

Movie screening to honor Mandela

Center for Ethics and Culture to sponsor viewing of biographical film about late South African president

By JACK ROONEY
News Writer

As part of the University's remembrance of the late South African president Nelson Mandela, the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture will sponsor a screening of "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, followed by a panel discussion of the film and its cultural and educational significance.

The film itself is based on

Mandela's autobiography of the same name. It stars Idris Elba as Mandela and Naomie Harris as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the South African politician and Mandela's ex-wife.

The panel discussion will feature Fr. Emmanuel Katongole of the Notre Dame Kroc Institute, Thomas Hibbs of Baylor University and Thomas Allen of Allied Faith and Family, a division of the Allied Integrated Marketing company. Professor O. Carter Snead, the director of the Center for Ethics

and Culture, will moderate the discussion.

The screening and discussion, already sold out, is the inaugural event of the Center for Ethics and Culture's media and culture initiative.

According to a written description of the initiative put together by the Center for Ethics and Culture, "The question of how media arts (especially film and television) function and transform culture is a crucially important question that thus far has been underexplored

in the social sciences. [Through the media and culture initiative] the Center for Ethics and Culture aims to engage this question in a comprehensive fashion one that is simultaneously theoretical and practical."

The event is a special advance screening of the film, which Snead said was made possible by the Weinstein Company, the film's distributor.

"Notre Dame is a culturally significant institution," Snead said. "Moreover, as a Catholic

university, we stand for the values at the heart of this film: mercy, equality and reconciliation; [University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore] Hesburgh's legacy for the American civil rights movement stands as further reaffirmation [of] Notre Dame's commitment to these goods."

Snead said the Center for Ethics and Culture planned the event well before Mandela's recent death, but his passing provides an

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Spond turns injury into inspiration

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

No longer able to play the sport he loves, former Irish linebacker Danny Spond has turned his experience into a way to do something else he loves: inspiring others.

Spond, a senior, has founded the organization, Undefeated, in order to share his experience overcoming frustrated expectations through speaking engagements around the country.

"Undefeated is an organization I started to tell my story and

see SPOND **PAGE 5**



Observer File Photo

Senior Danny Spond, who retired prior to this season, takes the field against BYU on Oct. 20, 2012. After retiring from football, Spond launched Undefeated to share his personal story with others.

Experts address finals stress

By KATHRYN MARSHALL
News Writer

During this time of late night studying and coffee breaks, both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's offer resources to help students manage the stress of finals week in a healthy manner.

"College is a high stress environment and we perform best when we have learned to manage our stress," Dr. Megan Brown, a counseling psychologist at the University Counseling Center (UCC), said. "However, many of us need to learn the skills of stress management. These resources help students learn and hone these skills."

In Saint Liam Hall at Notre Dame, students have access to the Inner Resources Room, which contains tools used to guide relaxation and enhance performance, according to the UCC's website. Students can use a massage chair, a light box and computer biofeedback programs such as emWave and Healing Rhythms in the room, Brown said.

Saint Mary's also provides a

see UCC **PAGE 5**

Farm employs autistic adults

By EMILIE KEFALAS
News Writer

The national unemployment rate among autistic adults is 90 percent, a statistic not surprising for Jan Pilarski, former director of the justice education program at Saint Mary's, whose autistic son, Chris Pilarski was let go of his job after only three months of employment despite his attainment of a college degree, she said.

"As a parent of a young adult with autism, I always knew that once our son, Chris, finished the end of his schooling that it was going to be a rough road," Jan

see FARM **PAGE 5**



Photo courtesy of Jan Pilarski

Farm workers at Green Bridge Growers, a group that employs autistic adults, tend to an aquaponics greenhouse. The farm has started a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo to build a second greenhouse.

ENERGY GRANT

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THE OBSERVER

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

Editor-in-Chief
Andrew Gastelum
Managing Editor
Meghan Thomassen
Business Manager
Peter Woo

Asst. Managing Editor: Matthew DeFranks
Asst. Managing Editor: Marisa Iati
Asst. Managing Editor: Nicole Michels

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Online Editor: Kevin Song
Advertising Manager: Emily Kopetsky
Ad Design Manager: Sara Hillstrom
Controller: Alex Jirschele
Systems Administrator: Jeremy Vercillo

Office Manager & General Info

Ph: (574) 631-7471
Fax: (574) 631-6927

Advertising
(574) 631-6900 ads@ndsmcobserver.com

Editor-in-Chief
(574) 631-4542 agastel1@nd.edu

Managing Editor
(574) 631-4542 mthomass@nd.edu

Assistant Managing Editors
(574) 631-4541 mdefrank@nd.edu
miati@nd.edu, nmichels@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 observer.scene1@gmail.com

Saint Mary's Desk
krabac01@saintmarys.edu

Photo Desk
(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

Systems & Web Administrators
(574) 631-8839

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Today's Staff

News

Tori Roeck
Lesley Stevenson
Henry Gens

Graphics

Sammy Coughlin

Photo

Karla Naeno

Sports

Samantha Zuba
Cole Schietinger
Sam Gans

Scene

Kevin Noonan

Viewpoint

Caroline Lang

Corrections

In the Dec. 9 issue of The Observer, the article "Islamic culture fostered by student group" mistakenly stated that the Muslim Student Association hosted "Syria: Why it Matters." It also misprinted the name of the club's signature Eid Festival event. The Observer regrets these errors.

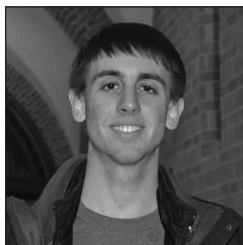
QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is Miley Cyrus's spirit animal?

**Mitchell Patin**

sophomore
Keough Hall

"Siberian tiger."

**Michael Rangel**

sophomore
Zahm Hall

"Teddy bear."

**Michelle Wadolowski**

sophomore
Pasquerilla West Hall

"Tiger."

**Marina Salinas**

junior
Welsh Family Hall

"Naked mole rat."

**Ashlynn Hengel**

freshman
Pangborn Hall

"Monkey."

**Alison Doermann**

freshman
Lewis Hall

"Peacock."



MEGHAN THOMASSEN | The Observer

Two students masqueraded as a camel in the bitter cold Wednesday to commemorate this week's 'Hump Day.' Based on the existence of only one hump this camel is likely of the Dromedary variety. A two-hump Bactrian camel, one of the few animals that regularly eats snow, might enjoy South Bend a bit more.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Thursday**Insights from Foresight**

Mendoza College
5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
A showcase of student projects.

Fall Concert: Collegium Musicum

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Family friendly.

Friday**Talk: Pentecostalism in Prison in Rio de Janeiro**

O'Shaughnessy Hall
11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
By USC's Andrew Johnson.

Mass in Memory of Nelson Mandela

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Call for peace and justice.

Saturday**The Met Opera Live**

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
1 p.m.-3 p.m.
New production of Verdi's Fallstaff, in HD.

Christmas Concert: Notre Dame Glee Club

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
2:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.
Tickets \$3 for students.

Sunday**Basilica Sunday Mass**

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Music by the Liturgical Choir.

Concert: Burning River Brass

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Jazz Christmas carols.

Monday**Final Exams**

Everywhere
All the time
Just in case you didn't know, it's finals week!

Community Choir Rehearsal

Coleman-Morse 329
7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Rehearsal for Midnight Mass. All are welcome.

Professor earns grant for energy research

By **ALEX CAO**
News Writer

The U.S. Department of Energy Advanced Research Project Agency awarded a \$2,496,428 grant to a research team led by Notre Dame Electrical Engineering Professor Grace Xing in October.

Xing's team of researchers from the University of Notre Dame and three tech companies — IQE, TriQuint and the United Technology Research Center — is working to improve the process of converting and distributing electricity.

"If you look at electricity after

it's generated, we have various means: we have hydro-power, wind power, solar power — we have various ways of producing [energy]," Xing said. "This electricity has to be converted to higher voltages so it can be transmitted and distributed. ... This power signal has to be converted ... sometimes by stepping up voltage, sometimes by changing the frequency."

Xing said researchers could streamline the energy production process.

"The current technology is very bulky and not efficient, especially the ones converting electricity at higher frequencies. ... If you

think of delivering power, you think of power distribution, like huge towers, wires, ceramics, insulators and inductors," she said. "We are looking to miniaturize that landscape so that it can be better distributed and that we can be more efficient. ... For example, you don't connect your computer directly to the wall, you plug it into a power converter block. ... Potentially, we can get rid of the power converter block."

Xing said she hopes to make the process sleeker, smaller and more efficient by making power-converting devices with a relatively new material called gallium nitride.

"Gallium Nitride is a type of semiconductor, not really the most heard-of semiconductor — that's called Silicon," she said. "That is the backbone of all of our modern electronics. You have silicon in your car, phone, computer. It's in all the electronics you can think of including power stations. Some of them use silicon."

"So the technology we're using uses a semiconductor called gallium nitride. Gallium nitride is a relatively new semiconductor in comparison to silicon. ... It has only been worked on for 25 years, but if you have used blu-ray disks or white LED's, you have been

using gallium nitride devices."

The same thickness of material of silicon supports 100 volts of energy but the same amount of gallium nitride supports 1,000 volts, Xing said.

Xing said she thinks this research will benefit public infrastructure or engineering research.

"[We hope that] our device can be used as a replacement for our current infrastructure or for engineers to help develop the next-generation of infrastructure," she said.

Contact Alex Cao at
acao@nd.edu

Visiting poet kicks off series at Saint Mary's

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

The Saint Mary's Poetry Club hosted Austin Segrest, poetry editor of "The Missouri Review" and the club's first poet of its inaugural poet speaker series Wednesday.

Senior Susan Head, a member of the Poetry Club, introduced Segrest, who was chosen to speak in the series under the guidance of English professor Dionne Bremyer, one of Segrest's friends who has encouraged students in the Saint Mary's community to attend literary events and bring more speakers to campus.

Segrest, born in Birmingham, Alabama, said he studied classics at Emory University. Head said his poetry is influenced by many of the classical poets, such as Ovid and Virgil, and their use and creation of myth.

Segrest said he was also influenced by his study of language, his time studying abroad in Rome, his love of music and dance, and his mother, the subject of most of his elegies.

"I'm fascinated by the challenge of how we can approximate what music can do in words while still using sound," Segrest said. "That whole adventure is endlessly

fascinating to me."

Segrest said he felt excited to be at Saint Mary's, detailing how he believes he is "traveling east to west through his life," a metaphor coined by poet John Donne.

"It is really great to be in a place where I can tell there is such a love and care for the written word, and it's a real honor for my poetry and my writing to be a part of this. It really means the world," Segrest said.

Segrest said he has used psychoanalysis to revisit his personal and family past and to investigate the roots from which he sprung and the steps he has taken thus

far in life.

"My mother died when I was first coming into my own as a writer, so it was very influential on me, and it's no surprise that it's something I explored a lot in psychoanalysis," Segrest said.

"There were just a few confluences that came together in my life, like I had just graduated from Emory University, I was working a research job, and actually living with my mother; I had moved in back home and so I think there were a lot of intersections coming together that then came up in the therapy that followed."

Junior Elizabeth Kenney said she enjoyed Segrest's reading and liked learning his background.

"As a writer, I thought it was really interesting to hear about his techniques and the subjects he chooses to use in his writing," Kenney said. "I liked the rhythm in his poetry and the honesty and how it sounded just like a conversation. I think he made an impression on many of the students

in attendance, because he was so casual about his poetry but it reached very deep and touched on many topics people could relate to.

"I thought his use of classical references were breathtaking, and having studied abroad in Rome, also, I liked making these connections and thinking of what the allusions mean for myself and then within his poems."

Founder of the poetry club, junior Claire Bleecker, said she began the club this year in order to learn more about poetry and to expose herself and other students to more types of this art.

"We were excited to have Segrest come to Saint Mary's, because I think it's so important for young writers to know that becoming a poet is a plausible thing," Bleecker said. "Poets aren't just these mythological creatures but very genuine and kind people."

Contact Kelly Konya at
kkonya01@saintmarys.edu

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CLOSED BY CHRISTMAS EVE?



WHAT HAPPENED?

There was no one in Room 329 to hear the Sacred Heart carillon bells ringing on December 24, 1941. The innovative new place founded a few months earlier—specifically to make life easier for the men and women who work at Notre Dame—was gone. An Assistant Coach needing a loan knocked on the door but no one answered. How could this be?

Something fantastic was happening! Room 329 was no longer big enough for all the staff and faculty who preferred the benefits of a credit union over a bank. So, the coach walked down three flights of stairs where he found the newly relocated and much larger University of Notre Dame Credit Union.

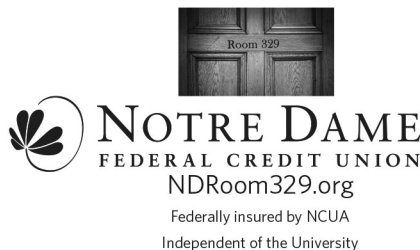
For an idea dreamed up in a pub a few months earlier by two Notre Dame professors, this innovative place without stockholders was being embraced by so many professors, staff and coaches, that things were really taking off. It would stay here in the Administration Building, writing low-interest loans to the men and women of

Notre Dame for the next seventeen years—until it outgrew this space too!

Today, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union is still devoted to serving the men and women of this great University. It's what we were founded to do. No one else can say that. For us, it is both an honor and a responsibility we take very seriously.

Merry Christmas to you from your family at Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, where we always hear the carillon bells of Sacred Heart.

Find out more at www.NDRoom329.org.



Mandela

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

added significance to the film. He additionally said members of the Notre Dame community are now paying more attention to the event by people at the University.

"Of course the event now takes on a deeper importance," Snead said. "This is a time when we are reflecting on Mandela's legacy."

Snead said Mandela's legacy is important especially at a place like Notre Dame, which prides itself on not only being a research institution but also a promoter of values such as freedom, equality and reconciliation.

"[Mandela's] commitment to non-violence and reconciliation is an important issue we want to explore and celebrate," Snead said.

Snead said he is happy the event sold out, and he said the Center for Ethics and Culture is exploring adding more screenings of the film on campus.

"We're very excited the film sold out in short order," Snead said. "There's a lot of interest in [another

screening], and we're certainly open to the possibility of additional screenings. We'll just have to see what's possible."

Snead said the Africana Studies Department and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies have joined the Center for Ethics and Culture in sponsoring the event, and the University itself added the event as an official remembrance event following Mandela's death.

Snead said the Center for Ethics and Culture chose this film in particular as the first event of the media and culture initiative because it is not only visually and audibly stimulating, but also intellectually and emotionally thought-provoking.

"Our feeling was that [the first film featured in the new initiative] had to be aesthetically beautiful and normatively rich," Snead said. "We also thought [the film] would attract a large and diverse audience."

Contact Jack Rooney at
jrooney1@nd.edu

SMC choirs to sing Christmas carols

By ALEX WINEGAR
News Writer

This Sunday, the 28th annual Lessons and Carols event will take place at the Church of Loretto at 7:30 p.m., sponsored by Campus Ministry, the Department of Music, the Department of Communication, Dance and Theater and the Church of Loretto.

Regina Wilson, assistant director of Campus Ministry, said Lessons and Carols is a gathering of prayer that was started by the Church of England. Readers recite scripture, and Saint Mary's and the Church of Loretto's choirs sing sacred songs of the season, she said.

"The readings and lessons are readings that we carefully select based on theme," Wilson said. "This year we picked readings that convey or represent images of Mary. And they aren't all scripture. For instance there's a lovely poem by Hildegard Von Bingen that we've used several times and that we are going to read again this year," she said.

The event begins with a procession of the choirs singing a congregational song. Readings and lessons with either choral or congregational signing alternate, Wilson said. The choirs include women's choir, liturgical choir, collegiate choir, Loretto choir and Hand Belle Choir. A candlelight ceremony featuring "Silent Night" closes the event, she said.

"We invite different people from the College to do the readings. We have seven different lessons and readings," she said. "... Of the seven readers there are two faculty members, one student, two sisters, a couple of ministers so it is a representation of the College."

The readings often relate back to the mission of Saint Mary's and to the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Wilson said.

"It is very connected with the mission of the sisters of the Holy Cross so the readings often have something to do with justice," she said. "And this year in particular to Mary and justice to Saint Mary's to some of the thematic elements."

After participating in Lessons and Carols in 2012, sophomore Maria Wesler said she chose to participate for a second year as part of women's choir because the event was a lovely experience.

"[The Church of Loretto] is just so beautiful," Wesler said. "The way you can hear everyone sing in there and [the way it] echoes is gorgeous," she said.

Saint Mary's students also recognize the importance of keeping tradition and the value it has for the College, Wesler said.

"It's a part of maintaining

the culture and also maintaining the values of Saint Mary's," she said. "I would say Lessons and Carols would probably be a good part of the Saint Mary's tradition because it does keep alive the certain values that our school holds sacred like religion."

Wilson said she believes the event is a celebratory occasion for the community to be in prayer together.

"I find it to be an experience of prayer," she said "... There are a lot of people that have been coming for years. This is their advent thing to participate in."

Contact Alex Winegar at
awineg01@saintmarys.edu

Event to unite various scholars

By CAITLIN SISK
News Writer

On any college campus, various academic disciplines are somewhat separated. But twice a semester, Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Religion and Society hosts presentations as part of the Colloquium on the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion to unite scholars from diverse fields.

The Center will host one of these presentations, titled "Beyond Coping: Pentecostalism in Prison in Rio de Janeiro," on Friday.

The speaker, Dr. Andrew Johnson, a former visiting scholar at Princeton University, will present on his research about religion at the margins of society, specifically the Pentecostalism movement and its presence among prisoners in Rio de Janeiro, Rae

Hoffman, center program coordinator said.

The presentations, although focused on topics related to religious studies, also offer useful information not only for those looking to study religion but also for those wishing to participate in social research, Hoffman said.

"They also talk about how they do their research and different aspects of their research, so I think for anyone that wants to do research it's good to come and listen to the speakers to get a feel for how others do it," Hoffman said.

Every colloquium has a different topic, ranging from the idea of science versus religion to investigations of hookup culture on college campuses, she said.

"I think there should be different topics all of the time so it reaches all of the audience, and it's not just the same thing over and over again. It brings more of

a crowd," Hoffman said.

The colloquium began to bring together different disciplines, she said.

"[We hold them] so that communication across the disciplines becomes better, and also it's a place for the graduate students to kind of network and get to know other graduate students in other departments," Hoffman said.

The Center for the Study of Religion and Society hopes to include all disciplines in these discussions on topics related to the study of religion, Hoffman said.

"The majority of them right now are coming from the sociology department," she said. "Our ideal is to have grad students and faculty come from sociology history, political science, theology."

Contact Caitlin Sisk at
csisk@nd.edu

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Spond

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to hopefully inspire others as they face every day challenges,” Spond said.

The centerpiece of Spond’s story is that he was set to start at outside linebacker this season when he made the decision to retire in August, a decision he made after suffering an especially serious migraine episode on the third day of practice this season.

Spond said he has a hemiplegic migraine condition, which causes sporadic, debilitating migraines that affect an entire half of his body while they last.

“Basically, it hits one side of your brain and that shuts down one side of your body,” he said. “For me it affects the right side of my brain, so I can’t use the left side of my body.”

The decision to retire early meant Spond spent the season as a student coach, helping players like his replacement, freshman

Jaylon Smith.

“It was absolutely tough at first, going from being a starter to standing on the sidelines with a clipboard,” Spond said. “The biggest challenge is reaching the conclusion that everything happens for a reason, but once I was at that point it opened up everything.”

Spond said he chose to continue contributing to his team and to make the best of his situation, and it has revealed new possibilities for his future.

“I told myself I had two options in this: be sad about it and fade into the shadows or turn this into something positive and make the most of it,” he said. “This season and this organization have opened new pathways for me.”

Through Undefeated, Spond has fielded requests to speak at five events before an assembly of St. Joseph County athletic teams, both the New York and Chicago Notre Dame alumni associations, Comcast TV employees at their annual convention in Denver and

a community event in his hometown of Littleton, Colo. Spond is set to graduate in January, and all five events will take place in early 2014.

Up to this point, starting Undefeated has been an enjoyable experience and he is excited about the work he will be doing, Spond said.

“The best thing about this for me is that it’s something I love to do. My whole life I’ve loved to help people. It’s very exciting and very rewarding,” he said.

“I’ve received a lot of praise from all over, which keeps me going. It’s all fun right now, really, though sitting for hours on a computer to make a website was tough.”

Spond said the outpouring of support he received after his decision to retire initially sparked the idea for Undefeated.

“When I couldn’t play anymore, I got a lot of messages — Facebook messages, letters, emails — from people who said they had gone through something similar,” he

said. “Their stories helped me, so I got the idea that my story could inspire people.”

He committed to the idea and began work on Undefeated in late November after realizing that many of the job opportunities he was interviewing for, while interesting, would not allow him to do what he really wanted to do, Spond said.

Friends, family and members of the “Notre Dame family” have helped Spond to get started, he said.

“Family and friends have been my main support staff. I’ve also reached out to Athletic Director Jack Swarbrick, alums and former players,” he said.

Another Undefeated project is a book Spond is writing, to be published by Ave Maria Press, Spond said. The book is part autobiography and part companion piece for his presentation. He said he is roughly halfway through the writing process and hopes to be able to release the book around the

beginning of next football season.

Spond said the book, in addition to telling the story of his retirement from football, would explore other important moments in his life, including colliding with another player in a sixth grade baseball game and being paralyzed for eight hours as a result.

“[The experience in sixth grade] set me on a path of understanding life is fragile, and I have to decide what I’m doing with it,” he said.

His overall, long-term goal for Undefeated is to make a career out of it, Spond said. While he plans to have another job for now, he is hopeful that he can eventually build up Undefeated to the point where he is speaking nationwide, as well as partnering with various sponsors and even other speakers with similar stories.

More information, including contact information, can be found at beundefeated.org.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

UCC

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form of light therapy, the Happy Light, offered by Women’s Health, Kris Pendley, a Saint Mary’s counselor, said. These devices combat seasonal affective disorders by giving students exposure to a full spectrum of light similar to the light of the sun for 20 to 30 minutes, Pendley said.

“I think that for people used to sunny climates like California and the Southwest and southern states like Florida and Georgia where they have more sunlight are often more affected by the climate here,” Pendley said. “So this is an easy way to help with depression without needing a pill.”

At Saint Mary’s, counselors in Women’s Health work with students to manage stress and anxiety, Pendley said. They use a wellness approach that includes looking at sleep habits, practicing

visualization and discussing nutrition as well as deep breathing, she said.

“[Deep breathing] levels out the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in your blood, and it gives your brain a good shot of oxygen which helps you think,” Pendley said.

Taking care of the body through sleep, a healthy diet and exercise, as well as positive self talk that involves realistic encouragement and self compassion are techniques students can use to relieve stress, Brown said.

“I think the most effective stress management is practicing a balanced lifestyle every day,” Brown said. “Then when things get particularly stressful, there is nothing new to learn, only slight adaptations to be made.”

Pendley said smiling is another simple technique to manage stress. When you smile, the brain releases a chemical that makes you happy, and even if the person

doesn’t return the smile, their brain releases a positive chemical as well, she said.

“The thing with anxiety and stress is that you have a lot of control over your brain chemistry,” Pendley said. “When you think negative thoughts your brain produces the chemistry that causes anxiety and sadness.”

Pendley said excessive stress is not healthy and often results in not only unhappiness but increased levels of procrastination. “All-nighters” are often a result, and are often counter-productive because without sleep the brain is unable to transfer information from the short-term to the long-term memory, she said.

“Catastrophizing and not seeing a way out of the stress can shut us down,” Brown said. “If the stress is so bad that you can’t see the light at the end of the tunnel, ask for help from someone who can do something – a professor, a parent, a rector or a counselor.”

STRESS RELIEF RESOURCES

Notre Dame University Counseling Center

Inner Resource Room

massage chair
light box
computer biofeedback programs

Saint Mary's Women's Health

Resources

happy light
counseling

STEPH WULZ | The Observer

Taking part in healthy activities, such as going for a walk or calling a friend, that elicit positive emotions are good ways to handle the stress college naturally invokes, Brown said.

“I challenge students not to

wait until finals to learn stress management,” she said. “These are the skills of success and happiness that will last a lifetime.”

Contact Kathryn Marshall at kmarsh02@saintmarys.edu

Farm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pilarski said.

“There’s that unknown of wondering what will happen after that, because everything has been supportive up to that point. I guess I put my social justice hat on and looked at it broadly and structurally to say there really is a systemic problem. It’s chronic unemployment for these young people, and [I] just sat with it for a while to think what can we contribute to this and how can we address the problem.”

Jan Pilarski subsequently founded Green Bridge Growers, an innovative social venture providing skill-matched employment for underserved young adults on the autism spectrum through an urban aquaponics farm, she said.

“I knew it had to be something that was more entrepreneurial, because traditional employment wasn’t going to work,” she said.

By combining Chris Pilarski’s interests in science and organic

farming with the study of other types of plant growth, Jan Pilarski said she saw alternative ways that food was being grown sustainably. She and her son toured the country to see how his love of natural sciences could be applied in an autistic-friendly work environment, she said.

“He enjoys the outdoors much more so,” Jan Pilarski said. “Even office work is to a degree fine, but he likes the hands-on work. He found himself really enjoying the science work, the minerals in the water and how to do testing of the water, so for him that was where all the dots got connected and enabled him to use his skills.”

Jan Pilarski said when she saw aquaponics in action for the first time three years ago, she made the connection between her son’s passion for environmental science and employment opportunities for autistic adults.

“It fits very well, and we’ve taken it to others with autism,” she said. “It fits so well because you have to make sure the water has

the proper chemistry pH levels, and people with autism really get into checking all that. They like to check things like the temperature of the water and the air [and] observe the fish and look at how they’re growing and doing. All of those different parts really accommodate the interest and skills of people with autism.”

Now in its second year, Green Bridge Growers launched a crowdfunding campaign Nov. 20 on Indiegogo with the goal to build their second next-stage commercial greenhouse, Jan Pilarski said.

“We have a clearly defined project on Indiegogo, which is to raise the funds for our aquaponics venture,” she said. “We have a prototype greenhouse with Hannah and Friends, and [we’re] working there with training and development with people in the venture.”

The project itself will create jobs for five young adults with autism and grow 45,000 pounds of vegetables each year, Jan Pilarski said.

Because of her history as the

Saint Mary’s social justice coordinator, Jan Pilarski said she was able to find the link between social justice and sustainable food.

“Through the classes I teach at Saint Mary’s that emphasize social justice ... we’ve looked at things relating to climate and our personal use of energy and kind of looking at it through how our consumption affects the environment in the class that I teach,” she said.

“Food and what we consume and how it’s grown – that all has an impact on the climate because of carbon outputs [and] also in terms of how sustainable we are. It fits in Catholic social thought as well.”

One of the key members of Jan Pilarski’s six-person team is Aisling Sheahan, a native of Ireland currently visiting the area for three months. For Sheahan, who majored in childhood studies and wrote her thesis on autism in Ireland, the link with autism fit perfectly with her blogging expertise, she said.

“I think it’s great the way they’re

helping out young adults with autism, because when I was doing my thesis, it’s just all about children,” Sheahan said.

“I’m reaching out to the autism bloggers, just to get mentioned under blogs as guest blogs, [and] blogging about their own experience with their child. We’re going to try to make a difference for when they’re older, because I think autism parents just focus on the now.”

Jan Pilarski, who holds both Notre Dame undergraduate and master’s degrees, said she is hopeful the Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, and South Bend communities will contribute to Green Bridge Growers’ campaign and become actively involved with the entrepreneurship’s mission.

“Partnerships with both Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame are wonderful and help us meet particular needs that we have as a venture,” she said.

Contact Emilie Kefalas at ekefal01@saintmarys.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Eight good reasons for ‘Breaking Bad’



Dan Brombach
Viewpoint Editor

It’s that wonderful time of year. The permacloud has swallowed the sun. South Quad is once again an Arctic wind tunnel. The library is buzzing with the collective whining hum of thousands of students/martyrs preparing to offer themselves on the altar of finals, sleeping in study rooms and shampooing their hair with their own tears. More importantly, Christmas break is almost upon us.

The world is my oyster during Christmas break, and as such, I choose to spend this year’s oyster lying on my couch re-watching all of “Breaking Bad.” Thinking about the hours of programming glory that await me, and still mourning the tragic cancellation of “Low Winter Sun,” I have compiled a list of the top eight ways “Breaking Bad” could have ended but didn’t. Why only eight reasons, you ask? Why not 10? Probably because I couldn’t think of 10 reasons that wouldn’t get me fired.

It goes without saying that this column will contain spoilers. If you keep reading and blame me for ruining “Breaking Bad” for you then, well, you probably voted for Ralph Nader in the last election.

- 1) Walter Jr. beats out Tommy Rees for the starting quarterback job, wins the Heisman and dedicates it to Uncle Hank. Notre Dame goes on to beat Pittsburgh, and thus I go on not to cry myself to sleep.
- 2) Heisenberg (Walter White) turns out to be the guy who sent Ricin to Obama.
- 3) Heisenberg is actually Obama.
- 4) “Breaking Bad” was actually “Low Winter Sun” the whole time.
- 5) Walt mounts a machine gun on his car and drives through the ND Wall Street Forum. He is quickly thanked and absolved of all charges.
- 6) Skyler uses Walt’s money to finally have the stick removed from her, well, you know.
- 7) The show’s characters realize they’re living in Arizona, spend the rest of the episode wondering why exactly they’re living in Arizona.
- 8) Walter Jr. challenges Walt to a breakdance contest, takes this “to the streets” as Skyler looks on disapprovingly.

Happy finals week to all. Enjoy your remaining time in the wonderful, festive city of lights and dreams that is South Bend, Ind., and have an awesomely unproductive Christmas break. I know I will.

Contact Dan Brombach at dbrombac@nd.edu

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

Tied into happiness

Scott Boyle
The Sincere Seeker

Those who know me know that I like to wear ties...a lot. Over the years I have amassed a collection of many different types of ties: striped, plain-colored, checkered and paisley. If you can think of a tie design, there’s a good chance I have worn it.

But over the years, my taste in ties has changed. I’ve moved from the department store to the thrift store, from the patterned to the downright ridiculous. Although people have asked me to describe my “taste” in ties, I still struggle to come up with just one word to describe the types of ties I choose to wear everyday.

But, if I were to use a word to describe my taste in neckwear, I would probably use the word “wacky.” Let me give a few examples.

If a tie has a smiley face on it, it will always make the cut. Some image of hearts and/or love? Automatic yes! Double bonus if Jesus makes an appearance on the tie in some fashion, too. Above all, I have a special weakness for cartoon characters, especially ones that are smiling. As a general rule, the more ridiculous, the more inclined I am to wear it.

But, growing up, I didn’t really like wearing ties. To be fair, it wasn’t really the tie itself I disliked, just the process that went into tying the knot. I can remember getting frustrated over and over again as I tried many different types of knots: Windsors, half-Windsors, simple knots. Something always seemed to go wrong: I’d misjudge the slack or get lazy pulling the material through.

Sometimes, the tie would be too long, others times, too short.

But, with practice, I got better. And over the years, as I discovered how much I liked working with kids, I began to wear these “wacky” ties more and more. I found them to be really good conversation pieces. I can’t tell you how many times my attempts to break the ice with a friendly “Hello!” would be met with blank stares. But almost always, a few moments later, their eyes would catch whatever tie I might happen to be wearing. And, quite frequently, their stares turned to smiles. “Nice tie,” they would say. And that’s all I would need to start a conversation.

Sometimes, however, coaxing a smile isn’t always as easy as simply wearing a tie. Having just come off of a senior retreat with some of the students from my high school, I was reminded of the fact that many of us carry some sort of brokenness and pain that makes it hard to be cheerful. It hurts me especially to see some of the burdens my students are carrying.

But as I look back, I can see what a grace-filled retreat it was. The students brought their whole selves, their questions, their joys and their sorrows. They did one of the hardest things a person can do. They opened themselves and their struggles to one another. In doing this, they began to see what was possible when they opened themselves so others could better see inside of their hearts, to see the stories that waited there.

But I am convinced the hardest part about retreats does not come on the retreat. It lies in encountering the world after the retreat is over.

The students struggle to return and live in a world where

messiness is more apparent than love. The self-knowledge they gain on retreat is muddled as they wade back into a world that pays more attention what’s on the outside than the inside.

Fyodor Dostoevsky writes in this manner: “Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams.” True clarity, I think, is revealed in charity and vulnerability. That is to say, we can really only see ourselves when we open ourselves up. Yes, when we commit ourselves to vulnerability, we risk harsh treatment and being hurt, but we also open ourselves to the glorious majesty of God’s transformational light.

Mother Teresa said, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” And more often than not, most of us will show charity in small ways. For me, it means taking the time to tie a wacky tie every morning, not because I always feel like it or am good at it, but because I know it might make someone else happy. And when I open that “wacky” part of myself, I give others a chance to see me for who I am. And maybe, just maybe, they might see something within themselves too.

Let’s remain faithful to our small commitments. After all, with a little love and dedication, they might become bigger commitments capable of growing a love that will transform the world.

Scott Boyle is a graduate of Notre Dame and a student in the Echo Faith Formation Leadership Program in the Notre Dame Institute for Church Life. He can be reached at sboyle2@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The chocolate games, day 4

Today is the day for your final clue
Now you will know exactly what to do.
The jersey’s not hidden — I have it myself
You must do one thing more to come claim it yourself
This is the last clue — here’s where to look.
Go to the place where they keep all the books.
When the hour hand points to the jersey I wear
You’ll find a nice but naughty girl sitting in there.
I can’t tell you which floor — I don’t even know
But you can’t solve my puzzle unless you know what she knows
She will only share this with the first lucky three,
then those three will have what they need to call me

Ask her for the clue, she’ll have what you need.
Remember, guys, there can only be three!
But if no one can find her after fifteen,
Go to @lirishchocolate for a hint from me.
The Chocolate Games have now come to an end
But this isn’t the last of me, your Chocolatey friend.
Thanks for the love — I’m so glad that I came.
Forever and always, Love Thee Notre Dame.

Louis Nix
senior
In your hearts
Dec. 11

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

Obama is not ‘worst president in history’

Katrina Linden

Kat's Meow

Now that Obama's "Affordable Care Act" has successfully — or not so successfully — been put into action, I think it's time that we use the income the program will bring to euthanize the old. Okay, not really. But we need to kill the old school of thought that says all aspects of socialism are bad and that capitalism is always the answer.

A politician recently compared the injustices of apartheid to what he said were the implied injustices affordable healthcare is bringing to the United States. The fact that he compared years of racism, prejudice and discrimination to a government attempt to foster a better standard of living for millions of Americans is truly disgusting. There are actually people angry that the ACA forces people to purchase preventative healthcare as it is much like bills passed with the Environmental Protection Agency that force the clean burning of coal and gases because they cost companies more to produce, even though they exist to create a less polluted world.

And while we're on the subject of

criticism of our president's actions in office, can we please stop referring to the Affordable Care Act as Obamacare? He did not coin it as such, and it is not a product of extreme hubris, as many people incorrectly believe.

More so, the ACA is attempting to bring fair and affordable coverage to Americans who otherwise lack it and to hold businesses accountable for providing healthcare for its employees. Many affluent individuals may take the PPO that their companies provides for granted, and therefore will likely be unaffected by the ACA, besides a raise in taxes, which isn't exactly an unfair compromise for those paying a far smaller percentage than most middle-class contributors.

My issue is that things as simple as the braces to fix my teeth are a luxury most of my friends with undocumented parents cannot afford, because there has been no affordable healthcare available to undocumented individuals and their families. A car accident or simple flu could be life or death for many of my friends lacking health care. And it is not even because they wish not to receive health insurance. It is because they have been unable to obtain it through past restrictions. Though I

realize undocumented individuals will not yet be able to obtain affordable health insurance, their children will be able to at an affordable cost.

The thing about the ACA is that it provides stability for those constantly concerned about not becoming ill or being injured. The common argument is that the ACA forces people to pay for insurance when they are not really sick, which is absurd, because primary concerns should revolve around preventative actions, including doctor check ups and vaccinations, to which many of those without insurance lack access.

Furthermore, can we please stop saying that Obama has been the worst president in history and he should be immediately impeached? Can we stop allowing the inefficiencies and terrible obstacles created by the extreme right-wing Republican portion of the government to create an unfair criticism of the leader of our nation? Far too many people are uneducated as to the positive achievements of our current government, and focus far too greatly on the negative and many times misinformed "facts" distributed by various media outlets. And given that, I am likely as uneducated as many of the people I criticize, so forgive me for

any inaccuracies.

Perhaps I'm downplaying the negative effects of the ACA, but the majority of the bill is based around bringing affordable care for those minority groups of the United States: women, young children, low-income individuals and others who are not upper-middle class WASPs failing to understand the struggles of discrimination based on gender, age and income levels, both socially and institutionally.

And a note for the Republicans government leaders who forced a government shutdown because they could not stand the possibility of individuals being able to attain the same rights to universal health care as them: Grow up. Now that you have to face the new bill, stop complaining that the ACA is too slow and inefficient, this would not be the case had the government united in its sole purpose to benefit the greater American society instead of personal conservative goals.

Katrina Linden is a sophomore English major with a Studio Art minor living in Lewis Hall. She can be reached by email at klinden1@nd.edu

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Put a smile on

Matt Miklavic

The Maine Idea

As of the writing of this sentence, it is two degrees outside. I've slept for 47 minutes of the past 44 hours. I still have two group projects, two papers, and this column due in the next two days, with six finals looming in the future. It's a situation no different than those faced by students all over campus as stress creeps in and starts dampening campus' Christmas spirit. There's little we can do to avoid or alleviate the pain. But here's what you can do. Somewhere between finding your finest pair of sweatpants, grabbing some snacks and trekking to the library, try this: Put on a smile.

Smile because today's Thursday, and Fever beckons. Smile because while tomorrow night being "study days," you fully intend on squeaking out one last weekend. Smile because you know better than to be at the library for the bun run. Smile because while little of finals could ever

be defined as anything but terrible, finals week cannot last forever. Smile because classes are hours from being over for good, and break awaits at the end of the tunnel. Smile because a camel walked into your class yelling about Hump Day. Smile because you saw a professor have a kerfuffle over it and reprimand the two kids in the camel costume for ruining a "serious academic environment." Whatever you say, Professor Scrooge.

Smile because you know that some of college's great moments come from the lunacy of late night studying. Smile because even while you're shacked up at the library with your friends for the next seven days, the company makes it worth it. Smile because someone is going to shout "\$%&! this, we're getting Chipotle" mid-study session. Smile because, you know, Chipotle. Smile because you realize that at some point someone will say something wildly inappropriate at a decibel level the librarian won't appreciate. And it will be hilarious.

Smile because despite the cold, it's

also snowing. Smile because snow is awesome on a level approached only by Santa, puppies and syllabus week — and if you don't love any of those, you should do some serious soul searching. Smile because Christmas season has arrived, and not even finals can entirely ward off its infectious spirit. Smile at caroling, hot chocolate, sweaters, community, presents and a month where it is socially acceptable to wear a Santa suit.

Smile at the fact you get to live at a truly incredible place. Smile because the Dome is still awesome and the lakes are still there, even if at this point they might be frozen. Smile because campus is still beautiful and your dorm is still full of some of the best brothers or sisters you'll ever have. Feel free to frown about parietals, though. They earned it. Smile because your time here will not last forever, and its far better to smile about the good of this place than to cry about the fact you'll have to leave.

If, like me, you're going abroad, smile because these are the last days you have until August. Enjoy every

single one.

Smile because a frown never accomplished anything and crying is never fun. Smile to make your day better. Better yet, smile to make someone else's day better. Smile because it's infectious. Smile because you can.

In the words of one author, a smile "is the universal language of kindness." In the words of one wise sophomore, "smiling is the universal language of picking up the ladies."

Whatever your reason, be it kindness, Christmas or the ladies, put a smile on. Between your opportunities at Notre Dame, the upcoming holidays or simply your family and friends, we all have plenty to smile about.

Matt Miklavic is a junior studying finance and political science from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He's also a huge fan of flash mobs. He can be reached at mmiklavi@nd.edu

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb."

Winston Churchill
British politician

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ANSEL ADAMS AT SNITE

By CAELIN MILTKO
Scene Writer

Praised as one of the greatest American photographers of the 20th century, Ansel Adams captured the natural beauty of the American west through his iconic black and white photography until his death in 1984. From November until January, Notre Dame's Snite Museum is housing an exhibition of his work in conjunction with the South Bend Museum of Art.

The Ansel Adams exhibit features four of his photographs, two feature scenes from California and two in New Mexico, with more photographs currently on display at the South Bend Museum of Art as part of the traveling "Ansel Adams: Masterworks" collection.

The four photographs at the Snite are "Mount Williamson, Sierra Nevada from Manzanar, California," "Aspens, Northern New Mexico," "Winter Sunrise, Sierra Nevada from Lone Pine, California," and "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico." The two featuring California are from the Mrs. Lorraine Gallagher Friemann Fund, "Aspens" is from Museum purchase by exchange from Samuel J. Schatz, and "Moonrise" was lent to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ayers.

"Mount Williamson" comes from a collection Adams created during World War II as an attempt to document the lives of Japanese Americans interned in Manzanar, California.

The picture shows the mountains as a storm passes over them — the way the photograph captures the light falling through the clouds is particularly remarkable.

"Moonrise" features a small New Mexico town, though more than half of the photograph is taken up by the night sky. Adams is said to have claimed it was

one of his best photos in a conversation with Dave McAlpin in January 1943.

Adams started his career in California's Yosemite Park when his family took annual trips to the national park. His first trip to the park was when he was 14 years old and at age 17, he joined the Sierra Club. He worked as a custodian at the Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite and eventually became the official photographer of the Club's annual outings in Yosemite. This launched his career in photography.

According to the Snite, his personal style combines "careful observation with an ability to capture fleeting effects of light and atmosphere." It is this style that allows for his extraordinary ability to capture light effects in his photographs not seen in many others.

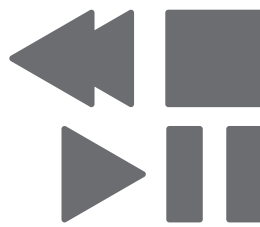
Adams was known for the stories he told about when he took each of his photographs. He was known for going to great lengths to get the photographs he wanted, going out for four consecutive mornings to capture the correct image for "Winter Sunrise."

"He used camera and darkroom to manipulate tone in compositions that he 'preconceived' when confronting his subjects in the field," the Snite Museum said on the exhibit's website. "Adams wrote ten volumes on photographic technique and published countless books of photographs. He worked all over the American west, documenting the wilderness through his camera."

He is credited with being one of the greatest artist-activists in the 20th century. His works showcase wilderness many Americans have never experienced and is part of the reason many of the national parks he features have remained untouched by industry.

Contact Caelin Miltko at cmoriari@nd.edu

FRIDAY THE 13TH



- 01 "Superstitious"
Stevie Wonder
- 02 "Bad Day Worst Day"
Killer Mike
- 03 "No. 13 Baby"
Pixies
- 04 "Knock on Wood"
Otis Redding
- 05 "Bad Luck"
Langhorne Slim
- 06 "Trouble On My Mind"
Pusha T ft. Tyler, the Creator
- 07 "Friday the 13th"
Thelonious Monk
- 08 "Strange Times"
The Black Keys
- 09 "Having A Real Bad Day"
Taj Mahal
- 10 "Mr. Bad Luck"
Jimi Hendrix
- 11 "13"
Elliott Smith
- 12 "S*** Luck"
Modest Mouse
- 13 "Friday"
Rebecca Black

THE KICKBACK



Andrew Gastelum
Editor-in-Chief

I figured that for the last Kickback ever, we change things up a bit. And by change things up, I mean gift you with the greatest compilation of "Oh yeah how could I forget about this?" songs ever found in one era. Whether it brings back memories of a boring summer you spent indoors or losing 5-0 to your best friend when no bounces were going your way, the FIFA 11 soundtrack is the way to go.

Basically, I was getting tired of listening to the same music that I have starred over the past year on Spotify and thought to look up the last five FIFA video game

soundtracks. And with this week being papers week, followed by finals week, I may have made one of my better decisions on the academic year. And no, I'm not lying. If you need a random compilation of upbeat, quirky, catchy music to get through the long nights and fluorescent lights, search for the FIFA playlists on Spotify. Some incredibly generous people out there in the music community have put together unofficial playlists with all the songs (this also goes for movie soundtracks and even the new Grand Theft Auto).

After listening to the last five FIFA soundtracks, FIFA 11 stands apart from all else. It features some really weird underground music like "Odessa" by Caribou or "Ace

of Hz" by Ladytron, if you're into that stuff.

It also features some low-key, head-nodding indie classics like "Rhinestone Eyes" by Gorillaz, "O.N.E." by Yeasayer and "I Can Change" by LCD Soundsystem.

And if you're still not interested in that, the soundtrack carries some more top-40 based tunes that you'll be sure to recognize like "Tighten Up" by The Black Keys, "I Can Talk" by Two Door Cinema Club, "Flash Delirium" by MGMT and even some overly-aggressive Linkin Park.

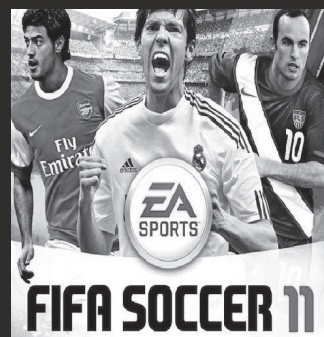
But the best part of the soundtrack are the songs that you know you have heard in some capacity before, and just never knew the name of. Everyone has those songs

where Shazam took too long to load and you have to resort to hopelessly Googling "song in Acura commercial" so you can add to your collection.

For me, it was Chromeo's "Don't Turn the Lights On" and "Can't Sleep" by Adrian Lux. You can even find some obligatory-for-any-FIFA Scandinavian rap and South American/Spanish lisp-pop. My usual finals week routine is a lot of Girl Talk and Childish Gambino. But now I have a backup.

However, just a fair warning, you might be tempted to leave your work and play a few games of FIFA. And for that, you're welcome.

-Ch H



"FIFA 11 Soundtrack"

Record Label: Electronic Arts

Genre: Sports Soundtracks

Songs: "Tighten Up" by The Black Keys, "I Can Talk" by Two Door Cinema Club



gabriela's DOUBLE DOG DARE

Gabriela Leskur

Scene Writer

During Fall Break, I spent a lot of time back in Cleveland at a local coffee shop. By myself, for hours a day, I would read books and drink coffee. Peace, calm, contentment — all things that I hadn't enjoyed in a long time.

What was keeping me from these things? I couldn't help but wonder. And I couldn't help myself remember.

As I packed up my books and clothes and headed back to my home in Farley Hall, I realized the only person keeping me from the peace I was seeking in my life was me. I realized I said yes to so many opportunities that I never gave myself time to just sit on my futon or sit in a coffee shop and read books.

So I dared myself to say no to things: the opposite of that Jim Carrey movie, "Yes Man."

My problem was that I was a Yes Girl. I said yes to everything, afraid of missing out, afraid of silence, afraid of stillness.

Every moment was spent with other people or spent doing something productive. I rarely gave myself any time to slow down and breathe.

After Fall Break, though, things all changed.

I remember one day my two good friends asked me to study with them. It was right after we returned from Fall Break. And for once, I said no.

This was in sharp contrast to before Fall Break when I used to study with them every single night. Every single night I had so much fun with them. Every single night I wasn't alone. Every single night I got basically no homework done. Every single night I went to bed past two a.m. Every single night I got no sleep.

Before my coffee shop revelation, I thought that was a good thing. I thought it was good to have a core group of people I hung out with every day, good to always be having a good time, good to be constantly on the go. But with that first no, and the many that followed, I found it's not that simple.

When I said no to studying with my friends, I instead had dinner with an old friend and had a heart to heart with a freshman in my section. I did some reading for class. I went to bed before 11. I got 9 hours of sleep. And in the morning, I went to the Grotto before heading to class.

For the first time in a long time, I felt free.

It's so easy to get locked up in the go-go-go mentality of Notre Dame. Before Fall Break, my schedule had become as fixed and repetitive as the "lather, rinse, repeat" on the back of a shampoo bottle: wake up, shower, get dressed, go to work, go to class, go to lunch, go to class, go to work, go to dinner, go to Folk Choir, go to study, go to hang out with friends, go to sleep. Repeat 100 times.

Since saying no, my schedule doesn't feel like it's suffocating or constraining me. Since saying no, I have time not only for friends and fun and work and conversation, but also, for silence and stillness and contemplation.

It seems counterintuitive when we live in a place as lively and full of opportunities as Notre Dame. To say no to an opportunity goes against everything that got us into this school in the first place. We got in because we said yes to AP classes, yes to student government positions, yes to playing varsity sports, yes to acting in plays, yes to responsibilities. In essence, we said yes to every opportunity that could further our future.

But we can't say yes to everything.

I began to ask myself, "Why am I saying yes to studying with my friends?" If the answer was simply because I wanted to see them, then I should say yes. But if my answer was because I didn't like the thought of being alone even though I had a ton of work to do and knew I would get no work done with them, well, then maybe I should say no.

Another thing that I realized in my journey through No-ville: saying no to something is just saying yes to something else.

When I say no to a party, I'm really saying yes to watching the Irish Bachelorette with my roommate. When I say no to dinner, I'm really saying yes to a nap. When I say no to studying with my friend, I'm really saying yes to actually being productive.

"Yes" and "no" are not inherently good or bad. Saying no is not a bad thing, if we're saying no for the right reasons. Similarly, saying yes is not a good thing, if we're saying yes for the wrong reasons.

To feel free in my hectic life, I didn't have to say no to everything or yes to everything. I just had to be honest with myself and do what was best for me.

Contact Gabriela Leskur at gleskur@nd.edu

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



SPORTS AUTHORITY

With hurt RG3, QB2 can be No. 1



Aaron Sant-Miller
Sport Writer

Ladies and gentlemen, we have more drama out of Washington. No, I'm not talking about any political turmoil or issues with Obamacare. Rather, we have the benching of Robert Griffin III.

Yes, this is the quarterback for whom the Redskins sold the house, the car, the boat, half of their wardrobes and the family dog. Last April, the Redskins shipped off their first round draft pick, their second round draft pick, this year's first round draft pick and next year's first round draft pick, to move up four slots in the 2012 NFL Draft to select Griffin.

We're also talking about a quarterback who was nominated to the Pro Bowl last year and selected as the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year. Sure, he also set the rookie records for passer rating and touchdown-interception ratio in his first year in the NFL, following an All-American and Heisman Trophy-studded junior season at Baylor.

Well, this was all before Griffin's fateful knee injury last winter. After playing through an LCL sprain, RGIII required reconstructive surgery to his right ACL and LCL ligaments.

Despite his struggles on the field this season, Griffin's benching was cited as a move to protect his health. Cue the dramatic analysis. How unhealthy is he? How bad has he been playing? Did this merit a benching? Was he at risk of worsening some other injury unbeknownst to the sports fans everywhere? Oh my, what is going on in Washington?

Stop. Ceasefire. Sure, the drama around RGIII's benching is exciting for all the aforementioned reasons, but that's not what we should focus on. How about this kid from Michigan State? Kirk Cousins will be thrown under center this Sunday when the Redskins travel to Atlanta.

There is no Heisman bust sitting on Cousins' trophy shelf. He has no impressive NFL accolades. While RGIII was claiming an All-American nomination, Cousins was snagging a Second Team All-Big Ten nomination. But, hey, he was honorable mention all-conference the two years before.

You know what Cousins does do well? He closes the

deal. No, I'm not talking about how he filled in for RGIII and pulled out an overtime win over Baltimore last year, scoring the game-tying touchdown with less than 30 seconds left. I'm talking about a man who proposed to his wife from the balcony of the Speaker of the House's office. Yes, the young man is happily engaged.

We're talking about a man who leads the team to victory when the Redskins' season is on the line. In his first, and only, career NFL start against Cleveland last December, Cousins threw for 329 yards and two touchdowns.

His college career wasn't too shabby either. The Spartans went a combined 22-5 during Cousins' last two seasons at Michigan State, including a victory over Georgia in the Outback Bowl to close the 2011 season. In those two seasons combined, Cousins threw for over 6,000 yards and 45 touchdowns while completing over 65 percent of his passes.

No, he doesn't run a 4.4 40-yard dash like RGIII. Cousins is more of a 4.9 kind of guy.

No, he wasn't the second overall draft pick. Cousins was taken literally 100 picks later, hearing his name after 101 other collegiate stars.

Maybe he doesn't have the resume of RGIII, but when he has been given the chance, with pressure on, he has stepped up to the plate. We're not talking about a Matt Flynn 480-yard and six-touchdown grand slam, but Cousins has had a couple nice line drives into the outfield.

At some point, the Redskins had to see what the kid has. Is he a potential starter, for either Washington or some other team out there? Or is he an eternal backup, doomed to be the most loved man for some suffering franchise?

Maybe he'll be off-season trade bait. Or maybe, just maybe, stuck behind an injury-prone and struggling star, Cousins is the true future of a franchise.

I mean, let's be honest, the man is a go-getter. How many NFL players have the courage to hit up their congressman and ask for access to the Speaker of the House's office for a wedding proposal?

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu

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

NFL

Colts secondary is primary concern

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Greg Toler has spent six weeks watching his Colts' teammates work hard on Sundays.

The injured cornerback would rather be out there helping his pals find a solution to what has become a major secondary problem — defending the pass.

"As a defense, we take pride in stopping other teams, so it's been tough on everyone," Toler said Wednesday, hopeful he'll return to action this weekend against Houston.

Players aren't the only ones trying to figure out what's wrong.

Coaches have spent countless hours poring through game, looking for a common thread. Anxious fans have become increasingly weary of seeing receivers get open for big plays. Two weeks ago, team owner Jim Irsay, who spent tens of millions in free agency to revamp Indy's defense, offered his own critique on Twitter.

And while the offense has struggled largely because five key players are on season-ending injured reserve, including Pro Bowl receiver Reggie Wayne, there is no clear explanation for why a once solid defense has been so inconsistent lately. All four defensive players on injured reserve are backups, and Toler, a first-day free-agent acquisition, is the only starter

who has missed every game during this disconcerting six-game stretch.

The tale of the tape doesn't lie. During the first seven games, when the Colts were up against quarterbacks such as Colin Kaepernick, Russell Wilson, Phillip Rivers and Peyton Manning, Indy's pass defense limited opponents to a completion percentage of 58.7, a quarterback rating of 79.5 with eight touchdowns and eight interceptions. The longest TD pass was 31 yards and only two others were longer than 20 yards.

Over the last six weeks, four games that came against quarterbacks who opened the season as backups, it's been a complete reversal. Opponents have completed 64.9 percent of their passes, posted a rating of 104.9 and thrown 12 TD passes — six of which have went for 25 yards or longer — with only three picks.

It's a problem Indy (8-5) knows must be fixed before the playoffs start.

The good news is that as the only current division champ, they have three weeks to work out the kinks.

"We've got to make plays on the back end," safety Antoine Bethea said. "Of course there's going to be some times when the other team makes plays. They get paid as well, they're professionals as well. But we've got to make plays. One thing we always harp on is not letting the

ball over our head. You've just got to stop those plays."

But the secondary is only part of the equation, though.

In the first seven weeks, the Colts had 21 sacks. In the last six, they have nine. And one player, Robert Mathis, has accounted for more than half of this season's overall total. He leads the NFL with 15½.

"There's a lot of stuff that we need to shore up," Mathis said. "You can blame the pressure as much as anything else on the defense not getting it done. That's just putting too much pressure on the secondary."

Perhaps things will change soon.

Toler did limited work in practice Wednesday and could finally return this week — if the doctors clear him.

"It's just like your rookie year again when you were sitting behind guys and you weren't getting reps," Toler said. "It's getting as many mental reps as you can, asking questions in the meeting room, telling the guys what you see while you're not playing. Just showing the guys that we're capable of making the plays that we made early on in the season. We just got to get that back going."

The only other defensive player to sit out Wednesday's practice was defensive tackle Ricky Jean Francois, who hasn't played since Dec. 1 because of a foot injury.

NHL | LOS ANGELES 3, TORONTO 1

Maple Leafs' energy sapped by Kings

Associated Press

TORONTO — Jeff Carter scored the tiebreaking goal midway through the third period and the Los Angeles Kings beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-1 Wednesday night for their fifth straight victory.

Carter beat former teammate Jonathan Bernier with a wrist shot between the legs on a 2-on-1 break at 9:40 for his eighth of the season. Maple Leafs defenseman Paul Ranger failed to keep the puck in the Los Angeles end, creating the odd-man rush.

Kyle Clifford added an insurance goal with 1:59 remaining and Drew Doughty also scored for Los Angeles before 19,375 at the Air Canada Centre. Following a 6-0 victory Tuesday night in Montreal, the Kings improved to 12-1-4 in their last 17 games.

Martin Jones, a 23-year-old rookie, made 38 saves to earn

his fourth win in four NHL starts.

Jones came into the game with a .973 save percentage and 0.65 goals-against average. He had stopped 73 of 75 shots and hadn't been beaten in 142 minutes, 46 seconds.

Cody Franson scored his first of the season for Toronto in the second period.

The Maple Leafs were without captain and top defenseman Dion Phaneuf, who was serving the first half of a two-game suspension for a hit on Boston's Kevan Miller last weekend. But forward Joffrey Lupul returned after a seven-game absence due to a groin tear.

The Maple Leafs showed more jump than a Los Angeles team that was playing for the second night in a row. Toronto outshot the Kings 39-23, but was unable to convert most of its chances.

Los Angeles scored first on

the power play at 10:30 of the first period, on a high wrist shot by Doughty from the top of the circle. It was his sixth goal of the season and the 200th point of his 396-game career.

Peter Holland was in the box for holding. Toronto's penalty-killing unit came into the game ranked 26th in the NHL.

Jones stopped Nikolai Kulemin from point-blank range twice later in the period. The Kings have gone 17 games without allowing a first-period goal.

Jones stopped Phil Kessel all alone after he stole a pass and broke through the defense early in the second. It took the Kings 5½ minutes to get a shot on net in the period.

Kings forward Colin Fraser was helped to the dressing room midway through the second after running into Frazer McLaren near the bench. There was no penalty called on the play.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look for first conference win versus Trine

By **MIKE GINOCCHIO**
Sports Writer

After their last game ended with a heartbreaking one-point loss, the Belles look to bounce back against Trine on Saturday.

The Belles (2-6, 0-1 MIAA) are searching for their first conference win against the Thunder (1-5, 0-1 MIAA), who also lost their MIAA opener. Though the Thunder have just one victory, Belles coach Jennifer Henley refuses to take them lightly.

"Trine has some very good players," Henley said. "They are led by [sophomore] Alivia Recker and [junior] Kelsey Henselmeier, who are two very strong guards. You also can't look past [junior forward Amy]

Newell, who is Trine's go-to in the inside."

Recker leads the Thunder with an average of 12.7 points per game, while Henselmeier is second with 10.8 points per game and leads the starters with a .510 field goal percentage. Newell paces the rest of the team with an average of 5.5 rebounds per game. She also leads the team with 15 offensive rebounds on the season.

Saint Mary's is looking for continued production by senior guard Shanlynn Bias, who leads the team with 13.6 points per game and had a career-high 20 in the Belles' 90-89 loss to North Central on Saturday.

Elsewhere, the Belles will also need a strong interior

performance from sophomore Krista Knapke, who almost averages a double-double with 12.8 points per game and 9.9 rebounds per game. Sophomore forward Eleni Shea will also pose a threat to Trine, as she leads the Belles with a .542 field goal percentage.

The Belles have surrendered 70 or more points in each of their last three games and five of their last six. But Trine has struggled offensively this season, averaging just 53.2 points per game.

The Belles view this as a key game, both as a chance to capture their first conference win and as an opportunity to break a three-game losing streak.

"On paper, yes, we are on a bit of a slide, but this team continues to get better with each practice," Henley said. "We have been in some close games down the stretch lately..."



Observer File Photo

Belles senior guard Shanlynn Bias dribbles during a game last season. Bias leads Saint Mary's with 13.6 points per game this season.

hopefully we have learned from those mistakes in those games and can continue to improve as we face Trine."

The Belles face Trine on

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Reaney propels Irish surge

By **ALEX WILCOX**
Sports Writer

After dropping its first three meets of the season, Notre Dame has turned it around lately, winning its

last four, thanks in large part to the performance of junior Emma Reaney.

The All-American from Lawrence, Kan., has made an impact in the pool since arriving as a freshman in 2011. She qualified for the NCAA Championships as a freshman and sophomore and was named a first-team All-American in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke last season.

This year, Reaney has continued to build on her reputation as one of the top swimmers in the country. She has been named ACC Women's Swimmer of the Week four times in the first 10 weeks of the season, and has already qualified for this year's NCAA Championships.

Since this is Notre Dame's first year in the ACC, Reaney admitted she feels especially honored to receive all the accolades she has.

"I truly am honored," Reaney said. "I know this conference is loaded with very talented and hard-working swimmers and for them to recognize an ACC newcomer as one of them so many times is a little surreal. It does put a little extra pressure on me to perform well at [the ACC Championships], but I think the team and myself are up to the challenge."

Despite all of her individual accomplishments, Reaney continues to focus on the team.

"I think our season has gone fairly well, especially the last couple months," Reaney said. "We started off a little rocky, but I think we

learned from our mistakes quickly and applied changes right away. I'm so proud of this team and how far we've come since my freshman year and seeing all the hard work we've been putting in pay off in a big way this past weekend was very rewarding."

Reaney said the key to all her success this season is simply hard work and dedication.

"To be honest, just putting my head down and toughing it out," Reaney said. "I think I've worked harder this season than I ever have before, both in the pool and in the weight room, and it's so nice to be able to get to a meet and know you have that to rely on."

All her hard work has earned her a spot in the NCAA Championships in March, which Reaney said will allow her to stop worrying about times and just swim.

"It's definitely a relief," Reaney said. "Now it's not so much about the specific time, but simply swimming as fast as you can."

Even though Reaney herself has already qualified, she is still looking to help her team.

"I want to get a relay or two qualified for NAAs as well as place high as a team at [the ACC meet]," Reaney said. "If we stay on the upward trend we've been on, there's no saying how high we can go, both in the ACC and the NCAA."

Contact Alex Wilcox at
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W Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

48-35.

"[Rebounding is] critical every game, and we've done a good job rebounding," McGraw said. "I wasn't quite happy with it in the UCLA game, but we definitely need to concentrate and focus on keeping them off the boards, because they are a very good rebounding team."

Michigan has also found balance on offense, as it is second in the Big Ten with 18.8 assists per game. The Wolverines have

had five games this season with at least 20 assists.

Although Michigan only returned one starter from last season, the Wolverines currently have four starters averaging double-figure points. Junior guard Shannon Smith leads the team with 17.3 points per game, while junior guard Nicole Elmlblad, the team's lone returning starter, is first on the Wolverines with 8.9 rebounds per game.

McGraw said Michigan's new starting lineup makes it difficult to game plan for the Wolverines.

"I think the thing with Michigan is they've got a lot of new players this year," she said. "They graduated some kids, so they're still looking at different things. They really have played very well this year; I think they've surprised some people already."

Notre Dame will make just its fourth road trip of the season when it travels to the Crisler Center on Saturday. McGraw said the team's most recent road game, a 77-67 win over then-No. 10 Penn State on Dec. 4, has given its younger players confidence in their ability to

play away from home.

"I think the veterans always have been [confident]," she said. "I think it's the freshmen [who need confidence], and I was really pleased [freshman forward] Taya Reimer played very well on the road at Penn State. I think it's a learning experience; every game for the

freshmen is something new, so we hope they continue to play as well as they have so far."

Notre Dame will face Michigan on Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Irish junior guard Madison Cable defends UNC Wilmington freshman guard Johanna McMillan during Notre Dame's 99-50 victory over the Seahawks on Nov. 9 at Purcell Pavilion.

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BARBARA KAZANOWSKA | The Observer

The Irish celebrate during Notre Dame's 4-0 NCAA Tournament victory over Wisconsin on Nov. 24 at Alumni Stadium.

M Soccer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

thinking too much about them, we might not come out of the game doing what we're good at. We have to be aware of their strengths and what they'll do, but it's more important what we can do. Our guys have done a very good job of that this year, especially with the schedule we've had. We've played a lot of good teams and teams that play a lot of different ways, so I think they will be able to adjust."

Nonetheless, as the Irish commute to PPL Park, they will be embarking on their first appearance in the College Cup.

"We're trying to keep things as normal as you can," Clark said. "We've played a lot of big games in the ACC this season. We've played a really tough schedule. We're trying to keep it as normal as possible; we're not doing anything different from what we've done before."

At the same time, Notre Dame has been performing well. The Irish have not lost a game since Oct. 26 and, over its last eight matches, Notre Dame has trailed for only 1:52. The Irish enter the College Cup off a 2-1 semifinal win over Michigan State on Saturday.

"We're very focused," Clark said. "I think there is a quiet focus within the group and I think that's the way we'll keep it, as best we can. There is a quiet glow that comes out from a big win like we had last weekend, but it's good to get back to work."

According to Clark, when it comes to moving past big wins, Notre Dame players benefit from the heavy academic workload this time of year.

"One of the good things about Notre Dame is that they know finals are coming up," Clark said. "They can't relax too much; you've got to keep focused between your practices and your studies. I think they've managed to keep pretty grounded."

At the same time, as Clark explained, the Irish need to also find enjoyment in their craft and maintain a mental balance.

"I think back to last year when we faced Indiana [in a 2-1 NCAA tournament third round loss], I thought we didn't play [and have fun]," Clark said. "That was disappointing and they were disappointed. When we work hard, we become a very good team. If we can do that, we'll enjoy ourselves, we'll have fun doing it, and we'll get a good result. If we start out working well, I think that's the key to our game. I think if we forget about individual performances and just work hard for each other, we'll be in very good shape."

Notre Dame will look to do just that on Friday in its 5 p.m. semifinal match of the NCAA Championship against New Mexico. Should the Irish advance, they will face either Maryland or Virginia in the National Championship on Sunday at 3 p.m.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu

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MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior forward Pat Connaughton, shown dunking during Notre Dame's victory over Stetson, had 21 points Wednesday.

M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

The Bison shot 58.3 percent from the field in the first half and Bjorklund missed just one shot.

"The big fella down low is a bear," Brey said. "We doubled a little bit early in the game. They made threes. Then you're trying to trade twos and keep up with them. At some point you've got to have an offensive spurt to kind of escape a team like that. We never really could get that."

The Irish made just 10 field goals in each half and shot 9-for-29 from 3-point range. Junior forward Pat Connaughton notched a team-high 21 points but was 5-for-15 from deep. Senior guard Jerian Grant scored nine points at the free throw line but didn't make a field goal.

"We didn't hit some shots that we should have hit," Connaughton said. "The bottom line is we shoot better than 35 percent usually."

With Notre Dame trailing by three, Grant drove the lane and drew a foul with 41 seconds remaining. He went to the line and knocked down both free throws to cut the Bison lead to 67-66.

But on Notre Dame's next possession, Grant was stripped by Bison senior guard Taylor Braun, who bounced a pass over to sophomore guard Kory Brown for an exclamation-point dunk which put North Dakota State up 71-66 with 17 seconds left and iced the win.

North Dakota State opened the game with efficient offense, drilling six of its first eight shots en route to a 15-12 lead at the 14:17 mark of the first half.

The Bison continued to carve up the Irish defense, extending their lead to 24-18 with 9:07 to go in the first half. Notre Dame responded as freshman guard Demetrius Jackson drained his third 3-pointer of the night to tie

the game at 24. But North Dakota State kept driving on Notre Dame and carried a 39-37 lead into halftime.

"They started off hitting some shots which gets them confident," Connaughton said. "And it showed throughout the game, near the end of the game, when they were hitting the tough shots."

North Dakota State entered the game shooting 51.3 percent from the field for the season, tied for eighth in the nation. Notre Dame ranked 126th in the nation in defensive efficiency, per kenpom.com.

The Irish will look to get back in the win column when they square off with Indiana on Saturday in the Crossroads Classic in Indianapolis. The Hoosiers (8-2) have won back-to-back games over North Florida and Oakland, respectively, since falling to No. 2 Syracuse, 69-52, on Dec. 3. Indiana also lost against No. 9 Connecticut, 59-58, at Madison Square Garden on Nov. 22. Sophomore guard Yogi Ferrell and freshman forward Noah Vonleh lead Indiana in scoring at 16.4 and 12.8 points per game, respectively.

After battling the Hoosiers, Notre Dame will face No. 3 Ohio State (8-0) on Dec. 21 in Madison Square Garden.

"This is a long, long run right here," Brey said. "It's disappointing where we're at, at 7-3. But you do have two huge games coming up that could make you feel a lot better about yourself. So you really can't dwell on what's happened to date."

The Irish have only lost three games by Dec. 11 one other time (2011-12) in the past 10 seasons.

Notre Dame tips off against Indiana on Saturday at 3:15 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Contact Mike Monaco at
jmonaco@nd.edu

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

at Notre Dame that Kelly had his entire staff return after a 12-1 season in 2012.

Pinstripe Bowl awaits

Notre Dame's opponent will be wearing red and white. Other than that, nearly everything about Notre Dame's bowl experience this season will be different than it was a year ago.

It will be playing in a new baseball stadium instead of one that used to be one. It could be playing in the snow instead of in the 70s. It will be playing for the George M. Steinbrenner Trophy instead of the national championship. Kyle Flood is the opposing coach instead of Nick Saban.

Instead of playing one-loss Alabama in the BCS National Championship Game, the Irish will play in the Pinstripe Bowl in Yankee Stadium against sputtering AAC member Rutgers, who needed a win in its final game of the season to qualify for a bowl game.

After the final game of the season, Flood fired three of his assistants, including the Scarlet Knights' defensive coordinator.

The Scarlet Knights gathered their sixth win of the season when they routed two-win South Florida 31-6 on Saturday. Despite the season-ending victory, Rutgers has dropped five of its last seven games and

three of the last four.

Against teams that finished the season .500 or better, Rutgers was 0-5. The average margin of defeat against those teams was 21.8 points and Houston and Cincinnati both beat Rutgers by 35 points.

The Irish went 5-4 against teams .500 or better, highlighted by a September win over Big Ten champion Michigan State.

Rutgers' six wins came over teams who combined for 11 wins over FBS opponents. Twelve FBS teams had at least 11 wins by themselves this season, including three teams who beat the Scarlet Knights.

Despite Rutgers' apparent shortcomings, Irish coach Brian Kelly was quick to hype up the Big Ten-bound Scarlet Knights.

"They beat Arkansas this year. They played Louisville, Fresno [State]. They're going in the Big Ten. This team is going to be in the Big Ten this year," Kelly said Sunday. "If we don't play well, they'll beat us. We have everything to lose. We want to win the football game."

Sophomore running back Paul James leads the Scarlet Knights on the ground, with 833 yards and nine touchdowns despite only playing in eight games.

Senior quarterback Chas Dodd started the last two games of the season and will likely be the signal caller against the Irish, after replacing junior Gary Nova. Dodd threw for a combined 465 yards, two touchdowns and

two interceptions against Connecticut and South Florida.

The Scarlet Knights have been dangerous in the return game this season, scoring three touchdowns on kick or punt returns. Freshman receiver Janarion Grant has two of those touchdowns and averages 21.7 yards per kick return and nearly 10 yards per punt return.

On defense, Rutgers has been stout in the run game, allowing just 97.15 yards per game on the ground, which ranks sixth in the country. In its wins, Rutgers has allowed just 66.8 rushing yards per game; in its losses, it allowed 122.3 yards. In their final game against South Florida, the Scarlet Knights yielded just 10 rushing yards to the Bulls.

That number may be deceiving, though, because teams have opted to throw the ball against the Scarlet Knights.

Rutgers has allowed 311.4 passing yards per game, which ranks 120th out of 123 teams in the nation. Opponents have thrown the ball 39.5 times per game against the Scarlet Knights and two teams eclipsed the 70-attempt mark this season.

The Irish have thrown the ball more than 40 times in a game once this season, when Notre Dame attempted 53 passes in a 41-30 loss to Michigan.

Notre Dame will play Rutgers on Dec. 28 at noon in the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium in Bronx, N.Y.

Contact Matthew DeFranks
[at mdefrank@nd.edu](mailto:mdefrank@nd.edu)

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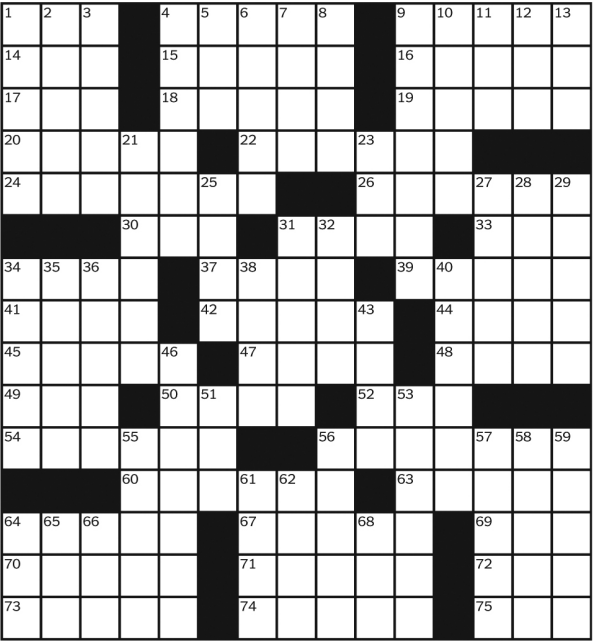
www.PalaisRoyale.org

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
1, 4 & 9 Sports news of 1919
14 Part of E.N.T.
15 Stand for a sitting
16 Part of a waste reduction strategy
17, 18 & 19 Toys “R” Us department
20 Figure in Raphael’s “The School of Athens”
22 Painter’s aid
24 Drawer at a doctor’s office?
26 Not moved from the original location
30 Lib ____ (U.K. party member)
31 Times or Century
33 Some French?
34, 37 & 39 Fredric March’s last film
41 ____ Gallimard, protagonist of “M. Butterfly”
42 Something to contemplate
- 44 Tributary of the High Rhine
45, 47 & 48 Like some student activities
49 Third of November?
50 Like bright red cardinals
52 Egyptian headdress feature
54 Children of ____ (descendants of Jacob)
56 Goldsmith, for one
60 Like “Wedding Crashers” or “Bridesmaids”
63 A current flows into it
64, 67 & 69 Role that garnered 12 consecutive unsuccessful Emmy nominations, 1985-96
70 Brother of Moses
71 Beauty pageant judging criterion
- 72 Iraq war danger, for short
73, 74 & 75 “Invisible” part of a distribution list ... or a hint to this puzzle’s theme

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

E	S	P	R	I	T	Z	A	N	E	T	A	O		
A	T	R	I	S	K	O	D	I	N	A	D	Z		
T	O	O	T	H	O	F	W	O	L	F	N	R	A	
S	A	B	U	S	L	I	P	S	O	F	Y	E	W	
O	A	R	Y	E	T	L	L	A	M	A				
E	N	S	L	E	R	A	D	O						
L	U	C	E	A	S	E	U	P	A	B	O	U		
B	L	I	N	D	W	O	R	M	S	S	T	I	N	G
A	L	S	O	L	O	O	S	E	N	S	E	L		
			R	D	S		S	A	S	H	A	Y		
O	B	A	M	A	A	A	H	G	T	O				
L	I	Z	A	R	D	S	L	E	G	A	P	B	S	
I	T	T	W	I	T	C	H	E	S	B	R	E	W	
V	E	E	I	D	E	O	L	O	L	I	T	A		
E	S	C	N	O	R	A	B	R	E	C	H	T		



- Puzzle by George Barany and Victor Barocas
- 32 Embarrassing spelling mistake?

34 Fountain name

35 Spells

36 Sign with an arrow

38 Mangle

40 “Tales of the City” novelist

43 Make-up person?
- 46 Ute or Cree

51 What’s put before the carte?

53 New York’s ____ Island

55 “Backdraft” crime

56 Wing it

57 Bygone gas brand

58 “Take ____ breath”
- 59 Uncool

61 Spanish appetizer

62 Get an ____ effort

64 Get one’s point across?

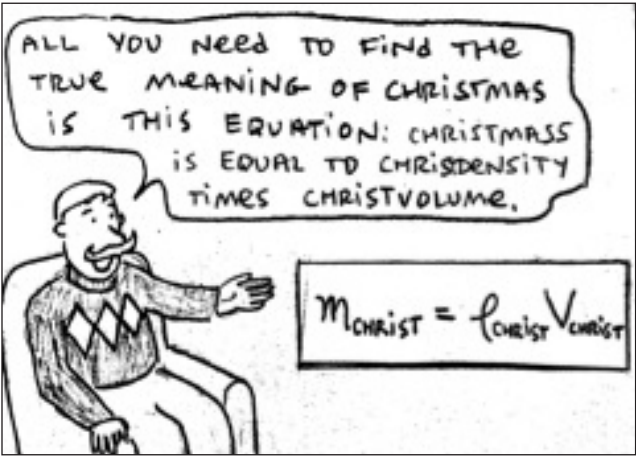
65 Suffix with arbor or ether

66 ____ Lanka

68 “____ Beso”

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER



CONTROLLED CHAOS | HILLARY MANGIAFORTE



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY’S PUZZLE 12/6/12

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

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

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hailee Steinfeld, 17; Mos Def, 40; Mo’Nique, 46; Jermaine Jackson, 59.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on what you can do to get ahead personally and professionally this year. Take action instead of just talking about what you want to do. Look for alternatives that are within your budget that still allow you to strive to reach your goals. Travel will give you the opportunity to seek out new lifestyles, living arrangements and job opportunities. Your numbers are 9, 12, 18, 20, 25, 33, 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don’t spend all your hard-earned cash. You may want to surprise or spoil the people you love, but keeping your cash and offering your help, kindness and love is a better choice. You’ll learn from an experience you have regarding integrity. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Step things up a notch and prepare to get a lot done. Interesting information regarding someone you know will help you make a decision about this person. Respond openly to a different lifestyle, philosophy or way of doing things. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make adjustments to your schedule to ensure you have time to take part in the events that are scheduled toward the end of the year. Speak up about what you want and what you intend to do. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don’t shy away from change. Showing your ability to move along with the times will make a difference to future prospects and participations. Throw a little romance into the mix late in the day and enjoy what life has to offer.★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan an eventful day that includes friends, peers and sharing thoughts, ideas and plans for the future. Mixing business with pleasure may be encouraged, but should be treated with caution. Jealousy or possessiveness is likely to develop. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out of the house and into the hustle and bustle in your neighborhood. Keeping secrets may not be easy, but it will be necessary. An investment you make isn’t likely to sit well with someone you are close to. Proceed with caution. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to be criticized if you don’t stick to the rules or if you venture down a path that isn’t practical. Have your defense ready and your facts and figures accurately calculated to back your choices. An emotional situation will catch you off guard. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Re-evaluate what you have done in the past and where you happen to be in the present and what you want to achieve in the future. As the year comes to a close, having your game plan in place will ease stress. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don’t believe everything you hear. Go to the source and find out firsthand. Someone is likely to meddle in your affairs. Focus on what you know and do well, and refuse to get dragged into situations that can only lead to trouble. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don’t count on anyone doing what you want on time or to your liking. If you want something done, do it yourself. A relationship will flourish if you add a little romance into the mix. Enjoy time alone with someone you love. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Discipline will get you back on track. Pull out your to-do list and make all the adjustments necessary to improve your life and your relationships with the people you care about most. Someone older will influence your future. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make time for friends. The information you gather can make a difference to your financial situation. Honesty will make a difference to the outcome of a relationship. Romance can lead to a promise. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are playful, receptive and inventive. You are entertaining.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

RUFYR

TAMGU

BOZEIM

SNIVHA

A:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday’s | Jumbles: VIXEN GUILD SWATCH ABLAZE
Answer: The storm damaged the taxi when it did this —
HAILED A CAB

WORK AREA



THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S SOCCER

Irish meet Lobos in semis

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

As the No. 3 Irish travel to PPL Park in Chester, Pa., for a semifinal match against No. 7 New Mexico, the team will remain ensnared in cold weather conditions. On Friday, the weather forecast puts the low temperature at 25 degrees.

"The one thing about Notre Dame is that our guys can adjust pretty well," Irish coach Bobby Clark said. "Midwest people can adjust a little bit like Scottish people, for the most part, because you know the weather is going to be a bit better. No matter where you go, it will be a bit better than the weather is in South Bend."

Yet Notre Dame (15-1-6, 7-1-3 ACC) will face more than the weather on Friday, as it also faces the talented Lobos (14-5-2, 7-1-1 Conference USA). New Mexico won 1-0 at Washington on Saturday to advance to PPL Park.

"They are very good in set pieces," Clark said. "They've got four or so guys who are over 6-foot-3. With some pretty big guys, that means set pieces become pretty important for



BARBARA KAZANOWSKA | The Observer

Irish sophomore midfielder Connor Klekota vies for the ball during Notre Dame's 4-0 NCAA tournament win over Wisconsin on Nov. 24.

them. They have a variety of ways to attack you because they also have a technical side and a direct side to them. They've just got good lads who can play, top to bottom."

On the other sideline, Notre Dame has been establishing a legacy of success in South

Bend. Over the last two seasons, the Irish are a combined 32-5-7.

"The most important thing, in this case, is to concern ourselves with what we do," Clark said. "I think if we start

see M SOCCER **PAGE 13**

FOOTBALL

Reports: Diaco new UConn head coach

Notre Dame readies for matchup with Rutgers in Pinstripe Bowl

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Assistant Managing Editor

Irish defensive coordinator Bob Diaco has accepted the head coaching position at Connecticut, according to reports Wednesday night.

CBS Sports' Bruce Feldman reported that Diaco's deal is for five years and starts at \$1.5 million per year.

Diaco was in his fourth season at Notre Dame after previous defensive coordinator stints with Irish coach Brian Kelly at Cincinnati in 2009 and Central Michigan in 2005. He also coached linebackers and special teams at Virginia from 2006 through 2008.

In 2012, Diaco helped construct a defense that allowed 10.3 points per game during Notre Dame's undefeated regular season. Diaco won the Broyles Award as the nation's best assistant coach last season.

On Dec. 3, former Irish

offensive coordinator Chuck Martin accepted the head coaching position at Miami (Ohio). Kelly said receivers coach Mike Denbrock would serve as offensive coordinator for Notre Dame (8-4) against Rutgers (6-6) in the Pinstripe Bowl on Dec. 28.

On Sunday, Kelly said he was not sure if the rest of his staff would stay intact but said he endorsed his assistants for leadership positions.

"If there's a head job out there that makes sense for one of the assistant coaches, I'd look at them," Kelly said. "I have really good football coaches. You never know. But, as I said, my guys aren't out sending résumés looking for jobs. If the right situation comes along, all these guys, especially the ones that have been with me a long time, they know what it looks like. They'd be great at running programs."

This year was the first time

see FOOTBALL **PAGE 14**

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team tests winning streak at Michigan

By BRIAN HARTNETT
Sports Writer

No. 4 Notre Dame will look to extend its season-opening win streak to nine games when it travels to Ann Arbor, Mich., to face Michigan on Saturday. But Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she believes her team is still playing far from its potential.

"I don't think we've hit our stride yet," McGraw said. "I think we can get a lot better at both ends of the floor, and we're a team that can score a lot of points."

The Irish (8-0) put together a complete effort in a 90-48 victory over UCLA on Saturday, as they shot 56.3 percent from the field and limited the Bruins to just 28.0 percent shooting from the floor. The Irish received 46 points off the bench Saturday, including a career-high 21 points from junior guard Madison Cable.

McGraw said bench play would be important for the team as it moves closer to ACC play. Notre Dame sophomore guard Michaela Mabrey has

averaged 10.0 points per game off the bench, while Cable has averaged 6.6 points per game and has shot 64.3 percent from 3-point range.

"[Three-point shooting] is really important for us, and I think [Cable] coming out and having a big game was huge for her confidence and just for us down the road to be able to count on her to score some points," McGraw said. "Certainly, her 3-point shot is one of the best on the team. We're looking for production off the bench, and we certainly got it in the UCLA game."

While the Irish will look for increased bench production, they will also seek to win the battle on the boards against Michigan (7-3). The Wolverines are tied for first among Big Ten teams with a rebounding margin of plus-9.6 per game through games played Sunday. The Irish are first nationally with a rebounding margin of plus-18.3 boards per game and outrebounded the Bruins

see W BASKETBALL **PAGE 12**

MEN'S BASKETBALL | NORTH DAKOTA STATE 73, ND 69

Bison hand ND third loss

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Editor

Notre Dame tried everything to slow down North Dakota State.

Irish coach Mike Brey barked at the refs and beckoned the crowd as he ran up and down the sideline.

The Irish played man-to-man defense, then a 2-3 zone, then man again.

Even "Crazy Train" blared in the final two minutes.

But Notre Dame (7-3) could not stop the Bison (7-3) on Wednesday night, as North Dakota State came into Purcell Pavilion and earned a 73-69 win.

"I was very worried about this one and my worst fears came true," Brey said.

Bison senior forward Marshall Bjorklund scored a season-high 26 points on 11-for-14 shooting, and the Irish could only muster 35.7 percent shooting from the field.

Bjorklund, who ranked second in the nation last season in field-goal percentage at 66.7 percent on 170-for-255 shooting, scored at will in the paint.

"We've got a really good post player," Bison coach Saul



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant pushes into the lane during Notre Dame's 84-69 win over Santa Clara on Nov. 22 at Purcell Pavilion.

Phillips said. "It's hard for people to wrap their brains around it, but we've got a really good post player in Fargo, North Dakota. And he does that to a lot of people."

Bjorklund notched 16 second-half points as the Bison seemingly countered every run by Notre Dame, who only led for 2:23 in the second half. The Irish tried double-teaming Bjorklund in the first half, but North Dakota State responded

by shooting 5-for-7 from beyond the arc in the opening 20 minutes.

"Having shooters on our team, it really spreads out the court," Bjorklund said. "I'm able to go one-on-one. I feel pretty confident in doing that no matter who's playing defense. Early they kind of sent a few doubles and we hit some open guys around the perimeter."

see M BASKETBALL **PAGE 14**