

## SMC organizes letter writing to Pope

Group delivers letters as part of project expressing Catholic women's relationship with the Church

By **KELLY KONYA**  
Saint Mary's Editor

Pope Francis asked, and Saint Mary's delivered — literally.

In the fall of 2013, 10 Saint Mary's students, the Office of Campus Ministry and the Center for Spirituality (CFS) came together to discuss ways in which the Catholic Church could better reach young women around the world. Together, the group came to one conclusion: write to Pope Francis.

Elizabeth Groppe, director of the CFS, said the group of women were inspired by Pope Francis's call to Catholic youth to contribute to the Church's life and mission. This call to action comes at a time when an

estimated 35 percent of millennial women (born between 1981 and 1995) who were baptized Catholic have turned away from the Church and no longer practice their faith.

In August 2014, the "Voices of Young Catholic Women" project was underway, Groppe said. The College extended a national invitation to write to Pope Francis to more than 700 members of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association, Saint Mary's alumnae, Catholic parishes in the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Catholic high schools with which Saint Mary's has connections through the College's recruiting network,

see POPE **PAGE 4**



Photo courtesy of Gwen O'Brien

Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney (left) and senior Kristen Millar shake hands with Pope Francis as they deliver 225 letters from Catholic women across the United States on Nov. 26.

## Badin sale supports charity

By **CATHERINE OWERS**  
News Writer

Badin Hall's sixth annual Conscious Christmas Fair Trade Handicraft Sale will run Friday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the dorm, and all proceeds from the sale will support the Hope Initiative, industrial design professor Ann-Marie Conrado said.

Conrado, who co-founded the Hope Initiative in 2004, said the sale offers a variety of reasonably priced gifts, including scarves, bags, wall hangings and hemp products.

"We sell things that are very affordable, up to quite reasonably priced luxury items like

see BADIN **PAGE 5**



Photo courtesy of Ann-Marie Conrado

Students browse the assortment of fair trade products available at last year's Conscious Christmas Fair Trade Handicraft Sale.

## Aidan Project donates blankets

By **CAROLYN HUTYRA**  
News Writer

The ninth annual Aidan Project — a service event dedicated to making fleece-tie blankets for hospitalized cancer patients throughout Indiana — will take place Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at South Dining Hall.

Circle K president Ivana Surjancev, a junior, said Aidan Fitzgerald, a 2009 Notre Dame alumnus who lived in Knott Hall and battled cancer while at the University, worked with his hall and Circle K to help organize the project as a signature dorm event

after his diagnosis in 2006.

"We donate all the blankets to both oncology and pediatric units to help remind the patients that they are not alone and that, as a community, we are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers," Surjancev said.

Students have the opportunity to volunteer for any length of time, and Surjancev said it only takes 20 minutes to make one blanket. Volunteers also have the opportunity to write a personalized note to be delivered to the patients along with the blankets.

"It's very easy to make the

see AIDAN **PAGE 5**

## 'Asian Allure' explores Asian experience at ND

By **KATIE McCARTY**  
News Writer

The Asian American Association will hosts its annual signature performance, Asian Allure, on Friday and Saturday in the Washington Hall auditorium, junior Jen Ho, the event's director, said.

This year's theme, "There and Back Again," focuses on

the Asian community at Notre Dame, Ho said.

"This theme addresses the growth of the Asian community in Notre Dame throughout the years," she said. "The production will carry the audience through a transition from the traditional to the new."

Ho said this year's performances are different from past years in that there will be no

skits. Instead, the event will feature stories submitted by faculty, alumni and students, along with dance and fashion elements.

"Each Asian club contributed a traditional dance piece," she said. "There are more diverse individual performers who successfully auditioned

see ALLURE **PAGE 5**



KEVIN SONG | The Observer

The Indian Association of Notre Dame performs a Bollywood dance at Thursday night's rehearsal for this weekend's Asian Allure shows.



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# THE OBSERVER

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## QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What's your favorite catch phrase?

Have a question you want answered?  
Email [photo@ndsmcobserver.com](mailto:photo@ndsmcobserver.com)



**Bryan Daly**  
senior  
off campus  
"Jesus take the wheel."



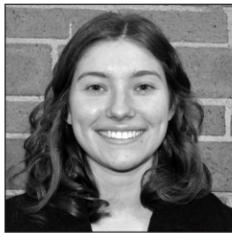
**Mary Kate Healey**  
sophomore  
Lyons Hall  
"Knope we can."



**Eileen McTigue**  
sophomore  
Badin Hall  
"So great, so great, so excited to be here, so great -Jimmy Fallon."



**Shadmn Minir**  
junior  
Morrissey Manor  
"It is what it is."



**Janel Allison**  
junior  
McGlenn Hall  
"You got it dude."



**Shannon Takahata**  
sophomore  
McGlenn Hall  
"Are you talkin' to me?"



MOLLY O'NEILL | The Observer

Badin third floor residents Sara Schunck, Mary McDonald, Nicole Schneider and resident assistant Alisha Ching get into the holiday spirit by decorating their doors (and themselves) in a hall event Wednesday night.

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## THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?  
Email [news@ndsmcobserver.com](mailto:news@ndsmcobserver.com)

### Friday

**Christmas Cookie Decorating**  
LaFortune Student Center  
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Free for students.

**ND Chorale Concert**  
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Featuring Handel's "Messiah."

### Saturday

**Women's Basketball**  
Purcell Pavilion  
3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.  
ND vs. Connecticut.

**Men's Basketball**  
Purcell Pavilion  
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
ND vs. Fairleigh Dickinson.

### Sunday

**Classic Film: "It's a Wonderful Life"**  
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Free for students.

**Advent Lessons and Carols**  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.  
Features all choirs.

### Monday

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
Basilica of the Sacred Heart  
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.  
Open to the public.  
**Campus Ministry Christmas Party**  
Coleman - Morse Center  
8 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Freshmen invited.

### Tuesday

**Men's Basketball**  
Joyce Center  
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
ND vs. Mount St. Mary's.

**"The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp"**  
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Free for students.

# Professors examine Latin American democratization

By **MATTHEW MCKENNA**  
News Writer

The book "Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America: Emergence, Survival and Fall," co-authored by Scott Mainwaring, professor of comparative politics, and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, associate professor of political science at the University of Pittsburgh and Notre Dame graduate, recently won two major book awards in the area of comparative politics: the American Political Science Association's

**Scott Mainwaring**  
professor of comparative politics



Comparative Democratization Section's 2014 Best Book Award and the Donna Lee Van Cott Book award for the year's best book in the Latin American Studies Association's Political Institutions Section.

"You spend years and years working on these things," Mainwaring said. "I'm still sure that some people will read the book and just hate it because it takes on a lot of established literature. It's a book that invites controversy. So the awards tell me that even if six million people turn out to hate it, at least a few people liked it."

Mainwaring and Pérez-Liñán began with the purpose of explaining the major waves of regime change that have swept Latin America, Mainwaring said, but he and Pérez-Liñán soon came to

realize they had an opportunity to make an important theoretical contribution to discussions of democracy and dictatorships.

"We want to question the way that we currently study political regimes," Mainwaring said. "We make a strong argument that you have to look at political actors or the people that really have the power in a country.

"You can't deduce what actors prefer just from their structural location. You can't assume that the wealthy always support dictatorship and the poor always support democracy. These are misleading simplifications."

Mainwaring said what makes the book unique is its application of a hybrid model that uses quantitative scales to analyze political actors.

"Most works on democracies and dictatorships use statistical analysis, looking at structural analysis variables such as how wealthy a country or income inequality," Mainwaring said. "These are things that you can just pull off of a shelf and run regressions on. But where are the actors? They've disappeared."

"Every qualitative analysis of political regimes looks at actors, so there was a weird disjuncture in the literature between qualitative and quantitative approaches," he said. "We tried to bridge that gap in the literature."

Mainwaring said they coded the actors on two different aspects, which both relate to the actor's beliefs.

"The first is whether or not they value democracy or a dictatorship on intrinsic

grounds," Mainwaring said. "Our argument is that some organized actors favor certain regimes that are contrary to what would necessarily benefit them the most. We call this measurement normative preference."

"The second variable is a measurement of how radical these actors are, on a scale from moderate to radical," he said. "The argument for democracies is that radicalism makes it harder for a democracy to survive, but it doesn't have an effect on a dictatorship."

"Radical oppositions can

**Aníbal Pérez-Liñán**  
professor of political science  
University of Pittsburgh



help undermine dictatorships and bring about a democracy, but they can also have a countervailing effect," Mainwaring said. "If there is a radical guerrilla group in my country and I'm a dictator, I may dig in more in order to maintain control."

Mainwaring said their model is not that different in concept from established literature; rather, it is in the way they have conducted their analysis that makes the model unique.

"The thing that no one articulates is that when anyone writes a history or a political analysis, you always make decisions about who the key actors are, we just systematized these decisions in a dichotomous way," he said.

Contact Matthew McKenna at [mmcken12@nd.edu](mailto:mmcken12@nd.edu)

# Saint Mary's hosts madrigal dinners

By **EMILIE KEFALAS**  
News Writer

Saint Mary's traditional Christmas-themed madrigal dinners will transform the north lounge of Regina Hall into a medieval banquet hall for students and members of the community Dec. 5 to 7, director of special events Richard Baxter said. Now in its 42nd year, the weekend-long event provides an alternate mode of celebration and preparation during the Advent season, Baxter said.

The Saint Mary's Department of Music organizes and performs an array of Renaissance and madrigal-oriented music courtesy of the 21 members of the Saint Mary's Women's Choir and its director Nancy Menk, professor of music. Menk, who has conducted the madrigals for 31 years, said the dinners have changed over time in style but not in spirit.

For the 40th anniversary of the madrigals two years ago, the show's script and song list changed, Menk said, though some traditional favorites remained.

"Some of the music is really traditional, so we do it every year," Menk said. "We always have a returning group of seniors every year, but we sort of have a basic group of repertoire."

"I try to pick repertoire that is from the Renaissance or at least sounds like it's from the Renaissance. I want all the pieces to be like Christmas, and there aren't really a whole lot of madrigals that are about Christmas. We at least want to go with an image of earlier times."

The dinners attempt to recreate a medieval ball at Christmastime, complete with a toast and a real boar's head,

Baxter said.

"They actually have a boar's head that they parade around," Baxter said. "They do it every year. They serve different courses. There are jugglers [and] depending on the weather, they juggle pins outside. There are dancers that perform medieval dance. By the end of the evening, hopefully [the audience] got a sense of what the evening's about."

The dinners also feature a holiday feast that includes prime rib, roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, Waldorf salad, wassail and cheesecake with flaming cherries, Baxter said.

Along with the food, Baxter said she believes the music makes the dinners special.

"[The choir doesn't] just stand and sing," Baxter said. "They'll move around the whole area. You won't even recognize it when we finish it. It's a big production. It's far more focused and controlled. It's not like being on the street, it's more concentrated. It is like you're time traveling."

Baxter said the madrigal dinners only work with the help of an entire team of people.

"There are maybe probably 25 members of the choir and another 15 servers, so there's probably 50 people back there making it work," Baxter said. "We're there making sure everything's smooth."

Though preparing the same music every year may seem a little mundane, Menk said the constant change of students is what delights her most.

"I love to watch them get excited about it," Menk said. "By the time we do it, it's fun. The atmosphere at the madrigal dinners is always so festive that it's easy to see why so many continue to make this a part of their annual holiday celebrations."

"At every performance, when I step into the hall and see the beautiful candlelit setting and the looks of anticipation on our patrons' faces, I feel really proud of what we have offered to our community for 42 years."

Some of the event's most popular features include the jugglers and the procession of the boar's head, but everyone always enjoys something unique and different, Menk said.

Since first taking over the production, Menk said she has readjusted and perfected the show for each year's audiences.

"Now we have a formula that works, we don't even have a meeting beforehand," she said. "The choreographer does her thing, and I do my own thing, and in the end it all comes together."

The madrigal dinners are Saint Mary's way of reaching out to the community beyond campus during the Advent season, Menk said.

Contact Emilie Kefalas at [ekefal01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:ekefal01@saintmarys.edu)

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## Pope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

team leaders of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and Catholic web media.

### The Project

Following the national invitation, the project's team compiled the letters, poems and other forms of creative expression into a binder for Pope Francis as they were sent to the College, Groppe said.

The responses addressed four questions, centered on what is cherished about the Catholic tradition, what it is like to be a young woman today, how young women can contribute their gifts to serve the Church's mission and what other ways young women can support one another's return to the Church, if disconnected, Groppe said.

College president Carol Ann Mooney said the project ties in with the Saint Mary's mission "about as clearly as anything does."

"We are concerned at Saint Mary's not simply with, of course, the academic and intellectual development of our students, but also their moral, social and spiritual development. That's our philosophy," Mooney said. "This project is not just about Saint Mary's or our students, but it is more about our Church and how it can better reach out to young women and keep them close, well-served, sustained

and nourished by the Church."

Kristen Millar, a senior and active participant in Campus Ministry, said she was first asked to help with the project last year, and agreed to help without any idea of what it would turn into.

"As I met with [members of the CFS], we went over some of the articles that spurred this project — about Millennials leaving the Church and the problems young women face today — and it was shocking for me to discover all of this because I honestly didn't know," Millar said.

The CFS received 225 letters, including several poems, some prayers and a number of drawings and works of art, Groppe said. Most notably, students at Saint Ursula Academy in Cincinnati designed a handmade pink and red satin stole for Pope Francis.

Though most of the letters have been kept confidential, the letters expressed love for the Church and the pop, but also included concerns about today's secular culture, which often objectifies women, director of media relations Gwen O'Brien said.

### Delivering the Letters to Pope Francis

Over Thanksgiving break, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Mooney, Millar and alumna Grace Urankar, (class of 2014) traveled to Rome to deliver the

letters Nov. 26 at the weekly papal audience.

Urankar said the weight of the project did not hit her until she literally found herself carrying the bag with the large binder containing the 225 letters through the metal detector at the Vatican.

"To physically carry them reminded me of the old belief 'strength in numbers,'" Urankar said. "With so many voices represented, how could we not be heard?"

After the papal audience, Rhoades introduced Millar and Mooney to Pope Francis in Spanish, and all were able to shake Pope Francis' hand as they delivered the binder and stole.

"I presented the stole from Saint Ursula's, and then President Mooney gave Pope Francis the binder and said that the letters contained the joys, hopes, griefs and sorrows of young women from the millennial generation," Millar said. "He shook both of our hands and said 'Please pray for me, I need the prayers.'"

"The very day before, Pope Francis was in France, and the next day he was leaving for Turkey, so it just shows you how much of an effort he is making to reach different communities," Millar said. "He's a universal symbol for the universal Church, and we were honored to be able to present him with a national symbol — the letters."

Mooney said the experience of

delivering the letters was wholly thrilling.

"It's not only thrilling to go to Rome, and it's certainly thrilling to actually talk to the Pope, but it was truly thrilling to feel like we were there doing something that was really important," Mooney said.

Besides attending the papal audience and meeting Pope Francis, the group attended a Mass offered by Bishop Rhoades with the students studying in the College's Rome study abroad program at the Basilica of Sant'Andrea della Valle, Millar said.

"One night at dinner, President Mooney, her husband, George, and Grace and I sat down and had a really good conversation about the project and the Pope and how we need to remember that the pope is human too," Millar said.

"When we saw him in the audience, he was so charismatic and gets so much joy out of being with the people.

"I am just grateful to be able to do my part in answering his call to young women," Millar said.

### 'Together, we can do even more'

With the letters delivered, the project's team has since returned to the United States and hopes the idea behind the project will continue to be discussed in the Church and beyond, Millar said.

One of the most modest hopes, expressed by Mooney, Millar and

Urankar, is simply for the letters to be read.

"Some young women poured their hearts out in the pages of those letters, so what one hopes is not only that they are read — and I trust they will be — but that with the Holy Spirit, there's some realization of unmet needs and how the Church can work to meet them," Mooney said.

In regards to the project's development, Mooney said she was impressed by the enthusiasm and courage of the students.

"Quite often, one loses that optimism and that belief that they have the ability to make change," Mooney said. "We all need to keep that belief in ourselves alive. The optimism and enthusiasm that fueled this project is very important for everybody to keep."

The project will continue to manifest, Millar said, if women advocate for other women in our daily lives in all situations, as pressures build from society to remain faithful.

"It's important that women see their roles in the Church and within one another's lives as vital and necessary, because they are," Millar said.

"We all just need to remember that although you may be one person, you can do so much, and together, we can do even more."

Contact Kelly Konya at [kkonya01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:kkonya01@saintmarys.edu)

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## Allure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for their roles in music, dance and spoken word.

"There is also a fashion show that will showcase both the traditional and modern styles of Asian culture. Though it is a production showcasing Asian culture, the cast is in fact the most diverse it has ever been in terms of age, culture and talent."

Asian Allure aims to showcase Asian culture and better connect Notre Dame with the Asian community, Ho said.

"Asian Allure is the only event that showcases every Asian cultural club in addition to non-affiliated acts on campus in performance," Ho said. "Each year presents a different theme to serve the purpose of better connecting ND with the Asian community through understanding of the different cultures."

Ho said planning for Asian Allure began in July when the board began to think of ideas for the show.

"The planning process began over the summer when I was selected to be the director in the end of July," Ho said. "The Asian Allure board was then established, and we immediately began brainstorming ideas of what the vision of Asian Allure should be this year in contrast to past productions."

Ho said auditions were held early in fall semester, and rehearsals began shortly afterward.

"Auditions took place in late September and selected performers were notified of their participation the same week, after which we immediately began collaboration," she said.

Ho said Asian Allure is not just put on by students for students.

"Not only are students involved, but the alumni association and faculty of ND are as well," she said. "Many visit just to watch the performance and experience the growth of the audience in numbers and diversity since their years on campus."

"Though it may only seem like a mere production, Asian Allure annually reminds Notre Dame of the special presence of the Asian community of Notre Dame and how unique each individual is. It is not only a rewarding experience to those who are involved, but also to whom-ever come out to watch the show."

Tickets will be available for \$7 at the LaFortune Box Office until an hour before each show. Tickets can also be purchased for \$10 at the door.

Contact Katie McCarty at [kmccar16@nd.edu](mailto:kmccar16@nd.edu)

## Aidan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

blankets and always a lot of fun to do," she said. "Aidan still visits our event, too, and it is inspirational to see how this project has touched so many different people."

One of the biggest components of the project is its ability to raise awareness about cancer, Surjancev said.

"More importantly, it helps lend warmth, strength and hope to those currently fighting cancer," she said. "Many hospitals and patients benefit from receiving these blankets."

Knott Hall president and junior Joseph Schneider said the Aidan Project is great because it allows students to share the support system they have at Notre Dame with children in need of encouragement.

"As with all dorms on campus, you become a part of the family when you live there," Schneider

said. "The great thing about having that sort of family support system is that you can team up with your friends and roommates to help people truly in need."

"That is exactly what Aidan Fitzgerald did when he started the Aidan Project in 2006."

While the event only lasts one day, Surjancev said planning begins more than half a year beforehand. Each year, a minimum of 15 Circle K board members join the hall staff and service commissioners of Knott Hall to organize the event.

Junior Ralph Hauke said the event is a great opportunity to help others.

"So many members of the Notre Dame community come out to make a blanket or two, so we really couldn't do it without the community support," Surjancev said.

Contact Carolyn Hutyra at [chutyra@nd.edu](mailto:chutyra@nd.edu)

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# EUTHANASIA: An International Perspective

A LECTURE BY JOHN KEOWN

Monday, December 8

5:00 pm

Room 1130 of Eck Hall of Law



JOHN KEOWN

John Keown is the Rose F. Kennedy Professor of Christian Ethics at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University. This year he is the Mary Ann Remick Senior Visiting Fellow at the Center for Ethics and Culture here at Notre Dame.

Keown is perhaps the world's leading authority on the ethics and law pertaining to euthanasia. His many published works on the subject include: *Debating Euthanasia* (with Emily Jackson), published in 2012 by Hart, and *Euthanasia Examined: Ethical, Clinical and Legal Perspectives* (Cambridge 2002).

## Badin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pashmina and silk," she said. "This is a really great way for people to be conscious of the things that they are buying, how they are purchasing them, that they are ethically sourced, that they are making a big impact. If you are splurging on another person or yourself, you can do it in such a way that it helps and has a much greater impact."

Junior Chau-Ly Phan, one of the event's organizers, said Badin residents have worked to advertise and set up for the sale.

"During the actual event, there are Badin girls helping with the sale by working checkout, answering questions, and being personal shoppers and giving gift advice," she said.

Proceeds from the sale support a variety of projects from the Hope Initiative, including scholarships and initiatives for children of illiterate families, Conrado said.

"So where there's no educational background for that child to succeed we offer before- and after-school programs so that [they] can get extra help in school, that they can be exposed to a stronger educational underpinning," she said. "[Hope Initiative] uses creative thinking to address issues of poverty and educational access. Because I am a professor of design, I like to think that we can offer creative ways to address these intractable human issues and problems in developing countries."

Phan said when the sale raises more money, the Hope Initiative is able to disburse more scholarships and host health clinics.

"In one sale, we have the opportunity to provide these kids with opportunities and the care they deserve for the entire year, and if enough people purchase goods, we can help so many more people throughout the year."

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY FOR LIFE AT NOTRE DAME

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'Nowhere else but ND'

On Dec. 6, 2011, my twin sister Morgan Leigh Judd passed away unexpectedly from a blood clot that formed in the back right part of her brain. Morgan was a freshman at Wake Forest University where she was double majoring in accounting and dance. The day before she passed away, she danced at the Wake Forest basketball game and showed no signs of inconsistent health. Morgan was well known for her grace on the dance floor and much loved for her unwavering kindness and compassion.

Grieving over Morgan's unfortunate and unexpected passing has been a long and taxing process for me and my family. Being twins, Morgan and I had gone through every life experience together — I had never imagined living in a world without her always by my side. Whenever I had an issue, I knew I could turn to her and she would respond with a comforting smile and understanding embrace. But suddenly, that rock I had always held to was swept out from under me, and I was forced to face a sea of uncertainty without the one person who truly understood me.

This upcoming Saturday — which marks the three-year anniversary of Morgan's passing — my friend Marie Davidson ('15) is coordinating the third annual 24-hour vigil of Notre Dame

students and faculty at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. More than 70 students and faculty from across campus are signed up to participate. Other than hometown friends, none of these students have ever met Morgan Judd. In years past, several dear friends have stationed themselves for several hours through the night, enduring sub-15 degree temperatures all in the name of a girl they will never get the chance to meet.

Over time, I have come to realize that Morgan's spirit didn't simply fade away — anything so visceral couldn't just disappear. Rather, I like

***"In years past, several dear friends have stationed themselves for several hours through the night, enduring sub-15 degree temperatures all in the name of a girl they will never get the chance to meet."***

to think that her essence was so strong that it exploded like a supernova, spreading tremendous light and warmth in its wake. Morgan

never attended Notre Dame, yet I see her daily. I see her in the smiles of strangers walking on the quad. I hear her in the cheers from the student section on a football Saturday. I feel her through the power of friendship, when a group of 20-year-olds spend all night at a grotto for a girl they never knew.

The athletic culture and strong academics are what initially drew me to Notre Dame, but it is events like this Grotto vigil that made me realize that Notre Dame has become my home. The past three years have demonstrated what a truly unique faith-based community we share, composed of people capable of such overwhelming compassion.

To all those who have supported me this past week and every day for the last three years, I want to express my profound gratitude. You are all a constant reminder of how incredibly blessed I am to attend this University and serve as a poignant reminder that we have an angel here watching out for all of us.

Nowhere else but Notre Dame.

**Michael Judd**  
senior  
O'Neill Hall  
Dec. 4

## We must petition for PE

Hard questions need to be asked about the University's decision to eliminate the physical education department and replace the long-standing program and swim requirement with a vague and irrelevant mandatory credit class for incoming freshmen. This decision was announced in mid-April of last year with very little student input and was even a complete surprise to the PE department employees, whose jobs are now in jeopardy. In 2012, a committee was convened to look into possible alternatives for the PE department. Their recommendation options were as follows: merge the PE department and Rec Sports, retain the PE department and replace the requirements with a credit-bearing course available to the entire student population and reduce the PE requirements to a one-semester wellness class. In 2014, an ad hoc committee with one student representative chaired by Dean Hugh Page was established to examine these options. Strangely, their final recommendation was not any of the options previously put forward. Instead, the proposal that was presented to the Academic Council (passed with a thin margin and many absences) was a yearlong credit-bearing course that included vague topics such as "discernment," "cultural competence" and "mind-body awareness" and completely eliminated the PE department at Our Lady's University starting with the class of 2019.

Late last year, I started an online petition to help save the Notre Dame PE department that has now gathered more than 1,000 signatures of alumni, current students and faculty. In addition to the signatures, the petition also gathered more than 100 strongly worded comments

such as "PE was one of the remedies to my stress freshman year," "Physical education was one of my best memories" and "Talking about fitness doesn't make you more fit." Dean Page and Fr. Jenkins, in a world with shocking obesity rates and an ever-increasing amount of academic pressure on students, why is the school deciding to replace a stress-relieving aspect of First Year Studies with a credit course that will add to the workload of students and decrease time spent on physical activities?

During the summer, I was in contact with Dr. Vincent Friedewald, Notre Dame alum and

***"Dean Page and Fr. Jenkins, in a world with shocking obesity rates and an ever-increasing amount of academic pressure on students, why is the school deciding to replace a stress-relieving aspect of First Year Studies with a credit course that will add to the workload of students and decrease time spent on physical activities?"***

an associate editor of the American Journal of Cardiology. He was shocked that Notre Dame has decided to eliminate the PE department, which is an essential part of the Notre Dame

experience, and put students' health at risk. He shared my concern that the Rec Sports department is currently extremely unequipped to take over the responsibilities of physical activity. While Dean Page claims Rec Sports will be overhauled, the department currently has no director and no instructions on how this will take place. I have also spoken with Dennis Stark, former Irish swimming coach and class of 1947. He has been trying to get alumni involved in this issue as well, but was stonewalled by the administration when he requested to present a case to President Jenkins.

As a current student, I believe that we have both the right and responsibility to question the administration's decision on this issue. Earlier this year I was working with student government, but they are committed to working with Dean Page to move forward with the new plan. I know there are other pressing student issues (such as the Commencement decision), but I believe all students both past and present should be concerned about this issue because of its implications for future students. I urge you all to sign my petition online (Google "ND PE Petition") if you feel strongly about this issue. My contact information is on this petition, and I urge you to contact me if you have any further suggestions. I have done extensive research on this decision and would certainly be willing to discuss further.

"Vita, Dulcedo, Spes."

**Aaron DeGagne**  
sophomore  
Zahm House  
Nov. 20

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**@ObserverViewpnt**



# Christ, goodness and light are constant

Scott Boyle

The Sincere Seeker

I don't know if any of you have read the columnist David Brooks from the New York Times, but I have taken a liking to him recently. His articles began to pop up on my Facebook news feed earlier this year.

The first article I read was titled, "Stairway to Wisdom." In it, Brooks analyzes the ways we learn and acquire information about social problems.

He starts by analyzing the benefits of science, which, as he states, are advantageous in that they allow researchers to make "informed generalizations about how people are behaving."

But this quest to understand others, he says, is ultimately limited in that it does not "allow for deep understanding." In other words, it doesn't allow for the beauty and complexity of the human person to emerge, a beauty that can never be fully defined or contained by a set of statistics or data.

Brooks then goes on to write, "We all know people whose lives are breathtakingly unpredictable: a Mormon leader who came out of the closet and became a gay dad; an investment banker who became a nun; a child with a wandering anthropologist mom who became president."

In sum, we never know what remains hidden, what dreams hover beneath the surface of our souls and the souls of others, ready to emerge into bodily and material reality like a caterpillar from its cocoon.

And that's precisely the point. Brooks observes, "To move the next rung up the ladder of understanding you have to dive into the tangle of individual lives."

Of course, that task is easier said than done. Who wants to encounter the difficulty of the tangle or the messier parts of life? Dive there and you can count on a journey that's sure to involve a little bruising, battering or maybe even some serious injury.

We fear what we do not know. To stand face to face on the precipice of a tough reality, to stand in anticipation of a journey we (most likely) will not be able to control — that could be one of most daunting challenges put to humanity.

And it's daunting because of our expectations. We expect a "good" life. We expect to be "healthy." We expect to receive what we are due if we work hard. But, unfortunately, that's not always the reality that stares us back in the face.

Sometimes these expectations cloud our vision. Too often, I think, we look at the exterior of another person's life and observe that everything is going right for them. But that image is a mirage. No one's life is perfect. No day will be the "perfect" day. No relationship the "perfect" relationship. Why? Because that's life.

Presumptions and observations without deeper knowledge are like cataracts for the soul. They cloud our vision, distancing us from the reality we seek to know. Try to see anything from so great a distance, and it will appear distorted, fuzzy and not true to form. Our eyes might show us what we want to see, but we will be settling for a cheap version of reality.

Fortunately Christ, the great bridge-builder, has sought to show us true reality, a reality anchored and rooted in love.

In the Incarnation, Christ lived out this love to the fullest. He took on humanity, bridging the man-made chasm of sin that had separated

human and divine. He drew close in order that we might see him clearly. He came to us so that we might see and freely choose him again and desire our union with him just as much as he desired it with us.

Brooks sums it up perfectly: "Love impels you not just to observe, but to seek union — to think as another thinks and feel as another feels." Christ wept, like us; he suffered, like us; he died, like us. But, he also rose from the dead and showed us that, in him, death would not be the end of our story.

But death always wants to silence love. It wants to exploit the fact that the "bad stuff" does not disappear in a moment and that pain is, often times, not any easier to face.

But when we choose Christ, when we draw closer to him, we see that he has already promised us a different ending: "I am with you always, until the end of the age."

It's Christ who is constant, not sin or death.

And like Christ, we must be constants for one another. We must continue to draw close, to shine Christ's light for each other when the darkness in our lives becomes too great to bear alone.

We must remind each other that we are reflections of eternal light. And no tangle will, if we remember Christ's promise, be able to contain that light.

*Scott Boyle graduated in May of 2012 with a degree in Theology and a minor in Medieval Studies. He currently lives and works as a Campus and Youth Minister in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as a member of Notre Dame's Echo Program. Contact him at [sboyle2@nd.edu](mailto:sboyle2@nd.edu)*

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Continue progress on LGBTQ issues

Remember two years ago? Two years ago, Barack Obama was reelected. The royal baby captivated our nation, sight unseen. Notre Dame was going to the national championship as the No. 1 team. These events stick in our minds and bring back salient memories of how our lives were changed, yet despite heavy coverage in The Observer, and a major press release by the University, another event in the fall of 2012 may not be remembered so clearly.

On Dec. 5, 2012, Notre Dame took a large step towards creating a more inclusive community when it reaffirmed its commitment to its LGBTQ students by releasing the Pastoral Plan, Beloved Friends and Allies. Members of Student Affairs, Fr. Jenkins' team and faculty and staff all over campus came together, performing a review of University services that demonstrated their commitment to the Holy Cross values upon which Notre Dame was founded. After more than 27 years of struggle, campus welcomed the creation of an official student organization, an advisory committee for Student Affairs and a full-time staff position, all focused on inclusion for its LGBTQ students. This tangible action was manifested administrative support of a burgeoning student conversation, led by some of the best student and campus leaders in recent Notre Dame history. Things have changed over the last five years for this campus, and LGBTQ people are becoming more tangibly recognized as a part of the Notre Dame family.

Unfortunately, when putting on campus events,

we are still asked questions that amount to: "Look, I totally support you LGBTQ students, but why do you have to be so in-my-face about it?" On our second birthday, we'd like to answer this question:

**Because the words "we respect human dignity" are meaningless if what follows fails to recognize the humanity of LGBTQ people.**

It's not enough to pay lip service to love and respect. Without engaging in concrete actions that support a community, rhetoric can prove empty to those who need it most. Spread the love — it's important to be accepting, but it is as important to make this acceptance known to those it will most positively impact.

**Because students still have experiences with un-supportive parents, educators or peers.**

From personal interactions with Prism members, to Mr. London's letter Wednesday, we are constantly reminded of the negative consequences of people's attitudes. Tolerance does not soothe the wounds of discrimination. It's acceptance that demonstrates true goodwill and a desire for reconciliation.

**Because sexuality and gender are universal experiences.**

Each and every person has a unique and valued sexuality and gender; where you fall on the spectrum is an important part of your personhood. Identifying with a sexuality or gender that is more accepted in the mainstream discourse does not mean it is somehow more valuable — all people's personal stories are

part of a tapestry of experience that all should work to cherish.

**Because looking at LGBTQ people only as burdened individuals does not fully capture a person's experience of their sexuality and gender.**

Recently, the Synod on the Family debated and ultimately rejected the use of a phrase saying that homosexual persons have "gifts and qualities to offer to the Christian community." Rather than a change in Church doctrine, it would have been a reframing of how we should see our LGBTQ peers. It challenges us to look at others not as deficient, but as containing a whole person, bringing with them their own valuable perspective and personal experiences.

As a community, we have the ability to come together and manifest our love into a true family, welcoming to all people. On this two year anniversary, we invite you to join us in committing to fully supporting, loving and accepting all LGBTQ students.

Sincerely,

**Lilian Crawford**  
junior  
Badin Hall

**Bryan Ricketts**  
junior  
Duncan Hall  
Dec. 3

# SCENE

in

# SOUTH BEND



**By MARC DRAKE**  
Scene Writer

Main Street Coffee House, located in downtown South Bend, recently began displaying images from a new art project titled “South Bend: Then and Now.” The project features pictures of South Bend locations found by the Studebaker National Museum juxtaposed with modern photographs of these same locations. As I sit in the coffee shop, one particular photo grabs my attention: an expressionless man on a horse-drawn grocery delivery wagon stares at a camera, while a curious little boy around the corner timidly looks on. When I look at the current photo, I see a familiar destination also committed to preserving history of forgotten items: Junk Evolution.

Junk Evolution is located at 528 E Colfax Ave. in South Bend, situated at the corner of Hill and Colfax in the East Bank Village. Featuring a beautiful mural showcasing stores and other parts of the East Race neighborhood, the building serves as an important part of South Bend history. Constructed in the 1890s, the building has served a variety of functions ranging from grocery store to residence to its current fate, Junk Evolution.

Junk Evolution has existed in this space since March 2010, continuing a long legacy of repurposing this building that hasn’t changed much since its creation. This doesn’t seem to be an accident, as discovering new uses for old items seems to be at the heart of Junk Evolution.

“We’re all about sustainability and repurposing and recycling,” owner Linda Sherck said. “So that was our initial theme, trying to save things from the landfill and keeping things from being thrown away, and that is what it remains today”

During a season where consumerism runs rampant and the pressure is on acquiring the newest, latest gadget, Junk Evolution encourages the community to look at already existing products in a new light. Offering beautifully repurposed products, entering junk evolution feels like entering a well-curated treasure trove.

“We’re everywhere,” Sherck joked as she described the extensive hunt that staff members go on to find products to repurpose for the store. “We’re a lot of your usual suspect places. Goodwills, thrift shops, estate sales, auctions, friends. We’re dumpster divers, taking things off our neighbors garbage piles; we’re not above that.”

All of the staff’s hard work pays off, as the store manages to offer a unique experience to shoppers with a different theme each month. Fittingly, the store features a special Christmas theme for the month of December, which includes various toboggan sleds coated in garland hanging from the ceiling.

In addition to various home goods, visitors can also pay a visit to the Circa Arts Gallery and buy vintage clothes from the company Vintage Twill or products from Carpenter Gothic. “The way we have it set up, items can be rung up

at either place, and see things are definitely more cohesive between the two businesses,” Sherck said. Despite the variety of goods offered in the space, the focus of Junk Evolution has always remained on selling repurposed home goods.

“We have always been a home décor store that focuses on repurposing and recycling,” Sherck said. In terms of home goods, Sherck believes that functional and versatile items often are the most popular items in the store. “Buffets are a really big item, dressers also are very big sellers for us, tables and chairs. I think with the way the economy has been, people are interested in buying things that are useful and functional. People aren’t quite buying useless and frivolous things for themselves yet.”

For individuals who miss a particular month or would like to see the full inventory of the store, Junk Evolution offers a warehouse sale once a month that features products from previous months that have not been sold or items that would not fit in the store on Colfax. Located at 1212 High St. in South Bend, the warehouse sale occurs on the third Saturday of each month. However, due to the Christmas holiday, the December warehouse sale will occur Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring items ranging from vintage clothing to finished dressers and paintings, the event provides unique Christmas gifts for everyone on the Christmas gift list.

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# Spoken Word ND: POETRY SLAM

By CAELIN MILTKO  
Scene Writer

Spoken Word ND hosted their annual Poetry Slam event Wednesday night in the Washington Hall Lab Theatre.

The night opened with the emcee explaining the history and rules of the poetry slam. Poetry slams originated in the 1980s in Chicago, working to engage the audience in the performance of poetry.

There were five judges chosen from the audience, who were asked to rank each of the 11 contestants from one to 10. Their scores were announced to the audience (and the audience was encouraged to cheer in support of scores they liked — or respond with “Listen to the poem!” to scores they didn’t). The high and low scores were dropped and then the other three were averaged for a final score out of 30. At the end, the top three scorers were announced as winners of the poetry slam.

Each poet would get three minutes to perform his or her poem. Audience members were encouraged to react audibly to

encourage the poet to continue to go for it, especially when the audience liked what was being said. The first 10 seconds after three minutes would be allowed with no penalty, but every 10 seconds after that would cost them half a point off their final score.

The night started with the “sacrificial poet.” Her role was to help calibrate the judge’s scoring to prevent any contestants from being punished by a judge who was too harsh. Wednesday’s sacrificial poet was Spoken Word ND’s president Beth Spesia, who read a poem titled “That Activism Poem” and received a final score of 24.2. From there, the competition began.

The star of the first half of the poetry slam was Stephanie Konrady, who read a poem named “Peter Pan Syndrome.” In it, she told the audience, “I’m saying no” to adulthood. She said “I won’t reach for security at the expense of creativity” and ended her poem with the idea of faith. She received an 8.8, 8.8, 8.7, 8.2 and 8.3 for her efforts, for a final score of 25.8.

After Konrady, the poetry slam featured

a “guest speaker” of sorts in the form of P.E.A.T.E. (Poetically Educating All Thru Expression), a local Spoken Word artist. She apologized for not being prepared and then performed an entirely memorized piece “My Knees.” Her performance stood out for her ability to combine both the theatrics of poetry slam with the deeper meaning many of the other poems were striving for. It partially helped that she was the first memorized poem of the night.

The last three poets of the night stole the show. It started with Kelsey Collett, who performed “My Passive Aggression isn’t so passive.” It was one of the shorter poems of the night, but definitely powerful. She said she didn’t know if she could be a hero but “I think I could be a contender” and told the audience, “You can get in my corner or you can get in the ring.” It was a strong poem and she ended up with an 8.0, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8 and 8.6. Her final score was a 25.7.

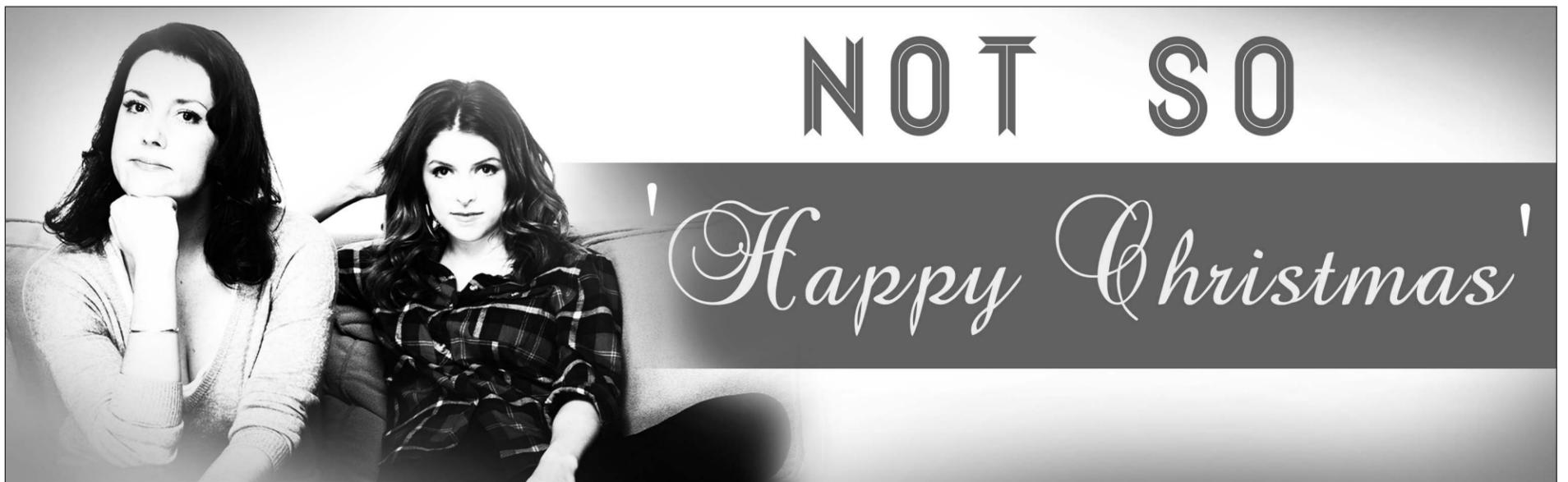
Following Collett was Zeda Biossa. Her piece was about “the night I became yours forever.” It was a powerful storyline, told in time fragments from 8 p.m., 9 p.m. and so

on. She was given an 8.5, 8.8, 8.9, 8.4 and 7.9 for a final score of 25.7, tying with Collett for second place behind Konrady.

The final performer ended up taking the night with a score of 25.9. Garrett Blad took the stage and told us that he wanted to write a love poem but “my mind is full of numbers.” He took us through the story of the glacier lily and the broad-tailed hummingbird. He lamented that the glacier lily and the broad-tailed hummingbird were just years away from never meeting again because of natural migration cycles. He told the audience, “We can read the history of the natural world in braille” and that the “best way to destroy a library is to forget how to read.” He warned there was no turning back from modernity. He won the night with a 9.6, 8.6, 8.4, 8.9 and 7.9.

All in all, the poetry slam was an incredible night of talent from Notre Dame students. It showcased the extraordinary creative talents of students.

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By ERIN MCAULIFFE  
Scene Writer

Are you experiencing stop-action motion sickness? Is your heart growing two sizes too small for “The Grinch?” Are you ready to throw yourself under “The Polar Express?”

I know I am, which is why I rejoiced when I saw “Happy Christmas,” a 2014 Christmas film starring Lena Dunham and Anna Kendrick, on Netflix.

The film, released this summer, stars my two favorite Twitter heroes/It Girls/hysterical Hollywood stars. As such, I had high expectations for this holiday film: “Girls” situational irony fused with family holiday parties plus “Pitch Perfect”-caliber caroling seemed like a holiday recipe to beat peppermint bark. Pretty much I was expecting what Sufjan Stevens has done with Christmas music: a sophisticated, indie twist on an overdone genre. However, the 2.6 stars on Netflix should

have been a warning that this holiday film would not make the nice list.

First off, this film is advertised as a holiday movie — it is titled “Happy Christmas” — so you would assume holiday parties, a little Christmas music and some holiday cheer, right? Nope. There were maybe three gifts exchanged and no Bing Crosby or sleigh bells to be heard.

It is a lousy marketing scheme. Since December is the month everyone devours Mariah Carey ballads and any films with reindeer like they’re free candy canes, this movie tries to slip under the Christmas genre and suck in anyone who listens to Spotify’s “Folksy Christmas” list and scours Netflix for “alternative” Christmas movies — aka me.

However, taken as just an indie movie — it was released in July — it had its moments.

Carson (played by Dunham) delivers as the sassy, attentive best friend who offers questionable advice and great one-liners

— so basically Dunham did a great job playing herself.

Jenny (played by Kendrick), is an insecure 27 year old living with her brother and his wife and baby after a bad breakup. She is an irresponsible, selfish and rather mousy character that it is hard to sympathize with — just wait until you get to the scene the Christmas Eve scene (of course, you won’t know it was the night before Christmas until the next morning because Christmas is not a central topic in “Happy Christmas”).

A character that is easy to sympathize with is Kelly (played by Lynskey). Jenny’s brother’s wife and mother to adorable baby Jude, she is fed up by wearing “pajama tops with spit-up on them all day” and having no time to write her novel, but is too polite and kind to ever complain.

As Carson, in classic Dunham/Horvath-style, says, “She’s so pretty in that way that’s, ‘Oh, I didn’t have time to take a shower. Oh, I didn’t have time to

do anything. I’m just mommin’ it up’ and she’s so beautiful.”

Carson and Jenny take unassuming Kelly under their wing and try to help her find time to do things she wants to do, starting by convincing her to write an erotic novel for fast cash. Kelly starts to like Jenny, an unexpected turn after nearly kicking her out of the house the first night. I never felt this inclination, however, as Jenny remained selfish and unstable pretty consistently throughout the film.

This movie is a mediocre indie film that falls below mediocre when watched as an indie Christmas film. You will not feel any happier this Christmas by watching “Happy Christmas.”

Sorry to be a Scrooge, but that he at least he has remorse for his unsavory past actions — the same can’t be said for Jenny.

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## SPORTS AUTHORITY

# 76ers hang by a thread



**Greg Hadley**  
Associated Sports Editor

Stop the presses everyone. The Philadelphia 76ers won a game.

Twenty teams played Wednesday night, and the 76ers generated the second-fewest points of any of them against the NBA's second worst defense, the Minnesota Timberwolves. But that doesn't matter, because they finally found a team that had no answer for the league's worst offense.

With the win, Philadelphia moves to 1-17 on the season and avoids tying the worst start in NBA history. I'm pretty sure that a healthy portion of the 10,463 people in attendance at the Target Center in Minneapolis only showed up in the hope of being part of sports history. But the Sixers would just not be denied.

In all sincerity though, we should give the team credit for not giving up and slouching its way into the record books. When the playoffs are already laughably out of reach, when you're playing in front of dwindling, unenthusiastic crowds, when team management is already looking ahead to next year, or maybe the year after that, it cannot be easy to give a full effort for 82 games.

But still, the 76ers missed out on history. They could have been the gold standard for atrocious, the paragon of pathetic, the epitome of awful. Decades down the road, grandparents would say, "Well, yes, they're bad, but they're nowhere near as bad as the 76ers used to be. Let me tell you ... " Instead, the 2014-2015 76ers will be lost in the sea of simply "bad" sports teams.

No, I'm not saying Philadelphia should have lost on purpose. All I'm saying is that, by winning, they lost out on sports immortality. As much as we celebrate the greats of the athletic world, we also don't mind looking back at the all-time worst. Futility is one of the most enduring storylines in sports, and everyone likes to occasionally remember just how bad some teams can be.

Take for example the 2008 Detroit Lions, the only team in NFL history to go 0-16. Perhaps the defining moment of that season was the week six game against the Minnesota Vikings, when quarterback Dan Orlovsky took the snap in the first quarter and ran out of the back of the end-zone untouched for a safety. Naturally, the Vikings won, 12-10. At a certain point, the level

of incompetence becomes comical.

John McKay certainly understood that. During his time as head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the franchise's shambolic early years, he was asked about his team's execution and replied, "I'm all for it."

In 1979, several Kansas City Royals players invented a new term for incompetence when they joked that Hall-of-Famer George Brett's batting average was getting too close to that of Mario Mendoza, a light-hitting shortstop. The "Mendoza Line" has since become ingrained in baseball as the standard of weak hitting. It's a clubhouse joke gone too far, maybe, but still a great way to describe a batter that just looks hopeless at the plate.

Or to return to basketball, there is a certain cruel irony in acknowledging that Michael Jordan, the greatest player of all time and the leader of the best team in NBA history, the 1995-1996 Bulls, was also the owner of the worst team in league annals, the 2011-2012 Charlotte Bobcats. While Jordan watched, the Bobcats stumbled and bumbled through a 23-game losing streak to a 7-59 record and a .106 winning percentage.

A lot of football fans know the score 222-0, the final result between Georgia Tech and Cumberland in 1916 and the most lopsided defeat in college history. Lest you feel too sorry for Cumberland, the story goes that Georgia Tech's legendary coach John Heisman ran up the score to avenge a 22-0 beatdown the Bulldogs laid on the Engineers the previous spring in baseball. Heisman was also Georgia Tech's baseball coach.

In general, good sports teams are fun to watch and bad ones are boring, but on occasion, squads can simply be so grossly inept that it's fun to watch them go down in flames. If you don't believe me, rewatch the infamous Mark Sanchez "butt fumble." It's stupid, and it's kind of sad, but I don't know a non-Jets fan that can help themselves from laughing.

So while I salute the 76ers for avoiding ignominy for now, I will still keep a close eye on them as the season goes on. After all, their winning percentage is only at .059. They're not out of the trash heap of history just yet.

Contact Greg Hadley at [ghadley@nd.edu](mailto:ghadley@nd.edu)

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

## NFL

# Senators threaten NFL to drop 'blackout' rule

## Associates Press

WASHINGTON — Senators from both parties warned the National Football League on Thursday to get rid of a four-decade-old TV "blackout" rule or risk congressional action to restrict the league's lucrative antitrust exemption, which allows NFL teams to negotiate radio and television broadcast rights together.

The blackout rule, which bars home games from being televised in a local market if they have not sold out, is unfair to fans who have helped the league reap billions of dollars in revenue from broadcast rights to games that are among the most-watched programs on TV, lawmakers said.

In return for their loyalty, "fans in the public are often treated like a fumbled football," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. "When places like Buffalo, New York, fail to sell out its 74,000-person stadium, the Bills game is blacked out for local fans."

The Federal Communications Commission voted this fall to stop enforcing the NFL's blackout policy, but

the action did not end blackouts, which are written into the NFL's private contracts with broadcast and cable companies.

Blumenthal and other lawmakers at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing said Thursday the blackout rule has long outlived its usefulness. The rule was adopted in the 1970s to encourage ticket sales at NFL games, which now routinely sell out at stadiums across the country.

"The simple fact is that these rules only serve to benefit sports leagues and their member teams at the expense of the hardworking fans who support them so loyally through their money, time and passion," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

During last year's NFL playoffs, fans of the Cincinnati Bengals, Indianapolis Colts and Green Bay Packers came close to experiencing blackouts when those games had not sold out just days before kick-off, McCain said. The blackouts were averted when local businesses bought tickets to bring the total above the NFL's required threshold.

A bill co-sponsored by

Blumenthal and McCain would revoke the league's antitrust exemption unless it removes the blackout rule.

The senators made it clear at Thursday's hearing that they would prefer not to enact a bill. Blumenthal and other lawmakers urged the NFL to act on its own.

"I think they'd become heroes rather than the opposite, which they are now," Blumenthal said.

Gerard Waldron, a lawyer who represents the NFL, said the proposed bill would harm the people it intends to help — the fans — by undermining "the complex business and legal structure that allows the NFL to be the only professional sports league that offers all of its regular-season game to viewers at no charge" through over-the-air broadcasts.

Without the certainty of paid attendance provided by a blackout rule, NFL games are likely to migrate from free broadcast TV to pay TV such as cable and satellite, Waldron said.

The bill also aims fix a problem that largely does not exist, Waldron said.

## NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Eight Big East teams open conference schedules

## Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Big East got an early start on its conference season with eight of the 10 teams opening on Wednesday.

It's the second time in four seasons that the conference got a jump on play. The early start was caused by a new schedule that has the league playing its conference games on Friday and Sunday. The way the calendar falls with holidays and such it wouldn't have been possible to start the final weekend in December which the conference did last year.

The men will begin their conference play in a New Year's Eve marathon.

The games Wednesday were competitive for the most part. Villanova and Providence got the day started with the Friars winning on Tori Rule's running layup with two seconds left. No. 25 DePaul trailed Butler by six at

the half before rallying for the 92-76 win. Seton Hall beat Creighton 79-74.

St. John's was only up three at the half over Xavier before turning the game into a rout in the second half.

"This is the third game in five days for us," St. John's coach Joe Tartamella said. "They were excited and energized. I think it gave us a focus knowing it was a conference game."

Tartamella was an assistant at the school in 2011 when the conference also had an early opening date.

"I can see it being weird for those who haven't gone through it before," he said. "However, as far as scheduling is concerned we control what we can."

The Red Storm (6-0) have been together since the summer after spending time overseas in Spain and Italy on a foreign trip. So the team has had more time than

some others to get ready for the upcoming season.

"We've been working for a long time now," said Danaejah Grant, who had 23 points in the 65-42 win over Xavier. "It's a good test for us to see where we're at in our conference."

Marquette and Georgetown were the only two teams not to play conference openers. The Golden Eagles lost 79-53 to Auburn on Tuesday night.

The Big East wasn't the only conference to open early. The Big South began play on Monday with Charleston Southern facing UNC Asheville. The Metro Atlantic Athletic conference also opened Wednesday with one game on the schedule.

The earliest a conference has opened its women's schedule since 2000 as when the Colonial Athletic Conference had a game between Towson and Old Dominion on Nov. 16, 2001.

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## SMC BASKETBALL

# SMC wins third straight

By **BRETT O'CONNELL**  
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's opened conference play at home with a 64-61 win against Alma on Wednesday night, the team's third win in a row.

The Belles (3-3, 1-0 MIAA) and the Scots (2-3, 0-1 MIAA) both attacked the rim early, trading points on both ends of the court over the first five minutes of the game. However, the Belles shored up their defense, prompting an 11-0 run that led to a 19-8 advantage over the visitors. The Scots fired back shortly after, narrowing the lead to within five as the teams returned to trading baskets.

The game was contested in the paint, with Saint Mary's taking a slight lead in rebounds with 38 to Alma's 34. Senior guard and captain Ariana Paul led the way on the boards for the Belles with 15 rebounds of her own, including 10 on the defensive

end. She added 12 points and seven assists on the evening, earning her third double-double on the season.

Paul's night crowned what Belles coach Jennifer Henley described as an emotionally satisfying night for Saint Mary's.

"Beating Alma on the opening night of conference play is always a good feeling," Henley said. "These two teams battled to the end."

The Belles established a 12-point lead in the opening five minutes of the second half, before weathering an aggressive Alma counterattack. The squad clung to its lead, even as Alma came within three points on a number of occasions.

Henley attributed the Scots' near comeback to their possession game.

"A big part of Alma's run was due to our turnovers," she said. "We had some poor decision-making in the heat of the game that led to some

easy points for Alma. We missed too many free throws that kept the game close as well. I think our defense did just enough to secure that win — but we will need to do a lot more as we face Trine."

The Belles have begun to prepare to face the conference rival Thunder as exams loom. Henley said the team's spirits remain high as the season grows more hectic.

"I think this is a crazy time for everyone as we open up MIAA play, prepare for finals and have another holiday season upon us," she said. "I believe our morale is good, but I know we do have a lot of academic stress upon us. We will work to keep our focus as we prepare for the next stretch of games prior to finals."

The Belles resume conference play Saturday when they travel to Angola, Indiana, to face the Thunder at 3 p.m.

Contact **Brett O'Connell** at [boconnel@nd.edu](mailto:boconnel@nd.edu)

## NHL | LIGHTNING 5, SABRES 0; CANUCKS 3, PENGUINS 0

# Bolts rout Sabres in 5-0 victory

## Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Steven Stamkos had a goal and an assist during Tampa Bay's three-goal second period, Ben Bishop made 13 saves, and the Lightning beat the Buffalo Sabres 5-0 on Thursday night.

Nikita Kucherov, Brenden Morrow, Jason Garrison and Brett Connolly had the other Tampa Bay goals. The Eastern Conference-leading Lightning improved to 5-0-1 in the last six games, with lone loss in a 2-1 shootout defeat at Buffalo on Tuesday.

Buffalo, which had won six of seven, went 22 1/2 minutes without a shot during one stretch before Rasmus Ristolainen got one with 3:41 left in the second.

The Sabres, last in the Atlantic Division, are 1-13-1 when the opponent scores first, and are pointless when trailing after the first (0-10-0) and second (0-12-0) periods.

After Stamkos was left alone near the post and scored his 16th goal of the season off a pass from Ryan Callahan at 4:28 of the second, Morrow made it 3-0 from in-close 71 seconds later.

The Lightning went up 4-0 on Garrison's goal with 6:20 left in the period.

Bishop made a nice save on Zemgus Girgensons late in the second.

Kucherov opened the scoring 2:33 into the game when he redirected Radko Gudas' shot past Jhonas Enroth. He has three goals and five points during a five-game point streak.

Enroth was credited with a save on Tyler Johnson's shot during a 2-on-none that hit the post in the final minute of the first.

There were three scrums through the midway point of the third that resulted in four fighting majors and six 10-minute misconducts.

Connolly had a late third-period power-play goal. Stamkos got his second assist of the game on it.

## Canucks 3, Penguins 0

PITTSBURGH — Brad Richardson scored two goals and added an assist, and Eddie Lack posted his fifth NHL shutout to lift the Vancouver Canucks to another road win, 3-0 over the short-handed Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday night.

The Canucks, in the midst of a season-high, seven-game trip, won their league-best 11th road game. Vancouver, which has won five of six

overall, beat the Penguins in Pittsburgh for the first time since Nov. 22, 2008.

Richardson scored his fifth and sixth goals, and Shawn Matthias also netted his sixth and added an assist for the Canucks, who hadn't defeated Pittsburgh anywhere in four years.

Lack stopped 21 shots for his first shutout and second win of the season.

Thomas Greiss made 28 saves and took the loss in his first home start.

Vancouver took advantage of Pittsburgh's patchwork lineup, scoring once in the first period and pulling away with a pair of goals during the second when the Canucks carried the play. The Penguins were held without a shot for the first 12 minutes of the period.

The Penguins, already without several regulars, lost another top-line winger when Patric Hornqvist left with an upper-body injury midway through the second after Canucks' D Ryan Stanton hit him with a shoulder at center ice. Hornqvist, second on the team with 11 goals, didn't return.

It was another setback to a team already without Pascal Dupuis (blood clots) for the season and Chris Kunitz, who is out at least two weeks with a fractured foot. They have a combined 15 goals and 31 points.

Pittsburgh also played without D Kris Letang (groin), Beau Bennett (lower body) and defenseman Robert Bortuzzo, who served the first of a two-game suspension for a hard hit Tuesday on New Jersey Devils forward Jaromir Jagr.

Richardson opened the scoring at 8:33 of the first, finishing a one-timer from Matthias, who beat defenseman Olli Maatta to a loose puck behind the net.

Pittsburgh nearly tied it on an ensuing power play, but Sidney Crosby missed an open net, hitting the post to the far side. Lack later stopped Brandon Sutter on a short-handed partial breakaway.

Matthias teamed with Richardson again to extend the lead in the second.

Richardson forced Simon Despres into a turnover behind the net and quickly centered to Matthias, who flipped a shot over Greiss' shoulder.

Richardson scored a short-handed goal two minutes later, giving Vancouver a three-goal lead.

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## MEN'S SWIMMING

# Irish head to Iowa for Hawkeye Invitational

By HENRY HILLIARD  
Sports Writer

In its last competition of 2014, Notre Dame travels to Iowa for the annual Hawkeye Invitational, which runs from tonight until Sunday.

The Irish (3-2) hope to continue their winning ways in Iowa City, Iowa, after besting Michigan State on the road two weeks ago.

Notre Dame's divers will face a rematch with the Spartans this weekend, since the Michigan State squad will also make the journey to Iowa City for the Hawkeye Invitational. The Irish will also face Iowa, Denver, Washington State and UW-Milwaukee in swim and dive competition.

Iowa State, Nebraska, Northern Iowa, Ohio State and Michigan State are also participating in the meet, though only in the diving events.

On the diving boards, the team looks to continue its recent dominance. Against the Spartans two weeks ago, Notre Dame claimed each of the top five places, led by sophomore

Joe Coumos, who won both the 1-meter and 3-meter boards with scores of 370.80 and 383.10, respectively.

The Hawkeye Invitational is familiar territory for the Irish. This will be the fifth consecutive year Notre Dame has traveled to Iowa for the meet. Last season, it won the meet, scoring 1,228.5 points for the second-highest total in the history of the annual event.

The Irish hope for a similarly strong performance this weekend, the first time Notre Dame will enter the meet with Matt Tallman as its head coach. Tallman previously served as assistant coach under former head coach Tim Welsh, the current interim coach of the women's team.

"We obviously want consistency, and I would say that the transition has been seamless," Tallman said. "Having coach Welsh working with the women's team has helped us transition and keep our focus of preparing for the next competition."

In terms of preparation, Tallman said Notre Dame is still reaping the benefits

from their fall break spent at the U.S. Olympic Training Facility in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After starting 1-1 on the season, the team has collected two wins in three meets since the trip, beating Pittsburgh, 286-84, on Nov. 8 and Michigan State, 171-127, on Nov. 14.

Despite the recent success, Tallman said the Irish remain committed to improving on the margins.

"I always want our guys to be able to come out of every meet and say that they improved and left everything in the water," Tallman said.

The Irish are slated to resume action after the start of the new year with a double dual meet against Michigan and Northwestern to be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Jan. 10. Notre Dame will not return home to Rolfs Aquatic Center until it hosts the Shamrock Invitational on Jan. 30-31, after nearly three months of swimming away on the road.

Contact Henry Hilliard at [rhillial@nd.edu](mailto:rhillial@nd.edu)



ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish senior Cameron Miller swims the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard individual medley during the Shamrock Invitational on Jan. 31.

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING

## Split squads wrap up first day of competition

## Observer Staff Report

Notre Dame closes out its fall season with two meets in two states, as the swimmers headed down to Austin, Texas, for the Texas Invitational, while the divers traveled to Iowa City, Iowa, for the Hawkeye Invitational this weekend.

This will be the third consecutive year that the Notre Dame divers head to Iowa City. The Irish will compete against full squads from Iowa, Denver, Washington State and Wisconsin-Milwaukee and diving-only squads from Iowa State, Nebraska, Northern Iowa, Ohio State and Michigan State.

Last season, the swimmers and divers combined to dominate the invitational, scoring 823 points and distancing themselves from second place by 80 points.

In preliminary competition Thursday at the Texas Invitational, junior Genevieve Bradford and sophomore Katie Miller placed 10th and 11th, respectively, in the 200-yard individual medley, qualifying them

both for the finals. Additionally, senior Courtney Whyte finished with a time of 54.19 to place 18th in the 100-yard butterfly, while junior Catherine Galleti followed close behind her in 22nd place with a time of 54.44. Both advanced to the finals today.

The Irish are without their top swimmer, senior Emma Reaney, this weekend, as she competed in the FINA Short Course World Championship in Doha, Qatar. On Wednesday, Reaney swam in the preliminaries of the 50-meter breaststroke, qualifying for the finals in the last possible spot. Yesterday, she moved up to place sixth with a time of 30.05. She will race in the 100-meter breaststroke Friday and finish the weekend's competition with the 200-meter breaststroke Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Irish will begin the finals today at the Texas Invitational in Austin, Texas, where the team's divers will go through qualifying today and Saturday before the finals Sunday.

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## Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

game.

"I've gotten more engaged with it to try and get their attention," Jackson said. "We worked on it for an extended period of time before practice, in practice, and we're just going to have to pound it into them until we get some success. We have to get better at faceoffs, moving from there and getting traffic at the net. Those have been my points of emphasis. I went through each individual player and told them why we're not successful and how

they're contributing to that."

As the Irish move forward, both Jackson and Fogarty said the Irish need upperclassmen to take ownership of the team and lead the young Irish to a turnaround. Jackson said he felt the freshman were meeting expectations for the most part and needed the older players to take greater strides for the team to improve.

"I think the biggest thing is, we need our upperclassmen to take over the team," Jackson said. "The young guys have done a pretty good job; as players, they've been pretty good, and I think

they've done a pretty good job in a lot of different situations. The thing is, I think our upperclassmen have to step up and be more effective. We are a young inexperienced hockey team for the most part, but there are a number of veteran players who know how we do things around here and how we perform, and they need to step up and make sure that doesn't slide."

Fogarty said he agreed with his coach and added he was prepared to accept the burden of leading a young struggling team.

"When you go through tough patches like this, the younger guys look to the older guys to see how they're responding," Fogarty said. "In past years, we've had droughts like this, and it's just about keeping level-headed and staying positive. We have a mature team, which is kind of ironic with so many freshmen, but they have the right mindset. I think we can just learn from it and move on. I try to keep playing hard, do what the coaches ask and keep a positive attitude — just try to lead by example."

This weekend, Fogarty leads Notre Dame against a Massachusetts unit that only has one conference win. The Minutemen (4-9-0, 1-7-0) have dropped four of their last five and are surrendering more than four goals per game. Despite Massachusetts's recent struggles, Jackson said he hopes his team is focused on the weekend ahead and is



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Sophomore goaltender Chad Katunar and senior defenseman Robbie Russo guard the net during Notre Dame's 3-2 loss to Union last Friday.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior center Steve Fogarty maneuvers down ice during Notre Dame's 2-1 loss to Maine on Feb. 7 in Compton Family Ice Arena.

ready to be tested.

"We have to just focus on Friday night right now," Jackson said. "We're on the road; it's going to be a bit more challenging. We have to be prepared to the things that are going to make us successful. It's important that we have some success this weekend to get some confidence going into the second half."

When asked if this was the most important weekend of the season so far, Fogarty was quick to say that he felt it was.

"I think it is," Fogarty said.

"I think we all know how important this weekend is, so we can get everyone having fun again going into the long break."

After this weekend, the Irish do not play again until Dec. 28 and 29 at the Florida College Hockey Classic in Estero, Florida.

Notre Dame and Massachusetts face off Friday and Saturday at the Mullins Center, with both nights' action getting underway at 7 p.m.

Contact Josh Dulany at [jdulany@nd.edu](mailto:jdulany@nd.edu)

## ND Volleyball

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named conference coach of the year six times and did not register a losing season for her first 22 years. Under

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her leadership, Notre Dame had 23 players named to All-American squads, the most in program history.

"The highlights [of my career] are just the relationships and the time I spent together with these young women," Brown said. "I'm just so thankful and so blessed to have had those opportunities. When the alums come back to campus, and we reminisce and talk about things ... it's not necessarily about a significant win or loss, it's just about experiencing life together. That's where I think the highlights are."

In the past two seasons though, the Irish have

finished in the bottom third of the ACC. In 2013, they endured a seven-game losing streak, including five conference games and placed only one athlete, senior middle blocker Jeni Houser, on the third team all-ACC. This season, the squad dropped even further, winning just 30 sets over 29 matches. Freshman middle blocker Sam Fry was the only player to earn conference honors as part of the all-rookie team.

"My primary goal has been to provide a great experience for our student-athletes and winning is certainly a part of having a great experience," Brown said in the press release. "Unfortunately, the wins did not come as needed the past couple years."

Despite her departure, Brown said she felt confident that the team would bounce back soon.

"I would have liked the opportunity to coach this team and to bring us back," Brown said. "We have a great young nucleus, and you know, we had some obstacles to overcome. ... I really believe in what could happen and what should happen, and I would have loved the opportunity to coach them, but I don't have that."

Looking ahead, Brown said



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Former Irish coach Debbie Brown paces the sidelines during Notre Dame's 3-2 win over Louisville on Nov. 9 at Purcell Pavilion.

she is unsure of her next move after spending more than two decades at Notre Dame.

"I think I'm just going to take some time," Brown said. "After being here for 24 years and being a head coach for 30 years, it's something I just need to take some time and think about, you know, what would be the next move and what to do. But I'm not

going to rush into anything, and [I'm going] to take some time to reflect and see what's available."

Swarbrick announced in the press release that the University would conduct a nationwide search to find Brown's replacement.

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## W Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

among the best we've ever had," McGraw said.

Huskies center Stefanie Dolson and guard Bria Hartley graduated as well, and UConn welcomed four freshmen this season, including guard Kia Nurse, who has averaged 13.7 points per game as the Huskies' third-leading scorer.

Notre Dame and Connecticut do, however, return key veterans despite the graduation of several star players.

Huskies senior forward Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis and junior forward Breanna Stewart have led UConn's scoring with 18.0 and 16.7 points per game, respectively.

For the Irish, junior guard Jewell Loyd has once again established herself as the team's leading scorer at 21.1 points per game.

"She's improved," McGraw said of Loyd. "She's worked on her game, and she's one of the hardest workers, if not the hardest worker, in the gym, and ... I think she's been waiting for this opportunity to shine."

Sophomore forward Taya Reimer and senior guard Madison Cable have also made strides in their development this season, and the Irish have spread the ball around through their first eight games, McGraw said.

"We aren't a one-man team," McGraw said. "We can't be a one-man team."

Turner too had leapt onto the scene as a starter in every game and the team's second-leading scorer before a shoulder injury in the first half of Wednesday's 92-72 win over No. 15 Maryland limited her to just four minutes on the floor and no points. McGraw said Thursday she had no update on Turner's status but that the injury occurred as Turner tried to recover a loose ball on the floor.

On the heels of the Maryland game, UConn's visit marks the first time this season the Irish will play back-to-back ranked opponents, and both are rematches of Notre Dame's two Final Four games last season.

"It's interesting how that worked out," McGraw said. "It's good for us because we have to get ready for the ACC. ... I think the caliber of teams



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

**Irish freshman guard Mychal Johnson looks to pass during Notre Dame's 104-29 victory over Holy Cross on Nov. 23 at Purcell Pavilion. Johnson played 21 minutes in the game.**

we have to play will give us a good idea for where we are in December."

The Huskies are 1-1 on the road this season with an overtime loss to Stanford, 88-86, on Nov. 17. This weekend, Notre Dame will have the benefit of a large home

crowd, an advantage the Irish freshmen have quickly learned to appreciate.

"They love playing at the Joyce Center," McGraw said after Wednesday's game against Maryland. "They found that out the exhibition game. The crowd had so

much energy, and they love our fans. They know how exciting it's going to be."

The Irish and Huskies tip off at 3:15 p.m. Saturday at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Samantha Zuba at [szuba@nd.edu](mailto:szuba@nd.edu)

## M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

sophomore guard Steve Vasturia each saw more than 40 minutes of playing time against Michigan State. But sophomore forward Austin Torres took over junior forward Zach Auguste's spot in the paint and played 19 minutes overall, including the final 13:08 of the game.

Torres finished up with only two points, but Brey said the Granger, Indiana, native did everything he needed to do down low, including slowing down Spartans senior guard/forward Branden Dawson.

"The thing is, [Torres] understands his role: do the dirty work, screen and rebound," Brey said. "... He was the one guy that could give a physical presence on Dawson. That really helped us."

Moving forward, Torres will likely see increased playing time, especially with sophomore forward V.J. Beachem out with plantar fasciitis, but his role on the team will not change, Brey said.

"[Torres] isn't going to be taking any 3-point shots in practice [Thursday], I can tell you that much," Brey joked. "He's going to do the same thing every day. ... [Wednesday was] a big night for him because he kind of solidifies himself in our rotation right now."

Brey said the win over Michigan State will act as a confidence-booster as the Irish prepare for their final few games of the



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

**Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson battles in the lane during Notre Dame's 104-67 win over Coppin State on Nov. 19.**

non-conference season.

"It's a nice step for this group as we're kind of getting into new territory," he said. "I think this group is very level-headed. I want them to be more confident because of tonight, but [Thursday] is an off day, and we need it. We need to come back to work and work on some things before we play Saturday night."

Notre Dame's opponent Saturday night, Fairleigh Dickinson (3-3), will enter the game off an 89-85 home victory over Princeton on Wednesday. The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the Knights, who

beat a St. Joseph's team coming off an NCAA tournament appearance last season in their opener.

Senior guard Mustafaa Jones and sophomore guard Matt MacDonald lead the Knights in scoring with 15.5 and 14.7 points per game, respectively. MacDonald is also the team's leader in rebounds with 5.8 boards per game.

Notre Dame and Fairleigh Dickinson will square off at 8 p.m. Saturday at Purcell Pavilion.

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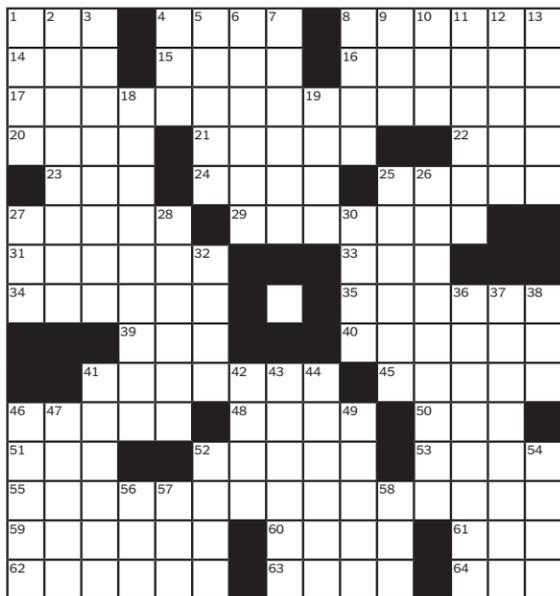
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21 Tennis's Agassi
22 Capt. : Navy :: \_\_\_ : Army
23 Grazeland?
24 Young 'uns
25 Drops
27 Transition
29 \_\_\_ and the Waves ("Walking on Sunshine" band)
31 Superman's dog
33 2008 recipient of govt. largesse
34 Piercing gaze
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39 Address for a G.I.
40 Weighted fishing nets
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46 Get extra value from
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50 Nevada birthplace of Pat Nixon
51 Resident of an elaborate underground "city"
52 Hidden valleys
53 Farm females
55 Minor-leaguer whose team is named after a Coney Island roller coaster
59 Orangutan locale
60 Land with a harp on its coat of arms
61 \_\_\_ lane
62 Measure of a man?
63 Falls into decay
64 Revolutionary icon



PUZZLE BY TIMOTHY POLIN

- 27 Med. readout
28 Vast treeless area
30 Go up, up, up
32 "That being said," in textspeak
36 Mess hall queue
37 Green, juicy fruit
38 Ending for a record-breaker
41 Certain teachers
42 Unctuous
43 Enlightening experience
44 Ambassador from the Holy See
46 Certain teacher
47 Onetime sponsor of what is now Minute Maid Park
49 Part of an affair to remember?
54 Portentous nights
56 Air Force \_\_\_
57 It means "white" in Hawaiian
58 Instant

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER

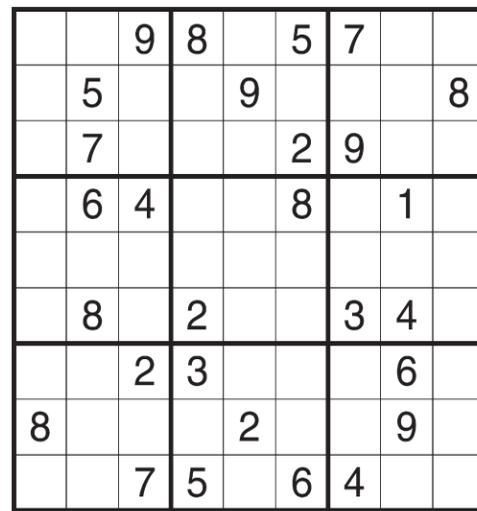


DOMESTIC NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN

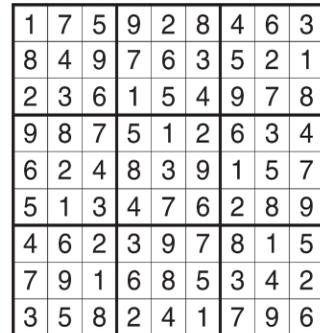


SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4



SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE 10/4/12



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: You've got plenty of choices, so think big while remaining realistic. The combination will help you reach your goals successfully.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get together with people you find mentally stimulating. Enjoy sharing information and you will find a way to make positive changes to the way you live.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Tie up loose ends. Financial gains can be made if you invest in yourself. Add to your skills or knowledge and you will be able to apply for a better position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Strive to reach personal goals. Self-improvement will result in compliments. Stand up to anyone who gets in your way.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Refuse to let your emotions take over. Listen carefully and take care of your responsibilities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Add a little excitement to your life. Plan a trip or indulge in something you've never done before.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Hold on to what you've got. Don't give in to someone pressuring you to spend your money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get out and meet new people. A partnership will lead to new possibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Change can be good if it's built on solid ground. Don't be a follower or you will have regrets.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Improve your surroundings and start getting ready for the holiday season.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Mull over any suggestions without feeling the need to make hasty decisions.

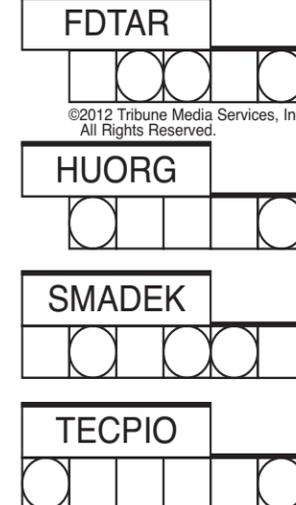
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Give whatever you do your best shot and head for the finish line.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Work on creative endeavors that can bring in extra cash or help you save during the upcoming months.

Birthdays: You are aggressive and challenging. You are a lover and a crusader.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

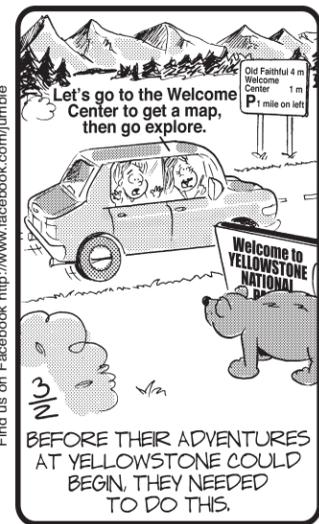


Ans: [circled letters] [circled letters] [circled letters] [circled letters]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CONGA LARVA CRUNCH BESIDE Answer: She was struggling in geometry class because there was a — LEARNING CURVE

WORK AREA



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE OBSERVER

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## ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Rivals set to collide

By SAMANTHA ZUBA  
Assistant Managing Editor

Two titanic programs meet Saturday in one of the most dynamic rivalries in women's basketball when No. 3 Connecticut visits Purcell Pavilion to play the No. 2 Irish.

"It's a great game for women's basketball," Irish coach Muffett McGraw said Thursday during a teleconference. "I think everyone in the country gets excited about the rivalry. ... This game has kind of a special place."

After years of competition in the Big East, the two schools did not meet last regular season as Notre Dame (8-0) shifted to the ACC and UConn (5-1) moved to the American Athletic Conference.

But the Irish and Huskies squared off in the NCAA championship April 8 in Nashville. UConn won the first-ever championship clash of unbeaten, 79-58, to



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

*Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd makes her way downcourt during Notre Dame's 104-29 win over Holy Cross on Nov. 23.*

wrap up the season at 40-0. Notre Dame finished 37-1.

The Irish played without forward Natalie Achonwa, sidelined with an ACL tear suffered in the regional final against Baylor.

Achonwa has since graduated, as have guard Kayla McBride and forward Ariel

Braker, making way for freshmen Brianna Turner (forward), Kathryn Westbeld (forward) and Mychal Johnson (guard), who have racked up minutes and made an immediate impact.

"This class is probably

see W BASKETBALL PAGE 14

## ND VOLLEYBALL

## Brown will not return in 2015

By GREG HADLEY  
Associate Sports Editor

Following a second straight losing season, Debbie Brown will not return as head coach of the Irish in 2015, the University announced in a press release Thursday night.

Brown, who finished her 24th season with Notre Dame this fall, won 519 matches with the Irish, including 15 regular-season conference titles and 22 NCAA tournament berths. However, since joining the ACC for the 2013 season, the squad has struggled, posting a combined record of 19-41, including a 10-28 mark in conference play.

"Debbie has probably understood what Notre Dame and its student-athlete experience is about as well as any coach on our staff," University Director of

Athletics Jack Swarbrick said in the press release. "She has represented the University in exceptional fashion in her time here.

"However, our expectations regarding competitive performance are also high, and we regrettably have not been able to meet those in recent years. I'd like to thank her for all she has done for the program and, in particular, for all she has done for the student-athletes who have played for her."

Brown declined to comment to The Observer on the specifics of her departure from Notre Dame.

"I would just say I'm disappointed," she said.

While Notre Dame was part of the Big East conference, Brown enjoyed a long run of success, earning 15 straight NCAA bids. She was

see ND VOLLEYBALL PAGE 13

## HOCKEY

## Irish hoping to halt slide on road

By JOSH DULANY  
Sports Writer

Coming off a tough weekend, the Irish look to gain momentum when they visit Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts, on Friday and Saturday.

Notre Dame (6-8-2, 2-2-2 Hockey East) has not gotten a win in regulation in their last nine times on the ice.

After last Saturday's 5-1 loss at the hands of Ohio State, Irish coach Jeff Jackson said he hoped the team had hit its low point and was ready to turn things around.

"Maybe that was us bottoming out and hopefully, now we can start building up again," Jackson said. "The break's coming at an opportune time, but I hope we finish on a positive note, and that's been the emphasis. Let's finish the first half on a positive note and empty the tank."

Junior center and captain Steven Fogarty said he agreed with Jackson's assessment and said he and the team were focused on moving forward.

"I think bottoming out is a

good way to put it," Fogarty said. "We don't want to go any lower than that. It's unacceptable and not what this program is about. We're putting what happened in November in the past and trying to get two good games this weekend going in to break."

Jackson said the two things that are most frustrating about Notre Dame's play of late are its inability to score on the power play and the lack of competitive fight shown when it gets behind.

"I thought that we let up," Jackson said. "We can't accept guys giving up. That's not acceptable in this program, and I thought we stopped going after it."

As far as the power play, on the season the Irish have scored on a paltry four of their 61 power-play chances. The Irish actually have a higher shot percentage when they are shorthanded than when they have the man advantage. This poor showing prompted Jackson to say he is taking a more involved role in the power-play facet of the

see HOCKEY PAGE 13

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## ND looks to dodge letdown

By BRIAN HARTNETT  
Managing Editor

After enjoying a little bonus basketball in its 79-78 overtime victory over Michigan State on Wednesday, Notre Dame resumes play Saturday night when the Irish host Fairleigh Dickinson at Purcell Pavilion.

Notre Dame (7-1) secured its first victory over a ranked team this season in defeating the No. 19 Spartans. Despite being outrebounded by 17 boards, the Irish topped Michigan State largely on the strength of turnovers, committing only four to the Spartans' 12, and the play of the team's guards. Senior Jerian Grant scored a career-high 27 points and sophomore Demetrius Jackson added a career-best 22 points.

After Wednesday's game, Irish coach Mike Brey did not hold back in heaping praise on the two guards, whom he said formed "the best backcourt in the country."

"They're both really quick and athletic," he said of the duo Wednesday night. "They have the ability to drive it and physically drive



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

*Irish sophomore guard Steve Vasturia drives from the outside during Notre Dame's 104-67 win over Coppin State on Nov. 19.*

at your jugular and when they meet big guys, they can draw fouls because they're so strong."

Brey said Jackson's play over the course of the season has caused him to give the sophomore the green light to drive to the hoop more often.

"One of the things we started doing [Wednesday],

which I think we can develop more of — it doesn't always have to be Jerian off a ball screen," Brey said. "It can be Demetrius off a ball screen and going at somebody's throat. And I think that's something I'm excited about nurturing when we get back to practice on Friday."

see M BASKETBALL PAGE 14