

Film festival to screen student projects

Undergraduate film, television and theatre majors showcase work in 26th annual event

By **CAROLYN HUTRYA**
News Writer

In celebration of the 26th annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival, the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will screen undergraduate films created this past year in courses conducted through the department of film, television and theatre (FTT).

Professor Ted Mandell, who organized the inaugural film festival in 1990 and has coordinated all 26 screenings since, said the event is an entertaining experience.

"I'm pretty certain the audience will be impressed with the quality of the films ... and they'll get a chance to voice their opinion by voting for the Audience Choice Award," he said.

Senior Eric O'Donnell and

junior Maureen Gavin created a documentary for the festival, titled "Curry & Erin," which follows the story of Nashville artist and ALS patient Erin Brady Worsham and her husband, Curry.

"Eric and I traveled to Nashville for fall break and shot our documentary over four days," Gavin said. "We edited it over the next month and a half, meeting almost everyday for hours at a time. It was very much a partner process."

Before traveling to Nashville, Gavin said she and O'Donnell anticipated their film would focus on Erin Worsham's unique and intriguing artwork.

"That changed when we spoke with Curry the first night and began to watch them interact with

see **FILM PAGE 5**



SUSAN ZHU | The Observer

Group reflects on human dignity

By **RACHEL O'GRADY**
News Writer

Wednesday evening, the Kellogg Institute of International Studies hosted "Understanding Human Dignity," the inaugural event in a semester-long discussion on human dignity and human development, utilizing lessons learned at Kellogg's "2014 Human Dignity and Human Development Conference" on Oct. 22-24 in Rome, Italy.

"We invited 14 terrific faculty members and divided them into four

interdisciplinary groups: global health, business and economics, conflict and policy and community development," senior Sean Long, a host of the event, said. "Attracting students from each of Notre Dame's five colleges, we hope one hour becomes one semester of sustained dialogue on what human dignity means in our career and in our lives."

Director of the Kellogg Institute, Steve Reifenberg, introduced the event and invited attendees to choose one

see **LECTURE PAGE 5**



WEI LIN | The Observer

Panelists reflect on human dignity in developing countries in a discussion hosted by the Kellogg Institute of International Studies.

Career Center hosts fair

By **KAYLA MULLEN**
News Writer

The Career Center will be hosting its annual Winter Career and Internship Fair tonight in the Joyce Center from 4-8 p.m., Hilary Flanagan, director of the Career Center, said.

A wide range of industries will be at the Fair representing 133 employers, with a mix of full-time and internship opportunities available for students from all majors, Flanagan said.

"Our team begins planning the next career fair right after the current one is complete — the events are ever evolving based on student and employer feedback and needs,"

see **FAIR PAGE 4**

SMC club inspires Catholic dialogue

By **OLIVIA JACKSON**
News Writer

Four Saint Mary's students introduced a new club last semester, called Christ Lights. Junior club president Sofia Piecuch said she started the club with fellow juniors Clare Lambert,

vice president, Olivia Beck, treasurer, and Brianna Noll, secretary, with hopes to strengthen her Catholic faith during her time as an undergraduate.

"The idea for the club originated when I found myself wanting to go much deeper into my faith and strengthen

my Catholic identity," Piecuch said, "Quite often, I would turn to Notre Dame to find spaces to cultivate my faith, as they have a plethora of extremely wonderful clubs and worship groups to choose from. I quickly found my niche, [but] wished that Saint Mary's could offer

similar student groups."

Piecuch said she found that other students shared her desire to learn more about Catholicism and share their personal faith struggles with one another.

"I think college is a critical

see **CLUB PAGE 4**



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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com

If you could choose a pet for your dorm, what would it be?



Natalie Hernandez

freshman

Walsh Hall

"A lemur."



Lauren Haruno

senior

Breens-Phillips Hall

"A quokka."



Carrie Olsen

freshman

Pasquerilla East Hall

"A campus squirrel."



Megan Sweeney

freshman

Lyons Hall

"A chinchilla."



Daneil Hdago

junior

Knott Hall

"A rhino."



Alex Sun

senior

off campus

"A cat."



EMILY MCCONVILLE | The Observer

Celebrating a relatively mild winter in South Bend, a gaggle of geese stake their claim to the semi-frozen tundra of Bond Quad as they prepare for mating season, which typically begins in February.

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Thursday

Winter Career and Internship Fair

Joyce Center

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Learn about new opportunities.

Student Film Festival

DeBartolo Performing

Arts Center

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Films by undergraduates.

Friday

Graduate Student Mass

Basilica of the Sacred

Heart

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Worship service.

Tennis Match

Eck Tennis Pavillion

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Men's tennis plays

Northwestern.

Saturday

Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred

Heart

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Worship service.

Fischhoff's Winter Gala

Morris Inn

6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Italian food and music,

a silent auction, and

live painting.

Sunday

Basketball Game

Joyce Center

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Women's basketball

takes on Wake Forest.

Mass in Spanish

Dillon Hall Chapel

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Worship service.

Monday

Undergraduate Workshop: "Crafting a Strong Grant Proposal"

Brownson Hall

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

International Poster Exhibition and Talk: Elizabeth Resnick

Snite Museum

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Schwarz earns prestigious ND architecture award

By CLARE KOSSLER
News Writer

Architect David M. Schwarz was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Richard H. Driehaus Prize at Notre Dame. The \$200,000 award, which will be presented at a ceremony in Chicago on March 21, recognizes an architect whose work demonstrates classical and sustainable architecture in modern urban society.

"My goal in establishing the prize was to recognize excellence in architecture that communicates enduring humanist values," founder and chief investment officer of Driehaus Capital Management LLC Richard H. Driehaus said.

Michael Lykoudis, Driehaus Prize jury chair and Francis and Kathleen Rooney Dean of Notre Dame's School of Architecture, said the award fosters the classical architectural principles of "permanence, durability, beauty, but also utility."

"In a world where all you hear is about constant change for change's sake—a world in which fad trumps any sense of purpose—consumption is the rule of the day; waste is the outcome of that consumption," Lykoudis said. "This prize basically values conservation of resources and of ideas and investment. Cities are

investments in the future."

Schwarz, who is president, founder and CEO of David M. Schwarz Architects, Inc. in Washington D.C., said the award is "the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for the kind of architecture I practice."

The Driehaus Prize is accompanied by the Henry Hope Reed Award, presented annually to a

David M. Schwarz
architect



non-architect committed to the principles of traditional urban design and development.

This year's recipient, environmental health expert Dr. Richard J. Jackson, said architecture is closely related to the wellbeing of society and "has enormous influence on people's health and happiness."

"When we build, when we create places, we should put people in the center of what we build," he said.

Schwarz said his firm always considers the impact of its designs on people and the community as a whole, both regarding sustainability and beauty.

"We are very interested in

having our design promote community," Schwarz said. "Architecture can divide people or bring them closer together."

Some of Schwarz's more notable designs include the American Airlines Center in Dallas, the Nancy Lee & Perry R. Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth and the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana, Lykoudis said.

Lykoudis said the value of classical architecture and the work of Schwarz and previous recipients of the award lies in its public appeal.

"If a building is loved it remains," Lykoudis said. "That's the best kind of sustainability you can have."

Driehaus said that in recognizing Schwarz and previous laureates, the award complements the principles of the Notre Dame School of Architecture.

"The prize rewards the same qualities in the practice of architecture that Notre Dame emphasizes in architectural training," Schwarz said. "Educating young architects to build for long-term values, and recognizing those values where they appear in the work of mature architects, are two sides of the same coin."

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SENATE

SAO seeks senate input on new first year course

By EMILY McCONVILLE
News Writer

Wednesday evening, representatives from the design team for the new first year course that will replace the physical education requirement delivered a presentation to Student Senate.

Executive assistant to the Office of the President Mirella Riley said the primary goal of the new first year course is to give students a way to transition to college life.

"It will be an opportunity to have the integration of the residential life, the academic life and it will provide a holistic approach to the education of first year students as they come in," Riley said. "It will provide a number of methods to deliver content.

"But really the idea is that there will be discussions of those sections that will be facilitated by an instructor, and that it will also build a sense of community for the students."

Riley said while the course is a certain thing, planning is still in the early stages and the design team is therefore looking for student input to help shape the course.

In response to questions from some of the senators in attendance, Maureen Dawson,

format will include online modules.

Riley said the design team is still in the early stages of deciding the name of the course, its grading system and the campus organizations that will be involved in its design. Riley asked Senators for their input over the next several weeks.

Student Activities Office (SAO) program director Paul

"It will be an opportunity to have the integration of the residential life, the academic life and it will provide a holistic approach to the education of first years students as they come in."

Mirella Riley
executive assistant
Office of the President

Manrique said while there are not many undergraduate students on the design team, because the team is small, student representatives will still have a say in the course's formation.

Sophomore Jake Wittenberg was elected to be the Senate's representative to the design team, which also includes faculty and administrators.

The Senate also unanimously passed a resolution amending the Student Government Constitution, moving the start date for class councils from April 1 to May 1. In his introduction of the resolution, junior class president Zach Waterson said changing the date would allow class council members more time to plan events.

"In the second semester, April is the best month to plan events for your respective classes," Waterson said. "... it's right before finals, and also you have the whole year to figure out what kinds of events work for your class.

"But unfortunately right now, the term ends on April 1 and a whole new council begins on April 1, so we don't really have the opportunity to take advantage of that. This amendment pushes the transition back a month to May 1 to give the class council the academic year to finish planning those events."

While class council positions now start May 1, other student government positions will still begin April 1.

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"But really the idea is that there will be discussions of those sections that will be facilitated by an instructor, and that it will also build a sense of community for the students."

Mirella Riley
executive assistant
Office of the President

assistant dean in First Year of Studies, said the course would expand on the resources students receive during orientation weekend.

"These courses are really common throughout the country," Dawson said. "Ours will be different in that it's not to help students meet academic standards; it's really to give students the opportunity to discover themselves, see how they fit in at the University and take a very holistic approach to developing mind, body and spirit."

Dawson said students in the course will have one professor per semester, and the class's

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Fair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Flanagan said.

Abercrombie & Fitch, Keurig Green Mountain, Apple, Coca-Cola and Ernst & Young are employers who will be attending the Fair according to the Career and Internship Fair's listing on GO IRISH.

The Career Center and other organizations host a variety of events in preparation for the Fair, Flanagan said.

"Many clubs and organizations host events around the Career Fair, and there have been numerous prep sessions for students to get ready," Flanagan said. "[The] day of the event, we have the Diversity and Inclusion

p.m.

"For first time attendees to the event, we have the backstage pass program from 3-4 p.m. (meeting at GATE 3), offering an early glimpse of the fair and tips from participating recruiters and members of our team on how to make it a successful experience."

The main goal of the Career and Internship Fair is to bring students in contact with a variety of employers who offer a wide range of opportunities, Flanagan said.

"Whether students are exploring what options they have to gain experience while here at ND or preparing for their first opportunity after graduation, we are excited to have so many organizations send rep-



Observer File Photo

Students will meet with business representatives from 133 employers tonight in hopes of professional experience, whether it may be a job after graduation or a summer internship.

"Whether students are exploring what options they have to gain experience while here at ND or preparing for their first opportunity after graduation, we are excited to have so many organizations send representatives to interact with our students live."

Hillary Flanagan
director
Career Center

Reception from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Monogram Room, and the Career Fair runs from 4-8

representatives to interact with our students live," Flanagan said. "The event serves to kick off the

spring recruiting season, where many of these employers and others return to campus to conduct interviews with students.

"Student and employer feedback on connections made at the Career Fair, plus the number of students receiving interviews as a result of the Career Fair, are strong indications [that] the event achieves this goal."

While the Winter Career and Internship Fair is, along with the Fall Career Expo, the Career Center's biggest event, the Career Center works throughout

the year in other ways to help students become successful in their internship and career searches, Flanagan said.

"While the career fairs are highly visible on campus, it's the individual meetings students have with career coaches, access to GO IRISH and other online resources and participation in any number of exciting networking programs, workshops, or courses we offer, that have ongoing impact for students," Flanagan said.

Flanagan urges students to view the Winter Career and

Internship Fair as an opportunity, rather than an event to fear.

"Here are three keys to success: research attending organizations and their opportunities through GO IRISH, arrive dressed for success with a plan to follow up with recruiters of interest and relax — enjoy the opportunity to connect with a real live person and ask some questions of your own," Flanagan said.

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Club

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time in a person's life; your parents aren't there to make you go to mass so it is easy to let that slide and neglect things," Lambert said. "It is also a good opportunity to grow in your faith, and I think that's really important."

Noll said starting Christ Lights was a good opportunity to meet with other Catholics on campus to share in their faiths and help each other better understand the teachings and beliefs within Catholicism.

Piecuch defined Christ Lights as a student-run Catholic initiative, which seeks to bring students together in community and fellowship as well as help students grow in their understanding of faith. Piecuch said the patron saint of Christ Lights is Blessed Chiara Luce Badano.

"Christ Lights is a place to ask questions, to pray, as well as seek emotional and spiritual support over a cup of coffee," Piecuch said. "We also wish to respond to Pope Francis' call to all Catholics to evangelize by providing resources to train Catholics to be loving explainers and defenders of the faith."

Christ Lights hopes to both host faith-building events at Saint Mary's as well as go on trips to Catholic conferences, Piecuch said.

"Our two long-term goals are to host a retreat in the fall with the theme of 'Catholic Apologetics,' as well as to apply for a grant to fund travel and registration for the Catholic Answers National Apologetics Conference in San Diego in September," Piecuch said.

Piecuch said Christ Lights is open to students from Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Holy Cross.

"I wanted to start something that could also be attractive to Notre Dame and Holy Cross student, encouraging them to visit our campus and thus foster greater tri-campus friendship," Piecuch said. "We seek to take this knowledge [of our faith] and put it into action in order to unify our tri-university community with respect and love."

Piecuch said Christ Lights plans to hold weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Dalloways Clubhouse at Saint Mary's. Between discussion weeks, Piecuch said the club hopes to host speakers who will talk about subjects pertaining to being Catholic in a modern world.

"Every other week, the meeting will serve as a faith sharing group in which people can raise questions they have about the Catholic faith, share situations where their beliefs were challenged, ask for prayer intentions, and so on," Piecuch said. "Turning to resources, such as the catechism

of the Catholic Church, we will seek to collectively find answers and support one another."

Christ Lights will be hosting a snowman building contest on Wednesday, February 4th, open to all members of

the tri-campus community.

Contact Olivia Jackson at ojacks01@saintmarys.edu

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Lecture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the four panels to attend and participate in an hour-long discussion, followed by a post-panel reception.

"While each panel zeroes in on a specific discipline, the post-panel reception offers an opportunity for students and faculty to share how elements of, say, conflict and policy, intersect with and differ from business and economics," Long said.

"As part of the conflict and policy panel, I shared with students my field work experience while working with victims of crime in Mexico and how the lack of respect by Mexican authorities towards victims' human dignity completely changed the nature and logic of my research and personal motivation to conduct my research on criminal violence," panelist Sandra Ley Gutiérrez, a visiting fellow at the Kellogg Institute, said.

The panelists came from diverse backgrounds and discussed a wide array of topics throughout the evening.

"I hope that my personal and professional experience can help students, who may be going to the field and work on related topics, to get some sense of how to deal with some issues that come associated with the study of violence in developing countries," Ley Gutiérrez said.

Senior and event host, Emily Mediate, hopes the human dignity panels will bring about discussion in the Notre Dame community.

"We hear 'human dignity' tossed around, but we hope that in holding an event centered around the idea, we can start to uncover what these means to people and how to apply it to what we are learning and what we are doing on this campus," Mediate said. "We have always been proud of how Notre Dame is instilled with a sense of purpose, a certain interest in



WEI LIN | The Observer

At the "Understanding Human Dignity" discussion, panelists debate issues within four interdisciplinary groups: global health, business and economics, conflict and policy and community development.

upholding the human dignity of others through our lives and our classes."

After attending the "Human Dignity and Human Development" conference in Rome in October, Long, Mediate and senior Amanda Pena, another event host, felt compelled to create this

sort of dialogue on campus.

"At the end of the day, we are hoping those participating in the event will walk away with a sense of purpose and can find meaning in their studies and work," Pena said. "By illuminating the dignity of the person as it is understood across various

academic disciplines, this event seeks to enrich the ways in which students and faculty build sustainable relationships and contribute to human development in all its forms."

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Film

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

each other," Gavin said. "Yes, it is about a woman with ALS, but it's also about the extraordinary love and sacrifice that exists between a husband and wife.

"It was honestly one of the most rewarding experiences I've had, and I know Eric feels the same way. Two incredible people welcomed us into their home and we were allowed to capture a small piece of their lives."

Gavin said the project required cutting and editing six hours of footage down to a ten-minute film.

"I don't think I've ever put so much time and energy into something before, and I love that something tangible came out of

it," she said. "We both learned how important it is to stay open-minded when creating a film,

"I don't think I've ever put so much time and energy into something before, and I love that something tangible came out of it."

Maureen Gavin
junior

particularly a documentary."

Other films, such as "Cold Open," created by juniors Lesley Stevenson and Brian Lach, enrolled the assistance of

other students in the filmmaking process.

Editor's note: Stevenson is the News Editor and Lach is the Multimedia Editor at The Observer.

Junior FTT major Jacob Schrimpf acted in the film, which he said tells the story of an ambitious actor who finds an unfinished script.

"It's all about this actor's struggle with finding work, how to become a successful actor again and coming to terms with his own struggles," he said.

Although Schrimpf's focus in FTT is acting, he said this was his first endeavor in film.

"I didn't realize before how time consuming making a film is," he said. "I knew it was a difficult process, but just the intricacy that has to go into every single

detail of a film is remarkable ... I was just there for a fraction of the process."

Of the 11 films scheduled to run Thursday through Saturday,

"It's all about this actor's struggle with finding work, how to become a successful actor again and coming to terms with his own struggles."

Jacob Schrimpf
junior

Schrimpf said the genres range from documentaries to dramas to comedies.

"[The film festival] is a cool

way to see what do people in FTT do and also to see that students here can produce very professional work that's interesting and engaging," he said. "I think the work of the filmmaker is often underappreciated, but it really is a detail-oriented, time-consuming process."

Through his role in "Cold Open," Schrimpf said his respect for the filming process has increased immensely. He added that the film festival is also a unique opportunity to bring student work to the big screen.

Mandell said, "I'm hopeful, as in past years, that some of these films will be selected to be screened at other film festivals around the country."

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INSIDE COLUMN

I made it,
you made itEmilie Kefalas
News Writer

I would like to thank you for being here. It is truly an honor and accomplishment that you, in fact, are here. Think about that for a moment.

If you are reading this, you are alive, which means you survived thousands of hurdles in your existence, including but not limited to variations of sickness or injury. In order for you to be here at all, your ancestors needed to be healthy and attractive enough to mate and pass along a genetic code, the key to your identity.

Author Bill Bryson describes this concept with much more witty eloquence than I, in his brilliant and brief science book, "A Short History of Nearly Everything." I first heard his opening comments about the miracle of being when I was in 7th grade and my dad continuously played the audiobook. Of all the phenomenal writing in Bryson's piece, his idea that each individual's existence is an achievement generations in the making awed me.

I have since reflected and researched moments in my family history leading up to my birth during which my leaf on the family tree could very well have never grown. In an ode and tribute to my blessed life, I recount two specific points on my ancestral timeline my existence hung in the balance of decision and destiny.

The first involves my great-grandfather, my dad's Papou (Greek for grandfather). He proudly served his beloved country of Greece in World War I. During his service, he lost his left leg, and nearly bled to death. If not for a passing British soldier, he would have remained and eventually become another casualty count. "This man is alive," the British soldier exclaimed, surprised to find my great-grandfather visibly conscious. Had my great-grandfather died in the Great War, my YiaYia (Greek for grandmother) would not have been born. Without YiaYia, my dad would not have been conceived. My mom would never have met him, and I would probably have blue eyes and no interest in world history.

My mom is adopted, and that is the extent of how much I know about her true roots. She has neither searched nor cared to learn about her birth parents. I have since been engaged in a continued guessing game of her lineage. What I do know is she was adopted in 1960's South Side Chicago, a predominantly Irish-Catholic neighborhood. Regardless of if I ever pursue the discovery of my mom's ancestry, I will always be thankful to her birth parents, whoever they are, for giving her life.

And that's all I need to know for now.

I know it took nothing less than a couple miracles to get me here, but I made it to now 2015. I made it. You made it. You are here, reading this. Never forget how good and great it is you are here.

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

The couples of dorm dances

Matthew Miklavic
The Maine Idea

Diversity.
It's a pretty big topic around campus. And given that Notre Dame apparently thinks it is diverse enough to have classes on Martin Luther King Day, we must be a pretty diverse group. And so, of course, there are many great things about the unmatched diversity of this vaunted melting pot of Irish Catholicism. And among this diversity is that diversity which is easily observable on only a select few nights throughout the school year. I'm referring to the various couples who appear at dorm dances. What follows is a group sure to be present at your next dorm function.

Practically Married: Attending their 19th dance as a couple, these two long-time lovebirds have settled nicely into a calmer lifestyle as they watch from afar the energetic clump of fellow students in the middle of the dance floor. Noting the occasion as a "nice evening," they'll explain it pales in comparison to prom, which, they'll remind you, is when they knew they were "meant to be." They depart the dance early for a night of hot chocolate and Netflix, but not before reminding their friends to have fun and be responsible. Thanks, mom!

Power (Hour) Couple: Learning the tough lesson that not all fifths are friends, this couple tried to keep the Feve train rolling right through Friday. Despite a courageous battle against the undefeated forces of alcohol, they eventually succumb to their imbibing. Spotted dawdling wobbly to the dance from their dorm, they're intercepted by hall staff for the return trip back to their respective beds.

The Elaborate Costumes: This couple is slowly learning that despite their investment in an elaborate costume, dances are not always the best place for artistic expression. Either they're costumes are shredded by the sweaty, body-bumping masses of the clump, or they simply discover that it's insanely difficult to dance while dressed as a giant cereal box.

Social Media Couple: You're pretty sure they're only here to see how many upvotes, likes and favorites their assorted documentation of the evening will bring in. You can see them skirting the sides of the room with their cameras, and getting far too close to That Couple in pursuit of the perfect Campus Story Snapchat of their friends making out in the corner.

The Seniors: Despite attending out of nostalgia for simpler,

more innocent times of days gone past, the surrounding sweaty crowd quickly drives them to the edge of the crowd. Texts are quickly sent to any who will listen as they seek a group to head to Finny's with.

The Prisoners: These two were dragged kicking and screaming by their friends, who set them up. Their friends promised it would be fun. Their friends lied. They now sit commiserating about the fact that they're stuck together for the night over a brownie or four at the dessert table, where they're joined by the guy whose date ran off like Forrest Gump from a group of rowdy bullies.

Holy Spirit Couple: Straight off four years at their single-sex Catholic high school, they're ready to break out the swing dance moves they learned during Sunday school socials. They quickly stop in their tracks as their eyes see the frothing mass of carnal sin known as the dance floor. They starting doing the mental math on how many candles at the grotto it's going to take to cleanse this abomination from their record.

The Couple-No-Longer: Despite thinking that maybe a night out would help them through their rough patch, their relationship awkwardly comes to a close with an emotionally heated argument beneath the din of "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," which the social media couple will document nicely and later post with #awkward. The broken hearts will go their separate ways as one is brought back to the dorm with her friends while the other makes a beeline to Taco Bell.

That Couple: Beginning the night with inexplicable, offbeat grinding to 'Jesus Take the Wheel,' the couple proceeds to a game of tonsil hockey, scoring more than any hockey game these eyes have seen. To the chagrin of whoever made the Campus Ministry t-shirts, room for the Holy Spirit is lacking.

Tinder Couple: The 21st century's version of Romeo and Juliet, they swiped each other's heart only a couple days ago. They tear up the dance floor, putting "Dirty Dancing" to shame. They'll spend hours at Reckers post-dance in flirtatious conversation as they discuss how to tell their future grandchildren about how they met. Alternatively, the night ends with unfortunate bladder control issues, a NDSP car and a story for the ages. It's a 50/50.

Matt Miklavic is a junior political science and finance major from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He can be reached at mmiklavi@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Curriculum problems are faculty problems

Christopher Damian
Ideas of a University

In the midst of discussions over curricular developments at Notre Dame, I am mindful of a remark made by Otto Bird, the founder of the Program of Liberal Studies: “In the 1950s I was a member of the Faculty Hiring Committee, a body appointed by the administration to put pressure upon the department heads to seek for and hire the best candidates they could find for positions that became open. As it turned out, I became the one member of the committee who asked the candidate, when he was not a Catholic, about his ability and willingness to live and function in a Catholic university.”

These remarks came out in his 1990 memoir “Seeking a Center: My Life as a Great Bookie,” in which he noted that Notre Dame is a better university than it was in 1950 “measured by the secular standards of non-Catholic universities ... Yet it certainly is not as manifestly Catholic as it was.” One might argue over the merits of a less manifest Catholicism — like arguing over the merits of a less incarnate God — but he also writes of PLS: “I do not think that the program today is as good as it was in its first years. In theology and philosophy it has been watered down ... There is ... less in the way of discipline and rigor ... As a whole the program is less ‘intellectualistic’ than it was in the beginning.” I suspect that these remarks could also be applied to the “core curriculum” offered at Notre Dame as a whole.

Mission-oriented hiring and a coherent core-curriculum curriculum are deeply interrelated. Dennis Quinn once remarked, “You teach what you are.” If

this is so, then students’ reactions to the core curriculum and their very limited appreciation and understanding of its purposes and goals may only be a reflection of who has been hired to teach them. Indeed, the breadth and integration of a true core curriculum can only be attained through a faculty of broad knowledge and commitment to integration. Such a focus departs from contemporary academic standards that praise highly specialized depth in research and writing. Further, contemporary standards imply prejudices reinforcing the divides between science and religion, literature and mathematics and philosophy and theology. Therefore it may be, as philosophy professor Curtis Franks noted, that “Notre Dame stands to gain much more by further distinguishing itself from other universities than by striving to ‘keep up’ with them.”

One mode of distinguishing might be a reframing of questions concerning Notre Dame’s “core.” Indeed, the first place to start may be recognizing that “curriculum problems” might actually be masks covering faculty problems. I don’t mean to suggest that our faculty members are under-qualified or unable to perform the tasks they were hired to do; rather, the problem might be the tasks they are hired — or not hired — to do. When Otto Bird retired, he noted that he was the only member of the hiring committee who considered it a priority to ensure that faculty members were both willing and able to live and function in a Catholic university. Presumably this has changed as Notre Dame has recently placed great efforts in seeking out “mission hires,” but these efforts underscore that such hiring is not the norm. Nor do I expect that hiring committees prioritize faculty who have been educated

with a coherent core and maintain a relationship to core studies that can be passed down in teaching core classes.

Nonetheless, Notre Dame does have many an outstanding faculty, including many Catholics and non-Catholics striving to provide a coherent education to their students that both comes out of and aids Notre Dame’s unique mission as a Catholic university. To this end, I would suggest placing an emphasis on aiding faculty in continual formation consistent with this mission. Formation efforts could include encouraging faculty to attend core courses, increasing course offerings joint-taught by professors from different disciplines, hosting regular forums where professors can speak on how their teaching and research relates to Notre Dame’s mission, recreating a university club, encouraging non-Catholic faculty to engage and constructively challenge their Catholic students and colleagues and constantly seeking to bridge gaps between seemingly disparate disciplines.

Most importantly, we ought to reframe Otto Bird’s question. Students, faculty, and staff should not only ask whether we are willing and able to live and function in a Catholic university. Rather, we should ask: “Are we, as members of this community, willing and able to live and function as a Catholic university?” If we teach what we are, then what are we?

Christopher Damian graduated from Notre Dame in 2013. He is currently pursuing a J.D. and an M.A. in Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas. He can be contacted through his blog at universityideas.wordpress.com

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

It’s that time of year again. As schoolwork picks up pace after Christmas break and the winter drags on into February, the last week of January signals for Catholic school students nationwide a weeklong celebration of all the things that make Catholic schools unique. Back in my Catholic grade school days, Catholic Schools Week meant 50-cent Jeans Days (a welcome break from my much-loved and oft-worn plaid skirt), school-wide talent shows in our “Cafetornasium” (named for its ability to shift from lunchroom to auditorium to gymnasium at a moment’s notice), and a highly competitive “Best Classroom Decoration” contest (which once involved painting the Amazon River on the floor of the 8th grade classroom. In permanent paint. Sorry about that, Mrs. Jennings!).

Catholic Schools Week nowadays, as an intern with the Alliance for Catholic Education and a soon-to-be ACE Teacher with the ACE Teaching Fellows, holds even more meaning as I’ve grown to appreciate the unique opportunities and advantages that Catholic schools offer to students of every race, class and ability.

There may not be any zany “spirit” days in the ACE office to celebrate Catholic Schools Week

(unless you count “Hawaiian Shirt Fridays” which are already a year-long staple), but there is a constant dedication to the mission of Catholic education and a contagious enthusiasm for the good work of Catholic school teachers, leaders and students nationwide who, I believe, deserve our recognition this week.

Catholic grade schools and high schools throughout the country maintain an impressive record of success in the midst of the often negative narrative of education in the United States. Catholic schools diminish the achievement gap and lessen the effects of social class on school success. Latino and African-American students from underserved communities enrolled in Catholic school are 42 percent more likely to graduate from high school and college. Catholic school graduates are on average more likely to vote, more tolerant and more involved in community service. An amazing 99 percent of Catholic schools students graduate high school on time and 85 percent go on to attend college.

Despite what you might have heard about some schools closing, there is a sense of renewal and transformation in today’s Catholic schools, which

continue decades worth of service to the nation’s most vulnerable populations. These schools are not only sacred centers of faith, but also centers of civic engagement and opportunity often missing from the disadvantaged neighborhoods that they serve.

Many of you attended Catholic schools before arriving at Notre Dame; certainly all of us currently enjoy an education centered around a Catholic ethos and dedicated to the education of the whole person: body, mind and spirit.

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week this year, I invite you to celebrate with me by thanking a teacher from your past, finding out how you can get involved in supporting Catholic schools by visiting the ACE building (behind the Basilica) or just saying a quick prayer of thanks to those who make the University what it is for all of us.

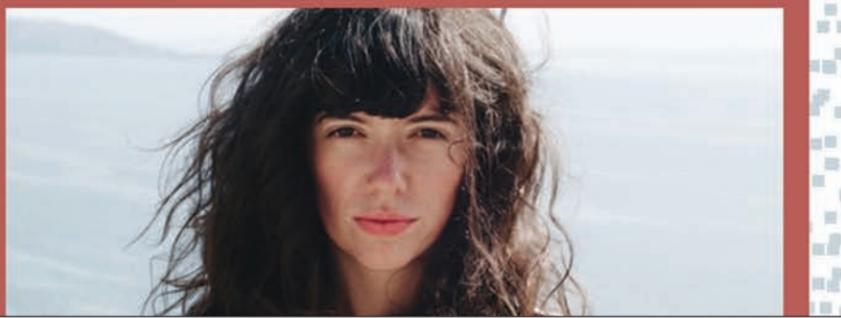
Notre Dame is a great Catholic school, and it should be celebrated this Catholic Schools Week.

Ashley Currey
senior
Ryan Hall
Jan. 28

Join the Discussion
Have an opinion? Let us hear it.

Send a letter to the Editor at
viewpoint@ndsmcobserver.com

NATALIE PRASS' LONG GOODBYE



By **MATTHEW MUNHALL**
Scene Writer

“Our love is a long goodbye,” Natalie Prass sings over and over again towards the end of “My Baby Don’t Understand Me,” the stunning opening track of her self-titled debut album. This statement serves as the thesis not only for the eight tracks that follow — which chronicle the drawn-out end of a relationship — but for the album’s lengthy journey from inception to release.

Prass, a Nashville-based singer/songwriter, began writing these songs as early as 2009, and she finished recording the album back in February 2012. At the time, Spacebomb Records, her small independent label in Richmond, Virginia, was devoting all of its energy to promoting Matthew E. White’s album “Big Inner,” which meant the release of her album had to be delayed. During that period, Prass played keyboard in Jenny Lewis’ touring band, continued writing music and opened a clothing store for dogs (yes, really).

Three years later, Prass’ record has finally been released; it’s a self-assured debut full of breakup tracks that play out against a sunny sound. Produced by White and backed by Spacebomb’s house band, Prass’ songwriting is accented with horns and string sections that give the record a lush, full sound.

As a whole, “Natalie Prass” feels timeless, not sounding dated despite the three-year delay in its release. The album certainly draws inspiration from American music of the 1960s and 70s, cherrypicking sounds from country,

soul, folk and jazz. Yet, Prass creates something more than mere pastiche. The album calls to mind the lush instrumentation of Joni Mitchell’s “Court and Spark” or the blue-eyed soul of Dusty Springfield, just as much as it does the emotional honesty of Joanna Newsom or the melodic talent of Lewis. Prass expertly synthesizes all these influences, both past and present, into something distinctly her own.

A large amount of the album’s success lies in Prass’ beguiling voice. She sings with such control, her voice often rising no louder than a whisper, and the result is extremely effective. “What do you do when that happens / Where do you go when the only home that you know is with a stranger?” she asks on “My Baby Don’t Understand Me,” her voice pleading with vulnerability. On “Christy,” which plays like a modern take on Dolly Parton’s “Jolene,” Prass pleads with the other woman not to steal her man. Her voice takes on a frail falsetto that mirrors her desperation.

Elsewhere, the bright “Bird of Prey,” is Prass at her most confident. It’s a kiss-off buoyed by jaunty piano chords and emotive flutes. “Oh you, you don’t leave me no choice / But to run away,” she sings on the infectious chorus, “You are a bird of prey.” It’s the rare glimpse of Prass as a heartbreaker, and it’s a welcome change of pace.

The album closes with “Is It You,” which sounds like a ballad off an early Disney soundtrack, with its swell of cinematic strings and fairytale lyrics. “And each day as my life goes on / It has all been a ruin without you,” Prass sings, juxtaposing the desperation of the lyrics against the

song’s cheery sound. This blend of seemingly dissonant elements is at the heart of what makes this record so emotionally affecting.

“You think about all these different memories or places that you’ve played [this song] in the past, and think, Wow, I’m still here playing this one song,” Prass told Grantland last week. “We’re gonna go on this journey together, old song. Because my life has changed.”

These songs have already been through a journey stretching back almost a half-decade, and with the release of the album, they will continue to resonate in new ways with listeners. “Natalie Prass” may follow a long goodbye, but its release is an excellent introduction to Prass. It is a gorgeous debut that is at once both past and present, despondent and hopeful, embracing the messy contradiction that is life and love.

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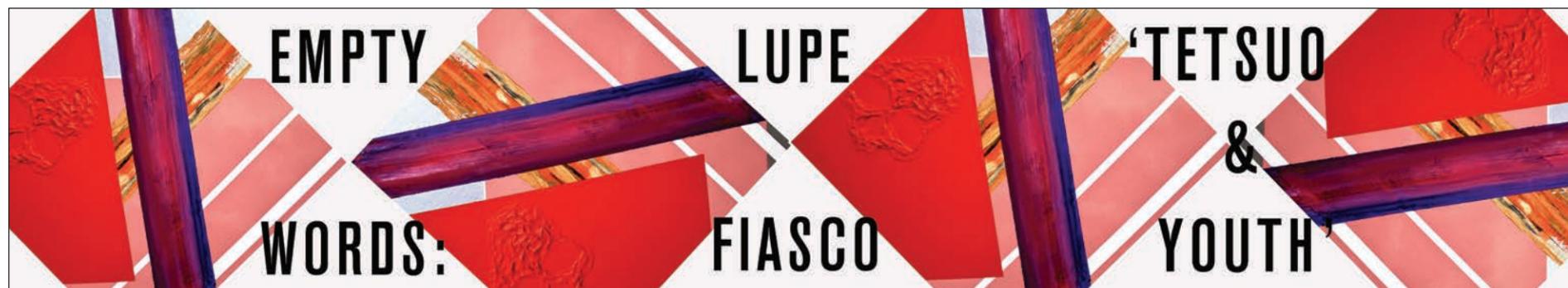
“Natalie Prass”

Natalie Prass

Label: Spacebomb Records

Tracks: “My Baby Don’t Understand Me,” “Bird of Prey,” “Violently”

If you like: Jenny Lewis, Joanna Newsom, Joni Mitchell



By **MATT McMAHON**
Scene Writer

On Lupe Fiasco’s early album centerpiece “Murals,” the Chicago rapper talks a lot, but doesn’t say much. Across its repetitive, hookless, one-verse, eight-and-a-half minutes of a recycling piano line, Fiasco at one point plays a game of word association that comes across like an amateur improvising a freestyle, scrambling to string together just enough syllables to justify passing the mic off to the next in line. This string of words happens only five minutes into the hour-and-twenty-minute long “Tetsuo & Youth,” a rather empty album full of empty, longwinded choruses on empty, longwinded songs.

On “Tetsuo & Youth,” Fiasco attempts to progress his sound, but sheer quantity and overindulgence cannot adequately mask his shortcomings. The album bounces from classical instrumentation (“Mural”) to soulful hooks (“Little Death,” “No Scratches”), trap (“Chopper”) to cloud (“Deliver”) and jazz (“Adoration of the Magi”). Nothing he tries is overtly bad, but it’s all crippling formulaic. Kanye West, whose influence is largely heard on the whole of “Blur My Hands” and the autotuned “Madonna” — and also, perhaps embarrassingly, Fort Minor’s “Believe Me” (“Prisoner 1 & 2”) — has explored all of these variations in more robust, more successful ways 10 years ago.

Fiasco relegates his grander experimentations to standalone sections that will not jeopardize or interrupt his base songs. A unique, question-raising banjo riff

enters during the intro to “Dots & Lines” — which does exhibit one of the better choruses and aural hooks on the album — but fades before the real meat of the song, which features instead a melody-mimicking violin line, and only comes back into play to bookend the song.

Not once does Fiasco incorporate the banjo’s distinctive qualities into the main production of “Dots & Lines,” or any other track across the album. Similarly, a saxophone solo closes out “Body of Work,” but is otherwise completely unrelated to and separate from the rest of the song and album.

Elsewhere, the empty sonic gestures are even more unforgiving. Nine-minute posse cut “Chopper” drives home a hodgepodge reduction of buzzworthy social and political issues faced by Fiasco and his peers. The sloppy hook quickly alludes to food stamps, medical cards and background checks for guns in an aimless manner, ad nauseam.

Thankfully, Fiasco chooses a somewhat dynamic drill beat, so he does not put his audience through the vague suffering detailed by the song’s hook for nine minutes, and it’s broken up by some standout verses from Glasses Malone, Buk of Psychodrama and Trae tha Truth. “They Resurrect.Over.New” name checks a loving tribute to a fallen friend in “They Reminisce Over You (T.R.O.Y.)” and turns it into a glitchy, cacophonous TRON reference that has nothing in common with the superb Pete Rock and CL Smooth original. And Fiasco’s flow, here and on other tracks, confirms the punchline that rap died with Lil Wayne’s rap career in 2010

The most appealing elements of the album lie in the consistencies. When Fiasco employs acoustic instrumentation on “Little Death,” the track gains energy and soul, like in the jazzy horns on “Adoration of the Magi,” which actually stick around past the intro. Unfortunately he strays from this aesthetic too often.

Otherwise, the most welcomed sections of the album are the shortest: the instrumental interludes depicting the changing of seasons throughout the album. These short wordless compositions are much more varied and beautiful than anything else on the album and offer short respites to gather oneself before having to embark on another single minded, five-plus minute track. Still, by the time “Winter” rolls around 10 songs in, Fiasco might have done better condensing the album rather than including the now necessary interludes.

Contact Matt McMahon at mmcmaho7@nd.edu

“Tetsuo & Youth”

Lupe Fiasco

Label: Atlantic/First & Fifteenth

Tracks: “Dots & Lines,” “Chopper,” “Adoration of the Magi”

If you like: Kanye West, B.o.B., Ty Dolla \$ign





WHIPLASH MAKES A COMEBACK

By **KELLY McGARRY**
Scene Writer

In his quest for greatness, a promising young talent encounters a relentless teacher who pushes him to his utmost limit. Bloodied by contest, the competitor's hunger is only sharpened by adversity. This sounds like the perfect formula for a sports movie, so what's the difference if the sport is drumming? Transcending genre to earn nicknames such as Full Metal Jacket at Julliard, "Whiplash" achieves a level of intensity not expected from a movie about music.

"Whiplash" has returned to theaters and is now playing in South Bend and across the country, a full year after its January 2014 Sundance release. It was released in theaters in October to a mild reception, but has drawn greater attention after substantial critical acclaim.

The storyline centers on Andrew Neimann, a passionate young drummer (Miles Teller) enrolled at an elite music conservatory who is discovered by the director of the top collegiate jazz band in the nation. This teacher (J.K. Simmons), who will stop at nothing to see his students' potential realized, elicits a ravenous desire from his student, not just to be great, but to be one of "the Greats." Bloodied and shaking at practice, Andrew's toughness and desire are obvious, but he never seems able to

prove himself to his unrelenting teacher, who constantly crushes his talented students' self-worth.

Despite his cruel methods, the overzealous teacher, Fletcher, wins his students' trust through his success, wringing everything he can from each of his students, leaving them no time or energy for relationships or other frivolous things. His bullying resembles a drill sergeant at boot camp, breaking the students down with racist and homophobic slurs. To most of us, no passion or talent seems to justify the abandonment of all the people in our lives and subjection to such abuse, but how many of us have really grasped at true greatness? The sheer possibility of the being the best at anything is enough to drive a person insane, to make them obsessed, self-centered and arrogant, yet still feel inadequate.

The majority of its drumming scenes portrayed as endurance tests, "Whiplash" has been criticized for missing the art of music. Andrew is never seen discussing theory with his classmates or comparing musical styles. Instead hard physical drilling is emphasized, with the goal of speed and endurance. The style of music featured in the movie is frenetic and violent, but creativity and fun are entirely absent. It has been criticized by musicians for portraying a distorted and unrealistic image of jazz, but director/writer Damien Chazelle claims to have drawn from his own experience as a student of music.

Unlikable as his character is, Miles Teller portrays a man that is genuinely disturbed. Despite his egotism, we can't help but feel sorry for him in his suffering. But perhaps the more notable and seemingly more vocal character is J.K. Simmons's Fletcher. Ferocious and violent, driving the protagonist to greatness and madness, Fletcher is the primary agent in the film. In such a powerful supporting role, his multiple awards, which include a Golden Globe, come as no surprise.

Whether or not you're a music fan, you'll swing along with Andrew Neimann as he struggles to keep tempo in his fast ascent to greatness.

Contact Kelly McGarry at kmcgarry@nd.edu

"Whiplash"

Production Company: Bold Films, Blumhouse Productions, Right of Way Films

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons



WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY



What: 26th annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: DPAC
How Much: \$4 for students, \$6 for faculty/staff

Check out what your friends in the FTT department have been up to at the 26th annual Student Film Festival. In the past, the festival has featured two Sundance Film Jury Award Winners. Be sure to bring your cell phone to vote for the Audience Choice Award.

FRIDAY



What: Cool as Ice
When: 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Where: Fieldhouse Mall
How Much: Free

Come out to Fieldhouse Mall to see blocks of ice transform into Notre Dame icons and works of art. Free hot chocolate, heat lamps and "icy" desserts provided!

SATURDAY



What: Live Band Karaoke!
When: 10:00 p.m.
Where: Legends
How Much: Free

If you've been dying to treat all your friends to a vocal performance but don't have time to be in an official choir, go down to Legends Saturday night for its first ever karaoke night. Legends is bringing in a live band to accompany you. Stick around after for a blacklight party.



Weekly Watch is a series in which a scene writer picks a movie or show available on instant streaming service, then writes a review.

"Waking Sleeping Beauty" is the Disney animation documentary you've been waiting for. If you've ever been curious about the renaissance Disney experienced from 1984 to 1994, this movie is for you. Learn about the animators who brought us all the movies we now know and love. Check back Monday for Emilie Kefalas' review!

SPORTSAUTHORITY

FA Cup embodies essence of sports



Alex Carson
Sports Writer

The Football Association Challenge Cup (FA Cup) is one of my favorite things in sports.

It is the greatest cup competition in the world. Encompassing teams from 10 different tiers of the English soccer league system — 736 teams entered this season — the competition often pits the top teams in the Premier League with clubs from the third, fourth and sometimes even fifth tiers of the system. And sometimes those small clubs win; last year saw then-fifth-tier Luton Town knock out then-Premier League side Norwich City.

It's fun. The speculation of who might do the "giant killing" in each year's tournament draws great intrigue — and this year, we've seen it.

Maybe it's my Indiana basketball roots that give way to my love of the FA Cup. My state's tradition of an all-comers, single-class high school state basketball tournament encompassed much of the same spirit, and when little Milan took down Muncie Central in the 1954 title game, the tournament earned a charm that continues to this day. They made a movie about it, too.

Or maybe it's the spirit of the Indianapolis 500, the idea that anyone can show up at the Brickyard with a car and have a shot to qualify for the field of 33 to take the green flag Memorial Day weekend.

The FA Cup provides a perfect chance for the Davids to have their days against the Goliaths of the world. And when they win? It's a grand occasion.

Take last weekend for example. Third-tier Bradford City traveled to Chelsea to take on the Premier League's table-toppers. The "Bantams" — as Bradford is affectionately known — fell behind, 2-0.

And then they scored four unanswered goals to slay Goliath.

It's that magical moment many will remember forever. The tournament's progressed to the Fifth Round Proper — we'd call it the "Sweet Sixteen" more than likely — and you won't find Chelsea in the running for the crown. And they're not the only

high-profile team missing out. Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City were both knocked out last stage with Manchester United facing a replay with fourth-tier Cambridge United to just stay in the competition.

Instead, the FA Cup is littered with lower-tier sides. Third-tier Bradford City will be joined by another League One side — either Preston North End or Sheffield United — and be alongside a host of second-division teams. Each and every one of them — not to mention Cambridge — will be dreaming of getting to arguably the greatest stage in the sport, Wembley Stadium, with a chance to take home arguably the world's most storied trophy.

Beautiful.

I mean, think about it. We all remember that George Mason made a run to the Final Four in 2006 or how Butler made it to consecutive national championship games, but who else joined them on college basketball's grandest stage?

I was at two of those Final Fours — 2006 and 2010 — and it took me forever to remember that LSU, yes, LSU, made it to the Final Four in 2006 with Glen "Big Baby" Davis.

But it's these moments that make us fall in love with sports. Show someone a solid matchup between two top teams and, sure, they'll probably find it interesting. But show them Appalachian State over Michigan or NC State over Houston, and you'll have them hooked.

What makes sports great? That games aren't played on paper. That on any day, any team has a chance of beating another, no matter the perceived strength of one over the other. It's unscripted.

That's why we love them.

So when Arsenal meets second-tier Middlesbrough on Feb. 15 in the fifth round, even if you aren't a soccer fan, try to tune in and follow the match.

Who knows? Maybe you'll see the next great FA Cup moment.

Contact Alex Carson at acarson1@nd.edu

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

NASCAR

Barnhart continues legacy of IndyCar race control

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — IndyCar on Wednesday returned Brian Barnhart to his former role as head of race control.

Barnhart had the same role from 1997 through 2011, but was removed after a controversial final season. He has been IndyCar's vice president of competition in the three years since, and was a key part of the system implemented last season that requires a two-thirds vote among three stewards for in-race penalties.

"We believe that based on his extensive experience in race control, combined with the three-steward system, Brian Barnhart is a good fit," said Derrick Walker, president of competition and operations.

As vice president of competition, Barnhart already oversees the race control staff, the sporting regulations of the rulebook, the safety team and medical personnel, security and timing and scoring.

Barnhart has been a part of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and IndyCar since 1994.

"This is a position and a role that I've done for a number of

years and I take a great deal of pride in being race director," Barnhart said. "One of the things that excites me the most is the steward system we implemented last year. That was a great advancement in how we review and make discretionary decisions, and having that assistance in making calls is a big improvement to the way we officiate IndyCar events."

Barnhart was initially taken out of race control after a 2011 season that saw him publicly criticized for decisions that drivers found to be arbitrary.

Will Power was caught on live television making an obscene gesture toward the race control tower at New Hampshire, and Helio Castroneves called Barnhart a "circus clown" in a Twitter rant.

Power was furious when Barnhart decided to resume racing at New Hampshire despite driver protests it was raining too hard. The slick conditions caused a crash on the restart that collected Power, who infamously flashed his two middle fingers toward Barnhart.

About six weeks later, three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Castroneves took to Twitter to vent about Barnhart penalizing

him for passing under yellow in Japan. He accused Barnhart of "bringing down an entire series."

Both drivers were fined \$30,000 by IndyCar, but both stood by their convictions.

Roger Penske, the team owner for both Power and Castroneves, lauded returning Barnhart to his former role.

"I think it's good to bring someone in who knows the teams, all the antics with all of us," Penske said. "I know his heart is in it. He was moved aside to take on other roles and responsibilities, but he's never distanced himself too far from that race director's spot. I'm glad to see Brian back on his feet there. I don't always agree with him, but he'll be an asset."

Penske team President Tim Cindric was also in favor of the move, adding he didn't think IndyCar looked very far in its search for a new race director.

"He's been there before, he's a known quantity and bringing someone in we didn't know is a bigger question," Cindric said. "Brian is somebody we understand, he understands us, and he's the guy. I don't see any other candidates out there who are any better."

PGA

Korda, Lewis, Munoz lead LPGA season opener

Associated Press

OCALA, Florida. — Jessica Korda pulled a hand warmer out of each jacket pocket, showing just how cold she was during the opening round of the LPGA opener.

Her scoreboard told a much different story.

The 21-year-old American shot a 6-under 66 in the opening round of the Coates Golf Championship on Wednesday and was in a three-way tie with fellow American Stacy Lewis and Azahara Munoz of Spain. All three teed off in windy conditions and finished in chilly temperatures just before dark.

"I can't feel my fingers right now," Korda said.

She might be in for more of the same Thursday morning, with temperatures expected to be the mid- to late-30s for the early tee times.

Twenty players failed to complete the opening round at Golden Ocala Golf &

Equestrian Club, which boasts eight tribute holes from famed courses around the world. They will finish up beginning at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, just before Korda, Lewis and Munoz tee off in the second round.

Only 26 of 120 players were under par when play was halted.

American Austin Ernst and Ha Na Jang of South Korea finished at 5 under, one stroke ahead of New Zealand's Lydia Ko and South Korea's Na Yeon Choi. Nineteen-year-old American Lexi Thompson and Mi Jung Hur of South Korea were 3 under.

Top-ranked Inbee Park was 1 under, one shot ahead of reigning U.S. Women's Open champion Michelle Wie. Cheyenne Woods, the niece of Tiger Woods, was 4 over through 17 holes.

Ernst was maybe the most surprising name on the leaderboard. She hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation and made just

about every putt inside of 10 feet.

"I've had rounds in the past where you've hit it close and then you can't get anything to go in," Ernst said. "But today everything was going in so I was really confident with everything."

Korda, Lewis and Munoz were feeling it, too.

Korda straightened out an errant driver on the front nine and birdied six of her final 13 holes. Considering she's won two of the last three LPGA season openers — in Australia in 2012 and in the Bahamas last year — starting fast is nothing new.

"I just feel like I'm refreshed and ready to go," she said. "I try and bring the mentality with me all the time, every time I try to play, but for some reason it just shines brighter the first event of the season. Honestly, I don't know what it is about it. I'm just happy to be back. It's so much fun."

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

W Swimming

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

of fine-tuning their technique before the ACC championships.

"As we approach championship time, all of the details need polishing," Welsh said. "Every start, every turn, every finish, every breath; all of it needs polishing."

The Irish won the crown last year at the invitational and will look to do so again this weekend. Furthermore, the Shamrock Invitational serves as an end-of-season meet for some of the swimmers on the team, as well as senior day for Notre Dame's eight seniors.

"For some of our girls on the team, it's their end-of-the-season meet, so we definitely are focusing on them and helping them do [their] best times, hopefully," Mulquin said. "Really, just a team atmosphere is most important to us. And senior day, that's huge, too. We've got eight seniors on the team, and that's really special for people. There [will be] some tears here and there, but it's really special."

The Shamrock Invitational will begin Friday at 5 p.m. and continue Saturday at 10 a.m. at Rolfs Aquatic Center.



WEI LIN | The Observer

Contact Ben Padanilam at bpadanil@nd.edu

Irish junior Genevieve Bradford takes a breath before finishing third in 100-yard breaststroke during Notre Dame's meet against in-state rival Purdue on Nov. 1. The Irish dropped the dual meet at Rolfs Aquatic Center, 170-128.

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AMY ACKERMANN | The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Lindsay Allens races past a Georgia Tech defender in Notre Dame's 89-76 win Jan. 22 at Purcell Pavilion. Allen registered six points and six assists in the game.

W Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

go out and get a double-double every game, which is exactly what we need her to do."

The Hokies (10-10, 1-6), led by freshman forward Regan Magarity, have outrebounded their opponents by a 5.7 margin this season, compared to 8.9 for the Irish. Meanwhile, their assist-to-turnover ratio of 0.73 falls well short of Notre Dame's 1.27.

Notre Dame's leader in assists, sophomore guard Lindsay Allen, is coming off a rough stretch of games but has steadied herself recently, McGraw said.

"She had a couple games where she didn't look to score enough, and after you establish yourself as one of the top three scorers, then we need to rely on that every game," McGraw said. "She's been a little sloppy with the ball, and I thought [her] seven assists [and] one turnover [against Clemson] was more like what she's capable of. That's the kind of game I expect from her ... a lot of assists with just one turnover a game."

Allen has also grown into a leader for the young Irish squad as the season has progressed, McGraw said.

"I think she's talking more," McGraw said. "I hear her talking more at practice. I can see her in the game, looks like she's talking more to the team, so that's where we need her to be. She has to be the voice of the huddle."

Both Notre Dame and Virginia Tech feature young lineups, with the Hokies having only one senior,

guard Kelsey Conyers, on their entire roster and the Irish starting none of their three seniors.

With Thursday's matchup, the Hokies will wrap up a three-game homestand, while the Irish play the first game in a stretch of four over 11 days. Notre Dame plays nine total games in January, its most in any month during the regular season, and has relied on its depth to persevere through that stretch, McGraw said.

"I think [senior guard] Madison Cable and [freshman forward] Kathryn Westbeld have been playing well," she said. "[Junior guard] Hannah Huffman gave us some really good minutes in the Clemson game, and she's somebody that has had some good games for us this year..."

The game also marks the midway point in Notre Dame's ACC schedule. Junior guard Jewell Loyd was named the midseason national player of the year by espnW on Monday, but McGraw said she thinks Loyd can continue to improve in the latter half of the year.

"She can get better," McGraw said. "I think she's having a fantastic year. She is really playing well. She's shooting the ball well. She's starting to rebound a little bit more now, which is something we need her to do, so I think that she is the best player in the country, and I'm happy that other people think so too. But I think for her, she just wants to win..."

Notre Dame and Virginia Tech square off tonight in Blacksburg, Virginia, at 7 p.m.

Contact Greg Hadley at ghadley@nd.edu



AMY ACKERMANN | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd drives to the hoop in a win against Georgia Tech last Thursday at Purcell Pavilion.

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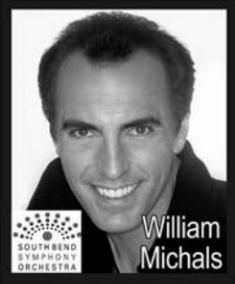


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Upcoming Events

Friday, Feb. 27 Disney Live! "Pirate & Princess Adventure"	Saturday March 28 South Bend Symphony KeyBank Pops "Tribute to Brubeck"
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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Notre Dame players celebrate after improving to 20-2 on the season following a 77-73 win over Duke at Purcell Pavilion on Wednesday.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Duke junior guard Rasheed Sulaimon dunks during Notre Dame's 77-73 win over the fourth-ranked Blue Devils on Wednesday.

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Hartnett

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Irish found themselves in a double-digit deficit once again, Grant took charge of the team in a manner befitting that of a senior leader.

This wasn't an isolated incident. Grant has had some impressive performances in a string of recent close games for the Irish, adding 25 points in the team's comeback win against North Carolina State on Sunday and a similar 23-point performance in a second-half surge against Miami on Jan. 17.

Such recent inspired play seems to have inspired Grant's head coach, Mike Brey, who has long cited the senior guard as being a crucial leader and half of one of the nation's best backcourt tandems. Brey referred to Grant as both a "bright lights, big stage guy" and said he is "putting himself in position to be a very wealthy man next year," referring to Grant's rising draft stock.

Brey's words may well ring true in June, when Grant will likely hear his name called by NBA commissioner Adam Silver. But there's a lot of basketball to be played before then, and Grant will play the most important role in dictating Notre Dame's impending tournament fortunes.

Now, Grant is far from the only cog in Notre Dame's machine-like offense. Pat

Connaughton put up a quiet double-double Wednesday and manned the boards against a tall Duke frontcourt. Demetrius Jackson more than held his own against Jones and scored all seven of his second-half points during a 14-2 run that put Notre Dame back ahead. Zach Auguste scored 14 points in 22 minutes of action. And Vasturia emerged out of a game-long shooting slump with one of the biggest baskets of the night.

Combined, those factors have led to Notre Dame's surprise emergence as one of the top teams in the nation, something that many both on- and off-campus are beginning to notice.

But as much fun as regular-season basketball is — and Wednesday night was certainly a treat — it's a little different from the do-or-die atmosphere of playoff hoops. Notre Dame fans know this well, as the Irish have several strong regular-season teams fade away in the frenzy of the NCAA tournament in recent years.

Playoff basketball might force the Irish to potentially play teams that hold a significant height and rebounding advantage over them. It might force the Irish to confront an opponent who can disrupt their ball movement and halt their outside shooting. And it might even force the Irish to snap out of their pattern of falling into double-digit second-half deficits.

But one important ingredient in a recipe for playoff success is a player who can step up when the stakes are the highest and get his team going when no one else can provide a spark.

We've seen this player emerge almost like clockwork in recent years — think Shabazz Napier last season, Anthony Davis in 2012 and Kemba Walker the year before that.

For the Irish to finally snap their playoff funk, to make it to the tournament's second weekend for the first time since 2003, they'll need someone to be that guy.

And all signs of this year's leading candidate point to Grant. It's a role that might not suit his natural personality, but one that he has shown himself to assume time and time again this season, perhaps on no stage bigger than the one where he found himself Wednesday night.

He'll soon find himself on bigger stages, ones in Durham, Louisville, Greensboro and wherever the NCAA selection committee sends the Irish. And for the Irish to exit those stages with continued success, Grant will have to be as wholly unfazed as he was Wednesday night.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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



JODI LO | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant is defended by Duke freshman center Jahliil Okafor during Notre Dame's 77-73 win at Purcell Pavilion on Wednesday. Both players recorded double-doubles.

M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Krzyzewski said. "That was a heck of a bucket. A fortunate bucket, but a heck of a bucket."

A pair of free throws by Cook cut the Irish lead to one, but again Grant came through as the shot clock wound down. The senior drove the lane and went airborne, but at the last second threw the ball to a wide-open Irish sophomore guard Steve Vasturia in the corner. Vasturia rose from beyond the 3-point arc and sank his first, and only, field goal of the game to increase the Notre Dame lead to four with 22 seconds left.

"I think [Vasturia's] percentage when they're crunch time shots, big shots, it's well over 50 percent," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "That's such a pro move, what [Grant] did there, backing down and then finding a shooter in the corner. But I think we have a lot of confidence in [Vasturia] rising up to take it."

"We should not have left Vasturia," Krzyzewski said. "You have to make Grant take a 2-point shot, which we were, and then we left [Vasturia] and the kid hit a huge shot."

Junior guard Rasheed Sulaimon hit one of two free throws for the Blue Devils (17-3, 4-3 ACC) to make it a one possession game, but freshman forward Bonzie Colson answered with his own free throw to seal the victory for Notre Dame. Grant finished the game with a double-double, netting 23 points and dishing out 12 assists while also collecting six rebounds in front of 17 NBA scouts.

"I'm never surprised by anything [Grant] does," Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson. "He's a great player; in my opinion the best player in college basketball."

After Duke went on a 9-0 run to lead 60-51 just over seven minutes into the second half, Irish sophomore forward V.J. Beachem threw down a two-handed slam to get the sold-out crowd on its feet again.

That same crowd fell silent seconds later though, when senior guard and team captain Pat Connaughton went airborne and landed hard on his head.

The senior laid on the court for a minute before walking off under his own power. After being evaluated by the team doctor, he returned to action a few minutes later, missing 1:08 of game time.

"[My head] hurts a little bit," Connaughton said. "I joked that I can't remember the last ten minutes of the game, I just remember us winning. ... I was more confused about why a seven-footer [Duke junior center Marshall Plumlee] up-faked a six-five guard, but at the end of the day I didn't want to come out of that game."

"[When the training staff] said, '[Pat] will need two more minutes,' I'm thinking, 'Well, then I should call two more timeouts until I can put him back in,'" Brey said after the game. "He took a heck of a spill, but what a warrior."

Just over nine minutes into the second half, an inside bucket by Okafor pushed Duke's lead to 10, the largest of the game for either team. Notre Dame responded with a 12-0 run over the next 4:35 to take the lead at 67-65.

"We just needed to play harder," Jackson said of his team's focus before going on the run. "Guys started playing harder, kept an edge an edge about themselves, and made shots."

This was the fourth time in the last five games that Notre Dame trailed by double digits yet came back to win the game.

Brey said, "I told my team after the game, 'Down 10, you've got them right where you want them, don't you fellas? Thanks a lot; thanks for doing that to me again.'"

The early stages of the game saw the Blue Devils dominate inside. Duke junior forward Amile Jefferson blocked a Vasturia lay-up on the game's first possession and then laid in one of his own on the other end. Duke scored 24 of its first half points in the paint while also pulling down six offensive rebounds en route to a 39-36 lead at the break.

Irish junior forward Zach Auguste picked up his second foul with 8:46 left in the first half and was forced to sit for the rest of the half. In Auguste's absence, freshman forward Jahliil Okafor had his way with the smaller Irish defense, racking up what

at times appeared to be an effortless 11 points and nine rebounds in the half.

The Irish defense played Okafor physically all night, something that drew the ire of Krzyzewski.

"What happens with [Okafor], it's not just this game, is that they allow a lot of contact," Krzyzewski said. "[Colson] played hard. He played really hard and did a really good job, and he had help, too."

"... What you can do [in the post] and what you can't do out on the perimeter are two totally different worlds. It's a tough thing to officiate, but there's no question that there's a lot [of contact]."

Still, the potential first-overall pick in this summer's NBA draft finished the game with 22 points and 17 rebounds.

"[Okafor] has great footwork," Auguste said. "He has a big body and he knows how to use it. He knows what he wants to do and can get good shots."

Connaughton posted Notre Dame's second double-double of the game with 13 points and 12 rebounds, while Auguste and Jackson recorded 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Though giving up six inches to Okafor, Colson provided a first-half spark for Notre Dame. Manning the post while Auguste sat with foul trouble, Colson scored seven of his eight points in the first half and hauled in three rebounds, including one while sitting on the floor. He also fearlessly completed a 3-point play after taking the ball straight at Okafor in the paint. When he exited for the first time, the Purcell Pavilion crowd gave him a standing ovation and while shooting free throws later in the first half, the student section began chanting his name.

"One thing about [Colson], he is not afraid," Brey said. "He loves the moment."

The victory marked Notre Dame's 600th win at Purcell Pavilion, which first hosted the team for the 1968-69 season.

Notre Dame will be back in action Saturday when it travels to Pittsburgh. The game is slated to tip at noon.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant hits an off-balance runner as the shot clock expires to put Notre Dame up three with 1:07 to play Wednesday.

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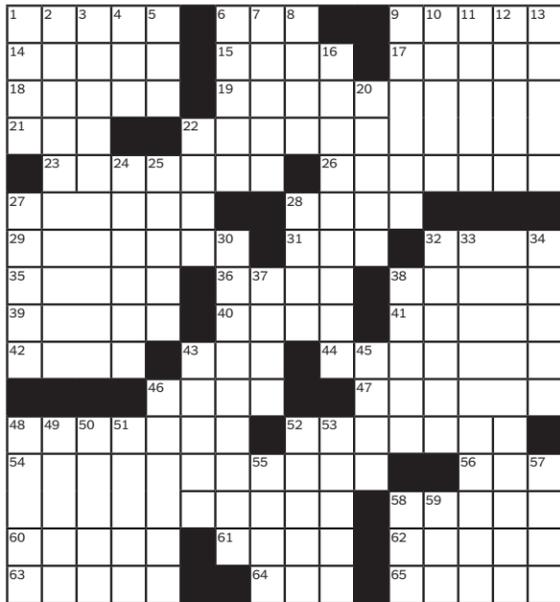


JODI LO | The Observer

Sophomore forward V.J. Beachem dunks during the second half of Notre Dame's 77-73 win over Duke at Purcell Pavilion on Wednesday. The dunk cut Duke's lead from nine to seven points.

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Didn't wait to make the decision
 - 6 Be a couch potato, say
 - 9 Bawls out
 - 14 Brings on
 - 15 "My life is ___!"
 - 17 Hoffman who co-founded the Yippies
 - 18 Culturally ahead of the times
 - 19 Italian hangout
 - 21 What a raised hand may signify
 - 22 There's one between the ulna and the radius
 - 23 Free
 - 26 Tennis's Sánchez Vicario
 - 27 Minor hits?
 - 28 Goons
 - 29 Succeeds
 - 31 Long-distance call?
 - 32 Creator of U.P.C.'s
 - 35 Home security measure
 - 36 It was created by two volcanoes
 - 38 Italian city associated with the real-life Saint Nicholas
 - 39 Tumbler locale
 - 40 "The ___ Commandments" (1958 hit)
 - 41 "I agree 100%"
 - 42 Fire ___
 - 43 "___ qué?"
 - 44 Uses a powder puff on, say
 - 46 Facetious words of enlightenment
 - 47 Sources of some tweets
 - 48 Hardly an instance of modesty
 - 52 Finally cracks
 - 54 Blink of an eye
 - 54 Nitpicked
 - 56 Print producer
 - 58 Town in a Hersey novel
 - 60 Composer Camille Saint-___
 - 61 Cap site
 - 62 ___ Island, Fla.
 - 63 College application need
 - 64 Wilfred Owen's "Dulce et Decorum ___"
 - 65 Pentium source
- Down**
- 1 Fictional character who says "I now prophesy that I will dismember my dismemberer"
 - 2 Domestic relationship
 - 3 Protection for a mechanic, say
 - 4 Opposite of morn
 - 5 What Ariz. and Hawaii are the only two states not to have
 - 6 Clouds, e.g.
 - 7 Choice
 - 8 Suburb of Cairo
 - 9 Indian nobles
 - 10 Jet
 - 11 Somewhat
 - 12 Flirt
 - 13 ___ high standard
 - 16 Poet who made radio broadcasts in support of Mussolini
 - 20 Actor Lew
 - 22 Setup for a surprise party
 - 24 Six-footer?
 - 25 Performed pitifully
 - 27 "Twilight" girl
 - 28 Queens's ___ Stadium



Puzzle by Ben Pall

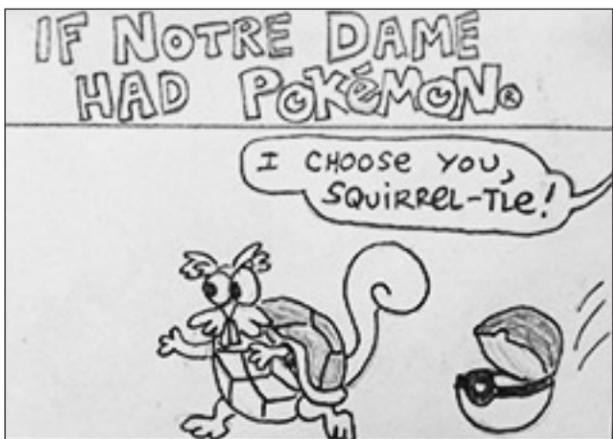
- 30 As it might be said
- 32 2001 Sean Penn film
- 33 Splinter
- 33 Routine with a one-handed freeze, say
- 34 Diner giveaways
- 37 Houston ice hockey pro
- 38 Hotties
- 43 Pursue some e-mail chicanery
- 45 Sacked out
- 46 Like craft shops, typically
- 48 Actual, after "in"
- 49 Info on college applications
- 50 Some stadium cries
- 51 Editor Brown
- 52 Impales
- 53 Dawn
- 55 Jean Renoir's field
- 57 Some winter wear
- 58 "___ wrong?"
- 59 Writer Brown

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER

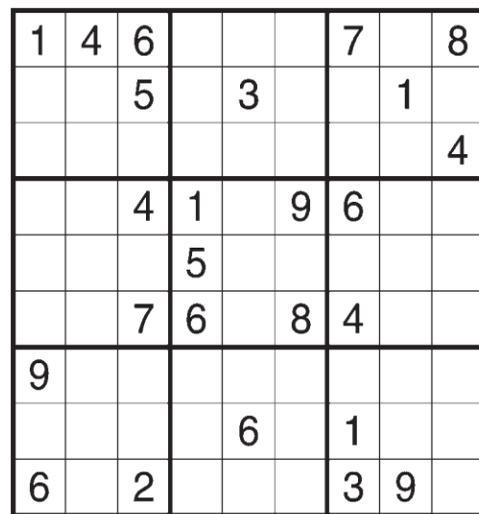


DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN



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SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE 11/1/12

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

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: Keep everything in perspective. Overreacting will lead to regret. Think carefully before you make a decision that will alter a partnership or change the way you live. Focus on work and incorporating innovative solutions that will offer you a more efficient way of doing things. Consider starting your own business, but remain cautious in personal matters. Your numbers are 8, 12, 24, 26, 30, 35, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Open up conversations with people you believe have something to contribute. Stretch your imagination and diversify your goals until you find common ground with the people you want to include in your plans. Don't make or give in to demands. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on your responsibilities before someone complains. Don't be afraid to take a different approach when faced with a challenge. The solutions you come up with will far exceed those of anyone competing with you. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make changes, but don't expect everyone to follow your lead. Expanding your living quarters or indulging in something that will make your personal life more fulfilling should be your goal. Don't give in to someone using emotional blackmail. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do things differently. The more unique you are, the more attention you will get. A partnership will undergo change based on what you implement into your lifestyle and how you want to move forward. Do what you want, not what others demand. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Opportunities to travel, learn and interact with people you find interesting are apparent. Do your best to avoid an emotional situation that is geared to disrupt your plans for success. Follow your heart and don't look back. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't neglect a relationship or your domestic duties. Your ability to work efficiently in the workplace will depend on how smoothly things are running in your personal life. Emotions will surface if pressure is allowed to mount. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make a difference at home and to someone you are in a partnership with if you are willing to compromise and look for an amicable solution. A creative or entertaining event will spark an interesting alternative. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your hard work will bring excellent results as long as you stick to a budget and your plans are realistic. Don't let someone trying to mastermind a grand plan persuade you into taking on more than you can handle. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your wits about you. Not everyone will understand or sympathize with your arguments. Take a defensive approach to any changes being brought about by outside influences. A disciplined strategy and strong willpower will help you come out on top. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The past can reveal important information that will help you get through a trying time now. Don't let the changes others make throw you off your game. Keep in mind that it's OK to go it alone. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep a close watch over your possessions, important relationships and how others treat you. Don't be fooled by any insincere gestures. Be careful not to let your emotions take over. Having reservations will save you from making a mistake. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Wait and watch. Keep past experiences in mind and you will avoid making a mistake that can affect your reputation or reveal personal information that you wish to keep a secret. Self-improvement is your best course of action. ★★★★★

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JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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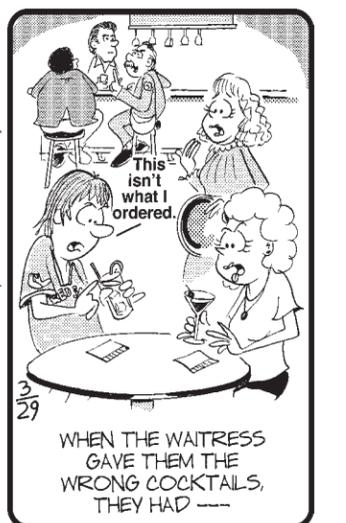
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DNUEW
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OXRVET
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NIDOIG
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Ans: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○



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MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 77, DUKE 73

Exorcising the Devils

Grant's double-double leads No. 8 Notre Dame to another come-from-behind victory

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Sports Writer

Just when it appeared No. 4 Duke was ready to run away with the game, senior guard Jerian Grant and No. 8 Notre Dame pulled off yet another comeback to win 77-73 in front of a raucous, sold-out Purcell Pavilion last night.

With just over a minute remaining in regulation and Notre Dame (20-2, 8-1 ACC) up one, Grant tried to pull up for a 3-pointer with three seconds on the shot clock, only to have the ball knocked away by Duke senior guard Quinn Cook. Unfazed, Grant gathered the loose ball in the lane and hit a floater over Duke freshman center Jahlil Okafor as the shot clock buzzer sounded to put Notre Dame up 73-70 with 1:07 remaining.

"I was just trying to figure out if I wanted to step back or go past him," Grant said. "I ended up losing the ball but I had time to gather it and get a shot off."

"When the game got right down to the end, Grant made that bucket," Duke coach Mike



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant takes the ball to the basket during Notre Dame's 77-73 win over Duke on Wednesday at Purcell Pavilion. Grant finished with 23 points and a career-high 12 assists.

see M BASKETBALL PAGE 14

Brian Hartnett
Managing Editor

With the shot clock about to expire late in yet another one of his team's games that came down-to-the-wire, Jerian Grant appeared unfazed.

He regained a lost dribble to calmly hit a floater that put Notre Dame up 73-70 with a little over a minutes left.

On Notre Dame's next possession, he found Steve Vasturia in the corner for another shot clock-beater, this one from beyond the arc.

Seconds later, he swatted away a shot from Quinn Cook to effectively seal No. 8 Notre Dame's 77-73 victory over No. 4 Duke on Wednesday night at Purcell Pavilion.

Grant's end-of-game heroics capped a 23-point, 12-assist, six-rebound, three-steal and two-block performance in which he displayed himself as the top player on the court, even with freshmen phenoms Jahlil Okafor, Justise Winslow and Tyus Jones suited up for Duke.

In a game during which the

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ND to face struggling VT

By GREG HADLEY
Associate Sports Editor

No. 4 Notre Dame is coming off its longest break in a month, to face a .500 Virginia Tech squad in the bottom tier of the ACC on Thursday, on a floor in Blacksburg, Virginia, where the Hokies have lost three of their last four.

To Irish coach Muffet McGraw, all that means is another opportunity for the Irish (19-2, 6-1 ACC) to keep improving.

"[We have to] just continue with the defense," McGraw said. "We've got to be able to mix up our defenses to figure out if our zone is going to be effective or not. Man-to-man, we've got to be a little more aware of who the good players are on the other team that we're trying to stop. Play more team defense than individual defense."

Defense, always a point of emphasis for McGraw's, has been a particular area of concern for the Irish since last Thursday, when the team allowed Georgia Tech to shoot 50 percent from the field but still managed to hold on for the 89-76 win.

After the game, McGraw challenged her squad to improve its



KAT ROBINSON | The Observer

Irish sophomore forward Taya Reimer shoots a free throw in Notre Dame's 89-76 win against Georgia Tech on Jan. 22.

effort, and the players responded with a 74-36 win over Clemson on Saturday. The Tigers shot 28.6 percent from the field and turned the ball over 19 times. The Irish also dominated the boards, out-rebounding Clemson, 46-26.

Sophomore forward Taya Reimer chipped in eight rebounds in the game, matching her output against Georgia Tech. Since her return to the starting lineup three

games ago, Reimer has displayed a newfound forceful attitude, McGraw said.

"She's got a different mindset," McGraw said. "I feel like she's been really aggressive, looking to score, and she's really attacking the backboard. I feel like she's rebounding like it is something that she really wants to do. I think she's trying to

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish prepare for Shamrock Invite

By BEN PADANILAM
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will host the annual Shamrock Invitational at Rolfs Aquatic Center this Friday and Saturday in its last invitational prior to the ACC championships.

The Irish (4-9) finished last in the pool behind both No. 15 Indiana and No. 24 Wisconsin at a double dual meet in Madison, Wisconsin, on Jan. 7. This weekend, however, the Irish will be at home, competing against the likes of No. 21 Iowa, Missouri State and Clemson.

"We love racing in our own pool," Irish interim coach Tim Welsh said. "This has been a good meet year after year, and we're glad we're home this weekend. It's going to be a grand event."

Heading into the event, Welsh said he believes the Shamrock Invitational provides the Irish with an opportunity to gain momentum before the ACC championships.

"The Shamrock Invitational is kind of our speciality, like our one big meet," sophomore Catherine Mulquin said. "It's a little bit of a step up from a dual meet, but it's not quite the level of conference. It is a good step up right before we go to conference, so it's a little bit of a practice for that meet because we suit up, but we're not fully tapered, so it's a good racing practice for us."

As the Irish approach the ACC championships, Welsh has noted several positives in the team's practices recently.

"[We've had] renewed energy, [which is] always a good sign," Welsh said. "We've had a lighter, more cheerful, happier spirit, also always a good thing. And [we've shown] some anticipation, excitement for the meets ahead."

In addition, the Irish have also begun to use their practices to focus on more detail-oriented work, with the hopes

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