

# THE OBSERVER

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## Rocheleau, Rose win in single-ticket race

By MARISA IATI  
News Writer

Juniors Brett Rocheleau and Katie Rose won Wednesday's election for student body president and vice president with 57.3 percent of the 2,382 votes, vice president of elections for Judicial Council Caitlin Ogren said.

Rocheleau and Rose ran unopposed in the first single-ticket election in student government records.

Ogren said 42.7 percent of

students who participated in the election abstained from voting for the Rocheleau-Rose ticket.

"Fewer students voted than in last year's election," she said. "More students abstained than in last year's election."

In last year's primary election, 163 voters abstained, representing 4.04 percent of the total vote.

Despite this decrease in voter turnout, Rocheleau said he looks forward to hearing students' opinions about campus issues.

"It's exciting to see what people think about our vision, how they want to add to it, the different goals and things they'd like to work on," he said. "And being able to communicate with them and seeing how they take our vision and how they help us grow is going to be the most exciting time for me."

Rose said she expects to enjoy working on the initiatives she and Rocheleau developed for their platform.

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### Student Body Election

Brett Rocheleau & Katie Rose **57%**

Abstain **43%**

MARINA KOZAK | The Observer

## Facebook breaks wall between digital, real life

ND professors from three departments reflect on website's impact on real life

By SARA FELSENSTEIN  
Associate News Editor

Take a photo. Photoshop. Upload to Facebook.

The steps sound simple, but Notre Dame professors said more thought goes into the process than most people realize.

Jessica Collett, assistant professor of sociology, said we are much more "intentional" in our online interactions with others.

"It's not that we want to put up an image of ourselves that is untrue or inaccurate," Collett said. "[But people] are going to look for clues about who you are. Because we only have

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### facebook

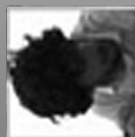


#### Pros

- Affirms what we like about ourselves
- Can augment real life relationships
- Can push us to live up to the good qualities we highlight

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5 people like this.



#### Cons

- Can lead to a loss of "real" self to "digital" self
- Puts us at risk for publicly damaging our image
- Creates pressure to fulfill others' expectations

Like · Comment · about an hour ago

MARINA KOZAK | The Observer

Student users express mixed feelings about recent addition of new Timeline layout

By KRISTEN DURBIN  
News Writer

Notre Dame students can agree that change is a good thing when it comes to the first signs of spring, but they aren't so sure about Facebook's recently introduced timeline.

Freshman Sami Zuba said the frequent and sometimes dramatic changes to Facebook can be difficult to adjust to.

"I really don't care too much about Facebook's layout, but I get annoyed when they keep changing it," Zuba said. "It was months before I figured out I could tag people in statuses, and I'm pretty sure I figured that out on accident. They have a good

see TIMELINE/page 5

## Saint Mary's engages in conversation about anti-racism

By KAITLYN RABACH  
News Writer

In coordination with Black History Month, members of the Saint Mary's community discussed the importance of fighting against racism in modern society during a brown bag lunch discussion Wednesday.

"Beyond White Guilt and Anger: Becoming Actively Anti-Racist," sponsored by Student Involvement and Multicultural Services (SIMS), addressed systematic racism and inequality in terms of white privilege and guilt about the legacy of racism.

The conversation was moderated by Marc Belanger, associate professor of political science, who said white people must acknowledge how race affects them personally for this anti-racist discourse to effect change.

"It is important to me for whites to see the negative consequences of race within their own lives," he said. "Not in the sense of reverse discrimination, but rather how white privilege has consequences for people of all races."

Belanger said racism is a system of advantages based on white privilege, but systems of

privilege based on gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status also pervade society.

"There are many different types of privileges," he said. "We are complicated people that come from all different backgrounds, and all of that shapes who we are."

Belanger also said the key to eradicating modern-day racism lies in changing the systems that propagate racism in society.

"Ending racism needs to include the white population," he said. "They are the ones who created the system and need to be active participants in breaking it

down."

Although overcoming the taboos surrounding discussions of race can be challenging, this particular discussion was a necessary step in anti-racist discourse, Tamara Taylor, assistant director of SIMS, said.

"I felt as though this discussion was important because we tend to be hesitant to talk about race," Taylor said. "We are afraid to bring it up, so if people were willing to come to this discussion I was willing to put it on."

Taylor said the unique perspective of the conversation helped guide it in a productive

direction.

"Having this discussion from a white perspective allowed for more open talk about race," she said. "It did not allow for whites to feel left out."

Belanger said this spirit of racial inclusion is crucial for people to be active participants in the fight against racism, but it is often overlooked in the case of the white majority.

"Psychologically, racism is a damaging process to white people as well," Belanger said. "Not to say it is comparable to the

see GUILT/page 4



In the Feb. 7 edition of *The Observer*, the byline on the column "The immigration challenge of a booming Brazil" was incorrect. The column was written by junior Fernando San Juan. He can be reached at [fsanjuan@nd.edu](mailto:fsanjuan@nd.edu). The *Observer* regrets this error.

*"Sweet tarts, because they help me say what I want to say without words."*

HIGH	32
LOW	25



# Event raises funds for Riley

By MADELINE MILES  
News Writer

The Saint Mary's cheerleading squad gained a new member during Wednesday's basketball game against Adrian College when 14-year-old Keondia Woodley joined their ranks.

Woodley, a cancer survivor who received treatment at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, relished the opportunity to be a part of the Saint Mary's cheering squad.

"[Cheering] was so fun," Woodley said. "I felt close to all the cheerleaders when I met them."

The Dance Marathon-sponsored "Cheer Your Heart Out" event at Wednesday's game raised funds for Riley and provided Woodley with the opportunity to cheer with the Belles and share her story with the crowd at halftime.

"I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in August of 2008," Woodley said. "But Riley Hospital for Children, along with the love and support of my family, is why I'm here today."

Students, faculty and fans in attendance were invited to contribute spare change to red Miracle Minute donation buckets at halftime, and all proceeds from the buckets benefitted Riley as well.

Juniors and fundraising executive co-chairs Kate Kellogg and Liz Kraig planned the event with two goals in mind.

"Cheer Your Heart Out was a unique opportunity," Kraig said. "It was a time to show school spirit by supporting our fellow Belles as well as a great reminder of the importance and impact Dance Marathon is able to make to the families at Riley."

Senior and Dance Marathon president Becca Guerin said she



EILEEN VEIHMEYER/The Observer  
**Cancer survivor Keondia Woodley cheers with the Saint Mary's cheerleaders at Wednesday's Cheer Your Heart Out event.**

enjoyed collaborating with other Saint Mary's clubs and activities in support of Riley.

"The game was especially cool because we were not only showing support for Riley, but cheering on our team as well," Guerin said. "It was great school spirit, but we also had the special connection with Dance Marathon through having Keondia cheer at the game."

Although final collections were not tallied at press time, Kellogg said she was pleased with the returns from the Miracle Minutes.

"Every bit counts," Kellogg said. "We really want to raise awareness because a lot of people have heard of Dance Marathon, but don't see where the money goes. Having Keondia cheering here on campus just goes to show why Dance Marathon is so special."

Junior Lauren Berry said the

event, especially Woodley's presence, forged a strong connection between Saint Mary's, Dance Marathon and Riley.

"I think it's great to hold personal events like this to let [Woodley] shine," Berry said. "It's one single event, but it makes such a difference. It shows the impact that Dance Marathon has on Riley patients firsthand."

Woodley, now three years in remission from cancer, said she is healthy, happy and settling into her freshman year at Elkhart Memorial High School.

"This really meant a lot to me," Woodley said. "I loved cheering with them and I love all the support everyone has for Riley."

This year's Dance Marathon will be held March 31 in Angela Athletic Facility.

Contact Madeline Miles at mmiles01@saintmarys.edu

## SENATE Gay-straight alliance debate tabled for week

By MARISA IATI  
News Writer

Student Senate passed resolutions at its meeting Wednesday requesting the Hesburgh Main Library extend its hours and creating a formal process for selecting the Hall of the Year. Meanwhile, a discussion related to a possible gay-straight alliance was tabled until Wednesday.

The resolution to extend the library's hours asked the Hesburgh Library administration to hire sufficient staff so the facility can remain open until 2 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The library currently closes at 11 p.m. those days.

Student body vice president Brett Rocheleau said there have been discussions about keeping the library open 24 hours, but no conclusions have been reached.

"We could also partner with GSAs at other universities in the region to make our outreach even more pervasive," Lienhoop said. "And service isn't really a mission of the Core Council at all, so that's really a detriment."

The difference between Core Council and the proposed, more informal GSA is largely contextual, Lienhoop said.

"People could just come to a [GSA] meeting once every two weeks and it would be less formal in that sense, but we could also have a campaign targeted at specific issues," he said. "The way that Core programming is set up right now, you have to declare your sexuality or be certain of your

*"The reason we need a gay-straight alliance here at Notre Dame is partly that the environment is still largely homophobic."*

**Tom Lienhoop**  
member  
Core Council

The resolution regarding Hall of the Year mandated attendance at all Hall Presidents' Council (HPC) meetings by a member of hall government.

It also stipulated the decision to award the title of Hall of the Year will be decided by a review board comprised of two senators, one senior Judicial Council member and HPC co-chairs, treasurers, social chairs and athletic chairs. The board will allocate points to each hall to determine the winner.

Ben Noe, internal affairs director for student government, said the resolution helps avoid overregulation of HPC.

"I think that this is a good intermediate step to put in a procedure, but also to give Hall [Presidents'] Council some leeway about how they go about the actual process itself," Noe said.

Rocheleau said if someone believed the review board made a biased decision, a complaint could be filed with Judicial Council.

Sophomore Tom Lienhoop, a member of Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Students, spoke about the need for a gay-straight alliance (GSA) on campus.

"The reason we need a gay-straight alliance here at Notre Dame is partly that the environment is still largely homophobic," Lienhoop said. "The fact that the gay-straight alliance has been denied [club status] ... in the past is kind of seen by people outside the University as a homophobic act. It's an act of discrimination."

Lienhoop said a student-led GSA would grant more independence to the GLBT community than Core Council does. He said the organization would also provide a venue for straight allies to express their support.

The GSA would be service-based, Lienhoop said. It would partner with high school GSAs to fund campaigns against teen bullying.

sexuality in order to participate."

Lienhoop said this requirement dissuades students from attending Core Council events. He said the proposed GSA would not require students to declare their sexualities.

"Certainly, things that alliance does could be more lenient and more student-based," Lienhoop said.

Lienhoop said it was not practical to create a GSA as an outgrowth of Core Council.

"The number of people who want to participate in alliance is far too many to sustain an organized role with an expanded Core Council," he said.

The Student Activities Office had previously said a GSA was unnecessary because Core Council already served the functions the proposed alliance would serve, Lienhoop said.

Nich Ochoa, multicultural affairs director for student government, said there are multiple clubs for students that identify as black, and all target different interests.

Student body president Pat McCormick asked if any other clubs had been denied recognition on the grounds that their purposes were already being served.

"If we are unaware of another organization that has not been allowed to [duplicate some of the functions of an existing organization], then it seems to me to be a problematic point of inconsistency to then level that criticism with a gay-straight alliance," McCormick said.

Multiple senators said members of their residence halls supported recognizing a GSA.

Senate voted to table the resolution until next Wednesday's meeting. Rocheleau said a similar resolution is in discussion at Faculty Senate and Campus Life Council.

Lienhoop said representatives from Core Council planned to meet with Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Tom Doyle on Thursday to discuss the creation of a GSA.

Contact Marisa Iati at miami@nd.edu

## India and Human Rights—Development Discrimination

A discussion with:  
**Johann Rousselot** Photojournalist and Author, Paris, France  
and  
**Julia Douthwaite** Professor of French, University of Notre Dame



Part of the series  
**ROUSSEAU 2012 / DIGNITY**

**5:00 pm TODAY!**  
Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art

Photograph by Johann Rousselot.  
Reproduced courtesy of Rousselot and Amnesty International France.



kellogg.nd.edu/dignity



SGA

Association prepares for upcoming election cycle

By CAILIN CROWE  
News Writer

With student body elections fast approaching, Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) discussed ways to spread awareness about election day and increase voter participation on campus in their meeting Wednesday.

SGA will provide decorative voting booths in the Student Center atrium and Spes Unica Hall to boost excitement for

election day, Executive Secretary Emma Brink said. Each booth will have computers where students can vote, but students can also vote at their convenience using the unique voting email link they receive.

Brink said the voting booths were added to emphasize the importance of the SGA elections and promote voter participation.

"Voting booths add to the novelty of voting and the excitement of elections," Brink said.

Brink said SGA will showcase its new structure and available positions to students interested in running for office both at a campus-wide event Feb. 13 in the Student Center lounge and at its Student Center information table from Feb. 13-17. SGA members hope to attract a wide representation of students, especially first years who are new to the election process.

President Nicole Gans said the Association hopes its en-

hanced campus presence will encourage more students to not only vote, but also pursue the new leadership roles created within the new structure of SGA, especially within the redesigned Senate.

Chief of Staff Emily Skirtich said she wants the current administration to leave a strong legacy for its successors and the Saint Mary's community.

"We want to make this administration known for how excited and involved we got

students to become in student government," she said. "We are creating a new era in SGA and we want it to start out with a bang."

SGA and Senate elections will take place March 1.

Elections for the Student Diversity Board, Residence Hall Association, Student Activities Board and Class Board elections will be held March 8.

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Guilt

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hurt caused by those targeted by racism, but it does leave many whites feeling confused and disempowered."

Belanger said whites are often afraid to be actively anti-racist because they may not know how to effectively address and act on the issue of racism.

"Many times people want to change the system but just do not know how to make a society free of racism," he said.

These ideas sparked discussion within the audience, which

included several faculty members, health professionals and students. Several attendees shared personal anecdotes about the effects of racism on their lives today.

"Racism limits you. It puts up barriers. Even if you would like to reach beyond them, you sometimes just can't," Cyndie Horton-Cavanaugh, a nurse in Women's Health, said. "We can benefit from relationships with people from all different experiences, but racism limits us from really knowing and experiencing people."

Other attendees expressed the importance of having the courage to make a change and fight

against racism.

"We must look at ourselves and have the courage to break through the barriers," senior Jacquitta Martin said. "It needs to be a joint effort, and barriers must be crossed on both sides."

With the discussion as a prime example, Belanger said the first step in finding a solution to end racism is simply talking about the issues.

"There is only so much we can say in 50 minutes, but this is a good start and these conversations must continue to occur," he said.

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Elections

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"I'm pretty excited to see some noticeable changes in student life and for students to be excited about those changes and to keep being engaged in working with us on those," she said.

The incoming administration hopes to advocate for the student body in matters of consequence and convenience, Rocheleau said.

"We want to hear the pulse of the students as well as act on it," he said. "We want to hear what drives them, what's really important to them, and we want to advocate on those issues."

Student body president Pat McCormick extended his congratulations to Rocheleau and Rose.

"I think that Brett and Katie are uniquely capable of advancing the vision of the kind of student government that we've built this year, and I'm excited to see how they build it even bigger in the year to come," he said.

Before handing over the reins to Rocheleau and Rose on April 1, McCormick said he will take advantage of the upcoming transition to culminate the work of his administration.

"I think that there are a number of different ways that we're hoping to do that, and I'm really looking forward to the coming weeks and to doing our best to support Brett and Katie as well as they transition to these roles," McCormick said.

Rocheleau acknowledged that some aspects of his time as student body president would likely be difficult.

"I would say any administra-

tion faces challenges along the road, but that's why we want to build a strong team behind us — so when we do face any difficulties that lie ahead of us, that we as a team can come together and work on trying to overcome the obstacles that we face and in the end overcome them and accomplish our goals," he said.

Rocheleau said he wanted to thank his supporters as well as everyone who participated in the election.

"From everyone who voted for us ... even for those who abstained, just to still vote, I think that's important," he said. "We're looking forward to getting the next administration started, keeping what Pat and I laid out last year and hoping to advance the vision."

Contact Marisa Iati at [miasi@nd.edu](mailto:miasi@nd.edu)

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The REEL Monday - Friday Schedule

Weekend service will be added at a later date.


Depart	Notre Dame - Library Circle	5:15am ET
Depart	Notre Dame - Main Gate	5:30am ET
Arrive	Harrison Red Line - Downtown Chicago (on Harrison between State and Wabash)	6:45am CT
Depart	Harrison Red Line - Downtown Chicago (on Harrison between State and Wabash)	6:50am CT
Depart	Stony Island & 60th Street on Stony Island at the CTA Bus Shelter (located directly in front of the University Park & Ride Lot)	7:15am CT
Arrive	Notre Dame - Library Circle & Main Gate	10:00am ET
Depart	Notre Dame - Library Circle	5:15pm ET
Depart	Notre Dame - Main Gate	5:30pm ET
Arrive	Stony Island & 60th Street on Stony Island at the CTA Bus Shelter (located directly in front of the University Park & Ride Lot)	6:15pm CT
Arrive	Harrison Red Line - Downtown Chicago (on Harrison between State and Wabash)	6:35pm CT
Depart	Harrison Red Line - Downtown Chicago (on Harrison between State and Wabash)	6:40pm CT
Arrive	Notre Dame - Library Circle & Main Gate	9:45pm ET

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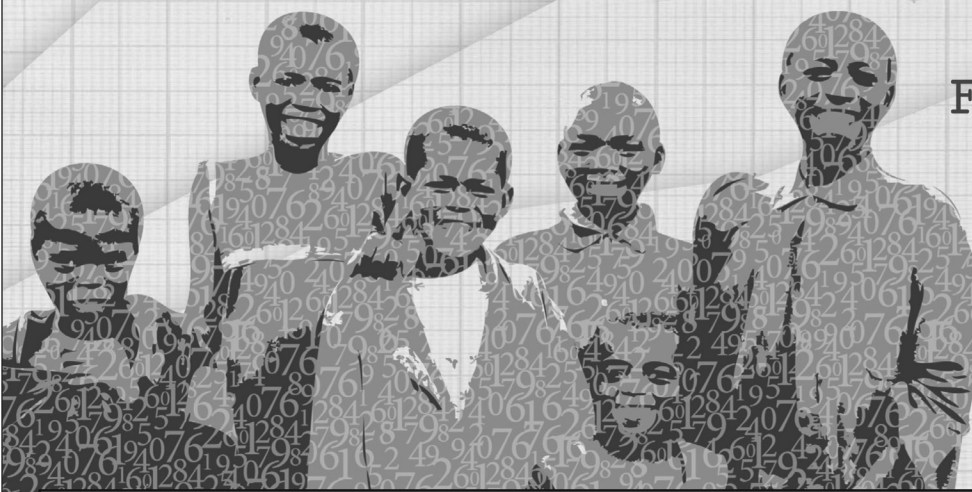
Faces Behind the Figures:


Visions of Prosperity, Progress & Human Potential

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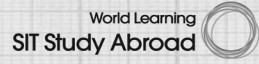




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# Facebook

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that split second, that first impression ... we're going to choose pieces of information to put up there that we think reflect who we really are."

As a result, the effects of Facebook can extend far beyond online profiles and into people's lives and relationships.

She said others will often treat us according to the image of ourselves we present on Facebook. In turn, we act according to how we are treated.

"If we have a preconceived notion about somebody, then we'll interpret any kind of information in ways that support that [notion]," she said.

Collett said Facebook also prompts us to define and categorize ourselves based on our interests.

"Facebook is really about us putting forth our identities," she said. "That when we say that we like a particular [TV] show, we're not just trying to say that 'This is what I watch,' we're saying something about ... the kind of person we are."

Susan Blum, a professor of anthropology who has studied the effects of new media on the "self" for the past decade, said Facebook can function to prove or validate occurrences in our lives.

"People are very aware of the way they're being seen," she said. "I've heard people say, 'Oh, wait until I post this on Facebook.' So as they're acting, they're simultaneously conscious of the fact that their

real-life action will become almost 'realer' when it's posted."

## Dangers to identity

Blum said one of the potential downsides to using Facebook, or any similar social media site, is that it causes people to perform an exaggerated identity that may or may not be real.

"I think there's plenty of motivation to do that in our lives anyway, and so Facebook increases that tendency," she said.

Collett said these exaggerations of identity can trigger anxiety as relationships transition from the digital world to the real world.

"Sometimes you can believe that what you're presenting isn't accurate ... maybe you choose your most flattering picture, and then you meet people who maybe you haven't even met in person yet, and then there's just this stress [of] living up to expectations," she said.

Facebook use also becomes risky, Collett said, when digital identities are too calculated.

"I think it can be dangerous ... if people get too caught up in the way that they're presenting themselves, and don't have a space where they feel like they can be their authentic selves," she said.

Blum said she questions whether online interaction makes face-to-face interaction even more "scary" than it already is.

"Facebook, you can control because you do it at your own pace. You can almost post something, and change your mind," she said. "In speaking, there's all this sort of uncon-

trollable stuff that happens, which is why human speech is so powerful."

But Blum said interactions on social networking sites can actually augment real life interactions.

"There's been what sociologists call 'moral panic' about social media, [concern about] the fact that people are more comfortable interacting digitally than they are face to face," she said. "But there was a recent study from the Pew [Research] Center [that shows] the more active people are in social media, the more real life interactions they have as well."

## Public sphere

Anita Kelly, a professor of psychology who has researched the effects of public versus private self-representation, said what we choose to say publicly has a much greater impact on our identity than what we say privately.

She said the public nature of Facebook is what makes it so influential.

"To the extent that Facebook is more public, it has great potential to help or harm that identity," she said. "Once you think others have this view of yourself, you feel you have to behave in a way that [confirms] those views."

Collett said that on Facebook, we must live up to a multitude of identities because different "types" of friends see us in different ways.

"You have this clash of worlds ... and it can incite drama," Collett said. "So, it's not just your Notre Dame friends, but it's your high school friends ... and it's your friends from back

home and it's your grandmother and your aunt."

The question is, who will see that wall post or status update?

Blum said college students usually think of their intended audience as their peers despite having a wide range of Facebook friends.

"You're creating a persona, as we do all the time in our real life, but you have time to create it and you're aware of all the eyes that will be seeing it," Blum said. "Although if you have 1,000 friends, that's a lot of eyes."

Kelly said people should be more aware of just how much Facebook profiles impact the way others view us.

"People should be more careful," Kelly said. "There's a mentality of 'it doesn't matter what people think,' but no one [really] believes that," she said.

She said negative images posted on Facebook can be forgotten, but not if they are vivid.

"People remember things that are prototypes of a broader category, [for example] dancing on a tabletop without clothes, that fits the prototype of wildness," she said. "It's hard to undo that."

## Past, present and future

Blum said the extent of the cyber footprint we leave on Facebook is striking.

"There's a sort of a digital self that's out there, and even though Facebook only started seven or eight years ago, it's going to predate itself [for example] by finding our baby pictures that people have posted, so pretty soon our whole life and biography will be digitally mapped," she said.

She said psychologists and sociologists have conducted extensive research on the way Facebook affects identity, but the enormous amount of data Facebook houses is used in other settings as well.

"It's an interesting idea that there is all this data out there ... which is somewhat terrifying," Blum said. "And Facebook, like Google, can analyze it and organize it with no volition on our part, no intention on our part."

Collett said the new Facebook Timeline profile, which offers users the opportunity to sort and highlight life events chronologically, also makes it easier for users to look back on the past.

And sometimes, looking back on the past lies outside our comfort zones.

"We like to be selective about what it is that we remember, in the same way that we like to be selective about what it is we put forth [on Facebook]," Collett said. "I do think the Timeline is about people suddenly feeling, 'Oh my goodness, am I defined by this page?'"

But regardless of how Facebook is formatted, Collett said the site still reflects our identity in much the same way.

"[People] are reacting against the fact that [Timeline] feels like it's defining your life for you, but ultimately actually that's what we've been doing for a long time," she said. "I would argue that for a long time Facebook has been representing who we are, as far as our identities go."

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# CINEMA WORTH THE WALK

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## THE SKIN I LIVE IN (2011)

Friday, February 10 at 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM  
Saturday, February 11 at 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM

Ever since his wife was burned in a car crash, an eminent plastic surgeon (Antonio Banderas), is trying to create a new skin that could have saved her.

"A scary, sexy and terrifically twisted horror film from Pedro Almodóvar, Spain's stylish maestro of kink and flamboyant emotion."  
- Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*.

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# Timeline

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product, and innovation is good, but too much is too much."

Junior Katie Fuentes said she enjoys the new layout.

"It allows you to easily access your past events without having to go through the hassle of clicking constantly until you get to past records," she said. "I have found it especially useful when I want to share my abroad photos with friends and family."

The global social networking company, which estimated its monthly usership at 845 million active users worldwide at the end of December, released its latest and arguably most dramatic change to the site's layout to those users in the same month.

The new profile format, dubbed the Timeline, creates a visual scrapbook of a user's lifetime Facebook activity by displaying wall posts, photos, videos, life events and recent activity as points on a chronological timeline. The feature will be distributed to all Facebook users over the next few weeks, according to the official Facebook blog.

While recently posted content remains most visible at the top of a user's profile, the Timeline feature essentially transforms the profile into a detailed visual archive incorporating content dating back to when the user first joined Facebook. For many users, this means years of content are available at the click of a mouse.

Junior Marissa Gaskill, a Timeline holdout, said the new profile format and availability of vast amounts of content make it too easy to access other users' personal information and photos.

"I think [Timeline] is creepy because it facilitates looking further back at someone's profile than you generally need to go," she said. "I haven't changed to it yet because I'm generally pretty resistant to change, and I don't really want to learn more about Timeline. I just want to use Facebook to talk to my friends."

While Fuentes said she thinks Timeline simplifies and enhances the Facebook experience, freshman John Olson said the new layout complicates his regular activity on the site.

"I just got Timeline this week, and quite frankly, I don't like it," he said. "It bothers me that it's harder to look at and find people's pictures and info. It's just too extreme of a change and has made life on Facebook a lot more difficult."

Although junior Meredith Angell has not made the switch to Timeline, she said she had mixed feelings about the new format and features, especially the placement of photos on a user's profile.

"I really like the cover photo and the smaller profile picture, but it was really hard to find people's photos until I eventually found the small boxes under the cover photo for friends, photos and likes," Angell said. "I think the big boxes that showcase statuses and posts are too big, and it makes no sense that way."

Like many students, junior Colleen Bailey said Facebook often becomes a time-consuming distraction, and she thinks switching to Timeline would only perpetuate that issue.

"It's cool to look at other people's timelines, but I haven't done it for myself yet because I know I would spend too much time setting it up and looking through it," she said.

Contact Kristen Durbin at [kdurbin@nd.edu](mailto:kdurbin@nd.edu)



## INSIDE COLUMN

## Make new memories

I have never considered myself a fan of women's basketball. Sure, I know about Notre Dame's successful team, and I know names like Geno Auriemma and Brittney Griner because I watch a lot of SportsCenter.

There is another name I also know — University of Tennessee's head coach Pat Summitt.

Growing up, Tennessee women's basketball was always a leading team. The Lady Volunteers were to women's basketball what Duke was to men's basketball. Every single year, you just knew the Lady Vols were going to be a great team. In my lifetime, the Lady Vols have won the National Championship an amazing six times. I never followed any of those championship teams, but I heard about the Lady Vols' success one way or another.

Despite Coach Summitt's many successes, I was never really interested in her until this past August when it became known that she was suffering from early-onset dementia. The thing that struck me the most about her illness was that she was only 59-years-old at the time of the diagnosis. I was also really surprised when I read that the she was going to continue coaching the Lady Vols.

As the college basketball season progressed, I had not heard too much about Summitt's illness. This all changed last week when I read a feature written by Pat Forde of Yahoo! Sports. In the feature, Forde compares the challenges Summitt's son Tyler, a sophomore walk-on for the Tennessee men's team, faces with his mother's condition to the challenges Forde himself faced when his own mother suffered through an 18-year battle with Alzheimer's until her death in 2002.

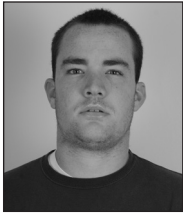
Forde notes how he was a scared college sophomore in 1984 when he heard of his mother's diagnosis. In contrast, he believes that if Tyler Summitt is scared, he is definitely not letting it on. This belief is backed up by Tyler stating, "I don't focus on what I can't control. We can control the memories we still make together. I'd rather focus on the new memories and the life at hand than worry about losing the past."

While reading Forde's feature, I could not help but think about my maternal grandmother who is also battling dementia. I began to think how unfair it was to her that she was losing the last few years of her life to that awful illness, but then I remembered what Tyler Summitt said. I have had many great memories with my grandmother over the first 21 years of my life and I will forever cherish them, so it is entirely useless to focus on something I cannot control. That does no good for anyone involved.

I know there are many people who know someone suffering from Alzheimer's, and I can at least partly understand how hard it is. I think it would be beneficial for everyone to remember what Tyler Summitt said about taking advantage of the present. It has helped me and I am sure it will also help others going through this difficult process.

Contact Walker Carey at [wcarey@nd.edu](mailto:wcarey@nd.edu)

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



Walker Carey

Sports Writer

## A case for the flat tax

If we acknowledge the way we currently collect federal taxes as both inefficient and unfair, what can we do differently to correct it? The strength of a flat tax is in its simplicity. I don't need fancy jargon or a bunch of obscure numbers to explain it, nor do I need to go too far into a debate to convince a person with half a brain that it is fair to all Americans. It's a concept so easy and so fundamentally better than the current options that only politicians would be incompetent enough to not enact it.

A flat tax would simplify the system by narrowing the number of tax brackets to only one, or maybe even two, segments. Everyone within a bracket pays the same low rate often cited in the 10 to 20 percent range. The current progressive system is so broken that only half of Americans pay all the taxes collected. Since most college educated Americans fall in the upper half, this should come across to you as quite unfair. If we are all Americans or guests working in this country, is it not understandable that all of us with some type of income should pay a small percentage into the system for our mutual benefits and security?

Opponents claim this is some type of hypocrisy, raising taxes on millions of people when conservatives so often argue against such a measure. How is it hypocritical when these people don't pay into the system at all? How have they earned the benefits that citizenship and residency provide? Conservatives try to protect those who have paid their dues in a broken system, and by enacting a flat tax we return the power back to the people and take it away from the politicians in Washington, D.C.

By the same token, opponents bent on class warfare and ignorance claim the flat tax is a big tax cut for the wealthy,

saying, "they are not going to be paying their fair share!" Fair should not be based on income brackets, but on the amount of physical dollars individuals have to pay in. That is why percentages are good, because a greater pool of taxable wealth means the physical dollar amount of the tax contribution grows. If Bill Gates and Joe Blow are both paying in 15 percent, Gates is obviously going to be paying in much more than Joe, but it is still fair to both. If Gates and Joe are 100 percent American, but Gates pays in 40 percent and Joe pays in zero percent, how is that justified? If Joe is poor and Gates wants to give him some of his wealth out of charity or create a job for him, there is nothing in the law saying he can't. In fact, we should have a system that encourages him to do just that.

The biggest misconception people have about government is that it's somehow a charity, that we can somehow correct societal wrongs through government. No, we correct societal wrongs by creating systems that reward good behavior on an individual level, not punishing success. Bill Gates can certainly do a lot more good in the world by giving money to the Gates Foundation than to the federal government. All of us can do a lot more for the world by keeping our money and giving it to charity or by buying useful products and services that keep people employed. A flat tax lets all of us keep more of our money and spend it how we like.

Tax evasion and fraud are big problems in today's progressive system. Legal loopholes are big paydays for those who can find them. We should ask the question, "why do people cheat?" People cheat because it is perceived as easier or more advantageous than being legitimate. That is what this current system has created — a culture of cheating. A flat tax will bring billions of dollars back into legitimate channels by closing all loopholes and

exemptions, discouraging off-shore tax evasion and making people realize it's competitive and easier to keep their money in the States. Our broken tax code makes people hate dealing with tax filing; it has made many honest people seek ways to break the law to get an edge, and it is large factor in our uncompetitive business landscape and further decline in world history.

Simplifying the tax code will not only generate more tax revenue in the long term, but will create short-term taxpayer savings in numerous areas, most of all in the dreaded IRS. Which is better: keeping more of your hard-earned money up front or giving it to the government and hoping that you may get a refund later? These refunds aren't free to issue. IRS employees are paid by the tax payers to keep track of this mountain of data and federal mail is used to deliver these checks to you. This whole process runs in the billions of dollars every year, when we could see huge savings by not having to engage in it at all. Not to mention IRS agents, tax specialists and taxpayers alike will save with a simplified taxation process.

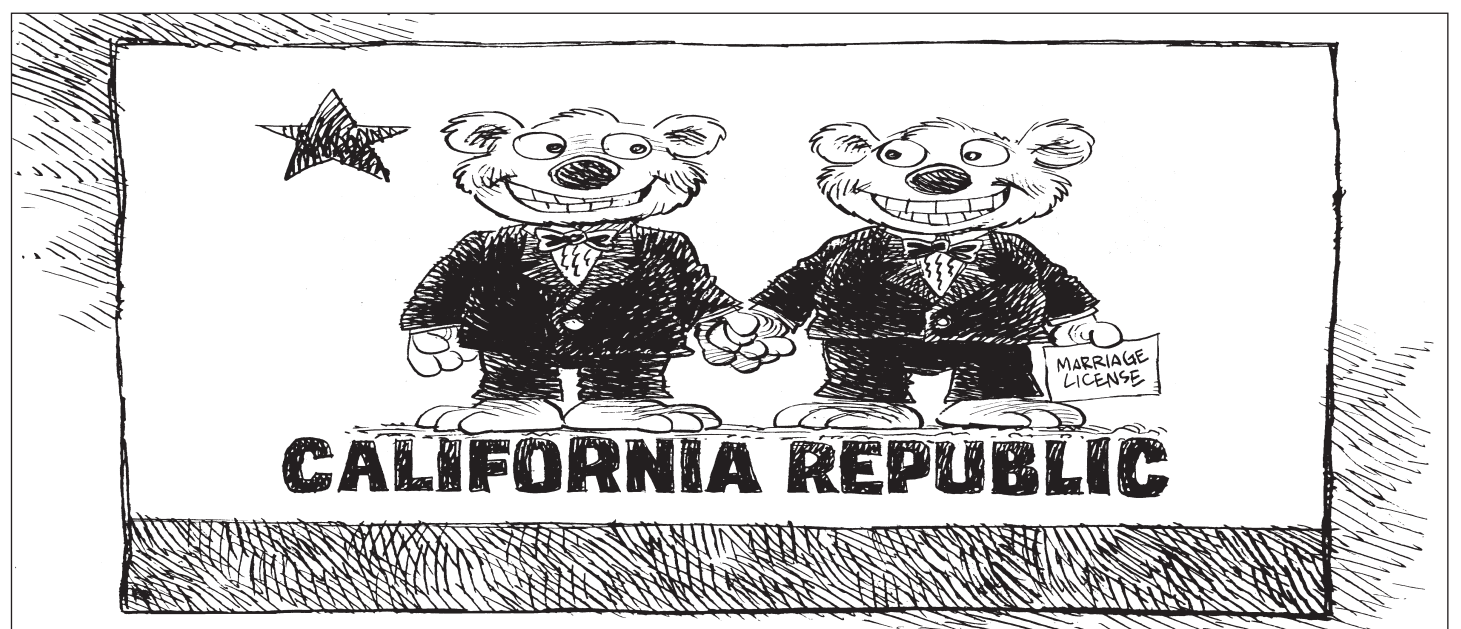
Businesses will be able to thrive better in an environment of simple taxation, generating more wealth for the U.S. and correcting our federal deficit. Opponents of the flat tax are right — a lower rate should bring in less tax revenue. However, a more competitive America that results from lower rates will offset all of the negatives and bring in more tax revenue than has ever been seen, all while putting the tax burden on Americans at an all-time low.

Occupy D.C. and pass a flat tax. We are the 100 percent.

Mark Easley is a senior computer science major. He can be contacted at [measley@nd.edu](mailto:measley@nd.edu)

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

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."*

Thomas Edison  
U.S. inventor

Submit a  
Letter to  
the Editor

Email [obsviewpoint@gmail.com](mailto:obsviewpoint@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY POLL

Which was the best Super Bowl commercial?

Pepsi — King's Court  
Audi — Vampire Party  
Budweiser — Prohibition  
Volkswagen — Dog Strikes Back

Vote by 5 p.m. Thursday at [ndsmcobserver.com](http://ndsmcobserver.com)



## A case against the flat tax

The discussion over the flat tax is always a very interesting one. Usually people who support it are heavy on details of its benefits and light on details of its negative consequences. But when examined closer, the negative consequences of a flat tax would make one wonder why anyone would support it at all.

Adam Newman

*Scientia  
Potentia Est*

Implementing a flat tax would mean eliminating most tax expenditures (tax provisions where the government returns money to people through deductions, exemptions or credits), raising massive amounts of revenue. Simultaneously, the many marginal tax rates (currently at six) would become one low, flat rate. If administered correctly, the loss of revenue from lowering and eliminating rates would be balanced by the increase of revenue through eliminating tax expenditures.

However, this balance is only in terms of the federal government's finances; the tax burden on Americans would change drastically. For example, George, whose income is \$10,000 and Jerry, whose income is \$100,000, would pay the same tax rate. If the tax rate was 15 percent, George would pay \$1,500 in taxes and Jerry would pay \$15,000. Under the current system, both would pay 10 percent for their income

from \$0-\$8,500, 15 percent for their income from \$8,501-\$34,500, etc. So under the current progressive tax code, George would pay \$1,075 (compared to \$1,500 under a flat tax) and Jerry would pay \$21,615 (compared to \$10,000 under a flat tax). What this analysis does not include are the tax expenditures Jerry and George could claim, which would probably lower both's tax liabilities. As one can see, the main benefit of the flat tax is its simplicity. But that is no match for the negative consequences a flat tax would bring.

The first negative consequence of a flat tax is the tax burden would be greatly shifted from richer Americans to poorer Americans. Due to the progressivity of the tax code, bad economy and ability for lower and middle class Americans to take advantage of tax expenditures, roughly 50 percent of Americans do not have an income tax liability. (Note: this is for federal income tax only; poor and middle class Americans still pay federal payroll taxes, and state and local taxes.) Implementing a flat tax that ended many popular tax expenditures would mean most, if not all, Americans would pay some income tax, effectively raising the taxes on the poorest 50 percent of Americans. Simultaneously, a flat tax would give a huge tax break for the highest income earners. According to an analysis done by the non-partisan Tax Policy Center,

a 15 percent flat tax would lead to an 11 percent tax break for those making between \$500,000-1,000,000 and a 19 percent tax break for those making over \$1,000,000. Raising taxes on the poor and middle class while drastically lowering taxes on the rich during a weak economy does not reflect America's compassionate values.

The second negative consequence of a flat tax is that depending on the plan, it would increase the deficit. The devil is in the details when it comes to the flat tax, because the only way a flat tax plan would be deficit-neutral would be if it eliminated enough tax expenditures to make up the lost revenue from lowering and eliminating tax rates. The issue is many of the largest tax expenditures needed to make a flat tax deficit-neutral are the most popular: the tax exclusion for health insurance, deduction for mortgage interest and deduction for charitable contributions. Newt Gingrich offered a flat tax plan that would lower the rate to 15 percent for individuals and 12.5 percent for corporations, but keeps these and other major tax expenditures in place. The Tax Policy Center, assuming that all Americans were taxed at the flat rate, found that in 2015 the plan would increase the deficit somewhere between 800 billion and 1.2 trillion.

A tax code must balance two principles: "equity," by making people who

earn more pay a higher percentage in taxes, and "efficiency," in order to promote economic growth and prosperity for its citizens. The flat tax does not balance these goals, because its emphasis on efficiency shifts too much of the tax burden away from the wealthy and onto the poor. However, there is an option for tax reform that embraces these principles. By cutting the number of tax brackets, lowering rates and reforming tax expenditures, the tax code could be greatly simplified (something Republicans advocate) while increasing taxes on the rich (something Democrats advocate).

A flat tax is an idea bounced around by academics and fringe Republicans that may initially sound simple, but the simplicity it could bring to the tax code is not worth the massive shift in tax burden from wealthier to poorer Americans and the billions, if not trillions it would add to the deficit. But for some reason, people still cling to the flat tax. Those who continue to do so despite such negative consequences are, as Jon Stewart recently said on The Daily Show, "life support for bad ideas."

Adam Newman is a junior finance major. He can be reached at [anewman3@nd.edu](mailto:anewman3@nd.edu)

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## I think we've missed the point

It looks like the debate over contraception in these hallowed pages of discourse are drawing to a close — nonetheless, I'd like to make some remarks about the tone of the debate and the overall point.

First, I'd like to thank the officers of the Right to Life club for lending their considerable expertise as officers to an undergraduate club to this discussion. Had you not written in and mentioned in two separate places that you are officers of that esteemed club, we might not have known where you stood on life issues. Clarification from such credentialed dignitaries can be very helpful in understanding terms and sharpening discussion. In short: tragedy averted by your letter.

Still, I can't believe anyone would disagree that responsible use of contraception has important, objective benefits. That seems almost self-evident — the role of condoms in the prevention of the transmission of STDs is one obvious benefit. The mitigation of poor decision-making is another. The ability to take control of one's future is crucial, and it is these benefits that led Paul VI's advisory council to recommend, in the majority, that Catholics be allowed to use birth control. Obviously, the Pope ruled differently and that is binding — I don't mean to suggest we each get to rule individually on the council's results. But the Pontifical Council was a council made up of committed, faithful Catholics who loved the Church and who struggled in good faith to discern the truth. I'm not sure I trust anyone who cannot appreciate the perspective of the two sides of this debate, or anyone who must engage in discussions of morality by denying facts about the world, as if admitting that contraceptives have some objective benefits flings us head-first down the slope of moral nihilism.

In fact, the objective benefits of contraception have recently led the Pope to acknowledge that in certain circumstances, use of contraception could actually be a positive step toward genuine morality — he offers the example of an AIDS-infected male prostitute who prevents transmission to a client. These are non-ideal circumstances. But there you are. Contraception can occasionally be responsible.

Notice that the benefits of contraception don't tell us anything definitive about the morality of contraception. None of the benefits above suddenly negate the Church's position. The case for permitting contraception has been considered carefully and rejected. On certain sets of premises, contraception is fine; awesome, even. But on the premises we operate from — the one that the Church relies on — contraception is not fine, and that has to be okay. Providing guidance and even decision in the face of unclear or intractable moral problems is one of the Church's most important roles. This isn't a debate over whether contraception is good or not; it is fundamentally a debate over who gets to decide that. The Church has reached a decision after careful consideration and long dialogue, and the government ought to not force the Church or her institutions to provide contraception when the belief is that contraception is intrinsically immoral. The freedom of religious conscience must be preserved.

Thomas Maranges  
senior  
off-campus  
Feb. 8

## The Church's position

Ms. Emily Thompson,

I am writing in response to your letter published Wednesday, Feb. 8 ("Know the Church's stance"). You assert that "so many people fail to understand the Church's stance on contraception," yet you do not provide the readers with the Church's position.

The Catechism (CCC) states "every action which renders procreation impossible is intrinsically evil" (2370). The same sentiment is repeated in countless Church proclamations, including, but not limited to, "Humanae Vitae," "Casti Connubii," "Dignitas Personae," etc. Although you encourage fellow students to use the resources provided by the University (e.g., classes, priests, the GRC) to educate themselves about Catholic thought on contraception, none of those sources maintain the authority to differ from the aforementioned official Church teaching.

The Church believes contraception violates the unitive and procreative aspects of a relationship. The unitive aspect refers to the sense of "true mutual love" (CCC) manifested through the mutual respect of two partners. In my opinion, it is extremely unfair of the Church to have such conceptions of true love. For an organization steeped in chastity and celibacy, it is off-base to point its finger at couples, telling them they lack mutual respect or "love" because of their sexual activity. Love and affection are defined by the people involved, and if the Church were to really trust in "free will," it would respect sexual freedom and not sit on a high horse condemning thousands to "grave sin" because it feels passion can only be restricted to procreation. Following the procreative aspect of relationships, I must disagree on the importance placed on procreative sex. The Church feels that contraception denies the "orientation toward man's exalted vocation to parenthood" (CCC). This thinking totally removes the role of the couple from deciding on a child; parenthood, a choice, is misconstrued as a duty. Considering intercourse to be a procreative act, versus an objectively romantic one, ostracizes couples who do not want kids or are not ready for any.

Lastly, you tell Ms. Reser to not speak for your fellow Catholic women. She does not have to, as a Harris poll from 2005 found that 90 percent of U.S. Catholics already support the use of contraceptives. Your fellow Catholics have spoken.

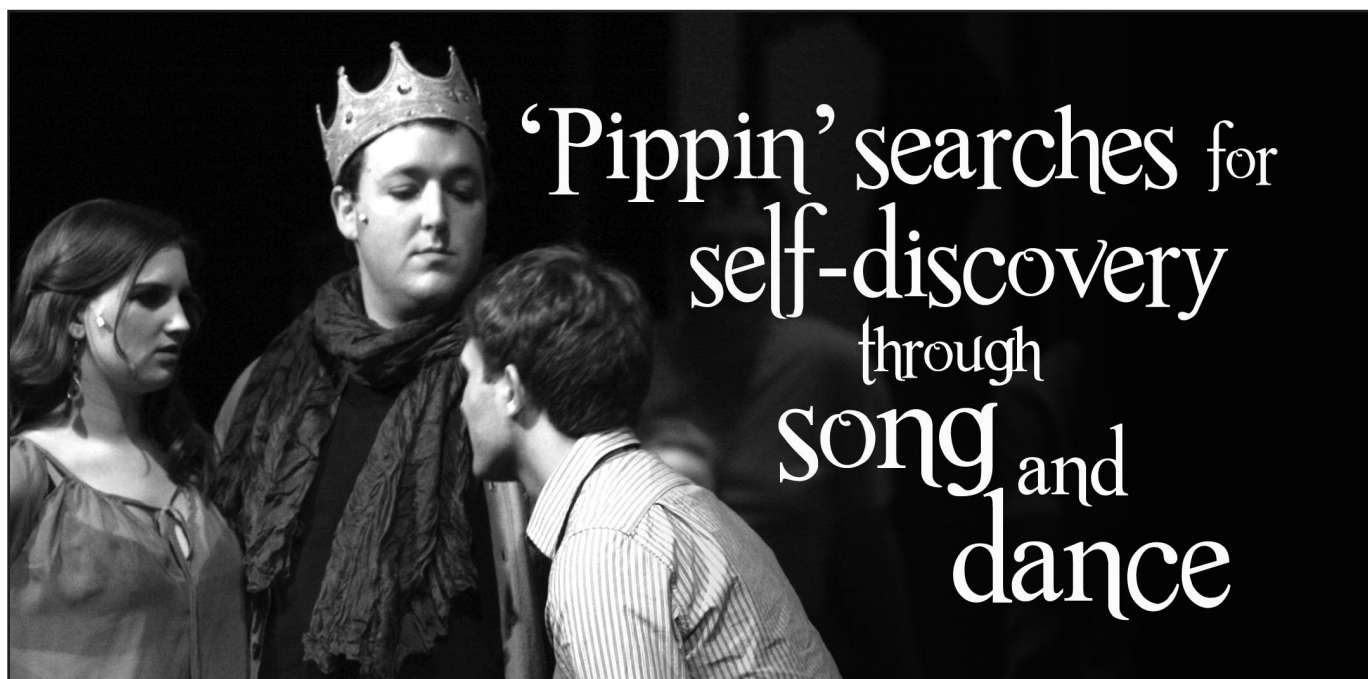
Kevin Fernandez  
freshman  
O'Neill Hall  
Feb. 8

Have an eye for detail?

Work for the Viewpoint section!

Email [obsviewpoint@gmail.com](mailto:obsviewpoint@gmail.com)





## ‘Pippin’ searches for self-discovery through song and dance



By MARY CLAIRE O'DONNELL  
Scene Writer

The Pasquerilla East Music Company (PEMCo.) brings the drama of the Holy Roman Empire to Notre Dame this weekend with its newest play “Pippin.” The show opens tonight at Washington Hall and continues through Saturday night.

“Pippin” is the story of the son of Charlemagne (senior Kevin de la Montaigne), Pippin (sophomore Samuel Evola), who struggles to find meaning in his life and his place in the world. As the first-born son of the Holy Roman Emperor, Pippin is expected to fulfill certain duties, none of which bring joy to his life. And so he sets out on his journey of self-discovery, singing and dancing his way — with help from the chorus — through confusion, disillusionment and even love.

The play opens with a fantastic opening number, “Magic to Do,” in which the Leading Player (senior Claire Cooney) and chorus invite the audience to join them in the magic of the play and the adventure of the story. Enter Pippin, a young prince back from the University of Padua, who does not fit in with the bellicose personality of his father and half brother.

And so begins Pippin’s journey. Along the way, he tries the life of a soldier, a priest, a reformer fighting for peasant’s rights, a Holy Roman Emperor and a farm worker. He seeks power and glory, and the appropriate life for a man of his extraordinary talents.

Through a number of superb musical numbers — “No Time at All” is a highlight — he eventually discovers the most important thing in life, turning from struggling against himself to struggling against the chorus who want him to follow their darker plan. But he makes his choice, bringing meaning to the musical, which Cooney thought was the most moving part of “Pippin.”

“As the play progresses ... it becomes clear that [the chorus and Leading Player] are really a cult,” she said. “These people are creepy and obsessed with sex and probably drugs, anything self-destructive. And so even though [Pippin’s choice] is not completely fulfilling, because nothing in the present ever really is, it’s the most wonderful thing he can achieve.”

De la Montaigne also enjoyed the message of the musical. “I think that it’s natural to make that journey [of self-discovery and disillusionment],” he said. “At the end, we come back again, and [the journey] repeats itself for everyone, so it’s okay to feel like that because everyone does at one point or another.”

PEMCo.’s latest production is especially interesting because of the play’s structure. The musical features a mys-

terious acting troupe, the chorus, led by the Leading Player, who tell Pippin’s story, almost narrating from the background. But the Leading Player also actively involves herself in the action, critiquing the acting of some characters and guiding Pippin along his journey at points.

This structure is intriguing and draws the audience into the play. It also helps to highlight the darker side of the play, which was one of Cooney’s favorite parts of this musical.

“[The musical’s] a lot darker than any of our other plays,” she said. “I’ve never played a character that has a very evil side before. Even though my character seems just more interested in the spectacle of it all in the first half of the show, she becomes really evil in the second half.”

Evola also enjoyed the character development that went into his role.

“This play made me invest more of my emotion into it than other plays,” he said. “Running through Pippin never thinking he’s going to find anything, thinking he’s found it, then having it cut out from under him, just all the emotional transition that has to happen throughout was new for me.”

The experiences may have been new for the actors, but the end result is excellent. “Pippin” is a funny, though dark, musical that entertains and reflects the hard work of everyone involved in the production. Don’t miss this play.

Contact Mary Claire O’Donnell at [modonne5@nd.edu](mailto:modonne5@nd.edu)

### On campus

**What:** PEMCo.’s “Pippin”

**Where:** Washington Hall

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 9 - Saturday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.

**How Much:** \$5 students, \$10 non-students, tickets available at the LaFortune Box Office and at the door

**Learn More:** [www.nd.edu/~pemusic](http://www.nd.edu/~pemusic)







By MEGHAN THOMASSEN  
Scene Writer

While the Stepan Center might as well be a frozen planet in the Hoth system — minus the wampa and the tauntaun — over 4,000 students will make the trek there this weekend to see one of Notre Dame's longest standing dorm traditions: the Keenan Revue.

"The Revue Strikes Back," staged by the men of Keenan Hall, is a collection of comedic skits renowned for blending Notre Dame humor with sizzling pop culture critiques and references. Previous burn victims include Snooki, campus parties and Charlie Weis. But the heat doesn't stop there — most costumes include daisy dukes, rip-off shirts and stuffed bras.

This year's producer, senior Raymond Gallagher, had to disassemble his costume (consisting of a stuffed bra covered with whipped cream) before sitting down to talk about his role in the Revue.

"I've been involved in the last three years," he said. "It's a really good time for the people on campus, but [we started] working on it beginning in September, so for us it's almost a year of fun and enjoyment, getting to know the Keenan guys better."

Every year, the dorm holds auditions about three weeks before the show and chooses the best skits to include in the production. This year, Gallagher said they held two rounds of tryouts and called back 25 skits.

"It was a really difficult decision process. We were debating for over an hour and a half," he said. "There was a lot of good material. It's going to be a good show."

Gallagher said two of the funniest skits in this year's Revue are "SAOPA," written by senior Brian Bettonville, and "Harry Potter and the Swift Who Must Not Be Named," written by senior Chase Riddle.

"The final skits of each act are both strong," he said.

Despite SAO's censorship last year, Gallagher doesn't foresee any changes being made after the first performance.

"I don't anticipate censoring, we're in line with what [SAO] wanted us to do," he said. "We're doing stuff that is funny, and whether you go Thursday, Friday or Saturday, it'll be the same skits."

After being exiled from Saint Mary's in 2010 and facing censorship in 2011, Gallagher said the Revue will "strike back" this year.

"We wanted to make a statement," he said. "Even though we were encountering difficulties, [the Revue] is still a great tradition that's been going on for almost four decades."

The Revue is in its 37th year, and its second year at its new home in Stepan Center.

Regarding his costume, Gallagher said the bra-and-whipped-cream combo was an interesting, new experience for him.

"It reminds me that I better not be self-conscious on stage," he said. "[I shouldn't] worry about what people think about me, though I might have a bad reputation after this Revue."

The content for each show is entirely written by the men of Keenan Hall.

"To come up with skits every year that are entertaining — I think that ability, year in, year out, is pretty impressive," Gallagher said. "We're going to come back and makes sure it stays what it is, what it's intended to be."

Gallagher also said the jokes will cover all aspects of campus life, as well as pop culture references. He said the humor will be consistent with the "striking back" theme.

"[The audience is] never going to be bombarded over and over again with same joke, but we'll be hitting them from all angles, all types of humor," he said.

Gallagher emphasized students would be making a mistake if they didn't attend this year's Revue.

"It's still the Keenan Revue, it's still our take on Notre Dame," he said. "We're not shying away from different aspects of campus, we may have even taken it a step further this year."

Riddle, Keenan Hall resident and Revue veteran, said he was excited to have the same production

team from last year.

"The music was one of the best things last year," Riddle said. "I'm singing one of the songs, which is going to be bad, but it's going to be fun."

This year, Riddle noticed the Keenan residents really came together more to produce the Revue.

"[Productions at] Saint Mary's were just running through the motions, there was no inspiration; now we're pushing ourselves so much further to be funny in a way that we can all laugh together," he said. "Even though we're poking fun at each other, and at Notre Dame, there are some things about Notre Dame that are laughable — we're hoping everyone can laugh comfortably together."

If Keenan Hall is the Galactic Empire, then students of the Rebel Alliance should prepare for a full force of attack of jeers, burns and bounty hunters.

Contact Meghan Thomassen at [mthomass@nd.edu](mailto:mthomass@nd.edu)

## On campus

**What:** The Keenan Revue

**Where:** Stepan Center

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 9 – Saturday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

**How Much:** Free but ticketed

**Learn More:**

[www.nd.edu/~keenan/revue](http://www.nd.edu/~keenan/revue)





SPORTS AUTHORITY

Let’s convert America into a soccer country

I just informed Adam Schefter and Chris Broussard that I have cancelled the NFL and the NBA seasons indefinitely. Sorry, Mr. Stern, now I am the most hated commissioner in all sports — but not really, who could ever take that title away from him (see the Chris Paul trade veto). It’s basically this past summer all over again, but now I called the players’ bluffs.

No more Super Bowl, no more Slam Dunk contest, no more hands — unless you want a yellow card.

That’s right, it is time to witness the rise of soccer, the original football. As an American, I don’t have the hutzpah to cancel baseball and I don’t want to create an international crisis by canceling hockey and upsetting our neighbors to the north (see Vancouver riots). And as an Italian, I can’t stand to see soccer’s popularity continue to dive in a way that would even make Cristiano Ronaldo proud.

Soccer is the world’s game. It stops wars — such as in the Ivory Coast in 2006 — makes headlines and brings a country together like nothing else I have ever seen. Remember Landon Donovan’s last-second goal in 2010 or even Abby Wambach’s header against Brazil last summer? Kids playing football switched to soccer, casual viewers became fans, fans became die-hards. Now when do you remember a Super Bowl ever doing this?

In third-world countries, soccer is often the fabric that keeps the country together and creates national heroes. But as far as soccer goes, America is a third-world country. The money and resources put into soccer in the United States probably couldn’t even pay off Albert Pujols’ 93-year contract he signed with the Honolulu Angels of Anaheim (another thing I changed as commissioner to show how ridiculous the name change is). America is undoubtedly the

most athletic country in the world. So think of this: what if the best athletes in America played soccer?

Just imagine LeBron James jumping completely over the horrid Robin Van Persie (much to John Lucas’ delight) for a header into the top corner of the goal. Perhaps imagine how crazy it would be to see Larry Fitzgerald receiving a pass from the simply unreal Lionel Messi. Or how about Anthony Davis not moving whatsoever to make a save in the corner of the goal with his seven-foot wingspan (if he doesn’t make the save his unibrow will).

After all, Steve Nash and Kobe Bryant admitted they would be international soccer stars if the money had been there.

So I am going to take all the money and resources in the NFL and the NBA and put it toward the MLS, which is one of the biggest jokes in the sporting world right now next to Dolphins fans posting pictures of Peyton Manning in a Fins jersey holding the Lombardi trophy and M.I.A. showing us her love of birds.

If you build it (stacks of straight-up cash), they will come. World-class players will easily hop the pond to play in the United States for the right price. And fans will surely flock to stadiums with these great athletes playing right down the street, coupled with the not-so-tragic loss of the NFL and NBA.

Then, we would be able to build the real soccer academies and the 80,000-seat palaces that have made the competition so great in Europe.

The fanaticism will quickly build and soccer will become the biggest sport in America. Could you imagine if the United States won a World Cup, which has basically been the sole property of Europe and Brazil? We would have McDonald’s, Coca-Cola and the World Cup — which would bring an enormous amount of hate and jealousy from the global community. What else could we want?

Contact Andrew Gastelum at [agastelum@nd.edu](mailto:agastelum@nd.edu)  
The views expressed in this Sports Authority are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Andrew Gastelum  
Sports Writer

After all, Steve Nash and Kobe Bryant admitted they would be international soccer stars if the money had been there.

NBA

Billups vows to return from injury

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Chauncey Billups will only watch as the Clippers continue their promising season without him.

This isn’t going to be easy. With his left leg encased in a plastic protective boot and a newly issued crutch standing nearby, Billups sprawled across a few seats Wednesday inside Quicken Loans Arena as his teammates went through their first pregame shootaround since their veteran guard and leader suffered a season-ending injury.

Billups tore his Achilles tendon, prematurely ending his first season with Los Angeles and 15th in the NBA.

He won’t let it be his last. “My career is definitely not over,” the 35-year-old said. “I’m not going to crawl out of this league. I’m going to go out on my own two feet. I will be back.”

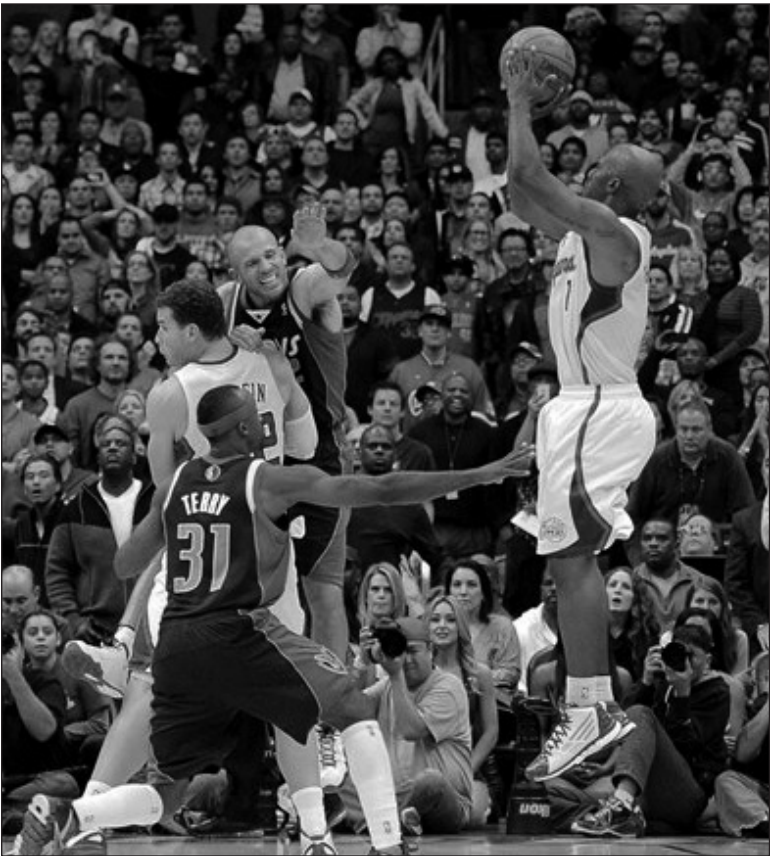
Billups’ season came to a stunning end in Orlando on Monday night, when he crumpled to the floor without being touched. After missing a 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, Billups took one step toward the loose ball when his leg buckled. As play went the other way, Billups assessed his injury and knew right away something was terribly wrong.

“When I first went down, it felt like someone kind of kicked me,” Billups said. “But when I tried to get back up and step on it, I didn’t feel anything and I knew it was something I had never felt before and I knew it was bad.”

Tests taken Tuesday at the Cleveland Clinic confirmed the Achilles tear, a serious injury requiring eight months of recovery time. Billups returned to Los Angeles on Wednesday. Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro said Billups will meet with a specialist before it’s decided when he’ll have surgery.

The loss of Billups is a significant blow to the rising Clippers, who have become one of the league’s top attractions with All-Stars Chris Paul and Blake Griffin and a solid supporting cast. A punching bag for decades, they have even threatened to steal home turf away from the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Billups had been a huge addition for the club, which claimed the five-time All-Star in December after he was waived by the New York Knicks under the league’s new amnesty clause. He was



Clippers guard Chauncey Billups takes a shot against the Mavericks on Jan. 18. Billups is out for the season with an Achilles injury.

averaging 14.9 points and four assists, modest numbers. But it was his impact in mentoring Paul and Griffin that made Billups invaluable.

“It’s a big blow because of how much Chauncey means to the team: his leadership, his play, all that,” said Del Negro. “But we’re going to have to handle the adversity and I expect the guys to step up. We have to come together as a team and handle it. I feel bad for him. I thought he was just getting comfortable and his intangibles will be missed.

“But he’s not going anywhere. He’ll be missed, but he’ll be around the team.”

Del Negro said Randy Foye will take Billups’ starting spot alongside Paul, the elite point guard who said the injury to his respected teammate has impacted him emotionally.

“Everybody has to step up,” Paul said. “There’s not one person that can fill a void that big. Everybody is going to have to do a little bit more and it definitely starts with me and Blake. It’s tough. I’ve had a lot of time to think about it and talk to Chauncey. And if anybody can come back from this, it would be him.”

Beyond cutting short what Billups believed was evolving into a “special season” for him and the Clippers, the injury also ended his dreams

of playing in the Olympics. Billups was one of 20 players chosen as candidates to play on the U.S. team at the London Games. He’ll be watching them this summer as well.

“That’s one of my big, big disappointments as well,” Billups said. “I should have been on the team that won it four years ago but I pulled out because of a family issue, my mother was sick. I never thought I would have another chance to do it and was in a position to do it and now this. So that’s disappointing, man. “But like I said, one thing you can’t control is fate. I’m just going to keep moving right along and I’ll be back.”

Once he has surgery, Billups intends to help the Clippers any way he can. He has already spoken to the team about pushing through the adversity. He won’t let them use his loss as an excuse.

“I’ll be watching the games and texting them and coaching and helping them do what I think can be one special season,” he said. “I think it can still happen.”

Billups’ contract with the Clippers only runs through this season. Mr. Big Shot wants another shot as long as they’ll have him.

“I feel like I have some unfinished business here,” he said. “I love the movement. I love what’s going on. We had a really good thing going and I’d like to continue that.”

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Born on this day:

1974 - Seth Green, American actor

1974 - Kimbo Slice, American mixed martial artist

1975 - Damon Denson, NFL guard

1976 - Jim Parque, MLB baseball pitcher

1976 - Khaled Mashud, Bangladeshi cricketer

1976 - Adam Piatt, MLB

1977 - Yucef Merhi, Venezuelan artist

1977 - Dave Farrell, musician

1977 - Barry Hall, Australian rules footballer

1977 - Bridgette Kerkove, actress

1978 - Christa Williams, Houston TX, softball pitcher

1979 - Tara Tucker, Miss Alabama Teen USA (1997)

1979 - Aaron Cook, MLB

1979 - Josh Keaton, actor/singer

1980 - Ralf Little, actor/comedian

1980 - Cameron Muncey, Australian guitarist (Jet)

1980 - Stephen Wright, English footballer

1981 - Tommy Michaels, actor

1981 - Myriam Montemayor Cruz, Mexican singer

1982 - Eric Alexander, NFL

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Outlined against a red February sky, the Four Horsemen ride tomorrow.



High School Basketball

Pennsylvania school accused of racial slurs during game

Associated Press

BRENTWOOD, Pa. — Athletic tensions between two Pittsburgh-area high schools — one largely white, the other predominantly black — have boiled over into accusations of racism that some say is being swept under the rug.

Two students at Brentwood High School are accused of dressing in banana suits at a game and, along with other

students, taunting players at Monessen High, according to Monessen parents and a school administrator.

The costumed Brentwood students were thrown out of Friday's game after they ran past the Monessen fan section, "causing agitation and disruption," Brentwood's district superintendent, Ronald Dufalla, said in a statement Wednesday. A third student "was removed to avoid a potential problem"

that Dufalla wouldn't specify.

But Dufalla also said he has reviewed game tapes and talked to school officials, and has "seen no other activity that confirms the allegations made." The two students in banana suits, he said, have done that at previous games "without incident."

"The high school students are emulating college students they have seen on television who wear costumes during the col-

legiate contests," Dufalla said in email Wednesday to The Associated Press. "No high school team, Monessen or otherwise, or their fans are being singled out. This is just something the students do."

Parents said they heard slurs from Brentwood students including "monkeys" and "cotton pickers."

Superintendent Linda Marcolini told The Valley Independent of Monessen for a story

Wednesday that she planned to report the conflict to the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, which oversees high school sports in the region.

"Basically, I feel [Dufalla] sugar-coated the situation," Marcolini told the Independent. "I'm not happy with that, and I feel like I've not been told the whole story or the truth."

The AP could not immediately reach Marcolini for comment.



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MLB

Hall of Fame to begin drug education program



Barry Bonds, who has been accused of using steroids, will appear on the Hall of Fame ballot for the first time this year.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Baseball Hall of Fame is starting a drug education program for students and young adults — in the same year Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa will appear on ballot for the first time after careers tainted by steroid accusations.

While adding PEDs to RBIs and ERAs among its interests, the Hall emphasized Wednesday that its new initiative wasn't tied to the former stars up for election or the people who will

choose them.

"It is not intended to cast a directive to voters about Hall of Fame worthy candidates," shrine president Jeff Idelson said.

Mark McGwire, 10th on the career home run list, has never come close to election after admitting he used steroids and human growth hormone. Neither has Rafael Palmeiro, who topped 500 homers and 3,000 hits but was suspended for a positive test for performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds, a seven-time NL MVP, and Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, will appear on the ballot mailed to voters around Thanksgiving. So will Sosa, who hit 609 homers.

The Hall makes no attempt to influence members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America when they pick the players for Cooperstown.

"Hall of Fame voting has been a part of this nation's fabric since 1936, and has touted the virtues of character, sportsmanship and integrity, along with the contributions to the game, as integral qualifications for earning election," Idelson said.

Education is part of the mission for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, along with honoring the game's greats and displaying artifacts.

The Hall plans to promote a healthy lifestyle that is free of PEDs. The program will be called "Be A Superior Example," or "BASE" for short, and will work with the Taylor Hooton Foundation and the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society.

In the next 18 months, the Hall hopes to conduct a nationwide survey, hold a summit in Cooperstown on drugs and begin a national registry for people to pledge commitments to live free of PEDs.

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AUTO RACING

# IndyCar will listen to driver complaints



**Danica Patrick speaks to reporters on Jan. 23. Patrick is one of the IndyCar drivers who could be affected by new rule changes.**

Associated Press

The new race director for the IndyCar Series wants improved communications with the drivers, and is willing to listen to their concerns about specific racing issues.

Among the issues Beaux Barfield said Wednesday he will take under consideration is the drivers' displeasure with using double-file restarts at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Double-file restarts were added to the series last season and were quickly criticized as both IndyCar and the drivers struggled through execution and policing the new practice.

The drivers also were adamantly opposed to using double-file restarts in the Indianapolis 500, but IndyCar kept them. Most drivers remain opposed to using double-file restarts in this year's race.

Barfield, hired as president of competition and race director in January, said he's in favor of double-file restarts but will listen to driver concerns.

"Double-file restarts is something that was brought in and not given an appropriate effort either by the officials or the drivers, and I think it took a worse rap than it should have," Barfield said. "The racer in me didn't like them, but when I did see the good efforts of the officials to make adjustments to them ... it brought the kind of excitement to our product that IndyCar needs to get to the next level.

"That being said, there's a couple of places that the drivers have legitimate concerns that they'd rather not do double-file restarts. I'm open-minded and going to listen to what they have to say."

Asked if double-file restarts will be used in the Indy 500, Barfield said "it's under consideration."

Communication between the drivers and race control deteriorated last season under former race director Brian Barnhart. A complex rule book that gave Barnhart discretionary power in many officiating decisions led to the breakdown, and as the season came to a close, Barnhart seemed to have lost the respect of the paddock.

He was relieved as race director during the offseason and Barfield, who spent the last four seasons as race director of the ALMS sports car series, was brought into the job at the start of the year. Barfield's first task was re-writing the IndyCar rule book, which he did with vice president of technology Will Phillips.

Barfield said he reformatted the rule book to improve both its readability and flow, which would be the most noticeable difference in what was electronically distributed to race teams late Tuesday.

But, perhaps the more important overhaul in terms of perception for IndyCar, was the elimination of nearly all instances that gave the race director discretionary power in officiating decisions.

Barfield said the rule book used last season had more than 90 instances where the discretion of the race director could be applied. Drivers complained it created unfair and arbitrary policing, and it contributed to them losing faith in Barnhart.

The 2012 rule book has only six instances where the race director can use his discretion, but Barfield said there's still a clause that allows officials "latitude to fix problems that come up that have never been seen before."

But Barfield said he's striving to never have to use that power, and to rule with in a very black-and-white manner.

"It's an absolutely tighter rule book," he said. "As much as I've evolved and developed as a race official, you learn that you can't think about how a ruling or penalty will affect a race team, or a driver, or harm a race team. You can't consider those things. It's racing and if there's an incident that has to be looked at face value — blocking, contact, anything — the rules are the rules and have to be applied how they are written.

"A statement has to be made that you are in control of your paddock. You have to remove the emotion in officiating, because it's easy to have sympathy but when you do, you are going down a slippery slope."

Barfield will discuss in greater detail the 2012 rule book and introduce his officiating team next week during planned "State of IndyCar" activities. He wouldn't reveal his stewards for 2012, but said two recent hires are former drivers and race control will consist of Barfield and three other stewards.

Tweaks to the rule book already announced include:

- the use of an instant messaging system between race control, officials and race team managers in which Barfield can communicate track conditions, warnings, penalties and other information. Barfield said he used the system, which will complement radio communication, at ALMS and it's "new to IndyCar, but late to IndyCar."
- standard INDYCAR tech bodywork parts must be able to fit a team's car during technical inspection.
- a minimum of two track condition radio steering wheel lights will be standard, and act in unison with dash lights and complement audio and trackside visual caution warning systems.

NCAA

# North Dakota fights for nickname

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — The University of North Dakota will resume using its contentious Fighting Sioux nickname despite threats from the NCAA, the school's president said Wednesday, marking the latest twist in a protracted fight about a name that critics consider offensive.

A state law requiring the university to use its longtime nickname and logo, which shows the profile of an American Indian warrior, was repealed in November. The university has since been trying to retire the moniker, but nickname supporters filed petitions late Tuesday demanding that the issue be put to a statewide vote.

University President Robert Kelley said the school decided to resume using the name and logo to respect the state's referendum process, which requires the pro-nickname law be in effect while the secretary of state reviews the petition signatures over the next month.

"As soon as that petition was filed last night, the law reverts," Kelley told The Associated Press. "I don't want to violate the law."

The NCAA has told the university that continued use of the nickname and logo would expose the school to sanctions. The school could not host post-season tournaments, and its athletes could not wear uniforms with the logo or nickname in post-season play.

Emails and phone messages left with the NCAA were not immediately returned

Wednesday. The university and leaders in Grand Forks, where the school is located, had opposed the law.

Kelley said the men's and women's hockey teams and the women's basketball team have a chance for post-season play in the coming months, and it was unclear how the teams would be affected.

"I don't know whether this is going to put us back on the (sanctions) list or not," Kelly said. "But clearly, by being mandated by state law to be Fighting Sioux, we are right back to where we were before the repeal."

The state Board of Higher Education will likely meet with North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem on Monday to discuss whether to go to court to block reinstatement of the law, board President Grant Shaft said.

The dispute began in 2006, when the NCAA prodded 19 schools to get rid of American Indian nicknames, logos and mascots that it considered "hostile and abusive" to Indians. The University of North Dakota is the only school left where the issue is in serious dispute.

The NCAA said the schools, to avoid sanctions, had to change their nicknames or obtain permission from local tribes. Most changed their names, although the Florida State Seminoles and the Central Michigan Chippewas were among the schools that got tribal permission to keep their nicknames.

North Dakota challenged the NCAA edict in court. In a settlement, the school agreed to begin retiring its nickname if it couldn't obtain consent to continue its use from North Dakota's Standing Rock and Spirit Lake

Sioux tribes by Nov. 30, 2010.

Spirit Lake tribal members endorsed the name. But the Standing Rock Sioux's tribal council, which opposed the nickname, has declined to support it or to allow its tribal members to vote.

The law forcing the school to use the name and logo was approved last March, despite opposition from university officials and Grand Forks legislators. Supporters of the proposal included some prominent university alumni.

The law's chief sponsor, Republican House Majority Leader Al Carlson, said he resented the NCAA's bullying and what he regarded as the Board of Higher Education's clumsy handling of the matter. Carlson hoped the law would make the NCAA reconsider its opposition to the nickname and logo, but the NCAA was adamant.

The law was repealed during a special legislative session in November, with many former supporters switching sides and saying it had not accomplished its purpose of influencing the NCAA.

Supporters of the nickname, including some members of the Standing Rock Sioux, said they turned in petitions with more than 17,000 signatures late Tuesday in support of the law. The required minimum is 13,452 names.

Reed Soderstrom, chairman of the referendum campaign, hailed the university's decision Wednesday and discouraged education board members from going back to court.

"They would seem to be following a method of trying to disenfranchise the voters, and I don't think they have the power to do that," he said.

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## Upcoming Events

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# Martin

continued from page 16

ning by 10 or 12,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “The run was coming, and I loved our poise. We’ve showed that on the road now four times, but man did we hit some big shots.” Junior forward Jack Cooley kept the Irish in the game in which the team shot just 38 percent from the floor in the second half. He led all scorers with 21 points and grabbed a team-high 12 rebounds in the win. “I am just so thrilled to see

his development and his confidence,” Brey said. “I think he knew he could score on [Mountaineer forward Deniz Kilicli]. He got to the offensive boards for us, and he gets every big defensive rebound down the stretch in a close game.” Grant finished with 12 points despite four of 17 shooting, and Martin chipped in 12 points of his own. Notre Dame started slowly, connecting on just two of its first 10 shots. But a 9-0 run in the middle of the first half put the Irish ahead, and they took a 10-point lead into half. The Mountaineers came

roaring back after the break, and thanks to poor shooting on the part of the Irish, West Virginia took a 43-40 lead with 4:28 left. “I think we didn’t hang our head,” Brey said. “We knew it was going to be physical. It’s not like we haven’t played against physical defense before. Everyone plays us the same way — they get up and pressure us. It’s a little more difficult on the road.” But shots began to fall for the Irish. Atkins connected from distance to tie the game, and then Grant stole a West Virginia pass and knocked down a quick three-pointer to regain the lead. “Jerian Grant makes winning plays,” Brey said. “He had a stretch there when he thought he was getting fouled and he was hanging his head a little. I thought he had a moment — that’s why I took him out — I thought he had a moment when he was being young again. I took him out, talked to him a little bit, and when I put him back in, he looked like a veteran in this league with the deflections and the big shots.” The Irish will return home for back-to-back Big East contests in the Purcell Pavilion, starting with Saturday’s game against DePaul. “This is a great road win for us,” Brey said. “I’m thrilled it gets us to eight league wins. I love the make-up of our group and the vibe of our group, and we just want to keep riding this good stuff.”

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

## NCAA BASKETBALL

# Rivers’ buzzer-beater lifts Duke over UNC

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Austin Rivers never looked like a freshman in his first Duke-North Carolina rivalry game — including when he buried a shot that will live on in the lore of this fierce rivalry. Rivers hit a 3-pointer at the horn to give No. 10 Duke an 85-84 win over No. 5 North Carolina on Wednesday night, snapping the Tar Heels’ school-record 31-game home winning streak. Rivers scored a season-high 29 points and hit six 3s, the last over 7-footer Tyler Zeller with the Blue Devils (20-4, 7-2) trailing by two in the final seconds. The ball swished through the net, sending Rivers running down the court in celebration while the rest of his teammates gave chase before mobbing him in front of a stunned UNC crowd. Rivers’ 3 capped a wild rally for the Blue Devils, who trailed by 10 points with about 2½ minutes left. Harrison Barnes scored 25 points for the Tar Heels (20-4, 7-2), while Zeller finished with 23 points and 11 rebounds. But Zeller missed two free throws in the final minute, including one with 13.9 seconds left that set up Rivers’ winning shot. It was a finish befitting the rivalry, from Rivers’ shot to Barnes’ second-half surge to a strange play in which Zeller accidentally batted the ball into the Duke basket on a rebound attempt, bringing the Blue Devils within a point with 14.2 seconds left. From the start, the Blue Devils seemed determined to rely on the 3-point shot to offset the Tar Heels’ dominance inside. They hit plenty early

and led by eight in the first half, then cooled off as the Tar Heels charged out of halftime to take control and lead by 13 points. In the end, however, the Blue Devils’ shooters warmed up just in time to stop North Carolina’s long home winning streak. First Seth Curry drained a 3 that made it 82-78 with 1:48 left. Then Ryan Kelly followed with a jumper off his own missed 3 that closed the gap to 82-80. Then, after Zeller hit a free throw, Kelly launched a long shot that appeared to be a 3 over John Henson. As the ball was falling short of the rim, Zeller tried for the rebound but accidentally deflected the ball up and into the basket to cut the deficit to 83-82. Then again, North Carolina probably never should’ve let it come to that. After trailing most of the first half, the Tar Heels ran off a 14-4 run to start the second half and build a 13-point lead. Barnes — who didn’t have a field goal in the first half — finally getting going with a pair of baskets and a 3-pointer off a crosscourt pass from Kendall Marshall to take a 57-44 lead with 15:08 left. North Carolina maintained at least a seven-point lead most of the way from there, with Barnes’ last jumper giving the Tar Heels an 82-72 lead with 2:38 left. Curry and Kelly each had 15 points for Duke, which shot 44 percent and matched a season high with 14 3-pointers. North Carolina shot 59 percent in the second half, but went just 8 for 15 from the foul line after halftime to let this one slip painfully away.

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ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

**Irish senior captain Kevin Randall provides defensive support during an exhibition game against Robert Morris on Feb. 5.**

# Captains

continued from page 16

they said they may not get in a teammates face about a mistake or vocalize their intentions, the message is received regardless.

“I’m not exactly the most vocal guy in the world,” Randall said. “But that’s something I’m trying to work on. I think that saying less is sometimes worth more. If there’s a guy who’s always talking to be heard, guys don’t always listen to what he has to say. I think the guys on this team really follow the example set by the seniors.”

Pfeifer acknowledged, though, that a less authoritative leadership style can have his drawbacks.

“I try to be liked by everyone,” Pfeifer said. “That’s probably my biggest leadership flaw. I want to be the good guy and liked by everyone. That’s not always what the team needs. They need people to be vocal. That’s probably been the biggest challenge as a leader for me.”

Part of the challenge for these captains is taking on the weight of Notre Dame’s strong lacrosse tradition. In the last two seasons, the Irish made it to the national championships and national quarterfinals.

As leaders, it is the captains’ responsibility to continually

push the team to be even better. Pfeifer said the coaches are a big part of that as they only recruit high character players.

“[Irish] coach [Kevin] Corrigan, when he recruits players, he doesn’t just recruit talent, he recruits character,” Pfeifer said. “Year in and year out, everybody cares about each other, works hard. We just keep building every year. Each year we keep getting closer.”

Randall said the daily commitment to hard work and improvement will help the Irish reach their goals.

“I don’t think you set lofty goals, like we’re aiming to do something in the long run, but just getting after it every day,” Randall said. “As soon as our season ended last year, I was already looking forward to coming back this year, and I was already working hard in the offseason. Obviously we would have like to go further. But I think the quality of the guys on our team is that we’re willing to work hard no matter what the situation is.”

The Irish kick off the regular season with a grudge match against Duke on Feb. 18 at home. The game will be aired on ESPNU.

Contact Matthew Robison at [mrobison@nd.edu](mailto:mrobison@nd.edu)

# Piasio

continued from page 16

Although Notre Dame may seem slightly less experienced than it has been in years past, the Irish are still confident they have the right pieces in place to capture the national title. This tradition of excellence attracted Piasio to South Bend in the first place, and he said it is something he is proud to be a part of.

“Especially at a place like this, in tandem with tradition and stellar academics, this truly is a pipe-dream for me,” Piasio said.

The transition from high school fencing to the collegiate level was not easy. But it is something Piasio is happy to have endured because he said he is a better fencer and a better person for it.

“Fencing was much more re-

laxed for me in my prep years,” Piasio said. “I had some national success and accolades, but I wasn’t working as hard as I could have. It’s a fantastic opportunity and work experience, a lot more preparation than what I was previously doing.”

Piasio attributed Notre Dame’s tradition of success to the commitment to excellence, the level of talent and the intangible sense of camaraderie among teammates.

“I strongly believe that, when all cylinders blazing, we are the best team in the nation,” Piasio said.

The Irish women fencers will participate in the Duke Duels on Feb. 11 and the USFA National Junior Olympics run Feb. 17-20 in Salt Lake City. The next combined meet is the Squad Championships in New York on Feb. 26.

Contact Matthew Robison at [mrobison@nd.edu](mailto:mrobison@nd.edu)

# Playoffs

continued from page 16

digits for the majority of the game.

Saint Mary’s started off strong, taking a 10-point advantage on a three-pointer from senior guard Patsy Mahoney only 5:14 into the contest.

Adrian fought back to cut the Belles lead to just five points on a fast break lay-up with 8:24 left in the first half.

This was as close as the Bulldogs would get for the rest of the game, as Saint Mary’s closed the half on a 17-11 run to take an 11-point lead into the halftime locker room.

Adrian was able to keep the

deficit the same for the start of the second half, down by 11 with 13:31 left in the game.

From then on, the game was all Saint Mary’s. The Belles closed the game on a 25-11 run, fueled by the strong play of their seniors as well as a stifling defense.

“I thought we played pretty good defense in the second half,” Henley said. “We forced a lot of turnovers and got some easy transition points because of our defense.”

Senior forward Kelley Murphy led Saint Mary’s in scoring with 20 points, adding eight rebounds. Senior forward Jessica Centa

added 12 points, and current MIAA Player of the Week Mahoney finished with nine points, five assists and four rebounds.

Though the team had just scored a big victory, Henley still found an area her team could improve on after they were out-rebounded by Adrian.

“We need to do a better job still of getting on the boards as we prepare to play Calvin next week,” Henley said.

Saint Mary’s is next in action Wednesday, as they travel to conference foe Calvin.

Contact Nick Boyle at [nboyle1@nd.edu](mailto:nboyle1@nd.edu)

*“We need to do a better job still of getting on the boards as we prepare to play Calvin next week.”*

Jenn Henley  
Belles coach

# Feeney

continued from page 16

so I was really happy ... to end on a good note.”

The stellar freshman campaign was a welcome surprise for Feeney, who in high school was uncertain that he would ever have the opportunity to compete for Notre Dame.

“My dad went to Notre Dame so I always wanted to come here but I didn’t actually think that I probably would,” he said. “Once I started doing well at track, I knew that could help me get in so I started talking to the coaches ... once I found out I got accepted, I definitely wasn’t turning it down. Right when I got the letter I was definitely coming here.”

Having earned his spot at the University and on the track and field team, and even after putting forth a

breakout 2011 season, Feeney is far from finished. Already this season, Feeney has bested his outdoor 400-meter time from last year. Even more impressively, Feeney did so indoors, where times are normally slower.

In the Meyo Invitational at Notre Dame on Feb. 4, Feeney won the 400-meter race with a personal best and school record time of 46.73. The sophomore finished the race just .07 seconds ahead of freshman teammate Chris Giesting, who took second.

“That was awesome,” Feeney said. “Chris and I both thought we could get [the record], and we were like, ‘This is probably our best chance,’ because we had good competition and we had both split 46’s, which [would] beat the record, in relay. We definitely knew we could, it was just down to whoever gets it, gets it. That was just awesome, knowing that my name is going to be up on that board.”

Following his monumental victory in the 400-meter race, Feeney helped lead the Irish men’s 4x400-meter relay to victory.

“I probably enjoy the 4x400-meter race more [than the individual 400-meter race] just because there is more a team aspect and our team is actually really good this year and we have a good shot at going for the school record this year,” he said. “The 400 is a fun individual race, but the 4x400-meter relay is so much better because you get to share that with three other people on the team and just celebrating after a win is a lot better.”

This year’s men’s relay team ran a time of 3:10.41 at the Meyo Invitational, roughly two seconds slower than the school record time set in 1985. But if Feeney is to be believed, the 27-year old record won’t stand for much longer.

Contact Joseph Monardo at [jmonardo@nd.edu](mailto:jmonardo@nd.edu)

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Year in a voyage by Amerigo Vespucci

4 Business card abbr.

7 Top of a ladder, maybe

12 Resident of Mayberry

14 "That was funny!"

17 Results of some cuts

18 Turkey's home

19 \_\_\_ B. Parker, Theodore Roosevelt's 1904 opponent for president

20 What you might break into

22 Medical drips

23 Ending

24 Captivates

27 Biddy

28 Figure of a Spanish count?
- 29 White

30 "The \_\_\_ of March are come"

32 Gut reaction?

33 Grammy winner Elliott

34 With 21-Down, catchphrase that provides a hint to eight answers in this puzzle

37 Org. featured in 1983's "WarGames"

39 Actor Stephen

40 Marshal \_\_\_, cold war leader

44 French city near the Belgian border

45 Swedish manufacturer of the 90, 900 and 9000

46 Early gangsta rap group featuring Dr. Dre

47 Crowns

49 Zenith product
- 51 Quagmire

52 Minuscule lengths

53 Quick snacks

54 Like some movie versions

57 Stupefied

59 Jane who wrote "In the Shadow of Man"

60 Much of northern Israel

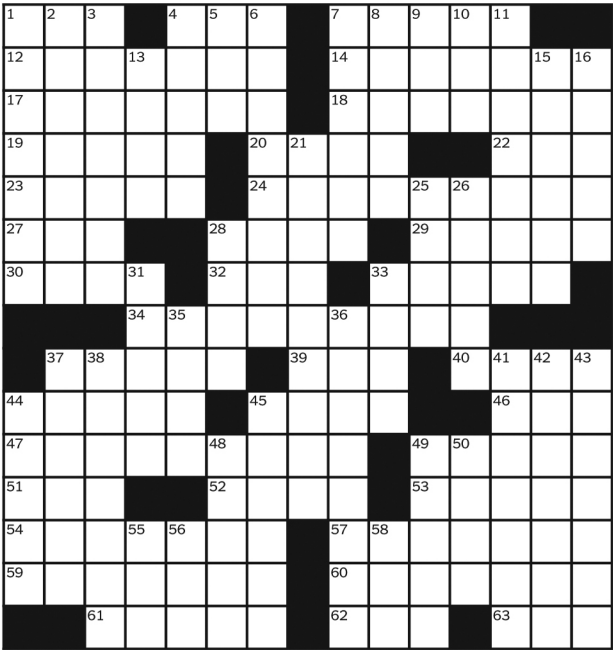
61 It's nice to be out of them

62 Blues org.

63 Acid

Down

- 1 Book after Zechariah
- 2 Fought à la the Three Musketeers
- 3 Set up, as software
- 4 Schoolyard game
- 5 Time o' day
- 6 \_\_\_ two evils
- 7 00s, e.g.
- 8 "Deal with it!"
- 9 Rocky peak
- 10 Suffragist \_\_\_ B. Wells
- 11 Shells of shells
- 13 Spanish uncles
- 15 Spirited
- 16 It may be thrown in a ring
- 21 See 34-Across
- 25 Picnic spoiler



Puzzle by Dan Schmiedeler

- 26 Opening

28 Ratted

31 Singer/songwriter McLachlan

33 Kingdom in ancient Jordan

35 Retreat

36 Move to a new position
- 37 "You're doing it completely wrong!"

38 Get too big for

41 Fixed

42 Plucks, in a way

43 Cereal grain

44 Clean up, as a program
- 45 Some jungle gym exits

48 Alter

49 Certain steak

50 Part of a Caesarean trio

55 Trouble

56 As well

58 "Prob'ly not"

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

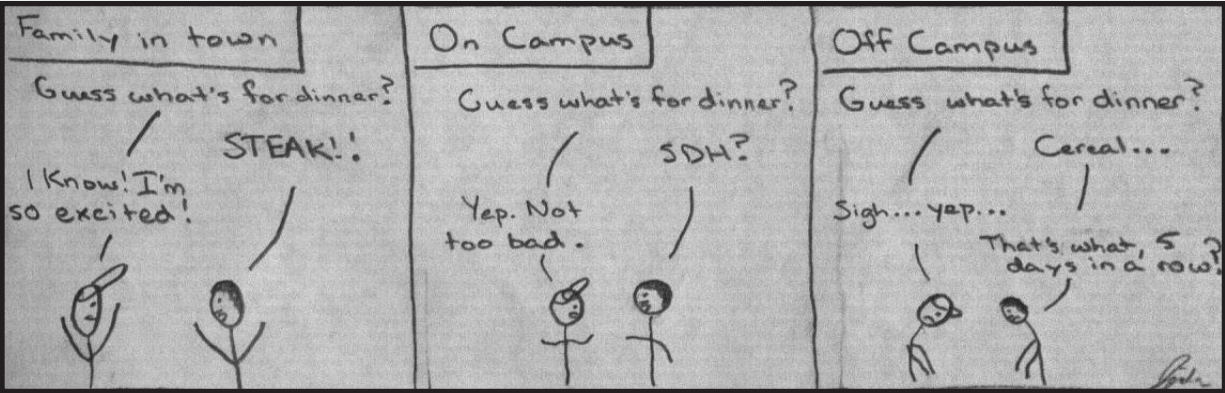
- CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ashton Kutcher, 34; Chris Rock, 47; Garth Brooks, 50; James Spader, 52.
- Happy Birthday:** Put more emphasis on work and how you can utilize your skills to the maximum. What you offer will make a difference to your income. Taking on a high profile challenge will bring good results. It's what you do above and beyond that will count in the end. Your numbers are 5, 18, 21, 27, 30, 32, 45.
- ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Make a statement. Don't wait for others to upstage you. Socialize, network and play the game of life using your imagination. It's your inventive mind and original ideas that will capture interest and bring you opportunities. ★★★★★
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Avoid pushy people. Set your priorities and stick to your game plan if you don't want to end up being someone's minion. Let your heart guide you and give you courage to express your feelings honestly. ★★
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Concentrate on what needs to be done both personally and professionally. It's up to you to speak up and let others know what you need help with and what you can accomplish on our own. Don't allow guilt to ruin your chance to advance. ★★★★★
- CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Listen carefully, but don't base what you do on what others say. By using the information and elaborating on what you get from it, you will gain a much better perspective and the chance to surpass your expectations. ★★
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You'll be quick to judge others, but before you do, make sure you don't have anything to hide. You are likely to invite criticism if you are not gracious in the way you handle the people around you. Accept change; it's inevitable. ★★★
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Strive to reach your goal. Good fortune awaits if you play your cards right. A partnership can make a difference to the outcome of your income. Proceed with a passionate eye but a practical mentality. Don't let love cost you. ★★★

- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You must loosen up and enjoy life and the people around you more. What you gain from others will help you make choices that will benefit you long-term. Open up to new ideas, suggestions and skills that will help you move forward. ★★★★★
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** One step at a time. Listen and be aware of what others are doing and saying. It's important to take everything into account before you make changes. Love is in the stars, and a romantic get-together with someone special will lift your spirits. ★★
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Look at your investments. Take a moment to size up a money-making situation and move swiftly to benefit from a once-in-a-lifetime offer. Not everyone will agree with your choices, but your confidence will win support. ★★★★★
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Discuss matters with the people most affected by the decisions you make. It will help you develop a greater rapport with those who count and that you want to continue to have in your life both personally and professionally. ★★★
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Speak up and say what's on your mind and what you intend to do in the near future. It will be much easier to move forward once you have made your intentions known to everyone you care about. ★★

- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take care of business. It's eminent that you remove any obstacles on the pathway to success. Nothing is out of reach if you are dedicated and thorough in your plans and actions. Use the power of persuasion and you will succeed. ★★
- Birthday Baby:** You are outgoing, inventive and interesting. You are a leader, not a follower.

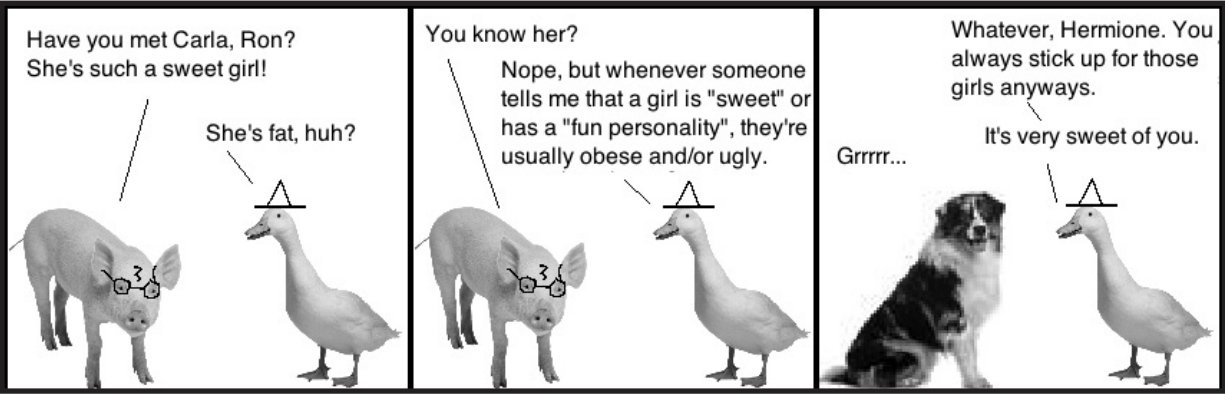
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ALEX GRISWOLD AND LEE HAGGENJOS



JUMBLE

HENRY ARNOLD  
MIKE ARGIRION

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

LEYCC

NOWDU

ABEENT

TARENB

Find us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/jumble>

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2/9

You're doing great, honey!

This place is dead.

I thought we'd have a bigger turnout.

THE CONCERT IN DEATH VALLEY HAD ---

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

A:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRINT ALLOW CLASSY REVERT  
Answer: His unique sound system wasn't this — STEREOTYPICAL

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Mountain topped

*Late 3s push Irish to third in Big East*

By ERIC PRISTER  
Senior Sports Writer

The Irish found their shooting stroke just in time. Connecting on three straight three-pointers in the closing minutes of the game, Notre Dame topped West Virginia 55-51 in Morgantown, W. Va. Notre Dame made just three of 10 shots from distance in the second half, but all three came as a part of an 11-0 run late in the game. Triples from sophomore guards Eric Atkins and Jerian Grant and senior guard Scott Martin pushed the Irish from three points down to six points ahead with only 58 seconds left. The Irish held on to the lead to win their fifth straight, which moves them into sole possession of third place in the Big East.

"You knew you weren't going to get out of here win-

see MARTIN/page 13



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

**Irish senior forward Scott Martin dribbles around Marquette's defense during Notre Dame's 76-59 win Feb. 4. Martin had 12 points and played 40 minutes in the 55-51 win at West Virginia on Wednesday.**

## SMC BASKETBALL

## Belles earn conference playoff berth

By NICK BOYLE  
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's clinched an MIAA playoff spot Wednesday night with a dominant 68-43 victory over visiting Adrian.

The Belles (12-11, 8-6 MIAA) were the superior team throughout the contest, shooting exactly 50 percent from the field for the game, as well as an impressive 60 percent from beyond the three-point line.

"We did a great job of working our offense deep into the shot clock tonight," Belles coach Jenn Henley said. "[This forced] Adrian to play defense a lot longer."

On the other side of the ball, Saint Mary's played stifling defense, holding Adrian (9-12, 5-9) to just 33 percent shooting as the Belles led by double

see PLAYOFFS/page 14

## TRACK AND FIELD

## Feeney makes a national impact right out of the blocks

By JOSEPH MONARDO  
Sports Writer

After being an unlikely candidate for the Notre Dame track and field team, sophomore sprinter Patrick Feeney has come a long way in a short stretch of time, notching a school record along the way.

In fact, that is the key to Fee-

ney's success: covering long distances in short periods of time.

Last year as a freshman, the Indianapolis native captured the Big East title in the 400-meter indoor and outdoor races and earned All-American honors for his role in Notre Dame's fourth place finish in the 4,000-meter distance relay at the NCAA Indoor Championships. Heading

into his first season, Feeney said he never expected to have success on such a high level.

"It was actually surprising, because I knew coming in, based off the times I've had, I would be closer to the top 400[-meter] runners, but I think nationally I didn't think I would do that well," he said. "Running 47[-second 400-meter races] in high

school, I figured I would just kind of be an average runner."

In his debut season, Feeney proved himself to be well above average. After sweeping the 400-meter races at the Big East Championships, the young sprinter closed out his first season of collegiate track with his season best time of 47.04 at the NCAA Division I East Prelims.

"Once we got to the Big East [Championships], I had the top time going into it so I knew I definitely had a shot at winning that," Feeney said. "Once I won at indoor and outdoor, going into the national meet at regionals, I think I was ranked 44th out of 48, and I ended up getting 16th,

see FEENEY/page 14

## FENCING

## Piasio grows into key role for Notre Dame

By MATTHEW ROBISON  
Sports Writer

All season long, the Irish have seen their fencers grow and take on larger roles, and junior Jack Piasio is no exception.

In his first two seasons with the veteran-laden Irish, Piasio had more of a background role as a young fencer loaded with talent. This season, Piasio has grown into a veteran looking to lead Notre Dame to its second straight NCAA championship.

"Coming into Notre Dame as a relatively inexperienced fencer, especially compared to the all-star talent that I work with here, I had a more minor role and less starting time my earlier years," Piasio said.

In his freshman campaign, Piasio went 20-6 in his bouts.

As a sophomore, he improved his win total, finishing the year 23-10. This season, Piasio is on the main stage and has been tallying a number of wins already.

He earned 10 wins during a 6-0 Notre Dame sweep at the Northwestern Duals on Jan. 7-8. On top of earning wins in the epee and helping his team win matchups, Piasio realizes he has a leadership role, one that he does not take lightly.

"I have to be a leader on this team. Not the leader, a leader," Piasio said. "No questions about it, I need to perform at the highest level that I can. Not only do I need to do this in order to earn victories, but also push the other guys on the team to the highest level they can be."

see PIASIO/page 14

## MEN'S LACROSSE

## Three new captains ready to lead

By MATTHEW ROBISON  
Sports Writer

As the No. 9 Irish start off their season, newer team members make adjustments on the field while three veteran players strive to perfect their skills as leaders.

Seniors and captains Max Pfeifer, Kevin Randall and Nicholas Beattie said they are lucky to be part of a senior class with excellent leadership skills.

"I definitely think there's added responsibility due to my title as a captain," Randall said. "But I think what makes the job a lot easier is that we have a lot of leadership throughout our senior class."

Midfielder Randall and defenseman Pfeifer said they see themselves as leaders by example. While they

see CAPTAINS/page 14



ASHLEY DACY/The Observer

**Irish senior midfielder Kevin Randall defends his man during an exhibition game against Robert Morris on Feb. 5.**