

‘Everyone saw him as the father’

Mandela's legacy still felt in home nation

By MEG HANDELMAN
News Writer

The legacy of Nelson Mandela spreads so wide that Notre Dame students, professors and social justice organizations connected to the University felt personally touched by his work.

Paul Horn, former communications director for Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns, has spent 13 years living in South Africa and currently works in Johannesburg.

“Nelson Mandela showed the world that a nation can be built on a foundation of dignity, restorative

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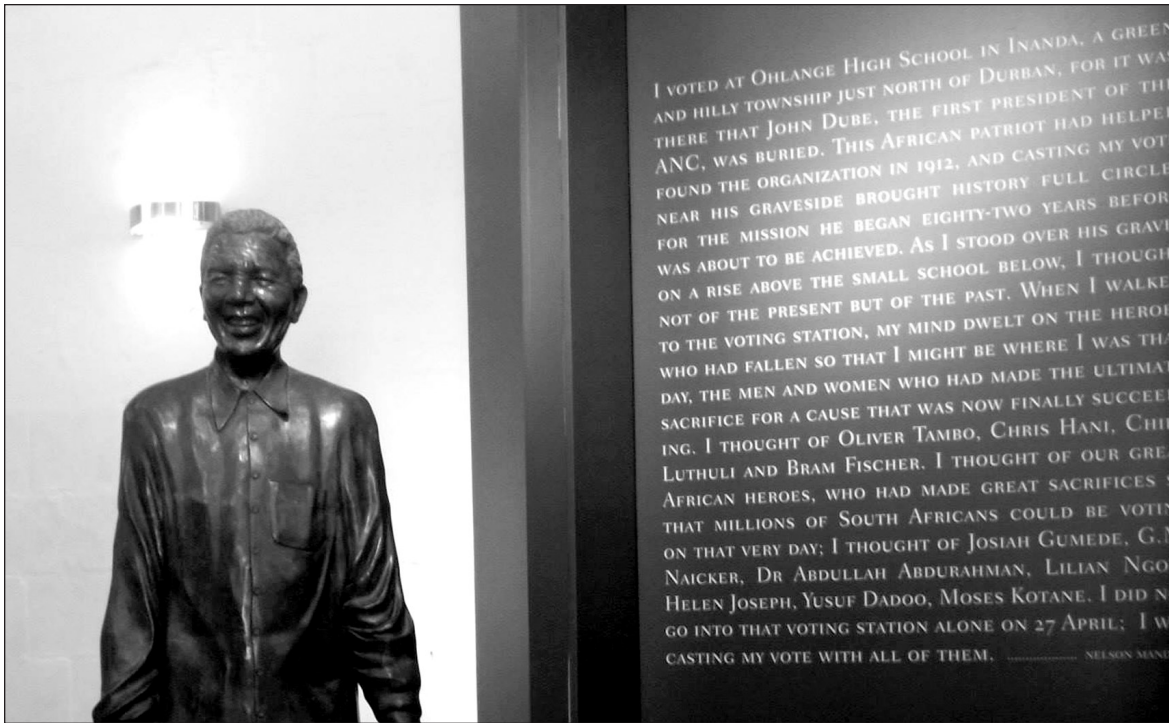


Photo courtesy of Emily Rojas

A memorial to Nelson Mandela in South Africa honors his legacy. The former president died Thursday, and millions will gather in Johannesburg, South Africa, this week to remember him.

Students linked to South Africa reflect on leader

By HALEIGH EHMSEN
News Writer

News of Nelson Mandela's death spread worldwide last Thursday night, and senior South African native Bertie Nel said the loss of the nation's former leader was an event “we were never really prepared for.”

Nel said South Africans anticipated Mandela's death, but it didn't take away the pain of the loss. After speaking with his family back home, they told him the country was mourning

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ND offers Ireland opportunities

By GRACE McCORMACK
News Writer

In 2014, more Notre Dame students than ever will travel across the ocean to spend the summer in Ireland through programs offered by Notre Dame International Studies, according to the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and the Career Center.

Peggy Weber, assistant director of off-campus

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EMILY DANAHER | The Observer

Students react to Pinstripe Bowl

By LESLEY STEVENSON
News Writer

The announcement that Notre Dame accepted a bid for the New Era Pinstripe Bowl in New York's Yankee Stadium thrilled Irish fans from the Big Apple but left others comparing the bowl to last year's BCS National Championship at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

“From what I understand, the Pinstripe Bowl is a relatively new thing,” junior Chris Tricarico said. “Obviously, you want the BCS National Championship, but I feel like it's a pretty prestigious bowl game.”

Sophomore Heather Fredrickson said she had made plans to visit New York before the bowl announcement was made Saturday. She said she was “stoked” to have the opportunity to go to the game.

“Compared to last year, it's not the same, but it's a bowl game and I think it's definitely where we

are,” Fredrickson said. “Definitely colder, but it will also be a good experience.”

Sophomore Brian Miller said the bowl's lack of prominence factored into his decision to stay home in Chicago for the game. He said he would have considered going to the bowl “if it were a more important game.”

“I don't think it's a humongous deal for Notre Dame,” Miller said. “Probably for other schools, but for a school with expectations like we have, it's not as big of a deal.”

Tricarico, a Long Island native, said he plans to go to the game because he can travel to Yankee Stadium in a little more than an hour.

“It's super easy,” he said. “It's so close to me that I couldn't just not go. Honestly, if it were anywhere else, I probably wouldn't have gone, but now this is giving me an opportunity to see it firsthand.”

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Professor inhabits Lyons

By NICOLE McALEE
News Writer

When accounting professor Edward Hums graduated from Notre Dame in 1975, he never imagined he would return to campus as a resident, let alone in a women's residence hall.

Hums and his wife Shirley have made Lyons Hall their home this academic year after the Office of Student Affairs approached them last

year about the possibility of moving into a residence hall and becoming Notre Dame's first faculty-in-residence. The couple accepted the offer and moved into Lyons in August, along with their cat Squeak.

“I hope it's working out well,” Hums said. “I think it is. My wife and myself have really enjoyed our time here [in Lyons].”

Hums, who has taught at Notre Dame since 1989, said he and his wife are test

driving the faculty-in-residence program.

“Because we're the only faculty-in-residence at Notre Dame, we're kind of the point people, kind of the pathfinders for this,” Hums said. “Hopefully, if things work out [in Lyons], it's an opportunity to expand this program in other halls.”

Hums said it had not yet been determined whether he

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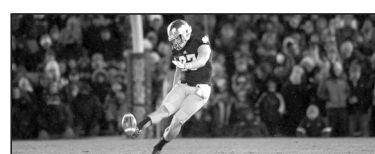
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THE OBSERVER

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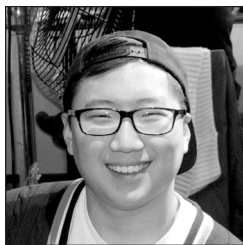
Austin Taliaferro

Corrections

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite type of chocolate?



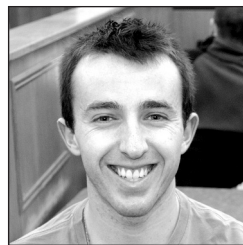
Jun Kim
sophomore
Stanford Hall
“Dark.”



Grace Mittelstaedt
sophomore
Pasquerilla East Hall
“Ghiradelli chocolate.”



Glory Kim
sophomore
Breen-Phillips Hall
“Caramel Toffee Sea Salt.”



Dougie Barnard
junior
St. Edward's Hall
“Milk chocolate.”



Clarice Juska
sophomore
McGlinn Hall
“Dark.”



Austen Taylor
sophomore
Carroll Hall
“Cinnamon-roasted dark chocolate almonds.”



WEI LIN | The Observer

Notre Dame Liturgical Choir members prepare for the Annual Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday evening. The Lessons and Carols service featured all four of the Basilica choirs: Liturgical Choir, Women's Liturgical Choir, Folk Choir and Handbell Choir.

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

*Want your event included here?
Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com*

Tuesday

Snite Salon Series

Snite Museum of Art
5 p.m.-5:45 p.m.
Discuss and debate works of art.

Cultural Differences and Social Change

Geddes Hall
5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Student research presentations about developing countries.

Wednesday

Yoga

Rockne Memorial
3 p.m.-4 p.m.
Free yoga as a part of Wellness Wednesdays.

Men's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
The Irish take on North Dakota State, as a part of Gotham Classic Regional Rounds.

Thursday

Zen Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Open to all faiths.

Fall Concert

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Collegium Musicum features choral and organ music.

Friday

President's Christmas Reception

Main Building
2 p.m.-4p.m.
For faculty and staff.

Graduate Student Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.
Social in Coleman-Morse Center to follow.

Saturday

Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5 p.m.-6 p.m.
Open to the public.

Christmas Concert

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
2:30 p.m.
The Notre Dame Glee Club performs to benefit local charities.

CLC discusses assault

By KYLE WITZIGMAN
News Writer

The Campus Life Council (CLC) met Monday afternoon at their final weekly meeting of the fall semester.

Luis Llanos, chair of the Diversity Council, updated the CLC about group's resolution passed about a month and a half ago and passed on to administrators last Thursday.

"I have been in contact with the administration [about the resolution]," Llanos said. "They're going to meet up next week and then we will discuss all the points in depth. They have all been positive about it."

The focus of the meeting turned to student government's campaign against sexual assault on campus. Student Body President

Alex Coccia said plans are underway for a spring semester project.

"When we come back in the spring semester, student government is facilitating a student engagement campaign," Coccia said. "The

campaign title is 'One is Too Many.'"

Student government is getting four or five people will to run and facilitate a pledge against sexual assault in each residence hall,

"When we come back in the spring semester, student government is facilitating a student engagement campaign. The campaign title is 'One is Too Many.'"

Alex Coccia
student body president

he said. Student government will train the dorm representatives in the spring semester.

"We want to make sure the people who are doing the conversations feel

comfortable talking about it," he said. "We want them to feel knowledgeable about reporting and logistics of the dialogue. From there, we're really going to try and adapt and evolve the campaign." Coccia said the campaign is open to as many people who want to be involved, with plans to weave the initiative into freshman orientation and dorm mass homilies in the future.

"Student government is facilitating [the campaign]," Coccia said. "But we want anyone that wants to be involved to be involved."

Llanos asked what is being doing for off-campus students since sexual assault may happen there also.

Coccia said logistically, that aspect is more difficult, but still possible.

"We will focus on [University] Edge and [Irish] Row, but we're also looking at social media pledges and getting off-campus people involved," he said.

Annie Selak, Walsh Hall rector, said there is the potential of communication breaking down since the campaign is on a representative basis in different dorms.

Pasquerilla East Hall rector Cindy Broderick said it will be important to make sure proper support structures are in place to maintain the campaign and also support students who have been affected by sexual assault.

Contact Kyle Witzigman at kwitzigm@nd.edu

SMC nursing professor studies diabetes

By TABITHA RICKETTS
News Writer

Results released this week from a Loyola University Chicago study suggest that vitamin D supplements can help decrease pain in women suffering from type-2 diabetes and depression.

Mary Byrn, assistant professor of nursing at Saint Mary's, was a member of the study's original research team and said she has been involved in research since graduate school.

"I got involved in that study as a graduate research assistant," Byrn said. "My area of work is [obstetrics] — labor and delivery — so since it's women, it fit into my area."

Byrn said the study was originally looking at the impact of vitamin D supplements on moods.

The subjects, women with type-2 diabetes and depression whose blood showed vitamin D deficiencies, were examined twice over the six-month supplement intake period, she said. Todd Doyle, a chemical psychology fellow at Loyola, conducted the analysis of the data Byrn and her colleagues gathered, she said.

"In the original study we were really focused on depression, weight and blood pressure," she said. "We found that the vitamin D for women with type-2 diabetes improved mood, improved depression, improved weight and also decreased pain."

Byrn said vitamin supplements could have a huge impact on daily health. She said the results of this study could significantly improve the lives

of women currently suffering from the symptoms of type-2 diabetes.

"People seem more willing to take a vitamin than a medication, so I think if we can find this to be an effective treatment, people will be more likely to stick to that treatment," she said.

Loyola researcher Sue Penckofer has been given a \$1.49 million grant to conduct further studies into the effects of vitamin D. According to a Loyola press release, the vitamin D supplements in the study were provided in doses of 50,000 International Units (IU) per week, which averages out to about 7,000 IU per day. Compared to the normal recommendation of 600 IU a day, Byrn said this is a significant increase.

"We work with an endocrinologist and a cardiologist and [50,000 IU is] something they'll use with their patients when their patients come in with insufficient vitamin D levels," she said. "They'll use this 50,000 to get them up into normal levels."

Since the study will only involve women who meet the requirements, which includes having a demonstrable vitamin D deficiency, Byrn said there is little risk of incurring the negative side affects of too-high levels of vitamin D.

She said Penckofer's new study would examine the impact of different amounts of supplementary vitamin D, to validate and further the results from the previous study.

"The new study is going to be randomized, so half of the people will get 50,000 IU [of vitamin D] and half of the people will get a normal vitamin D dose [of 4,200 IU]," Byrn said. "Hopefully, since there will be two groups, we'll be able to see if it's really the high-dose vitamin D that's contributing to these results."

Although these studies have included only a small subset of the population, she said she believes the results may end up being applicable to people across the board.

"With the next study, we'll have more validated findings," Byrn said. "Then our conclusions of the effects of vitamin D will be stronger, and then we will hopefully be able to get general practice physicians to start checking people's vitamin D levels when they come in for their regular check up."

She said she sees the results of this study as providing a cost-effective treatment for a healthier population.

Contact Tabitha Ricketts at trick01@saintmarys.edu

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Francophone Studies

Presentation on

Thursday, December 12


3:30 p.m.

McKenna Hall Auditorium



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for Excellence in Teaching

Dublin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

programs, said the strong connection between the University and Ireland offers students the chance to experience the country through its summer study abroad program, sponsored internships or an eight-day guided trip.

Weber said the various programs are particularly valuable to students who are not able to study abroad during the normal school year. “We’re just trying to think of more opportunities and different opportunities for people,” she said. In addition to the six-week academic study abroad program that will host up to 25 students, Weber said the eight-day trip to Ireland could accommodate 100 students.

“[It is a] compact trip, going places you couldn’t go yourself, or meeting people you couldn’t normally, especially packed into that period of time,” Weber said.

The trip itinerary includes visits to Irish landmark and a personal visit with President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins, an experience in which Notre Dame study abroad students and interns can also participate.

“There is a lot of Notre Dame support, and for the short time that you’re there, whether for the internship or the eight-day trip, the days are packed with experiences so you can come back with a good idea about Ireland,” Weber said.

Students who cannot fit studying abroad into their college plans can still experience Irish culture through internships sponsored by Notre Dame’s Career Center and the

Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, which Weber said are open to juniors from almost all academic disciplines.

“Because we had the [Navy football] game there last fall, more and more companies are interested in having Notre Dame students come and intern,” Weber said. “There are also a lot of Arts and Letters internships.”

Currently, only six internships sponsored by the Keough-Naughton Institute are available on the Career Center’s GoIrish website, but Weber said more will be posted in the future.

“An [Irish] internship is different than the type you would have in the U.S. because there you’re working with mentors at Notre Dame and Ireland to really integrate the experience,” she said.

Notre Dame’s presence in Ireland enhances the internship opportunity and makes students more comfortable living abroad, according to Weber.

“The first week you’re going to be there is a welcome week when you tour around. Then, every Tuesday there’s a dinner, so there is no isolation ... [and] besides the Tuesday night dinners, every weekend there are different trips,” she said. “There would be an internship coordinator who was available 24/7 to help and coordinate.

“Sometimes, [doing] an internship in a city where you didn’t know anyone could be very isolating, no social life in the evening, and this way you can avoid that.”

Contact Grace McCormack at gmccorm@nd.edu

Hums

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will continue to live in Lyons next year, and whether the faculty-in-residence program will be expanded.

A native of Mishawaka, Hums said he did not live in a residence hall during his time at Notre Dame, so living in Lyons marks his first time as an on-campus resident at the University.

Hums said he decided to move into the residence hall because he perceives as a growing disconnect between students and faculty.

“I sense that somehow the faculty and students, when Notre Dame was a little smaller, were closer, and over time they have grown more apart,” Hums said. “I just sense that more and more, students and faculty do not have the opportunity to meet as much as we used to, and I thought it was a good idea to take some steps to change the situation.”

Hums said he is used to making himself available to students, but living in a residence hall is a good way to be

even more accessible.

“The best thing about living in a dorm is surrounding yourself with students,” he said. “I’m a Notre Dame graduate and my wife has a master’s degree from Notre Dame. It gives us an opportunity to be with students and gives us an opportunity to learn from students. It gives the students an opportunity to learn from us.”

Hums said that Squeak the cat is a “great icebreaker” to encourage students to visit.

“Our secret weapon is our cat,” Hums said. “Students like to come over to pet the cat because they have pets at home and they miss their pets.”

Despite its benefits, dorm life still takes some getting used to, Hums said.

“It is a change. There are some challenge,” he said. “Obviously, student hours are not the same as faculty hours. Some of us are up and teaching at eight in the morning. Students don’t go to bed at 11 o’clock at night.”

Contact Nicole McAlee at nmcalee@nd.edu

Bowl

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sophomore Jack Szigety said he looks forward to incorporating his hometown of Ridgewood, N. J., into his game day experience and welcoming his Notre Dame friends into a part of his life they have never seen before.

“The Pinstripe Bowl has provided the opportunity for myself and others from the New York metropolitan area the chance to be at home and close enough to a Notre Dame game, which is something that the students from Chicago get all the time,” Szigety said.

“Another great thing is that I have a lot of New York pride and I love the city and the area that I’m from, and the Pinstripe Bowl has given me a chance to both attend and watch a football game as well as entertain my friends who are from different areas who are going to come,” he said. “So I get to show a piece of me off to people who normally wouldn’t have the opportunity to see where I’m from.”

The president of the Notre Dame Club of Long Island, John Pennacchio, said the presidents of all the Notre Dame clubs in his region, which includes the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, found out during a previously scheduled regional meeting that Notre Dame accepted the

bid. He said they began making plans during the meeting.

“We want to show we’re very supportive of Notre Dame out here,” Pennacchio said. “We have a big alumni base out here so we’re very excited, and we want to do as much as we can to welcome Irish fans from across the country to this national

“I’ve been a Yankee fan my whole life, so just being in the stadium is going to be an awesome experience.”

Chris Tricarico
junior

game. We want to show the rest of the country that New York is a big Irish supporter.”

Andrew Wilson, president of the Notre Dame Club of New York City, said his club was “happy” to welcome Notre Dame back to Yankee Stadium four years after their 2010 matchup with Army.

“The Notre Dame Club of New York is excited to be the host Club for the 2013 Pinstripe Bowl,” Wilson said. “New York City is an amazing place, especially, I think, during the holidays.

“Even if the temperature is

not traditional bowl weather, thousands of alumni and subway alumni in the New York City area are ready to hear the greatest of all university fight songs in the city soon.”

Tricarico said Yankee Stadium would add a special significance to the game.

“I’ve been a Yankee fan my whole life, so just being in the stadium is going to be an awesome experience,” he said.

Sophomore James Elliott said the bowl would be a departure from what he normally sees at Yankee Stadium.

“I’m pretty glad it’s at Yankee Stadium,” Elliott said. “I’ve been there a lot, and it’s kind of cool because I’ve never been there for anything but baseball before.”

Students can purchase one or two tickets for \$50 each through their student ticket accounts until Wednesday, John Breeden, ticketing associate director in the Athletics Department, said. He said the Athletics Department would not organize a ticket lottery this year.

“We feel we have enough supply this year to meet demand,” Breeden said. “This is not always the case. We’re confident we can meet any student demands as long as [their tickets] are ordered by Wednesday.”

Contact Lesley Stevenson at lsteven1@nd.edu

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Andrew Winterstein — Overall Winner
Nicholas Holuta — October Winner
Stuart Moss — November Winner

Winners will receive first round on-campus
interviews with Morgan Stanley.

Mandela

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

collectively.

While Mandela’s presidency ended in 1999, his impact on South Africa is lasting, Nel said.

“If it weren’t for him, a lot of what’s going on in South Africa wouldn’t be possible. He was the big instigator of [ending apartheid] and making sure that everyone had equal opportunity,” Nel said. “Regardless of who you are, regardless of white or black, it’s very important that everyone have the same opportunity and [Mandela] brought that to South Africa.

“Back home they call him ‘tata’ and that’s the word for father. I think that’s very fitting. Everyone saw him as the father, ‘tata.’”

Saint Mary’s sophomore Emily Rojas studied in South Africa this semester but had returned to the United States when she learned of Mandela’s death. She said a friend still in the country called her and asked her if she had heard the news.

“I said ‘no,’ and she said ‘Well, Nelson Mandela passed,’” Rojas said. “There was a pause from both ends, and she said the country is in a standstill and from TV to people in the streets, you can feel the sadness, the mourning.

“It was something that really hit home. It hurt because he was like a father, a

figure you could look up to, because he spoke so much about having people of different races, different nations come together and be unified.”

Nel said while it would be amazing to be back home for the ceremony commemorating Mandela’s life at FNB Stadium near Soweto on Tuesday, he still feels he is able to pay his respects from afar.

“Everyone knows who Mandela is and I think tomorrow’s ceremony is going to attract so many viewers from across the world,” Nel said. “Everyone around the world revered him and knew that what he did was good for South Africa.”

Nel said he thinks Mandela’s actions inspired people around the world to stand up for their beliefs and accomplish good work.

“He was a great man. He did a lot for South Africa,” Nel said. “I don’t think we would be where we are without him and we are very lucky to have a man of that caliber in South Africa.”

Rojas said she believes Mandela’s legacy will continue to motivate the whole world to take action.

“Beyond the country, I think he impacted the world,” she said. “[Everyone] should become educated on what he did because [he taught] that we dignify every individual despite the fact they are Afrikaan or

Zulu, from whatever part of the world, and I think that is something the country itself embraces. The people who really took what he said, it helped themselves shape into who they are.”

Rojas said being in South Africa taught her more about Mandela’s legacy than anything she read before the trip.

“[I realized] how much he shaped and molded the country, and I don’t think that his legacy is going to end,” Rojas said. “This is just the beginning toward a more unified nation, and that was his vision.”

Nel said there are many positives things that can come from Mandela’s life, but he believes forgiveness is the most important.

“The biggest positive that I think anyone can take of [his life] is his ability to forgive people,” Nel said. “Yeah they put him in prison for 27 years, but as soon as he got out of it he forgave. He never held a grudge, and that’s just amazing that he was able to turn around like that.”

Nel said that remembering Mandela’s life is important and while many are saddened by his death, it should move people to take action.

“It’s now time for the rest of the world to step up and follow his example and do good in the world,” he said.

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Legacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

justice and compassion,” Horn said.

Horn first became a volunteer teacher in South Africa in 1997, he said.

“This means I have had the opportunity to live through much of South Africa’s first generation of democracy,” Horn said. “Much has changed from the early years, where there was great uncertainty about how long peace would last.

“Nelson Mandela’s leadership in those early years was critical to laying the foundation for a lasting peace, and to creating a framework for truth and reconciliation.”

Horn said he spent Friday evening following Mandela’s death with the crowd gathered outside the former president’s home in Johannesburg.

“The reaction to Nelson Mandela’s life has been largely celebratory,” Horn said. “Mandela was 95 years old at the time of his passing and lived a full and accomplished life. Hundreds danced and sang in the streets, while others took a moment to light a candle and write a message to ‘Tata’ on a memorial wall that had been set up.”

Horn now works as executive director of the Kgosi Neighbourhood Foundation, an organization that seeks to empower families from one of the most challenged neighborhoods in Johannesburg. He said a number of Notre Dame students have completed International Summer Service Learning Programs (ISSLP) in the region.

“Johannesburg is a city of socioeconomic extremes,” Horn said. “I work in a community where families often do not have food at home, and their home is a small room shared by many people without adequate sanitation, water or electricity.”

Horn said the Foundation’s initiatives include educational programs for over 150 children from birth to six years old, a community garden, a sewing project and the together+ Anti-xenophobia campaign.

Horn said the region is greatly affected by xenophobia-fueled violence. He said the segregation and inequality that Mandela devoted his life to changing still exist in South Africa today.

“When I leave that community after a day of work — literally going right over a hill — I enter a community with large homes, good schools, shopping malls, restaurants, public parks and excellent hospitals,” Horn said.

Horn said Mandela brought these diverse groups together, united them and inspired the campaign.

“Mandela’s belief in the transformative power of education has also inspired my years of work to offer orphaned and vulnerable children free schooling,” Horn said.

Notre Dame ISSLP participants reflect

Notre Dame’s Center for Social Concerns (CSC) funds International Summer Service Learning Projects (ISSLP) for students interested in broadening their views about economic

disparity in the world, according to their website.

Kelsie Corrison, a senior sociology major, spent eight weeks volunteering at a children’s home called Open Arms for Children in Komga, South Africa, this summer through the CSC.

“ISSLP lets you serve while fully entering communities and building cross-cultural connections,” Corrison said. “I think that’s just such a fundamental part of the human experience — being able to enter the lives of others and create relationships that are meaningful.”

Corrison said she chose to do an ISSLP in South Africa because she would be able to live and serve at a children’s home, and because of her interest in the way apartheid operates today.

“The legacy of apartheid is still evident in Komga today,” she said. “Across from the Open Arms property is the Location, where the black people live. So segregation still exists. It consists of small homes in tight quarters. We only went there while driving twice ... we were really restricted to staying on Open Arms property due to safety concerns.”

Following the death of Nelson Mandela, Corrison said she wrote a reflection about her time in South Africa and how Mandela’s legacy impacted the South Africa she knew.

“South Africa still suffers; so do the children that I lived with and cared for,” Corrison wrote. “This past summer was incredibly difficult. I saw how structural poverty shapes the lives of children; I witnessed the inequality and socioeconomic apartness that remains post-apartheid.

“Yet the beauty of a country brought together by its past of separation which is committed to a shared future is undeniable. Nelson Mandela personified unity in a post-apartheid world. He was a hero, in ways that we can’t possibly begin to understand; he was a father, South Africa’s Tata.”

Mandela’s work touched the lives of each of the children at Open Arms for Children by giving them an opportunity to grow into themselves, she wrote.

In her reflection, Corrison said Mandela’s tribal birth name, Rolihlahla, means troublemaker.

“Mandela made trouble — he fought injustice and bigotry, he brought a nation of systematic and deep-seated apartness together through justice and reconciliation. He helped make South Africa a place where children can dream,” she wrote.

Through the CSC, junior sociology major Jackie Paul completed the ISSLP along with Corrison.

Following the former president’s death, Paul wrote a reflection about Mandela’s legacy. “One does not have to look far to realize that Mandela’s influence was not bounded by the borders of South Africa,” Paul wrote. “The world continues to mourn the passing of this international figure who continues to be a heroic example, and I continue to pray for the hopeful country of South Africa.”

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INSIDE COLUMN

Rudy sucked



Kevin Noonan
Scene Editor

Four years ago, almost to the day, I watched “Rudy” with my mom to celebrate my acceptance letter from Notre Dame. Hugs were had, relatives were called, tears were shed; it was a pretty great day.

For kids like me who grew up with golden domes dancing in their dreams, “Rudy” was like a fifth Gospel. The kid overcame all the odds to sneak into not just the university, but the legendary football team, even if just for that one glorious sack.

Now that I’m in college, “Rudy” has a different kind of inspiration for me. I know now that the Rudy in “Rudy” is more inspired by a person than the real thing. The jersey scene in Dan Devine’s office never happened. Joe Montana says they carried Rudy off the field as a joke.

And, most importantly, Rudy sucked. This is the fictional Rudy I’m talking about, not the real life one, whom I have no interest in slandering in any way. I’m taking about the fake Rudy, from the movie. He sucked.

I find a lot of comfort in that.

He wasn’t a very good student, barely scratched by with help from more talented friends and by some miracle was eventually accepted into and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. Assuming I ever make it out of here, I can identify with fake Rudy on that front.

He was a no-talent, no-athleticism shrimp of a football player who toughed his way onto the football field and ended up making one inspirational play. I don’t think I’ve ever toughed my way into anything, but it eases my mind to think that this inspirational figure really wasn’t good at very much of anything beyond persevering.

Finals week is fast approaching, with final papers and projects littering my path to the end of my semester like a mine-field of group meetings in the LaFortune basement.

Instead of stressing that I’ll fail anything and everything that comes before me, and worrying that really, if we’re being honest, it’s entirely possible that I’ve faked my way the whole time up until this point, and all my luck is about to run out, I simply sit back and remember, Rudy sucked. And he did okay.

So, if you’re feeling stressed as finals approach, if you feel like you don’t belong and you don’t have any real talent and the whole world is crashing down around your head, take a break and watch “Rudy.”

At the end of the movie, when the team carries him off the field, and you feel that old, familiar heartwarming feeling come creeping up inside of you, realize what it really means — Rudy sucked, and so can you. And everything’s going to be all right.

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

Carter Boyd

God, Country, Notre Dame

Often times, trying to find visible evidence of the hand of God working in our nation’s political system appears to be a hopeless endeavor. Despite a few technical difficulties with the Healthcare.gov website, where Americans can browse prices and rates for medical insurance as an individual, family or business owner, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as “Obamacare”, has its pitfalls, but definitely has valuable points that will help many people obtain health care.

While the upholding of the HHS mandate, which requires health care plans to deliver coverage for all FDA approved contraceptives as “preventive health services for women” for no cost, introduces complications to health insurance and ethical concerns, it is often confused or lumped in with Obamacare, but the two are two different entities. Thus, in my statements about Obamacare, I do not include the horrendous, unconstitutional, immoral and sinful stipulations of the HHS mandate in this discussion. Thankfully, Our Lady’s University has this month re-filed the lawsuits against these immoral and, what I consider, unethical forces of health care.

Moving forward after that important distinction and clarification, Obamacare may be one of the greatest tangible actions of the Obama Administration that seeks to establish social justice and equity with an important attention to the common good along with a special focus for poorer Americans and those marginalized in our society. However, there is much confusion about the provisions as well as the documented debacle of the registration process. Specific principles of Catholic Social Teaching that Obamacare appears to address are Solidarity, the Dignity of Each Human Person, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Rights and Responsibilities and the Dignity of Work and the Rights

of Workers. While the launching of healthcare.gov with technical issues may not be the brightest moment of the Obama administration, the thought, ideology, moral and ethics behind Obamacare represents a great step towards a greater dignity and respect for all Americans.

Statistically speaking according to a report from the Census Bureau on health insurance, there were approximately 48 million Americans who did not have medical insurance in the United States. According to the report, a small minority of these uninsured individuals choose not have medical insurance. The overwhelming majority of these uninsured individuals listed that they did not have health insurance because they simply could not afford health coverage. Some individuals who had health care coverage before, but due to losing a job had lost health insurance coverage as well. Additionally, many individuals who have a pre-existing medical condition seeking to get an affordable health insurance plan cannot as they are either denied access all together or are offered prices too high for the individual to afford. A significant percentage of uninsured Americans are children. Obamacare seeks to effectively provide insurance for these people who are left out in the “supply and demand” capitalistic economic market for health insurance.

How could anyone possibly object to this service? Is it not our duty as Americans to take care of our fellow citizens? Is it not our duty as Christians to be our sister’s and brother’s keeper? We live in a giving society. It is our human nature to help others. So why is the debate over health care such a difficult topic to discuss? We all know that health care is an important necessity in our society. Yet, have we found the right formula of affordability, convenience, reliability and cost-effectiveness? Probably not, but we owe it to everyone in need to give it a try and work together for the common good. It is a hard time for America for many reasons. Lack of affordable health care and increasing poverty are part of the

equation.

Yet, just providing affordable health insurance does not solve all the problems. Yes, it will be a support for many, but we need to focus on the common good for all, mentally, spiritually and physically. It is important to remember that just maybe Obamacare will be an instrument for someone and their family to improve themselves in these areas. Isn’t that what we are striving for? A quality of life that gives us a balance of happiness as children of God would be nice for all of us to achieve. And, don’t we ultimately want that for others? This would all take time and, with the grace of God, we will be able to help others lead more productive lives with endless opportunities, just as we have here at Notre Dame. But, we need to be patient, us as the givers as well as the receivers. Although it might take time to measure the results of Obamacare, hopefully individuals will have a sense of some immediate relief in getting their pertinent health care needs met.

In light of Christian beliefs and morals operating under the idea that all human life deserves dignity and respect, it is interesting to reflect on the idea that anyone anywhere is even forced to pay for medical procedures and coverage. For, in a sense, by charging for these services we put a price on human life, human life which is a priceless gift from the great God above in heaven. In putting a price on human life, we limit people from saving themselves or loved ones. Who will then redeem these people from the price our economic system has put on their head? This question unfortunately will have to be answered another time. For now, let’s see what impact Obamacare has on the economy and welfare of our people. Let’s be true to our words, being one nation, under God.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The chocolate games, day 2

Today is the day for your second clue
The first one I gave left many confused.
Don’t worry yourself, you are on the right track
To claim the jersey I once wore on my back.

For clue #2, just one figure you’ll need.
I know a guy who can lead you to it indeed.
He is a single like me, but on the opposite side.
If I said he’s not fast — well, then I lied.

He is tall, dark and handsome —we are one and the same.
Each Saturday he and I ball out in the game
Also the same — we are both number 3!

But that is not the figure you need.

Look to his back and the answer you’ll find.
One step closer you’ll be to the jersey I’ve signed.

Louis Nix
senior
In your hearts
Dec. 10

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

Hoping for love and bamboo

Jon Schommer

Viewpoint Columnist

Hello friends. Guess what? It's Advent!

"No," you say, "it's the week before finals and you have reading to do, a seminar paper to write and a concrete design project to finish. Go back to the library and do your work."

This year, more than most, it seems to me that there is a lack of space for the appreciation of Advent. It may be because my last final is less than five days before Christmas or that the workload I have to carry to the end of the semester is heavier than normal, but I feel especially weighed down. I'm sure some of you have similar feelings.

I think it is for reasons such as these that the seasons, both liturgical and natural, serve to slow us down and help us to remember what is most pressing. Whether it is in a day of fasting or in a day where we need to bundle up to face the South Bend winter, the seasons seem to say, "Get your head out of your Word document,

textbook or class notes and remember you are a human being!"

Advent is cool because it also says, "The creator of the universe, Love itself, became a human being." In light of this, we have four weeks in which to intentionally hope for Love. It is this hope that helps us to better realize we are persons.

Speaking of people, this summer a wonderful person gifted my house with a bamboo tree. I promise this relates. It was really just a little six-inch stick in a small glass cup filled with rocks and water. As the branch sat on our table I thought about the huge bamboo trees I helped harvest to frame houses on a farm in El Salvador and the saxophone-sounding bamboo flutes I got to play in India during summers past. I wondered if our small plant would one day be a tree or a flute or some other cool bamboo thing. Unfortunately, the aspirations I had for the little bamboo tree were soon forgotten and this semester we found it dry, dead and still six inches tall.

We were going to just throw it away. But someone in the house decided to

keep watering it for a while to see if anything happened. Recently, we were surprised to see that a new shoot is starting to grow from the dead stick in the glass cup.

At mass this Sunday the bamboo plant surprised me once again — it sprouted in the first words of the first reading, "On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom." The hopefulness of Advent is like the hopefulness of watering a dead plant.

I know that papers, projects and tests are important. But the whole reason why we do these things is because of our personhood. Sometimes, I need to remind myself that the reason why I am at school is because I love to learn and have passions related to what I am studying. I'm not just a paper-writing, test-taking machine. I am a person.

So how does one remember their personhood from behind a laptop because you really have to get this paper done? Although the answers to this probably number as many as the different people in the world, I suppose one way could be that when

we minimize the document, go get some food or shut our eyes for a few moments, we don't do it out of procrastination, but out of an intentional hopefulness.

Not procrastination, but intentional hopefulness. What does that mean? I think at the heart of it, it means to not throw our hands up exasperated in the emptiness, but to search for Love, to hope for Love. When things seem dead or futile, we can do something like watering a dried out bamboo plant while seeing the flute it will one day be.

In this foolish anticipation we hope for Love. As we are hoping for Love, we realize the people around us are hoping for Love too. In this recognition, we have the opportunity to do more than just water our own plants — we can be a little bamboo shoot for another.

Jon Schommer is in his fifth year studying civil engineering and the Program of Liberal Studies. He can be contacted at jschomme@nd.edu

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

What might have been in San Diego

John Sandberg

Sandman's Musing

In national commentary on the subject and in more than one personal conversation I have had, the sentiment among many Americans remains the same: if ever the time was right for an Independent political movement in the United States, it is now.

Given the frustration many have with the hyper-partisanship and gridlock in our political system, with a sound strategy, broad-based support and enough funding, who knows how far the right candidate might go as an Independent.

The question is — what would that candidate look like?

Three years ago, Nathan Fletcher was a California state assemblyman and a rising star in the Republican Party.

He was a young, well-spoken legislator with a decorated military background in the U.S. Marine Corps. A fiscal conservative and social moderate, Fletcher helped get a remarkable 21 pieces of legislation passed in his first term in the California legislature. He appeared destined for higher office.

In 2012, Fletcher ran for mayor

of San Diego. Weeks after he failed to win the endorsement of the San Diego County Republican Party, Fletcher surprised many and announced he was leaving the party and running as an Independent. Despite an initial bump in the polls, Fletcher finished third in the election.

In the spring of 2013, while working in the private sector and with no immediate election in sight, Fletcher announced he was registering as a Democrat. It was a switch, Fletcher said, that came about as the result of a variety of factors, personal and ideological.

When then San Diego mayor Bob Filner resigned in August amid revelations of harassment and misconduct, Fletcher was the first candidate to file his paperwork to run in the special election to replace him. Early polls showed Fletcher leading the race.

The special election was held on Nov. 19, with the top two finishers scheduled to compete in a runoff election early next year to determine who would be the next San Diego mayor.

Fletcher finished third.

"This election marks the end of my time in politics," Fletcher said the day after the election.

The man who three years ago seemed set in the fast lane to higher office is now walking away from the public spotlight.

But while many (including myself) were disappointed to see Fletcher leave the GOP, it's even more curious to wonder what would have happened if Fletcher, a down-to-earth, decent man with working relationships on both sides of the aisle, had remained an Independent.

What if he successfully fielded criticisms from the left (he's a conservative in sheep's clothing!) and the right (he's a liberal phony!) and played them to his advantage, branding himself as the "new breed" candidate above the fray of partisanship, beholden only to the citizens?

Though Fletcher voiced a version of this message throughout his recent campaign, how much more convincing would it have been coming from an Independent?

What if that message of responsibility, leadership and responsiveness to the citizens turned out to be a winner?

Seventy-one-year-old Michael Bloomberg, New York City's Independent mayor, is about to hand the keys to the Big Apple over to his liberal successor, and presumably, leave politics for good. What

if a 37 year-old West Coast mayor took over the title of "highest profile Independent in America?"

While it might be easy to wonder why these hypotheticals matter to anyone but political junkies anxious to see them play out, the truth is, what happened in America's eighth largest city would have had implications for others running for higher office around the United States.

What if Fletcher was the right candidate, if not to run for president, to start that conversation?

What if, what if...

Maybe it is impossible for a centrist to win major office when competing against well-funded attack machines on the left and right. Or maybe the right candidate still hasn't come along.

Maybe the case of San Diego was the opportunity for Independent leadership that slipped through America's fingers. Or maybe that opportunity was never meant to be.

We can only wonder what might have been in San Diego.

John Sandberg lives in Fisher Hall and is a senior studying political science. He can be reached at jsandbe1@nd.edu

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

Interested in writing a column for Viewpoint? | Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com



By JOHN DARR
Scene Writer

Music is something that is easy to take for granted. It's all around us, almost always available through our technology or voices. But just thinking back a year ago, there was so much music we didn't have! Here's a list of 20 tunes you'll be glad 2013 offered us, as well as a short description of each song.

“Hold On, We’re Going Home” – Drake

So there's this loving, rich, famous guy singing to you as he takes you home. And he's even polite and romantic instead of predatory and sexual. Subdued, sexy, thick production and silky harmonies too? Ladies...

“Humiliation” – The National

This song is like floating down a lazy river at midnight with the stars shining off the water, and as time passes the river goes faster and faster until you fly out of the water and become immersed in the sky.

“Dropla” – Youth Lagoon

Youth Lagoon is riding on a unicorn through fields of flowery synthesizers and he wants you to come along to save the kingdom!

“James” – Ex Cops

The powerful guitar, driving drums and irresistible harmonies on this summery pop song make for a tune that is impossible not to like. Yes, that is a challenge.

“I Kill Giants” – The Naked and Famous

This song is THE song to kill giants to. A huge, thundering bass drum riff, a soaring chorus, and champion-level rhythm guitars make this song the shout-along anthem of the year.

“Help Me Lose My Mind” – Disclosure

You're a classy, sunglass-wearing model in a commercial for a high-end clothing commercial. And you are the coolest person around. That's this song, essentially.

“One Half” – Julianna Barwick

You know that really beautiful girl you looked at from across the room who seemed like she belonged to another world? This is her in song form: angelic, beautiful and mystical.

“Mirrors” – Justin Timberlake

If I could be another person for just one day, I would be Justin Timberlake so I could sing this song to my girlfriend. And so I could look at my beautiful face in the mirror and sing it to myself.

“Lips and Limbs” – Waxahatchee

Another indie acoustic song? You're probably like, GO BACK TO URBAN OUTFITTERS! But I'm like, this thing has a strumming, tambourine heart that will love your ears, forever. And, of course, your friends will “never have heard of them.”

“Open” – Rhye

Best trumpet line of 2013. Best snaps of 2013. And honestly, this woman's voice is so richly textured that it sometimes sounds like she's singing harmonies when in fact she's only singing one line. The smoothest, most entrancing love song of the year, and the best produced.

“Retrograde” – James Blake

The immaculate vocal hook will have you singing along in your embarrassingly bad falsetto in twenty seconds or less.

“Play by Play” – Autre ne Veut

The play by play: ambient waves of psychedelic synth evolve into a dramatic, swooning verse, which swelter and build through a tension-filled bridge that changes sound every four measures. The massive chorus drops with circling vocal lines and gorgeous harmonies. It's R&B at its most catchy and adventurous.

“Shuggie” – Foxygen

The sonic equivalent of strolling around, looking

like Elvis, and having all the ladies fall at your feet, but because you're so cool, you don't even look their way. Because you're the funkiest guy in town who don't need no woman.

“Step” – Vampire Weekend

Best pop song of 2013. No contest. Seriously, where does Vampire Weekend find all these melodies and witty, heart-touching lyrics?

“Song for Zula” – Phosphorescent

You know those “golden notes” in songs that make your heart sing for a half-second? Phosphorescent invited about fifty of those to a party and you're invited.

“WHOREHOUSE” – ceo

This song is a party. There's all these vocal samples jumping in and out amidst flashing light synthesizers and a bass that bounces and dances all over the place. Indie-pop song of the year.

“Touch” – Daft Punk

I would explain Touch, but there's so many amazing twists and turns that just shouldn't be ruined for a first-timer. It's essentially like a ridiculously awesome action movie: when you think it can't get more awesome, suddenly they all have light-sabers. And then flying warrior llamas. And then, after you're done watching, someone shows up with free donuts.

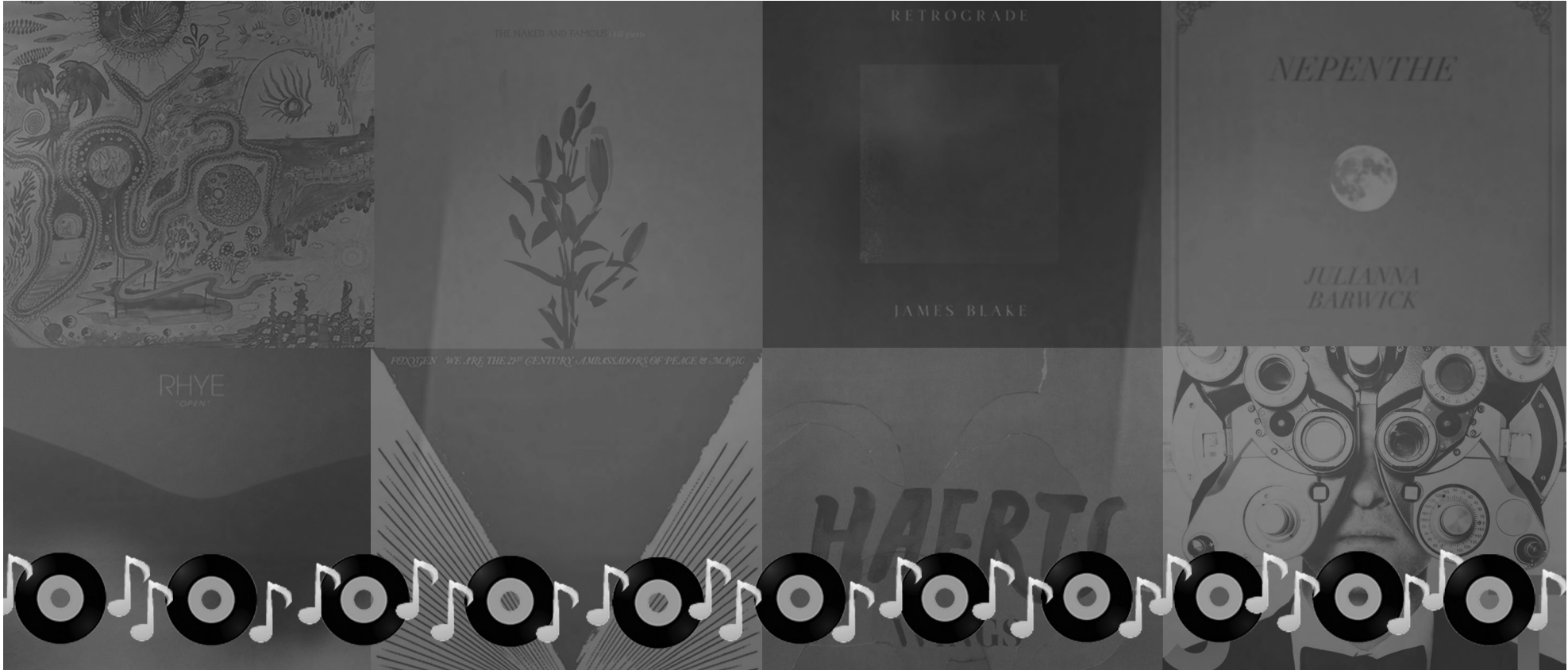
“Wings” – Haerts


If Red Bull was a song and tasted good, it would be this song: epic, soaring vocals over thundering drums and catchy-as-heck melodies. If you're about to do something awesome, this song will naturally start playing in the background, movie-style.

“Wild for the Night” – A\$AP Rocky

Let's see—dubstep and rap. The two kinds of party music actually synthesized well. Go home, other party songs. You lose.

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GRAMMY NOMINATIONS: SUBPAR

By **ERIN McAULIFFE**
Scene Writer

Oh Lorde(y) the Grammy nominations are out! (And praise “Yeezus” we have been spared another opportunity for Miley Cyrus to “perform” at an awards show.)

It seems as if the judges or God or Kanye or whoever is in charge of this stuff took an easy way out. Awarding nine nominations to Jay-Z and seven to Macklemore and Justin Timberlake. Here’s a haiku expressing my opinion on this system:

You are hot JT

And like you’re with Bey, Jay-Z

But more artists live.

This year’s nominations do not include the alternative acts we have become accustomed to seeing in the past years. We’ve seen Mumford & Sons, Bon Iver and Arcade Fire all steal the show. This year’s nominations skipped out on the alternative spectrum in favor of pop in the big categories, including Album of The Year and Best New Artist. Vampire Weekend’s “Modern Vampires of the

City” or Tame Impala’s “Lonerism” were only nominated in the Alternative category. The acclaimed sister trio, HAIM, was denied any nominations.

While writing this article I decided to listen to some “Yeezus” to get hyped. I am currently fist-pumping and head-banging as hard as one can while remaining seated. Somehow Kanye only came away with nominations for Best Rap Album and Best Rap Song. However, I am convinced that, “Kanye had one of the best albums of all time.”

Another controversial musical icon of 2013 was missing in the Grammy nominations. Miley’s hits, “We Can’t Stop” and “Wrecking Ball”, did not garner any nominations, while Miley’s album, “Bangerz,” missed the September 30 cutoff for eligibility. Although I am a Miley fan (haters to the back), I do believe this was a wise decision. Not only are her songs not Grammy-worthy (however, apparently “Blurred Lines” is?), but I also do not think the world’s middle-aged conservative mothers could handle another nude bikini instance in their suburban family rooms.

Seventeen-year-old sensation Lorde garnered four nominations, but was skipped over for Best New Artist. Perhaps this is since she is so young and has only had one, maybe two singles top the charts thus far. CNN likened her to Katy Perry when she had the single “I Kissed A Girl” out, yet was also precluded from the Best Artist nominations. To this I say, “eww.” Do not compare Lorde to Katy Perry. Lorde has yet to don a bra made out of candy or sing the words, “Do you ever feel like a plastic bag?”

An artist who received loads of accolades was Kendrick Lamar. About that, let’s just say there is an inspirational quote on a wall in the Observer office reading, “Kendrick Lamar, terrible person, terrible rapper, or both?” Who could forget his verse on “Control” insulting every rapper from Eminem, to A\$AP, to (the term rapper used loosely here) Drake? Oh wait, everyone.

In summation, these nominations leave much to be desired. “Just Give Me a Reason” why I shouldn’t “Roar” at this musical “Heist.”

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THE MOST DISAPPOINTING MOVIES OF 2013

By **JIMMY KEMPER**
Scene Writer

2013 was a big year for the box office, with record numbers across the board and a plethora of great films hitting the big screen. However, as many great movies as there were, Hollywood delivered a number of flicks that weren’t particularly good, and some that were just downright awful. (“After Earth,” anyone?)

In the midst of this movie theatre chaos, a group of films that had the potential to be great, but left audiences with empty hearts and empty wallets. This list is dedicated to those pictures, the most disappointing movies of 2013.

5. “A Good Day to Die Hard”

It had been six years since Bruce Willis’ last foray as John McClane in “Live Free or Die Hard,” but apparently that still wasn’t enough time. “A Good Day to Die Hard” simply could not live up to its predecessors, and resembles a shell of what used to be. All the big, explosive action sequences that have become a trademark of this great series are there, but they have become long and drawn out, creating no tension or interest for viewers. The screenplay was just as bad, with Bruce Willis awkwardly attempting to gain his son’s approval as they take down generic Russian bad guys. The writers couldn’t even make any of Willis’ wisecracks funny, a terrible disappointment for fans of such a beloved franchise. “A Good Day to Die Hard” had so much potential thanks to the success of the previous films, but the team just dropped the ball. Hopefully they do a better job when the inevitable “Die Hard 6” comes around.

4. “Insidious Chapter 2”

The original “Insidious” was a great haunted house film, with some of the creepiest imagery and most truly frightening scares seen in that genre in decades. The issue with the horror genre the imagery and scares don’t transfer that readily to sequels, making films such as “Chapter 2” that attempt to capture the spirit of their predecessors by retreading old grounds feel predictable and dull. The dialogue dragged for eons and what should have been a build up to the scares really just put audiences to sleep. By far the most disappointing point of the movie is the conclusion, which does not really conclude anything and sets the story for an absolutely unnecessary threequel.

3. “Man of Steel”

The problem with “Man of Steel” is not that it was necessarily a bad movie, it’s just that there was no way for it to live up to the feverish levels of hype surrounding it. With Christopher Nolan producing and Zach Snyder of “300” directing, Superman’s fans were hoping for the next “Dark Knight”. Instead, we got something that resembled the ugly hybrid of that and a Michael Bay film. The action sequences are loud, explosive and exciting at first, but David Goyer’s script that alternates between the past and the present kills the momentum of the movie, and pushes Man of Steel into the generic territory. The final fight against General Zod initially is incredibly stunning, but quickly grows stale as it drags on for the next half hour. The movie seems to be steeped in the pretentiousness of the Dark Knight Trilogy without having anything groundbreaking to show for it. With the upcoming Batman and Superman film though, Nolan has a chance to turn things around and rediscover the things that made his previous forays

into superhero films so intriguing.

2. “The Great Gatsby”

“The Great Gatsby” had absolutely all the necessary ingredients for a perfect movie: a great cast of actors (save Tobey Maguire), an excellent book to use for the story, and access to all the tools and funds needed to produce whatever was necessary. Poor F. Scott Fitzgerald must be spinning in his grave, as this is the fifth time that Hollywood has failed to capture the spirit of the Jazz Age novel of sex, lies and consumption. The execution was horrendous, with an obnoxious sound track put together by Jay-Z (because hip-hop makes retro things relevant and cool), an overly complex art direction that drowns the characters in ridiculous set pieces, and a lack of any soul due to the stiffness of the characters. Director Baz Luhrmann’s rendition of a classic American tragedy was a huge letdown, failing to have even remotely the emotional impact that Fitzgerald’s book did. But you know what they say, the sixth time’s the charm.

1. “World War Z”

Words simply cannot describe how disappointing this film was. Read Max Brooks’ novel of the same name, and then cry because Hollywood managed to turn a wonderfully unique look at a zombie apocalypse into a dull, generic lone-hero-saves-the-world-from-zombies-and-stuff movie that could only rival “Resident Evil: Afterlife” in terms of awful zombie movies. They could have at least tried to keep the themes or storytelling of the novel, but instead we got just another stale zombie movie in an incredibly saturated genre.

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SPORTSAUTHORITY

Cards, 'Canes set to thrill



Matthew DeFranks
Assistant Managing Editor

The best bowl game of this year will be played on Dec. 28 on the East coast featuring a once-proud powerhouse and an up-and-down American team that will soon be relocating to a different conference.

And while your eyes may be pinned on Yankee Stadium for Notre Dame's "showdown" against Rutgers early in the day, your eyes should move to Orlando, Fla., for Miami's matchup against probable first-round pick, junior quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, and No. 18 Louisville.

Now you're probably thinking about Miami and going, "Wow, why would I watch that team? The last three times (in the Sun Bowl against Notre Dame, in 2012 against Notre Dame and this season against Florida State) I watched them, they lost by a combined 81 points."

And yes, the Hurricanes' trademark win of the season came against 4-8 Florida and they gave away their shot for the ACC Coastal with a three-game losing streak in the middle of November. But this is about much more than what the team put on the field.

I mean, they put enough out there to win nine games and garner a top-10 ranking at one point in the season. But now that the cloud of the NCAA investigation into them has been lifted, the 'Canes are now full speed ahead in the Russell Athletic Bowl, the first postseason game for the school since the Irish throttled them in 2010.

So senior quarterback Stephen Morris will get one more shot at a bowl victory and Miami could capture its first 10-win season since 2003. In 2003, Miami still played in the Orange Bowl, Larry Coker was the head coach and the school was still in some odd conference called the Big East.

So is this game big for Miami? You better believe it.

But what makes this game even bigger is whom they are playing.

Bridgewater is from Miami. He went to the same high school as former Hurricanes quarterback Jacory Harris. He was going to be a Hurricane — until he was not. Cardinals coach Charlie Strong (Florida's former defensive coordinator) has invaded Miami-Dade

County to poach the rich talent pool and bring them north. The Cardinals roster features 15 players from the Miami area, which likely has led to the quick turnaround for Strong.

Now, Bridgewater has blossomed into a potential first-round pick instead of a Jacory Harris-clone, as I thought he could become. But he has quietly put together a nice (but not Heisman-worthy) season, throwing for 3,523 yards and 28 touchdowns with just four interceptions.

He has already defeated a team from his home state in the postseason, routing Florida in the Sugar Bowl a year ago. And while the stakes are slightly diminished, Bridgewater should still come ready to play against his once future school.

Early in the season, Louisville was widely regarded as a sleeper national championship team because of its high preseason ranking and easy schedule. The Cardinals did not face a ranked (at the time they played them) team all season on their way to an 11-1 campaign.

But after their loss to then-unranked and future American Athletic Conference champions UCF, the Cardinals pretty much fell off the map. No one paid any attention to the machine that was buzzing in northern Kentucky.

While they backed into the bowl game with three consecutive seven-point wins, the Cardinals still averaged more than 35 points per game and ranked third in the country in scoring defense, yielding just 12.4 points per game.

If those storylines were not enough, Cardinals defensive line coach Clint Hurtt used to coach at "The U" and was a person of interest during the NCAA's investigation.

So take a hungry Miami team that will be facing a talented Louisville laden with high school teammates and add coaching staffs that are battling for recruits. All you get is a great bowl game.

If you don't think it will be, ask @RussellAthBowl on Twitter. He'll surely convince you.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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

NHL

Penguins top Columbus

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Evgeni Malkin scored in his return from a lower-body injury, Sidney Crosby added his 16th goal, and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 2-1 on Monday night.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 32 shots for the Penguins, who won their sixth straight home game.

Malkin missed two games last week after being injured during a morning skate. He looked fine while bulling his way toward the net 4:16 into the second period for his eighth goal of the season. Crosby pushed his season-point total to an NHL-best 43 when he deflected in a shot by Pascal Dupuis midway through the third.

Matt Calvert scored with less than a minute left for Columbus, spoiling Fleury's shutout bid. Curtis McElhinney made 28 saves but the Blue Jackets struggled again in Pittsburgh.

The Penguins have won all three meetings this season by a combined score of 9-3.

Fleury was sharp when tested, though the Penguins did an excellent job of

keeping the Blue Jackets from spending too much time in his face.

There were few close calls by the Blue Jackets after the opening 10 minutes. Fleury's only mistake came when he narrowly missed scoring a goal into an empty net with a minute to play, inadvertently sparking a sequence that led to Calvert getting loose for his second goal of the season with 56 seconds left.

Pittsburgh, which allowed two goals to the Boston Bruins in the final minute of a loss on Saturday, didn't collapse this time.

Malkin extended his point streak to 10 games. He took a cross-ice feed from Jussi Jokinen and dispatched Columbus defenseman Jack Johnson before flicking the puck past McElhinney's outstretched stick.

Crosby doubled Pittsburgh's lead 8:52 into the third when Dupuis' centering pass caromed off Crosby's body into the Columbus net.

The Blue Jackets are hoping to take a step forward this season after moving over to the Eastern Conference following 13 mostly dismal seasons in the West. Injuries,

however, have slowed their development.

Columbus is missing forwards Marion Gaborik and Nathan Horton, defenseman James Wisniewski, and reigning Vezina Trophy winner Sergei Bobrovsky. Gaborik and Bobrovsky are out until after the new year. Horton is out indefinitely with a shoulder injury.

The Blue Jackets had won three of four, including consecutive shutouts over Tampa Bay and Minnesota, to climb within three games of .500. Columbus lost 10 of its first 14 games.

Pittsburgh was without defensemen Paul Martin, Brooks Orpik and Rob Scuderi, and as forwards Beau Bennett and Tanner Glass. The Penguins will also miss forward James Neal, who was suspended for five games by the NHL on Monday for kneeing Boston's Brad Marchand in the first period Saturday.

Moments later, Boston's Shawn Thornton pulled Orpik down from behind then punched him on his way to the ice.

Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma said Monday that Orpik is "doing quite well" but issued no timetable for his return.

NBA

Clippers win over 76ers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Blake Griffin scored 26 points, Chris Paul added 25 points and 13 assists, and the short-handed Los Angeles Clippers defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 94-83 Monday night.

DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and a season-high 21 rebounds, and Jared Dudley scored 10 points for the Clippers, who won their second straight. The Clippers are 2-1 on a season-high tying seven-game road trip.

Los Angeles played without guards J.J. Redick (injuries to right hand and wrist), Reggie Bullock (sprained left ankle) and Maalik Wayns (left knee). Forward Matt Barnes is out with a torn retina in his left eye. Help may be on the way for the Clippers, who are close to signing free agent forward Stephen Jackson.

The Sixers were not at full strength, either, missing rookie point guard Michael

Carter-Williams for the third consecutive game.

Carter-Williams was released from Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania on Sunday after a three-night stay because of a skin infection that caused soreness in his right knee.

Evan Turner scored 25 points and Thaddeus Young added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who struggled once again without their floor leader. The Sixers are 1-6 without Carter-Williams this season.

Tony Wroten had nine points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in place of Carter-Williams.

The Sixers missed their first 13 3-pointers and trailed 44-36 at halftime, their lowest output in any half this season.

The Clippers came out of the locker room and quickly extended their advantage to 57-36 following a 13-0 run.

Paul keyed the

third-quarter surge with 12 points and five assists as they went ahead 76-60.

The Sixers made a late push and got within 83-76 with 5:24 remaining.

But the Clippers made enough plays down the stretch to pull away. Paul knocked down a huge 3-pointer for an 88-77 lead with 3:10 left and it was enough of a cushion to seal the win.

Warriors coach Doc Rivers addressed Jackson's situation before the game.

"It's not done yet," Rivers said. "Nothing's done in our league until it's done, as you know. I just think he's a veteran. We need him in a pinch, and we need him, like, now. That's a guy you can bring in, and hopefully he can give you something right away."

Jackson has been out of the league since being released by the San Antonio Spurs before the playoffs last season.

TRACK AND FIELD | FIRST PLACE

ND athletes dominate at Blue & Gold Invite

By CASEY KARNES
Sports Writer

Notre Dame opened up their season with a dominating effort in the Blue & Gold Invitational, winning 25 of the 33 at Loftus Sports Center.

Other than Notre Dame, only DePaul and Marquette were able to claim victories in multiple events, with three and two wins respectively.

Irish coach Joe Piane singled out the 400-meter runners as standouts for Notre Dame. On the female side, sophomore Margaret Bamgbose paced the group with a time of 54.32, and senior Michelle Brown was close behind with a 55.07 second place finish. The Irish also finished one-two in the male 400, with senior Patrick Feeney and junior Chris Giesting leading the field with times of 46.67 and 47 seconds, respectively. But Piane said one performance in particular impressed him the most. “The person who may have had the best evening of all was junior Keith Mesidor,” Piane said. “He won the 60 [6.90], he won the 200 [21.88], and he won the long jump [7.37m]. That’s a pretty good start.”

Freshman Harvey Smith finished second to Mesidor in the 200, and in the long jump senior Logan Renwick and junior Carson Barnes rounded out a top three sweep for the Irish. According to Piane, the Notre Dame’s runner-up finishes are equally as important as their victories, as it demonstrates the team’s depth.

“Not only did we had a lot of kids win, but we had seconds, we had thirds,” Piane said. “You look at the women’s 400

and the men’s 400, they were very deep. We’ve always had a couple hurdlers do well. So it wasn’t just one person... the competition may not have been the strongest, but it indicated we have a very deep team.”

The Irish further showed their depth by taking the top three spots in the women’s pole vault, with senior Kelly Burke’s 3.60m vault narrowly edging out sophomores Libby Schichtel and Allie Sullivan. A top-two finish in the Men’s 1000m was made more impressive because both runners were freshmen, and Piane said he is excited to see what both runners do the rest of the season.

“In the men’s 1000, you had Jake Dumford [2:26.95] win it, and Chris Marco [2:26.98] was second, and the difference was just three hundredths of a second,” Piane said. “Those kids ran very, very well, and the future is very bright for them. So those two would probably be the most impressive freshmen.”

Even after this successful meet however, Piane said the team cannot afford to relax. He said the upcoming Christmas break will be a critical time for the Irish to focus on improving.

“We just have to keep on training,” Piane said. “The next six weeks are going to be vital, between now and when we get back from Christmas break. This is going to be a very difficult time, because frankly they’re gone.”

Notre Dame’s next meet will be January 18th, the Michigan Invitational in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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OE KENESSEY | The Observer

Irish junior Chris Giesting celebrates after a 400-meter race during the Alex Wilson Invitational on March 2. Giesting finished second to teammate senior Patrick Feeney in the 400 at the Blue & Gold Invitational.

SMC BASKETBALL | NORTH CENTRAL 90, BELLES 89

Belles fall at home to North Central by a point

Observer Staff Report

Despite senior guard Shanlynn Bias’ career-high 20 points, Saint Mary’s fell to North Central 90-89 on Saturday in an up-tempo, back-and-forth contest.

Down one with nine seconds

left, Bias pushed the ball up the floor and found a hole in the Cardinal defense. She pulled up from just inside the free-throw line, but drew iron. Junior forward Ariana Paul got the offensive rebound, but her tip-in attempt missed as the buzzer sounded.

Early in the game, it seemed the Belles (2-6, 0-1 MIAA) might run the Cardinals (4-2) out of the gym, jumping out to a 12-2 lead to start and holding the Cardinals’ third-ranked Division III offense to 13 points in the first 10 minutes of the opening half. The Cardinals clawed away at the Belles’ lead, and down 41-33, rattled off seven straight points in just over a minute to cut the lead to 41-40 with 1:25 remaining in the half. The Belles and Cardinals would go into the break tied at 45.

The Belles started the second half much like the first, scoring the first seven points to open up a 52-45 lead. Again, the Cardinals would fight back, eventually going on a 9-0 run that gave them a 77-72 lead. The

Belles responded with another run of their own, outscoring the Cardinals 16-4 over the next six minutes to go up 87-81 with 1:42 remaining.

After making a layup with 1:30 left, North Central scored twice off two Saint Mary’s turnovers to tie the game 87-87. On the next possession, Belles freshman guard Heather Pesigan hit a floater in the lane to put Saint Mary’s up by two with 21 seconds remaining. North Central junior point guard Bobbi Johns was able to penetrate the Belles’ defense on the Cardinals’ final possession and found junior guard Maryssa Cladis for a spot-up 3-pointer that proved to be the game winner.

In addition to Bias’ career night, sophomore forward

Krista Knapke added 16 points and 13 rebounds to notch her third double-double of the season. Fellow sophomore forward Eleni Shea had 13 points, while freshman guard Timoney Moyer scored 12 in the losing effort.

Junior forward Larynn Shumaker paced the Cardinals with 16 points, while Johns added nine points and seven assists.

The 89-point effort is already the third time in eight games the Belles have eclipsed 80 points, a mark they failed to reach last season.

Saint Mary’s returns to conference action on Saturday when they take on Trine at 3 p.m. in its MIAA home opened at the Angela Athletic Center.

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ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish junior kicker Kyle Brindza kicks off during Notre Dame's 23-13 win over BYU on Nov. 23. The Irish face Rutgers on Dec. 28 in New York.

Football

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

the beginning of 2012. While it exceeded all rational hopes last year, Notre Dame did not live up to the standards it set for itself in 2013.

The Irish did have their moments this season, winning a few games against impressive foes. The 17-13 win over Michigan State looks a lot more impressive than it felt at the time. Pass-interference controversies or not, the Irish were the only ones that found a way to beat the Spartans (12-1, 8-0 Big Ten), who ended the regular season fourth in the BCS rankings. Notre Dame also registered a midseason 37-34 win over Arizona State in Arlington, Texas. The Sun Devils (9-3, 7-2 Pac-12) ended up 14th in the BCS standings, while No. 25 USC — another team the Irish bested — also showed up in the final poll of the regular season.

But the Spartans will play in a BCS bowl while the Irish face a Rutgers team that finished in the bottom half of the American Athletic Conference. Two other Notre Dame foes whom the Irish played close earned spots in the top five bowls, as well. No. 7 Stanford will face Michigan State in the Rose Bowl, while No. 11 Oklahoma will play No. 3 Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, although the Irish are most likely not envious of the Sooners (We don't want Bama). Arizona State and USC also merited respectable opponents, and they get to face them in the warm-weather conditions Irish players had expressed a longing for. The Sun Devils get Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl in San Diego while USC will meet No. 20 Fresno State in the Las Vegas Bowl.

The Pinstripe Bowl at least sounds more respectable, but substantially it is not. Bowl selection is a complicated, multifaceted process, but the Irish did not help themselves out by dropping four games including a bad loss to a Pittsburgh team that ended 6-6 and near the bottom of the ACC. The Irish had their chances to throw their name into the BCS bowl hat throughout the season, but a glut of turnovers and inconsistent play are what ultimately defined the season.

Kelly was accurate in citing the ways in which their post-season bowl game will help the Irish. The younger players on the Irish roster — Kelly mentioned freshmen quarterback Malik Zaire, receiver Torii Hunter, Jr., and safety Max Redfield — have a chance to get more practice time in the weeks leading up to the contest. Notre Dame's stellar senior class has a chance to go out with a victory after four or five years that produced historic, if uneven, results. The players are happy to have the opportunity to spend Christmas in New York with their teammates, and will receive PlayStation 4's as late Christmas gifts for their participation.

And with complete sincerity, good for the players. TJ Jones deserves much more than a gift package on his way out the door. Zack Martin has earned the right to enjoy the holidays with the team he has helped lead. In fact, the hard truth is the Irish got just what they deserved, as well. Their allotment is just less satisfying.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

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

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University of Notre Dame Press • Questions: 574-631-4910

M Soccer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

of 1.17.

Friday's matchup between the Irish and New Mexico may turn into a possession battle and defensive struggle. The Irish do not know New Mexico as a team and have never played the Lobos before. Notre Dame will need to go out and attack, as the Lobos showed they could hold on to a one-goal lead for 53:26 against one of the best scoring offenses in the country against Washington. If the Irish fall behind early, they may be in trouble. Notre Dame takes an average of 17 shots per game but has the lowest shots on goal average, 0.377, of the four teams left. As they have of late, the Irish must convert on all opportunities, especially ones available on the counter-attack.

The good news is that Notre Dame has the most goals in the tournament of the four remaining teams. Of those 10 Irish goals, half have come in the first half and half have come in the second stanza. Notre Dame has been proving its consistency throughout the NCAA Championships.

The Irish, however, lack experience in the NCAA semifinals.

This is New Mexico's second time attending the College Cup, while Virginia and Maryland



BARBARA KAZANOWSKA | The Observer

Irish sophomore midfielder Connor Klekota moves in on Wisconsin sophomore midfielder Drew Conner during Notre Dame's 4-0 victory in the second round of the NCAA tournament on Nov. 24. The Irish will face New Mexico in the semifinals of the NCAA College Cup on Friday.

have reached the semis 11 times and eight times, respectively. Maryland's eight appearances have all been in the last 16 years.

If Notre Dame can make it past the Lobos on Friday, it will face one-of-two ACC teams it was unable to beat during the fall campaign. Virginia is the only loss the Irish incurred during the

regular season, a 2-0 loss at home on Oct. 26. The Cavaliers are also the team that knocked the Irish out of the ACC tournament in the semifinals.

The Irish tied Maryland 1-1 on Oct. 8, and both teams were unable to gain the upperhand in two overtime periods. The tie to the Terrapins was one of six ties Notre

Dame had on the year.

Whatever happens on Friday, it is a momentous occasion for Notre Dame. Whether it was a bit of luck or some magic, it is the first time the program has ever been to the College Cup, and they should be proud of that accomplishment. Yet, the Irish will not be satisfied unless they return

to South Bend bearing the weight of the No. 1 ranking on their backs.

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

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

win the rebounding margin against Iowa [on Dec. 3] and that's one of the reasons we lost. So I think the rebounding is definitely going to be key for us going forward, especially with the smaller lineup."

Notre Dame got off to a quick start in the game, scoring the first seven points of the contest and taking a 9-4 lead into the under-16 minute timeout. Bryant battled back in a hurry, though, and built up a 17-12 lead before the next media timeout. The teams traded leads for the bulk of the half's remainder, as neither side built up a cushion of more than five points until Notre Dame pulled ahead by seven with four minutes remaining. The Irish extended their lead from there, finishing the period on an 18-2 run and leading 39-27 at halftime.

Grant led the way for the home team in the opening half, scoring 15 points and dishing out six assists. Connaughton added 11 points in the half on 4-for-5 shooting and came down with five rebounds.

The Bulldogs cut into the Irish advantage in the opening minutes of the second and kept things close until the final minutes. Notre Dame relied on its low post game throughout the second half, as Sherman and senior forward Tom Knight combined for 12 straight Irish points during one stretch. Knight had four second-half points and two second-half rebounds to finish with six in each category while Sherman had a second-half line of 10 points and seven boards. Only

two games removed from a no-show against Iowa, Knight played 20 minutes in the game, 12 of which came in the first half.

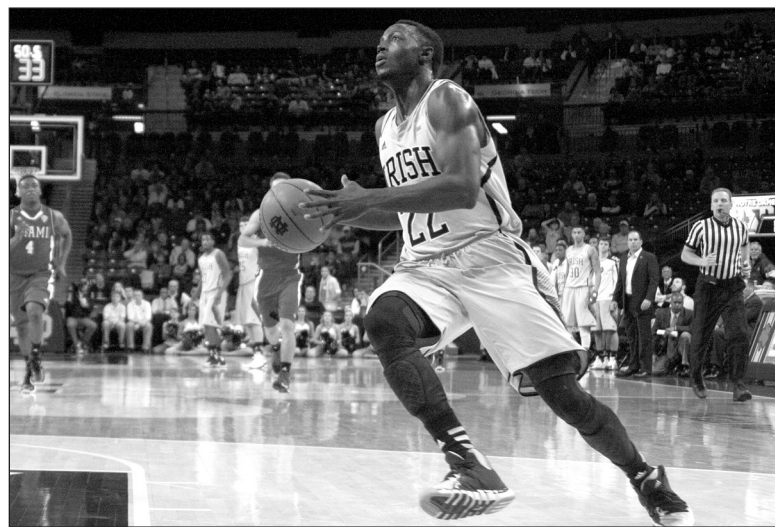
"Sherm becoming that low-post scorer for us, and even Tom Knight gave us some stuff," Brey said. "But there was no question that low post touches were going to be good. [Sherman] had some big baskets for us. We are going to have to rely on a low post scorer ... It's just kind of who we are right now."

The hard-fought win was Notre Dame's second in as many outings, and the second

game in a stretch that brings three games in five days. North Dakota State comes to the Purcell Pavilion for the final contest in the campus round of the Gotham Classic.

"I love the fact that we had game pressure on us and had to make some big plays on Saturday and Monday to kind of get out of your gym alive," Brey said. "That's more like league play. That's why this week could be good. You know, unless we lose one. Then it's not good."

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant approaches the basket during Notre Dame's season-opening 74-62 victory over Miami on Nov. 8.

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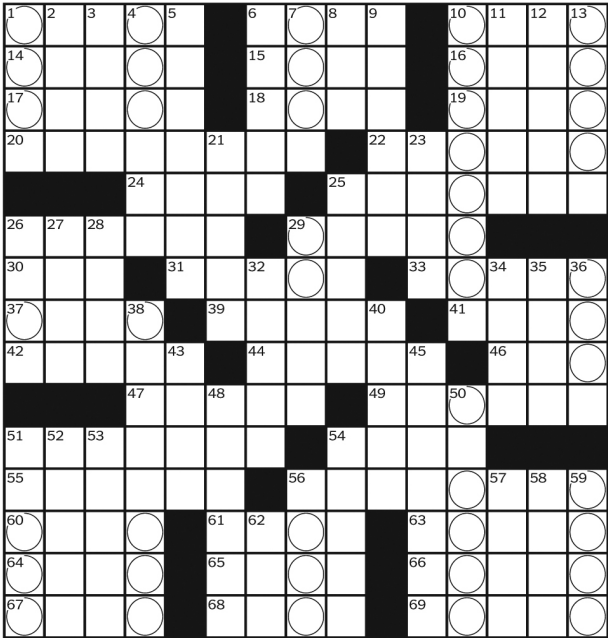


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11 Marble material
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23 Where Billy Budd went in “Billy Budd”
25 Ulan ____, Mongolia
26 Some wraps
27 Backgammon needs
- 64 Sanyo competitor
65 Staff member?
66 To have, to Henri
67 Veg out
68 Poetic adverb
69 O. Henry Award winner for “Livvie Is Back”



Puzzle by Alex Vratsanos

- 28 Like certain odds, paradoxically
29 Verdi aria
32 Director Welles
34 Quizmaster Trebek
35 A portion of
36 Madre’s brothers
38 F flat equivalent
- 40 Jacket style
43 Spanish liqueur
45 Old welfare measure
48 Composer Strauss
50 Not retired
51 Kind of point
52 1944 battle site
- 53 Rush hour speed
54 More coquettish
56 It may be tempted
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1	8	2	9	4	3	5	7	6
4	3	6	2	5	7	1	8	9
5	9	7	6	8	1	4	3	2
9	7	4	5	2	8	6	1	3
8	6	3	7	1	4	2	9	5
2	5	1	3	9	6	7	4	8
3	4	9	1	6	5	8	2	7
7	1	5	8	3	2	9	6	4
6	2	8	4	7	9	3	5	1

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Simon Helberg, 33; Felicity Huffman, 51; Donny Osmond, 56; Dame Judi Dench, 79.

Happy Birthday: Take your time getting the facts. You will be faced with confusion based on poor information this year if you don't do your research. Change will be necessary with regard to home, family and partnerships. Set reasonable goals and stick to your plan. Letting outsiders interfere will be your downfall. Know what you want and finish what you start. Your numbers are 7, 10, 13, 21, 29, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't feel pressured to make a decision regarding your position, status or advancement. Recap what you've done in the past and consider how you can utilize your skills to bring better outcomes. An impulsive decision will not bring good results. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You call the shots. Your wisdom and charm will attract people who can offer favors and information that will help you reach your goals. A partnership will turn into a long and profitable connection. Romance is highlighted. Share your feelings. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll need discipline to finish projects that need to be wrapped up before the end of the year. Offer suggestions, but do not part with your cash. A service you can offer others will be well-received and bring in additional funds.★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Concentrate on getting odd jobs finished. Preparation will make your job easier, allowing you more time to spend doing something enjoyable. Make assessments and changes to your life and overall personal look. Plan a little romance to end your day.★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A unique approach or new surroundings will feed your creative imagination. Knowledge and honing your skills will spark an idea that can lead to extra cash. Don't let anyone limit what you can do. Be diplomatic but firm when faced with opposition. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Rethink your financial strategy. If you've been impulsive or emotional when it comes to spending, pull back and cut corners. Help an older relative or friend, but don't take over. Suggestions or physical assistance is one thing; meddling is another.★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change at work or with a partnership will come about quickly. Don't act surprised when you should be prepared to move without skipping a beat. Discipline and hard work will pay off. Reconnecting with an old friend should be done cautiously. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get up, get focused and accomplish everything on your to-do list. Using friendly pressure to get what you want will work wonders. Social networking will pay off by introducing you to new people, places and possibilities. Love is highlighted. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Enjoy doing the things that ease your stress and add comfort to your life. Stick close to home and protect what you cherish. Don't let emotional uncertainty ruin your day. Recognize an unstable situation and act accordingly. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take on whatever comes your way and you will send an impressive vibe that will help you control what's going on around you. Visiting an inspirational place will have benefits. Make plans with someone you love.★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What you do for others will be beneficial. Personalize a job you've been given. Someone will recognize your talent and offer you greater stability and hope for the future. A little daydreaming will help you recognize new possibilities.★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your ingenuity, coupled with insight and reliability, will be your ticket to success. It's what you do, not what you say, that will help you get ahead. Don't let a change throw you off course. Accept the inevitable and keep moving. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are a humanitarian. You have vision and a persistent drive to succeed.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

GRNIW
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

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PUNTI
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

DALANS
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

SPOOEP
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Print answer here: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VALET GIDDY TATTOO SHIFTY
Answer: He was nervous about making a free throw with one second left, but he would — GIVE IT A SHOT

WORK AREA



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MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 70, BRYANT 59

Irish win second game of Gotham Classic

By **JOSEPH MONARDO**
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame notched another victory in its second game of the BlackRock Gotham Classic, and it was not any more comfortable than the first. The 70-59 victory over Bryant came after the Irish (7-2) struggled to pull away throughout the game and held a lead as tenuous as four points with two and a half minutes to play.

"Another hard game from a good team that can win their league, and I think it's a great experience for us," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We could never really get flowing offensively, so we really had to fend to get out of there tonight. Keeping them in the 50s, keeping their shooting percentage down is why we won the game, because we never really got into an offensive flow."

Much like in Saturday's 80-75 win over Delaware, senior guard Jerian Grant, senior center Garrick Sherman and junior forward Pat Connaughton led the way for the home team. After dropping 25 Saturday, Grant led all scorers with 23 points and had nine assists on the night. Sherman put up 14 points and 13 rebounds for



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 84-69 victory over Santa Clara on Nov. 22. Grant scored 23 points and led the Irish to a 70-59 win over Bryant on Monday at Purcell Pavilion.

his first career double-double, while Connaughton secured his second-straight double-double with 17 points and 11 boards.

Grant also kept Bulldogs junior guard Dyami Starks in check, limiting the nation's

eighth-leading scorer to 12 points on 4-for-12 shooting.

"I think Jerian Grant, the game that he had, guarding Starks and then doing what he did offensively is fabulous," Brey said. "That takes a lot of energy and a lot of concentration

and he never really let that guy get going."

The Irish outrebounded Bryant (6-4) 44-30 in the game. While Sherman and Connaughton brought down 24 of those rebounds, Irish senior guard Eric Atkins

contributed six boards while freshman guard Demetrius Jackson recorded four of his own.

"That's huge for us," Connaughton said. "We didn't

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FOOTBALL

Pinstripe Bowl lacks meaning



Joseph Monardo
Associate Sports Editor

Brian Kelly was adamant during his press conference Sunday that the Pinstripe Bowl was a worthwhile destination for his football team. And maybe it is, for a variety of reasons. But that doesn't make Notre Dame's Dec. 28th meeting with Rutgers any less disappointing.

Sure, the game will be in New York, inside Yankee Stadium and on national television. The players will receive extravagant gift packages and a trip to the Big Apple. Notre Dame may reap some benefits in its recruiting efforts down the road or in its player development during the extra practice time. But as far as the football game is concerned, the Irish ended up in about as unexciting of a situation as anyone could have imagined before the season's start.

To compare this year's bowl experience to the BCS National

Championship hardly seems fair, but that is exactly where the Irish were last year. And that is what makes the team's current situation as unstimulating as it is. Notre Dame had hopes of returning to the title game this season, but at this point the schedule on the wall in the Irish training facility just serves as a reminder of how the Irish came up hopelessly short.

While an 8-4 record may have been satisfying in years past, in no way should that imply some necessary reversion of expectations away from being one of the top programs in the country and back toward what might have been appropriate four or five years ago. Brian Kelly seems to have set rather clearly the goals for his squad at a high level. And while the inclusion of the title game on the schedule may seem audacious or silly in retrospect, it was probably a more reasonable goal than it would have been at

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MEN'S SOCCER

Irish are set for run at title



Isaac Lorton
Sports Writer

Maybe it was not having the weight of the No. 1 seed on their shoulders this time around.

Maybe it was having the wee wizard leading the team.

Maybe it was just time for Notre Dame to finally punch its ticket to the College Cup.

Never before have the Irish (15-1-6, 7-1-3 ACC) played in the semifinals of the NCAA Championship, but now for the first time, the Irish will do just that at PPL Park in Chester, Pa. on Friday against No. 7 New Mexico.

No. 1 UCLA is out. Connecticut knocked out the top-seeded Bruins in the Round of 16.

No. 2 Washington is out. New Mexico (14-5-2, 7-1-1 Conference USA) saw to that with a 1-0 victory in the semifinals.

The No. 3 Irish are the highest seed remaining, but their competition is formidable.

No. 8 Virginia went on to beat Connecticut, while No. 5 Maryland defeated No. 4 California to punch their respective tickets to the Collegiate Cup.



ZACH LLORENS | The Observer

Irish junior midfielder Nick Besler moves upfield during the team's 2-1 NCAA quarterfinal victory over Michigan State on Saturday.

When looking at the statistics of the four remaining teams, the Irish lead the defensive categories, only giving up 17 goals on 214 shots for a goals against per game average of 0.77.

New Mexico is close behind in the defensive categories, giving up 18 goals on

148 shots for a goals against average of 0.86. Virginia (13-5-5, 4-3-4 ACC) has given up 23 goals on 195 shots for 1.00 goal against per game, while Maryland (16-3-5, 7-1-3 ACC) gave up 28 goals on 231 shots for a goals against average

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