

‘Life without preconceived expectations’

Professor reflects on connections between philosophy, cognitive disabilities in annual lecture at SMC

By EMILIE KEFALAS
News Writer

Eva Feder Kittay, distinguished professor of philosophy at Stony Brook University in New York, addressed the Saint Mary's community in the Student Center's Rice Commons Wednesday evening with a lecture titled, "Normalcy and a Good Life: Problems, Prospects, and Possibilities in the Life of People with Severe Cognitive Disabilities."

The presentation was part of the College's annual McMahon Aquinas lecture and speaker series, which values the qualities of sincere questioning and truth wherever it can be found,

assistant professor of philosophy Michael Waddell said.

Waddell is also the endowed Edna and George McMahon Aquinas Chair in philosophy, which selects the annual lecturer related to the thoughts of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Kittay is the first lecturer in the series who is an alumnae of a women's college, Sarah Lawrence College, Waddell said.

"I do think there is an enormous value in a women's college," Kittay said. "By the end of a couple years, we are able to think without all the craziness that goes on in co-ed situations."

Her work has encompassed the ideas of feminist philosophy and history, and she has authored

numerous books in her field, Waddell said. Her contributions have earned her nationwide recognition as a distinguished philosopher and professor.

Kittay's lecture stemmed from her most recent work study in the area of disability, normalcy and the idea of the good life.

"An op-ed in the Washington Post wrote, 'having a child with a severe disability makes every parent a philosopher,'" Kittay said. "What if you are already a philosopher and are raising a child with multiple and severe disabilities, including severe cognitive disabilities? You become a humbler philosopher."

see LECTURE PAGE 5



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Eva Kittay, professor of philosophy and mother of a cognitively disabled child, presents Saint Mary's annual McMahon Aquinas lecture.

Former vice president of business affairs dies

Observer Staff Report

Thomas J. Mason, former Notre Dame vice president for business affairs, passed away Nov. 24 in Naples, Fla. at the age of 82, according to a University press release.

"During his 20-year tenure, Mason exercised overall control of Notre Dame's fiscal affairs and oversaw a

nearly tenfold expansion of the University's endowment, more than 30 major construction projects, the renovation of the Main Building and the expansion of Notre Dame Stadium," the press release stated.

Mason, who took the position in 1976, came to the Notre Dame after working at the University of Michigan

for 10 years. In 1993, the Notre Dame Alumni Association named him an honorary alumnus, and the facilities services building on campus bears his name.

"Much of higher education in recent years has been characterized by fiscal crisis and retrenchment," University

see REPORT PAGE 4

Conference to address gender and childhood

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 4

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2:00-3:45PM	Nation, Empire, History ; Trans Identities & Allegories
4:00-5:45PM	The Disney Princess ; Progressive Politics & Children's Lit.
7:00PM	Plenary Session ; "Futures of Childhood Studies"

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

9:00-10:45AM	Panel A. Spaces of Childhood ; Franchises Investigating Fairy Tales
11-12:30PM	Performing Boyhood ; Children's Voices
1:30-3:00PM	Gender Variant Parenting ; Queer Temporalities
3:15-5:00PM	Gender Variant Parenting ; Queer Temporalities
5:00-6:30PM	Creative Salon
7:30PM	Keynote

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

9:00-10:30AM	Student Presentations ; Cartoons & Illustrations
10:45-12:15PM	Student presentation ; Toys & Material Culture
12:35PM	Student Videos
1:15-3:00PM	Sexuality & Precocity ; Digital Cultures
3:15-5:00PM	"Who's That Girl?" ; Queer(ing) Parenting

SAM COUGHLIN | The Observer

Hunger Banquet raises awareness of poverty

By ALEX WINEGAR
News Writer

With the upcoming holidays, many families will gather around a table and enjoy a feast together, but some families will have little to no food on their tables.

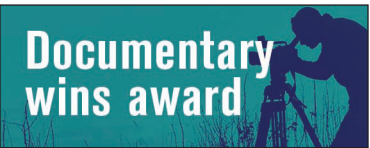
The 10th annual Hunger Banquet was held at Saint Mary's on Tuesday evening to raise awareness about hunger and poverty.



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Students assemble in Stapleton Lounge on Tuesday evening to participate in a dinner and reflect on hunger and poverty.

see BANQUET PAGE 5



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SCENE PAGE 9



MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 16



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 16

THE OBSERVER

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Ann Marie Jakubowski.

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is the last picture you took with your phone?

Have a question you want answered?

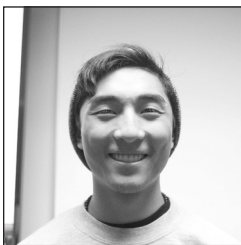
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Ellen Coticchia

sophomore
Farley Hall

"A picture of my roommate sleeping in class."



Jeffrey Wang

junior
off-campus

"A picture of my family at Thanksgiving."



Katie Flynn

senior
off-campus

"A picture of my younger cousin and I at Thanksgiving."



Michelle Bohrt

sophomore
Pasquerilla East Hall

"I took a picture of the dorm on my way to class this morning."



Rachel Broghammer

junior
Ryan Hall

"Family picture from Thanksgiving."



Victor Roh

junior
off-campus

"Beef."



LUCY OH | The Observer

Students sell candy grams for \$1 in LaFortune Student Center .All proceeds donated by the community will be given to charity.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Thursday

South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra

Morris Inn
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Holiday entertainment.

Interdenominational Fellowship (ISI)

Coleman - Morse Center
10 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Student worship.

Friday

Christmas Cookie Decorating

LaFortune Student Center
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Free for students.

ND Chorale

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

Saturday

Women's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
ND vs. Connecticut.

Men's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
ND vs. Fairleigh Dickinson.

Sunday

Classic Film: "It's a Wonderful Life"

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Free for students.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Features all choirs.

Monday

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

Student documentary honored at film festival

By **ALYSSA LYON**
News Writer

Katie Mattie, Vincent Moore and William Neal — 2014 Notre Dame graduates — won "Best Short Documentary" at the 2014 Sunset International Film Festival in May in Los Angeles for their film "The Suicide Disease."

"The Suicide Disease" tells the story of Frances Shavers, former Notre Dame chief-of-staff, who suffers from Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN), a neurological disease that causes extreme facial pain, according to a Notre Dame press release.

"Our film is about Frances Shavers' struggle with the disease and her extraordinary

story of hope and courage," Mattie said, describing Shavers as "remarkable" and "larger than life" despite her disease.

In the spring of 2013, Professor Ted Mandell, associate professional specialist for the FTT department, inspired the three filmmakers to tell Shavers' story after showing them footage of Shavers suffering from a pain attack as a result of her condition.

Upon seeing the footage, the trio of students teamed up to tell Shavers' important story, Mattie said.

"Frances suffers from 100-150 pain attacks daily, which can last anywhere from 20 seconds to 2 minutes," she said. "My heart breaks when I think of Frances' battle ... and the

amount of pain she endures because of it."

The three filmmakers spent three months gathering footage for the documentary, even traveling to the Cleveland Clinic to meet with Shavers' doctors.

"It was during that filming session [in the Cleveland Clinic] that we learned how severe her condition is, and [saw] what the emotional toll that TN has taken on Frances," Mattie said.

Despite the severity of the disease, Shavers was a joy to work with, Mattie said.

"She really embraced the process of making the film and was fearless in sharing her vulnerability to the world," Mattie said.

But it was Shavers' sense of

humor amongst the seriousness of the filming process that was most memorable for Mattie.

"One part of the film that I wish we could show more is Frances' sense of humor and all of the moments when she would crack a joke, or just be adorable."

Mattie said showing "The Suicide Disease" at the Sunset Film Festival and the trio's experience was "incredible" and "a whirlwind."

"We were in awe of the diversity of the films we saw at the festival, and the level of support from the directors of the event," Mattie said.

The overall production of "The Suicide Disease" had a profound impact on the three filmmakers, Mattie said.

"What I took away ... is the incredible capacity Frances has to love, hold onto faith, be vulnerable and courageous," she said. "[Frances and her husband, George] have shown me a new level of love and support that I've never seen before."

Mattie said that she hopes the film will provide hope to those with TN, as well as inspire others to help.

"Our goals [with this film] were to raise awareness [for] the disease, share Frances' incredible faith and strength, connect with others living with chronic pain and if at all possible, be a call for someone to help Frances," Mattie said.

Contact Alyssa Lyon at alyon@nd.edu

Sociologist analyzes KKK impact on modern politics

By **ALEX CAO**
News Writer

Professor Rory McVeigh, chair of sociology at Notre Dame, co-authored an upcoming article to be published in the American Sociological Review with professors David Cunningham from Brandeis University and Justin Farrell from Yale University.

The article, titled, "Political Polarization as a Social Movement Outcome: 1960s Klan Activism and its Enduring Impact on Political Realignment in Southern Counties, 1960 to 2000," discusses the activities of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in its heyday, its influence in modern politics and the motivations behind actions from a near half-century ago that are still

felt in the world today.

"There are really two different core puzzles," McVeigh said. "One is kind of a substantive puzzle ... how has the South, which used to be solidly Democratic and supportive of white supremacy ... how has it transformed into a Republican stronghold? ... Historians have looked at that but not really paid attention to the role of extremist movements like the Ku Klux Klan."

"It kind of fits in with a general academic question about whether or not social movements make a difference," McVeigh said. "For many, many years, sociologists were studying how [the KKK] emerged in the first place. It's only been in recent years that people have been turning that question around

and asking, 'do they make a difference?'"

McVeigh, Cunningham and Farrell worked with nearly half a century of voting data since one of the peaks in Klan activity during the 1960s. The trio observed changes in voting habits in counties across 10 states in the South that have and haven't experienced Klan influence, McVeigh said.

"We have a measure of Republican voting in 1960 before the emergence of the Klan, and we look at measures of Republican voting through various elections after the emergence of the Klan going all the way to 2000 and we look at Klan activism as something that intervenes within that time period," McVeigh said. "Here we are in the 1990s after the Klan has dissolved ... and we found

that people who hold conservative attitudes towards integration ... are more likely to vote Republican. But here's the important part: that was only true in counties where the Klan were active."

McVeigh said the longest lasting influences of the KKK were sustained through subtler, more mundane means, rather than emphasizing disparity between races. The KKK's actions brought to light the unwillingness of the general public to discuss and resolve race-related issues, he said.

"Our personal networks are more diverse in attitudes than we think they are," McVeigh said. "Let's say ... we don't agree on some issue. I could drop you as a friend but more commonly we change the topic that we're talking

about — something we have in common like music or sports."

"Then sometimes there's such an issue that could be a 'hot topic' of discussion ... and we argue in our paper the Klan was like that. They were so controversial ... it became such a hot topic of discussion that you couldn't just avoid it. In the process people started to choose side and the Klan played a role in bringing the race issue out into the open and aligning racial attitudes with party platforms. ... In other words, this kind of radical action can disrupt social networks and place people in different networks that are sustained for so long through social interaction," he said.

Contact Alex Cao at acao@nd.edu

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SENATE

Senate discusses DART changes

By JESSICA MERDES
News Writer

Student Senate met on Wednesday evening to discuss two resolutions presented by the Judicial Council and Hall President's Council (HPC).

Kathryn Peruski, president of the Judicial Council, presented a resolution that defines social media rules for campaigning for student government. According to Peruski, candidates are allowed to make social media accounts and pages as part of their campaign, but the amendment will require that everything, every post, tweet and video, has to be specifically approved by the Judicial Council.

This amendment tightens the procedure for campaigns from what used to be a "blanket approval" that lacked "specific rules and regulations," Peruski said.

"This change is very necessary as there was no clear cut way to deal with questions of ethics in social media previously," she said.

Michael Wajda, chairperson for the Hall President's Council, presented a resolution that will change the name of the "treasurer" on HPC to "finance chair." The resolution also changes the election process for the finance chair, who will now be nominated by the co-chairs at the beginning of the term.

"We dropped the voting requirement and the term 'treasurer' for consistency across the board in regards to the election of chair persons," Wajda said. "Beyond that, we are an information disseminating body and these changes reflect on the different nature of HPC."

Both of the resolutions were passed by the Senate.

Phil Gilroy, a student senator, presented findings

from a recent study regarding DARTing procedures. Gilroy's committee looked at prevalent issues with the DARTing system and tried to find some solutions.

"We realized that we've been simply tolerating the current DARTing system and class search options for a while now," Gilroy said. "It

"We realized that we've been simply tolerating the current DARTing system and class search options for a while now."

Phil Gilroy
student senator

quickly became clear to us that a change was necessary."

According to Gilroy, common problems that students face include difficulties comparing classes side by side, difficulty finding specific college and university requirements and time constraints.

"To modernize the DARTing system as well as increase ease of use, the committee came up with the idea to enable the program to have a mock schedule planner such as Schedulizer," Gilroy said.

Other ideas include a wait-list system to notify students when a class has an open spot, as well as more time between DARTing sections.

These preliminary ideas will work to help students in the process of registering for classes, and the Senate plans to discuss the ideas further.

Contact Jessica Merdes at jmerdes@nd.edu

Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

president emeritus Fr. Edward A. "Monk" Malloy said upon Mason's retirement in 1996, according to the press release. "The fact that this has never been the case at Notre Dame is due in large measure to the financial and managerial acumen of Tom Mason. His legacy to the University is a fiscal planning and budget making model that should ensure our financial strength for years to come."

Mason earned a bachelor's degree and a master's of

business administration from the University of Detroit in 1959 and 1963, respectively, and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, according to the press release.

A visitation will take place at 8:30 a.m., Saturday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. A funeral Mass will follow at 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made in Mason's memory to the University of Detroit Mercy at 4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit, MI 48221-3038; or to St. Agnes Parish, 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples, FL 34120.

Alumnae visit Rwanda, present art gallery

By EMILIE KEFALAS
News Writer

Two Saint Mary's alumnae, Malea Schulte and Elizabeth Palmer, will share the transformational experiences they had during a research trip in Rwanda at the Moreau gallery opening, "Project Rwanda," on December 8.

While in Rwanda this past year, 2013 graduate Palmer and 2014 graduate Schulte, as part of their project, approached different Rwandans and asked them how they wanted to be remembered, Palmer said.

"Face of Christ, change-maker and servant were some of the answers that flowed from their souls," Palmer said. "We had them write their answer on a white board and took a picture for our exhibit."

"Project Rwanda" will also feature the photography of Jonathan Bell, a passionate photographer from Asia, who will be joining Palmer and Schulte opening night, Palmer said. Prayer flags will be displayed and the artists' reflections will be depicted.

The idea to create the art exhibit came after Schulte's recent completion of her senior computation titled "Storybank," which included individual paintings of different members of the Saint Mary's community.

One of Schulte's interviewees was a woman from Rwanda, whose story inspired Palmer and Schulte to travel to Rwanda in recognition of the 20-year anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. The duo hoped to build connections with people and promote peace through relationships, Palmer said.

"Malea interned at a faith based NGO called PICO (People Improving Communities Through Organizing), whose focus is on the different needs of communities, such as clinics and housing, through the world with a base in Rwanda," Palmer said. "Our connection with PICO paved the way to meeting people and making connections while in Rwanda. The confidence we developed and relationships we formed at Saint Mary's were our motivating factors."

Schulte's and Palmer's goal was to depict the intrinsic beauty of the people of Rwanda 20 years after a horrific genocide, Palmer said.

"The photographs are windows to their souls depicting a genuine nature of love, courage, strength, and humility in the midst of suffering, strength and forgiveness 20 years post genocide," Palmer said. "It parallels the core values of Saint Mary's College, including faith and spirituality, justice, community and

learning. My emotions revolve around gratitude towards the Rwandan's to open their hearts and share their stories. It is a humbling feeling to get to share their powerful stories with the community here."

"The people of Rwanda are authentic," Palmer said. "A beauty exists there that allowed us to feel welcomed as their sisters in Christ. There is a simplicity in Rwanda that allowed us to reflect on the meaning of life where relationships are intensely valued. The people in Rwanda have overcome hardship and yet they do not dwell in negativity. Instead, they understand that each day is a gift that should be lived to the fullest."

The Rwandan people opened Palmer's eyes to what it means to be alive, she said.

"We were able to create relationships and have maintained contact," Palmer said. "We were able to highlight our similarities and acknowledge our differences. This allowed us to gain perspective into humanity."

"It was an empowering experience, and Malea and I will most definitely utilize our teamwork to continue sharing in personal stories of people across the world."

Contact Emilie Kefalas at ekefal01@saintmarys.edu

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Lecture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kittay referred to her lecture as a story and an argument from the perspective of a parent who has experienced first-hand, life as a parent raising a disabled child.

Many who watch from the sidelines see a disabled child, and they see a family condemned to struggle, Kittay said. Her goal was to convey how these families and these children can experience a good life without the element of supposed “normalcy.”

“Severely cognitively disabled individuals process their world and experiences atypically,” Kittay said. “[They] experience a range of human possibilities only partially available to or not salient for others. [They] have a greater degree of dependence on the care of others.”

Kittay posed the question to her audience as to if these people with disabilities could live a good life. She quoted Aristotle in saying, “The activity of the divinity which surpasses all others in bliss must

be a contemplative activity ... happiness is coextensive with study.”

“The philosophers, of course, have much to say about the good life,” Kittay said. “A more contemporary view is held by Martha Nussbaum. What’s normal for ‘a truly human life’ include play, closeness to the animal world, must include the ability to be autonomous and to act rationally and reasonably. These are presumed to be at the core of conception of moral personhood.”

Kittay quoted Socrates’s famous statement, “The unexamined life is not worth living,” before addressing how she applied this philosophy during the birth of her daughter.

“By the time I had given birth to my daughter, and yet once I became her parent, there was no question in my mind that her life was worth living,” Kittay said. “I would love her as the child of mine she is. This was foundational, the love of reason. The capacity to act rationally [was] not at the center of a life of meaning and value.

“How can one argue that moral

worth [is] predicated on the ability to reason,” she said. “One can argue life itself is of estimable value.”

In speaking about her daughter, Kittay emphasized she did not want her daughter to merely live but to have a life worth living.

“This conception of a good life may mean they do not have a life worth living,” Kittay said. “We need not engage in disputes if the aim is to see a good life, nor do I want to speak of a minimally acceptable life. A good life should be much more than minimally acceptable.”

Severe cognitive behavioral problems can often cause high levels of pain, which may make life harder to endure. In the case of autistic children, this may make ordinary sensory experiences intolerable, such as physical affection, Kittay said.

“As I read and hear from parents with children with severe cognitive disabilities, it’s like being part of a special club,” Kittay said. “Even in the midst of pain, there’s a terror we will lose this

child. Many of us has come to appreciate a life without preconceived expectations.”

Love, joy and the gift of just being able to ‘be’ encompass the idea of the good life for these children and families, Kittay said.

“It’s not easy being not normal,” Kittay said. “Normal is such a benign word. The term is deceptively descriptive. When used against an individual, it can feel like a blunder.

“Why does the news that your child is not normal send such a shock,” Kittay said. “The worst fear is that the impairment will affect the child’s thinking. We want health for our children. How will this child grow into an adult who will be valued, not merely as a pitiful charity case?”

Kittay said she experienced a great amount of anxiety for her daughter in that she knew she would not live a normal life and always be very vulnerable to the world around her. Though her daughter, Sesha, is now grown, some concerns remain strong for her wellbeing and safety, Kittay

said.

“She will not be able to have an intellectual life,” Kittay said. “[There’s] her extreme vulnerability to harming herself [and] her vulnerability as someone’s victim.”

Kittay also has concerns about what important and “normal” desires of her daughter’s will remain unfulfilled, including romantic love and the desire for young children.

“Does this mean that a good life is impossible in the absence of the normal,” Kittay said. “In our own development as parents, the two concepts seemed inseparable in the early years, prying apart ‘a good life’ from the ‘normal life.’”

According to Kittay, acceptance in our society is directly linked to self-worth, and therefore affects the desire for normalcy.

“We require the affirmation of community that what we are is valuable. We are in danger when we are held in contempt,” she said.

Contact Emilie Kefalas at ekefal01@saintmarys.edu

Banquet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Saint Mary’s Student Diversity Board (SDB) president Callie Brown said her

department’s goals were to emphasize the challenges of poverty in local and international communities.

“The purpose of the hunger banquet is to raise awareness about poverty and hunger

around the world and to provide resources for the community to get involved and give back,” Brown said.

SDB sponsored this not so ordinary dinner, which was a part of the Board’s goals in highlighting diversity on campus.

Students, faculty and staff drew slips of paper and played different roles at the banquet, according to a press release. One person could be a millionaire, and another could be a single parent working three jobs, barely able to make rent. Once in a role, each participant is categorized into one of three social classes: lower, middle and upper class.

The designated class on each slip of paper determines

how much food is on his or hers plate, the press release stated.

Senior Madison Maidment said the banquet was an eye-opening experience.

“The banquet is an opportunity for students to get a feel for the life of those less fortunate, especially when it comes to issues of poverty and justice,” Maidment said. “The hands-on experience helps people better understand those who may not have the same opportunities. Not everyone has a meal plan.”

The event was small yet informative, sophomore Erin Hart said.

“It was really cool to talk about hunger and poverty not only in our local

community but also worldwide,” Hart said. “I also liked hearing about the different ways the community can give back to those less fortunate.”

Brown said the Hunger Banquet was a powerful event and she hopes that Saint Mary’s students will contact the Office of Civil and Social Concerns if they would like to get involved in this annual event.

“This event, to me, is a sign of solidarity with those who live in poverty and do not have the same access as resources as many in the Saint Mary’s community do,” Brown said.

Contact Alex Winegar at awineg01@saintmarys.edu

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Gender

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Professor Pamela Wojcik, director of the Gender Studies Program at Notre Dame, played a crucial role in planning this conference and brought together speakers from the Notre Dame community as well as speakers from all over and outside the country.

“It takes a long time to plan a conference. It’s been in progress since last winter,” Wojcik said.

Wojcik said this conference is relevant in every student’s life and stressed that one does not have to be affiliated with or study gender studies to attend.

“I think this conference works both on an academic and real world level,” Wojcik said. “I think it’s also the moment when the issues that will be talked about in terms of gender and childhood are very real in culture.”

The three-day conference will consist of panels covering topics including transgender identity, fairytales, toys and Disney princesses, as well as two undergraduate panels with students from Notre Dame and other universities.

“I’ve never presented at a conference, and this is my first really intense academic engagement with gender studies issues,” Shaeffer said. “I’m an outsider to all of this, but gender studies, I think, is inherently interdisciplinary.”

Junior Colton Williamson, who will present a paper on sexuality in the film “The 400 Blows,” said he has a particular interest in gender studies because it ties in with his other interest, film.

“Beyond giving a few presentations in my classes, I’ve never actually spoken at a conference,” Williamson said. “I don’t have much of a concrete background in gender studies, but I have always been interested in cinema, and a big part of film analysis

now involves looking at films through a gendered lens.”

Senior Rae Moors, who will discuss illustrations in children’s books, said the conference will provide an opportunity for her to connect two disciplines.

“I’ve always been interested in gender studies and in visual art,” Moors said. “This conference just happened to be an excellent intersection of the two disciplines, so I couldn’t pass up the chance to participate as well as attend.”

Shaeffer said the conference will benefit anyone who attends regardless of their field of study.

“It is important for students to attend this conference not only in an attempt to supplement or improve their academic pursuits, but also [to pursue] that intense self-awareness and self-consciousness we should all strive for,” she said.

Contact Selena Ponio at sponio@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Host more discussions



Allie Tollaksen
Scene Editor

This year, an anthology of essays called “Should I Go To Grad School?” came out through Bloomsbury Publishing, featuring takes on the question from authors, artists and other creative-types. While the book’s title question has become increasingly representative of my own post-graduate anxieties, the reason I bring it up is because its author, Sheila Heti, not only shares her insightful opinions on graduate school education but also stories about meeting and learning from other people as an adult.

Part way through, Heti mentions the importance of having regular, planned gatherings and events as a young adult. She emphasizes that bringing people together to learn and collaborate was foundational to her education as a young adult. In a world where “partying” means blasting music in dimly-lit houses or dorm rooms while “education” conjures up images late-night study sessions in the library, I was envious as I read the article. But as she and her interviewer, Jessica Loudis, chatted about parties in which young people could converse and connect, the idea that important conversations could consistently be had in a venue outside of the classroom started feeling like a real possibility — someone just had to host them.

Fortunately, I had a good friend with a similar vision, so he and I collaborated to schedule regular talks, salons and gatherings for students and friends in South Bend. With a mailing list, a ban on cell-phones (a rule heavily-contested and reluctantly obeyed by guests) and a new topic each week, we kicked off the project this semester. Starting small, we’ve been able to have conversations on topics ranging from best-selling novels to neighborhood development in our own homes, and we’re only getting started — we have a long list of brainstormed topics and anticipated guest speakers ahead of us.

Though we’re often able to engage in debate or talk seriously to each other in classes, I’ve really come to believe that having a time for students to discuss topics relevant to their lives and environment — in their own spaces and on their own terms — is invaluable to the college experience. To speak candidly with our peers creates opportunities, forms friendships and allows us to build communities within the larger Notre Dame and South Bend communities. Already, the project has been eye-opening.

Host gatherings. Invite interesting people you meet in class or out in South Bend to them. Brainstorm ideas. Collaborate. Take full advantage of the lectures, forums and salons on campus. Of course your classes are important, but so is this four-year opportunity to debate and collaborate.

Contact Allie Tollaksen at atollaksen@nd.edu

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

Gondor calls for foreign aid

Stephen Raab
Let’s Talk Smart

One of the highlights of my break, apart from a Black Friday mall-crawl and an initiation into the world of “go,” was the afternoon I spent with my brother watching the director’s cut of “The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers.” It’s a wonderful film, and while much of J. R. R. Tolkien’s great prose has made the transition to silver screen, I reserve a special fondness for a scene original to the Peter Jackson film. (Spoilers ahoy!)

After careful consideration, the Ents of Fangorn Forest have decided to remain neutral in the war between the evil Saruman and the men of Rohan. The hobbit Pippin opines that perhaps he and his friend Merry should do likewise, as “It’s too big for us. What can we do in the end? We’ve got the Shire. Maybe we should go home.” Merry angrily prophesies if they do so and Saruman is not stopped, “all that was once green and good in this world will be gone. There won’t be a Shire, Pippin.” Jolted from his complacency, Pippin cunningly convinces the Ents to march on Isengard and vanquish Saruman.

Much like Pippin, many these days don’t want America to get involved in the affairs of other nations. Rather than proudly wear slogans like “America’s Navy—A Global Force for Good,” these isolationists cynically turn a blind eye to suffering abroad. After all, they insist, we don’t have a dog in this fight or that one. What has such intervention brought us in the past but dead men, lost money and retributory terrorism? Far better that we should hunker down and let the Third World blow itself to bits.

In the past, such logic made sense. Our crises had to be triaged, and the looming threat of nuclear annihilation at the hands of the Soviets left little room for other considerations. Further, a little dustup on the far side of the globe was unlikely to affect our daily lives. But that time has passed — the Berlin Wall has been down for a quarter century, and our advanced networks of communication and transport mean that the effects of suffering and violence in one part of the world affect every other part.

Other critics of American interventionism point to failed interventions of the past (usually while glossing over

success stories like South Korea or postwar Europe). I’m certainly not going to claim that our aid to Saddam Hussein or our coup to install the Shah were the finest hour of American foreign policy. However, the irresponsible actions of our former allies give us all the more reason to intervene now. Committing resources to mopping them up will show to the world our willingness to correct our mistakes. Indeed, the money spent and blood spilt to restore justice and prosperity will be fitting payment for any advantage America has gained through corrupt bargains.

And while we’re on the subject of money, I’ve always found the financial arguments against interventionism to rest on shaky logic. Surely we can all dig a little deeper at tax time if it means preventing another Rwandan genocide. In fact, cash spent on intervention can be seen as an investment. If a targeted killing of a cell leader or local warlord prevents a full-scale war a year down the line, the “meddling” that penny-pinching isolationists decry will have saved money in the long run.

Finally, it’s naturally inevitable that our interventions worldwide will meet with less than universal acclaim. Dictators and war criminals the world over will characterize our efforts as “nosy” — as though the architects of genocide don’t deserve to have noses stuck into their business. When defeated, these tyrants may even lash out with terrorism, as seen with the Nazi Werewolf program after the fall of Berlin. In these times, we must take heart and remember the words of Les Miserables author Victor Hugo, who wrote “You have enemies? Why, it is the story of every man who has done a great deed or created a new idea. It is the cloud that thunders around everything that shines.”

As the most prosperous and well-equipped nation on the face of this planet, it is our responsibility to prevent the abuse of its most marginalized citizens. This must include resistance — economic, political, and finally military — to evildoers all over the world. After all: “There’s some good in this world, Mr. Frodo, and it’s worth fighting for.”

Stephen Raab is a junior studying Chemical Engineering. He resides in Alumni Hall and welcomes discourse at sraab@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



A beautiful, receptive joy in education

Dan Sehlhorst

We've Lost Our Quorum

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." Aristotle wrote these words many centuries ago, and to this day I believe they hold great wisdom. My educative experience in the United States, however, has raised questions about our commitment to an intellectual, social and moral self-cultivation of our philosophy of education.

Education in the United States today is a confusing bundle of paradoxes. At first glance, there is a tremendous priority on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), a set of fields in many ways synonymous with progress in the national conversation. Legislators, media outlets, counselors and parents are calling for more STEM courses in high schools and strongly encouraging students to enter STEM majors in college. The message is strong and clear: your best chance at success is studying STEM.

Unfortunately, American high schools are falling behind in STEM performance. A number of prevalent methodological failures are cited as the cause for this problem, but my question is more fundamental. Why are we treating education as such a utilitarian mechanism?

The end of education should not be the accumulation of facts or cookie-cutter problem-solving techniques. Neither should it be economic output, prestigious employment or high rankings on some report. Education should be much more personal and much more relational. Some of the most important benefits of education are the development of critical thinking that opens the door to knowledge and the communication skills to convey that knowledge. In these ways, students both grow as individuals and in their capacity to relate to

their community.

To combat poor academic performance, we need understand how to educate. We need engaged parents and communities, and we need teachers empowered with resources and curricular freedom. We need a balanced approach between technical ability in STEM and critical analysis of classic literature that has stood and will stand the test of time. While building a strong capacity to reason from evidence and apply knowledge to a wide array of situations, it is paramount to hone the ability to communicate, both in speech and in writing — in a way that is nuanced, clear and comprehensive.

With this said, we must seek a much deeper and more profound understanding of education. Knowledge is intrinsically a body of work that grows with time, as our minds grasps the many interconnected relationships between people, places, ideas, events, worldviews and ways of life. But knowledge is more than having sufficient development to comprehend concepts studied and observed and the relationships between them. It is something we must seek and be ready to receive.

In "Teachers as Cultural Workers," education philosopher Paolo Freire points out that "Studying is a preparation for knowledge." I believe Aristotle would agree, because studying clearly involve pondering thoughts without necessarily immediately determining their veracity or their relationship to the rest of the world. Knowledge, in this sense, is a realization of personal growth, expanding the horizons of the student, discerning truth among competing claims and, ultimately, fulfilling their potential as an independent thinker.

I find that the most profound understanding of knowledge, however, is in the ethic of caring, as developed by another education philosopher, Nel Noddings. As knowledge is a relational phenomenon — with an object and subject — and even other interconnected objects and subjects, it requires the ability for it to be

received. In her book, "Caring: A Relational Approach to Ethics and Moral Education," Noddings wrote: "The relational mode is at the heart of human existence." Applying this notion to education, we should consider if our conception of education is rooted in its relational nature. This holds true for both the student, receiving from the teacher, and the teacher, who receives from the student in order to better orient himself or herself toward giving well to the student.

Beyond empirical evidence and logical frameworks is the truth in understanding, a true immersion and embrace of knowledge. Noddings describes a concept of receptive joy, "which occurs when we are engaged as though possessed — when we are caught up in a relation... Whereas explanation is controlled, contrived and constructed, understanding — like joy — comes unpredictably." She compares this feeling to a light dawning, drawing a parallel to when C.S. Lewis famously wrote of being "surprised by joy." In this case, though, we are surprised by understanding.

An educator, through ethical caring, plants the seeds of knowledge and waters the ground for this moment. Not only is the educator facilitating a growth in knowledge, but also imbuing her students with a message about the nature of society. A teacher plays a crucial role in developing a student's understanding of his or her relationship with humanity, transcending the use of education as a utilitarian tool and fashioning a relational existence rooted in fully and genuinely orienting oneself toward others through a beautiful receptive joy.

Dan Sehlhorst is a junior studying economics and political science. Hailing from Troy, Ohio, and a resident of Zahm House, he looks forward to conversation about his columns and can be contacted at dsehlhor@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Farley, I'm fine

When I look at myself in the mirror in the morning, I'm not disgusted. I've come to terms with the features of my face that society might find less than optimal. My acne scars and I are all right; my nose is just fine as it is.

I find nothing wrong with embracing the natural beauty of every single person on this campus. I think it should be encouraged! Urging people to not "wear ANY makeup" and to "have confidence in your natural beauty!" tells me that if I wear makeup, it's the result of a lack of confidence. The "Be Fine: 1 day without makeup" event that Farley Hall is putting on this week has everyone's best interests at heart, I have no doubt, but it sends the wrong message to this campus.

People who choose to wear makeup don't necessarily have low self-esteem. People who choose not to wear

makeup don't necessarily have high self-esteem. I wear makeup because I enjoy having the ability to emphasize the features on my face I want to, and I can downplay other features. I can make my makeup match my mood, and have my face reflect how I feel on the inside — be it dramatic eyeliner or an understated "natural" look.

I recognize that using makeup because you are trying to meet societal expectations could present a problem. But shaming makeup users isn't the answer. Think of makeup as a sort of less permanent tattoo; an art form through which I can express myself every single day if I so choose.

The only person you should wear makeup for is yourself. If someone says you're prettier with or without

makeup, you don't need to listen to them. Do it because it feels right, or makes you feel more confident. I definitely don't wear blue and gold lipstick because I think it's more attractive than my natural face — I wear it because it's game day. It's how I want to look, and I'm fine with that.

I'll be wearing makeup on Dec. 4, not because I feel that I need to hide, but because I want to be wearing it. That is the only reason anyone should be wearing makeup at all.

Natalie Wozniak

senior

Lewis Hall

Dec. 3

Why we march for life

With the Annual March for Life registration closing this Friday, our team wanted to remind the student body why we march for life. Take a moment to think about this fact — there have been 56,993,299 abortions in the United States since the Roe vs. Wade Decision in 1973. That is roughly 57 million lives that, through no choice of their own, will never have the chance to enter this world. In order to put this number into perspective, 1,110,563 soldiers have sacrificed their lives out of honor, duty and patriotism for our country in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War — combined. The number of abortions that have occurred in the US is approximately 51 times this value. In the words of Mother Teresa, "The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left for me to kill you and you to kill me? There is nothing between." Our nation has been founded on the premise that each

individual has the unalienable right of LIFE, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Life is the most basic right. All are entitled to it. This is what we strive to protect. Ultimately, abortion is by far the greatest injustice of our time. That is where it becomes our duty to shine light on this situation. Do not underestimate the impact that your voice can have. The media may turn a blind eye to it, but that does not mean millions of Americans are standing idly by.

Here at ND we thrive upon a culture of life and standing up for others. We believe that every human person has dignity and immeasurable value regardless of age, race or economic status. This upcoming Jan. 22, each student will have an opportunity to peacefully march in honor of the innocent who have fallen victim to abortion and those in the future who will be given no choice. For only \$35, you will join over 600 fellow Notre Dame peers and faculty on a trip to Washington, D.C. in order to march at

the Annual March for Life. The University will extend excused absences for missed classes. Please sign up on studentshop.nd.edu or visit the Right to Life website for more information.

So gather a group of friends and join us in defending life this January. Be inspired by the hundreds of thousands of Americans who will be marching for life beside you. Take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate life, meet new friends and enjoy our nation's capital. Although life may have no guarantees, abortion offers no chances. Don't you think it is time for everyone to be given a chance?

Noreen Fischer

junior

head commissioner

Notre Dame March for Life

Dec. 3



COLE SWINDELL IS ABOUT TO BE LEGENDARY

By **MADDIE DALY**
Associate Scene Editor

Calling all country music fans: upcoming artist Cole Swindell is coming to Legends this Friday, Dec. 5, for an intimate performance. Although he is still a little-known country artist, Legends has a way of hosting artists right before their major breakthrough (ex: Macklemore circa 2011). For the real country fans, however, this name might sound familiar.

He currently has two top hits on the radio, his breakout song “Chillin’ It” and the more recent “Hope You Get Lonely Tonight,” which is featured on his first self-titled album. “Chillin’ It” was named the number one single on Billboard’s Hot Country Songs list, and along with “Hope you get Lonely Tonight,” both have been playing on country radio stations nonstop. Cole Swindell is breaking in to the country music industry, and this is your chance to catch him before he becomes untouchable.

Although he only has two songs that are well known, Swindell has been underhandedly involved in the

country music industry for quite a while. He has been a faceless songwriter for some seriously popular country musicians; oftentimes the artist gets much more credit than the songwriters, even though the writing is the hardest part of making music, in my opinion. Swindell has a long list of songs he has written for famous artists: Craig Campbell’s “Outta My Head,” Thomas Rhett’s “Get Me Some of That,” and ten of Luke Bryan’s hits, including “Just a Sip” and “Beer in the Headlights.” He also co-wrote Florida Georgia Line’s “This Is How We Roll.” Clearly Swindell has earned quite a few connections in the country music industry; it will come as no surprise when his own album becomes as famous as the albums he has written for.

Currently, Swindell is on tour around the country, and we are lucky to be one of his stops. He is scheduled to perform several nights at the famous Joe’s Bar in Chicago — one where many country singers had their start (so many that it has been named “Nashville North”). He’s also visiting other Midwestern states while in the area and, starting next year, he will be performing with The Band Perry and touring with Jason Aldean

in his nationwide “Burn It Down” Tour. Swindell is on his way to becoming a major country star, doing all the right things to make it big.

His first album was released in Feb. 2014, with Warner Bros. Nashville label. The self-titled album has 12 tracks, all written or co-written by Swindell. Luke Bryan also co-wrote one of the songs, “I Just Want You,” paying Swindell back for the all the songs he wrote for him.

Swindell’s album received positive reviews and debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 chart. It was No. 1 on the Top Digital Albums chart with 42,000 of its total sales being digital.

This is a rare opportunity to see a breakthrough country artist performing just a few feet away in a small, personal venue. Come out to Legends this Friday at 10 p.m. to catch a great country performance by one of CMA’s New Country Artist of the Year nominees. We are lucky enough to have this free show come to Notre Dame along Swindell’s tour, so take advantage and see an upcoming star in his element.

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

What to wear: finals and festivities

ERIN MCAULIFFE
Scene Writer

Finals are coming (don’t shoot the messenger) and so are holiday parties (again, don’t shoot the messenger), which means you are going to have to get dressed for things you don’t want to go to sometime soon.

If you are one of those people who lives in a booth at Club Hes for finals week, and leaves Oreo crumbs, a blanket and your dignity heaped in a pile as you go to an exam or hopefully to clean yourself up — but more likely to get more Oreos — read on.

If you show up to an exam with greasy hair, a groutfit and an overall grimy aura everyone around you can sense — you’ve already failed.

Don’t give me any of that “but I’m comfortable” or “I used dry shampoo and deodorant” nonsense.

Yeah, I’m talking to you girl in the Lululemon outfit in the library that tricked me into thinking you had just come from a run. Upon closer look, your hair was just so greasy it looked sweaty and your outfit was merely for comfort not sports.

As it takes you no longer to put on jeans than it does sweatpants, you will not lose any time memorizing organic molecules with.

Yeah, I get that sweatpants are comfortable which makes them great for bed and dorm room studying, but at least put on some normcore

approved heathered joggers to get to class.

So, you’re final-ly done and all you want to do is sit on your couch at home with a brand new box of Oreos and that blanket from the library.

But alas, your Aunt Shelly calls and after bidding you “Season’s Greetings,” invites your family to a Christmas party. Your mom takes one look at your now stained normcore joggers and passively aggressively hassles you to feign togetherness for the family: it’s time to step your game up.

You run up to your suitcase and sort through your dress options, which unfortunately are all more Feve than festive. Your mom yells up the steps that the party is “an ugly Christmas sweater thing” at which you rejoice and cringe.

Sure, now you won’t be forced to wear anything bodycon to see Uncle Don, but you do have to get to Goodwill where unfortunately all the ugliest/best Christmas sweaters will already have been snatched up.

If this happens, DO NOT go to Forever21 or Target or wherever else they sell new “ugly” sweaters. Your ugly sweater must have already been worn by another human to have any relevance at all. You are a poser if your snowman embellished cardigan had a price tag over four dollars. Macklemore will steal all your Christmas presents for playing thrift shops — also, if your family plays “Thrift Shop” at this gathering you have permission to feel ill and leave.

So, you leave Goodwill having felt no goodwill,

as the only sweater left was snagged by a giggling tween before you could get to it.

You now have three options 1) go for the next best thing — the denim embroidered velvet-collared Christmas button-up 2) whip up that tree sweater DIY you saw on pinterest — it will be so easy and only require a trip to the craft store, the fabric store and insanity or 3) call up your grandma to bring an extra festive sweater to the party for you.

So Grandma Dee came to the rescue in your time of need, but now you have another party to attend that Grandma Dee’s duds won’t be able to cover — New Year’s Eve.

New Year’s Eve is all about the bling. It’s like everyone is trying to show up the Swavorski crystal New Year’s Ball — which is not that hard to do considering it is the most over-hyped event of the year and watching some friend inevitably fall down will be a more entertaining drop.

Anyway, channel your inner Kelis at the party: “diamonds on your neck, d-diamonds on your grill.” To stick to your college student budget grab some tinsel off the tree or get some paste (fake bling) to add sparkle to your ensemble.

Get ready to make a New Year’s Resolutions to delete the groutfit from your wardrobe when you get back to school.

Contact Erin McAuliffe at emcaulif@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Unwrap some new Christmas music

ADAM RAMOS

Scene Writer

I am a huge proponent of the holiday song classics — the first few notes of Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas” and I instantly channel my inner Buddy the Elf. Holiday music is an integral part of any merry season, yet there is no denying that come New Year’s, Bing Crosby begins to lose his appeal — fast. Now, don’t take this the wrong way, but one can only take so many different versions of the same songs before their ready to pull their hair out, just like eggnog and ginger bread.

Lucky for us though, there is hope. After probing the inner confines of my holiday psyche, I have compiled a short list of five original holiday songs sure to bring anyone a refreshing respite from the humdrum of the holiday monotony.

“Christmas Wrapping”- The Waitresses

Most of my life I thought of “Christmas Wrapping” as a classic, which is why it’s relative obscurity surprises me. Possibly the most fun and catchy holiday song around, “Christmas Wrapping” is dripping in 80’s new wave pop, with a saxophone solo to boot. Not only is the song completely original, but the Christmas message is

too. The Waitresses hit calls to mind the chaotic rush of the season, a message that can never be understated. In a world filled with music convincing you of the pleasant wonders of Christmas, it’s a refreshing take.

“Christmas in Hollis” - Run DMC

“Christmas in Hollis” is just about as funky as Christmas gets. Produced in 1987 in the midst of the “golden age of hip hop,” “Christmas in Hollis” tells the compelling tale of young man’s dealings with Santa Claus. The fable is set in Hollis, Queens and is told through fresh rhymes, layered over Christmas tunes and flow as cold as the North Pole itself. Rap music is certainly underrepresented in the holiday genre, so “Christmas in Hollis” is sure to freshen up any holiday playlist.

“My Christmas List”- Simple Plan

“I want a car, and I want a life and I want a first class trip to ... Hawaii!” Nobody can deny the allure of gift getting so embedded in the holiday season — especially broke college students. “My Christmas List” found me when I was tasked to complete my family’s annual Christmas party holiday playlist back in the days of the iPod Nano. “My Christmas List” is now a refreshing reminder of the early 2000s pop punk, we all have to

admit we loved.

“The Chanukah Song” - Adam Sandler

No holiday playlist is complete without covering the season’s other biggest holiday, Chanukah, yet “Spin the Dreidel” and “Light the Menorah” only go so far. Adam Sandler’s “The Chanukah Song” will always get a sing-a-long going with classic lines like, “Chanukah is the festival of lights/ Instead of one day of presents, we have eight crazy nights.” Adam Sandler produces one of the funniest holiday songs with “The Chanukah Song,” and it is always a smart idea to cycle it into the sea of holiday music.

“Merry Christmas (I Don’t Wanna Fight Tonight)” - The Ramones

Leave it to the forebears of punk rock to bring a Christmas song with the word “fight” in the title. Yet, by mixing the chaos of the season, big families, cramped quarters and the rest of the jolly mess that is the season — fights are bound to occur. Maybe the Ramones’ message of peace is just what every playlist needs, not only for it’s originality, but its reminder of tranquility.

Contact Adam Ramos at aramos6@nd.edu

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

WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY



What: Humor Artists and Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

When: 11:00 p.m.

Where: Legends

How Much: Free

The theme for the last Humor Artists’ show for the semester is “HAccidentally in LHAve,” a “tribute to the music in Shrek.” Stick around for the ugly Christmas sweater party after — if you enter the raffle you could win tickets to meet Drake Bell when he comes to campus this spring.

FRIDAY



What: Carroll Christmas

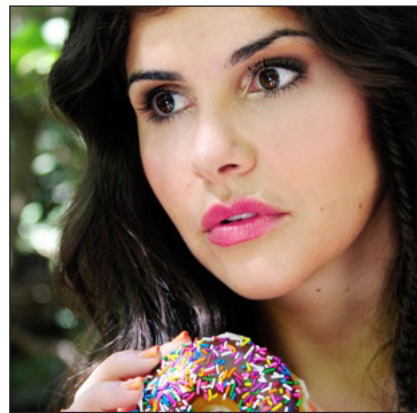
When: 6-10 p.m.

Where: Carroll

How Much: A long cold walk

Head over to Carroll (yeah, I know —but hey there are carriage rides from Lyons!) for cookie decorating, carnival games, a tree lighting ceremony, karaoke and a visit from Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves.

SATURDAY



What: Justine Marino (comedian)

When: 10:00 p.m.

Where: Legends

How Much: Free

Marino has opened for Joel McHale, Jon Lovitz and Bo Burnham. She is a regular at The Comedy Store, and Improv and Ice House in Los Angeles and “often wears a tiara and is probably currently covered in donut glaze as a result of being a single formerly fat child.”



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

“White Christmas” is a holiday classic. Starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, watch to score some new tap dance moves and get in the Christmas spirit.

“White Christmas” is available for instant streaming on Netflix. Check it out then check in for Caelin Miltko’s review in Monday’s paper.

SPORTS AUTHORITY

UAB “Bear-ied” from get-go



Alex Carson
Sports Writer

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) football program was killed Tuesday. It was 23.

Perhaps saying the program died would be incorrect — the Blazers went 6-6 this season to become bowl eligible for the first time in 10 years. The players will have the final say — if the team is invited to a bowl game — whether or not they go. So technically, the program is not dead yet; rather, it has been placed in a coma it will never recover from, simply being kept alive so that all its family can gather for one final time before the plug is pulled.

UAB football is a victim of a new age, one in which collegiate sports care more about dollars and cents, rather than players and coaches; an age where a university's bottom line is paramount and one where the Power-Five conference's autonomy continues to grow.

When did collegiate sports come to this? Was it when the NCAA v. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma ruled in the 1980s that schools could control their own television contracts? Was it when the Bowl Championship Series was formed in the late 1990s? Was it when conference realignment uprooted teams like Nebraska and Maryland or Missouri and Texas A&M from their traditional homes and placed them into new leagues, simply in search of more television money?

Regardless of when it happened, at some point in time it did.

But from the financial side of things, UAB's program was never given a chance to succeed.

For every year of their existence, the Blazers played at Birmingham's Legion Field. In the early 1990s when the program began, the stadium was more than adequate. Alabama played at least three home games a season in Birmingham for most of the 20th century, rather than on-campus in Tuscaloosa — including Iron Bowls — and the stadium was the site of the first two SEC championship games in 1992 and 1993.

But after the Tide started moving all of their games back to campus, Legion Field fell into disrepair. A stadium that was always far too big for the Blazers was now crumbling — the “Football Capital of the South” disintegrated in front of their very eyes.

And then there was the fact that the University of Alabama Board of Trustees never allowed

the Blazers to play the team from its Tuscaloosa campus. The Tide's history of playing in Birmingham did not matter. The trustees wanted to ensure that the Blazers could never rival the Crimson Tide — a proposition that is as absurd as it is unlikely. An annual series between the two? It would have provided Alabama with an opportunity to play at Legion Field every other year and might have given the Blazers a fighting chance at the ticket gate.

Of course, like any good tale, this one has a villain; a man by the name of Paul Bryant, Jr.

Now, you might have heard of his dad, though most called him “Bear,” the man that built Crimson Tide football into the behemoth that it is. But his son — “Little Bear” — more than anybody, continually sucked the life out of UAB's program.

Take a trip back to 2006. The Blazers were on the cusp of hiring Jimbo Fisher — now a national-championship-winning head coach at Florida State — to take over the reins of the program. A salary that would be partially funded by outside donors was agreed upon between the two parties, and all that remained was approval from the Board of Trustees.

Except the trustees, led by “Little Bear,” blocked the move. Instead, the Blazers hired Neil Callaway, the then-Georgia offensive coordinator that was sought after by nobody. He went 18-42 in Birmingham.

And now, “Little Bear” has successfully killed off the Blazers program. Many think that the younger Bryant has been in a quest to end the program thanks to Gene Bartow — UAB's first athletic director — getting on his father's bad side. Others speculate that he wanted to ensure the team in Tuscaloosa remained at the top of the food chain for eternity. But most agree that it's no coincidence this decision came down right before Bryant will retire from the Board of Trustees.

Saturday, the Crimson Tide will play for a spot in the inaugural College Football Playoff, the richest prize ever in collegiate sports. At the same time, the Blazers will decide whether to play one more game as a family or if they would rather just simply pull the plug move on.

It is unfortunate they were never given a chance to truly determine their own fate.

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

NFL

Pettine sticks with Hoyer over Manziel

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Brian Hoyer came dangerously close to losing his dream job for good.

But after getting them into playoff contention, the Browns decided that despite his imperfections and recent mistakes, Hoyer is still their starting quarterback over rookie Johnny Manziel, who may be their future but isn't ready to handle the present.

The Browns are Hoyer's team for at least one more Sunday.

“I want to see this thing through,” Hoyer said. “I want to finish this strong.”

Cleveland's struggling veteran will start again this week against Indianapolis after first-year coach Mike Pettine and his staff decided Hoyer would be the better option down the stretch than Manziel, who flashed some Johnny Football magic last week in a loss at Buffalo.

Hoyer's poor performance against the Bills — he was pulled for Manziel with 12 minutes left in a 26-10 loss — raised the possibility that Cleveland (7-5) would make

another switch at the position. The Browns have had 20 starting quarterbacks since 1999.

Hoyer spent an anxious 48 hours waiting to learn his fate.

“They weren't the easiest days of my life, that's for sure,” he said. “I've been through a lot, and this is one more thing to handle some adversity and it makes you stronger. It's back to business as usual.”

Pettine described the decision as difficult because of Hoyer's performance, but said coaches put more value on his experience and success.

“It wasn't perfect and he's made his share of mistakes, but he's gotten the lion's share of reps in practice and virtually all of them in games and has us in the thick of a playoff hunt,” Pettine said. “That, to me, was probably the biggest determining factor.”

Pettine said he told both quarterbacks his decision on Wednesday.

Manziel, who led the Browns on an 80-yard touchdown drive he capped with a 10-yard run last week, was understandably disappointed. But the first-round draft pick

was encouraged by his time on the field and knows his chance may not be far off.

“Obviously, that's a decision that's made by Coach Pettine,” he said. “And this week his answer was, ‘No’ so moving forward whatever transpires, maybe next time the answer will be, ‘Yes.’”

Pettine said there was some “lively” discussion before the coaching staff agreed to stay with Hoyer, who has thrown just one touchdowns pass and six interceptions in his last three games. Hoyer will not be on a “short leash” and Pettine is confident the five-year veteran and the rest of Cleveland's offense can bounce back after a rough stretch.

Before finalizing his decision, Pettine spoke with several players, who offered their support of Hoyer.

“He's a resilient competitor,” Pro Bowl tackle Joe Thomas said, “and that says everything you need to know about him because he's not the type of guy that will feel sorry for himself. He's not going to lay down. He's going to prepare even harder.”

NBA | RAPTORS 117, KINGS 109

Raptors continue to win without DeRozan

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Kyle Lowry scored 27 points and made a pivotal jumper with 57 seconds left to lift the Toronto Raptors over the Sacramento Kings 117-109 on Tuesday night.

Terrence Ross matched his season high with 20 points and reserve James Johnson added 19 points and seven rebounds. The East-leading Raptors had lost two in a row.

The Raptors, playing their second consecutive game without guard DeMar DeRozan, led by as much as 15 but were clinging to a

111-107 advantage late in the fourth quarter when Lowry made a 20-foot jumper.

Rudy Gay had 20 points and a career-high 10 assists for Sacramento. The Kings have lost four straight.

Six players scored in double figures for Toronto, which had not won in Sacramento since Dec. 26, 2008.

It helped that the Kings were also short-handed. Leading scorer DeMarcus Cousins missed his third straight game because of a virus.

The Raptors took full advantage and benefited from Sacramento's defense, which continues to struggle

without the 6-foot-11, 270-pound Cousins in the middle. Toronto scored 31 points in the first quarter, 35 in the third and shot an even 50 percent from the floor.

Lowry, who added 13 assists, went 10 of 21 while Johnson shot 9 of 13.

Ross made six of his first eight shots and had 15 points in the first quarter to help Toronto go up 31-22.

Sacramento chipped away at the lead and took a 45-44 lead on Omri Casspi's free throw after Amir Johnson was whistled for a dead ball technical foul. The Raptors scored the next six points and didn't trail again.

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NBA | SUNS 116, PACERS 99

Dragic, Bledsoe lead Suns to win over Indiana

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Phoenix double-point guard combination of Goran Dragic and Eric Bledsoe reminded everyone just how good they can be together.

Dragic scored 34 points, Bledsoe had 27 and the Suns beat Indiana 116-99 on Tuesday night for their fourth straight victory over the Pacers.

“Two electrifying guards playing together. That’s a tough matchup,” Indiana coach Frank Vogel said. “They have incredible speed. If you don’t take care of the basketball they will expose you for 38 fast-break points, which is what happened tonight.”

The Suns’ guards, who are getting more time together on the court with Isaiah Thomas out with an injury, combined for 22-for-35 shooting. Dragic matched his season high for a game with 22 first-half points, and Bledsoe scored 21 in the second half.

Dragic made five of six 3-pointers, Bledsoe had seven assists.

“Finally, you know, we’ve been struggling a little bit,” Bledsoe said. “This game

really was easy for us.”

Gerald Green and Markieff Morris added 15 points apiece for the Suns, who broke open the game in the final seven minutes.

The Suns, after two lethargic losses, wore down the Pacers with their high-energy game.

“It was a big talk for us all the last two days of having that enthusiasm,” Phoenix coach Jeff Hornacek said, “having that energy. ... and I think these guys took it to heart.”

Miles scored 17 for Indiana, and Roy Hibbert had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Phoenix put together a 17-3 run spanning halftime that erased a nine-point Indiana lead and lifted the Suns to a 64-59 advantage on Dragic’s 13-footer with 8:01 left in the third quarter.

Miles went hard to the floor with 30.7 seconds left in the third, and after an official review, Green was called for a flagrant-one foul, giving Indiana two free throws, plus possession, much to the displeasure of the crowd. Hibbert hit two foul shots with eight seconds left to cut Phoenix’s lead to 83-79

entering the fourth.

Phoenix stretched it to 10 before Indiana closed to 94-88 on Donald Sloan’s layup with 7:24 left. But the Pacers’ Solomon Hill missed two free throws, Dragic hit a 3 and Bledsoe stole the ball for a breakaway dunk and Phoenix was off on a 12-0 run.

Vogel liked the play of his bench, who outscored the Suns’ reserves 57-30. But Phoenix outscored the Indiana starters by a startling 86-42.

“That’s something we’ve got to look at,” he said.

TIP-INS

Pacers: Set a season high for points in first quarter (28) and in first half (56). After three days off, Indiana is playing five games in eight days. Indiana took a 42-33 lead on a 9-0 run. Indiana shot 59 percent from the field in the first half, 37 percent in the second.

Suns: Hornacek said an MRI of Thomas’ injured ankle was negative and the guard might play Friday night at Dallas. Thomas has missed four games. Phoenix has won eight of the last 10 against Indiana and 15 of the last 19.

NFL

Former Browns return as Colts

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Trent Richardson remembers the day he walked through the front doors of Cleveland’s training facility for the first time. He was wearing the suit he had on when the Browns called his name with the third pick in the 2012 draft.

Pat Shurmur, the head coach of the Browns at the time, met him at the door with a big smile on his face, Richardson recalled.

“It was one of those feelings that I didn’t think I would ever be playing with another team,” he said. “I thought I would always be there and it would be the last team I ever played for. But it happened like it happened.”

The Colts acquired the running back from the Browns on Sept. 18, 2013, for a first-round draft pick — a move that Richardson said he was “shocked” by. Now he and three other Colts players are headed to Cleveland this Sunday for a game against a team, and franchise, they know well.

Return specialist Josh Cribbs, who joined the Colts last month as a free agent, signed with the Browns as an undrafted free agent in 2005. Safety Mike Adams played for the Browns for five seasons and D’Qwell Jackson was drafted by the team in 2006 before he suffered two season-ending injuries.

Heck, Colts coach Chuck Pagano’s first four years in the league as an assistant were in Cleveland.

Cribbs left Cleveland after the 2012 season with a handful of records, including the all-time franchise leader in kickoff returns, kickoff return yards, and return touchdowns. Jackson is looking forward to the opportunity to face his former team, but says there won’t be any time to spend with friends and former teammates.

“I’m not going to change what I do,” Jackson said. “In the offseason, if I go back, I’ll have dinner with some guys, but right now it’s a business trip and that’s the only thing that’s on my mind.”

For Richardson, it’s different.

What he thought would be a long and successful career in Cleveland has been everything but what he expected. Things haven’t been the same since the Colts acquired him last year and now Richardson is looking for a breakout game this week against the team that drafted him — and traded him.

“They gave up on me,” Richardson said in a conference call with Browns media on Wednesday. “I’m going to go into this game like it’s my last.”

Richardson has struggled to move the ball in Indy, and the Colts have been criticized for the move and questioned for sticking with the former Alabama star.

Pagano made it clear the Colts plan to rely on Richardson as their starter.

“There’s going to be good days and there’s going to be bad days,” Pagano said. “He’s had some days that have been very, very productive and some tough days.”

Richardson totaled 12 yards on eight carries against Washington last week. He had 42 yards against Jacksonville the week before, and finished with zero yards on six carries against New England on Nov. 16.

Lack of productivity? Richardson sees it more as defenses focused on him so much that he can’t get into a groove.

“You know what? People have just been stacking the box,” he said. “I haven’t been getting the looks that I was getting earlier in the season. Now that Ahmad (Bradshaw) is down, people are counting on me running the ball. I haven’t been getting all of the same looks as everybody else.”

Richardson says that sometimes defenses are thrown off when they think he’s going to run the ball, but Andrew Luck decides to pass instead.

“When it comes down to it, I want to say that I’ve been doing my job,” Richardson said. “Anytime I go in with play-action, somebody’s wide open. If they’re trying to stop by and Andrew Luck’s having a good day or (Daniel Herron) is having a good day, I’m doing good because they’re distracted by me.”

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish travel to Texas without Reaney

By **ZACH KLONSINSKI**
Sports Writer

After a three-week hiatus from competition, Notre Dame heads southwest to Austin, Texas, today through Saturday to participate in the Texas Invitational.

The Irish previously swam four events in the first two weeks of November before breaking for practice and the Thanksgiving holiday, Irish interim coach Tim Welsh said.

"We had two and a half really good weeks of practice," Welsh said. "We trained as well as we have the entire fall. We got some sleep over Thanksgiving, so it was a good period of preparation for us."

Welsh said this invitational would give him his first look at how his team has improved with all that preparation, especially as the end of the semester approaches and their academic workload increases.

"Obviously we're about to find out," Welsh said. "The challenge of being both a student and an athlete is pretty intense, and the fact that people are able to do it all just continues to baffle me. But our team has done a great job of handling both halves."

Notre Dame will be without the services of its best swimmer, senior Emma Reaney, who is overseas competing in the FINA Short Course World Championships in Doha, Qatar. Reaney is competing for Team USA in the 50-, 100-, and 200-yard breaststroke events. The championships began yesterday, where Reaney was the second-youngest qualifier for the 50-yard breaststroke finals, which will be held today.

Reaney has been one of the four mainstays in Notre Dame's 200-yard medley relay

team along with sophomore Catherine Mulquin, junior Catherine Galletti and senior Courtney Whyte. The absence of Reaney will certainly be felt, Welsh said, but the Irish plan on filling her spot by committee.

"[We'll plug in] the next fastest breaststroker," Welsh said. "We don't know who that is yet. The way the meet is set up, we'll have a chance to see everybody swim before we have to declare our relay for the night, and we'll just try to go with the four people who look like they're swimming the fastest."

"We're all behind Emma and hope she does a great job over there."

Welsh said he is keeping the team's goals for this meet extremely simple.

"Be faster than we've been all year," Welsh said. "The name of the game is to keep improving, so that's our emphasis going down there. If we had a couple of giant steps forward that would be great, but we just want to keep improving. ... Catherine Mulquin has been swimming real well. [Catherine] Galletti has been swimming real well. [Freshman] Katie Miller has as well of late. [Senior] Bridget Casey has been doing real well."

"We aren't real focused on one event, but we hope there are a lot that turn out real well."

The meet will feature preliminaries and finals of a third of the events today and will be similarly broken down over the next two days. The action at the Lee & Joe Jamall Texas Swimming Center in Austin, Texas, is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

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TRACK AND FIELD

ND begins indoor season with home invitational

By **MANNY DE JESUS**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will kick off its indoor season tomorrow as it hosts Marquette, DePaul, Bethel, Detroit-Mercy, Loyola-Chicago and Northern Illinois in the 10th annual Blue and Gold Invitational.

Irish coach Matt Sparks said that the Blue and Gold Invitational is primarily a time for the newer Irish competitors to get a feel for what it is like to participate in collegiate meets.

"The track and field team has been practicing since early September," Sparks said. "The Blue and Gold meet is an opportunity for those athletes to see the progress they have made since the track season ended last spring. It will also be an opportunity for the freshmen to see where they stand for the first time against collegiate competition. Also, with a new coaching staff, it will give several of the coaches a first look at how individuals compete."

In particular, Irish coach Pristina Jones joined the staff to assist in the development of sprinters, hurdlers and

jumpers. For the past three years, Jones was the head coach for Jackson State's women's track and field and cross country squad. Last season, Jones led the Jackson State cross country team to third place in the SWAC, which was the program's best spot since 2009. Sparks said he believes that her experience will make an immediate impact on Notre Dame's program.

"Pristina Jones has head coaching experience [at] Jackson State University, and that leadership will benefit the entire program," Sparks said. "She will especially contribute to our sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers. With our head coach, Alan Turner, working with the sprinters and jumpers but also overseeing the entire program, she will be another set of eyes on that group as Coach Turner has a watchful eye on the entire track and field program."

While Notre Dame is welcoming several new athletes to the program, it is also returning a few key contributors. Junior distance runner Molly Seidel just finished up her cross country season

with All-American honors. Sparks said that Seidel will be relied on to push the team to a successful season.

"Molly's confidence is high right now," Sparks said. "We have need to keep her fitness progressing and most importantly with her is to keep her healthy and injury-free. If we can do those things, she will have a productive track season."

Last season, the men's team finished 17th in the NCAA indoor national championships and the women's squad finished in 29th place. Four Irish individuals earned All-American status, including returning senior hurdler Jade Barber for the women, and senior sprinter Chris Giesting for men. Both men's and women's distance medley relay squads grabbed top-five finishes, but each team will return only one relay member.

Notre Dame will begin the Blue and Gold Invitational tomorrow, with the field events beginning at 5 p.m., and the running events following at 6 p.m., in Loftus Sports Center.

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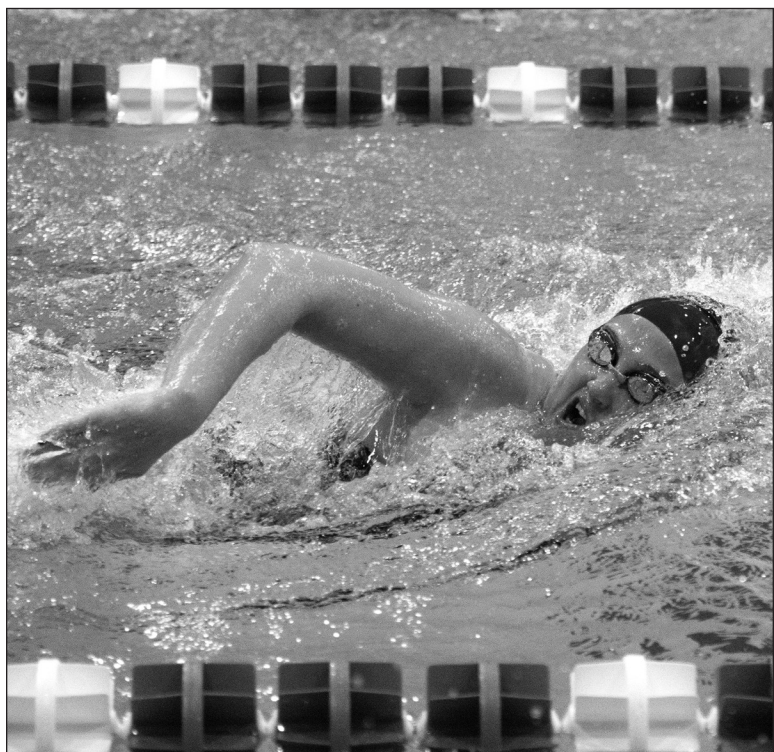
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WEI LIN | The Observer

Freshman Molly Treble competes in the 200-yard freestyle in Notre Dame's 170-128 loss to No. 25 Purdue on Nov. 1.

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

high-end basketball.

Notre Dame (7-1) hit threes. The crowd bopped on its toes. The “Noise Meter” rose, and “LOUDER” vibrated on the court-side screens. And the Spartans (5-3) responded — again and again. Junior guard Bryn Forbes did most of the honors with crowd-quieting 3-pointers and nimble floaters, but senior forward Branden Dawson and junior guard Denzel Valentine did their parts too in warding off Notre Dame.

Still, Notre Dame stayed alive. The Irish forced overtime with some key defensive stops, then won it in the extra stanza with more of the same — and a healthy dose of senior guard Jerian Grant and sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson. Grant (27 points) and Jackson (22) each notched career-highs.

“I think I’ve got the best backcourt in the country,” Brey said.

That backcourt, plus 12 points from both senior guard/forward Pat Connaughton and sophomore guard Steve Vasturia and constant energy from sophomore forward Austin Torres, drove the Irish to their first marquee win.

“For the most part we executed at key times, which we didn’t see much of last year,” Connaughton said.

Valentine held the ball in the final five seconds of regulation with the score tied 67-67. He drove right, but Grant stood him up. Valentine dribbled off his foot, and it went back to the Irish.

“It was definitely something I needed — mano y mano — I knew it was going

to be one-on-one,” Grant said.

At the other end with two seconds left, Grant got a look at the basket but fumbled it on the way up after a nudge from Valentine.

“It’s a play I should have made,” Grant said.

Brey trotted out the same five for overtime, as Torres took — and won — the opening tap. The sophomore from Granger, Indiana, whose previous career-high in minutes was 11, played the final 13:08, including overtime, as junior forward Zach Auguste rode the bench after tallying four points and four rebounds in 19 minutes. Torres was tasked with defending Dawson and limited the athletic specimen to two points over those last 13 minutes.

“[Torres was] fabulous,” Brey said. “And that’s the way he’s been practicing. He gives us that athletic frontline guy.”

Torres’ only basket — an overtime tip-in — slid the Irish ahead 71-69. Then Jackson delivered a filthy crossover and finished an and-one at the basket to stretch the lead to 74-69.

“It used to be just Jerian, because that wasn’t really Eric Atkins,” Brey said. “Now we’ve got two guys.”

Notre Dame’s defense finished the job.

“I think it gives us confidence,” Brey said. “It’s a nice step for this group.”

The lead changed hands 11 times and the score was tied on nine occasions. Despite Michigan State’s commanding 43-26 advantage on the glass, Notre Dame’s offensive efficiency (just four turnovers) and overall defense, especially shoeing the Spartans away from the 3-point line,

proved enough for the Irish.

“I knew they’d be able to play volleyball with us,” Brey said of the rebounding disparity. “I didn’t know it was going to be that bad. At least it didn’t beat us.”

After a high-octane and energized first half that featured three ties and nine lead changes, Notre Dame trotted into the locker room with a 37-35 edge. The Spartans broke open a seven-point lead with 11:16 to go in the first half, a surge highlighted by a one-handed slam by Dawson, but the Irish kept battling.

“It became like a playground, man, and you wanted to win the game and stay next instead of lose and you don’t play the rest of the afternoon,” Brey said. “There was not much semblance of defensive balance. Just go and get the ball.”

Before the game, Notre Dame announced sophomore forward V.J. Beachem is out for a month with a right foot injury (plantar fasciitis) suffered in practice Tuesday. Brey said Torres solidified his role in Notre Dame’s rotation and added they hope to get Beachem back practicing after Christmas.

Following an off day Thursday, Notre Dame returns to practice Friday before hosting Fairleigh Dickinson on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

“It’s a matter of staying hungry,” Connaughton said. “This is a great win and it’s a great win to keep under our belt for the next 24 hours, but after that we’ve got a game on Saturday and we’ve got to use the maturity that we showed tonight and move on.”

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Hartnett

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ACC, mixed with the lingering doubt that last season’s struggles — and six home losses — might not totally be behind the team.

And Wednesday still provided plenty of reasons for doubt for Irish supporters.

Notre Dame was manhandled on the boards, particularly the defensive glass, for most of the game — there were stretches where Michigan State’s Branden Dawson was out-rebounding the Irish, and the Spartans senior finished with only seven fewer rebounds than the Irish had as a team.

Notre Dame’s lone big man in its starting rotation, junior forward Zach Auguste, had only four points and four rebounds in 19 minutes of action.

After hitting 50 percent of their 3-pointers in the first half, the Irish went 1-for-11 from behind the arc in the final 25 minutes of action.

And Notre Dame’s depth, something head coach Mike Brey has praised this season, took a hit shortly before Wednesday’s game, when it was announced that sixth man sophomore forward V.J. Beachem would likely miss the next month with plantar fasciitis.

These struggles, particularly the frontcourt issues, certainly need to be addressed before an ACC schedule that includes five teams currently ranked in the top 15 of both major polls.

But in spite of these obstacles, Notre Dame managed to hold serve down the stretch and control overtime to earn a win over a team that looks to once again finish toward the top of the Big Ten, if recent history is any indication.

And Notre Dame’s backcourt

provided enough reasons to believe that the Irish will be a tough out for any of the top-tier opponents it has remaining on the schedule.

Brey referred to his one-two guard duo of sophomore Demetrius Jackson and senior Jerian Grant as the best backcourt in the NCAA after the victory, and his assertion didn’t sound too far-fetched, at least strictly based off Wednesday night’s performances.

Grant, who Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo referred to “as complete of a player” as he’s seen thus far — and the Spartans have already played Duke and Kansas — posted a career-high 27 points as well as six assists, four rebounds and three steals Wednesday night.

Jackson added a career-high of his own with 22 points. More importantly for Notre Dame, the sophomore made plays when it counted, tallying half of the team’s 12 overtime points.

While Grant and Jackson combined for 49 of Notre Dame’s 79 points, there was more to the team’s effort than just the two guards. Despite struggles from the field, senior guard/forward Pat Connaughton finished with 12 points and eight rebounds, while sophomore guard Steve Vasturia added a dozen points of his own, marking the eighth straight game Notre Dame has had four starters reach double-figures in points.

This continued offensive balance will be a key for Notre Dame moving forward. But equally important will be the efforts the Irish receive down low and off the bench. With Auguste benched for more than half the game, Austin Torres filled both of those needs, slowing down Dawson in the paint and adding a tip-in when the Irish needed it most. Torres still only averages 8.2 minutes per game, but his presence, along with that of junior forward Austin Burgett and freshman forwards Martin Geben and Bonzie Colson, will be needed to continually provide the depth about which Brey has raved.

These three “b’s” — backcourt, balance and bench play — all combined to create a lively atmosphere and stepping-stone victory for Notre Dame on Wednesday night. And given the half-dozen defeats that occurred on the Irish home court last season, it was fun to see.

But the real test will be whether the Irish can give those packed into the 9,149-seat arena reason to maintain that atmosphere for the various challenges that lie ahead.

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

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W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

the week awards this season and has been Notre Dame's second-leading scorer after Loyd, averaging 13.4 points per game. Turner has also averaged 6.1 rebounds per game entering Wednesday night and has started all eight of Notre Dame's games.

Even without Turner, once the Irish took a 6-4 lead over the Terrapins less than three minutes into the first half, they had the lead for good. Notre Dame held the lead for 38:42 of the game's 40 minutes.

Up 9-6, the Irish went on a 12-0 tear that swelled its lead to 21-6, and they continued making runs throughout the first half.

Notre Dame secured a 34-28 total rebounding advantage and also outscored Maryland in the paint, 34-26.

For Maryland, sophomore guard Lexie Brown and redshirt senior guard Laurin Mincy led the scoring push with 20 points each. Freshman guard Kristen Confroy added 14 points to round out the Maryland's top-three scorers.

The Terrapins shot just 41 percent from the field as a whole: 53.8 percent from the floor in the second half but a 29.4-percent performance in the first half held the team back.

Solid defense by the Irish limited the Terrapins in the first half, but the second half showed room for improvement, McGraw said.

"I thought the defense in the first half was very good," McGraw said. "It was not

as good in the second half. I thought we could have played a little better defensively in the second half."

Four Irish players scored in double figures: Loyd and Reimer, as well as junior guard Michaela Mabrey, who scored 11, including a trio of 3-pointers, and sophomore guard Lindsay Allen, who tallied 10. As a team, Notre Dame shot 58 percent from the field.

The Irish bench made contributions as well, as nine players scored for Notre Dame. Freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld and senior forward Markisha Wright scored nine points each off the bench, and Wright snagged eight rebounds, landing her in a tie with Loyd for the team high.

Although the bench committed several turnovers, McGraw said she was pleased overall with their play. Wright and Westbeld joined starters Reimer, Allen, Mabrey and Loyd in recording over 20 minutes of play.

"They played well," McGraw said of the bench. "I was really happy with the post play."

Notre Dame now sets its sights on another rematch on Saturday when they take on No. 3 Connecticut. The game will renew the extensive rivalry after a regular-season hiatus last year, although the teams met in the NCAA championship, a game Connecticut (5-1) won, 79-58.

The Irish take on the Huskies on Saturday at 3:15 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Samantha Zuba at szuba@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Notre Dame freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld looks up for a pass during the 104-29 win over Holy Cross in the Purcell Pavilion on Nov. 23.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd dribbles during Notre Dame's win over Holy Cross on Nov 23. Loyd scored 27 points against Maryland.

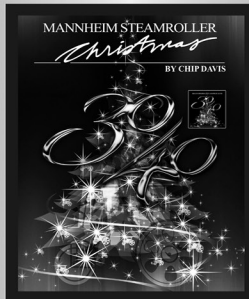
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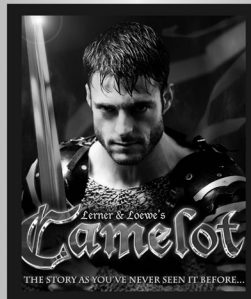
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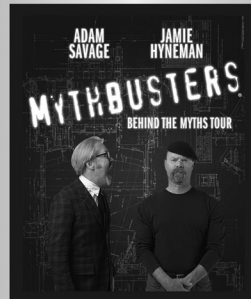
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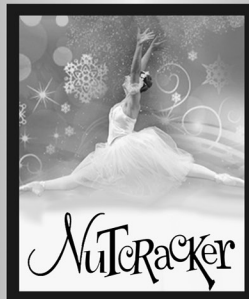
**Mannheim
Steamroller**
30th Anniv. Christmas
Thursday, Dec. 4



Camelot
Broadway Theatre League
Winner of 4 Tonys
Fri-Sat, Dec. 5-6



MythBusters
"Behind the Myths"
Adam Savage • Jamie Hyneman
Sunday, Dec. 7



The Nutcracker
Southold Dance
Theater
Sat-Sun, Dec. 13-14

Upcoming Events

Saturday-Sunday
December 20-21

South Bend Symphony
Home for the Holidays

Monday, Dec. 22

Celtic Woman *Christmas*
Irish Singing Sensation

Monday, Dec. 29

Jim Brickman *Christmas*

Wednesday, Jan. 21

John Mellencamp
Plain Spoken Tour

Wednesday, Dec. 31
Palais Royale

New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance
Tom Milo Big Band



Visit Morris Ticket Outlet at Hammes Bookstore in Eddy Street Commons

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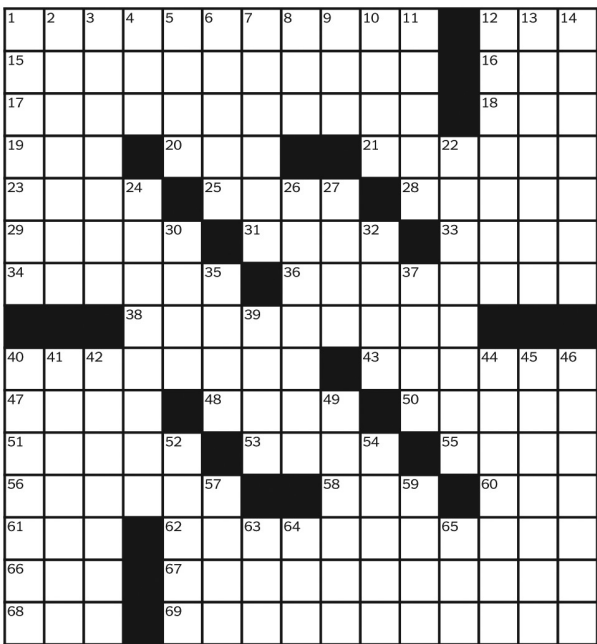
On the
third day
of
Christmas,
a squirrel
gave to
me...

My feet are
toasty.

... three
pairs of
Bean Boots.

two ugly sweaters,
and a bike stuck up in a tree.

alwellman 12/14



Puzzle by Barry C. Silk

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 30 Cake makeup for a feeder | 41 Like citric acid and lactic acid | 54 Shack |
| 32 Southern side | 42 Points | 57 Wang Lung's wife, in literature |
| 35 Old man of Orleans | 44 Resolve | 59 Playground provocation |
| 37 Ado Annie, e.g. | 45 Land above the Río Bravo | 63 Italian TV channel |
| 39 Damage-assessing grp. | 46 Cousin of kvass | 64 Some kind of nerve? |
| 40 King with revolting subjects | 49 Splits for cooking, as fish | 65 Rattle holder |
| | 52 Mushroom supporter | |

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Level: ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

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

SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE

10/3/12

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

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

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

GAOCN

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VRAAL

NRHUCC

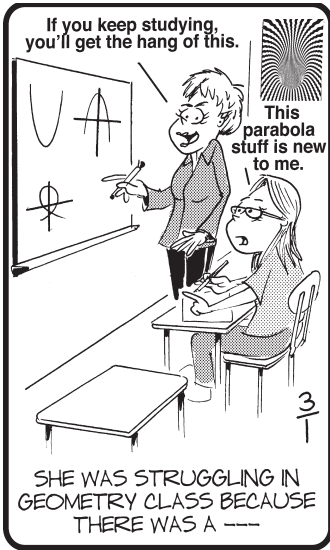
SIBEED

A:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRILL VENOM FLINCH BETRAY
 Answer: In a leap year, which months have 29 days? — ALL OF THEM

WORK AREA



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

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 79, MICHIGAN STATE 78 (OT)

Irish upset No. 19 Michigan State in overtime

Backcourt, defense provide boost down stretch

By **MIKE MONACO**
Senior Sports Writer

Mike Brey knew it would be a great early-season test — and potential confidence boost — for his young team Wednesday night against No. 19 Michigan State. It was both for a Notre Dame squad that supplied answers all night en route to a 79-78 overtime win at a nearly sold-out Purcell Pavilion.

"I've experienced a lot of exciting nights in that building there, and that's gotta be one of the top ones," the Irish head coach said after Notre Dame's thrilling victory. "What a great college game. Just a great game. And I'm really proud of our group."

Brey went on to praise Notre Dame's physical and mental toughness — those which powered the Irish through 45 minutes of



ROSIE RIEHL | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant battles through traffic during Notre Dame's 79-78 overtime win over No. 19 Michigan State on Wednesday night in Purcell Pavilion. Grant led all scorers with 27 points.

see M BBALL **PAGE 13**

'Cautious optimism' fills Purcell



Brian Hartnett
Managing Editor

Wednesday night brought an atmosphere to Purcell Pavilion that was all too familiar for Notre Dame fans and ranked opponents, yet it had been conspicuously absent for much of the last year.

It was the atmosphere fostered by a strong performance by Notre Dame against a ranked opponent, one that has been present several times since Notre Dame's two seniors started their careers — see Syracuse, Marquette and Kentucky in 2012, Louisville in 2013 and even Duke this past January.

But Wednesday night's atmosphere had a slightly different feel than the raucous ones of the past. It was one of cautious optimism, the feeling that Notre Dame might be on its way to contending in the

see HARTNETT **PAGE 13**

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 92, MARYLAND 72

Notre Dame runs away with Final Four rematch

Loyd's 27 points helps ND to early 24-point lead; squad never trails despite injury to Turner

By **SAMANATHA ZUBA**
Assistant Managing Editor

Despite a second-half push by Maryland, No. 2 Notre Dame held on to win, 92-72, Wednesday at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The matchup was part of the ACC/Big Ten Challenge, and marked the second win over a ranked opponent this season for the Irish (8-0), who also defeated then-No. 15 Michigan State, 71-63, on Nov. 19.

The Irish dominated the first half, outscoring the Terrapins (6-2), 47-27. Notre Dame and Maryland each tallied 45 points in the second half, however.

The Irish benefited from two 20-plus point performances from junior guard Jewell Loyd (27) and sophomore forward Taya Reimer (21). This season, Loyd is averaging a team-best 21.1 points per game, and Reimer is averaging 10.4 points per game, third on the team.

Loyd contributed in every facet of the game, adding eight rebounds and six assists to her point total. Overall, she went 8-for-15 from the field, made three of her six 3-point attempts and sank eight-of-nine free throws for an average of just under one point per minute.

"I was really pleased with her rebounding," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said of Loyd after the game. "She took great shots. She got to the free throw line; she got six assists. Everything we could have asked, she did."

Irish freshman forward Brianna Turner has had a stellar start to her collegiate career but did not score in just four minutes of play Wednesday night, limited by a shoulder injury suffered in the first half.

Turner will undergo an MRI today to evaluate the injury, McGraw said.

Turner has earned consecutive ACC freshman of

see W BBALL **PAGE 14**

MICHAEL YUI | The Observer

Notre Dame freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld drives inside for a shot against Holy Cross in a 104-29 defeat of Holy Cross on Nov. 23. The Irish beat Maryland, 92-72, on Wednesday night.