

# THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

## ND earns Sporcle top-five ranking

By LAURA MYERS  
News Writer

When senior Katie Snyder had to learn all of the countries in Africa for a political science class last semester, she knew where she would turn to study. She was one step ahead of her professor when he suggested several websites to the class, including social gaming website Sporcle.

"I had been planning on using it before he mentioned it," Snyder said. "I always play the map games on Sporcle."

In fact, Snyder is using the site again this semester to help learn the countries of the Middle East for a history class.

Sporcle, which features games in which players fill in blanks in response to categories or trivia questions, is popular among workplaces and on college campuses, Sporcle's vice president of products Derek Pharr said.

A recent upswing in usage by college students led the

college	points
1) maryland	105,840
2) michigan	97,205
3) ohio state	81,743
4) boston college	81,536
5) notre dame	78,405

ASHLEY CHARNLEY | Observer Graphic

website to make college rankings. Notre Dame has held steady at No. 5 each week of the rankings, which are calculated from factors including number of visits, number of page views and time spent on the site, Pharr said. The first rankings were released based on data from Nov. 14-20.

In the fourth list of college rankings, released Tuesday and reflecting usage statistics from the past week, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio State and Boston College were ahead of Notre Dame.

While Snyder used the site to study, many students said it is more of a good distract-

tion. Pharr said the site could be both.

"We can be an educational, mentally stimulating diversion, but on the other side we can be the destination to spend a little time and get away from things," he said.

see SPORCLE/page 4

## Poorman appointed to Portland

By SARA FELSENSTEIN  
News Writer

Fr. Mark Poorman has been appointed executive vice president and associate professor of theology at the University of Portland, effective July 2011.

Poorman, associate professor of theology and former vice president for Student Affairs at Notre Dame, said he is "grateful, honored and excited to accept the invitation to serve the University of Portland as executive vice president."

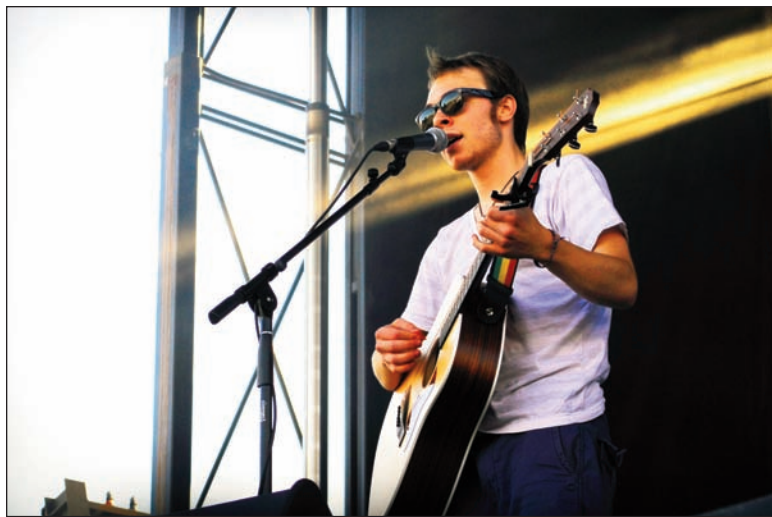
The University of Portland, a Catholic university in Oregon,



Poorman

see POORMAN/page 4

## Campus musicians find outlets for talent



MALCOM PHELAN/The Observer

Junior Nick Gunty plays guitar at the B1 Block Party earlier this year. He performs original work and cover songs.

By SAM STRYKER  
News Writer

Notre Dame has provided Nick Gunty with special opportunities to display his musical talent, the junior, who plays the guitar, said.

"Every once in a while something comes around, like the

Sudan peace rally last Saturday," Gunty said. "I got to play for that. That was probably the most special or most 'Notre Dame' thing I've done."

Junior Will Thwaites said the University has also allowed for unique performance opportunities for his musical group, A

see MUSICIANS/page 5

## Chairman reflects on Forum

By MOLLY MADDEN  
News Writer

Coordinators of this year's Notre Dame Forum event were pleased with the first semester's events and were already preparing the series of Forum events that will take place in the Spring semester, said Ed Conlon, associate dean in Mendoza College of Business and chairman of the Working Committee for the Notre Dame Forum.

This year's Forum topic, "The Marketplace and the Common Good," addressed the issue from many different angles at several panel discussions consisting of University professors and alumni as well as a lecture given by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center in November.

Conlon said members of the Forum's Working Committee and Steering Committee thought the Friedman event overall was a success and were happy with the results of the evening.

"I think that Thomas Friedman's lecture went very



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Thomas Friedman asks the audience for a show of hands during the University of Notre Dame's 2010 Forum.

well," Conlon said. "I know that a lot of discussion took place after it among the students."

The Forum coordinators recognized a few issues after Friedman's lecture that they would like to work on for the future, Conlon said.

"I think there was a fair number of students there and the event sold out in two hours, but we did see a lot of empty seats. In the future, we want to look at the way tickets to these events are dis-

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# THE OBSERVER

P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556  
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Matt Gamber

**MANAGING EDITOR** Madeline Buckley  
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**ASST. MANAGING EDITOR:** Sam Werner  
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**AD DESIGN MANAGER:** Jane Obringer

**CONTROLLER:** Jeff Liptak

**SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR:** Joseph Choi

**OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO**  
(574) 631-7471

**FAX**  
(574) 631-6927

**ADVERTISING**

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

(574) 631-4542 mgamber@nd.edu

**MANAGING EDITOR**

(574) 631-4541 mbuckley@nd.edu

**ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS**

(574) 631-4324 swerner@nd.edu, lmyers2@nd.edu

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

(574) 631-5313

**NEWS DESK**

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

**VIEWPOINT DESK**

(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

**SPORTS DESK**

(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

**SCENE DESK**

(574) 631-4540 jgamble@nd.edu

**SAINT MARY'S DESK**

acharn01@saintmarys.edu

**PHOTO DESK**

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

**SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS**

(574) 631-8839

**THE OBSERVER ONLINE**  
www.ndsmcobserver.com

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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

*Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber*

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<b>News</b>	<b>Sports</b>
Ashley Charnley	Mike Gotimer
Alicia Smith	Kelsey Manning
Melissa Flanagan	Matthew DeFranks
<b>Graphics</b>	<b>Scene</b>
Blair Chemidlin	Jordan Gamble
<b>Photo</b>	<b>Viewpoint</b>
Coleman Collins	Patricia Fernandez

**CORRECTIONS**

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

**QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SNOW?**



**Alexandra Moulton**  
*sophomore Walsh*

*"I really wish I had a sled so I could go sledding."*



**Kevin Park**  
*sophomore Duncan*

*"Fantastic!"*



**Liam Rhatigan**  
*senior off campus*

*"Snow makes money for some and not for others."*



**Mary Corelli**  
*junior off campus*

*"It's peaceful."*



**Stephen Despina**  
*sophomore Dillon*

*"Love it!"*



**Tam Nguyen**  
*sophomore Duncan*

*"I want it to snow the whole city."*

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail [obsphoto@gmail.com](mailto:obsphoto@gmail.com)



MACKENZIE SAIN/The Observer

**The flag flies at half-staff on South Quad to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor. Students walk by during the snowy anniversary on Notre Dame's campus.**

**OFFBEAT**

**Doc dressed as Elvis revives marathon runner**

**LAS VEGAS** — It wasn't blue suede shoes but a pair of sneakers that led a San Francisco doctor dressed as Elvis Presley to a woman who passed out at a Las Vegas restaurant after a marathon.

Claudio Palma tells the Las Vegas Review-Journal he was dressed as the King after Sunday's Las Vegas Rock 'n' Roll half-marathon when he performed CPR and resuscitated another runner at the Burger Bar at Mandalay Place.

The 36-year-old was clad in a jumpsuit, sideburns and scarf for the race and may have looked like Presley, but in real life,

he's an anesthesiologist.

Palma says paramedics then arrived, and the woman gave him a weird look and told him she was OK.

He says the incident wasn't the only heart-stopping one that day: he also got married at a run-thru chapel during the race.

**Three Oregon deer attack and injure barking dog**

**BEND, Ore.** — A Bend, Ore., woman says three deer attacked her barking dog and left the pet with head wounds and a punctured chest, but she's expected to make a full recovery.

Tiffany Rounds says she often sees deer in central

Oregon but never had them in her backyard before Thursday. Her small dog, Daisy, clearly thought it was inappropriate and went flying out the door, barking.

Rounds told KTVZ on Monday that the six-point buck and two does started beating the dog with their hooves and then the buck tried to get her with his anglers.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Steven George says even if it's a domesticated dog, deer react to a predator that could hurt or even kill them, so they'll be defensive.

*Information compiled from the Associated Press.*

**IN BRIEF**

Richard Moore will give the lecture **Rare Events in Nonlinear Optics** today at 4 p.m. It will take place in 127 Hayes-Healy Hall. Moore works for the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

The **Eighth Annual Christmas at the CoMo Benefit for Holy Cross Missions in Uganda** will take place today at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor lounge of the Coleman-Morse Center. It will feature Christmas carols from around the world, reflections by ND International Students, and info about Holy Cross Mission efforts in Uganda. A reception will follow.

The Peter Claver Catholic Worker will host a **Hospitality Lunch on Thursday at 11:45 a.m.** The lunch will take place in Geddes Hall. A \$5 donation is asked for the lunch — additional donations are welcome.

The film **"High and Low"** will be shown **Thursday at 6:30 p.m.** in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. A wealthy industrialist is pushed to the limit when his family targeted by ruthless kidnappers. Tickets cost from \$3 to \$6.

The performance **"A Kodachrome Christmas"** will be put on **Thursday at 7 p.m.** in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The performance was written and directed by Pat Hazell. Tickets cost from \$8 to \$30.

*To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to [obsnews.nd@gmail.com](mailto:obsnews.nd@gmail.com)*

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>LOCAL WEATHER</b>						
	HIGH 24 LOW 15	HIGH 22 LOW 15	HIGH 26 LOW 26	HIGH 31 LOW 23	HIGH 36 LOW 19	HIGH 26 LOW 11

# SMC holds Christmas craft show

By ALICIA SMITH  
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Offering a wide variety of handmade, unique gifts, the Christmas Craft Show held at Saint Mary's College invites students as well as members of the community to purchase goods to support local artists. Carrie Call, director of the Office of Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) at the College said.

The craft show will be held in Reignbeaux and Stapleton Lounges in Le Mans Hall at the College Friday from noon to 6 p.m.

According to Call, the craft show will host about 50 local or regional artisans who will be selling their handmade goods.

"We focus on handmade items," she said. "This means that we have people selling items that they or family members have made themselves. This also includes businesses that people have started themselves."

Call said the craft show began four years ago and is open to students from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame and Holy Cross College.

Members of the community have also been invited to attend.

According to Call, the craft show serves several purposes.

"It's important for several reasons," she said. "One is that it provides a fun and festive way for us to raise money for the Christmas programs. But it's also a community-wide event that demonstrates our support of local and regional artists."

*"But it's also a community-wide event that demonstrates our support of local and regional artists."*

**Carrie Call**  
director  
Office of Civic and Social Engagement

*"Students should come because they will find unique, beautiful, one-of-a-kind gifts."*

**Carrie Call**  
director  
Office of Civic and Social Engagement

Call said the money raised from the fees artists pay to rent a table space will benefit the families the College has "adopted" for the 12 Days of Christmas Project.

"This year we are sponsoring 40 plus adults and over 70 children with clothing, food, household essentials and gifts," Call said.

According to Call, the craft show has been held annually at Saint Mary's to unite the local community and the cam-

pus community.

"We hold the event here because it's a great way for the Saint Mary's community to have fun and celebrate together, and it invites the wider community onto our campus," she said. "Many people have never been on campus, and this gives them a fun opportunity to see what Saint Mary's is like."

Call said the craft show will offer a variety of gifts.

"A large variety of items are available. This includes jewelry of all kinds, knitted and crocheted items, pottery, paintings, photography, specialty foods, decorative items, wood crafts, handmade toys and more," she said.

Call encouraged students to attend the craft show.

"Students should come because they will find unique, beautiful, affordable, one-of-a-kind gifts," she said. "It's also an easy way to support our Christmas programs. Really though, the best reason is the selection and prices. Everyone loves receiving unique gifts — gifts with heart."

Contact Alicia Smith at [asmith01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:asmith01@saintmarys.edu)

## COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Election committee nominees approved

By JOHN CAMERON  
News Writer

Members of the Council of Representatives (COR) convened this week to approve nominees to the recently revamped Judicial Council Election Committee.

Judicial Council president Marcelo Perez explained the role of the committee to COR.

"Their primary focus will be to go over allegations when they arise as well as help facilitate elections, be in charge of the website and approve campaign posters," he said.

Perez said during the short window for accepting applications to the new committee, they heard from a high number of interested students.

"These last two weeks we've been interviewing people for the committee," he said. "We've had 45 [apply] for seven spots."

The chosen applicants presented to the Council were Tom Burns, a junior Finance and Spanish major from Keough; Jimmy Garry, a sophomore finance and political science major from Fisher; Katie Hennessey, a sophomore Marketing major from Lewis; Thomas Hickey, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Duncan; Todd Ludwig, a

senior science preprofessional major from Keenan; Katie Nolen, an undeclared freshman from Pasquilla East; and Caitlin Ogren, an undeclared freshman from Pasquilla West.

The Council voted to approve all candidates with 13 votes in favor, zero against, and zero abstaining.

The new committee differs from the dissolved one in that members were selected from the student body as a whole rather than each dorm having a representative. Perez said that the dorm-based system would continue, but in a smaller capacity.

"They do exist, except their sole purpose is to run dorm elections," he said.

Judicial Council vice president for elections Michael Thomas said he and Perez intentionally chose a diverse group of students coming from different dorms, majors and classes.

"The challenge for Marcelo and I in selecting this committee was finding the most balanced group we could, since they'll be making some very important decisions," he said. "I think we can have full confidence in the Election Committee given that balance."

Contact John Cameron at [jcamero2@nd.edu](mailto:jcamero2@nd.edu)

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# Saint Mary's offers finals study breaks

By MEGAN LONEY  
News Writer

As stress and busy schedules take over as finals approach, students can take an "insanity break," sponsored by the Center for Spirituality Dec. 10.

The Center is sponsoring the event in Reinbeaux Lounge in Le Mans Hall from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. It will offer hot beverages including hot cocoa, cider and snacks. Coloring pages and word puzzles are also available.

"It was so successful last year, there was no question that we wouldn't do it again," Associate Director for the Center Michelle Egan said.

The event is held twice a year, during the two weeks prior to finals in order to not interfere with the finals themselves.

This will be the second "insanity break" offered this semester.

Last week's was held on the first floor of Spes Unica in the morning, catching students and faculty on their way to class.

Stumbling across the table lined with hot cocoa and coffee on her way to work in Spes Unica made junior Ashley Marks' day last week.

"It was a wonderful surprise to see snacks, drinks and coloring supplies to ease the tension of the end of semester assignments," Marks said. "The hot chocolate and donut hole were a scrumptious way to start my morning."

The positive feedback from students fuels this event.

"The response to the event is great," Egan said. "Students are so appreciative and grateful to hear the Christmas carols playing and to grab something to drink and maybe a donut before class. A lot of people remember the event from last year."

The location and time was changed for the second "insanity break" to give the opportunity to students who may not have been able to attend the first one.

"We're trying to offer the break to a different group of students and staff this week," Egan said. "Le Mans was chosen as a central location on campus through which students travel between classes and it's one of the largest dorms on campus."

Sophomore Paige Edmonds is looking forward to the second opportunity at a break from insanity after enjoying last week's.

"During this hectic time of year, it's nice to see how Saint Mary's cares about its students," Edmonds said. "It was a good on-the-go thing and I am looking forward to getting apple cider this time."

Egan said she is glad to see that this event is well received.

"Everybody is feeling the stress of this time of year," Egan said. "I think having that unexpected time away — from real life, tests, classes, grades coming in, papers due — is a breath of kindness that everyone can appreciate."

Contact Megan Loney at  
mloney01@saintmarys.edu

# Sporcle

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Juniors Shane Owens, Robert Cahill and Jake Hubbard agreed their favorite game category is Sports.

"[Hubbard] did all the NFL teams in a minute and a half," Owens said.

"Yeah, I'm pretty special," Hubbard said.

However, students agreed the intellectual nature of the site allows them to feel better about taking a study break.

"I delude myself into thinking I'm learning," sophomore Stephanie Jones said. "But the motivation is purely recreational."

Snyder said she wouldn't have used the site to learn if it didn't have fun quizzes as well.

"The fun is the only thing that makes you want to do the academic part of it," she said. "And then I could procrastinate on other things by playing Sporcle because it's academic, so I could feel like I was being productive."

Pharr said the timing of the release of rankings leading up to most colleges' study days and finals weeks was not a total coincidence.

"We hoped we could hit college students at a time when they could use it to study for finals and to get away from finals," he said.

Jones, who said she goes on Sporcle at least one day a week, predicted her usage would go up as finals

approach.

The release of the rankings also coincided with the weekly updates of college football's Bowl Championship Series (BCS) rankings, which Sporcle references as a joke on the website to explain its mathematical formula, saying its formula is "simpler than the BCS" but that they might "change the formula from time to time, just like the BCS."

"We wanted to explain what we were doing without too much detail," Pharr said. "We figured 'It's complicated what we're doing, but there are systems that are more complicated, like the BCS.'"

Like the BCS, though, Pharr said the rankings play off of the competitive nature of colleges to attract more students to the website.

"College football, college basketball has a rich rivalry history," he said. "We've already seen a very positive and spirited response to what we've been doing. We'd love to see that grow."

"Those play out on a big stage, and we'd like Sporcle to be a stage for that as well. We see it all as one big healthy debate."

The feeling of competition definitely stirred when students found out Notre Dame was behind traditional rivals Michigan and Boston College.

"I'd rather beat them in football," Hubbard said, "but Sporcle would be next."

Contact Laura Myers at  
lmyers2@nd.edu

# Poorman

continued from page 1

has been closely affiliated for more than a century with the Congregation of Holy Cross in South Bend, Ind.

Poorman's administrative responsibilities will include management oversight of the divisions of University operations, financial affairs, University relations and student affairs, he said.

"Specifically, the vice presidents who lead all those divisions will report to me and I will support them so they can be as effective as possible in their service to the University," he said. "Of course, as a priest I will be involved in the pastoral mission of the University."

Poorman said the faculty at the University of Portland is centered around students, and the Catholic character of the institution is evident in many dimensions of the school's academic and community life.

"The University of Portland is interested in educating the whole person — intellectually, emotionally and spiritually — something to which I've devoted my priesthood and religious life," he said. "So it's a good fit."

Poorman served as vice president for Student Affairs from 1999 to 2010. In this position, he was responsible for a \$25 million annual budget and 300 staff members. His administrative duties involved supervising Notre Dame's residential life as well as other student services, activities and programs, including Campus Ministry, Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP), the Student Activities Office (SAO), the Counseling Center, Health Services, the Career Center, the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education, the Gender

Relations Center and Multicultural and International Student Services.

He stepped down from his position as vice president in November 2009, effective June 30.

"During his tenure as vice president, Poorman led the Division of Student Affairs through a period of growth and development in numerous areas, including the integration of academics and residential life, the enhancement of programs and activities contributing to campus social life, ongoing efforts to welcome and retain a diverse student body and continuous improvement of a broad range of student services," a press release said.

Poorman also oversaw the construction of Ryan and Duncan residence halls, the Coleman-Morse Center, Hammes-Mowbray Hall, Legends of Notre Dame and the renovation of St. Liam Hall.

Prior to his appointment as vice president, Poorman served at Notre Dame as executive assistant to the executive vice president and the president.

Poorman graduated with a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Illinois, and earned his master of divinity degree from Notre Dame.

He was ordained a priest in 1982, and his first assignment after ordination was to come to Notre Dame to serve as rector of Dillon Hall, associate director of Campus Ministry, and instructor in theology. He then pursued graduate studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, where he earned a Ph.D. in Christian Ethics.

After earning his Ph.D., Poorman returned to the Notre Dame theology department to serve full-time on the faculty.

One of Poorman's most sig-

nificant experiences at Notre Dame, he said, has been serving as priest-in-residence in Keough Hall. He has lived in Keough since 1996, the year the dorm opened.

"I have always considered the pastoral presence of Holy Cross in the residence halls to be one of the best features of our higher education institutions, and surely one of the most rewarding ministries in the Congregation," he said.

Poorman said living with students enhances his understandings of his other roles. He plans to live in a residence hall at the University of Portland.

"It has kept me very close to the experiences of students and has afforded me a perspective that informed my roles as faculty, staff and administration and indeed, my vocation as a priest," he said. "Leaving Keough will be one of the most difficult separations I'll have to make in moving to Portland. The community we have there is special, even by Notre Dame's high standards."

Poorman said he looks forward to serving the University of Portland, because it is a Holy Cross institution dedicated to teaching and learning, faith and formation, as well as service and leadership.

"University of Portland embodies the same Holy Cross charisma of 'educating in the faith' as our other schools: Notre Dame, Stonehill College, King's College and St. Edward's University," he said.

Poorman said in all of these places, members of the Congregation serve as faculty, staff, administrators and pastoral ministers.

"Our hope is that we are able, through the grace of God, to be agents of formation and transformation for students and others," he said.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at  
sfelsens@nd.edu

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STUDY

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# Colleges of Science and Engineering gain grants

Special to The Observer

Faculty from the University of Notre Dame's Colleges of Engineering and Science have been awarded more than \$1.3 million from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in collaboration with research being conducted by Mississippi State University on the development of novel materials for improved battery technology.

Li-air batteries offer one of the highest theoretical energy densities of any electrochemical power source and more than twice as much as any other existing battery. The goal of this project is to improve battery performance, reliability and safety through the creation of new materials to be used in the batteries that power military vehicles, such as manned and

unmanned ground vehicles, directed energy weapons, and hybrid electric vehicles. These technologies are critical for the development of military hybrid vehicles where higher current capability, greater storage capacity, improved durability and reliability are of utmost importance to the safety of the vehicle and its occupants.

Participating University faculty include Keating-Crawford Professor of Engineering Joan F. Brennecke, Edward J. Maginn, and Paul McGinn (chemical and biomolecular engineering); Alan C. Seabaugh and Susan Fullerton (electrical engineering); and Rev. John A. Zahm Professor of Science Prashant Kamat (chemistry and biochemistry). They will be developing improved electrolytes and electrode structures for use in lithium ion and lithium-air (Li-air) batteries.



MACKENZIE SAIN/The Observer

Mary Hirschfeld speaks at the podium at the 2010 Notre Dame Forum. Other panel members — from left to right, Dr. Margaret Pfeil, Dr. Bill Evans and Dr. Douglass Cassel — look on.

## Forum

continued from page 1

tributed to that the students who get the tickets are people who really want to attend," he said.

Conlon said he and other Forum coordinators were pleased to see a high level of participation in the sponsored small group discussions the weekend after Friedman's lecture. The purpose of the small groups, which took place in various residence halls, was to offer a venue where students could casually discuss the issues Friedman raised in his talk.

"The discussion groups in the dorms brought up some very good points in relation to the topic," Conlon said. "I was very pleased because students

are very busy and it is often hard to get them to come to events. We did a poll of the level of attendance at these small group sessions and we found that we had around 20 or more people at every event."

Conlon said he thought the Forum's first semester events were successful but the Working Committee decided that Friedman's lecture would be the last Forum event of the fall semester.

"We decided when we got into Thanksgiving that there would be too much going on," he said. "But we are working on a number of things for next semester."

Conlon said students and faculty could expect four Forum sponsored events spread out over the spring semester, including a lecture given by U.S. Senator Evan

Bayh on the role government and politics plays in the common good.

By the time Bayh comes to campus on Feb. 21, he will have already have left his position in the U.S. Senate.

Conlon said he was slightly concerned about the level of student attendance now that Friedman's talk, considered the "signature" event of the Forum, has passed. But was "confident" the planned events will be appealing to students.

"I think having Senator Bayh come here to talk is a big deal," Conlon said. "Especially for the reason he left office. He didn't feel like the officials in the Senate and House were looking out for the will of the people. I think he will draw a lot of students."

Contact Molly Madden at [mmadden3@nd.edu](mailto:mmadden3@nd.edu)

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## Musicians

continued from page 1

Face For Radio. The group consists of Thwaites, juniors Kyle Collins, Michael George and Collin Chadwick and sophomores Danny Crusier and John Mandrakas.

"We opened for White Panda when they were in town, which went really well. It was really fun to get up there before a really big act," he said. "They had about 500 kids in the audience, not all of them super psyched for our music but it was definitely cool to have a crowd that big."

Thwaites said he is lucky to have found other music students who enjoy playing and performing in their free time.

"The biggest thing here is there is a lot of untapped talent. There's a ton of kids who were really talented musicians in high school that really don't have the opportunity to pursue music here because they're dominated by their education," he said. "A lot of the musical initiatives on campus are very formal."

Gunty, who describes his music style as indie folk rock, said he has worked hard to not only play live on campus, but in local establishments. He also said he is looking to expand where he performs.

"Fiddler's Hearth [in South Bend] has an open mic every week. That gives you a lot of frequency," Gunty said. "Lately I've been reaching out to places a little more extended like Indianapolis, Three Oaks in Michigan and Chicago."

Thwaites said his musical endeavors are more of a hobby.

"It's definitely not my number one pursuit," he said. "I'm working hard at school, and this is something I do on the side."

Thwaites said he sometimes struggles to strike a balance between academics and music. But he said musical success brings him greater joy.

"Since I have been doing this, I've been trying to find this dynamic between the two because every time I get my school work down, my music suffers and every time I get into a flow musically, my grades turn into C's," Thwaites said. "The thing I come back to is every time I finish a good music thing, I'm on cloud nine and every time I do well in school, it doesn't feel any different than before."

Though he considers his music a full-time pursuit, Gunty said his classes have made it difficult to commit to his music.

"It definitely is a full time thing. Particularly sophomore year, I spent a lot of time — probably half and half — between music and school," he said. "It's easy to do that freshman and sophomore year when you don't have a lot of work to do."

Gunty said he plans to pursue a career in music.

"To really figure out if you can make it, you have to live in a place that really lives it," he said. "I definitely have a plan to move to Chicago or maybe Los Angeles after school to give it a full-time try."

Thwaites said he sees his music as more of an outlet for his creativity than any sort of potential vocation, but he said he would give a musical career a try if the opportunity presented itself.

"It's definitely not my number

one goal in doing it," he said. "I do it just for the fun of it. I do it because it's a nice way to express myself creatively."

Thwaites said he focused mainly on rap freshman and sophomore year. His YouTube video, "Daisy's Lullaby (The Great Gatsby Rap)" has over 97,000 views. Thwaites said the success of his song has spilled over into classrooms across the country.

"I've had a lot of different English teachers get in touch with me. One in particular who works at a Title One school where a lot of her kids haven't read books before," he said. "She reached out to me to help her plan to get these juniors in high school to finish their first book, being 'The Great Gatsby.'"

Gunty, who already has an album available on iTunes, said he doesn't plan on halting his musical pursuits as he studies abroad in the spring in Toledo, Spain.

"By the end of next semester, I want to have another short one recorded, like a five song EP," he said.

Thwaites said despite a busy fall semester, A Face For Radio is looking to release new material in the near future.

He said he has always been active in singing in local choirs from a young age, but an assignment for his senior English class where he sang about his classroom experiences sparked his interest as a live artist.

"It was the first time I had gotten on stage in front of a group of people," he said. "Once I got a taste of it I didn't want to turn back."

Contact Sam Stryker at [sstryke1@nd.edu](mailto:sstryke1@nd.edu)

INSIDE COLUMN

Last Lecture

“What wisdom would we impart to the world if we knew it was our last chance? If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our legacy?” I found these questions in Randy Pausch’s “The Last Lecture,” perhaps the first assigned book I have read cover-to-cover in the past six years.

For those of you who do not know his message, I highly recommend it. Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie

Mellon, gives his final lecture with only months left to live after a terminal diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. In it he talks about the importance of pursuing childhood dreams, from his of playing in the NFL (which he never quite reached) to being Captain James T. Kirk from Star Trek (which he sort of did).

Reading it made me think of my childhood dreams, tracing back to my three-year-old fantasy of working at the dry-cleaner down the street and my secret hope that the nice Chinese owners would adopt me. A year later I expanded slightly, when at the age of four I wanted only the most fascinating job ever: to bag groceries at Dominik’s. I went to Disney World when I turned eight and aspired to be Cinderella, a dream I now see slipping away quickly with Prince William’s pending wedding to Kate Middleton.

Perhaps my favorite part of the book was a chapter entitled “Make a Decision: Tigger or Eeyore.” As Pausch reminded me, Tigger is the ultimate upbeat cheerleader, a guy who is always up for a good time. Eeyore, on the other hand, never seems to be able to find happiness. “Each of us must decide: Am I a fun-loving Tigger or am I a sad-sack Eeyore? Pick a camp,” wrote Pausch. With winter definitely here and finals looming, Eeyore is an easy persona to adopt. Exams make “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” seem as mystical as Santa’s reindeer, but that is no reason to give up on smiling. Even with the knowledge that he had only months left to live, Pausch still lived every day striving to be a Tigger.

While embodying Tigger does not mean forget about reality, it certainly should act as encouragement to pursue happiness. Do not burn your books, go sky-diving, blow all your money and move to Australia as if you will die tomorrow, but do not shut yourself up in a cubicle on the eighth floor of the library for more than six hours at a time (I am currently on hour number four). “Time is all you have,” Pausch wrote. “And you may find one day that you have less than you think.”

It should not take any of us a terminal illness to appreciate life and all it offers. Every night my roommate and I identify the highlight of our day, which helps to find the silver lining in even the most dreadful days. I challenge you to do the same, and even better, try to be the highlight of someone else’s.

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

Contact Megan Finneran at [mfinnera@nd.edu](mailto:mfinnera@nd.edu)



Megan Finneran

Sports Production Editor

The genius of Wikipedia

The Internet can often be disorienting and confusing — Google searches routinely yield meaningless results, and proper information can often be nearly impossible to find. We have all felt the resulting frustration. This was especially the case before the advent of Wikipedia — now the ultimate online encyclopedia and one of the ten most trafficked websites in the world. In its infancy, Wikipedia was often maligned as suspicious and untrustworthy. However, it is increasingly hard to deny its supremacy as a knowledge source.

Edward A. Larkin

Scientific Notation

Wikipedia is ubiquitous, used for both general and detailed information on any subject. In just a few minutes, one can prepare for a chemistry lab, find the populations of thousands of cities and towns across the world, learn the basics of the philosophy of Ayn Rand, and get some important details on the early life of Lady Gaga or Bill Gates. Why has Wikipedia risen to such hegemony as an information source in the modern world? The answer is that it has succeeded where most of the rest of the Internet has failed. Wikipedia has organized knowledge in an easy, user-friendly way, rather than dispersing it in a chaotic mess.

We are in the midst of an explosion of information. The Economist presented a special report last year on this very topic, which quoted both a Johns Hopkins astrophysicist worrying about the increasing inaccessibility of information given the explosion of data, and a computer scientist from Berkeley claiming that we are in the middle of “the industrial revolution of data.” Indeed, a major worry in this new information age is how to handle the vast amounts of data that are accessible. Are we doomed, or is it possible to organize and exploit this new glut of information? Wikipedia has offered a resounding yes to this question. It has utilized the interconnectedness of the Internet and the intelligence of a vast number of specialized people to become the ultimate knowledge source. Its principles offer a look at how we can use the data explosion for the good of society

rather than getting hopelessly lost.

Wikipedia’s creative use of both top-down structure and grassroots creativity make it a fascinating study in effectiveness. Its organization of the increasingly vast amount of data in the world is remarkable. As a contrast, let us consider “Facebook Questions.” If you’ve casually taken a look at the responses to any such questions (which range from “Will Miami win the NBA title?” to “Will photon entanglement drastically change the world in the next 10 years?”), you’ll see that most answers are usually about seven paragraphs (six meaningless) written by a grad student at Cal Tech or Stanford, and a couple are one-liners trying to be funny. At this very moment, I’m reading the responses to the question “Is global warming a real threat to humanity?” Students from Oxford, University of Michigan, UC Irvine and Berkeley all weighed in extensively, most in multiple paragraphs. How is one to possibly extract any reliable information (much less efficiently) from such a setup?

Wikipedia is the exact opposite — it has a basic structure that avoids the “death by lists” of either Google or Facebook Questions. It is neatly divided into sections, and most importantly, people can edit the work of others. So instead of thousands of people adding another bullet point or long answer, experts can selectively edit the work of others, maintaining brevity. Others can further refine the work. Falsehoods are quickly deleted. This way, compactness is maintained and accuracy is increasingly likely. A reader does not read the endless essays written on Facebook Questions or have to navigate through a mostly meaningless Google search result page. You go to the appropriate Wikipedia section and get an answer.

Another aspect of Wikipedia that separates it from all other information sources is its interconnectedness. One can move through Wikipedia in an almost stream of consciousness manner. Something is unclear? Click on its link, which brings you to another Wikipedia page, which you can quickly refer to and go back. Want to verify accuracy? Click on the citation, which brings you to the source listed at the bottom of the page. Imagine trying to do this in Google. Each time you don’t understand something or

need verification, go back to the search home page, search your phrase, try to find the best page to get the answer, and then hit the back button about five times. Wikipedia uses structure, brevity and interconnectedness to succeed where many others have failed in managing the information revolution.

The explosion of data that now confronts us could be incredibly beneficial to society if it is properly controlled and utilized. Giant masses of information can be of enormous help in science and medicine — tracking the outcomes of many patients over time can lead to more effective medical practice. Sequencing the genomes of thousands of cancer patients can hopefully show us with more accuracy the tiny little genetic changes that are driving the disease. Not only science and medicine stand to gain — data can shed light on human behaviors, find new connections between things that no one has ever seen and help businesses cater more effectively to their customers. The potential is enormous — if it can somehow be managed.

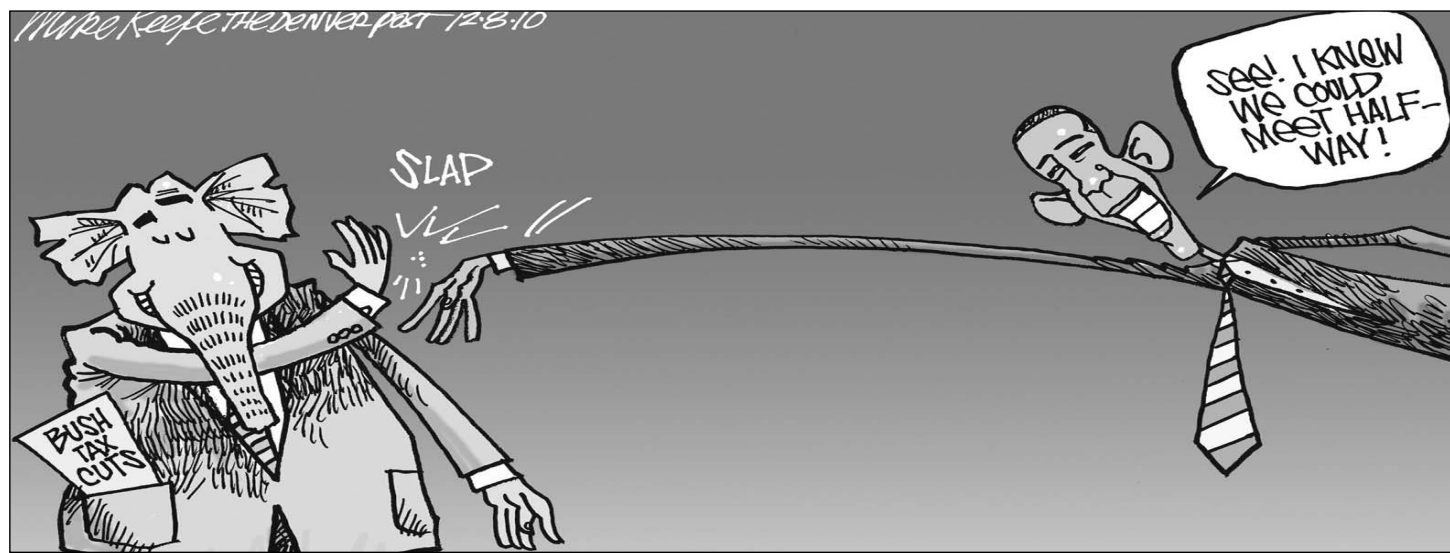
With this incredible increase in data comes a newfound necessity to keep it in check. Otherwise, we can get lost in the trees very quickly. As public policymakers and businesses grapple with ways to better manage data, they should keep the principles of Wikipedia in mind. It is a beautiful portrayal of the power of the collective brainpower of many people when unleashed in setting that has defined boundaries. Simply create the basic borders, and then get out as fast as possible. It’s a perfect fusion of top-down and bottom-up, central planning and laissez faire. If only all segments of society could compromise so well.

When you inevitably go to Wikipedia this week for whatever purpose, you’ll see a banner at the top asking for a donation. I would suggest strongly considering it. It’s the least we can do to recompense a website that could be the most important of our time.

*Edward A. Larkin is a senior with a double major in Biological Sciences and Classical Civilization. He can be reached at [elarkin1@nd.edu](mailto:elarkin1@nd.edu)*

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.”

Benjamin Franklin  
Founding Fathers of the United States

Submit a Letter to the Editor at

[www.ndsmcobserver.com](http://www.ndsmcobserver.com)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.”

Robert Frost  
American poet

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# A letter to the champs

Dear Ladies,  
I started off the year by writing you a letter, so I figured I should end it with one. First of all, I want to say thank you. Thank you for memories, the championship and an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. Most of all, thank you for being the amazing group of young ladies you are. You are finally getting the recognition and respect you deserve after being overlooked by so many. The NCAA selection committee did it when deemed you worthy of only a No. 4 seed. The media focused on an undefeated Stanford team and the two Cinderella stories of Boston College and Ohio State at the College Cup. Our own school cared more about [insert football player's name] blowing his nose or [insert basketball player's name] raising his hand in class while you kept working hard perfecting your game outside of the spotlight. Now you have the respect you've earned — the same respect you forced North Carolina, Ohio State, and Stanford into giving you. I saw the ups, downs, good, bad, ugly, blood, sweat, tears and any other cliché you can think of and witnessed you handle everything with class, responding only with your play on the field. Whether you know it or not, you've impacted the lives of those around you. Just think back to those little girls lining up for autographs after home games and one in particular who dragged her family to North Carolina during a snow storm just to be with you when you won it all. This championship also impacts the list of great players who came before you and never took the trophy home. Then there is the impact you've had on me. At the beginning of the season I asked you to let me be a part of your team, but you made me a part of your family. For that, I will be forever grateful. You truly exemplify all that Notre Dame stands for and the university is proud to call you ours. Seniors, you went out on top. Everyone else, this is only the beginning. Congratulations on your title.

Your manager and biggest fan,  
"Paco"

Aaron Gutierrez  
senior  
off-campus  
Dec. 7

UWIRE

# 'Tis the season for excess

It starts with Thanksgiving. Eating until you are comfortably full is not an option on Thanksgiving — if you don't eat yourself into a coma, you're a spoil-sport.

Then, for college students, comes the last week of school and finals. Our workload gives us the excuse to down buckets of coffee and energy drinks, and since we stay up all night studying, we have to eat fast food — it's all that's open at 3 a.m.!

Kate Clabby

Daily Texan

And when that last test is finally over and it's time to relax, the holiday parties begin. Every night is a celebration, so we go out and eat cake, cookies, brownies and chocolate mints, and wash them down with champagne. It's everywhere, it's delicious and it's a celebration, so we always eat at least one too many treats to feel good going to bed.

On New Year's Eve, this season of excess goes out with a bang. Grown-ups have permission to drink like college students, so most of us take things a few steps further. It's a holiday, and it's fun.

And the next morning, it's over. We feel hungover, sick to our stomachs and guilty. So, we make resolutions. The nation goes on a collective diet. We give up sugar, fat and carbs and promise to stay under 1,500 calories a day. We go to the gym. And oh yeah, we promise to quit smoking and stop procrastinating on our homework. This year will be different.

It's a nationally sanctioned binge-and-purge ritual, and it's a symptom of what food journalist Michael Pollan calls "our national eating disorder." I love brownies and I don't have a problem with the idea of "holiday food." But I do have a problem with a way of eating that turns food into the enemy and inspires self-loathing. What if we could eat a doughnut on Hanukkah or a gingerbread cookie on Christmas, stop before we made ourselves sick and then, come Jan. 1, continue to eat food we enjoy, including the occasional dessert? Wouldn't that be a more sane way to celebrate?

Don't worry. This is not an article on how to survive the holiday season without gaining weight. You know the ones; they're usually in those magazines with slim, bikini-clad women or the airbrushed, shirtless men on the cover. They tell you to "set ground rules" or "use a small plate" or simply "limit sweets." Unfortunately, this advice often

feeds into the unhealthy relationship that most of us have with food. We feel guiltier, we restrict ourselves more when we're not celebrating, and then the temptation to go too far is that much stronger.

So I'm only going to offer one piece of advice: Enjoy your food. Think about how good it's going to taste before you put it into your mouth. Then chew, taste and savor every bite. Whether it's braised broccoli or peppermint fudge, if it's going into your body, it better satisfy your taste buds first.

If you're eating something and you can't enjoy it because it's "diet food" and it tastes like cardboard then stop. If it's winter break, especially if you're at your parents' house, there's no reason why you can't fix yourself something to eat that's tasty and healthy. And if you have to add a little butter or a little honey to make it truly delicious, go for it! If everyday meals satisfy you, truly decadent treats won't seem like such a novelty. You might have an easier time sticking with just one.

If you're eating something and you can't enjoy it because you feel too guilty about eating it, you have two choices: either stop eating, or make the decision to go ahead and eat without guilt. In my experience, the worst over-eating comes from mindless eating. I eat too many cookies not because they're especially good cookies, but because I'm standing next to the cookie platter. I might have enjoyed the first cookie but definitely not the fourth.

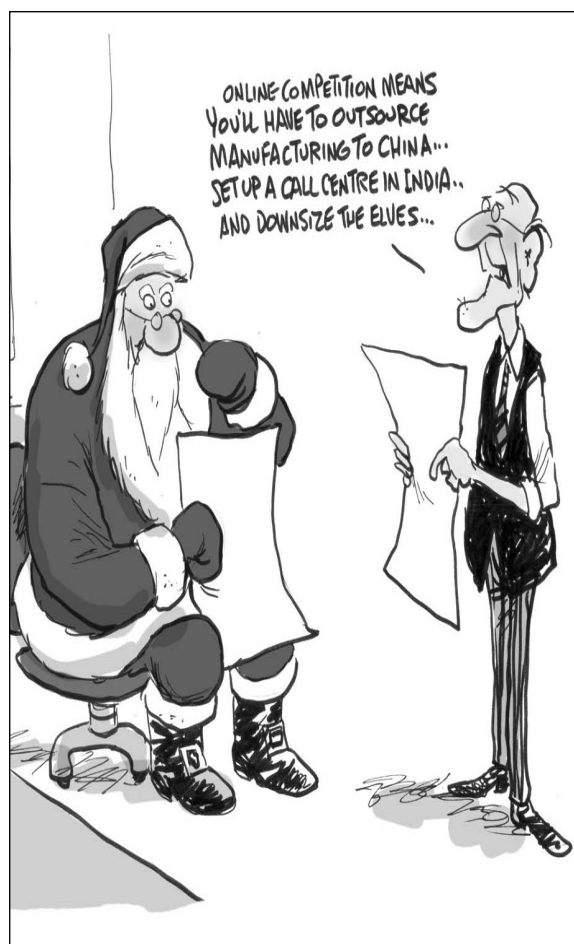
As it turns out, demanding enjoyment out of your food is not such a novel idea. In fact, it's a practice embraced by most of the world. Take the French: Yes, they eat cheese and croissants and chocolate and cream puffs. But they always eat together. They eat almost painfully slowly. They don't go back for seconds. And they enjoy every last bite.

The French have a culture that supports a healthy way of thinking about food. We don't. Simply pledging to enjoy your food isn't going to change that, but it's a start, and it might influence others positively, too. And if, come Jan. 1, you make your resolutions with a little bit less guilt, I think that's a good thing.

*This column first appeared in the Dec. 7 edition of the Daily Texan, the publication serving the University of Texas.*

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



# The US must bring civics into the classroom

Most of us weren't even in high school when the Twin Towers fell. Since then, our country has faced many crises. Hurricane Katrina, corporate corruption, the great recession and the BP oil spill are just a few of the disasters we've lived through as a generation. With so much political drama every year, the life of a U.S. citizen should be incredibly exciting, but for some reason, even as we're becoming adults, our conversations are the same as they were in the eighth grade. Talking about the latest Jersey Shore episode or what Kanye West did at the Video Music Awards take the place of real discussion about national events that actually matter.

Patrick Glendening

The Daily Aztec

Saying we are too busy, jaded or apathetic are all pathetic excuses for not having a basic knowledge of what's going on in the world today. But perhaps our lack of world knowledge isn't completely our own fault — mainstream media is fluffed up and sugarcoated to keep viewers' attention, and our education system doesn't actively engage the majority of us in deep political conversations. The slightest addition to our long-term educational careers could help cure the epidemic of ignorance we face today.

Requiring civics classes that teach the rights and duties of citizens would help motivate students to understand and care about the political environment that they are a part of. We should require classes, starting in grade school, that keep people involved in their country from a young age. In addition, colleges should require a similar course geared toward current events every semester or quarter. Even a one-unit class that meets once a week would help keep our students informed about the true-life drama that is our American democracy.

Every generation is faced with its own political issues. Yet, when we become isolated from the histories experienced by the generations before us, we often fail to recognize the links between the news today and the events of the past. Although we are now mentally trapped in a history

time bubble, we are still expected to have convicted stances on current events while only having a narrow idea of what is really going on.

For instance, how many people do you think take the time to investigate U.S. and British involvement in the Middle East during the 1950s? I'm not here to give you a history lesson, but some serious political and military intervention went down just to ensure that Americans could fill up their Cadillac and Ford gas tanks with a low price tag. Our existing involvement in the Middle East isn't some isolated incident and neither is any other current event. They all have a rich backstory that give hints as to why and how things came to be how they are today. A civics program would help keep students informed not only about the history that created individual political events, but also about the key figures and moments that have shaped our current political climate.

You don't need to be a political genius to keep yourself informed and have strong views about the world. If we don't take the time to inform ourselves, we will idly sit by as our civil liberties and dollars turn to dust. Whichever side of the political debate you're on, civic education is key to a strong democracy in the U.S. Nobody enjoys the company of a blind, ignorant conservative more than a fellow blind, ignorant conservative, and no one appreciates the rants of an uneducated, idealistic liberal more than another uneducated, idealistic liberal. If people continue to exist in their political bubbles, they will neither change anything nor live as anything more than a vat-full of ignorant political opinion. A comprehensive civics education would lift the burden of remaining informed off of the student and would keep our citizens engaged in our society's dramatic development from a young age.

*This column first appeared in the Dec. 7 edition of The Daily Aztec, the publication serving the San Diego State University.*

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





# NOTRE DAME

## style spotter



By COURTNEY COX  
Scene Writer

Name: Margaret Archibald

Spotted: En route to  
Alumni Hall's \$5 formal

Margaret is prepared for the holiday party scene in a festive plaid dress made of wrapping paper. It's the perfect creative outfit for anyone in search of interesting party attire — just be sure to beware of tearing!

Contact Courtney Cox at [ccox3@nd.edu](mailto:ccox3@nd.edu)

### Winter WoNDerful



by Laura Mittelstaedt

- 1  "Winter" - Joshua Radin
- 2  "Goodbye England (Covered in Snow)" - Laura Marling
- 3  "December" - Regina Spektor
- 4  "Winter Song" - Ingrid Michaelson & Sara Bareilles
- 5  "Snow" - Emiliana Torrini
- 6  "Jardin d'Hiver" - Keren Ann
- 7  "Côtes des Neiges" - Stars
- 8  "Snow Lion" - Feist
- 9  "Winter's Love" - Animal Collective
- 10  "Winter '05" - Ra Ra Riot
- 11  "Holiday" - Vampire Weekend
- 12  "Baby, It's Cold Outside" - Leon Redbone & Zooey Deschanel

*Season's greetings, Domers. It's that time of year again. The snow is falling, the radiators are screeching and the Californians are complaining. At last, it's socially acceptable to don our ugly Christmas sweaters, slip "Elf" quotes into everyday conversation and overeat. But before we can spread holiday cheer by spiking the eggnog or kissing beneath the mistletoe, we have to finish (start) those 15-page essays and drink copious amounts of caffeine. So here's a wintry mix to ease your pain while you're holed up in the library, wishing that you had asked Santa for straight A's, rather than a new North Face.*

**Listen online at [ndsmcobserver.com/scene](http://ndsmcobserver.com/scene)**

## CLUB SPORTS

## Men's volleyball wins Irish Invitational

Special to The Observer

The Irish hosted a tournament this weekend at Rockne Memorial Gymnasium. The field consisted of seven teams from four universities, with two teams from Grand Valley State, one each from Purdue and Ball State, and three teams from Notre Dame, who split its main squad into two teams and fielded an alumni squad for the third. The teams were split into two pools, the first of which had Grand Valley State's A squad, Notre Dame Alumni, Notre Dame Green and Purdue while the second pool had Grand Valley State's B squad, Notre Dame Navy and Ball State.

Notre Dame's Green squad played well and finished second in their pool by beating the Irish Alumni 2-0 (25-13, 25-13) and Purdue 2-0 (25-13, 25-20). They dropped two matches to Grand Valley State A 2-0 (19-25, 20-25). In the tournament bracket, the Green Irish defeated Grand Valley State B 2-0 (25-18, 25-17) before falling in two sets to the Navy Irish 2-0 (25-17,

25-23), resulting in a third place finish. The team faced a variety of problems as a number of players were playing outside of their comfort zone. Junior Tom Johnson, usually a right side hitter, played middle blocker; freshman Liam Gallagher, a defensive specialist, played outside hitter; sophomore Patrick Condon, normally an outside hitter, played right side; and senior president Mark landolo, normally a defensive specialist, played outside hitter for the Green squad this weekend.

"Considering the severe adversity facing the Green team, with all of the guys playing out of their normal positions, we should be truly pleased with our third place finish," Condon said. "I'm not going to say I carried the team, but my back really hurts."

Notre Dame's Navy squad, however, dominated the tournament, facing their only significant challenge in the championship match. In pool B, every match played three games, regardless of the outcome of the first two because

there was one fewer team in pool B than pool A. After running the table in the early going by beating Grand Valley State B 3-0 (25-7, 25-14, 25-16), and Ball State 3-0 (25-8, 25-14, 25-18) in pool play, the Irish began the tournament bracket play. The Navy Irish beat Purdue 2-0 (25-17, 25-10), Notre Dame Green 2-0 (25-17, 25-23) and Grand Valley State A 2-1 (25-23, 23-25, 15-13) to reach the championship match.

In the finale, the Irish fought back in games one and three after being down by as many as six points in game one and facing a 9-12 deficit in the third game. The Notre Dame Navy squad never gave up, however, and took first place at a tournament for the first time in over four years.

This tournament was truly critical for the Irish, as this was the last time they'll play until spring semester begins. The spring has potential to be the best in team Irish history with the return of junior setter Josh Rehberg from his study abroad program in Australia and the return of freshman middle Scott Canna

from a knee injury. The Irish have a deep squad this year, which was on display this weekend when a split squad took first and third places in the Irish Invitational.

## Women's Ice Hockey

Notre Dame played two games this past weekend, one in Chicago and one in Milwaukee. The team posted a big 10-1 win against the Tigers, a club program, in Chicago on Saturday. The Irish scored seven goals in the first period, one in the second and two in the third. Junior Margot DeBot ripped the nets four times, while freshman Maddie Schneeman registered a hat trick. Sophomores Veronica Ryan and Caitlin Ryan, and senior captain Karen Riedl scored the other goals.

Notre Dame lost 4-1 at the Olympic Training Center in Wisconsin on Sunday.

## Figure Skating

Notre Dame started their season strong with a silver medal performance at the Dr. Porter Synchro Classic in Ann Arbor, Michigan on Dec. 5.

Skating to a medley of songs from the Broadway musical "Hair," Notre Dame's speed, presentation and innovative choreography set them apart from the nine-team field made up of college teams from around the country. The highlight of Notre Dame's routine was a variation in their straight-line pinwheel where half the team ducked and continued to rotate, while the other half passed over the heads of their teammates. The many family members and friends who made the trip to Ann Arbor to cheer on the Irish went wild in the stands as the team nailed the difficult element.

The Irish finished a close second behind perennial synchronized skating powerhouse Miami (OH) and received a first-place mark from one of the judges. As the season continues into 2011, the team hopes to build off this strong start and challenge the field for gold at the Midwestern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships in Rochester, Minn. in early February.

## MLB

## MLB discusses expanded playoffs, video replay at meetings

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Commissioner Bud Selig's special committee for on-field matters discussed both expanded playoffs and increased use of video review by umpires without making any recommendations.

The committee of managers and executives met Tuesday on the second day of the winter meetings. The group will meet again in conjunction with owners' meetings scheduled for Jan. 12-13 in Paradise Valley, Ariz.

There appears to be strong sentiment for adding two wild-card teams to create a 10-club postseason, most likely for 2012. But the details have to be worked out, and the players' association said last week that it preferred that management bargain over the matter before formulating a detailed proposal of how an extra tier of playoffs would work.

"I don't think anybody's in favor of having a setup where you have 16 teams make the playoffs or 14 teams make the playoffs," said Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia, a member of the

committee. "But there seems to be balance there that hopefully would be explored."

Former Dodgers and Yankees manager Joe Torre, another member of the committee, wants to make certain division winners get rewarded for first-place finishes.

"I felt that winning a division didn't have as much clout as it probably should have," Torre said at a news conference with Lou Piniella and Cito Gaston, two other longtime managers who retired along with him in 2010.

"Three games in one place, two games in another, I don't think that's enough of a detriment," Torre said, referring to the current best-of-five division series format. "I'd like to make winning the division, because it is tough to do, I'd like to see them have a little more of an advantage."

Piniella backed expanded playoffs, as did Gaston.

"It will cause more interest at the end of the season," the former Blue Jays manager said. "Teams that are not in it could be in it."

Retired Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox also was scheduled

to be at the news conference but left the winter meetings because of a family illness. Braves president John Schuerholz, like Torre a member of Selig's committee, took Cox's chair.

A new wild-card round likely would be best-of-three or single-game elimination.

"We'll make what we think is the really best decision for baseball," Schuerholz said. "There's a lot of issues to contemplate."

When they met last month, more general managers appeared to favor best-of-three over a winner-take-all round.

"In baseball there has to be a balance of having 162 games mean more than just seeding, like it does in some other sports," Scioscia said. "I would think a longer series obviously favors a deeper team. But logistically, there has to be some balance to how many games you're going to be able to get in."

As for replay, it hasn't been determined whether to increase its use. It began in 2008, limited to reviewing whether potential home runs crossed fences or were fair.



Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig has considered expanding both the playoffs and video replay.

On other topics, Torre repeated he will not manage again and said he's had several offers to resume his career in broadcasting.

"At this point in time I'm sort of enjoying not having to make decisions, and I just put it off until after the first of the year," he said. "It certainly is tempting because it was something I did for six years

and enjoyed it and certainly wouldn't have the schedule that a manager has. But I'm not sure. I don't want to commit and be sorry I did something. I'm just going to give myself as a long a time as possible."

Torre also has the option of working for Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Peter Klaven: You got it, Joben.

Sydney Fife: I'm sorry, what?

Peter Klaven: Er... nothing.

Sydney Fife: No, what did you say?

Peter Klaven: Nah, I don't know...

You nicknamed me Pistol, and I just called you... "Joben"... It means nothing... I don't... I'm drunk... I'm gonna call a cab.

Peter Klaven: Why does everything I do sound like a leprechaun?



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**NFL**

**Manning stuck in a rut as Colts struggle**



Colts' quarterback Peyton Manning reacts to loss to Cowboys on Sunday. Manning has thrown 11 interceptions in the past three weeks.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning has a simple slump-busting plan.

Play like he usually does.

After throwing 11 interceptions in three weeks and having four returned for touchdowns, the four-time league MVP insists he won't change how he plays. Other than, of course, executing plays better.

"Aggressive discipline, that's kind of how I've always been taught to play," he said Tuesday. "What does that mean? That means throw it to the guy if he's open and don't throw it if he's covered. I just haven't been executing that philosophy well because I've been throwing to some guys that have been covered."

It sounds like a simple solution.

But over the past three weeks, Manning has been doing the opposite.

He's thrown into traffic more often and stared down receivers — uncustomary mistakes for a 13-year NFL veteran, particularly one with the reputation of being, well, Perfect Peyton.

For the first time in his pro career, he's had back-to-back four-interception games. He's thrown a career-high total for any three-week span, and he's repeatedly shouldered the blame for the Colts' woes by acknowledging he's made poor throws and poor decisions.

And it's taking a toll on the franchise player.

As Manning was peppered with questions about what's wrong Tuesday, the tension showed.

"We've lost three games, guys. I don't know what 'anything like this' means," Manning said when asked if he'd endured any similar slumps in high school or college. "It's a tough stretch. It's a three-game losing streak. I know you guys probably aren't used to having to ask these questions, but it's football and that's the way it is."

Manning isn't the only one seeking solutions, though everyone is backing the franchise quarterback.

Players such as longtime center Jeff Saturday, one of Manning's closest friends, and young receiver Pierre Garcon believe everyone can improve their play and that would help Manning.

Twice this week, coach Jim Caldwell has tried to explain the widespread problems reflected in the interception totals. He blamed route-running, pass protection, the inability to run the football, even the ability of the defense to force turnovers for the Colts' struggles.

On Monday night's radio show, Colts President Bill Polian acknowledged the combination may be forcing Manning into trying to do too much.

"We're not doing a good job in the running game and we're speeding up the clock in Peyton's head by about a half a second," Polian told listeners. "When you do that, you make mistakes."

But when you have a player who has been as consistently good as Manning, teammates aren't sure they can do anything to help.

"He's been around a long time and he knows what he's got to do as the quarterback," Saturday said. "And I'm not the one to give him advice on that (playing quarterback)."

Even Caldwell, Manning's position coach until last season, is willing to let Manning work things out on his own.

Manning's solution: Practice the same way, study the same way and revert to being his old self on the field.

"As a quarterback, I've tried to prepare hard to do my job better. That's something that I certainly need to do," he said. "I think everybody feels a sense of urgency, there is no question there is a sense of urgency, feels the challenge, and hopefully we can respond."

In past seasons, nobody has been better at responding to adversity than Manning.

Whether it was the trademark game-winning drives, the uncanny accuracy or the ability to almost carry a team to victory, Manning has always had an answer.

Now, the Colts need it. With four games left and three against division foes, the Colts (6-6) can win another AFC South title if they can pull off a sweep. The run starts Thursday night at Tennessee — a team that hasn't had an interception in three weeks.

But the questions are all about Peyton.

Suddenly, each errant throw is being dissected on highlight shows, fans are wondering whether Manning is hurt and some have even asked whether this is the start of a natural decline for the 34-year-old Manning.

Caldwell isn't buying it.

"He still works as hard as he always works. He is just as diligent (with) every single aspect of his routine and his preparation," he said. "I have been around him a little while now and it hasn't changed. He is still doing the same things he has always done, practicing extremely well and I think you will see that he will play well."

And Caldwell isn't about to ask Manning to change anything about his routine.

"That's part of his preparation," he said. "His state of readiness is different than the normal individual. That is part of his DNA and that's how he works and that's why he has been a great performer."



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NFL

# Jets look to rebound from loss



New York Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson looks at scoreboard during fourth quarter of devastating 45-3 loss to New England Patriots on Monday night in Foxborough, Mass. AP

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — The New York Jets went to New England looking to make a statement.

They did. The wrong one.

A day after being embarrassed on national television, the Jets were wondering how everything went so wrong in a 45-3 drubbing on Monday night.

"It was the game of the year," a bloodshot-eyed coach Rex Ryan said Tuesday. "The unfortunate thing is I feel bad for ourselves, obviously, our fans and, really, the NFL. The NFL deserved a better game than that, but we weren't up to the task."

That was clear early in the Jets' most lopsided loss since falling to the Miami Dolphins in 1986 by the same score. New York was 10-1 at that point, and that defeat, along with injuries, sparked a five-game losing streak.

Ryan acknowledged that there's plenty the Jets (9-3) need to fix before their game Sunday against the Dolphins (6-6) to avoid a similar fate. He said he never left the facility after getting back from the game early Tuesday morning.

"We got pummeled, we played terrible, but it's one game," Ryan said. "Everything we talked about is still attainable."

Everything, meaning, a Super Bowl trophy — something Ryan guaranteed during training camp.

Ryan even evoked the 1985 Chicago Bears, a team whose defensive coordinator was his father, Buddy. That team lost its only game that season to Miami 38-24 on a Monday night in Week 13, a result Ryan said he thought "was probably just as humiliating, bad, all that kind of stuff on a national stage, maybe even as big or even bigger than this."

Ryan added that he hopes "history repeats itself" as the Bears went on to win the Super Bowl that season. And, despite his own team's lousy loss, Ryan is confident his guys can turn things around.

"We have a quarter of our season left," he said, "so we're far from pressing the panic button."

The same can't be said of some distraught fans who flooded sports radio shows with calls

wondering if the Jets can possibly bounce back from this kind of loss. The performance was also heavily criticized by the media, with everyone from Ryan to Mark Sanchez to the vaunted defense getting clobbered.

"This humble pie tastes like a car tire and it goes down like peanut butter," defensive tackle Sione Pouha said after the game. "That's how it feels. Sunday can't come soon enough."

There will be lots to do in the days leading up to that, though. The players will gather as a team Wednesday morning, and Ryan said he'll address them at that point.

"I'll have a specific message," he said, "that I'll share with them first."

You can be sure there won't be many smiles in that room, nor should there be after what went down at Gillette Stadium.

"We really have to do some soul searching and see what we're really about, what type of team we want to be," wide receiver Brad Smith said. "I think we will be all right."

It couldn't get much worse than it did Monday, when there were serious breakdowns on offense, defense and special teams that Bill Belichick's team capitalized on each time.

"We couldn't have played much worse in all phases of the game," tight end Dustin Keller said.

Sanchez was off target all night, throwing three interceptions against a pass defense that ranked last in the league coming in. Offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer and the Jets' offense also never really took advantage of the Patriots' young secondary.

"This was a good old-fashioned butt-kicking," Sanchez said. "There's no two ways around it. I need to play better, especially down the stretch."

With the Jets trailing 24-3, Sanchez's interception at the Patriots 2 early in the third quarter ended any comeback chance New York had. The rout was on after that.

On special teams, Nick Folk missed another field goal, falling short on a 53-yard attempt, and punter Steve Weatherford shanked a 12-yard punt that led to a score.

The Jets' defense, which Ryan

has said will be ranked No. 1 at the end of the season, was picked apart by Tom Brady drive after drive. The Patriots scored on each of their first four possessions, taking a 21-point lead into halftime. It only got worse in the second half as the Jets appeared unable to stop or tackle anyone, including former teammate Danny Woodhead.

Other than Darrelle Revis, the secondary — already short-handed with the loss of Jim Leonhard — was exposed by Brady as Eric Smith struggled as Leonhard's replacement and Antonio Cromartie had probably his worst game with the team.

## Belles

continued from page 16

ble figures. Junior guard Patsy Mahoney scored 15 points and was a perfect 6-6 from the line, including 4-4 in the final fifteen seconds. Junior forward Jessica Centa scored 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds while freshman guard Shanlynn Bias was a key contributor with 14 points.

The Belles standout in this game, however, was junior forward Kelley Murphy, who notched 24

points and 13 rebounds in a dominating performance.

The Belles defense also stood out. They limited Olivet's leading scorer, junior guard Debbie Nikodemski, to just six points on 2-5 shooting from the field. Junior forward Alysia Cole was a bright spot in the Comets defeat with team highs with 18 points and seven rebounds.

The Belles will take the court on Saturday at 3 p.m. at home against MIAA foe Alma College.

Contact Joe Wirth at [jwirth@nd.edu](mailto:jwirth@nd.edu)

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FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL  
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# Guentzel

continued from page 16

year's team."

Guentzel's big-picture leadership has been essential on this year's Irish team, as a cast of twelve freshmen has been molded into a cohesive unit that sits second in the CCHA standings with 26 points in 12 league games.

"I think with only four seniors, we've got to be tight-knit with so many young freshmen. We've got to be role models," Guentzel said. "We've got no problems with each other, we all live together. We've been through some ups — the National Championship game — and some lows like last year. We've been through it all, and with that experience I think it helps us lead this team."

The maturation of those freshmen — center T.J. Tynan and wings Anders Lee and Mike Voran, to name a few — have enabled Guentzel to see considerable ice time with fellow seniors Ben Ryan and Calle Ridderwall. The line has turned in huge numbers, and for Guentzel the early-season statistics are right in line with his reputation as a smart and creative playmaker, with his team-leading 15 assists and three goals, which

puts him second on the team in points behind Tynan.

"I like to make plays, I like to set people up," Guentzel said. "Playing the last three years, [Ben Ryan and I] played a lot on the ice together. We kind of know where each other are and I mean that makes the game easier, if you know where each other are going to be. We can make more plays."

Guentzel and the rest of the Irish will be in action against Northern Michigan for a weekend series at the Joyce Center this Friday and Saturday. While the Wildcats may not carry the same reputation as recent opponents Miami and North Dakota, the senior said that Northern Michigan could not be underestimated.

"It's not the same name, but obviously, they're right behind us in the standings," Guentzel said. "They just crept into the top 20 in the nation, so, with finals coming up and a lot of young freshmen around who haven't been here during finals time, it's just kind of keeping them focused on the task at hand. Just trying to get through this last week and then when it comes to Saturday, making sure that we're into the game and then going from there."

Contact Chris Allen at [callen10@nd.edu](mailto:callen10@nd.edu)

# McGraw

continued from page 16

Natalie Novosel. Diggins, Notre Dame's starting point guard, was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll this week for her performances at No. 2/3 Baylor last Wednesday and against Purdue on Sunday. At the other guard position, Novosel has stepped up her play this season, often leading the team in scoring as she has been averaging 16.3 per game. Her contributions haven't gone unnoticed by the coaching staff.

"She's really talented and ... she's been playing really well all year," McGraw said about Novosel. "She's just taking what the defense gives her, she's not forcing things. Her and Skylar are playing really well together, she's just got great instincts, and she can really score. We like her to shoot the ball."

Both guards' abilities will be necessary for the Irish tonight when they take on the Friars. Notre Dame leads the series 18-0, but Providence can challenge the Irish's team speed and also have the ability to hit some of their weak spots.



KIRBY MCKENNA/The Observer

Senior forward Becca Bruszewski goes up against a Purdue defender during Notre Dame's 72-51 win at home on Sunday.

"They've got great team speed, really good guard play. They always seem to have really good guards," McGraw said. "They can push the tempo, they shoot the three much than better than we do, and they drive the ball really well, so we'll have some chal-

lenges for our defense." McGraw and the Irish take on the Friars tonight at 7 p.m. at Alumni Hall in Providence, R.I. in the hopes to open their Big East season with a win.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at [mvesel01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:mvesel01@saintmarys.edu)

# Brey

continued from page 16

series again, and our fans can relate to going and playing Kentucky every year. It's not a good game annually for us, but it's a good thing to rotate in and out of. Obviously the series is a little one-sided, but we won the last one, and it's a great challenge facing a great program."

Notre Dame has started the season 8-0 for the first time in Brey's tenure as coach, due in large part to their improvement on the boards this season. The Irish have out-rebounded every oppo-

nent so far this season, and currently rank fifth in the NCAA in rebound margin at plus-12.4.

"I think that's something we've been really pleased with," Brey said. "It's been a nucleus of guys that learned how to defend and rebound last year, and pushed to get an NCAA tournament bid, and they've continued that this year. Our size helps us, but it's kind of been a team mentality rebounding."

A big part of their improved rebounding has been senior Carleton Scott, who leads the Irish with 7.8 boards per game. Scott recorded two double-doubles in the three-game Old Spice Classic for the Irish, and was named to

the all-tournament team.

"I just didn't want him thinking, and I didn't want to talk publically about him doing more, because I didn't want him to get outside of our offense," Brey said. "I think he's learned to keep it very simple in the context of things, and he's done a really good job of rebounding and blocking shots."

Senior Scott Martin has also started to contribute for the Irish. Martin, who missed the 2008-09 campaign as a transfer before missing last year with a knee injury, struggled to start the season, but recorded a season-high seven rebounds against Wisconsin and a season-high 15 points in Notre Dame's last game against Indiana State.

"I think it's probably just reps and playing time," Brey said. "When you haven't played in two years, I think it's a confidence thing. Just getting to play and getting in game situations was key, and I want to just keep him confident, because I think he's feeling good about his role on the team."

Even though Big East season does not start for three weeks, Brey thinks that this game will be a good test for the Irish, and a good trial run for the type of teams they will face once conference play rolls around.


"I told the guys 'Here comes a Big East week,'" Brey said. "It's a Big East kind of preparation, with speed coming into our lane, and we talk about trying to survive and thrive in the Big East. There are a lot of guys that can get to the lane off the dribble, and that's certainly John [Calipari]'s philosophy. So, for these veteran guys in our program, it's very similar. It's going to be a great test for us in a road atmosphere."

Notre Dame tips off against Kentucky at 9:30 p.m. tonight before returning home to face Gonzaga on Saturday.

Contact Eric Prister at [erprister@nd.edu](mailto:erprister@nd.edu)

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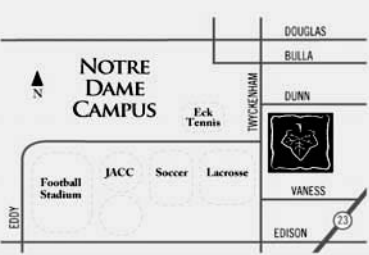
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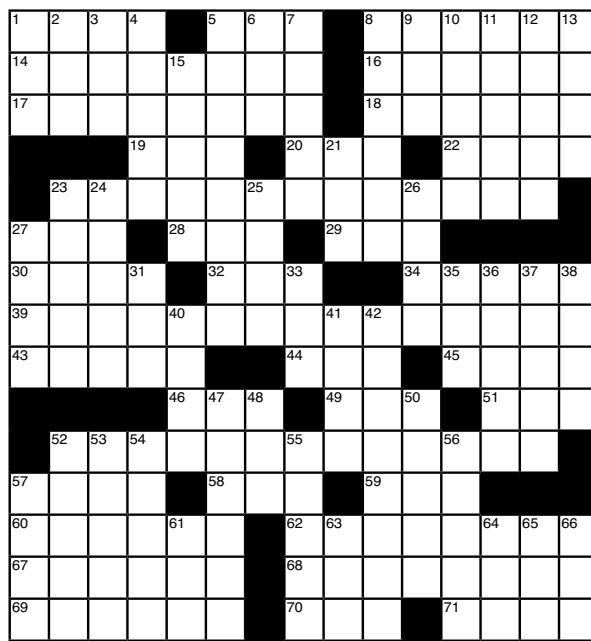
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- Across**
- 1 The two together
  - 5 In fighting trim
  - 8 Sparks's state
  - 14 Quick as a wink
  - 16 For all, as a restroom
  - 17 Online university staff?
  - 18 Trig function
  - 19 Anthem contraction
  - 20 Phone no.
  - 22 Body designs, informally
  - 23 What Nashville sunbathers acquire?
  - 27 One to hang with
  - 28 Special attention, for short
  - 29 Golf ball's position
  - 30 "Not on \_\_\_!"
  - 32 Hasty escape
  - 34 Ballplayer with a 40-Down logo
  - 39 Sign prohibiting sunshades?
  - 43 At attention
  - 44 Sgt. or cpl.
  - 45 Like many fast-food orders
  - 46 Bailed-out insurance co.
  - 49 Local govt. unit
  - 51 Make public
  - 52 Salon jobs for apprentice stylists?
  - 57 Zinging remark
  - 58 Coffee, slangily
  - 59 Nest egg letters
  - 60 Where to find a piece of Turkey
  - 62 "Stop that!" ... and a hint to the answers to 17-, 23-, 39- and 52-Across
- Down**
- 1 Coal holder
  - 2 Indivisible
  - 3 Demolitionist's aid
  - 4 Biker's invitation to a friend
  - 5 Former Big Apple mayor La Guardia
  - 6 Global currency org.
  - 7 Lab jobs
  - 8 Atomic centers
  - 9 Brian of ambient music
  - 10 Scenic view
  - 11 Like most Turks
  - 12 Body shop jobs
  - 13 Graph lines
  - 15 1545-63 council site
  - 21 Moray, e.g.
  - 23 Drum accompanying a fife
  - 24 École attendee
  - 25 Emotionally damage
  - 26 Blue-green hue
  - 27 Plexiglas piece
  - 31 Muscle spasm
  - 33 AOL alternative
  - 35 W. C. Fields persona
  - 36 Bar closing time, perhaps
  - 67 Chips away at
  - 68 Seinfeld's eccentric relative
  - 69 Many a Little League rooster
  - 70 "Go team!"
  - 71 Sunbathers catch them



Puzzle by Tracy Gray

- 37 Philbin of live TV
- 38 "P.U.!" inducer
- 40 See 34-Across
- 41 "Hamlet" has five
- 42 Fastball in the dirt, say
- 47 Kiddingly
- 48 Prefix with thermal
- 50 Jeopardy
- 52 Michelle's predecessor as first lady
- 53 Goof
- 54 "Humble" home
- 55 Come back
- 56 Zagat, to restaurants
- 57 Microwave sound
- 61 Porker's pad
- 63 Old-time actress Merkel
- 64 Suffix with pay or plug
- 65 Driver's one-eighty
- 66 How-\_\_\_ (handy books)

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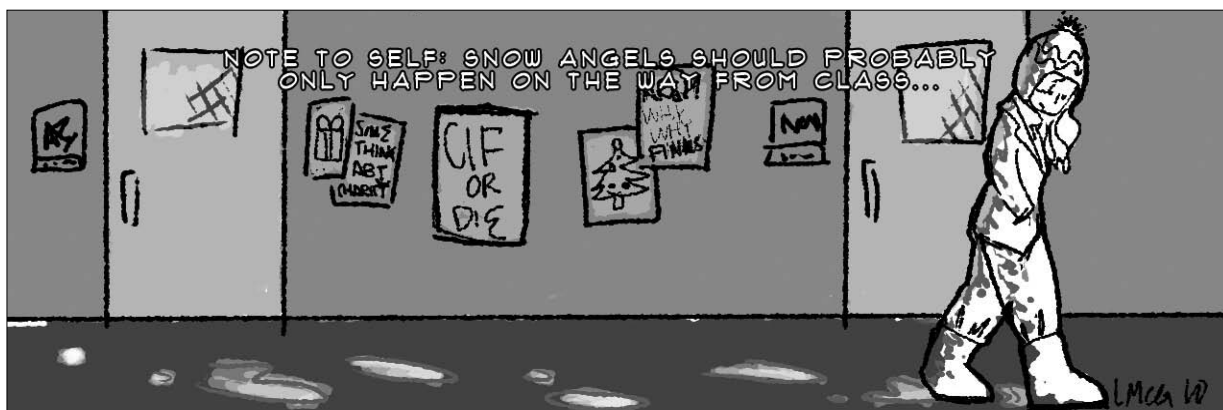
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**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Concentrate on the lesson, not the experience, and detach yourself emotionally. Discipline and gauging your time carefully will be required. Put serious consideration and thought into every move you make. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** A chance to position yourself for a job that interests you is possible. Someone you know will put in a good word and a recommendation. Change is heading your way. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** There will be plenty of pressure to deal with if you leave your personal paperwork unfinished. You will not be able to move forward and may even be penalized. A sudden loss will leave you in a vulnerable position. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Make sure you hold up your end of any partnerships you are involved in. Socializing with peers or enjoying a little festive spirit at work will help you build a closer relationship to people you work alongside. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You may not feel like working but it's important to stay on top of your tasks. You may face problems with someone you love or live with if you don't take care of your share of the chores. A burden that will cause emotional upset must be taken care of immediately. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You have plenty of options. Making alterations at home will turn out superbly and will bring you closer to your family or lover. A social gathering with fellow workers will allow you insight. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't let anyone guilt you into thinking you should do more. The pace will be hectic and, in order to do things well, you have to stay focused and stick to the basics. A good idea you want to share with friends or your lover will pay off. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Someone who meant a lot to you in the past will surface, making you rethink your direction and geographical location. A lot can change in a very short period of time. Be ready to take action at the first opportunity. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Take on a challenge and you will show everyone how well you work under pressure. Expect to face a problem regarding your home, family or residence. Finish whatever needs doing before the year comes to a close. ★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Sort through matters that need to be cleared up quickly. Your insight will guide you regarding your work and how you can turn something you want to do into a profitable endeavor. There is no time to waste. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** The more you offer to help a cause or those in need, the better you will feel about who you are and what you represent. You can stabilize your life if you interact with people with something to offer you in return. Hard work will pay off. ★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You may face an explosive situation if you aren't willing to back down and rethink how you should proceed. Back off and give everyone time to calm down. A promise made to someone you regard highly will be reciprocated. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are proud, just and always willing to lend a helping hand. You know what you want and are a participant and a competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, mspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

**JUMBLE**

HENRI ARNOLD  
MIKE ARGIRION

**JUMBLE**

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

MULBA

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Answer: " □ □ □ □ □ □ " □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ERASE VAPOR JAGGED SICKEN  
Answer: When he made the girls ice cream drinks, they said he was a — SODA "JERK"

**THE OBSERVER**

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Freedom fighters

*No. 23 Irish renew rivalry against No. 17 Kentucky as team travels to Louisville*

By: ERIC PRISTER  
Associate Sports Editor

Freedom Hall has not been kind to the No. 23 Irish, who have lost their last 10 games at the Louisville, Ky. arena. Notre Dame will try to break that streak while keeping alive an eight-game win streak to start the season as the face No. 17 Kentucky in the DIRECTV SEC/Big East Invitational tonight.

"I feel like we've left games on the table there, even though we've played pretty well there against good teams," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "It's not like it's going to be foreign territory."

Kentucky and Notre Dame will meet for the 60th time, and while Kentucky holds a 41-18 advantage in the series, the Irish won the last meeting during the 2009 NIT.

"It's a great night of basketball," Brey said. "When [Wildcats coach John Calipari] got the job, he talked about starting the



Senior forward Tyrone Nash looks for the rebound against two California defenders during the Old Spice Classic semifinals in Orlando on Nov. 26. The Irish won 57-44.

JULIE HERDER/The Observer

see BREY/page 13

**SMC BASKETBALL**

# Belles beat Comets on the foul line

By JOE WIRTH  
Sports Writer

Clutch free throw shooting down the stretch helped Saint Mary's hold on to beat Olivet Tuesday and grab its first conference win of the season.

The game was hotly contested throughout, as neither team led by more than eight points. The Belles (6-2, 1-1 MIAA) were victorious despite being outrebounded 37-21 and giving up 11 second-chance opportunities to the Comets.

The key to victory for the Belles was their free throw shooting. They shot 15-18 from the line and made their last six with the game still hanging in the balance to seal the win.

The Belles had a diverse offensive attack against Olivet. They ended up with four players scoring in dou-

see BELLES/page 12

**ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Irish open Big East season at Providence

By MEAGHAN VESELIK  
Sports Writer

The No. 18 Irish have faced an array of opponents from a variety of conferences in the first month of the season, but tonight marks a new beginning for Notre Dame as it opens its Big East schedule at Providence.

"It's [kind of] a clean slate," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said of opening the team's conference season. "You know, the first game, it's important to start off on a good note. So we want to go out with a lot of intensity. We worked on our defense today, I wasn't really happy with our defense against Purdue so we spent some time on that today. That's something we really want to improve on by the time we get to the Big East [Tournament]."

Tonight's game marks Notre Dame's earliest Big East opener since the team's title-run in the 2000-01 season when they defeated Villanova 64-33 at home on Dec. 6, 2000, which is a fitting recurrence since this year marks the 10th anniversary of the program's only national championship.

But, as McGraw said, Notre Dame has improvements to make on their defense, as well as in other areas of its game in preparation for the

tough conference slate. Many of these areas are ones she observed in Sunday's contest against Purdue, which she called an "ugly present" for her birthday.

"Blocking out. We missed a lot of box outs and executing on the offense," McGraw said. "Just being smart with the ball and making good decisions."

McGraw hopes that the Irish will try to work the ball into Notre Dame's post players, who have been very successful this season and scored the majority of the team's points against Purdue.

"We're just trying to get the guards to look in a little bit more," she said. "The posts have been very successful, we shot 50 percent from the field with all four of them [seniors Devereaux Peters and Becca Bruszewski, junior Erica Soloman and freshman Natalie Achonwa] combined [against Purdue], so they're doing a really good job and we want to continue to look in because they're playing well. We have to give them more touches."

Notre Dame's guards have been just as essential to its success and ability to put up a fight in the first month of its season, especially sophomore Skylar Diggins and junior

see MCGRAW/page 13

**HOCKEY**

# Guentzel leads on the ice



Senior right wing Ryan Guentzel fights for possession in a game against Michigan State on Nov. 19 at home. The Irish defeated the Spartans 6-2.

YUE WU/The Observer

By CHRIS ALLEN  
Sports Writer

After a subpar 2009 season, No. 12 Notre Dame has gotten off to a strong start to the 2010 campaign against a difficult schedule. The winning atmosphere around the program means that things are back to normal for senior right wing Ryan Guentzel. Success on the ice is in the Minnesota native's blood.

Before he stepped foot on

campus, Guentzel had already been immersed in winning for years. His father Mike has been involved in collegiate and youth hockey for years as one of the top assistant coaches in Division I hockey. He guided Minnesota to the National Championship in 2001 and 2002 and earned five trips to the Frozen Four during his decade-plus behind the bench for the Golden Gophers. Ryan said the time around his father's teams

gave him a winning philosophy.

"I think I bring in some winning experience," Guentzel said. "I won a National Championship in juniors. My dad won a couple of National Championships coaching Division I hockey, too, so I've been around some teams where they've had success. I've just been trying to bring those philosophies into this

see GUENTZEL/page 13