loves the game of football and I can't say that he has enjoyed going against these defenses every week," Weis said, "but it really challenges you to try to take your players and what they can do and try to figure out the best way to minimize what they do."

Since Campo arrived in January, players appear to have bought into his style.

"I don't know that our guys really understand what it takes to win right now, and that's what we're pushing and that's what's got to happen ... It is still a process."

Dave Campo
Kansas defensive coordinator

area where we have to get good athletes and better athletes as we go and put the best athletes on the field."

With wide-open offenses, four ranked teams and Heisman Trophy candidates in Kansas State's Collin Klein and West Virginia's Geno Smith, there are no breaks for a defensive coordinator.

Weis lets him completely control the defense, and so far the system has been working — or at least, has Kansas moving in the right direction.

"You've got to do whatever it takes to win whether it's drawing up some new things on the board or calling different plays, you've got to be willing to do whatever," he said.

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NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

NYC Marathon set to run Sunday in Sandy's wake

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York City Marathon is a go for Sunday, and while logistical questions persist one thing is certain: The 26-mile route will have a disaster for a backdrop.

And a debate.

"I think some people said you shouldn't run the marathon," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at a news briefing Wednesday. "There's an awful lot of small businesses that depend on these people. We have to have an economy. There's lots of people that have come here. It's a great event for New York, and I think for those who were lost, you've got to believe they would want us to have an economy and have a city go on for those that they left behind."

Race organizers were still trying to assess how widespread damage from Superstorm Sandy might affect plans, including getting runners into the city and transporting them to the start line on Staten Island. Easing their worries a bit was news that 14 of the city's 23 subway lines were expected to be operating by Thursday morning - though none below 34th Street, an area that includes the terminal for the ferries that go to the island.

And there were runners like Josh Maio who felt torn about whether the race should go on.

"It pulls resources and focus away from people in need," said Maio, who dropped out due to an injury but is coaching about 75 runners.

He agrees the race is a boost to local businesses hurt by the storm — it brings an estimated \$340 million to the city. But he is uncomfortable with devoting so much to an "extracurricular" event.

Top American Meb Keflezighi, the 2009 men's champion, re-

She compared this year's race to the 2001 marathon, held seven weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, as a way to inspire residents and show the world the city's resilience.

Jonathan Cane ran in that race, working for the police department at the time as a fitness instructor, and it was "an amazing experience." But like Maio, he had mixed feelings about holding this year's marathon.

"I think if they do pull it off, the city will get behind it," said Cane, who is coaching more than 200 runners signed up for the race. "It's already a unique event, and this will make it more so."

Wittenberg expects the field will be smaller than the 47,500 who ran last year because some entrants can't make it to New York, but said so far organizers had received no more cancellations than normal. New York's three major airports were expected to be open Thursday morning with limited flights, leaving the nearly 30,000 out-of-town runners with hope that they can fly in but no guarantees.

Race organizers were re-scheduling the elite runners' flights to get them into New York on schedule, with many rerouted to Boston. Number pickup for entrants is scheduled to open Thursday morning at the Javits Center.

Meanwhile, traffic choked city streets as residents tried to return to work and limited commuter rail service resumed. Utilities say it could be days before power is fully restored in the city and on Long Island.

The course mostly avoids areas hit hardest by flooding. Getting everyone to the start on Staten Island could be the biggest challenge if two usual methods — the ferry and



The entrance of Central Park has been blocked off due to Hurricane Sandy. This closure will affect the marathon Sunday. Officials are working to set up an alternate route.

brief swing through the Bronx, they finish in Central Park, which was closed Wednesday. Some 250 mature trees inside the park were felled by the storm.

The 43rd edition of the marathon is set to include three Olympic medalists and the reigning women's world champion.

Kenya's Wilson Kipsang won bronze in the Olympic men's marathon. His challengers

include 2011 Chicago Marathon champ Moses Mosop of Kenya and 2010 New York winner Gebre Gebremariam of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's Tiki Gelana won gold and Russia's Tatyana Arkhipova was third in the women's race in London. Edna Kiplagat of Kenya won a world title a year earlier.

"Already what we're hearing from people is we went through the 9/11 marathon, and there was never a more moving

marathon, and what that marathon did was it unified this city and brought people back to the streets for the first time in weeks," Wittenberg said. "What was most striking about that marathon to me was it was not about running and it wasn't about the runners. It was about the city. And on that day, instead of the fans being there for the runners, the runners were there for the city. And this marathon already has that same feeling."

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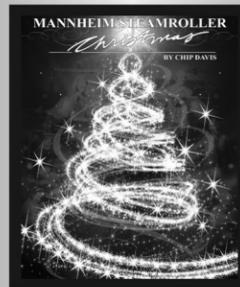
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"There's an awful lot of small businesses that depend on these people. We have to have an economy. There's lots of people that have to come here. It's a great event for New York, and I think for those who were lost, you've got to believe they would want us to have an economy and have a city go on for those that they left behind."

Michael Bloomberg
New York City mayor

gards the marathon as "something positive ... because it will be motivation to say, 'Look what happened, and we'll put on the race, and we'll give them a good show.'"

New York Road Runners President Mary Wittenberg said organizers planned to use more private contractors than past years to reduce the strain on city services. Many people have offered to work as volunteers and could fill in gaps, and many runners and fans plan to raise money to help victims of the storm.

Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel — are still closed. Organizers are working on contingency plans.

Runners always had to rise in the wee hours of the morning to make it to the start in time, and now they may need to get going even earlier.

Once under way, runners will cross the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge into Brooklyn. The route then winds through the borough and over the Pulaski Bridge into Queens. The Queensboro Bridge will bring the runners into Manhattan's East Side. After a

MLB

Giants fans celebrate championship with parade

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Ecstatic baseball fans packed the streets of San Francisco on Wednesday for a confetti-drenched parade and rally honoring the World Series champion Giants — a Halloween treat made even sweeter as a repeat performance from 2010.

Tens of thousands of people decked out in the team's holiday-appropriate orange and black stood 30 deep behind barriers, climbed trees, camped out overnight and mounted rooftops for a chance to see their favorite players wave from convertibles and get serenaded by Tony Bennett singing "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

Giants Manager Bruce Bochy, who hoisted the World Series trophy from the back of a gold Rolls Royce during most of the 1 1/2-mile procession, credited fans and his players' "unselfish play" for helping to lift San Francisco to its second World Series victory in three years, an improbable double play for a franchise that had not won the title since 1954.

"In 2010, we characterized the club as misfits that came together and got it done," Bochy told the roaring hordes gathered for the rally

in Civic Center Plaza. He said the tagline of the 2012 Giants was "never say die," a reference to the team's come-from-behind, post-season dominance.

"I thank you for always being there, for never giving up," he said. "Thank you for showing up wherever we've been and making this one of the greatest moments of my life."

As with the 2010 parade, this year's two-hour edition drew a cross-section of the region's diversity, from children who were allowed to skip school to older couples who had been Giants fans since the team arrived in San Francisco from New York in 1958.

Series MVP Pablo Sandoval, who swatted three home runs in his first three at bats in Game 1, and second baseman Marco Scutaro, who batted in the winning run of the game that clinched the title, addressed the throngs at the rally in Spanish.

"This is the second, but there are going to be a lot more," Sandoval said, expressing special thanks to the Bay Area's Latino community. "You should enjoy this and feel this in your hearts."

Cassandra Buenrostro, 25, who arrived at the plaza at 5 a.m. so she could get pictures



Giants pitcher Sergio Romo holds up a flag during the World Series victory parade. San Francisco defeated Detroit in a four-game sweep.

of Sandoval, did.

"He made me cry," Buenrostro said. "He's an inspiration."

Earlier in the day, clouds of black, orange and white confetti were shot from cannons

positioned on roofs and along the canyon-like, skyscraper-lined street. It showered spectators and parade participants, who included legendary Giants alumni Willie Mays, Willie McCovey and Juan Marichal and politicians such as House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

The unifying energy of the Giants' latest victory was evident as San Francisco 49ers quarterback Alex Smith drove the car carrying Giants pitcher Matt Cain and his family, while 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh did the honors for the Giants' Brandon Belt.

The convertibles gave fans clean views along the parade route that began at the foot of Market Street near San Francisco Bay and ended on the steps of City Hall, across from the overflowing plaza.

Star reliever Sergio Romo, wearing a T-shirt that read, "I just look illegal," whipped the roaring crowd into a frenzy when he got out of his convertible and mingled.

"It's unbelievable! Unbelievable! Just great!" said fired-up right fielder Hunter Pence, who was acquired in a midseason deal and led pregame pep talks. At the rally, Pence persuaded his teammates to jump around the stage to demonstrate the ritual.

"I loved it when they started acting goofy," said Janet Clark, 55. "That's exactly who the Giants are."

With the victory parade coinciding with Halloween, costumed masses brought an even more festive feel to what city officials hoped would be

a family friendly, alcohol-free event.

Richmond resident Kevin Yarbrough wore a giant white panda costume in tribute to Sandoval, whose nickname is the "Panda."

"You've got to come out and celebrate like this. You meet a whole new family, make new friends, and it really lets the community celebrate in a positive way," he said.

San Francisco police spokesman Michael Andraychak said a handful of people were arrested for public intoxication and officers issued a few citations for fighting, but the crowds generally were cooperative.

Some fans carried brooms as a reminder of the Giants' four-game sweep of the Detroit Tigers. Later, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee handed Giants President Larry Baer a ceremonial metal "broom to the city" along with the customary key.

Alex Warlen and Kelly Simms, both 17, were among the hundreds of people who camped out overnight in the plaza to ensure they had prime viewing spots. Warlen is a pitcher and Simms a catcher for the softball team at San Francisco's Mercy High School. The team is co-champion of its division.

"Buster is the reason I'm a catcher," read a sign Simms carried, referring to the Giants' Buster Posey. The high school seniors said Mercy administrators gave students the day off, so they weren't cutting school.

"We would have skipped anyway," Simms said.

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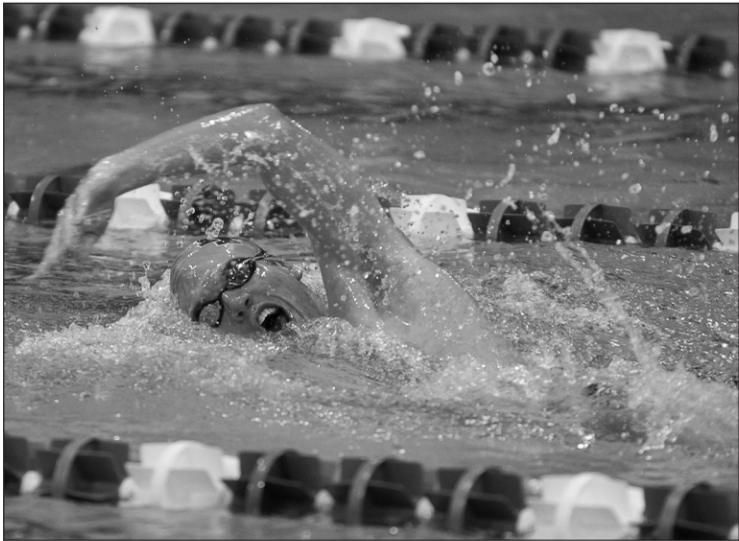


The Tom Milo Big Band

Photo by
Peter Ringenberg

MEN'S SWIMMING

Dyer continues to set Irish records



GRANT TOBIN | The Observer

Irish junior Frank Dyer competes in the 500-yard free during the Shamrock Invitational on Jan. 27, 2011.

By **NICK BOYLE**
Sports Writer

Irish junior Frank Dyer made history for Notre Dame's men's swimming and diving team last season, becoming the program's first swimmer to earn All-American honors.

Dyer's fourth-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle at the NCAA Championships on March 23 earned him the honor.

In addition to his All-American status, Dyer solidified his status as one of the most decorated swimmers in school history by setting a multitude of records in his sophomore year.

"I've always said that there has to be someone who has to be first, but in the end I think it is more important how many people come after you," Dyer said in an interview with UND.com. "I think last year was the turning point. I think we will always have someone at the NCAA Championships from now on, and our team is only getting better and faster."

Dyer is currently the holder of seven school records, including individual records in the 50-, 100-, 200- and 500-yard freestyle events.

Although his name is written in the record books, Dyer is quick to place emphasis on his hard work rather than his success.

"I really don't try to think about how much success that I have had, but more about all of the work that I have done in the water to get me to where I've been," Dyer said. "By no means do I think that I am the hardest worker on the team, but I do believe that my work ethic is strong, and I think that other people see that."

Dyer said one of the biggest moments of his career came while helping the Irish take home the Big East championship last season.

"We went into that meet, and

we really had to be positive at every moment," Dyer said. "I get chills about it now because that whole last hour and a half of the meet was just such an awesome experience to know that everything we had done all year was about to pay off. That's probably the best moment that I have had at Notre Dame."

The Irish are going to lean heavily on Dyer's experience this year to succeed. The team is setting their sights high this year, Dyer said.

"We have set the bar even higher this year," Dyer said. "There are people who think that we are on the rise but that it is going to take more time. I just want to get out there and prove them wrong and do the best that we can this year."

Dyer and the Irish host Purdue on Friday.

Contact Nick Boyle at nboyle1@nd.edu

SMC SOCCER | SAINT MARY'S 1, KALAMAZOO 0

Belles victory ends season

Observer Staff Report

The Belles defeated Kalamazoo 1-0 on Wednesday in their regular season finale and clinched their most successful season in Saint Mary's history.

In need of a win and some assistance from other teams to earn their rank, Saint Mary's (13-5-2, 10-5-1, MIAA) earned three points against the Hornets (11-6-2, 9-5-2) to finish tied for fourth in the conference. The tie prevents the Belles from advancing to the four-team post-season playoffs.

In the fourth minute of

Wednesday's game, junior midfielder and captain Mollie Valencia blasted a free kick from 22 yards out into the back of the net. The score ended up being all the Belles needed against Kalamazoo. The goal marked Valencia's fourth game-winning goal this season.

For the rest of the contest, the Belles weathered the Hornets' storm. Kalamazoo outshot Saint Mary's 14-4 in the game, including a 5-0 advantage in the second half.

Sophomore goalkeeper Chanler Rosenbaum made three saves for the Belles and

picked up her eighth shutout of the season.

In addition to knocking off the Hornets, the Belles received help from around the league. Calvin bested Adrian (12-3-4, 9-3-4) 2-1 in an overtime thriller. An Adrian victory, coupled with wins by Alma and Hope, would have eliminated even a victorious Saint Mary's.

The win was another milestone in an historic season for The Belles. The 13 wins are the most in Saint Mary's history. The Belles also only allowed 12 goals all season, the lowest total since the program began in 1986.

Shipp

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

has found plenty of players to receive his passes, aiding a Notre Dame lineup that has the Irish ranked No. 1 in the RPI. The Irish (13-3-1, 5-2-1 Big East) have netted 2.35 goals per game, good for sixth in the country, in part due to Shipp's ability to control the ball through the middle of the field with Irish senior midfielder and captain Dillon Powers.

"I think we work together really well," Shipp said. "Playing in our third year together here now, we kind of have a good feeling where each other is going to be. So I don't even have to think about where he's running, I just kind of know. And that will get us to the point where we are interchanging more, where we are just switching positions freely. That's really nice because I always have a security blanket."

Shipp also makes regular use of Irish senior forward

Ryan Finley, who is tied for second in the country with 17 goals on the year.

"I think Ryan is one of the best, if not the best, in the country at making runs behind the defense and just knowing when to time his runs and when to check to the ball," he said. "He's just a really smart forward, so I think that's like a dream for me because I like giving the ball to people who make runs behind."

Although Finley and Shipp combine to make Notre Dame's most experienced front line, the duo begins every game on the bench and only enters after several minutes of play.

"It's definitely something that is obviously different," Shipp said of the strategy. "But it's nice because we get to look for the first 20 minutes at what the other defense is doing and find ahead of time what ways we can take advantage of — the way the defense is playing, the little spaces

and opportunities for us when we get in the game. So I really don't mind it at all."

Last year, the Irish ranked 64th in the country with a 1.5 goals-per-game average and failed to qualify for the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2000 after losing in the first round of the Big East Championship. Shipp said some key differences between last year's team and this year's, which will begin conference tournament play Saturday at Syracuse, have made the difference.

"The biggest difference is I think we are not panicking, especially when we get in the final third," he said. "Last year, [if] a couple of things didn't go our way ... we would start to press and kind of panic, especially if we hadn't scored late in the game, whereas now we always have a confidence that we are going to score."

It's like magic.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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Besler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Kansas City.

"It was my dream always growing up to play overseas, and so it was a tough decision because I was happy where I was in the states but I never knew if this opportunity would come again – to have a chance overseas," Thomas said.

"Without going over there and getting the playing time right away I don't know if I would be where I'm at right now. So I am really happy with the decision I made, it's led me to be able to come back and be able to play for my hometown team. I love it."

Thomas signed with Sporting Kansas City in January 2012 after a stint with Ljungskile SK in another Swedish top division. Thomas said the reunion between friends was a happy coincidence.

"Once [Besler] got drafted, that was the start of it all," he said. "He got drafted by the Wizards at the time and now that I had the chance to come back and play for my hometown team, at the time it was something I couldn't pass up."

In 2012, both players played a part in Sporting Kansas City's successful regular season. Kansas City (18-7-9) finished atop the Eastern Conference and second in points for the season with 63, only three behind the San Jose Earthquakes for the Supporters' Shield, which is awarded to the team with the most points in MLS soccer.

Besler, a consensus favorite for the MLS defender of the year, played in 31 of Kansas City's 34 games in 2012, making 30 starts. After receiving recognition as a 2011 MLS All-Star he joined the U.S. Men's National team in August for a friendly game against Mexico



Observer File Photo

Irish 2010 graduate Michael Thomas looks downfield during Notre Dame's 5-4 victory over Florida State on Nov. 9, 2009. Thomas now plays for the Kansas City Sporting with fellow ND graduate Matt Besler.

in Azteca Stadium in Mexico City. While the MLS All-Star team's 4-0 loss to Manchester United was memorable, Besler said the call-up to the national

"With the players that I was surrounded with and the coaches and the facilities and everything, it really just showed me how lucky I was at the time

this year," he said. "They're off to a great start. I follow very closely and try to watch as many games as possible. I'm very happy and proud of how they responded to last season, [the first season in which Notre Dame failed to qualify for the NCAA tournament since 2000]. It was disappointing for them and for us as alums but they've done a terrific job of turning this thing around. I'm impressed."

Thomas said he also enjoys following the No. 7 Irish (13-3-1, 5-2-1 Big East), who have had to overcome season-ending knee injuries to senior midfielders Adam Mena and co-captain Michael Rose. Still, Thomas said, Notre Dame has a chance to do this year something the Irish were unable to do during his time — or any other time in school history: Reach the national semifinals.

"[Mena and Rose] are both strong leaders and both really good players as well," Thomas said. "But I think the players that have come in for them

"[Besler] got drafted by the Wizards at the time and now that I had the chance to come back and play for my hometown team, at the time it was something I couldn't pass up."

Michael Thomas
KC Sporting player

team represented an important achievement and an experience he hopes to replicate.

"It was awesome," he said in a phone interview on Oct. 4. "Awesome experience. I was so excited when I heard the news. It's something I've been working toward pretty much my whole life. I've always wanted to represent the country I love. I was shocked first but once I was down in Mexico I wanted to take it all in and learn as much as possible but also show what I can do on the field. Looking back we were the first U.S. team ever to win in Azteca Stadium in Mexico so that's something I'll remember for the rest of my life.

"I've been in contact with [United States coach] Jurgen Klinsmann and his staff. They said, 'Continue to work hard. You're on our radar.' I'm hoping to get another chance here in the future."

Besler said he attributes some of his professional success to lessons learned during his time as a member of the Irish squad.

"The culture that the team has at [Notre Dame] that [Irish] coach [Bobby] Clark brings to everybody, it sets you up for success in the professional game," he said. "For me, other than the speed of play in the professional game, there weren't a whole lot of adjustments I had to make with how things were done. [Notre Dame] runs its program like a professional team."

Thomas, who started in 81 of his 83 appearances in an Irish uniform and served as a two-time team captain, also said the environment at Notre Dame helped prepare him for a professional career.

and how much I wanted it that much more—you know, to be a professional," he said. "I think they prepared me the right way on and off the field."

Thomas said he is especially grateful for the role Clark played in his development.

"I mean, words can't describe how much he means to me and everybody," he said. "He is a very good coach on and off the field. He knows how to get the best from everyone. He was always someone who taught me how to be a disciplined player.

"With the players that I was surrounded with and the coaches and the facilities and everything it just really showed me how lucky I was at the time and how much I want it that much more — you know, to be a professional."

Michael Thomas
KC Sporting player

... He really taught me just to be patient with everything and just to keep working hard and everything will fall into place."

Now reunited on Sporting Kansas City, both players have benefited from their familiarity with each other both on and off the field, Besler said.

"I love playing with Michael," he said. "I think it's a great story and I think Michael is a great player as well. ... I'm very close with Michael and he's one of my best friends. It's been nice to have that comfort level and we get along very well."

Besler, the brother of current Irish sophomore midfielder Nick Besler, said he enjoys following Notre Dame soccer, especially this year's team.

"I'm so excited for the team

have stepped up big time. And you can just tell by watching, there is a swagger about them. They have a confidence and they seem to be playing the right way. ... It's not cockiness, it's just confidence. If they can keep going, keep playing as well as they [have been], hopefully they will be the team to get the first final four for men's soccer. And I am confident with the way I've seen them play. I just hope they keep it up."

As the top seed in the Eastern conference, Kansas City will play the winner of the Chicago Fire and Houston Dynamo in a two-game series beginning Sunday.

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Observer File Photo

Irish junior Kayla McBride dribbles down the court during Notre Dame's 73-62 victory over California on March 20 in Purcell Pavilion.

Returnees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Jewell Lloyd and Michaela Mabrey compose what has been ranked as high as the third-best incoming class in the nation. Lloyd is fourth in the ESPN HoopGurlz rankings while Mabrey and Huffman are 33rd and 52nd, respectively. Mabrey captured a gold medal with the FIBA Americas U18 Championships in August. The freshman guard led the team in assists while averaging 12.8 points and 4.0 rebounds per game.

As promising as the new names in the Irish lineup look to be, success for this year's team relies most prominently on the returnees. The team's aspirations begin and end, of course, with Diggins, the Preseason Big East Player of the Year.

The unquestioned leader of last year's very experienced Irish squad, Diggins will be called upon to take her leadership to another level this year. She has already earned herself a spot on the Wade Trophy preseason watch list, but the Irish will need their point guard to play well enough this season to earn serious consideration as the Wade Trophy winner at the end of the season.

Joining Diggins as the only other senior on the team is reliable guard Kaila Turner. But the Irish backcourt goes much deeper than the two seniors.

McBride is a returning starter who can do it all from the wing. The shooting guard can be a deadly scorer, but equally important for the Irish is her ability to use her size to contribute on the boards. McBride led last year's team in rebounding among returning players with 4.6 per game. Sophomore guard Whitney Holloway is the final Irish guard with game experience. Sophomore guard Madison Cable, who missed last season due to injury, and the three freshmen will be added to the mix to give the Irish plenty of options on the

perimeter.

The depth of the back is paired with a frontcourt that is shallower and smaller than Irish coach Muffet McGraw might like. The Irish faced a similar situation last year, and that was with Peters, who averaged 9.3 rebounds and 2.0 blocks per game to lead the team by far in both categories. However, all three of this year's bigs return with experience. Leading the unit will be junior forward Natalie Achonwa, who showed her offensive abilities from the block last season. The Ontario native also played a pivotal role in helping Canada make its first ever quarterfinals appearance in the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Junior forward Ariel Braker and sophomore forward Markisha Wright return to provide Achonwa with assistance down low.

Even with a lineup punctuated with inexperience and hindered by lack of size, Notre Dame's aspirations for this season should be high. Already in the top 10, the Irish could reasonably challenge for the Big East tournament title and the NCAA national championship title. Picked to finish second in the Big East by the conference's coaches, Notre Dame will have to battle No. 2 Connecticut twice for the right to repeat as Big East regular-season champions (and if recent history is any indication, the two powers will square off at least once more in postseason play).

And of course, No. 1 Baylor presents the biggest obstacle — literally. Senior center Brittney Griner, the reigning Wade Trophy winner, leads a Lady Bears squad that returns the entire starting lineup from last year's title team.

So a third straight trip to the NCAA finals might be a tall order, but does anyone think that will stop Diggins and the Irish from trying?

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

McGraw

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

"There are certainly tough shoes to fill, and we're not going to be the same defensively. We'll be working to play team defense, relying on a little more help and rotation, and just try to be a smart team overall."

Notre Dame returns two key starters in senior guard Skylar Diggins and junior guard Kayla McBride. Diggins, who was named a unanimous preseason All-American for the second consecutive season and tabbed Preseason Big East Player of the Year, comes off a campaign during which she averaged 16.8 points and 5.7 assists per game. McBride averaged 11.6 points and 4.6 rebounds per game last season.

McGraw said Diggins took on a greater leadership role in the off-season and will be essential to the development of the young team.

"Skylar is more of a coach on the floor than she's ever been before because she has to be," McGraw said. "She's encouraged and helped the younger players to step up their games and get them to a level where we can compete for a national championship. She will be counted on to do a little more to put us in the hunt."

Diggins will work closely with Notre Dame's freshmen, which were part of a recruiting class ranked as high as third in the country. The Irish added a trio of freshmen guards in

Hannah Huffman, Jewell Loyd and Michaela Mabrey and also welcome sophomore guard Madison Cable, who sat out last season with an injury.

"Jewell is really talented and can score and rebound, so we will be counting on her to fill needs from last year," McGraw said. "Cable is really fundamentally sound. Mabrey will be our first or second person

"Skylar is more of a coach on the floor than she's ever been before because she has to be."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

off the bench, and Huffman has really been improving so far."

McGraw said the exhibition against Edinboro, a team ranked sixth in the preseason USA Today Division II Top 25 Coach's poll, will give younger players a good introduction to the atmosphere of Purcell Pavilion.

"The first thing we're going to do is to work the freshmen and give them a chance to be out in front of the crowd and get the game day experience," she said. "I want to give them some playing time to get them comfortable."

McGraw said she plans to start Diggins, McBride, Cable, Loyd and sophomore forward

Markisha Wright against the Fighting Scots. She said junior forward Natalie Achonwa is slotted to be a starter but is out for the exhibition against Edinboro with an injury.

Achonwa is one of several Irish players who faced international competition over the summer, as she helped the Canadian national team reach the quarterfinals at the Summer Olympics in London. McGraw said she was impressed with Achonwa's development during the off-season.

"I think Natalie came back a different person," McGraw said. "She is confident and self-assured and knows what she wants to do. I think her mental game is at a different level."

In addition, Diggins helped lead the United States to the gold medal at the inaugural FIBA 3x3 World Championships in Athens, Greece in April. Mabrey also represented her country, playing a role on the United States team that won the FIBA Americas U18 Championship in Gurabo, Puerto Rico, in August.

"I think our players gained some great experience from international competition," McGraw said. "This experience will give them some great confidence heading into the season."

The Irish will battle the Fighting Scots on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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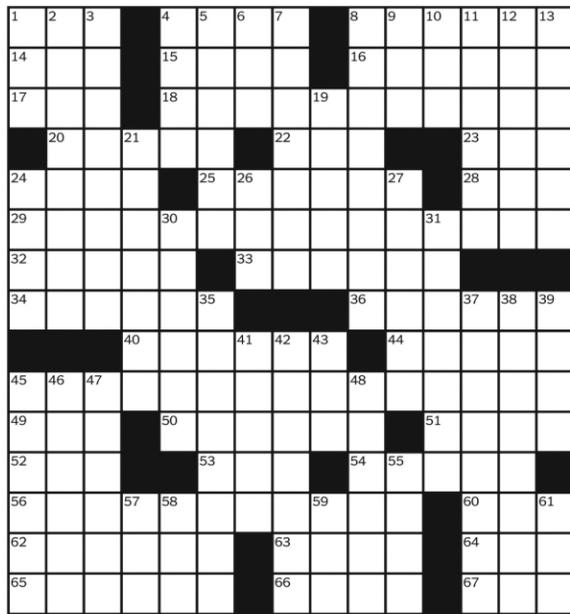
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Part of a metaphorical ladder
 - 4 Any of the Galápagos
 - 8 Color classification quality
 - 14 Italian article
 - 15 "Angels From the Realms of Glory," e.g.
 - 16 Like psychopaths, say
 - 17 Cellphone feature, for short
 - 18 Sports team management group
 - 20 "You missed _____"
 - 22 Suffix with diet
 - 23 "... boy _____ girl?"
 - 24 Language for a 37-Down
 - 25 Some navels
 - 28 California's _____ Padres National Forest
 - 29 Digress
 - 32 Word appearing more than 20 times on Iran's flag
 - 33 Like some music
 - 34 _____ meteor shower
 - 36 Muscle cramps, e.g.
 - 40 Covered
 - 44 Capital on the Gulf of Guinea
 - 45 What a mayor wins, usually
 - 49 Engage in some pillow talk
 - 50 Orion _____
 - 51 French word with a circumflex
 - 52 Play (with)
 - 53 What portable Apple products run
 - 54 It can be found in runes
 - 56 Toggle ... or a hint to 18-, 29- and 45-Across?
 - 60 Kitten call
 - 62 Classic 1740 romance subtitled "Virtue Rewarded"
 - 63 Contests
 - 64 Kind of dye
 - 65 To some extent
 - 66 Architect
 - 67 Shiny, say

- DOWN**
- 1 _____-eared
 - 2 Out, in a way
 - 3 Certain jazz club improvisation
 - 4 Dope
 - 5 To some extent
 - 6 48-Down follower
 - 7 Movement founded by Yasser Arafat
 - 8 Age calculation at a vet clinic
 - 9 Medical grp.
 - 10 _____ Swanson, "Parks and Recreation" boss
 - 11 13-Down athlete
 - 12 Diacritical mark
 - 13 See 11-Down
 - 19 Popular corn chip, informally
 - 21 Expiation
 - 24 Even in Paris?
 - 26 Mixed martial arts org.
 - 27 Lose one's patience with, maybe
 - 30 Many a Browns fan
 - 31 Epitome of slowness
 - 35 "This may be controversial, but ..."
 - 37 Arthur Conan Doyle, e.g.



- Puzzle by Joel Fagliano
- 38 "Batman" villain in a cryogenic suit
 - 39 Cry at home, maybe
 - 41 "America's favorite active pro athlete," per a 2012 ESPN poll
 - 42 Slippery
 - 43 Singer Lana _____ Rey
 - 45 Exotic aquarium specimens
 - 46 Speechwriter who coined the phrase "Read my lips: no new taxes"
 - 47 Classical musician whose career has had its ups and downs?
 - 48 6-Down preceder
 - 55 Very
 - 57 Small number
 - 58 Fourth-largest state in population: Abbr.
 - 59 N.H.L. impossibility
 - 61 "That's crazy!"

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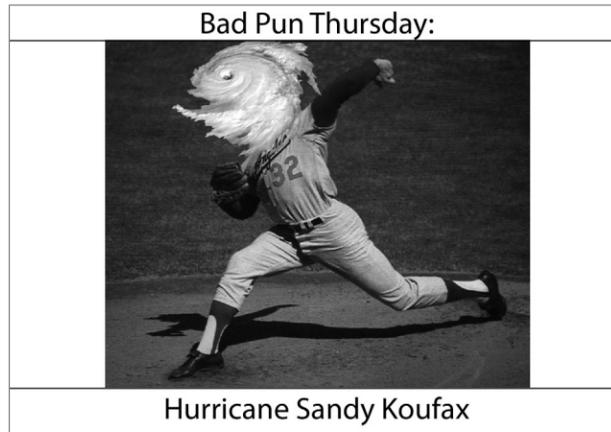
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2	5	1	6	7	4	9	3	8
4	3	2	7	5	6	8	9	1
9	8	5	1	4	3	6	2	7
1	6	7	8	9	2	4	5	3
6	7	4	5	3	1	2	8	9
3	1	8	2	6	9	5	7	4
5	2	9	4	8	7	3	1	6

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aggressively seek information or travel to places that inspire you or will help you use what you have learned to move forward in the future. A change in your relationship with someone special will bring you closer together. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Getting along with others will determine your future. You must share and compromise when necessary if you want to be taken seriously. Someone from your past will give you a chance to reclaim lost territory. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions will be close to the surface, causing you to make choices that may not be the best for you professionally. Wager the pros and cons and try to satisfy both your personal and business needs without making a fuss. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for answers in unusual places. If you revisit old ideas and incorporate what you've got with trends, you will show others your diversity when it comes to finding solutions. Don't let love stand in the way of your professional progress. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take time out to do things you enjoy. The experience you gain from interacting with people from different backgrounds or by trying something you've never done before will inspire you to make changes that will improve your life. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Study what's going on around you and base your decisions on factual information. Don't let anger get the better of you when dealing with incompetence or family matters that could result in unwanted change. Focus on positive, productive and compromising changes. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stop procrastinating and start doing. Approach authority figures with sophistication, facts and experience to get whatever documentation you need to further your interests. Now is the time to travel, share your ideas and launch something new. Romance is highlighted. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share your thoughts and form a partnership with people you find motivating and creative. Offer your services to people you want to further your business relationships with by finding a way to incorporate your specialty. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone from your past will challenge you. Embrace whatever you face with confidence and you will surpass whatever competition awaits you. Opportunity knocks — don't hesitate to go after what you want. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Discipline is required if you want to get ahead. Don't be distracted by what others do or say. You must stay focused and maintain consistency if you want to come out on top. An emotional situation must not be allowed to curb your progress. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let go of the past and any grudges you harbor. Living in the present and looking toward the future will bring positive results. A romantic relationship can get you back on track. Passion will lead to a long-term commitment. ★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful how you portray who you are. Someone will be watching every move you make to ensure you are good for your word. Now is not the time to slack or make unrealistic promises. Work hard, play hard and be honest. ★

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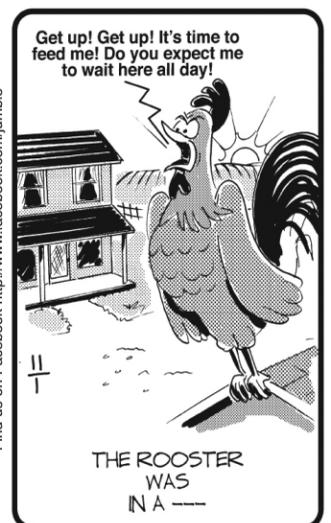
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WOMEDA

GRODAN



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(Answers tomorrow)

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 Answer: Kids on Halloween are often — TREATED WELL

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

New look to achieve same goal

Notre Dame enters season with different lineup

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

The last time No. 7 Notre Dame took the court, the Irish fell by 19 points to No. 1 Baylor in the national championship game. The Irish will look to embark on a return to the national championship hunt when they kick off their new season Thursday with an exhibition against Edinboro at Purcell Pavilion.

The Irish will return to the court with a different look than the team that finished as the national runner-up in April. Notre Dame lost starting guards Natalie Novosel and Brittany Mallory and starting forward Devereaux Peters when the three leaders graduated in the spring. Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the loss of the three starters leaves the Irish with major holes to fill in the areas of defense and rebounding.

"The biggest thing we're missing right now is defense and rebounding," McGraw said.

see MCGRAW PAGE 18



Observer File Photo

Irish senior Skylar Diggins drives into the lane during Notre Dame's 73-62 victory over California on March 20 in Purcell Pavilion. The Irish begin their season tonight against Edinboro.

Diggins must lead a team without proven starters

Joseph Monardo
Sports Writer

After playing in the past two national title games, the Irish have firmly placed themselves among the country's most talented and successful teams two years running. Despite graduating perhaps the best class in program history, the No. 7 Irish have the pieces to make another postseason run this season.

The loss of former Irish forward Devereaux Peters and former Irish guards Natalie Novosel and Brittany Mallory leaves three big holes in the starting lineup. The three players combined to make 242 career starts. Although the Irish return only two starters — senior guard Skylar Diggins and junior guard Kayla McBride — Notre Dame returns eight players, most of which have considerable experience.

The Irish also welcome in a highly touted three-person freshman class. Guards Hannah Huffman,

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WAKING THE ECHOES

ND graduates reunite in MLS

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

"Teammates" only begins to describe the relationship between former Irish players Matt Besler and Michael Thomas. Childhood acquaintances, former roommates and friends, Besler and Thomas have continued their careers together on their hometown MLS team after spending three seasons together at Notre Dame.

"It is something that we get asked a lot," Thomas said in a phone interview Oct. 5. "Obviously me and 'Bes' were really good friends at Notre Dame. We grew up together around here [in Kansas], but we got to know each other a lot better there [at Notre Dame]. We would always kind of joke around about possibly playing with each other in the future and always going back and playing for your hometown team, how cool that would be."

What began as a joke has turned into reality.

Besler, who made 73 starts and 90 appearances as a defender in his Notre Dame career, was a two-time team captain, three-time member of the All-Big East team and an All-American his senior season. The Overland Park, Kan., native went eighth overall in the 2009 MLS SuperDraft to the Kansas City Wizards (now Sporting Kansas City). Besler became the highest-drafted Notre Dame player to enter the MLS.

In 2010, Thomas went 19th in the second round to the San Jose Earthquakes but opted to play in the top Swedish league Allsvenskan for Halmstads BK. What was at the time a difficult decision to play in Sweden has paid dividends professionally and personally, the midfielder said, and has ultimately led the Olathe, Kan., native back to

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MEN'S SOCCER

Shipp leads Irish offense

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

The team's roster lists him as a forward, but Harrison Shipp sees himself filling a role more often associated with a midfielder. Irish coach Bobby Clark has a whole different designation altogether for the talented junior: magician.

A native of Lake Forest, Ill., Shipp is one of the central components to an Irish offense that has No. 7 Notre Dame atop the nation's leaders in scoring offense. His ball skills and seemingly charmed passes in the middle have earned Shipp the nickname from his coach and have allowed him to gather 14 points on the season, tied for second-most on the team.

Shipp has four assists and five goals this season, with three of the goals coming in a hat-trick during Notre Dame's 6-1 victory over Seton Hall on Oct. 13. The three-goal performance was somewhat of an anomaly for



SARAH O'CONNOR | The Observer

Irish junior Harrison Shipp dribbles the ball during Notre Dame's 3-1 victory over Akron on Sept. 9 in Alumni Stadium.

Shipp, who said he feels more comfortable on the beginning end of plays rather than the finishing end.

"I think even though I play forward I definitely consider myself more of a distributor, like a point guard in basketball," Shipp said. "I get just as much enjoyment setting people up as I do scoring

goals. I think it's my role to set people up in positions to succeed instead of always thinking about ways to succeed [personally]. That's what I enjoy doing. I think also just not touching the ball too much [is important], just getting it from person to person Shipp

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