

Students react to changes in housing

Division of Student Affairs recently revealed plans for renovations, relocations, new dorms

By **SELENA PONIO**
News Writer

Interhall sports, signature events and mascots are just a few of the factors that contribute to the spirit and unique housing system at Notre Dame. With 29 residence halls, each possessing its own history, the housing system is one of the University's most beloved traditions, and one that is about to change.

On Jan. 13, the Division of Student Affairs sent an email alerting undergraduates of a new chapter in the housing system's history. The email, signed by Vice President for Student Affairs Erin Hoffmann Harding, outlined dorm changes such as renovations, hall community

relocations, and the opening of two new residence halls this fall.

The email said the residential system is "a treasured and distinctive component of a Notre Dame education, and the University is dedicated to its continued vibrancy." It listed overcrowding and the intention of advancing renovations as the main reasons for the dorm changes.

As the first change as described by the email, the Pangborn Hall community and its rector, Sr. Mary Donnelly, will permanently move into the new women's hall on the east side of campus.

"This type of move will

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KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Walsh Hall, pictured here, will undergo extensive renovations during the fall semester of 2016 and the spring semester of 2017. During that time, Walsh residents will live in Pangborn Hall.

Info session details housing renovations



MEGAN VALLEY | The Observer

The Office of Student Affairs showcased pictures of what two new residential halls opening in the fall of 2016 will look like.

By **MEGAN VALLEY**
News Writer

An information session on new housing was held Tuesday night to elaborate on the email students received Jan. 13 detailing changes and renovations being made to housing on campus. The email said residents of Pangborn Hall will be moved to the new female dorm that's currently under construction while

Pangborn Hall will serve as a "swing dorm" for residents of halls under renovation during the school year. The new corresponding male dorm will be filled by application.

Heather Rakoczy Russell, associate vice president for residential life, said the addition of new dorms and renovation of existing ones is a continuation of the residential master plan that began

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Visiting actors to perform Shakespeare on campus

By **COURTNEY BECKER**
News Writer

Due to its status as the American base for Actors From the London Stage (AFTLS), Notre Dame is supplementing its Shakespeare's First Folio exhibit, in honor of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, with workshops and performances throughout the week from this spring's AFTLS

Company.

Scott Jackson, Executive director of Shakespeare at Notre Dame, said the company's typical schedule was readjusted this year to coincide with the University hosting the First Folio.

"This tour is exceptional because we've had one cast and one show tour for both the fall and the spring," Jackson said. "Usually it's a different

company, five actors and a different show for the fall and the spring. This year, we shifted that because of everything that's going on this month, all the Shakespeare-related activities."

Jackson said in addition to the First Folio exhibit at Hesburgh Library, Notre Dame will host two Shakespeare

see ACTORS **PAGE 3**

SMC French-themed dinner to honor Moreau

By **ALEX WINEGAR**
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's will host a French-themed dinner Wednesday to honor Fr. Basil Moreau, the founding father of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The sisters of the Holy Cross founded Saint Mary's in 1844.

Regina Wilson, director

of Campus Ministry, said Moreau is important because he emerged at a time in French society when there was a lot of turmoil and a breakdown of French society structures.

"[Moreau] wanted to provide a way for faithful people to address the issues of their time and be educated and be able to address those

as people of faith," Wilson said. "I think that is important because it sounds like the time that we're in. There's a lot of challenge to the ways that people have known our life as people in the United States, and some of those ways are being broken down and challenged."

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THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you could combine two animals into one, what would you name it?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Mary Lien

sophomore
Farley Hall

"Sloth and dolphin= slothin."



Helena Qu

sophomore
Lyons Hall

"Fainting goat and zebra= fagobra."



Kristen Whalen

senior
off campus

"Flamingo and whale= flaile."



Sebastian Lopez

freshman
O'Neill Hall

"Koala and lion= koalalyfe."



Michael Ogburn

senior
off campus

"Elephant and guinea pig= guineaphant."



Hannah Miller

senior
Howard Hall

"Fox and white tiger= white tinx."



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Each year, the Center for Social Concerns invites local service organizations to inform students of their agency's work. On Tuesday, more than 27 organizations, including Hannah & Friends, attended this year's Social Concerns Fair in Geddes Hall.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday

Islamophobia in Europe Panel

Hesburgh Center
4 p.m.-5 p.m.
Sponsored by the Kroc and Nanovic Institutes.

Men's Basketball vs. Virginia Tech

Pavilion Purcell
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
The Irish take on the Hokies.

Thursday

"Finding Vivian Maier"

Snite Museum of Art
5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Film about the street photographer.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Washington Hall
7:30 p.m.-9:55 p.m.
Performed by Actors From the London Stage.

Friday

Labor Café

Geddes Hall
5 p.m.-6 p.m.
Discussion related to work, inequality and social justice.

Camille A. Brown & Dancers

DeBartolo Performance Arts Center
7 p.m.-8 p.m.
Storytelling and dance.

Saturday

Men's Basketball vs. Boston College

Purcell Pavilion
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
The Irish take on the Eagles.

Film: "Room" (2015)

DeBartolo Performance Arts Center
6:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
Oscar nominee for "Best Picture"

Sunday

Women's Basketball vs. Virginia Tech

Purcell Pavilion
1 p.m.-3 p.m.
The Irish take on the Hokies.

La Misa en Espanol

Dillon Hall
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
All are welcome to attend this weekly Mass celebrated in Spanish.

Actors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

conferences, with which AFTLS will be involved.

"We've got the First Folio exhibit at the Hesburgh Library and we have two big conferences coming up," he said. "The Shakespeare in Prisons: in Practice Conference from the 25th to the 27th of January, followed directly by the 26th annual Shakespeare in Theatre Conference from the 27th to the 30th of January. AFTLS hangs around next week and they're attending these two conferences."

Jackson said this AFTLS cast is particularly equipped to participate in the Shakespeare in Prisons conference, which will "focus on practical approaches for working with non-traditional and incarcerated populations," according to the College of Arts and Letters events office, due to their time volunteering with him at the Westville Correctional Center last September.

"I actually teach an Acting Shakespeare course at the Westville Correctional Center, and every year I've tried to take AFTLS in for a week-long residency there at Westville," Jackson said. "These guys did that back in September, and so they're going to bring that experience to the Shakespeare in Prisons: in Practice Conference from the 25th through the 27th."

In addition to community

service work at Westville, AFTLS is also using the First Folio exhibit as an opportunity to carry out "the largest outreach effort on behalf of Shakespeare at Notre Dame in [its] history," Jackson said.

"This week, as opposed to teaching in University classrooms as they normally would do, [AFTLS] are leading 90-minute ... active encounters with the First Folio with over 1,000 area middle and high school students," he said. "Their part of it is a 45-minute workshop. We have about eight different classes a day, going from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Hesburgh Library, and then in the meantime, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is opening at Washington Hall."

Jackson said the South Bend community has also found ways to incorporate the AFTLS visit into its regularly scheduled events.

"The South Bend County Library system does a program called One Book, One Michiana each year, and this year they've chosen 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' since we're in the middle of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, his legacy, as well as the fact that we have these performances coming up," he said.

In addition to the shows at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week, Jackson said AFTLS will give one more performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on January 29th, which will

also be open to the public.

"From the 27th through the 30th, they'll actually be performing for the delegates at the Shakespeare in Theatre Association Conference, which is going to be about 170 artistic managing and education directors from Shakespeare Companies all around the globe," he said. "That show is open to the public as well, because Washington Hall has a lot more seats than 170."

Jackson said Notre Dame is blessed to be able to experience so many different tributes to Shakespeare during an infrequent and globally celebrated event.

"Notre Dame is in this very privileged position to be one of the most internationally visible launches of this global celebration of Shakespeare, 1616 to 2016, his 400th legacy," Jackson said. "As such, we have a whole host of complementary events going on right now."

"Shakespeare's kind of at the center of campus conversation right now, and that's because the Folio's here, we've got all of these student workshops going on, the conference is happening, we have collaborations with the opera and the symphony, all this stuff that folks should take advantage of because these celebrations only come around once every 50 years," Jackson said.

Contact Courtney Becker at checker3@nd.edu

Moreau

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Moreau was born shortly after the French Revolution in 1799, and Wilson said he experienced the demise of education and the diminishment of faith in the public education system through his experiences in the seminary and living post-French Revolution.

"He wanted to gather people around him to share in the work he wanted to do," she said. "His idea was to gather

"All people of Holy Cross can discover something about their heritage together ... and shape the legacy of that for the future."

Regina Wilson
director of Campus Ministry

women and men together to do the work of educating and sharing the faith. Eventually the sisters and brothers had to have separate constitutions, but his original vision was for shared ministry and shared life together. That was what eventually became the family of Holy Cross."

She said Moreau's vision for what it means to live a Christian life is unique and life-giving.

"[His vision] has helped a

lot of people go out into the world and live with meaning and to establish these great institutions we are a part of — hospitals, grade schools, nursing homes — and especially educational institutions," Wilson said.

Wilson said she attended a Holy Cross college but never heard of Moreau or talked about him until later in her career. She said the importance of Moreau emerged with his beatification in 2007.

"It's really exciting to be in this time because everyone is discovering it together. ... All people of Holy Cross can discover something about their heritage together and in a way dialogue and share what it means to them and shape the legacy of that for the future," Wilson said.

A Mass was held Sunday in the Holy Spirit Chapel in Le Mans Hall, Wilson said.

"His feast day is on Wednesday, and so for a feast to be transferred to a Sunday, because usually Sunday takes precedent, we have to have permission from the bishop of the Archdiocese," she said.

Sodexo will provide the French-themed meal Wednesday. The Saint Mary's community, including off-campus students, faculty and staff can celebrate Moreau together from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Contact Alex Winegar at awineg01@saintmarys.edu

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Thursday, January 21

Finding Vivian Maier

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(83 min, not rated)

Discover the mysterious and fascinating Vivian Maier, a nanny by profession, but a street photographer by passion.

Before the initial area screening, join photography curator David Acton in the *New to the Collection: Twentieth-Century Photographs* exhibition for a discussion of street photography.



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Reactions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

honor the personal relationships, traditions and strong sense of community that have been formed in Pangborn Hall and will continue to flourish among those same women in the new women's residence hall," Hoffmann Harding said in the email.

Pangborn Hall resident and sophomore Allegra Wallingford said she thought the move would be positive overall for her dorm's community.

"I absolutely think these changes affect Pangborn residents positively, though some people were upset about the new location since it's not close to South [Dining Hall]," Wallingford said. "I'm actually so excited to move to the new dorm. My hope is that the women of Pangborn transition well and become a larger, cohesive community with the other women who will live in the dorm."

Pangborn Hall resident and sophomore Caroline DeCorrevont said when the news broke, she initially witnessed an overwhelming excitement from the majority of the dorm's residents.

"I was excited about it from the start," DeCorrevont said.

"Mostly just because I know 20 years from now we can come back to campus and see this dorm that we were the first residents of."

While the Pangborn Hall community adjusts to a new building, the current Pangborn Hall building will be transformed into a "swing hall" for residents whose dorm building will be undergoing renovations. The first residents of this "swing hall" will be the Walsh community in the 2016-2017 school year and then Badin Hall in 2017-2018.

Walsh Hall rector Liz Detwiler said she was excited at the announcement, emphasizing the building's need for renovations.

"When I was told that Walsh would receive a massive renovation on a scale that exceeded anything done before on this campus my initial reaction was relief," Detwiler said in an email. "Walsh needs this renovation so badly, and I felt relieved that the University had heard my voice and the voices of Walsh women calling for building improvements."

Detwiler said that although she was excited Walsh would be restored to its original glory for future generations, the move would still be difficult due to the attachment the Walsh community had to the

building.

"It will take time for everyone to come to terms with their feelings about the temporary switch, but Walsh has always impressed me and I have every reason to believe we will rally and be even stronger," she said. "We are a small community and this is a big moment for us and the only way I know how to do it is together. It's how Walsh does everything: together."

According to the email sent to undergraduates, University leaders started a Residential Master Plan in 2006 and invested nearly 56 million dollars in renovations. Off-campus senior and former Walsh resident Erin Bishop said with a plan that was in the works for so many years, she wished she and the rest of the Walsh community would have received earlier notice.

"The email was the first time anyone found out about it," Bishop said. "While it would have been hard to hear in general, I think that coming from within the hall could have softened the blow slightly. I understand that the move is necessary for the future of Walsh, but I think the situation should have been handled much differently, especially if it's been in the works since 2006."

Megan Ball, resident

assistant and senior in Walsh Hall, said in an email that she is not worried about the move threatening Walsh's close-knit community.

"I think that it's a great opportunity for Walsh to be renovated and made ready for the future," Ball said. "Although the one-year 'stay-cation' won't be glamorous, it's a real opportunity for the Walsh community to demonstrate its tight bond and show that what makes our dorms here at Notre Dame is the people, not the building."

The second change for the upcoming school year will be the opening of the new men's hall community, which will be led by current Carroll Hall rector Fr. Matt Kuczora. He said when he initially found out about his own move, he was shocked because he was still new to Carroll and had not finished his first semester as their rector. He said he found out right before Christmas break that he would be the new rector for the new dorm.

"I'm really enjoying my time in Carroll, it's a great dorm with wonderful traditions ... and having to leave that after one year is going to be pretty tough," Kuczora said. "However, they're trying to build a community from the ground up and they needed a

pastoral presence ... to start something fresh."

Kuczora said becoming this new dorm's rector was in line with his duty to be a priest for those in need. He said he saw a situation with people in need of a rector and it caught his eye.

"I'm excited to deal with events in this new hall, get people excited, bring people together," Kuczora said. "I want to encourage guys to take leadership and start things themselves."

Kuczora, a 2005 graduate of the University, was dance commissioner of St. Edward's Hall during his sophomore year at Notre Dame and was instrumental to helping start the tradition of Yacht Dance. He said although it is unlikely that this new men's dorm will also have their formal on a boat, he is excited about the idea of starting new traditions.

"I'm looking for guys around campus who want to start something new and want to lay a foundation for a Notre Dame experience that can go on forever," Kuczora said. "This is going to be historical and I'm looking forward to meeting guys who can do this kind of thing."

Contact Selena Ponio at sponio@nd.edu

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Housing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in 2006.

“That residential master plan was largely aimed at what we call ‘decanting,’ or un-crowding the undergraduate residence halls,” Rakoczy Russell said. “A room, for instance, that’s a triple might become a double, doubles become singles and so reducing the configurations. Some of you probably live where study room have been converted into student rooms, so we, to the extent that we could, reversed that.”

Walsh and Badin Halls were the last halls on the list to be addressed by the 2006 plan, so they, along with Morrissey Hall, will be the first ones addressed with the new residential master plan.

“For the next chapter, we think of what will be the next residential spirit of Notre Dame,” Rakoczy Russell said. “What that master residential plan is focused on is some of the same, which is finishing decanting and equalizing heating and plumbing, but also something beyond that, something that’s special. That something is something we’ve come to call the ‘model program.’”

According to Rakoczy Russell, the model program consists of three categories: student rooms, common space and apartments for hall staff as well as priests and faculty in residence. These

“We have a deep and abiding love for the residential system here at Notre Dame, and we’re so grateful to be part of this campus. The motivation behind these changes is a reinvestment in the tradition we all hold so dear.”

Erin Hoffmann Harding
vice president of student affairs

categories form the foundation for residents to “gather to share life” and offer a chance to “build Christian community.”

The new dorms, currently under construction, are located east of Pasquerilla East Hall and Knott Hall.

“These halls are complementary, but asymmetrical

— we didn’t want the dorms to be carbon copies of each other,” Russell said. “We know our men and women’s dorms are different for many reasons, and we didn’t want them to be identical.”

Some of the differences Rakoczy Russell cited included full kitchens on every floor of the women’s dorm, with kitchenettes on floors two, three and four in the men’s dorm, space for food sales in the men’s basement and six-person rooms in the men’s dorm, as well as another apartment on the fourth floor for a priest or faculty member. Both dorms will have singles, doubles and quads.

Other features in the dorms, largely determined by student focus groups, include reading rooms on the first floor, a two-story open main lounge and unique rooms on the fourth floors, which Rakoczy Russell said was to encourage seniors to stay on campus. The chapels will also be highly visible from the outside.

“Our chapels are a central part of building Christian community in the residence halls,” Rakoczy Russell said. “By situating the chapel this way, this is externally expressed. When you walk past these halls, the chapel will be seen as its own entity.”



MEGAN VALLEY | The Observer

Associate Vice President for Residential Life Heather Rakoczy Russell spoke Tuesday night in DeBartolo Hall on planned residential changes.

Rakoczy Russell said applicants for the men’s dorm and the remaining beds in the women’s dorm would not be based on merit, but rather on balancing demographics, including “major, hometown, home country, interests, race, ethnicity and nationality.”

Applicants will also have the option to apply as a group as large as six — the application will allow for students to indicate whether they’re only interested in moving if the whole group is selected, under the assumption they must accept if the entire group is

chosen. Current Pangborn residents may also have the opportunity to “pull in” students from other dorms.

“We have a deep and abiding love for the residential system here at Notre Dame, and we’re so grateful to be part of this campus,” Vice President of Student Affairs Erin Hoffmann Harding said. “The motivation behind these changes is a reinvestment in the tradition we all hold so dear.”

Contact Megan Valley at mvalley@nd.edu

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

‘WHAT’S IN A NAME?’

When the name is First Folio, the answer is “almost everything,” as this nearly four-century-old publication represents the first collected edition of The Bard’s plays. Witness this rare piece of Shakespearean history at the Hesburgh Library as Notre Dame is privileged to be among the first stops on this national tour. Exhibit runs through Jan. 29 in the Rare Books and Special Collections gallery.

EXHIBIT HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
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INSIDE COLUMN

Strangers to friends

Sarah Olson
Photographer

Stranger danger. I am sure you have heard of it before. It was ingrained into many of our heads as children that strangers are bad news.

As someone unfamiliar approaches a student, she may speed up her pace. If a stranger gives a girl a compliment, she may respond shyly, if at all, and then walk away. But is that always the best response? While being cautious and aware of surroundings is important, strangers do not always have to be avoided. In fact, everyone's best friend was once a stranger. Strangers have the potential to turn into friends.

So, I have come up with some simple ways to turn strangers into friends with the help of some of my past experiences.

1) Place yourself in a new setting.

Take initiative. Try getting coffee and then sitting in a public place alone for a bit to strike up conversation with a stranger. Read those "Week in ND" emails and select one event to attend every week. Other easy ideas are using another dorm's workout room (bonus points for opposite gender), going to an interesting class for which you are not registered (bonus points for participating in discussion) and switching up your walking route to class (bonus points if it is freezing outside).

2) Embrace an openness to strangers.

Make an effort to smile every day at one person you do not know. Ask questions. For example, ask the waiter at a restaurant what he recommends. When checking out at the Huddle, ask the checkout person about her day. People are interesting creatures. There is always someone who knows something you do not or has an interesting story to share.

3) If you are really feeling up for the challenge...

Bold moves make an impact. Sit next to someone who is alone in the dining hall or restaurant. Try going up to someone reading a book you have read and chat about it. If you see someone without an umbrella and it is raining, consider sharing yours.

4) After all of this, tolerate rejection.

Okay, that might sound discouraging, but honestly, that is just life. Some people might not be open to new people while others may just be having an off day or be in a hurry. Try not to let rejection turn into disappointment or worse, a fear of strangers. Believe it or not, most people are kind and open, even welcoming, to a conversation.

Just remember, practice makes perfect. It is okay to let your guard down every once in awhile. You never know who will be your next best friend.

Contact Sarah Olson at solson3@nd.edu

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

Brenna Leahy
Guest Columnist

Dear fellow white people,

It is no longer acceptable to sit back and rely on minorities to educate us on systematic racism. It is our job to actively engage in movements to support people of color and work to end oppression. We can no longer sit back and stay safe; it is time to take risks. We must stop fighting to retain white privilege and start fighting for true equality for black lives.

The Catholic Church believes every individual has human dignity because they are created in the likeness of God. No matter the color of a human's skin, every human has dignity. Working to end racism and prejudice is not just a moral obligation, but an obligation fundamentally rooted in human dignity. Oppression is not something new and it is not something that can be destroyed by the oppressed alone. It can only be destroyed if the privileged oppressors can work to amplify the voices of the oppressed and end racial injustice.

In order to change systemic racism, we must first accept our own white privilege. White privilege is comprised of the benefits we experience based on our skin, benefits that go beyond what is commonly experienced by non-white people under the same social, political and economic circumstances. Once we accept our white privilege we can learn to see that we, collectively, are the oppressors. In order for us to have the determination and desire to shift the culture we must acknowledge the facts that 1) racism still exists and we do not live in a post-racial society, 2) white privilege exists and 3) every white individual, no matter their socioeconomic background, experiences white privilege. If we individually work to acknowledge these three things, we can begin the fight to end systematic racism from the ground up.

Yes, it is hard to admit that white privilege exists, admitting life was easier for you and that you were given resources and opportunities that would not necessarily have been given to a black peer. Yes, white privilege means your life has been easier due to systemic normalcies of the society we live in. The problem is that most white people equate admitting to white privilege to admitting they are racist. That is not the case and it is your duty as a white individual to seek out understanding of the distinction.

It is also our duty to be allies. It is hard to come to terms with the idea of better resources being granted to the privileged, however it can be easily described using the saying, "You have to pull yourself up by the bootstraps". If someone lacks boots, it is hard to pull themselves up by the straps. That is what it is like to be underprivileged. You lack the resources you need to succeed and the privileged take those resources for granted.

I must stress, one cannot just title themselves an ally. The power to name allies is not in the hands of the majority, but in the hands of the minority. This is because many people call themselves allies but do not actually help the movement of the group they claim to be an ally for. Being an ally is not just saying you agree that racism is wrong. An ally takes

actions to eliminate racism and help movements progress. As Opal Tometi said at the Black Lives Matter lecture on Monday, "[Allies] must have skin in the game."

We must use our white privilege to amplify the voices of the oppressed. We must use the platform of our skin to help incite change. True allies listen and understand that they do not get to dictate how marginalized groups react to their own marginalization. A key to being an ally is knowing that you do not face the same micro-aggressions, instances of racism and prejudice that the marginalized group you are trying to advocate for experiences.

As a white female, I experience few to no instances of racial injustice where I am the victim. However, I, as well as each of you, can work to empathize with the physical and emotional effects that oppression has on marginalized groups. Issues of racism and oppression will never be comfortable topics to discuss, but we must strive to enter into these uncomfortable conversations because dialogue is the only way to spark change.

There are critics who say the Black Lives Matter movement is wrong because God calls us to say that all lives matter. However, historically, black lives have not mattered as much as white lives, and therefore it is with intentionality that we say "Black Lives Matter." Frankly, all lives do not matter equally in a systematically racist society, and therefore the Black Lives Matter movement is necessary. We must understand that by saying "Black Lives Matter," we are not saying that white lives do not matter. We are saying white lives have always mattered and it is time for black lives to matter just as much as white lives do.

So, what exactly am I asking you to do? There are three simple things we must do to move forward: acknowledge our white privilege, empathize with the marginalized and oppressed and use our platform to promote social and institutional change.

It is not okay to stay in our comfort zones or be afraid that we will misspeak. Yes, as part of the majority this is an uncomfortable conversation to have, but nothing is ever going to change if no one enters that uncomfortable dialogue. We must know when to listen and when to join the fight. Not every space is meant for us to help and in certain cases, our involvement could hinder more than help.

I am asking you to start actively engaging in efforts to advocate for black lives. Black Americans often risk their lives to promote equality, so as a white person it is not okay to be "safe" with your words and actions. Take risks, piss off your misguided friends and stand up for what is right. This is not a comfortable fight and it will never become one. Do not just sit on the sidelines; actively engage in change.

Don't know where to start? Start by researching the Black Lives Matter movement and its fundamental principles. Start by educating yourself on white privilege and what an impact it has on systematic racism. Just start. Start by joining the movement.

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

Join the conversation.

Submit a Letter to the Editor.
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The cure for ignorance

Ray Ramirez

The Crooked Path

It's a new year already redolent with familiar challenges.

Saudi Arabia's execution of the Shiite cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr and 46 other prisoners on Jan. 2 started the year with familiar themes of violence and retribution. Saudi Arabia's official charges against Nimr included the catch-all offenses of "breaking allegiance with the ruler" and "inciting sectarian strife." Nimr strongly supported the rights of the Shiite minority in Saudi Arabia, but he did not advocate violence.

In contrast, the actions of Saudi Arabia's Sunni rulers undermined years of international efforts to reduce violence in the region, especially to combat the Islamic State and other terror groups. Recent negotiations headed by the U.S. and Russia, which included Saudi and Iranian representatives, appeared to be inching towards a framework for peace in Syria. After announcing the executions, the Saudis broke a precarious cease-fire in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia has a miserable human rights record, strictly applying its version of Islamic law to repress women and religious minorities. In tandem, Saudi Arabia's oil income has sharply declined (partly due to the country's insistence on maintaining high production levels), resulting in cuts to the profligate welfare spending Saudis have long enjoyed.

The rulers of the House of Saud have pragmatic reasons for the executions: The killings present an emotional sectarian crisis to deflect anger over the cutbacks and a graphic warning of the fate of

critics.

Sunnis, Shiites, Saudis, Iranians — what does this all mean to you me? Unless you have been actively following news from the region, I suppose not much, or else it means what pundits on cable news or Internet sources tell you it should mean.

But simply because a situation is complicated, as admittedly this one is, you should not leave it to others to sort out the moral and political implications to us as Americans and residents of this planet. The whole mess is far away and inhabited by a cast of countries and cultures with which we may never be familiar, but that is the very reason why we need to step outside of our parochial comfort zone and assess the situation with an educated approach.

A good way to achieve some measure of an informed overview is to take the position you are most comfortable with — the position where you just know you have all the facts, and then look at the matter from the opposite side to provide balance to your understanding. This process may be frustrating if you are seeking some sort of absolute truth, but it is necessary to place the facts in a realistic context and not just in an established narrative on one end or the other of the political spectrum.

The Nimr situation is a good place to start.

Here's one view: a long-time U.S. ally, Saudi Arabia, has taken action that may well obstruct our efforts at peace in the surrounding region. These executions followed abrupt legal actions and appear to be little more than efforts to remove political opposition to the Saudi regime. The U.S. should condemn such actions immediately as contrary to international established norms of justice and inconsistent with U.S. goals.

And another view: The animosity between Sunnis and Shiites is centuries old. The actions of the Saudi government can best be seen as an internal matter being exploited by religious factions to support instability and chaos, which is fertile breeding ground for radical Islamists. While Nimr may not have explicitly advocated violence, the Saudis should not be put in a position where they had to wait for deadly action in order to silence anti-government rhetoric.

You can readily find extensive support for each position in online news and commentary. In reviewing these sources, I urge you to focus on reporting and editorials that make you a little uneasy, a sure sign that you are stepping outside of your comfort zone. If you start to develop a concern that the more you examine a situation, the less you understand it, then you are well on the way to developing a healthy world view.

The world is a complicated place and it is hubris to smugly insist you always know who is right and who is wrong, who is good and who is bad, which is the moral nation and which is the Great Satan.

A religious leader is killed for the crime of sedition, accused of being a treasonous rabble-rouser who threatened the power of an intolerant government. The House of Saud called him Nimr; the Romans called him Jesus Christ. Uncomfortable? Excellent.

Ray Ramirez is an attorney practicing, yet never perfecting, law in Texas while waiting patiently for a MacArthur Genius Grant. You may contact him at patrayram@sbcglobal.net

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

2016 needs more feminism

Elizabeth Hascher

Dignified Response

The past year saw a great deal of progress for women. Notable employers like Netflix and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation enacted generous family leave policies, the military opened all combat roles for women and celebrities from Jennifer Lawrence to John Legend spoke out in favor of gender equality.

However, we also experienced failures and stagnation in the fight for equal rights. A woman in Tennessee was arrested after trying to end her pregnancy with a coat hanger. The very real wage gap persists. And despite the highest level ever of legislative representation by women in the U.S., we still received a global ranking of 72 when it comes to female representation in government.

While the progress achieved for women in the U.S. and around the world should be celebrated, it cannot be said that women are now on equal footing with men. Feminism in its simplest form — the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social and economic equality to men — should still be considered relevant, and perhaps more important than ever due to our inability to effect meaningful change in some fairly significant areas.

Sexual assault and rape continue to be committed against women at astounding rates. Nearly one in five women report experiencing rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives and the majority

say they were raped before the age of 25.

Employment and workplace discrimination against women in the workforce also persists. Studies have shown that both overt and unconscious biases against women are pervasive in many different fields from science to law.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie shared in her well-known TED talk, "We teach girls to shrink themselves, to make themselves smaller ... you can have ambition, but not too much." This is evident in the unconscious gender bias of many teachers, who instill harmful and disadvantageous learning patterns in young girls that follow them as they grow.

Some may say feminism is an exclusive movement and that a more all-encompassing equality movement is necessary. They are right in certain aspects. It is important that we also consider the intersectionality of other social issues such as race and class, and human rights for all people are in need of being secured.

We can be sure that feminism must work to be more inclusive for all women. Women of color, lesbians and other minority groups have found themselves isolated from mainstream feminism at times, and a movement that does not acknowledge the varying life experiences among women will not be entirely effective.

In addition, many of the greatest issues facing us in the U.S. and in the global community affect people regardless of gender. To speak of establishing equality in such vague terms, however, ignores the unique and specific problem of gender. Women are often disproportionately affected by issues such as

unemployment, poverty and violence in comparison to the rest of the population. We cannot leave half of the population behind as we work toward a better future.

A UN report on the status of women in the U.S. recently concluded that "the United States, which is a leading state in formulating international human rights standards, is allowing its women to lag behind international human rights standards."

We continue to treat our girls and women unequally and leave them without the legal protection of their rights that we expect other countries to establish. This is something that we should no longer hide from, but rather accept and let inform the way we treat others, make decisions and vote in this important election year.

The progress we have made so far is not enough and we still have a long way to go until women are on equal footing with men in society. 2016 holds great promise for progress toward gender equality, but it will take more than telling women they need to "lean in" and stop being so complacent. In this new year, we must be intentional about taking real, concrete steps to decrease unfair disparities between men and women.

We need more feminism.

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Streaming the Beatles

The entire Beatles discography was released to streaming services Spotify, Apple Music, Tidal, Amazon Prime and Google Play on Christmas Eve – a true Christmas miracle for those who pay monthly for subscriptions that couldn't buy "Can't Buy Me Love." Capitalizing on the release, Scene writers shared the Beatles tracks they're streaming – because it's (sort of) timely, and The Beatles have an exorbitant amount of great songs that deserve to be talked about even if they're "old news."

"She Said She Said" Adam Ramos

Picking a favorite Beatles song is really hard. With a litany of number one hits spanning multiple genres, cultural movements and influences, the Beatles just have far too many unique, brilliant tracks. I am convinced that anyone who has a definitive "favorite" Beatles song just hasn't heard enough – I can't even name my favorite Ringo song. So I went with a song I have recently taken a liking to, "She Said She Said," a psychedelic pop ditty with a booming Lennon echoing haunting lyrics behind a screeching chord progression and a complex drumbeat. The raunchy, psychedelic Revolver track was a product of an acid trip accompanied by Peter Fonda – producing an almost eerie ambience with lines like "I know what it's like to be dead / I know what it is to be sad." The striking contrast between the upbeat melody and lyrical distress is mesmerizing.



A DAY IN THE LIFE



"A Day in the Life" Erin McAuliffe

Having purchased a "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" vinyl from a vintage store during my time in London last semester, I felt allegiance to the album in selecting my favorite song. "A Day in the Life" features lyrics by both Lennon and McCartney that work to tell a story via news clips and the intricate mundanities of life: reflecting both the structure of my journal and all my attempted conversations. The song features an improvised atonal crescendo by a 40-piece orchestra that spirals, overwhelms and symbolically/cymbally crashes into the sound of an alarm clock. From which McCartney steers the song into a more light-hearted vein with memories of youth escapism via a reflection on Monday morning inspired day-dreams. As someone who stole the "Banned Book Month" display list from my high school library as an angst teen wanting to indulge in all that was deemed "succulently sensual," the fact that the BBC banned "A Day in the Life" might have further inspired this choice – a ban prompted by the supposed drug reference in the lyric "I'd love to turn you on" and its linkage to Timothy Leary's famed "tune in, turn on, drop out" motto. The end of the song is nothing short of ground-breaking: Lennon, McCartney, Starr and Evans all shared three different pianos to play an E-major chord simultaneously – the resulting tone resembles a MacBook starting up. Eerily so. I could not find any connections but I am guessing Steve Jobs might have been into this song as well. In another interesting facet of the song, a Jack-In-The-Box-esque recording of studio sounds repeats the band members saying "never can see any other way" at high frequency in lulling finality.

"I Will" Jack Riedy

Is there anything better than Paul McCartney singing about love? Paul was never the coolest Beatle. He was cute and sweet and above all else, earnest, which is one of the most uncool things to be. If he were a pair of sunglasses, he would be those wrap-around monstrosities only sold on TV. Paul has been so famous for so long that he's become easy to mock, easy to take for granted. "I Will," track 16 of the White Album, is a potent reminder of the incredible talent that made him ubiquitous in the first place. Nestled among some of their most experimental songs, "I Will" is one of the simplest in the Beatles' entire catalog. Three verses and a bridge, all finished in less than two minutes. Save for a short riff, the guitar chords are rudimentary, and the drums sound like someone idly tapping along on a table. Paul uses one of his catchiest melodies to pledge his undying love, offering up all his heart. It's not dramatic or serious; he makes it sound like a breeze. "I Will" is basic enough to make you think you could write it, and while you're at it you can offer yourself to someone forever. That's the genius of Paul McCartney: He takes something as complicated as love and makes it sound as easy as a campfire sing-along.

"Day Tripper"/"We Can Work It Out" Matt McMahon

The reasoning behind my choice in a rather futile attempt to confidently answer such a tough question is the sheer impressiveness of "Day Tripper" and "We Can Work It Out" being released A/B on a non-album single. There are definitely songs I enjoy more from The Beatles: I've tweeted on occasion that "Rocky Raccoon" is my favorite Beatles' song (and where would we be without accountability for what we say on the Internet), and I'd be able to break down at a molecular level why Ringo's beat shift halfway through "Ticket to Ride" or the feedback that opens "I Feel Fine" or the heavy inhaling that dominates "Girl" make them top contenders. Then there's the "correct" choice of "A Day in the Life" because it is the best song off their best album. But in considering what made The Beatles so unique, and why they've lasted as long as they have, "Day Tripper" and "We Can Work It Out" lie at the heart of the explanation. The Beatles output was so dense in their mere seven years, they went through a number of phases that would take another group decades to explore, and each individual phase has inspired countless artists since. The first song featured on their debut album and the final song on their last album could equally be their best song, for reasons both similar and dissimilar. That two songs of the quality and popularity of "Day Tripper" and its arguably superior B-Side "We Can Work It Out" could affordably and justly be relegated to non-album status is confounding to me, making them absolutely essential, and also one of my favorite bar trivia tidbits.



"Happiness Is a Warm Gun" Kelly McGarry

Though I appreciate the catchy, relatable tunes written by McCartney, I pretty consistently tend toward Lennon's songs, but "Happiness is a Warm Gun" is not my favorite Beatles song. In fact, on some days it doesn't even make top five. It's my favorite today because it's the ultimate expression the iconic White album, combining a gentle ballad style comparable to "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" with the soulful vocals like in "Why Don't We Do It in the Road," threaded with obscure lyrics and punctuated with electric guitar that achieves a level of hard rock that's relatively rare in the Beatles' discography. Throughout all albums, there are songs that tell a better story ("Norwegian Wood"), some that are more danceable ("I Saw Her Standing There") and some more touching ("Something"), but "Happiness is a Warm Gun" offers just the right composite. It doesn't hurt my esteem that Father John Misty has been known to cover it.



"Yesterday" Jimmy Kemper

"Yesterday" is the most covered pop song in history, and rightfully so. This saddest of sad pop songs is timeless and universal in a way that few songs ever have been. Its message of lost love and yearning for yesterday transcends generations and cultures, while its clean, minimalistic guitar arrangements give "Yesterday" an air of importance in the middle of "Help!" an album filled with loud, complex and uptempo tracks such as "Another Girl," "Dizzy Miss Lizzy" and the eponymous "Help!" Succinct, sharp and simple, "Yesterday" is the gold standard to which every pop song should be held.



SOUTH BEND'S ADIDAS QUEEN: DEV09



By **ERIN MCAULIFFE**
Scene Editor

"I'll take the attention ... and I'll take it alone," South Bend native Devin Murphy, dev09, croons as she struts by herself onto the streets and the music scene in a beautifully produced music video for her debut single "You Made Me."

Although she moved to Los Angeles last week, Murphy's South Bend roots are overarching in the video. She's featured all alone — perhaps to reflect the suffocation of the creative isolated in suburbia — in places like FunTan, USA Skate Center and the South Bend mural overpass.

She spits curse words on top of polka-dot sheets in her bedroom, her Los Angeles move foreshadowed by lyrics "2000 miles away because I'm relevant" and the obvious disconnect between her surroundings and a personality too big to be contained by pink walls. Sparks literally fly throughout the video as the 18 year-old singer emerges as a confident force to be reckoned with.

Her musical influences show an eclectic taste that contributes to her smoothly hard-hitting sound: Amy Winehouse, Bob Marley, ASAP Yams, Kurt Cobain, Frank Sinatra and The Gypsy Kings.

"I never was even comfortable singing in front of people until freshman year in high school when someone put up a video of me singing 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' on Facebook," Murphy said in a phone interview back in December. "The video got 50 likes and it all started from there. I would post awful videos on YouTube where I would turn on the video on my phone and didn't want to be seen. The videos were black and you couldn't even hear what I was saying. ... But people were super supportive, so I learned more about producing and got a better mic."

She started listening to rap her sophomore year at Stanley Clark high school. Perhaps you heard Murphy in her early days covering rap songs at South Bend music venue The Pool (RIP). Although she had always sung and written, exposure to the genre added a new layer to her work.

"I got really got into hip-hop and learned a lot melodically from it," Murphy said. "I would take rap covers and add my own melody — a challenge with lyrics. I got more confident putting my own music out there thanks to positive responses and a legit producer who could do better than my own laptop."

That producer was Stelios Phili, who also produces for

ASAP Ferg. "Legit" is no over-statement. And that well-produced video was no thrown-together product.

"Brett Haley (director of 2015 film 'I'll See You In My Dreams') saw 'You Made Me' on Stereogum. Then he literally slid into my Instagram DMs and offered to shoot a music video for it."

Murphy's current successes have arisen from opportunities founded in social media — her stage name dev09 even stems from the Internet.

"I have this really vivid memory from when I was nine. I was standing in my backyard and I decided that being nine was going to be the best time of my life. After that I put '09' on all my usernames, from Club Penguin to Twitter. People called me my @ name in person, so I decided dev09 would be super true to myself in many ways. Or short answer: it's millennial [af]."

However, the reactive, narcissistic nature of some platforms have her struggling to find a balance in how she uses and promotes it.

"I think about this all the time. It's very conflicting for me because everything that I've been able to accomplish musically has been through the Internet and social media. I grew up with Club Penguin — a part of me has always been used to being on the Internet. I'm comfortable sharing stuff."

Yet, "You Made Me" features lyrics like "Post it how you want / You love to front" to address the fake nature of some internet validation. People literally filter their lives, only posting pictures of good times in perpetuity. The idea of filtering out the bad and inciting jealousy has Murphy sympathetic for today's high schoolers.

"They're being shallow but you have to feel bad. To get all validation online must suck. Part of me feels like I need to pull back, but so much of my career was founded upon social media — I'm searching for a balance."

It is a balance many artists struggle with today: Beyoncé doesn't speak to the media enough, Kanye talks about himself too much and Taylor Swift is forging a girl squad through posed Instagrams. Younger artists like Vic Mensa and Grimes are called out for having no filter when they are the ones truly connecting with fans by using social media in accessible ways.

"Angel Haze is an artist who is perfectly real on twitter, while Iggy Azalea and Azealia Banks are good examples of how not to use social media."

Murphy is one of those artists using social platforms for promotion while staying true to herself. She is equally open with her emotions in her lyrics, addressing topics other artists shy away from.

"I talk about actual stuff. I have depression and not a lot of musicians openly talk about that," Murphy said. In retrospect, she references her single as "a fight song — to bump it felt like the s--t."

As there is a consistent hype/shame dialogue on the state of streaming, I continued on the millennial path from social media to music consumption in our conversation: Where is it heading? Where does Murphy want it to go?

"I personally will keep using Spotify and Soundcloud to promote myself — that really works for me," she responded. "You have to use those things, but at the end of the day they make it harder for artists. Adele and Taylor Swift's moves did help out by furthering the dialogue."

Some fans get hyped about vinyl releases in a revival that has grown alongside music streaming. Nowadays, there is a balance to strike between how to support artists and how you like to consume music.

Dev09's sound is Little Simz's vigorous cadence (and cursing) plus Lorde's dark, stand-out vocals and persona plus Marian Hill's smooth, electronic sound pushed. She aims to write lyrics as honestly as her idol Amy Winehouse.

As to what we can expect from Murphy in the future, she is currently working on a five song EP.

"Timing wise, we're going to wait for the reaction with the music video before planning how to roll things out," Murphy said. "I think I will drop two more songs individually and spaced out, and then the second two songs will drop with the EP."

Contact Erin McAuliffe at emcaulif@nd.edu

DEV'S 2015 ALBUM PICKS

ASAP Rocky: AT.LONG.LAST.A\$AP
Travi\$ Scott: Rodeo
The Weeknd: Beauty Behind The Madness
Vince Staples: Summertime '06

DEV'S SOUTH BEND HANGOUTS

Chicory Cafe
Fiddler's Hearth

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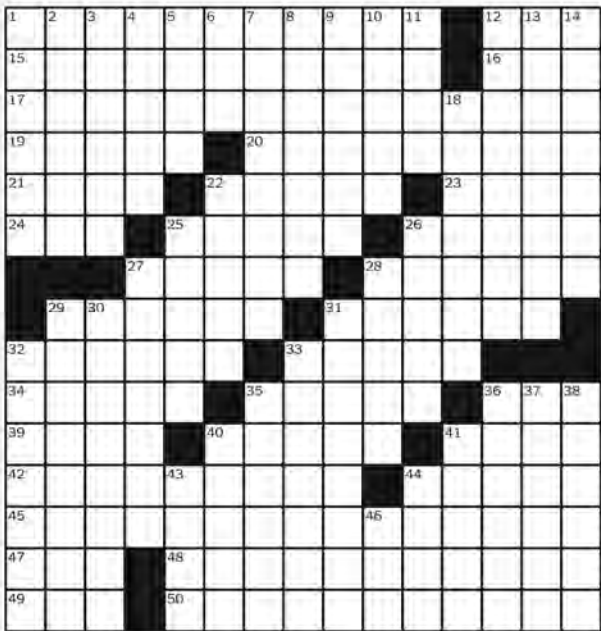
Little Simz
Lorde
Marian Hill

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
1 Entree meant to be eaten with the fingers, according to its creator
12 "People's Choice Awards" airer
15 Key chain
16 Millerite, e.g.
17 In flight?
19 Late critic featured on the Hollywood Walk of Fame
20 Position of prominence
21 Vatican money, once
22 Sunbathes, informally
23 So-called "Playwright of the Midwest"
24 Out of spirits
25 Marlon Brando's role in "Superman"
26 Leave off
27 W.W. II pistol
- 28 Buildings with many owners
29 Post office purchase
31 Big 1970s-'80s band with a geographical name
32 Art of television
33 Innocents
34 Playing costs
35 Dear
36 What Mad magazine lacked from 1957 to 2001
39 Part of many a vegan's diet
40 Country singers?
41 Short distance
42 Goes beyond the pail?
44 Element #100 is named for him
45 It's often freely given
47 Surveillance cam location
- DOWN**
1 Dry mounts?
2 Locale for many 1-Down
3 St. Petersburg's College
4 Middle-earth region, with "the"
5 "___ Nobody's Business" (old blues standard)
6 Shoulder-fired weapon, for short
7 Salt
8 Willard Scott's successor on "Today"
9 Symbol of Apollo
10 Dancer de Mille
11 Remove
12 Seeker of the Seven Cities of Gold
13 Induces
14 Victorian-era furnishings
18 Shows the ropes
22 Scorecard blemish
25 Pulitzer-winning cartoonist Feiffer
26 Bill who received a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002
- 48 Athlete who started a clothing company in 1933
49 "Fantastic Mr. Fox" director Anderson
50 Hiking guide

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	D	E	S		A	T	T	A	C	H		A	S	H
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E	S	S		E	L	L	E	R	Y		S	H	A	D



- PUZZLE BY PATRICK BERRY
- 27 Suspect groups
28 Turns up
29 Celebrated matador during Franco's reign
30 Painting and ballet
31 Be an angel?
32 Tool
- 33 Title maiden in a Heinrich Heine poem
35 Home of the Karl Marx Theater
36 Endangered
37 Lower
38 Brent of "Star Trek: T.N.G."
40 Company boycotter?
41 Don Quixote, e.g.
43 Kind
44 Payroll tax, for short
46 Oil in a can

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JUST ADD WATER | ERIC CARLSON & JOHN RODDY



FLING BY SPRING | RILEY McCURRIE



The picture of college moderation.

SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4

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SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE 5/16/13

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

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

HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Handle each situation that arises this year with confidence. A direct approach will help you source out your best options and prepare you to make critical alterations that will enable you to show how efficient and responsible you can be. Don't hide or step back when taking action will lead to opportunity and new adventures. Your numbers are 7, 13, 20, 28, 32, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't feel the need to buy favors, attention or friendship. Overdoing it will be exactly what holds you back. Concentrate on being unique, creative and following your heart. Being true to who you are and those you love is all that's required. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional matters will escalate quickly if you aren't careful. Choose your words carefully and authorize only what you feel is necessary and within your capabilities. The process of eliminating what isn't a top priority will help you focus on what's important. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take action and be thorough. False information will weigh heavily on the results you get. Take the time to find out what you need to know before you make a decision that can have a lasting effect. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Check out the pros and cons of a situation. You can offer help, but don't make a donation you cannot afford. Your time and effort will be what counts. Consistency will help you get things done and give you the recognition you deserve. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Uncertainties regarding work or status will arise. Concentrate on different ways you can use your expertise. Defend your position, values and plans. Concentrate on getting as much done as possible without jeopardizing your long-term goals. Keep the peace. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel, learning and interacting with people from different backgrounds will help you advance. Use your intelligence and your imagination and you will attract both personal and professional interest. Love is in the stars and romance will improve your life. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Money matters will be a concern. Creative accounting will help you gain financial stability. Don't let anyone bully you into spending on something you don't need. A change in the way you feel about someone will alter the way you live. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Relationships should take top priority. Whether it is a business or personal partner, you are best to nurture what you have by suggesting innovative plans to pull you closer together and head in the same direction. Self-improvement will boost your confidence. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful how you handle your personal life and your relationships. Problems will occur if you aren't honest about what you really want. Avoiding issues will only add to your discontentment. Make changes that suit your needs and help you achieve your goals. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Home improvement projects will also help you improve your domestic situation. Stick close to home and avoid being around unpredictable people. Use caution if you get involved in physical activities that stretch your abilities. Arguments are apparent. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your time and effort into raising your income. Whether you pick up a second job or apply for a position worth more monetarily, it is a good time for you to focus on improving your standard of living. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Reconnect with old friends. Sharing your experiences and collaborating to reach a common goal will be beneficial and result in strong relationships that can lead to ongoing favors. Love is highlighted and rekindling an important relationship will lead to benefits. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are dramatic, sensitive and stubborn. You are proactive, reliable and heroic.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

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Print your answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

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Answer: The "garden" was always in "danger" because it was — AN ANAGRAM

WORK AREA



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SPORTS AUTHORITY

New coaches inspire hope

Marek Mazurek
Sports Writer

Sunday is championship Sunday in the NFL, that time of the year when teams with good quarterbacks get to gloat over those who don't.

However, as fans watch Tom Brady best Peyton Manning yet again (it's not going to be close folks), the playoffs mark an important time of the year for the teams that didn't make the cut. The quest for these misfit teams: find a head coach to lead them out of obscurity.

Seven teams fired their coaches this offseason (yes Giants fans, Tom Coughlin was fired, there's no such thing as a mutual break-up): the Giants, Eagles, 49ers, Dolphins, Browns, Titans and Buccaneers. Some of these teams hired a new coach who will take them to the promised land, some did not.

The teams that improved at the head coaching position include the Eagles, 49ers and the Browns.

Unfortunately for Philadelphia fans, the Chip Kelly experiment did not work out. Kelly was given complete control of the team and despite one NFC East division title, he failed to win consistently. Kelly was brash, unconventional and had problems controlling his locker room. The Eagles new coach, former Kansas City offensive coordinator Doug Pederson, sits at the opposite end of the spectrum, spending the last three seasons as the coordinator of the NFL's safest offense. Such a shift in style is needed in the City of Brotherly Love.

Kelly will take over head coaching duties in San Francisco. The 49ers, who were foolish to push Jim Harbaugh away, admitted defeat after just one year of "cheerleader" coach Jim Tomsula. Kelly will hopefully learn from his stint in Philadelphia and if there is a coach who can fix Colin Kaepernick, it's Kelly.

The last team that succeeded in their head coach search is the the Cleveland Browns. To be fair, the Browns could hardly get worse than Mike Pettine who became the latest, and hopefully last, casualty of Johnny Manziel. The Browns hired former Cincinnati offensive coordinator Hue Jackson as their new coach and honestly, things can only get better for the Browns. The addition of Paul DePodesta, a baseball sabermetrics guru, as Chief Strategy Officer is also one of the most interesting moves in recent offseason history.

Next up are the teams whose new head coaching hires have a lot to prove but aren't failures ... yet.

First up, the Miami Dolphins. The Dolphins made arguably the

sexiest hire by nabbing "quarterback whisperer" Adam Gase. Gase, who spent three seasons as the offensive coordinator of the explosive Denver Broncos offense before a one-season stint with the Chicago Bears where he coached Jay Cutler to career marks. The only big knock is that Gase is young, and at 37, will be one of the youngest head coaches in the league.

However, it is worth noting that though Gase has been in high demand as a head coach, both the 49ers and the Broncos passed on hiring him last off-season. Additionally, his impressive numbers in Denver are most likely inflated from having Peyton Manning at quarterback. And though Cutler had a great year under Gase, the Bears offense as a whole was 23rd in the league in points per game and 21st in yards. Gase's first priority will be to make Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill into a franchise player, but even if he does, it may not translate into wins.

The Giants are in the same boat as the Dolphins. The Giants parted ways with longtime head coach Tom Coughlin and promoted offensive coordinator Ben McAdoo to fill the job. McAdoo knows the offense and works well with Eli Manning, but so did Coughlin and he failed to win a very easy NFC East for five consecutive seasons. The Giants needed a more dynamic hire.

Lastly, we have the teams with last year's first- and second-overall picks, who are also the ones who made the worst head coaching decisions this offseason. The Titans fired head coach Ken Whisenhunt seven games into last season and replaced him with Mike Mularkey, who went 2-7 the rest of the season. Simply put, you have to win more than two games with the No. 2 overall pick at quarterback. Color me unimpressed.

Then there's Tampa Bay, who went 6-10 last year. Not a great record, but considering they went 2-14 the year before, it's a big improvement. Yet despite this quantifiable uptick, the team fired head coach Lovie Smith and promoted offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter to Smith's job. To me, this is the biggest mistake of the offseason. Smith is the man who led the Bucs' turnaround and he was the perfect coach to keep quarterback Jameis Winston out of trouble off the field. Smith has a proven track record of success and I predict Tampa Bay will regret this decision in the years to come.

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu

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

NBA | BUCKS 91, HEAT 79

Bucks smother Heat with tough defense in win

Associated Press

MIAMI — Perhaps Dwyane Wade taught Khris Middleton too well last summer.

Middleton scored 22 points, Greg Monroe added 15 points and 10 rebounds and the Milwaukee Bucks clamped down defensively on Wade and short-handed Miami throughout, beating the Heat 91-79 on Tuesday night.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 14 points for Milwaukee, which has now beaten Miami five consecutive times.

Hassan Whiteside scored 23 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for Miami, which has dropped two straight and trailed by at least 22 in each of those games. Chris Bosh scored 23 and Luol Deng added 11 for the Heat.

The Heat were without four injured players, including

point guards Goran Dragic and Beno Udrih. The offense struggled mightily without them, as Miami shot a season-low 36.5 percent.

And Wade, playing through shoulder pain, finished with only two points on 1-for-6 shooting in 21 minutes. It was only the third time in Wade's 973-game career, including playoffs, that he logged at least 20 minutes and didn't score more than two points.

It's the first time Miami has been held under 80 points in two straight games since the end of the 2011-12 regular season, when the Heat shut most players down and got into playoff mode.

Wade and Middleton crossed paths over the summer, introduced by mutual friends who suggested the Milwaukee guard should reach out to the three-time NBA champion for some

guidance. Middleton called, Wade agreed, they worked out together with trainer Stan Remy and Wade came away impressed.

"Talking to him, and him letting me know how he approaches the game and what he's thinking in certain situations, it's helping me out tremendously," Middleton said.

The Heat were also without Josh McRoberts and Chris Andersen, both sidelined by knee problems with no returns in sight. Milwaukee was again without O.J. Mayo (left hamstring) and Greivis Vasquez (right ankle), not to mention coach Jason Kidd (hip surgery).

Miami's last lead was 32-31 midway through the second quarter. Milwaukee closed the half on an 18-7 run, led 49-39 at the break and then outscored Miami 26-18 in the third to pull away.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL | VIRGINIA 69, CLEMSON 62

Virginia fends off Clemson's comeback attempt

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Malcolm Brogdon scored 20 points and Anthony Gill had two big baskets late as No. 13 Virginia squandered most of a 13-point lead and then held on to beat Clemson 69-62 on Tuesday night.

The Cavaliers (14-4, 3-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 52-39 after a 17-4 run with 9 minutes left, then saw the Tigers close within 55-53 with about 3 1/2 minutes remaining. But Gill scored on a put-back after a miss by Brogdon, then took a feed from Brogdon moments later for a fast-break dunk that built the margin

back up to 59-53.

The Tigers (12-7, 5-2), seeking their sixth consecutive victory and third straight over a ranked team, got back within 62-59 on a 3-pointer by Jordan Roper and three free throws by Jaron Blossomgame with 1:36 to play, but Brogdon made two free throws with 30.7 seconds for the Cavaliers.

Gill finished with 12 points despite foul trouble for Virginia while Devon Hall had 11 and Isaiah Wilkins 10.

Blossomgame made four 3-pointers and scored 23 for the Tigers and Landry Nnoko added 15

The game was tied at 35

until Brogdon scored on a driving bank shot with 16 minutes to play. The shot sparked a 17-4 run that gave Virginia a 52-39 lead and twice brought the crowd at John Paul Jones Arena to its feet. The Cavaliers had lost three of their last four.

Devon Hall scored five points in the burst and Brogdon, Mike Tobey and Wilkins each had four, with the crowd especially appreciating a one-handed dunk by Tobey off a slick feed from Wilkins that pushed the lead to 50-39.

Virginia outscored Clemson 13-8 over the last 7 minutes of the first half and led 31-28.

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EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish Junior Monica Robinson returns the ball during her 6-2, 5-7, 10-4 win over Western Michigan's Melina Lyubomirova on Wednesday.

W Tennis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Closs and junior Jane Fennelly had a strong showing at No. 3 doubles, capturing a 6-4 win. Closs was triumphant in her No. 4 singles match as well, grinding her way to a 7-6, 6-3 win.

Senior Julie Vrabel completed the 7-0 sweep for the Irish at No. 6 singles, as she was victorious 6-3, 6-2.

This is the second consecutive year the Irish have defeated Western Michigan (2-1) to kick off the new year. To start

the 2015 spring season, the Irish downed the Broncos, 6-1.

Next on the schedule, the Irish will compete in the ITA Kickoff Weekend tournament this coming weekend. The team will travel southwest to Stillwater, Oklahoma, where it is slated to take on undefeated and No. 12-ranked Oklahoma State. Following the match with the Cowboys, the Irish will remain in Stillwater and take on either No. 26 Northwestern or No. 27 Arizona State on Sunday.

Contact Alex Ellyin at aellyin@nd.edu

NBA | PELICANS 114, TIMBERWOLVES 99

Davis, Pelicans surge back from 17-point deficit

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis and the New Orleans Pelicans found a way to win convincingly despite an early 17-point hole.

Now they'll have another substantial hurdle to overcome at a crucial juncture of the season: the loss of guard Eric Gordon to a fractured ring finger on his shooting hand.

Davis scored 35 points and the Pelicans used a dominant second half to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 114-99 on Tuesday night for New Orleans' third victory in four games. But Davis wasn't about to absolve his team for the way it started the game.

"That first half was kind of terrible," Davis said. "They were outworking us and playing harder than us and we just wanted to change that in the second half, so we came out with a lot of energy."

"We kind of played with desperation," Davis added, "but we can't wait until we're down to start playing with desperation."

Gordon scored 11 points, including two 3-pointers, before leaving late in the third quarter. It isn't clear yet when his right ring finger will heal enough for him to play again, but the Pelicans sound certain that he'll be missed. Gordon has averaged about 15 points this season, hitting 101 3-pointers.

"He brings a lot to the table," Davis said. "He's shooting the ball well and it's going to be tough without him, but we've still got to find a way to win."

Jrue Holiday, who could wind up back in the starting lineup because of Gordon's injury, scored 19 points. Tyreke Evans added 13 for the Pelicans, now four games out of the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference with their next six games at home.

Andrew Wiggins scored 21 points and Karl-Anthony Towns added 20 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, which has lost 10 of 11. Ricky Rubio added 15 points, but the Timberwolves were outscored 63-39 in the second half.

Minnesota coach Sam Mitchell said the problem for his team in the second half was a lack of ball-movement as players increasingly looked to score instead of buckling down defensively or helping create open shots for teammates. Rubio agreed.

"We started to get selfish," Rubio said. "When we play hard on defense and can run, that is our style of game."

PIVOTAL PERIOD

New Orleans surged to its first lead with a 14-2, third-quarter run that began with a 3 by former Minnesota player Dante Cunningham and ended with Gordon's 3,

making it 65-64.

The Pelicans wound up outscoring the Wolves 31-15 in the third quarter, which ended with the Pelicans scoring four points inside the last 3 seconds — first with Holiday hitting a 15-foot pull-up, then with Cunningham stealing Nemanja Bjelica's inbound pass and sprinting in for a layup just before the horn sounded.

Minnesota's Gorgui Deng, standing under the hoop, caught the ball as it came through the net and disgustedly slammed it off the court.

"That was a game-changing momentum-builder for us," Davis said. "It got all of us going and got us off the bench and got us hyped going into the fourth quarter."

Cunningham hit three 3-pointers and finished with 11 points in his 12th start this season.

BURNING OUT

The Timberwolves looked their best in the opening quarter, racing to their largest lead when Bjelica's tip-in of Zach LaVine's miss made it 38-21.

Towns had nine points and seven rebounds before the period ended.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Ryan Anderson was called for a foul late in the first half despite appearing to take the worst of a collision with Kevin Garnett away from the ball.

NBA | PACERS 97, SUNS 94

Pacers end three-game losing streak

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Indiana Pacers almost blew a 20-point second-half lead Tuesday night. In the end, the deficit was too large for struggling and short-handed Phoenix to close.

Monta Ellis scored 20 points, Paul George had 19 and the Pacers beat the Suns 97-94 to end a three-game losing streak.

George added eight rebounds and Myles Turner scored 15 points for Indiana.

"This was all about us getting a win and getting back to playing winning basketball," George said. "It was poor closing this game out. We've got to do a better job, but it was a good start to getting back to playing some defense."

Devin Booker had a career-high 32 points for the Suns, who lost for the 14th time in 15 games and fifth in a row. Brandon Knight added 21 points.

The Suns fought back to trail 95-92 with 3.8 seconds left after an off-balance 3-pointer by Knight, but they didn't have enough time to complete the comeback.

"We made some shots to get a comfortable lead to when they make their run, we were able to still hold them off because we established that in the beginning," Ellis said.

Joe Young's 3 made it 71-51 with 3:08 left in the third quarter, part of the rookie's 11 points.

The Suns came back with 10 straight points, and a high-flying dunk by Archie Goodwin with 0.9 seconds

left made it 71-61.

The Suns made only 34.6 percent of their shots. They went 0 for 7 with four turnovers to start the second quarter and went 7:32 without a point between the first and second quarters. That stretch allowed the Pacers to build a 15-point lead, 32-17, after Young hit a long jumper at the 7:21 mark.

Phoenix committed 22 turnovers for the game.

Booker, a rookie out of Kentucky, became the third-youngest player in NBA history at age 19 years and 81 days to record a 30-point game. LeBron James and Kevin Durant are the only two players who were younger than Booker to score 30 in a game, and Booker achieved the highest point total in a game for a rookie in the NBA

this season.

"I'm getting a lot of time out there and getting that opportunity so I'm learning the game every day," Booker said.

PLAYERS DOWN

The Pacers lost center Ian Mahinmi to a sprained left ankle with 52.9 seconds left in the first half. Mahinmi was going for a loose ball and came down on the back of Ellis, landing awkwardly on his own left leg and crashing to the floor. Mahinmi missed the Pacers' game at Denver on Sunday with a sore left heel.

Mahinmi did not play in the second half and was replaced by Turner.

Suns starter Markieff Morris strained his right shoulder on a dunk attempt

before halftime and did not play in the second half. He was replaced by Mirza Teletovic, but Teletovic twisted an ankle in the third quarter and did not return.

That gave extended minutes to Len and P.J. Tucker, who had to play power forward, and also some time for seldom-used Sonny Weems.

"It is what it is, it's a part of the league," Tucker said. "There's no excuse. We've got five guys that can play, we've got to out and play together and play hard."

TIP-INS

PACERS: F George Hill missed his second straight game for personal reasons. ... G Rodney Stuckey missed his fourth straight game due to a sprained right ankle and bone bruise.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles host Britons in upcoming homestand



Senior guard Maddie Kohler dribbles the ball on offense during the Belles' 70-58 loss to Trine on Jan. 28 at Angela Athletic Facility.

By R.J. STEMPAK
Sports Writer

Coming off a loss at Kalamazoo a week ago, Saint Mary's will begin a three-game home stretch Wednesday night when it hosts Albion at Angela Athletic Facility.

The Britons (5-10, 2-5 MIAA), coming off a road win at Adrian, average more than 62 points per game in conference play.

The Belles (1-15, 1-6) will have their hands full keeping Briton senior captain Darian Payne off the glass and scoresheet — the forward leads Albion in both points (12.9) and rebounds (11.5) per game. Saint Mary's senior captain and forward

Krista Knapke, who averages 7.4 rebounds per game, will likely lead this effort. Sophomore forward Gabby Diamond said the team needs to have a strong rebounding night to top the Britons.

"We need to be stronger under the boards and show that for a team with a good amount of height, we are a threat under the basket and cannot let anyone out rebound us," Diamond said.

If previous games are any indication, this should be a close battle on the boards for Saint Mary's and Albion, who average 38 and 41 rebounds as a team respectively. Moving the ball on offense is another area of similarity for these two MIAA teams,

with both Saint Mary's and Albion averaging 12.5 assists per game. Both teams, however, turn the ball over nearly 20 times per game, and limiting turnovers could be a key for either team to win the game.

The Belles will hope to keep their offense flowing, as they have scored an average of 59 points in their last two contests, five points above their season average. Diamond said she believes the offense has not been the cause of their slump, and a focus on the other side of the court will lead to victory on Wednesday.

"I think that for us to be successful against Albion it's important that we keep a strong focus on our defense," Diamond said. "In our recent games we have not had trouble getting our shots in, but our communication on defense, or lack thereof, has resulted in more opportunities for our opponents than we should allow them."

Defensive communication is key in limiting opponent field goal percentage, an area where the Belles can improve, as they have been allowing opponents to shoot a high 43 percent mark on the season; Albion is shooting 37 percent from the field this year.

The Belles look to turn their conference season around Wednesday at Angela Athletic Facility, with tipoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Contact R.J. Stempak at rstempak@nd.edu

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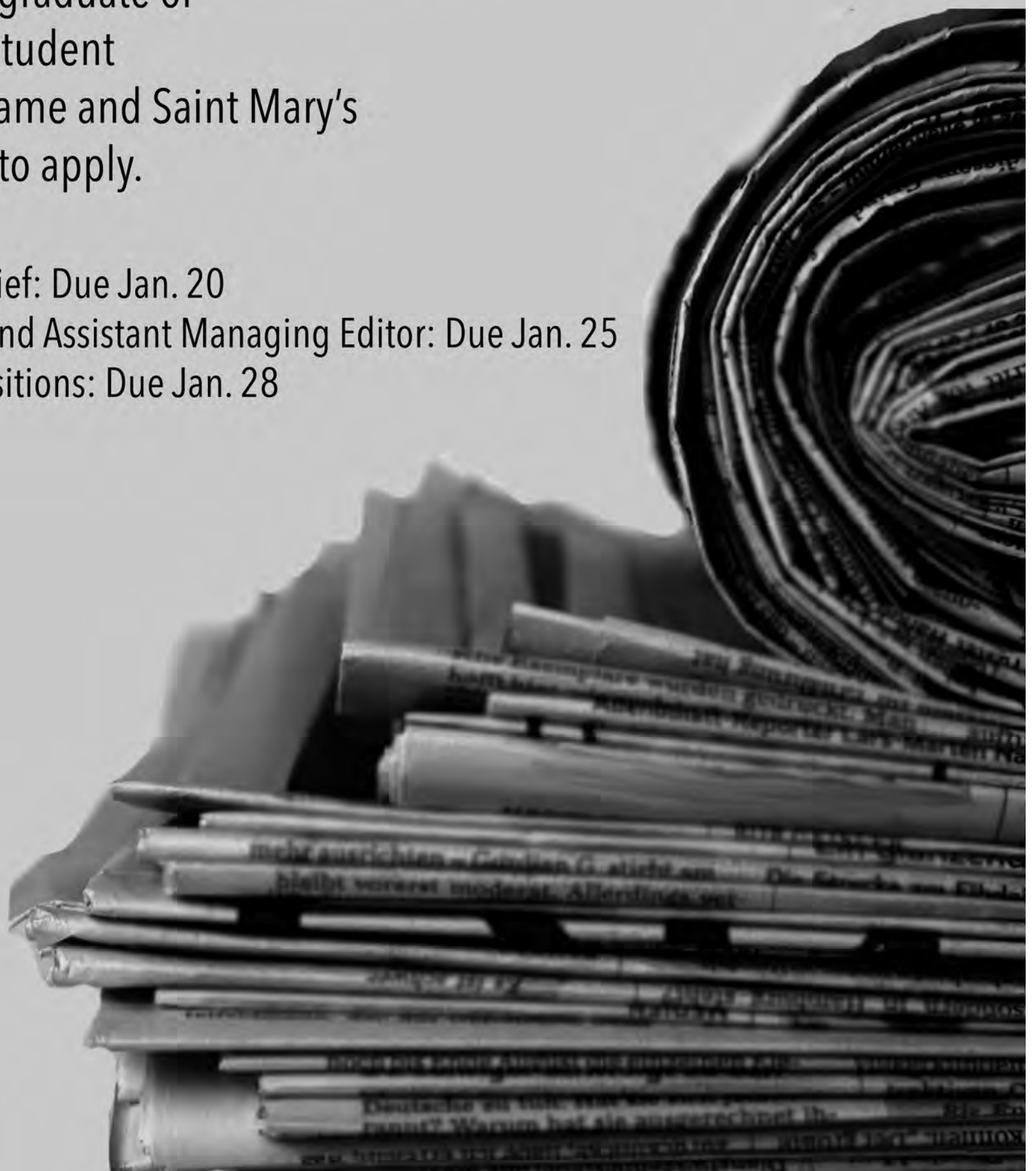
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M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

his team to not become overconfident following the big win.

"It's a matter of staying grounded and hungry again," Brey said. "We've never had to prepare after winning two in a row. This is a new two days of preparation. We've had two days of preparation after a loss, man, we've been really focused. I'm very excited to see our focus here after people have told [the players] they're pretty good for 48 hours."

The Hokies are currently tied for third in the ACC, but few expected them to have this level of success, and a preseason media poll of conference media members ranked Virginia Tech 14th out of 15 ACC teams. Brey said the key to the Hokies' success is head coach Buzz Williams and talented guard play.

"They just play fearlessly," Brey said. "Buzz [Williams] gets my vote for coach of the year. His teams have always played fearlessly. He's got his kids believing. They guard you, they play hard. They've got really good guards, their guard are good and can control the game. They've been down and completely out of it; they have a lot of heart. Down double digits and they come back against NC State and Georgia Tech and they steal wins."

As the Irish look to extend their winning streak to three games, Brey said he plans to

keep freshman forward Matt Ryan in the starting lineup despite Colson's breakout game against Duke. Brey praised Colson, who began the season as a starter but was dropped to the bench last Wednesday, for his performance under pressure Saturday.

"[Colson] is one of those guys who loves those atmospheres," Brey said. "He has consistently, in this young career of his, delivered when the lights are bright. I thought he gave us a lot of confidence with his demeanor and his attitude [Saturday]."

Another emerging player for the Irish is freshman guard Rex Pflueger, who chipped in seven points and two blocks in 23 minutes played on Saturday. Beachem said the team benefits from Pflueger's defensive energy.

"[Pflueger's] very important for us because of his activity defensively," Beachem said. "That's something that we need, and he knocked down some shots Saturday as well. But defensively, that's something that we're going to need all season."

The game will tip off at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Purcell Pavilion as the Irish go for three straight wins.

"It certainly sets up pretty well for us," Brey said. "If can get to a point where we win this one Wednesday, and you win three games in a row in this league, as crazy as this league is, we'd be thrilled."

Contact Marek Mazurek at mmazurek@nd.edu



KATHRYNE ROBINSON | The Observer

Freshman guard Rex Pflueger attempts a 3-pointer during Notre Dame's 86-78 win over Milwaukee on Nov. 17 at Purcell Pavilion.

Pflueger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

doesn't matter if you're playing in front of two people or 200,000. When you're playing you just have to stay confident, trust your abilities, and everything will happen for a reason."

While most freshmen, especially ones coached by Mike Brey, are expected to pay their dues, Pflueger for his part was a highly successful high school shooting guard, ranked 83rd overall nationally, per Rivals.com. While going from a stand-out prep career to the bench can be a tough transition for many, Brey said Pflueger has handled everything in stride.

"I give Rex a lot of credit; he had a great attitude during the first part of the season," Brey said. "He wasn't playing as much. But he was getting better, his attitude was great, and eventually he was going to get his shot. And he's an example of a guy who took advantage of his shot."

Pflueger now is hoping his spark at Duke was not an anomaly, something he can turn into a constant for the Irish who need improved depth off the bench. Pflueger said sophomore forward Bonzie Colson can serve as a prime example.

"He waited his turn during ACC play, and then he just blew up," Pflueger said last

week before the Duke game. "He competed every single day in practice. He proved that he deserved to be out there on the court, and he's really been kind of like a model for what I've been striving for this year."

As Pflueger pushes for more and more playing time as the season progresses, he said he understands all aspects of his game need some degree of improvement, although one stands out.

"I still need to be more confident on the offensive end," Pflueger said. "But that's going to come with time and experience."

While Pflueger's confidence shooting the ball would be important for the Irish in adding another scorer, Brey has been quick to point out how overly confident Pflueger can be on the court sometimes — including launching his first 3-point attempt against Duke from long range.

"I thought to myself, 'C'mon man,'" Brey said. "... Most of the days he [practices] in a blue shirt ... and when you're in a blue shirt [for reserves], sometimes you have a license to kind of do things sometimes that I don't pay as much attention to. But he has to play like he's going to play and not take bad shots or force things in a blue shirt. So when he comes over to a white shirt [for starters], his habits are consistent."

Despite some growing pains along the way, Pflueger's emergence has not been overlooked by his teammates.

"Guys like Rex have been competing in practice, showing flashes," Vasturia said. "It was really great for [Pflueger and Ryan] to step up and help this team the way we know [they can]."

As for his play on the court, Pflueger showed the poise of a veteran when letting go of a buzzer-beating 3 to put Notre Dame up six on Duke with 3:08 to play. That's something Vasturia said he knows will continue with more confidence.

"He's just a kid that competes, since the day the summer when he got here," Vasturia said. "He's not afraid to stick his nose in there. He plays with a lot of emotion, which is great, and he brings a certain toughness which is needed."

With his teammates behind him, Pflueger now can hope to be more of a presence, looking to Colson last season as motivation.

"There's a toughness," Brey said. "Rex picks up two charges, draws two offensive fouls off of them. He's there to get his hand on the big rebound at the end. There's a toughness about him, and I think we need to keep cultivating that."

Contact Brian Plamondon at bplamond@nd.edu



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish junior forward V.J. Beachem looks to pass the ball during Notre Dame's 72-64 win over Georgia Tech on Jan. 13 at Purcell Pavilion.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Headed in a better direction

ND looks to build against Hokies after historic win

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Writer

After upsetting then-No. 9 Duke, the Irish are looking to build momentum as they host Virginia Tech tonight at Purcell Pavilion.

Notre Dame (12-5, 3-2 ACC) downed the Blue Devils, 95-91, on Saturday at Cameron Indoor Stadium behind a career-high 31 points from sophomore forward Bonzie Colson. The victory gave Notre Dame its first signature win of the season, and junior forward V.J. Beachem said the team's confidence is high going into Wednesday's matchup.

"Just to get a win like that, for our team to grow the way it did Saturday, I think was a huge step for us," Beachem said. "We want to keep it going."

However, defeating Virginia Tech (12-6, 4-1) will likely not be an easy task for Notre Dame. The Hokies have a quartet of wins in conference play, including a marquee win of their own over No. 13 Virginia on Jan. 5. Irish head coach Mike Brey said it will be important for

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CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish junior forward V.J. Beachem shoots a free throw during Notre Dame's 72-64 win over Georgia Tech on Jan. 13 at Purcell Pavilion. Beachem scored six points, including a 3-pointer for the Irish.

Pflueger shows potential in win over Duke

By BRIAN PLAMONDON
Sports Writer

He had barely been on campus a week in August and freshman guard Rex Pflueger had already made a name for himself, posting a video of dunks to his Twitter account that eventually went viral when it was picked up by Bleacher Report.

Over four months later and well into his freshman season with the Irish, Pflueger's opportunities to show off his dunking skills were limited as he found himself buried on the depth chart at guard.

Look at Pflueger's stat line thus far — averaging 1.2 points per game in just over eight minutes — and it becomes obvious that Pflueger has been a reserve, a fringe player at best.

But then, in last Saturday's win over Duke, Pflueger scored seven crucial points for the Irish in a career-high 23 minutes in one of the rowdiest environments in all of college basketball, Cameron Indoor Stadium.

"I think I was confident," Pflueger said. "It's basketball. You go out there, it

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS | ND 7, WESTERN MICHIGAN 0

Irish dominate Broncos in season opener

No. 57 Gleason leads squad to clean sweep by winning singles match in straight sets

By ALEX ELLYIN
Sports Writer

No. 33 Notre Dame kicked off its 2016 campaign Wednesday night against Western Michigan, defeating the Broncos, 7-0, at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Irish (1-0) were led by senior and All-ACC performer Quinn Gleason, who came into the match ranked No. 57 in singles and No. 32 in doubles, alongside partner junior Monica Robinson. The doubles team of Robinson and Gleason is coming off a successful 2015 season in which they qualified for the NCAA championships and were ranked as high as No. 16 nationally at one point during the campaign. To begin the match and build upon their success from last

year, Gleason and Robinson won at No. 1 doubles, 6-0.

Following that victory, both Gleason and Robinson competed at No. 1 and No. 2 singles, respectively. Gleason defeated Western Michigan's Olivia Meyers at No. 1 singles, 6-1, 6-0, while Robinson won a tightly contested match, pulling out a 6-2, 5-7, 10-4 victory.

Other Irish players who were victorious in both singles and doubles were sophomores Allison Miller and Brooke Broda and junior Mary Closs. Miller and Broda teamed up at No. 2 doubles and won, 6-2. Miller had little trouble at No. 3 singles in a 6-0, 6-2 victory. Broda secured a win at No. 5 singles, 6-4, 6-4.

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EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Senior Quinn Gleason returns the ball in her 6-1, 6-0 victory over Western Michigan's Olivia Meyers on Wednesday at Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Irish swept the Broncos in all seven matches.