

Dillon hosts annual light show

Hall residents unable to generate \$2,800, string own display

By MADISON JAROS
News Writer

Dillon Hall residents strung their dorm's lights themselves this year after a change in price made it impossible for them to pay Maintenance to put up the usual decorations.

Dillon Hall vice president Michael DiGaetano said the price to put up the Dillon Hall Christmas lights increased dramatically from last year to this year. The Dillon Hall Light Show, an annual Christmas tradition at Notre Dame, was dubbed 'How the Dome Stole Christmas' this year in response, he said.

"Normally, the Dome charges us around 20 to 50 dollars to provide a cherry-picker ... to help put the lights up on the building," DiGaetano said. "This year, they upped the price to \$2,800 and the explanation was that it would require a lot of man-hours to complete. The price jump did not really make sense though, because it was the same amount of man-hours as every other year, since it is the same amount of decorations."

Senior director of Utilities and Maintenance Paul Kempf said the cost shift for dorm Christmas decorations was a cross-campus measure put in place this year.

"Because of the significant costs involved, the decision was made in conjunction with the Housing Office to have each residence hall assume financial responsibility for its own Christmas display," Kempf said. "This decision was communicated to the rectors."

Kempf said the prices provided for each hall were based on last year's actual expenses.

The holiday decorations and lights involved in Dillon's Light Show are the most difficult on campus to put up each year, he said.

"Dillon's Christmas light display is by far the most complex and labor intensive display of

any of the residence halls, requiring trade labor and lift equipment to install and remove," Kempf said.

Dillon Hall president Eric Woitchek said the explanation Maintenance gave for the change in price was confusing for Dillon residents.

"Maintenance sent us an email that said, 'I pulled the time cards from last year's installation/removal at Dillon. It took 22 carpenter hours, 12 sheet metal hours and 9 hours of lift time.'" Woitchek said. "Considering the tradesmen on campus are union workers, and

see DILLON PAGE 4

ASCE awards Ph.D. candidate

By CLARE KOSSLER
News Writer

Notre Dame Ph.D. candidate Maria Gibbs was recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as one of the 2015 New Faces in Civil Engineering on Dec. 2.

According to an ASCE press release, the award "promotes the bold and humanitarian future of civil engineering by highlighting the achievements of young civil engineers, their contributions to and impact on society."

One-of-10 recipients of the award, Gibbs said she researches the effects of wind on suspension footbridges, specifically those built in developing countries by the nonprofit organization Bridges to Prosperity.

The press release said ASCE will officially recognize Gibbs for her work with Bridges to Prosperity at the Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Gala in March.

Gibbs said she is honored by the award and by the opportunity to "spread the work of the team of Bridges to Prosperity."

"The civil engineering profession is recognizing that this is really important work and hopefully spreading the word

see ASCE PAGE 4

SMC hosts 'Lessons and Carols'

By KIERA JOHNSEN
News Writer

The Church of Our Lady of Loretto will host two events this Christmas season, "Lessons and Carols" on December 14, and Christmas at Loretto on December 21. Both celebrations begin at 7:30 p.m.

Saint Mary's College Music Department and Campus Ministry present "Lessons and Carols" each year to commemorate the birth of Christ around campus, while Christmas at Loretto is presented by the South Bend Chamber Singers, an ensemble in residence at the College.

According to the press

release, the South Bend Chamber Singers present the Christmas at Loretto as part of its 26th season of performing. The group contains approximately 30 members all from throughout north central Indiana and southwestern Michigan.

"Lessons and Carols" includes performances from the Saint Mary's Women's Choir, the Collegiate Choir, the Loretto Choir, the Liturgical Choir and Moreau Chamber Ensemble. It will also include pieces done by multiple groups in collaboration with each other.

Senior Women's Choir member Claire Stewart said

see LESSONS PAGE 5



Photo courtesy of Nancy Menk

Community members, Saint Mary's students and Sisters of the Holy Cross attend last year's "Lessons and Carols."

The Shirt Project celebrates 25th anniversary

By MARGARET HYNDIS
News Writer

Founded in 1990, The Shirt Project is the largest student-run fundraiser at the University of Notre Dame. The project's president and vice presidents estimate that it is also the number-one-selling single piece of collegiate apparel, selling over 150,000 units each year in the last few years.

Currently, the project is celebrating its 25th anniversary by auctioning off 24 of the 26 Shirts, signed by coaches and players who were at the University during each of those respective years. The auction will run until Dec. 10.

The Shirt Committee's current vice president Molly Howell, who will be replaced next semester when she goes abroad, described the circumstances surrounding

the creation of The Shirt. "It started in 1990, it was the idea of a student [Brennan Harvath] who ran An Tostal," Howell said.

"He had a design in mind, and then he worked with hall presidents and different people on campus — through letters really, over the summer — to sell the shirt and have it ready for the first game. So that sort of started the mission of

see SHIRT PAGE 4

In the last 25 years, The Shirts have raised over

\$8 MILLION.

These funds are split between:

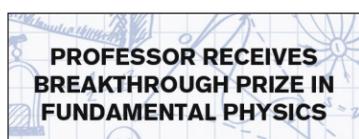
sub

Student union that funds over 400 campus clubs and the Student Union Endowment

**THE SHIRT
CHARITY ENDOWMENT**

Proceeds go towards Rector Funds and The Shirt Charity Medical Account

SARA SHOEMAKE | The Observer



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MEN'S BASKETBALL PAGE 16

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you could go anywhere, where would you go?

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Gabriel Prado

junior
Alumni Hall

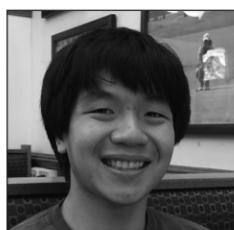
"San Sebastian, Spain."



Katya Simon

senior
McGlinn Hall

"Rome, Italy."



Samuel Leung

senior
Keenan Hall

"Paris, France."



Spencer Schmidt

senior
Morrissey Manor

"Jerusalem, Israel."



Emily Horton

junior
Cavanaugh Hall

"Narnia."



Lucinda Krahl

junior
Farley Hall

"Heaven, but I think that's cheating. So Hogwarts."



GABRIEL PRADO | The Observer

Students chat with representatives from the Gender Relations Center on Wednesday evening in LaFortune Student Center. To commemorate the GRC's 10th anniversary on campus, representatives set up displays in the Dooley and Sorin Rooms.

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Thursday

Mindful Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Open to students of all faith.

ISI Fellowship

Coleman-Morse Center
10 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Interdenominational praise and worship.

Friday

President's Christmas Reception

Main Building
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Open to all University employees.

Mass in the Basilica

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Saturday

Fall MFA Student Reading Series

209 DeBartolo Hall
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Masters students read their work.

Women's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Irish take on the University of Michigan.

Sunday

Basilica Sunday Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Mass at the Basilica

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Music by Notre Dame Folk Choir.

Monday

Final Examinations

Campus - wide
All day
Study, suffer, sleep, repeat.

Pancake Break

Coleman-Morse Center
11 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Campus Ministry will serve free pancakes to hungry students.

Post-doctorate publishes paper on dark matter

By **ANDREA VALE**
News Writer

Notre Dame post-doctoral fellow Joseph Bramante co-authored a paper entitled "Detecting Dark Matter with Imploding Pulsars in the Galactic Center" with University of Chicago astrophysicist Tim Lindon that explores how detecting imploding pulsars may lead provide insights about the properties of dark matter.

Bramante said studies high-energy theory, a field which includes the study of particle physics, high energy processes and reactions

of the universe at the smallest distances.

"I do research in a few different areas, including cosmological inflation, dark matter and high energy phenomenology," Bramante said. "I was looking at possible consequences of a specific kind of dark matter called asymmetric dark matter and what it could possibly do to pulsars at the galactic center."

Physical Review Letters, a website self-described as "the world's premier physics letter journal," published Bramante's paper Nov. 3.

"It's really not so hard to understand," Bramante said. "Most of what we're made of is matter, and not anti-matter. One way to think about it is if our universe started off as just very very dense energy, which we think it did, there's a symmetry between matter and anti-matter that seems to indicate that it should've produced equal parts matter and anti-matter, but we don't see that, we see mostly just matter."

"There's a completely separate question — which is, what makes up all this dark matter that we see in galaxies? We know there's dark matter, and we know that there's about five times more dark matter than there is normal matter. [...] we don't really know anything about it, how heavy it is, whether it is just a particle or an extended object, that's the focus of the research. And so getting knowledge of any of its properties, since it's never been detected directly, is one of the major questions right now in particle physics."

Bramante said the text explores the lack of pulsars in the galactic center and what that void is a result of and will cause in the future.

"I was able to show in writing the paper that recently they haven't been seeing pulsars in the galactic center, and if there's asymmetric dark matter with a certain scattering off of normal matter and with certain self-interactions, then it could make pulsars in the galactic center collapse into black holes and essentially leave pulsars outside of the galactic center alone," Bramante said.

If the particular kind of dark matter Bramante discusses does indeed exist in a particular range of parameter space, then his paper has potentially huge implications, he said.

"Dark matter is important because we're at a juncture with particle physics and energy theory in general where the standard model is complete," Bramante said, "But we know that there has to be something additional that accounts for dark matter. So in that sense finding dark matter isn't just interesting because you find a new particle, but you gain some indication about what other symmetries govern nature, because in the end when people say the standard model of particle physics or what that is, it's really a set of symmetries that govern how particles interact."

"The reason we look for new particles is because we're interested in what the underlying symmetries of nature are."

Contact Andrea Vale at
avale@nd.edu

Physics professor receives award

By **OWEN LANE**
News Writer

Notre Dame physics professor Peter Garnavich received the 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics on Nov. 9, for his work with the High-Z Supernova Search Team. The scientists and entrepreneurs that make up the Breakthrough Prize board awarded High-Z and another competing team of cosmological researchers for publishing paradigm-shifting evidence regarding the expansion of the universe.

Garnavich said he was surprised to discover that the third iteration of the Breakthrough Prize would be awarded to High-Z.

"I was reading the New York Times the morning after the prize was announced and I saw our team members and the competing team leader in their pictures and I said, 'Oh, they've won another big award,'" Garnavich said. "Then I saw that physics received \$3 million. It was only at the end of the article that I realized the entire team had also been named and would be receiving a share [of the prize]."

Garnavich said when his team's leaders, Brian P. Schmidt and Adam Riess, re-

"It was only at the end of the article that I realized the entire team had also been named and would be receiving a share [of the prize]."

Peter Garnavich
physics professor

ceived the 2011 Nobel Prize for Physics for High-Z's discovery the whole team enjoyed several days of celebration in Sweden. Garnavich said he admired the Swede's celebration of science and thought the Breakthrough Awards are an attempt to bring the spirit of celebrating science to the United States.

The Breakthrough Prize was awarded to High-Z for publishing their revolutionary research about stars in 1998, Garnavich said. The two competing teams, High-Z and the Supernova Cosmology Project, sought to analyze the expansion of the universe by collecting data on massive star explosions known as supernovae. Garnavich said his team used high-powered telescopes in places such as Arizona, Chile and in the Hubble Space

Telescope to gather data on a category of supernovae with a uniform brightness known as "standard candles."

"Just like if you look at a street light and you would know that it is 300 watts,

"It gets this general name 'dark energy' because it might not even be energy, it might even be extra dimensions."

Peter Garnavich
physics professor

or something like that, you would know one that is fainter is actually further away," he said. "So we use the same technique with these supernovae, if we know what their luminosity actually is. By the late '80s to early '90s it became clear that this particular type of supernova was a really excellent distance indicator."

Garnavich said when the two research teams compiled the necessary data from the "standard candle" supernovae for analysis in 1997, they theorized that it would be a measure of the degree of deceleration in the universe's expansion.

"We were finding — and scratching our heads — that we don't see a deceleration, we actually see an acceleration," Garnavich said. "The motion of the universe would be like if I threw this pen up in the air and it zoomed through the roof off into space. That would be quite surprising, and that was the level of surprise we had."

This mysterious accelerating force is referred to as "dark energy" and its identity is one of the major unanswered questions in physics, he said. Garnavich said High-Z's discovery of the phenomenon has raised far more questions than they have answered.

"It gets this general name 'dark energy' because it might not even be energy, it might even be extra dimensions," Garnavich said. "It is a huge unknown, and we're talking about three quarters of the universe and we have no idea what it is."

Garnavich said he estimates that science cannot explain 97 percent of the universe. Regardless, he said he remains undaunted by the infinite mysteries physics has yet to explain.

"It keeps us in business."

Contact Owen Lane at
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ASCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that you don't have to choose between a career in international development and a career in civil engineering," she said. "There are ways to figure out how to mold your passion into a more traditional, conventional civil engineering career path."

Gibbs said she first became involved with Bridges to Prosperity, an organization that builds footbridges to provide safe transportation to people living in isolated regions, during her undergraduate studies at Duke University.

Now a board member of Bridges to Prosperity, Gibbs said the "main focus" of her doctoral studies is determining the structural soundness of the footbridges built by the organization.

"Before I leave here, I will have an answer about if Bridges to Prosperity's bridges are susceptible to wind, and if they are, a solution to making them safer," she said.

Gibbs' doctoral advisor, Notre Dame's Robert M. Moran Professor of Engineering Ahsan Kareem, said Gibbs' newfound way to utilize smartphones, a relatively cheap technology, in bridge-testing distinguishes her research.

"I think her real recognition by ASCE ... is primarily for this innovation which she has implemented in looking

at the performance of these bridges," he said.

Smartphones have the two-fold benefit of providing a cost-effective way to test bridges and of allowing testing by non-experts, Gibbs said.

"What I've been doing with smartphone apps and these little miniature computers called Raspberry Pis is just figuring out a portable, low cost way to go test these bridges, because the way we do it here in the U.S. is you send a team of engineers and it's very expensive," she said. "It requires a lot of expertise."

Gibbs said she came to the University to work alongside Dr. Kareem, who researches the susceptibility of tall buildings and long-span bridges to wind and earthquakes.

Kareem said he enjoys working with Gibbs inside the laboratory and in the field. Kareem accompanied Gibbs on a trip to Nicaragua with Bridges to Prosperity last summer where he witnessed firsthand the impact of her research, he said.

"After going to Nicaragua I could see the difference," Kareem said. "I couldn't tell that from here—how important those bridges are for those people. It's not typical engineering. I think it's more like Notre Dame engineering, where you have a service-oriented contribution to science and technology."

Contact Clare Kossler at ckossler@nd.edu

Dillon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

requiring this many hours to install/remove, I hope you understand how costs can escalate rapidly. We have done everything we can to try to keep costs down, but with this particular display there is really no way around it."

But [Maintenance] didn't build anything for us — the show doesn't involve any sheet metal at all. We already have all the lights and chicken wire — essentially all they had to do was hang it. So the nine lift hours — I don't know, you probably have two guys, and they spend two-and-a-half hours to put it up and two-and-a-half hours to take it down. But that doesn't cost \$2,800 — or, we didn't think it should. ... It was a surprise to all of us."

Even though the show would be smaller without the usual Christmas light display, Woitchek said he believed it was "imperative" that there be some kind of Dillon Hall Light Show this year.

"As President, I didn't want to see the tradition die on my watch," Woitchek said. "I'm a big traditions guy, that's

one of the reasons I came to Notre Dame in the first place. It's a school that's rich in tradition. And being placed in Dillon, one of the oldest dorms on campus, it's a dorm that has a lot of tradition — a legacy here, if you know what I mean. So it was important to me that the tradition didn't die completely."

The importance of Dillon Hall tradition is what brought the dorm residents together to create an alternative light show, DiGaetano said.

"Since it would be entirely student resources, the light show is not as grand as it normally is but the spirit behind the light show is just as grand if not more," he said. "... The men of Dillon decided to keep the tradition alive any way that we could, and other dorms felt the same way and decided to help out. Sure, it was a little disappointing to have fewer lights and not as good of a show, but you have to work with what you have."

The support for the Light Show has continued to be overwhelming, despite these difficulties, DiGaetano said. The Show will continue to run tonight after Milkshake Mass and on Friday at 7 p.m.

"I would say there were no real detrimental effects [that resulted from the change

Shirt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Shirt in the sense that its funds were meant to be used to support the student body and student activities."

President of The Shirt Committee junior Abbey Dankoff said Harvath also hoped to use the shirt as a way to unite the student body.

"He told us this recently ... that he was a member of the band so one of the major reasons that he wanted to start The Shirt was that they all had to wear uniforms in the band," Dankoff said. "He thought there should be a unifying front for the students as well. He really liked that idea, a unified student section."

Howell said the first Shirt sold out in its first weekend.

"Later in the season, a graduate student had been injured in a car accident and so they decided to create [the] second Shirt," Howell said.

"That established the second part of the Shirt as it is today — part of the profits go to a certain fund that helps students that are suffering from extraordinary medical conditions and have these costs that they just can't afford to pay."

Dankoff said about 2 million Shirts have been sold in the last 25 years and around \$8 million raised.

Half of the profit money goes to the Student Union, and it is then split into two parts; some goes to help to help fund the more than 400 clubs on campus, and to alleviate the student activity fee that, because of the money from The Shirt, has not gone up since 2010 according to Howell. The other money that goes to the Student Union goes

into the Student Union endowment, which allows for The Shirt Project to grow, Howell said.

The other half goes towards charities funded by The Shirt Project, Howell said.

"It goes to two different things; one is the Rector Fund, which people might be familiar with," Howell said. "It's the fund that students can apply to get funds from, for football tickets, for dance tickets, for senior photos; things that most Notre Dame students do and participate in but that do have a financial component."

"The second portion of funds goes to The Shirt charity medical account," Howell said. "Students may also apply to that one if they are for whatever reason unfortunately suffering from extraordinary illness or an accident and they have these medical costs. That's confidential, and we don't deal directly with those individuals, it goes through the financial management

board which is run by students."

With the proposed reallocation of funds, Howell said there would be \$100,000 in the medical account at all times, while the remainder of the charity money would go to the Rector Fund, which is funded solely by The Shirt Project.

"Our main message is that all the funds in different ways are returned back to the student body, or are available for the student body to use," Howell said.

Dankoff and Howell both stressed that the purpose of The Shirt Project is to aid students at the University.

"Just by purchasing a shirt, students are really supporting themselves and supporting everybody else at this university," Dankoff said. "It really kind of adds to the inclusiveness of the mission of Notre Dame as a whole."

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The Tom Milo Big Band Photo by Peter Ringenberg

Lessons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

listening to the different ensembles creates a wonderful atmosphere for the audience and the choirs likewise to come together.

"Every group has a completely different sound," Stewart said. "It's great to have an opportunity to support each other by performing for and with one another. It gives us a chance to learn from each other and share in our passion for music."

Nancy Menk, Mary Lou and Judd Leighton Chair in Music, also serves as conductor and music director of the South Bend Chamber Singers.

"Lessons and Carols is Saint Mary's College's own take on the traditional Anglican service," Menk said. "It is a beautiful service and a great way to end the semester and prepare for the busy finals week ahead. All students should come."

The traditional Advent and Christmas carols the assembly sings essential to "Lessons and Carols" are based on the Anglican Christmas Eve Service, according to the press release.

Anna Fanelli, a senior

Women's Choir member, said "Lessons and Carols" puts the audience and singers alike in the right mindset for Christmas.

"It really centers you and prepares you to think about the Christmas season," Fanelli said. "Everyone comes together with a common purpose."

According to the press release, Christmas at Loretto includes beautiful Christmas music composed by mostly living musicians and concludes with a candle-lit singing of Silent Night.

Menk said Christmas at Loretto marks the beginning of the holiday season for many South Bend residents.

"The Church is always filled with people anxious to hear some new seasonal music in a great acoustic, and to be surrounded by the Singers for the closing, candlelit Silent Night," Menk said.

"Lessons and Carols" is a free event. Tickets for Christmas at Loretto can be purchased in advance or at the door for \$14. Ticket information available on the Moreau Center website.

Contact Kiera Johnsen at kjohns02@saintmarys.edu

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INSIDE COLUMN

Staying home

Brian Lach
Multimedia Editor

For the better part of a year, I sat on the wait list for the London Study Abroad Program. Having applied last spring, I still clung to a minute amount of hope that maybe, just maybe, Jimmy in Keenan Hall would get cold feet about flying and make way for my world traveling itinerary. However, this past fall I received an email thanking me for my patience, but regretfully informing me that there was still not enough space for me in the program.

Was I a bit disappointed at first? Of course. Although I had already pretty much resigned myself to the fact that my feet would remain planted on domestic soil for the year, it was still a bit of a disappointment to actually see it in writing.

However, as my globetrotting friends are preparing both to leave the country and return from abroad, I've realized that I should be counting my blessings rather than getting hung up on my study abroad status.

Almost every person I know who is studying abroad, while they are of course excited to be traveling, has acknowledged the fact that they'll be missing being on the Notre Dame campus.

Sure, South Bend might not have mouth-watering pizza or a leaning tower, but there's something magical about the fact that we can somehow love dining hall mac & cheese and a golden dome just as much.

I might not be heading to foreign locations every weekend, but I will be able to live on one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country, surrounded by many of my friends that I would not be able to see otherwise.

Sure, I might not be able to go out and hit the clubs with Ed Sheeran in London, but I can hang out with Taylor Swift at an FTT department production.

I might not get to see Buckingham palace, but the view of God Quad out the window is just as beautiful. Notre Dame, although it may not be exotic, is just as much a destination as anywhere else.

We are lucky to be recipients of the Notre Dame experience, whether it be here in the US or off in a foreign land. Your college experience can be just as magical even if you don't leave the country.

Good luck, and safe travels, friends. No matter where you end up traveling, all of us can't wait to welcome you back to this home away from home.

Contact Brian Lach at blach@nd.edu. The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

What next for love and marriage?

Christopher Damian
Ideas of a University

The first dozen times I came out I cried. For many of my friends, it was the first time they had seen me cry. Ever. A high school friend once told me that I had two emotions: happy, and more happy. She was wrong. I felt a lot of things, but I had to hide them.

Before coming out, many LGBT kids worry that all love is conditional: conditional upon a secret, conditional upon an unmanifested condition, conditional upon being normal. Reading Tyrel London's viewpoint, "Overcoming Hate" brought back memories of my undergraduate years. Almost no one knew. I suffered. At one point, an evaluator through health services said I may be suffering from major depression, PTSD, social phobia and agoraphobia. The screening urged me to contact a mental health professional. I started looking at graduation requirements at other universities. A semester abroad eventually gave me an escape from Notre Dame without having to answer awkward questions.

The semester away helped me to finally share my secret. Coming out was painful for me. It was painful, not because I was rejected, but because I was accepted. When you spend so much time fearing rejection, acceptance is something that cuts deep into you. It hurts to be loved in the places you've been ashamed of. I found acceptance, and I started to accept myself. But even after receiving acceptance from my friends and family, many questions were unanswered. How do I move forward? What does it mean to be gay and Catholic? How do I love?

For much of my life, I saw the Christian calling filtered through 1950s American life: fall in love, get married, raise successful children. This is the narrow vision shared both by the religious right and by the secular left: if love, then marriage. Historian Stephanie Coontz has pointed out that "new in the 1950s was the cultural consensus that everyone should marry." She also notes that marriage has become the primary institution for intimate long-term relationships in American society. Coontz discusses a study, which found that "the number of people who depended totally on a spouse for important conversations, with no other person to turn to, almost doubled [from 1985 to 2004]... [And] the number of people saying they didn't have anyone in whom they confided nearly tripled."

Somewhere in history, marriage began to subsume our imaginative capacities when it comes to love. Increasingly, the only relationship of love with concrete long-term

responsibilities that we can imagine is marriage. This is true both for the right and for the left. The American gospel teaches: "There is no greater love than to live in the suburbs with one's spouse." We ground the future of love and of society in arguments over the meaning of marriage. We've relegated love to marriage, and so we're told to believe that denying a person marriage is to deny a person love.

The real Gospel also quite explicitly teaches, however, that the highest love is self-sacrificial friendship: "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Our inability to see friendship as the primary call to love for both gay and straight people bespeaks the lifelessness with which many of us present the Gospel.

In coming to terms with my own sexuality, I despaired of friendship with others. I could only see being gay through the lens of "intrinsically disordered" or "gay marriage." Gay people are often viewed either as a personified psychological disorder or as an embodied political issue. Christian rhetoric about homosexuality largely teaches gay people to be afraid of ourselves and to despair of our lonely futures.

I love the Church, and I believe Her teachings are true, even those about marriage. But I think Tyler London is right. In our arguments over marriage, "we forget about the human consequences of these arguments when or if they are carried out." The Church's missionary spirit, which dives into un-evangelized communities, learns their languages and offers them what they have always longed for, has been largely replaced by doctrinal and politicized zeal, which criticizes these communities from afar and offers no hope but only predictions of their destruction. Christians are characterized by political positions and not by evangelii gaudium. It's like a priest I knew who once named my sins without offering to hear my confession.

We have to change. What may be needed is less of a focus on defending teachings and more of a focus on touching the lives of others. Talk about love will always carry less power than being loved. And we have to ask harder questions. Even if gay people accept the Church and Her teachings, what happens to us after we do? Where do we live? How do we love? Who do we rely on?

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

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Love, drugs, and Charles Barkley

Dan Sehlhorst

We've Lost Our Quorum

Martin Luther King, Jr., writing in his book "Strength to Love," declared this beautiful sentiment: "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Hate tears down society with a voracity unmatched by any other human desire, yet Dr. King presents a genuine and profound answer to one of humanity's great challenges: fight hate with love.

In the wake of the deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Gardner, Tamir Rice and Trayvon Martin, our nation has struggled with a fiery and often divisive debate over police brutality, racism, bias, privilege and institutional injustice. Often, emotional leaders fight fire with fire, producing an inferno of tribal mentalities that prevents the country from coming together to discuss racial issues.

Both sides of these debates must recognize the failures across the board, whether that be a history of racial profiling and police brutality or a history of needless crime alongside protests. After the tragedies of losing these young men — representing power structures that sometimes abuse authority when fighting crime — our best and only recourse is to come together, learn from our mistakes and forge a future rooted in justice and love.

While we should all welcome the dialogue about race issues, it's important to do so without demonizing those who may disagree with us. I don't believe that most people try to be racist or want to have that label thrown at them. In other words, intentions do matter when assigning culpability for perceived slights. With that said, good intentions are no excuse for objectively unethical behavior, and only through discourse that breeds empathy can minorities bring the majority to understand the pain it can cause.

When Charles Barkley sparked controversy in a CNN interview last week, he asserted that it was important to "judge everyone on their own merits [sic]." While this is a

worthy goal, it is imperative to understand that this ideal is rarely the case. Everyone holds biases and more often than not, white people get free passes that black people do not receive. Free passes can include having police officers let someone off with a warning, knowing that one's rights will not be violated on account of race, or a leg-up on job applications.

In fact, these free passes can be so ubiquitous that the majority does not notice it consistently receives the benefit of the doubt. People like Charles Barkley, living in fame and wealth, may not experience any disadvantage in their day-to-day lives. This advantage, whether for the racial majority or the rich and famous, constitutes privilege. In a country where our laws declare that all men and women are created equal, it is our duty to accept this reality and undertake the noble goal of improving it. Dr. King wrote in the same book: "Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." To deny the existence of privilege, even with good intentions, is certainly dangerous. To be clear, don't conflate the concept of privilege with an accusation of guilt. Rather, acknowledging privilege is an expression of empathy, moving our hearts to experience our neighbor's pain.

No matter how strongly President Obama and other leaders called for peaceful protests, riots and looting broke out in Ferguson, Missouri. Such unrest reveals the psychology of the oppressed. We have seen the violence that erupts when society will not listen to the grievances of beleaguered groups. The right to speak and demand redress for past wrongs is crucial for a just and fair republic.

Institutional injustice does exist and it is crucial to recognize that fact. Some examples are especially egregious, like the effect of mandatory minimum sentences for drug-related crimes on minorities, particularly African-Americans. Since President Nixon began the War on Drugs in 1970, the penalties for black people have been demonstrably harsher than those for white people. With crack cocaine heavily used in black communities bearing crippling sentences, cocaine used heavily by whites carries significantly lower guidelines.

The Drug War has clearly failed to stem the flow of drugs into the United States as they continue to incapacitate communities and fragment families. Mandatory minimums are a red herring, masquerading as policies that are "tough on crime." Rather than address American Medical Association research concluding that addiction is a disease that requires treatment, the federal government continues to spend substantially more money on enforcement than treatment. We are unmistakably missing an opportunity to rehabilitate drug users — predominantly African-Americans — into society, as well as address the horrible circumstances that lead individuals into drug use, including trauma, mental illness and abject poverty.

Institutional injustice and bias also manifest themselves on our campus. Our fellow students have worked hard to document their struggles as minorities through the "I, Too, Am Notre Dame" campaign and various "Show Some Skin" monologues. It is not uncommon for minorities to feel singled out, judged or unwelcome. While we may not, as a community, intend for this to occur, it is a reality regardless. As a result, it is our obligation to reach out and welcome all of our classmates. This shared duty will require some of us to become more cognizant of how insensitive words and actions betray an ignorance of diverse backgrounds and adjust accordingly.

Dr. King brought an extraordinary witness to the national discussion of race issues, preaching peace and love alongside change and civil disobedience. He stretched the hearts of the American people, allowing them to look beyond their own experience to feel the experience of his or her neighbor. Today, racial issues still exist in different forms and we must come together, stretch our own hearts and set new goals together to uphold justice and spread love.

Dan Sehlhorst is a junior studying economics and political science. 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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Robert Rodes, 'radical Catholic'

Last week, Robert Rodes was laid to rest after a crowded Mass in the Basilica. A professor for more than half a century in Notre Dame's law school, he was recognized by many to be the most distinguished member of its faculty. He gained eminence in Anglo-American jurisprudence for his integration of common law and Christian values: his legal history of the pre and post Reformation Church of England was magisterial.

Bob, an Episcopalian, had converted to Roman Catholicism after meeting his future wife Jeanne when they were undergraduates at Brown University. Her luminous intelligence was undergirded by a sturdy Boston Irish Roman Catholic faith. She was to teach for many years at St. Mary's. Arriving at Notre Dame in 1956 after law school at Harvard, Bob was motivated by a vision of contributing to the emergence of a great Catholic university. Gradually he came to understand that for this to unfold, Notre Dame would be called to discern and focus on issues of justice dealing with the common good in a rapidly changing world. Unlike George Bernard Shaw, he did not believe that a Catholic university was an oxymoron!

While the liturgy and tributes at the funeral Mass were moving, surprisingly the socially radical and prophetic elements in Bob's intellectual evolution were absent. A dear friend and colleague for fifty two years, we met at Notre Dame in 1962. In the years that followed, he broadened my horizons and I his. He arrived with an assured conservative mindset in matters ecclesial, I with a vision of Christian socialism.

Together we shared and debated the insights of John XXIII and Vatican II, particularly those of Mater et Magistra (Mother and Teacher), *Pax in terris* (Peace on earth) and the Pastoral Constitution of the Church *Gaudium et spes* (Joy and Hope). All this was followed in the 1970s by the impact of Gustavo Gutierrez's Liberation Theology arising out of the structures of injustice in Latin

America and building, in part, on Europe's "Political Theology" as well as earlier Catholic social teaching in the 19th century — particularly its emphasis on justice for the industrial working classes and their trade unions. In a broader context we were also encouraged by the coming of the United Nations with its agencies and Charter of Human Rights, as well as the end of colonialism, the rise of South Africa's indigenous liberation or "contextual theology" in opposition to apartheid, and the civil rights movement in the USA. It was in this unfolding historical context that Bob's insights challenged but also meshed with mine, making more urgent our hopes for Notre Dame.

Unfortunately, while graceful initiatives are nurtured in the interstices of our university, several overall trends in recent decades have not been encouraging. For example, initiatives in the arena of ecumenical cooperation have been sluggish at best. Most alarming of all, how can it be that the globalizing corporate and utopian ideology of the "Free Market" goes largely unchallenged at Notre Dame — even as it polarizes our planet, dramatically widening the chasm between rich and poor, threatening the stability of our fragile democracies and hastening impending climatic disasters?

Let me offer a glimpse of Robert Rodes' mindset in facing some of these matters, quoting two of his publications: *Law and Liberation* (1986) and "Catholic Universities and the New Pluralism," a chapter in Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Editor, *The Challenge and Promise of a Catholic University* (1994).

From the former we have: "The Church's role as sign and celebration of liberation, corresponds to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council in *Gaudium et Spes* that the church is 'at once a sign and a safeguard of the transcendence of the human person.' The church is called to bear a prophetic witness to the indestructibility of that transcendence, and to its culmination in a liberation that no

oppressor can impede. It is also called to demand a practical recognition of that transcendence in the institutions and practices of society" (p. 216).

In the closing pages of the latter he asks of Notre Dame a range of questions, for example: "Do our teaching and research priorities reflect a preferential option for the poor, a concern for the margins of society? Or do we go with the courses that impress the biggest employers and the most important graduate schools, and with the research topics that attract support from the wealthiest foundations and publication in the most prestigious journals? Do we encourage dependence on outside funding to the point of letting outsiders control our research agendas, to the point of exercising a preferential option for the rich?" (p. 311).

When his biographer was asked if Pope Francis was conservative or liberal, he responded that Francis was neither, rather he was "a radical Catholic." The same could be said of Bob Rodes. At times he abstained from casting a ballot in presidential elections. Fiercely pro-life, he was disinclined to vote for a pro-choice Democrat. On the other hand, he would not vote for a Republican whose Party's economic policies he saw as the antithesis of the Gospels.

Perhaps the last word should go to John Noonan, Jr., a past member of Notre Dame's law faculty and currently a United States Circuit Judge. "Robert Rodes is unique in his construction of a Christian jurisprudence. In *Law and Liberation* he addresses the malaise and dilemmas of a consumerist society with brilliant candor, warm charity and comprehensive wisdom. His approach will please only those who are not the slaves of self-interest, institutional bias or partisan ideology."

Peter Walshe
professor emeritus, fellow of Joan Kroc Institute
department of political science
Dec. 9

adult swim's 'NEWS READERS'

By ADAM RAMOS
Scene Writer

Recently the U.S. news system has gone a bit off the deep end, and lucky for us, Adult Swim has taken sweet advantage of it with their hilarious show "Newsreaders."

Smart, funny and relevant, with an impressive cast to boot, Adult Swim's "Newsreaders" gets it right.

I had the opportunity to speak with two of the show's stars, Alison Becker and Beth Dover, about the show's strong second season, currently underway. Check out Adult Swim's "Newsreaders" Thursdays at midnight.

AR: I just wanted to start off by saying the new season of "Newsreaders" is going really well. Really funny — every episode has been great.

AB: Thank you!

AR: This season has a new list of guest appearances. Who, for you, has been the most fun to have on set?

BD: That's hard to say because a lot of these are shot separately, so I never got to meet David Hasselhoff. I never got to do that. It was a real sad moment for me.

AB: I got to meet David Hasselhoff!

BD: See, Alison got to meet David Hasselhoff.

AB: I was very excited to meet David Hasselhoff. Not gonna lie, I did not get to work with him — but he was there the same day that I was shooting. He is very tall guys, like I didn't realize.

BD: Like how tall is he?

AB: He is like 17 feet tall.

AR: Right, that sounds right.

BD: Wow. See, I was thinking like 16 feet —

AB: No [laughs] he's tall, like 6'3, I'd say.

AR: Now, when you are doing improv I know a lot of the time it's between exaggerating your own character and just picking up a completely new character. What's it like for you guys for your characters Sadee Deenus [Dover] and Xandra Dent [Becker]?

BD: Well, I will say the show is not improv. There are improvised moments at the beginning and the end you can kind of play with and all that, but I mean yeah, we're

all stuck in our bodies so there will be some semblance of me in there.

But, I mean, Sadee Deenus is not the sharpest knife in the drawer. She's overtly sexual, she likes much younger men, and I don't — not that there is anything wrong with that.

All: [laugh]

BD: I mean, you're in college...

AR: No it's okay; the insult has already set in.

AB: She's married, back off!

BD: I mean, for Xandra Dent, there are definitely characters I have brought more of myself to, this is not one of them, just because she is just so outrageous and so out there. So that's a lot of fun for me, to just completely be another kind of character.

And that's also why, you know, we get away with some of the really extreme jokes and stuff we make. It's clearly not us saying it, it's not our view. These like asinine views; they're the views of these idiot characters.

BD: Mhmm.

AR: Right, which is kind of my favorite thing about "Newsreaders," that mix between deep, smart satire and just pure, fun silliness. How do you manage that in your correspondences?

BD: I think we kind of take how the news approaches things, and we just talk about absurd things, you know. Because we trick you at first into thinking it's a real news program, and were just talking about ridiculous nonsense.

AB: And you're right, it's kind of this mix between silliness and satire. We like to think we are making fun and we're parodying the actual news media, like the way news is handled on these "60 Minutes"-type shows and these network news shows. They often just sensationalize the news and have these crazy graphics.

In a couple of pieces that I did, Xandra Dent pieces, the graphics department did such an amazing job with it. I'll be talking about an iPhone and this graphic of a circuit board graphic will come up and I'll be jumping over it. It's just so ridiculous.

AR: So then what would you two say is your critique on how we receive the news in this nation?

BD: I mean, the 24-hour news cycle is ridiculous, just constantly needing something to say all the time. Like following a car chase — I have friends that watch these car chases. It's just ridiculous.

AB: I have a lot of issues with it. I don't like that we only focus on what's happening in America because the rest of the world is going to affect us. I also don't like how news presenters become celebrities because I don't think they should be celebrities. I think they are just there to inform us, and I don't they should be movie stars. I don't know. That just really bothers me.

AR: I really think you can tell that you guys are making fun of that sort of thing on "Newsreaders" as well.

BD: Oh, absolutely.

AB: Oh good, I'm really glad that came through.

AR: Now, the new host for the season, Alan Tudyk, has been really funny, but to be honest I was a little hesitant because I liked Mather Zinkel so much last season. What changes have you noticed and how do you like them?

AB: Alan knocked it out of the park

BD: Yeah, I mean we're so lucky to have Alan. He's fantastic, and we love Mather too. They both bring such different — but equally great — things. You know we miss Mather, but we are very lucky to have Alan.

AR: Any big surprises left for the end of the season? Anything you could tell us?

BD: I am going to be talking about car testicles.

AR: Wow, okay.

BD: Yes, that's the big story. It's hard-hitting news presented by Dannah Phirman.

AB: And I will be in an upcoming episode in a dress made of entirely made of meat

AR: Perfect, channeling in your inner Lady Gaga

BD: And, I will be entering a "World's Creepiest Man" contest.

Contact Adam Ramos at aramos6@nd.edu

TOP 20 (ALBUMS) 14



St. Vincent - "St. Vincent"

St. Vincent, 32 year-old lavender-haired Annie Clark, released her self-titled fourth album this year as her cult leader, new-age rockstar persona — referenced by everyone from The New Yorker to my dad. Her robotic-performance tendencies and brassy, electronic interludes contribute to the otherworldly and dominating effect of this album.



Run the Jewels - "RTJ2"

"Who really run this?" If we are talking about 2014's rap game the answer is, fittingly, Run The Jewels. "RTJ2" featured Killer Mike's distinct, gritty raps over El-P's inventive electronic beats to create an album that flows in a consistent coercion that grabs you from the first track and won't let go until the end.

Sidenote: Run The Jewels dethroned Yeezus from having Yeezy season every season on "My Spotify Year in Review" — and that says something. Also, cats.



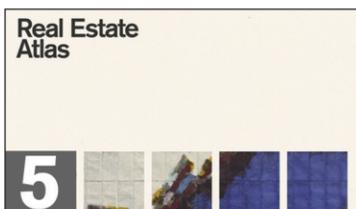
Mac DeMarco - "Salad Days"

On Mac DeMarco's second full-length album, the gap-toothed Canadian slacker who once freaked out the neighborhood became introspective — well, sort of. Recorded after a year on the road, the album coats his anxieties about aging and relationships, with a dreamy jangle pop sheen. DeMarco contains multitudes, and "Salad Days" proves that with its sunny sound, mid-twenties malaise and thick cloud of cigarette smoke.



Schoolboy Q - "Oxymoron"

Schoolboy Q manages to strike the perfect balance between accessibility and abrasiveness in his major-label debut. The great variety in production, excellent ensemble of guest stars and first-rate showmanship demonstrate that "Oxymoron" is one of the most exciting, hardest-hitting party rap albums of the year.



Real Estate - "Atlas"

Real Estate's laid-back feel is complemented by robust guitar and rich drum arrangements that perfectly entwine with and weave around the mellow vocals in their third studio album. The somewhat melancholy feel of the album is echoed in the circling melodies and whirly repetition.



The War On Drugs - "Lost in the Dream"

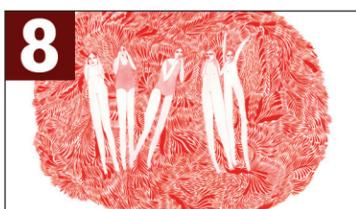
The War On Drugs made plenty of headlines this year, though many of them had to do with a non-existent but highly-sensationalized "beef" between the Philadelphia-based band and this list's No. 17 pick, Mark Kozelek. But don't let Pitchfork-published drama overshadow the greatness that was "Lost in the Dream" — a strong follow-up to 2011's "Slave Ambient" — that proved The War on Drugs are a welcome and consistently impressive presence in indie rock.



tUnE-yArDs - "Nikki Nack"

Angel Olsen - "Burn Your Fire For No Witness"

Though Angel Olsen put out both an EP and a full album before this year's "Burn Your Fire For No Witness," the lo-fi singer-songwriter made waves with her sophomore LP. Gritty and heartbreaking, Olsen's record made the perfect soundtrack for all of 2014's moodiest, dreariest and loneliest moments.



FKA Twigs - "LP1"

Flying Lotus - "You're Dead!"

In a sonically gorgeous concept album about death and the afterlife, Flying Lotus may have created his most joyous record yet with You're Dead! Casting a wider net of styles and collaborations ("Never Catch Me" feat. Kendrick Lamar a highlight) on his fifth album, FlyLo effortlessly combines jazz, electronic and hip-hop to evoke so much emotion while saying so little.



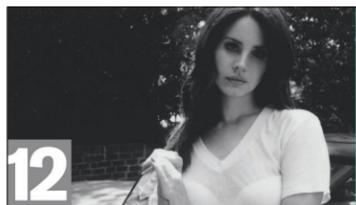
Taylor Swift - "1989"

Of course Taylor Swift made our list, because no matter what you thought about the star before 2014, she won you over this year with the power of perfect pop. We're all Taylor fans now, whether we like it or not.



Lana Del Rey - "Ultraviolence"

Lana Del Rey unexpectedly found the perfect production partner for her languid, moody pop music in the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach. In her second album, Del Rey revels in the glamorous iconography of Americana-Lou Reed, beat poetry, Chevy Malibus and "silver starlets" — as a facade for depression and isolation. In a year in which "Happy" spent 10 weeks at No. 1, "Ultraviolence" was the rare pop record to embrace gorgeously lush ballads brimming with a pervasive sadness.



Spoon - "They Want My Soul"

Foxygen - "...And Star Power"

"...And Star Power" is an involved 82-minute 24-track trek through different genres and time periods with Sam France and Jonathan Rado. The duo's sonorous dissonance flows in this elaborate album.



Caribou - "Our Love"

Sylvan Esso - "Sylvan Esso"

Described by one Scene writer as the "Purity Ring Album of the Year" Award Winner, Sylvan Esso's self-titled debut album was a bit familiar, yes, but somehow also unexpected. Made up of singer Amelia Meath (of Mountain Man) and producer Nick Sanborn, the folksy duo created the surprisingly bass- and beat-filled album of electro-pop in May, making "Sylvan Esso" the perfect summer album.



Sun Kil Moon - "Benji"

Say what you will about Mark Kozelek the person — or Mark Kozelek the persona — but the man behind Sun Kil Moon produced his most powerful statement this year with his sprawling album "Benji." Kozelek concocts a beautiful blend of classical guitar work and twisting, tangent-laden songwriting that totals to his magnum opus. Steeped in intimate, personal accounts and a lifetime's worth of tragedy, no album was more emotive, or irrational-fear inducing, in 2014.



Ben Howard - "I Forget Where We Were"

Although he had not released music to add to my "Chill/Study" playlist since 2011's "Every Kingdom," Ben Howard did not "Forget Where We Were" — delivering the raspy, culminating vocals and hypnotizing guitar riffs I had been waiting for. His vocals, instrumental arrangements and lyrics combined in a haunting way to evoke nostalgia and satisfaction.



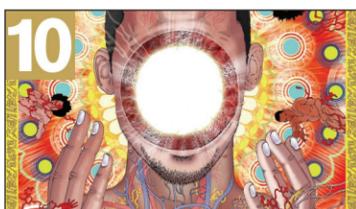
Sharon Van Etten - "Are We There"

The only problem with Sharon Van Etten's self-produced, star-studded album was that it wasn't talked about. The singer-songwriter's fourth album, "Are We There," is Etten at her best.



Walk the Moon - "Talking is Hard"

The sophomore album from Walk The Moon, a four member indie-pop band from Cincinnati, is an upbeat, danceable album that will have you yelling "Shut Up and Dance" at your friends when it is played. However, you may also choose to belt out the catchy, summer-nostalgic lyrics while you moonwalk.



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Preseason prediction a reality



Zach Klonsinski
Sports Writer

Not to say that I told you so or anything, but ...

"This is it. The year when all those BCS flaws are eliminated and college football has a season finale it was meant to have. Four teams, most likely from the five power conferen ...

Wait. Four ... and five ... Uh oh."

I told you so.

Sept. 3, 2014. That's the date for the column in which I went off on college football for dropping the ball with its new playoff system. The people at the top of the sport had the unique opportunity to get the correct format of the inaugural college football postseason, and they didn't. Instead of creating a system in which we will truly find out how good teams like TCU and Baylor are this year, they created a system in which both teams — not just one like I was originally concerned about, but both — are left off the playoff bracket. I knew there was going to be a situation like this and that it would also prompt a quick response by the money behind whichever conference was left out: the Big 12 athletic directors have already met and discussed pushing playoff expansion as a possible remedy. However, they shouldn't even have to be talking about that; it should have already happened.

In the September article, titled "Klonsinski: NCAA botched its big chance," if you would like to validate my claim, not only did I roast the NCAA, but I also laid out how the ideal playoff works. In review:

"Eight teams make the playoffs. Yes, eight. Automatic qualifiers for the champions of the power-five conferences. ... Throw in an automatic qualifier for the highest-ranked school from a non-power-five conference. Doesn't matter what it ends up being ranked. Throw in another automatic qualifier if another non-power-five team is in the top 16. ... That leaves one at-large, minimum, although it will almost always be two. Seed the teams however you wish and play them, No. 1 vs. No. 8, No. 2 vs. No. 7, etc. ..."

Just for kicks and giggles, let's take a look at how my playoff would have turned out this season:

No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 8 Boise State

Would I really expect Boise State to even make this a game this year? Probably not. Yet everybody said that in 2007, too ...

No, let's be honest. The Broncos, my non-Power 5 conference slot, would get steamrolled by the Crimson Tide. But hey, they have a shot, and someone like them is at least guaranteed

a shot every year. America loves the underdog, and some team in this position will shock the world that previously never would have gotten the chance.

No. 2 Oregon vs. No. 7 Mississippi State

For the sake of this column, I'm using the College Football Playoff rankings, which put the Bulldogs over No. 8 Michigan State. Does Sparty have a case that it should have been in instead of Mississippi State? Perhaps. Yet is the decision of keeping them out as egregious as leaving out TCU, Baylor or both? No. It wouldn't be choosing between a conference champion (Ohio State) and two co-champions — more like choosing between two also-rans who usually have clearer resumes on which we can base decisions. There will always be some hair-splitting with the final spot or two, but it gets easier as you move down the rankings.

No. 3 Florida State vs. No. 6 TCU

Would this make most of the country outside of Tallahassee, Florida, Horned Frogs fans for a weekend? I don't know for sure, but at least this version has the Horned Frogs in with the top at-large bid and the chance to show us how good they are or aren't.

No. 4 Ohio State vs. No. 5 Baylor

There you go, Baylor fans and all college football fans really. Vegas will start this matchup of potent offenses and conference champs with an over/under of 130 combined point.

Something to note about this year: it just happened to work out where the Power 5 conference champions ended up ranked as the top five in the rankings. Had a team like Wisconsin or Georgia Tech won its respective conference championship games, those teams would have finished ranked below at least TCU, perhaps Mississippi State as well. In that case, I would still award them for winning their conference and give them the No. 5 seed.

So there you have it: how this year's College Football Playoff should look. My next complaint is that college football is beginning to leave its heart and soul, the college campus. Think about it — even in the current playoff system, a team that wins the national championship will play its three biggest games of the year at neutral sites far from its student body. I'd go into that further, but hey, I still need a reason to get mad about college football next year.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

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

NHL | SHARKS 5, OILERS 2

Sharks, Pavelski defeat Edmonton

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Joe Pavelski scored two goals and the San Jose Sharks bounced back from a loss at Edmonton by beating the Oilers 5-2 in the back end of a home-and-home set Tuesday night.

Barclay Goodrow, Logan Couture and Brent Burns also scored for the Sharks, who have won five of six with the only loss coming on Sunday night in Edmonton to the worst team in the Western Conference.

Alex Stalock made 25 saves as he started consecutive games for the first time since last March.

Jordan Eberle, David Perron scored for the Oilers, who were unable to carry over the momentum from their 2-1 win over the Sharks that snapped an 11-game

losing streak. Ben Scrivens made 19 saves.

The game came at a cost to the Sharks, who lost two players to injuries. Star defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic didn't return after taking a hard hit into the boards from Tyler Pitlick late in the first period.

Fourth-line forward Mike Brown then got injured in the second when he slammed hard into the boards trying to check Matt Hendricks. Brown couldn't put weight on his right side and needed help getting back to the locker room.

But San Jose did avoid another loss to one of the bottom teams in the NHL, having lost all seven games already against the Oilers and Eastern Conference also-rans Buffalo, Florida and Columbus.

Couture gave the Sharks the lead for good early in the second when he tipped in a point shot from Scott Hannan to make it 3-2.

San Jose went on a power play 1:14 later, when Steven Pinizzotto was called for holding, and needed just 7 seconds to add to the lead when Pavelski capped a pretty passing sequence started by Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau with his second goal of the game.

Burns added an insurance goal with a blast from the point late in the third.

The Sharks got off to a fast start, scoring a pair of goals in a span of 54 seconds to take a 2-0 lead less than 6 minutes into the game. Pavelski started it with a spin-o-rama shot that beat Scrivens to give the Sharks the first goal for just the second time in 10 games.

NBA | WIZARDS 91, MAGIC 89

Wizards beat Magic on buzzer-beater

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Bradley Beal converted a lob pass at the buzzer to lift the Washington Wizards to a 91-89 victory over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday night.

John Wall led the Wizards with 21 points and 11 assists, while Nene added 12 points, Kris Humphries scored 11 and Marcin Gortat 10. Washington, which scored the final seven points, beat Orlando for the seventh straight time.

Victor Oladipo had 17 points to lead the Magic. Tobias Harris added 15, Elfrid Payton had 12, and Channing Frye and Kyle O'Quinn added 10 each.

Both teams shot only nine free throws, marking the first time this season both teams shot fewer than 10 in a game.

The Magic led 89-84 after Harris' dunk with 1:37 left in

the game, but couldn't score again.

Wall hit a pair of driving layups and Rasual Butler knocked down a free throw with 16 seconds left to tie the score at 89.

Oladipo, who had 13 points in the second half, missed a 20-foot jumper and Washington rebounded with 0.8 seconds on the clock. Andre Miller came off the bench and threw the lob pass at the rim. Beal outjumped Oladipo and laid it in as the buzzer sounded.

It was a disheartening defeat for the Magic, who came into the game with some momentum after road wins at Utah and Sacramento.

The Magic trailed 45-44 at halftime, but knocked down 12 of 17 shots in the third quarter, including four of five 3-pointers, to take a 75-67 lead. Oladipo led the way with nine points and two assists in the quarter as

the Magic took advantage of Washington's slow-footed defense to shoot 71 percent for the period.

The teams traded baskets for much of the fourth quarter until Harris grabbed a rebound off a missed 3-pointer by Frye and slammed it home to put Orlando up 89-84.

The Wizards had assists on 13 of their first 15 baskets and shot 52.6 percent in the first half, but all the sharing and shooting got them was a 45-44 halftime lead.

Harris and Payton had eight points apiece as the Magic relied on hustle, and several desperation shots that barely beat the shot clock to stay close in the first two quarters.

Wizards' Nene returned to the lineup after missing Monday's double-overtime win over Boston with a sore knee. ... Washington is 12-0 when holding teams under 100 points this season.

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Hey everyone, I just hope everyone has a great Christmas break. Study hard so you (yes, you!) can get good grades on your finals. It's not that hard, you just need to study effectively and get a good amount of sleep. You can cram all you want, but if you do not get

enough sleep, it will all be for naught. So rest up, and you will be just fine. After you go home, get a good, restful Christmas season and come back to campus invigorated and ready to learn. From me personally, have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL | KENTUCKY 56, COLUMBIA 46

Lions give top-ranked Kentucky all it can handle

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Top-ranked Kentucky was so startled by Columbia's fast start that the Wildcats still weren't sure what to make of it even after they seized the tempo and eventually the outcome.

After all, Kentucky hadn't faced a double-digit deficit this season until the Ivy Leaguers scored the first 11 points Wednesday night. But the Wildcats recovered for a 56-46 victory in a game that served more as a wakeup call than the tuneup they sought for Saturday's

showdown against No. 21 North Carolina.

"At tipoff, we were down 11-0 and the guys were kind of deflated," Kentucky freshman forward Trey Lyles said after scoring seven points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

"They came in, played well and hit shots. We had to fight from behind for the majority of the game, but we came out, played as a team and got the win."

Nothing came easy, though.

Kentucky still trailed at halftime and finally shook off its slow start to finally take a lead it never relinquished despite some tense moments at the end.

In a college basketball season already marked by several big upsets, the Wildcats (10-0) got their toughest challenge yet from the pesky Lions. Columbia led for nearly 27 minutes before Aaron Harrison and Co. took control.

Set to face UNC, UCLA and Louisville in their next three games, the Wildcats had trouble from the outset against Columbia (5-3). Coach John Calipari called a timeout as the Lions took an 11-0 lead.

"You have got to give a lot of credit to Columbia," Calipari

said. "They were not afraid. They played Michigan State the same way they played us at Michigan State and they knew they could do this. They did a great job of spreading us out."

The Wildcats ultimately clamped down on defense to make several stops in the second half and took the lead for good at 36-34 on Derek Willis' two free throws with 13:18 remaining.

Harrison scored 14 points and Willie Cauley-Stein added 10 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky. Injured freshman guards Tyler Ullis and Devin Booker didn't play.

Maodo Lo scored 16 points for Columbia, which was outrebounded 41-28 — including 24-13 in the second half.

Kentucky used its size and strength to rally, and avoided adding its name to the list of recent surprises.

A month into the season, Michigan has lost to New Jersey Institute of Technology and Eastern Michigan, defending NCAA champion Connecticut fell to Yale, Indiana was edged by Eastern Washington, Purdue lost to North Florida and Drexel was beaten by Philadelphia University of The Sciences.

Columbia took its shot at becoming a giant killer in the first half, but its lead slowly slipped away behind 38 percent shooting.

Kentucky shot just 37 percent, including 2 of 17 from 3-point range.

"Didn't quite execute keeping them off the glass, which is everyone's No. 1 priority," Columbia coach Kyle Smith said.

"But I thought we did some good things and still had some opportunities. Even late in the game we could have made a couple 3s, tied that thing up and made it a little more interesting. Kentucky is the No. 1 team in the country. They are very well coached."

The gritty Lions certainly succeeded in making Kentucky work all night, especially in a first half that created angst among the 22,112 fans, if not the Wildcats. Columbia jumped out to a 14-3 lead and led 25-23 at halftime thanks to good ball movement, quickness and especially 3-point shooting with Lo leading the way.

Most importantly, Columbia had the tempo it wanted before Kentucky eventually reclaimed it by shutting down the Lions. The Wildcats know they won't have that luxury of time in the next few games.

"We just have to make sure we come out with energy," Harrison said. "It's kind of hard to play our style of basketball when the offense they were playing is really tough to guard."

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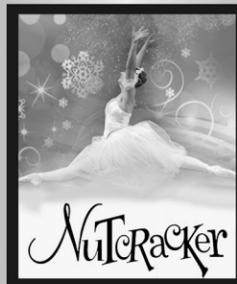

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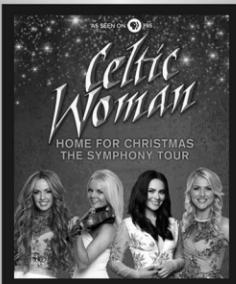
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Hockey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Individually, Russo's exploits earned him Hockey East Defensive Player of the Week honors.

When asked about the importance of the weekend's strong showing for the team as a whole, Russo said there was no doubt that it was a much-needed turnaround from Notre Dame's recent play, which had seen a stretch of nine games without a regulation win.

"I definitely think it was a good note to end the first half on," Russo said. "We had a lot of pucks go in the net, and we had some bounces go our way, and it's something we can build off of. Getting back to .500 was big for us. Being under .500 this late in the year is not something anybody likes or anyone is used to around here, so I think these wins were big. Our first half was a little up and down, but you look at our record, and it's pretty good. We're sitting pretty high in the league right now."

As a defenseman, Russo's team-leading point totals are especially noteworthy. He said the sterling results are due his active focus on remaining aggressive throughout the game.

"I have to play aggressive all over the ice," Russo said. "Offensively, that's a little easier for me, using my vision to jump into the play. Defensively, I'm just trying to finish as many checks as I can and play physical in front of the net. I feel like I'm attacking more even though I'm playing more. The more minutes I get, I just keep attacking — it's not like I'm just trying to sit back and relax for the minutes I'm out there. I'm always trying to be assertive and do what helps us win."

Off the ice, Russo is looked to as a leader of a team that has 11 newcomers and is still finding its way halfway through the season. Right now, Russo says he is focused on helping the team have a break that is competitive and focused while still enjoyable.

"It's good to get out there and compete versus each other and battle a little bit," Russo said. "It should be a lot of fun. It's a good time; it's four-on-four, and we mess with each other a bit and just have a good time as teammates trying to help each other get better."

Russo drew a lot of attention last year for his inability to be on the ice for the Irish. Now, it's his play on the ice and his leadership off it that have the Irish poised to be in position to contend in Hockey East over the course of the season's second half.

Contact Josh Dulany at jdulany@nd.edu

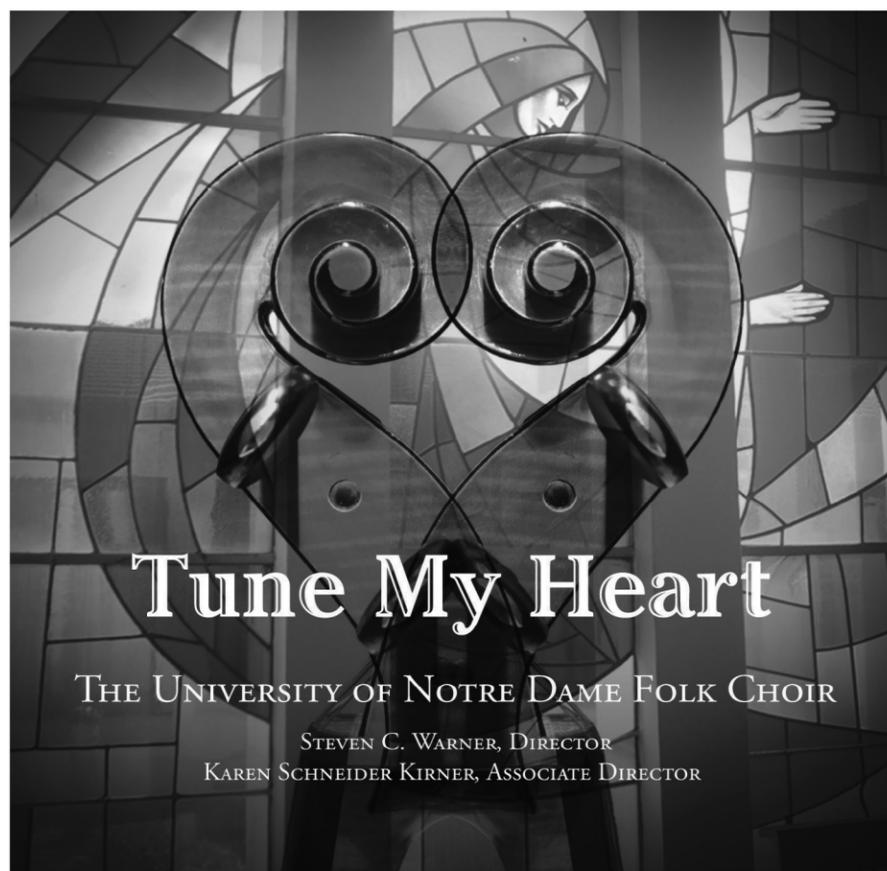


CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish senior defenseman Robbie Russo stretches out to try and knock a shot away during Notre Dame's 3-2 overtime loss to Union at Compton Family Ice Arena. Russo leads the Irish with 17 points and also earned Hockey East Defensive Player of the Week honors last week.

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M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Excluding the one-point overtime win Dec. 3 against Michigan State, Notre Dame's average margin of victory this season sits at 31.4 points. The Irish are 1-1 in games against tougher competition so far, falling by a single point to Providence on Nov. 23 in addition to the overtime win against the Spartans.

The Irish currently lead the country in shooting percentage (56.2 percent) and also rank 10th overall in scoring (85.1 ppg). Senior guard Jerian Grant is averaging 19.0 points per game for Notre Dame while junior forward Zach Auguste (14.1), senior guard/forward Pat Connaughton (13.1) and sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson (12.8) also average double figures. Sophomore guard Steve Vasturia has emerged as an offensive threat of late, averaging 13.7 points during the last three games, including a career-high 19 points in Notre Dame's victory over Mount St. Mary's.

"[Vasturia's] a pretty mentally tough guy," Brey said Tuesday. "The numbers say that he should shoot it. I love the way he is hunting and driving more to be aggressive. He's going to get fouled if he gets in there, and he's

almost automatic from the foul line. ... We told him not to play so safe, and we created a monster."

"It's about taking the opportunities I get and trying to take advantage of them," Vasturia said. "Jerian and Demetrius get us a lot of open shots, and they have the confidence in us to knock it down. It's my job to make those shots."

The rise of Vasturia has paralleled the team's confidence over the past week-and-a-half, beginning with the big win over Michigan State. This team is not afraid to step into a tough game, where it struggled last year, Grant said.

"We like to be pressured," Grant said. "When we have that opportunity, it's something we look forward to. ... It's great to have Steve playing like that, especially going into Saturday."

Saturday night will mark a first for Grant, who missed all of ACC play last season while dealing with academic issues. That fact has not been lost to Jackson.

"I'm really looking forward to [Florida State,]" Jackson said. "Especially for Jerian, that'll be great for him playing in the ACC for the first time. ... It'll be a great challenge for us. It's a bigger team."

Brey echoed that sentiment, commenting on defensive rebounding as one area in which the Irish struggled against

Michigan State, another team with size.

"It was certainly a problem for us against Michigan State," Brey said. "[Florida State is] really huge. ... It's a big concern and a big focus as we move forward in practice starting Thursday."

The Seminoles are led outside offensively by junior guard Aaron Thomas and six-foot-eight junior forward Montay Brandon on the inside. Florida State averages a little more than 70 points per game this season despite battling the injury bug early in the year.

After being ranked in the AP poll for the first time in two seasons Monday, the Irish are excited to keep the hot start going against the Seminoles, Grant said.

"It's fun to know that we'll be able to start 1-0 in the league if we get a win on Saturday," the senior said.

"For us to be 1-0 in league play at Christmas would be good," Brey said. "Any league game you scratch out is a good one. My feeling is it's going to be a dog fight because [Florida State is going to be] healthy and they know how to win league games."

Notre Dame and Florida State will meet for the first time as ACC foes on the Purcell Pavilion floor Saturday at 8 p.m.

Additionally, the Irish will resume non-conference play



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson cuts towards the basket during Notre Dame's 93-67 win over Mount St. Mary's on Dec. 8.

over winter break Dec. 20 against in-state rival Purdue in Indianapolis for the Crossroads Classic as well as Northern Illinois (Dec. 22) and Hartford (Dec. 30) at home before jumping into the ACC full-time. Notre Dame will host Georgia Tech on

Jan. 3, take a trip to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to face the Tar Heels on Jan. 5 and welcome Virginia to Purcell Pavilion on Jan. 10.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at zklonsin@nd.edu

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W Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

done this since 2012.

"In the last game, the defense was packing it in and daring us to shoot jumpers, so inserting Madison into the lineup gives us another person to stretch the defense and doesn't allow them to pack in the zone as much," McGraw said. "I like the four-guard lineup. I'd just like to see our post step up a little bit, especially off the bench."

Despite Notre Dame's edge in rebounding, the Blue Demons gave the Irish all they could handle. Throughout the first half, neither team led by more than six points, and DePaul matched Notre Dame's up-tempo style of play, with four of its starters scoring 10 or more points. The Blue Demons feature the nation's sixth-ranked scoring offense.

DePaul was aided by early foul trouble for several Irish players, including sophomore guard Lindsay Allen. Allen played 31 minutes on the night, second fewest among all Irish starters, before fouling out in overtime, alongside freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld.

"I was disappointed in Lindsay Allen," McGraw said. "I thought her fourth foul was just not a smart play. She's a smart player who really knows better. We need her on the floor. And that was disappointing because with their pressure, we needed our point guard out there to run the team, and we didn't have her for a lot of minutes."

Notre Dame led by five at halftime, but in the second stanza, momentum swung wildly, as DePaul went on a 9-0 run, followed by an 8-0 stretch for the Irish. Finally, the Blue Devils rallied from a 63-60 deficit with 10 minutes left to lead 71-63. They would not trail for the rest of regulation.

"They only made three 3's in that first half, and then they made six the rest of the way," McGraw said when asked how DePaul kept the game close. "They made some big shots, too. I thought it was a great game to watch."

In the final 2:50 of regulation, the Irish rallied from six points down, with Loyd scoring seven of Notre Dame's final 10 points. The team was also helped out by poor free-throw shooting on the part of DePaul senior guard Brittany Hrynko, who missed four shots from the charity stripe in the last 22 seconds of the second half.

In overtime, the Blue Demons' woes continued, as they missed six consecutive free throws in a nine-second span. Each time, they collected the offensive rebound, only to be fouled again and head to the line. On the night, DePaul shot 41.4 percent from the free-throw line.

After the last miss, Loyd collected the rebound and raced down court only to be fouled. Then, she calmly stepped to the line and sank both shots to secure the win.

In addition to Loyd, Cable and Reimer both had double-doubles on the evening.

Cable in particular impressed McGraw, scoring 20 points, a season high, grabbing 11 rebounds, a career high, and chipping in two assists and steals as well, despite leg cramps keeping her on the sidelines for most of overtime.

"She was tremendous," McGraw said. "First career double-double for her. She did everything. She guarded, she rebounded, she shot it well. Just so many good things at both ends of the floor. ... She stepped up big for us."

The Irish have only three days to recover from overtime, as they play Michigan this Saturday at Purcell Pavilion at 1 p.m., in their last game before final exams.

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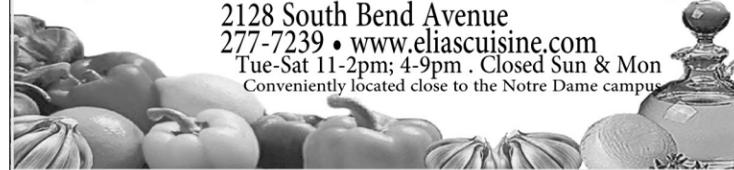
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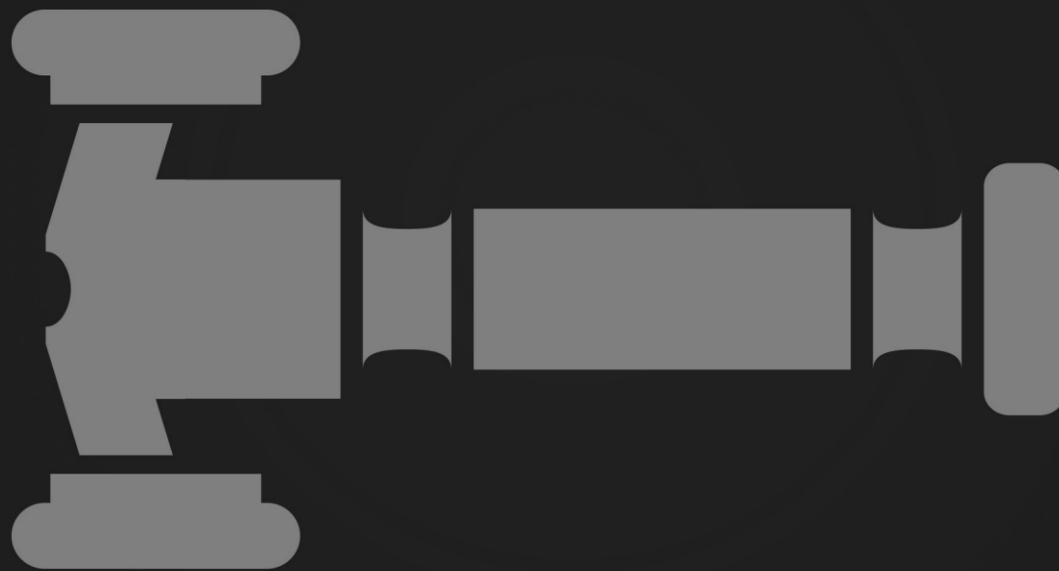
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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 94, DEPAUL 93 (OT)

Notre Dame escapes upset bid by DePaul

By **GREG HADLEY**
Associate Sports Editor

No. 5 Notre Dame, on the brink of defeat, turned to its best player, and Jewell Loyd responded with a program-record 41 points to lead the Irish to a 94-93 overtime win over No. 25 DePaul in Chicago on Wednesday night.

With the victory, the Irish (9-1) avoided the start of a losing streak after falling to No. 2 Connecticut at home Saturday. Notre Dame has not lost back-to-back games since 2010.

Loyd, a junior guard, carried the Irish all game but was at her best in overtime, when she scored the last seven of Notre Dame's 12 points, including the game-winning free throws with five seconds remaining and the Irish down by one. She also racked up 12 rebounds and three assists in 42 minutes of play.

"She has been amazing all year long, but tonight was just phenomenal," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

"The free-throw line was key, and then 12 rebounds, three assists to one turnover — I mean, she played the entire game, [had] great defense and did so many good things. She just never quit. We gave her less than a minute's rest, and she was still able to find it in the tank to finish the game."

Those 41 points tie her with former All-American Ruth Riley for the program record for most points in a single game.

With freshman forward Brianna Turner still sidelined by a shoulder injury, the Irish deployed a four-guard starting lineup against the Blue Demons (6-3), adding senior guard Madison Cable to the starting rotation. Despite the lack of size, Notre Dame still owned a 58-38 advantage on the boards, and three Irish players — Cable, Loyd and sophomore forward Taya Reimer — finished the contest in double figures for rebounds, the first time Notre Dame has

see W BASKETBALL PAGE 14



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd surveys the court Dec. 6 against Connecticut at Purcell Pavilion. Loyd finished the game with 31 points, but the Huskies ran away with the victory, 76-58.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish to square off with Seminoles in early ACC clash

By **ZACH KLONSINSKI**
Sports Writer

Things will get a lot more interesting Saturday night inside Purcell Pavilion.

After 10 non-conference games largely against softer competition, No. 25 Notre Dame will kick off its 2014-2015 ACC regular-season schedule by welcoming Florida State to campus. The Irish (9-1, 0-0 ACC) ride a five-game winning streak into the showdown against the Seminoles (4-4, 0-0 ACC) as well as an eight-game unbeaten stretch on their home court. Last season, Florida State nipped Notre Dame in Tallahassee, Florida, 76-74, on Jan. 21 in the teams' first matchup as ACC foes.

"[Florida State] know[s] how to win in this league," Irish coach Mike Brey said after his team defeated Mount St. Mary's, 93-67, on Tuesday night. "Behind North Carolina and Duke in the last seven years, they have the most wins. They are a little bit like us in the Big East. [Seminoles coach] Leonard [Hamilton] has a program that knows how to win in this league."

see M BASKETBALL PAGE 13



CAITLYN JORDAN | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant protects the ball during Notre Dame's 93-67 victory over Mount St. Mary's on Dec. 9.

HOCKEY

Russo steps into leadership role

By **JOSH DULANY**
Sports Writer

As the first half of the season draws to a close, Irish senior defenseman Robbie Russo is leading the young team in scoring and is relishing his extensive role on and off the ice.

On the ice, Russo is logging enough minutes that he said teammates have been a little worried about him.

"A lot of the guys ask me if I'm tired, but I just kind of always laugh and say no, not really," Russo said.

Still, the defenseman said it would be nice to hit the refresh button over the course of the two-week break the team has.

"It's definitely good to get a bit of a break and reset," Russo said. "We're here for the next two weeks. First thing is to take care of school, but at the same time, we want to rest up a bit and stay fresh. Coach [Jeff Jackson] is definitely making sure we're staying in shape. We're skating and just maintaining game shape, and hopefully that will give

us an advantage going into Florida."

Russo and the Irish (8-8-2, 4-2-2 Hockey East) will be in Florida over Christmas, leading up to the Florida College Hockey Classic, where they will open with Miami of Ohio on Dec. 28.

The Irish head into the break coming off a strong weekend against Massachusetts. Russo was a large part of the team's success as he logged two goals and three assists over the weekend. His three assists all came in Friday's third period as he helped lead the Irish to a five-goal third period in their 7-5 comeback victory. On Saturday, Russo lit the lamp twice to bring his goal total to seven on the season.

"The intensity went up a little bit this weekend," Russo said. "Everything just happened so fast, especially Friday, when I think we scored four goals in six minutes. It just kind of happened really quick, and it all came together for us."

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