

Student groups stage 'die-in' demonstration

Protest against police brutality part of weeklong series of events on campus promoting racial justice

By **EMILY McCONVILLE**
News Writer

As part of a series of protests this week against police brutality and racial injustice, Notre Dame students staged a "die-in" between O'Shaughnessy and DeBartolo Halls at 12:15 Tuesday, lying down on the sidewalk as students in both buildings changed classes.

The die-in was part of the All Lives Matter Week to End Racial Injustice organized by the Notre Dame National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Latino Student Alliance (LSA), the Black Law Student Association (BLSA), the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) and students in

the Masters in Peace Studies program. The events also include a prayer service, another die-in, a roundtable discussion and a public display.

The demonstrations come most directly in response to the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. The week before Thanksgiving break, protests erupted across the country after a grand jury decided not to indict Darren Wilson, a white police officer who fatally shot Brown, an unarmed black man, in August in Ferguson, Missouri.

Two weeks after the decision in Wilson's case, more protests broke out when a Staten Island



EMILY McCONVILLE | The Observer

Students and members of the Notre Dame community cover the space in between O'Shaughnessy and DeBartolo Halls in a "die-in" Tuesday, part of a demonstration against police brutality and racial injustice.

see PROTEST **PAGE 4**

We Are 9 to encourage fossil fuel divestment

By **RACHEL O'GRADY**
News Writer

Wednesday afternoon, the We Are 9 environmental campaign will present a petition with more than 1,000 signatures calling for Notre Dame to divest from fossil fuels to University President Fr. John Jenkins.

"Divestment means

removing investments from certain companies, in this case fossil fuel companies," freshman Kathleen Rocks said.

Rocks is involved in We Are 9, which began in the fall of 2013 and, according to its website, is a "sustainability movement that integrates the voices of the entire Notre Dame community, including undergraduate

students, faculty, graduate students and clergy."

"As most students know, Notre Dame has a significant endowment, worth about 9.8 billion," Rocks said. "Somewhere between 12 and 20 percent of that endowment is invested in fossil fuels companies — anything

see FUEL **PAGE 1**

Library begins interior renovations



Photo courtesy of Hesburgh Libraries - University of Notre Dame

A renovation of the Hesburgh Library starting this month will add a new entrance to the north side of the building.

By **CAROLYN HUTYRA**
News Writer

With the conclusion of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hesburgh Library in May, the building will begin a multi-phase interior renovation project Dec. 22.

University librarian Diane Walker said the research and scholarship needs of students have changed dramatically in the last 50 years.

"Technology is rapidly changing the landscape of teaching, learning and research at Notre Dame," Walker said. "As teaching methods and instructional tools evolve, new spaces that

support interdisciplinary research, multimedia assignments and collaborative group study are critical to intellectual engagement and, ultimately, academic success."

Librarian Jessica Kayongo said the renovation aims to provide the library's users a high-quality study environment, which will place it as a leader in academic library spaces.

"Ultimately, we want our users to find what they need for study and research and to be as inspired by the physical surroundings within Hesburgh Library as they are by the mural

see LIBRARY **PAGE 5**

GRC panel explores gender roles in Disney films

By **ALYSSA LYON**
News Writer

The Gender Relations Center (GRC) hosted a panel discussion in The Oak Room of South Dining Hall on Tuesday that addressed the ways in which Disney positively and negatively establishes gender roles in its films.

Susan Ohmer, an associate professor of Film, Television and Theatre who specializes in



ANNMARIE SOLLER | The Observer

Film, Television and Theatre associate professor Susan Ohmer discusses gender roles in Disney films at a panel Tuesday.

see DISNEY **PAGE 5**



NEWS **PAGE 3**



VIEWPOINT **PAGE 6**



SCENE **PAGE 8**



ND WOMEN'S BBALL **PAGE 16**



MEN'S BASKETBALL **PAGE 16**

THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Have a question you want answered?

Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com

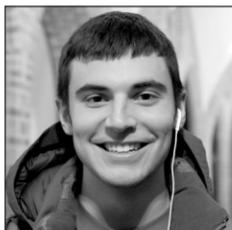
What advice would you give to someone about to take their finals?



Paul Mangels

freshman
Stanford Hall

"Remember to get a decent amount of rest."



Johnathan Beldin

freshman
Zahm House

"No matter how badly you do, you'll always do better than Jameis Winston."



Garrett Blad

senior
Zahm House

"Bring your 12-pack of crayons and a big smile to your exams."



John Kalmanek

sophomore
Dillon Hall

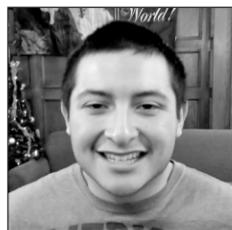
"You've got all Christmas break to rest. Don't be afraid to give it your all."



Erin McDonagh

junior
Lyons Hall

"Start early and manage time well."



Erik Mendoza

junior
Morrissey Manor

"Stay hydrated."



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Bell ringers perform in South Dining Hall for the Christmas dinner Tuesday. The Notre Dame Handbell Choir was founded in 1988 and is made up of 15 undergraduate members. The choir rings four octaves of English-style handbells.

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday

Hesburgh Library Renovation Launch

Hesburgh Library
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
"Farewell to the Floor" Open House.

Fall Concert: Collegium Musicum

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Open to all.

Thursday

Mindful Meditation

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

ISI Fellowship

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

Friday

President's Christmas Reception

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

Mass in the Basilica

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

Saturday

Fall MFA Student Reading Series

209 DeBartolo Hall
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Masters students read from their creative works.

Women's Basketball

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

Sunday

Basilica Sunday Mass

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

Mass at the Basilica

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

Professor wins young investigator award

By **MATTHEW MCKENNA**
News Writer

Debdeep Jena, professor of electrical engineering, was named the 2014 Young Investigator by the International Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE) Advisory Committee for excellence in the use of MBE to create newer, more efficient semiconductors that drive the processors in computing devices, such as cellphones and laptops, as well as light emitters used in fiber optics and communication.

"Lasers, LEDs, transistors — these are all made of semiconducting materials," Jena said. "What we do by Molecular Beam Epitaxy is, in order to make the semiconductors lower power and more energy efficient for electronics and

faster and more precise for lasers for communications, design these materials down to the atomic level. MBE is essentially a method by which we control exactly what atoms are stacked into layers that create the structures we produce."

Jena said the technologies he and his team employ are changing the way that people think and interact with the world.

"MBE is such a fantastic tool," he said. "Once you know how to use it, and you know something that's missing in a specific area, it almost guarantees you that there is an answer. You can grow any layer structure you want.

"If I want 50 percent aluminum, I can do that. If I want 38 percent nitrogen, I can do that. It's that precise. This is

nanotechnology at its highest point of glory in some sense."

Jena said he can't take full credit for the award, as the students he collaborates with are the engine that drive his research.

"Most of the time, they are the ones who are realizing what I am sitting and dreaming about," he said. "It is really a very important statement of recognition by the committee of our ideas and the work of the students who realized them."

The applications of his work with MBE not only help improve products for large companies and consumers, Jena said, but also improve the quality of life for all people.

"My philosophy has always been that, no matter which area you are working in, if you really get into it and go beyond

what people have done before, it will always have humanitarian applications in the future," Jena said. "What my collaborators and I try to figure out is, at the atomic lev-

Debdeep Jena
professor, electrical engineering



el, what it is that's holding us back from new technologies.

"As the wavelength of light gets shorter and shorter, that sort of light begins interacting with biological matter very strongly, which is why we protect ourselves with UV lotion," he said. "But at the same time, if you can generate photons

that are in ultraviolet, it has immense applications. For example, they could be used to disinfect drinking water."

Jena said some people are afraid of the complexity of the type of work he conducts, and this fear leads to a barrier that blocks understanding that is unnecessary.

"Many times, what happens in this field is many people feel detached from this area," he said. "What has happened over the ages, as things become easier and simpler to use because of the work that goes in under the hood, people get more and more distant from the technology itself. People assume they have no chance of understanding, and that's simply not true."

Contact Matthew McKenna at mmcken12@nd.edu

Professor connects science and renaissance

By **GABRIELA MALESIN**
News Writer

How do we understand the relationship between technology, ecology and the Renaissance? What does it mean to move away from an age of industry to an age of Renaissance ideals? Matthew Kubik, associate professor of construction engineering at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, examined these questions in his colloquium Tuesday on the Renaissance ideal titled "Living the Renaissance Ideal as a Person of Faith in the 21st Century."

The colloquium was part of the Renaissance Circle, a set of monthly informal workshops for first-year students that connect different ideas in the arts, humanities and sciences.

During his lecture, Kubik said the Renaissance ideal encouraged interconnectedness, an approach that intersects with many of the sociological and ecological issues the world currently faces.

"In the Renaissance there

was none of that division between these professions, and so there was a quest for all knowledge," Kubik said. "We have a crossing of ideas and culture as we have a progression of ideas over time."

According to Kubik, the 21st century can currently be classified as being in the "mechanical" or industrial age. Kubik said the ideal of the mechanical age equates progress with growth and cultural values are connected to "the amassing of greater and greater material good."

"We look at what grows and what thrives to discover the embedded values within our culture," Kubik said.

Kubik said this set of values has also discouraged us from understanding our connection to future generations and contributes to our devaluation of human labor. He said this ideal is currently at odds with our current resources as we experience a rapid decline in oil and natural gas reserves. As we continue to avoid facing our current ecological condition, we are "buying time," Kubik

said.

The current generation will transition from the mechanical age to the green age, which is similar to the Renaissance age in the way it sees the overlapping relationship between human and earth, Kubik said. He said the transition to this age requires an understanding of how the laws of thermodynamics and concepts of energy define our relationship to the earth, and it will be important to "consider what the environmental burdens are going to be with supply, manufacture, use and disposal."

"We're redefining the concept of progress if the actions we're taking serve to ensure that the earth is able to sustain itself and its inhabitants and sustain our future children," Kubik said.

According to Kubik, the Catholic faith, specifically the Christian emphasis on loving one's neighbor, held an ideological connection to the ideals of the green age of synergy and emphasized the interconnected nature of humanity. Kubik said while the mandate to

"love one another" is common in other religions, Christianity is unique in emphasizing how loving that meant recognizing the interconnections they shared with one another and with the earth.

"Love your neighbor as yourself, meaning you and your neighbor are the same thing," Kubik said. "We are connected

through all those interconnections, the same DNA, the same chemicals, the same connection to the earth and we extend that to 'love the earth as yourself' because we are part and parcel of all connected material in existence."

Contact Gabriela Malesin at gmalespi@nd.edu

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE

29 FOR 29

In a new service initiative, Student Government has paired each dorm with a family of lesser means in order to facilitate relationships between Notre Dame and the South Bend community. Contact hall councils to get involved.

MAYOR'S NIGHT OUT

Mayor Pete Buttigieg will host Mayor's Night Out on Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m. at Pearly Elementary School. Participants will have an opportunity to voice your thoughts or concerns about the South Bend community.

SAFETY AND O'SNAP FEEDBACK

Student government wants your feedback on the first semester of O'SNAP as well as general safety issues on campus. Email studegov@nd.edu with your thoughts.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Indiana University-Purdue professor Matthew Kubik explains the importance of Renaissance ideals, especially the concept of interconnectedness among people and ideas, in solving current problems in science.

Protest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grand jury also did not indict Daniel Pantaleo, the police officer implicated in Garner's death in July. While a group of officers tried to arrest Garner for selling untaxed cigarettes, Pantaleo put him in a fatal chokehold.

In response to these events, NAACP Notre Dame president and senior Niciah Petrovic said she invited representatives of several campus organizations to join a planning committee last week.

"We wanted to make sure we gave as many people as possible the opportunity to shape what this week would look like," she said.

Sophomore Xitlaly Estrada, LSA's social justice chair, said the purpose of the week is to start conversation about the institutional nature of police brutality.

"My goals are not just to spread awareness about police brutality and its victims but also about the underlying factor behind many of these injustices," she said. "I'd hope that after this week more people will be willing to realize that we don't live in a post-racial society, but we must openly act to combat racism, prejudices and systematic injustices so that one day we might."

Petrovic said the events are also meant to address backlash among Notre Dame students against the national protests.

"We have classmates of ours, peers of ours, people that we live in dorms with and eat with telling us that this isn't an issue, or you guys make everything about race, or even a lot of hateful and hurtful things have been said," she said. "We have to take the time to, one, make space to engage in our feelings about this and, two, to bring into the conversation people who may just not be enlightened about what these issues are and how they're complicit in them."

Petrovic said the planning

committee decided with a vote to organize the week using the title "All Lives Matter," instead of "Black Lives Matter," which is more commonly used nationally, in order to be inclusive of all allies of the movement.

All Lives Matter Week began Sunday afternoon at the Grotto, where organizers handed out copies of the Yale Law School BLSA's statement denouncing the Ferguson grand jury decision and asked for 4.5 minutes of silence, symbolizing the 4.5 hours Brown's body was left in the street after he died. Petrovic said the group walked to Ryan Hall for a prayer service afterwards.

"[We prayed for] the healing of our community as a whole," Petrovic said. "We wanted to recognize and mourn that loss and the sense of un-safety that a lot of us are feeling."

On Monday, the group set up rides to a die-in and demonstration at the South Bend City Council building, organized by local rapper "Blu" Casey, special education teacher Regina Williams and Gladys Muhammad, associate director of the South Bend Heritage Foundation. Petrovic estimated 25 Notre Dame students attended. She said the group joined with the community organizers in order to show solidarity with South Bend.

"When there's no community solidarity, you can't take solid action and meet the problems that are going on," Petrovic said. "There's long been a chasm between the Notre Dame community and the South Bend community, so we want to dissolve that chasm."

Small-group discussions in which community members developed action plans followed the die-in at the City Council building, which also lasted 4.5 minutes. Sophomore Jourdyhn Williams, Notre Dame NAACP's Diversity Council representative, attended the South Bend and Notre Dame die-ins and said her group discussed

resurrecting the "I, Too, Am Notre Dame" photo project.

"Our group mostly consisted of Notre Dame students," Williams said. "Our biggest issue was trying to bridge the gap between Notre Dame students and the South Bend community because on campus a lot of people say we're in our own bubble."

"Basically one of the things we proposed was bringing back the photo project that was started last year by a student who graduated that was called 'I, Too Am Notre Dame.'"

Williams said she was glad her community was able to demonstrate in a constructive way.

"I was obviously hurt by the [Ferguson and Staten Island] decisions," she said. "It makes me sad to see things that are going on across the country. The protests — people breaking into things, tearing up the city — I also don't think that's the response that people should take because if we want to be treated as equals, we can't be going around tearing up property and want equality or want justice, because we're falling into the trap that they're setting for us."

Tuesday's Notre Dame die-in lasted 11 minutes, symbolizing the 11 times Garner said, "I can't breathe" before he died. Senior Alex Rice, president of the Africana Studies Club, said she was struck by the number and diversity of people who attended.

"It was a large group, and not

just large, the makeup of the crowd was very diverse," Rice said. "You had faculty, you had administrators — some of them I'd never seen but they came out in support. I just hope that community feels empowered to keep meeting, keep doing things. I know it's kind of hard because we are leaving in a week, but I hope we still hear that same kind of fervor and excitement and involvement into next semester."

Wednesday, a dinner and discussion session will take place at Legends at 7:30. Petrovic said the event will be a way to plan for the future.

"We're going to come out of it with an action plan going into next semester, of what we're going to do to keep these conversations going," Petrovic said. "How do we want to keep raising awareness and keep getting people to engage in these conversations that they wouldn't necessarily?"

Petrovic said the event will also be an opportunity for people who disagreed with the demonstrations to join the discussion.

"We really want our non-sympathizers to come out," she said. "We don't want them to stay silent or feel like we don't want to engage with them because we do."

Thursday, the organizers plan to set up a display between DeBartolo and O'Shaughnessy Halls.

Kathryn Lance, a PhD student in the Peace Studies Program, said the week is a

way for students to take action in the context of their own environment.

"Taking part in actions such as those being coordinated on campus this week and hopefully in the upcoming semester help people to feel less hopeless and defeated and may even make them feel more empowered," she said. "It is a way for us as single individuals to tap into a wider, nationwide movement that is standing up, speaking out and demanding change."

Petrovic said she heard racial slurs and curse words during Tuesday's die-in and saw negative comments on social media sites such as Yik Yak, but she was encouraged by the numbers and diversity of the demonstrators.

"We want to make sure, when things like this happen, we feel a sense of community that shows that not just black people are concerned about this," Petrovic said. "It's not just Latinos who are concerned about this. If you look at the die-in earlier, there were way more white people than black people."

"That gives us in the black community and Latino community a sense of comfort and solidarity in knowing that we're not the only ones who care about our lives. We're not the only ones who feel a sense of loss or a sense of grieving when things like this happen."

Contact Emily McConville at emconvl1@nd.edu



EMILY MCCONVILLE | The Observer

Notre Dame students and South Bend community members "die in" at the South Bend city council building on Monday to protest racism.

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Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on its iconic exterior," Kayongo said.

Phase I of the renovation focuses on transforming the entrance gallery and tower floor 10, Kayongo said. A new entrance will be installed on the north side of the building, and the formation of new openings will create "vertical connections between the floors."

Renovations also include the addition of a skylight on the north end, adjacent to a new reading room on the second floor, and a south-facing view from the second floor out toward the stadium, Kayongo said.

"These changes, we hope, will address user concerns we have heard over the years, particularly in terms of way-finding and natural light," she said. "Renovation of the 10th floor will [also] open up limited window access to more of our users."

Later renovation phases will also replace the wooden study carrels with updated furniture and add a scholar's lounge, special collections room and grand reading room, according to the Notre Dame website.

"The entire project is several phases, likely to take several years, but completion of subsequent project phases is dependent on benefaction," Kayongo said.

Walker said future phases will include the creation of the Collaboration Hub, which will "provide dynamic, flexible and inspirational environments with hi-tech capabilities where groups of students from various disciplines can work across multiple platforms to explore projects and research questions."

Renovation will also address students' concerns for quiet, contemplative study spaces

with the addition of a Grand Reading Room facing west, along with several smaller rooms for individual workspace, Walker said. Critical infrastructure issues such as the addition of electrical outlets will also be addressed in order to support research and learning, she said.

"Some of the overarching features that will tie the renovation together [are] making neighborhoods, introducing natural light, creating connections and transforming learning spaces," Walker said.

While renovation planning lasted the duration of 2013, Kayongo said the majority of 2014 was spent developing specific design details. The final design was a collaboration between the Shepley [Bulfinch] architects, the Facilities Design & Operations, the renovation steering committee and various campus service providers.

"It is truly exciting [for] library renovation to begin, as the building has not seen any major renovation, except to the lower level and the penthouse, since it opened 50 years ago," Kayongo said.

Walker said the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hesburgh Library was an opportunity to reflect on the past and on the "original vision that this library would stand as a symbol of academic excellence for the world to see."

"We are excited, now, to look ahead to the next 50 years and beyond," she said.

Students are invited to attend the Farewell to the Floor open house on the second floor of Hesburgh Library Wednesday at 4 p.m. The event will feature refreshments, music and a sign-the-floor event.

To learn more about the renovation process go to renovation.library.nd.edu

Contact Carolyn Hutyra at chutyra@nd.edu

Fuel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from shale, fracking, oil to natural gas corporations.

"We're asking Fr. Jenkins and the investment office to reinvest the money currently invested in fossil fuel companies into sustainable and green companies."

At 4:30 p.m., the group will assemble outside the Main Building and then proceed to Jenkins's office to deliver the petitions.

"As privileged members of society here at Notre Dame, we have been given much and therefore much is expected of us," We Are 9 leader, senior Garrett Blad said. "This is a small way to show President Jenkins the concern of the Notre Dame community."

Disney

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Disney films; Kelly Cronin, a senior and peer educator for the GRC and Thomas Wintering, a 2014 alumnus and current assistant rector in Keenan Hall sat on the panel.

To introduce the topic, the event's host Maureen Doyle, assistant director for LGBTQ concerns for the GRC, played a video clip that parodied princesses as real life girls. The conversation then began with a discussion of Disney princesses and the image of femininity they portray.

"There are a lot of flaws in Disney," Ohmer pointed out at the beginning of the discussion.

Cronin referenced the limiting roles princesses often play in their own films, as well as the stereotypical activities they typically perform.

"The first three princesses are Snow White, Cinderella and Aurora, and all three spend a great deal of time in the movies doing domestic work," Cronin said.

However, Ohmer said, it is important to note "the contexts in which [Disney princesses] were created." These early heroines, whom Ohmer acknowledged

"The We Are 9 campaign is a climate justice movement. Climate change is disproportionately harming poor, indigenous and minority communities. We have seen this in natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy and Typhoon Haiyan and with all of the droughts, floods, wildfires and diseases that are happening right now across the globe," Blad said.

We Are 9 takes its name from the statistic predicting approximately nine billion people will live on Earth by 2050.

"Climate change is a matter of social justice and human rights, because those who are most adversely affected by environmental degradation are those who are already most poor and vulnerable — those who are least responsible for

over-consumption and pollution," senior Katie Otterbeck said.

Working closely with Blad, Otterbeck helped launch the We Are 9 campaign and has continued pursuing a variety of goals over the past several months.

"I think that some people have a deeper sense of biophilia instilled in them naturally than others do, and for me this love of and respect for the natural world has translated into environmental advocacy ... acknowledging that the disastrous effects of global warming on all earth's precious species and ecosystems can be stopped if we work together," Otterbeck said.

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as "first generation princesses," featured prominently in films produced in the 1930s through the 1950s.

Cronin said in more recent Disney princess films — those that Ohmer called the "third generation princess films," the princesses strive for loftier goals beyond finding their princes.

"[Belle] has read basically every book in the bookstore," Cronin said. "We see Tiana who is working hard to earn enough money to buy a restaurant."

Even though the first generation princesses hold domestic roles, they still maintain a complexity that depicts women as strong individuals albeit difficult circumstances, Ohmer said.

"[Snow White's] mother died, her father died, her stepmother wanted her to be killed and yet she maintains this sweetness ... and she has a very, very strong desire to nurture," Ohmer said.

The men of Disney films are also represented in an obscure light, Wintering said.

According to the Disney films, "the ideal man is a billionaire who comes riding in on a white horse and is jacked," he said.

Cronin said portrayals of Disney men reflect stereotypes

and caricatures as well.

"I feel like a lot of the male characters are either bland ... or they are just [meant] to carry princesses or they are hyper-masculine or they are almost desexualized," she said.

The conversation ended with a discussion about male-female relationships within the films.

"One thing I continue to find striking is how few female friendships there are and how few female-and-male relationships there are," Cronin said. "If you are a girl, you can have a guy that's your friend as long as you are a child, but once you grow up, you have to get married or you cannot be friends."

She said she noted "only two female friendships" in Disney films: one in 'Pocahontas' and one in 'The Princess and the Frog.'

These controversies surrounding Disney's portrayal of men and women are not enough to deter consumption, Ohmer said.

"We are aware of the stereotypes, but we sing [the 'Frozen' soundtrack], we buy the merchandise, we watch the films. We just appreciate the limitations."

Contact Alyssa Lyon at alyon@nd.edu



Photo Courtesy of Hesburgh Libraries — University of Notre Dame

The renovation of the Hesburgh Library starting this month will open up the first and second floors and add new study spaces.



ANNMARIE SOLLER | The Observer

Senior Kelly Cronin, a GRC peer educator, and Thomas Wintering, an assistant rector in Keenan Hall, discuss the evolution of gender portrayals in Disney films from the 1950s to the present.

INSIDE COLUMN

Care for your engine



Isaac Lorton
Assistant Managing Editor

Today one of my professors compared my body to an engine.

This was not in a my body-is-too-hot-to-touch or my body-is-smokin' way because if you looked at me, we all know she would have been lying.

Rather, she told me this in a concerned manner after I had survived a 37-hour, snack-food, coffee-fueled, unshowered sleepless stretch trying to finish my thesis draft, while still completing my class readings and attending classes (I know, I am superman and you don't care).

Anyways, she told me that living life on a deadline will catch up to me eventually and my engine will sputter out, and die.

She laughed at this because she understands the life of college students, as she has assigned plenty of papers and set just as many deadlines. She laughed even more because she knows that I am a student journalist who hopes to make a career meeting deadlines and not delivering pizzas.

As she gathered herself from laughing at the joke that is my life, her only after-college advice was "good luck."

I like deadlines. I often feel like I would never get anything done if I didn't have the pressure of the chilling presence and weight of a deadline specter looming over my shoulder. Though helpful, deadlines can be, well, deathly. There is a fine line between the value deadlines provide us and the all-consuming stress they cause us.

I also like the thrill of finishing something on deadline and feeling the sense of success and relief immediately after. I would have felt something after I sent in my thesis, but the tingling caffeine sensation was too strong. I felt accomplished the next morning after I had gotten some sleep, but it was only a momentary breather before I thought about next week's deadlines.

It may be too dramatic to say deadlines are deathly, but we all have to deal with them. No matter what we do there will be more deadlines after college. Projects at work to complete for those of you with jobs, taxes to finish for those with or without money and setting fantasy football lineups for those who think they will win it this year.

Now in the trance-like residual mess of not having slept for 37 hours, I am not saying that we need to get rid of deadlines all-together; otherwise, nothing would ever get done.

I am just saying we can handle deadlines, and more importantly ourselves, better.

Sometimes it seems like the stress of deadlines is going to give us aneurysms and ulcers and mono, but we need to not let it. If something is that important, get it done sooner. If it is not that important, don't allow the deadline to build into a giant soul-crushing monster.

I understand we all have classes and extra-curriculars and social lives, but we have to remember we need to take care of our bodies like an engine. Especially as final week approaches, remember to take a moment to fuel up with some actual food, get some rest not sitting up and above all else, breathe.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Act up, act now

Shortly after noon on Tuesday, I joined a group of students and faculty in a peaceful protest on the sidewalk between O'Shaughnessy Hall and DeBartolo Hall. We laid on the ground for 11 minutes in reference to the 11 times Eric Garner stated that he could not breathe as a New York City police officer used a chokehold that ultimately ended his life. After the allotted time had passed, we stood up and chanted as we dispersed to class.

I have never felt more proud to be a part of the Notre Dame community. But we are not done.

The epidemic of police brutality is one that can not be ignored. The senseless deaths of Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice and countless others, combined with the utter lack of culpability for their killers, makes me ashamed as an American and as a human being.

I am lucky that my reaction is one of shame, frustration and anger as opposed to complete fear for my life. This is a black issue, and I can not imagine how black people across the country must feel as these killings keep happening with no repercussions, the American justice system communicating loudly and clearly that their lives are not even worth a trial.

Here at Notre Dame, a campus dominated by white people, it can be easy to brush all this off. I myself have never been uncomfortable around the police,

have never worried that an innocent gesture could be interpreted as a threat and have never feared that I would be gunned down in the street. White people can not let their privilege block out what is happening to black people. All lives matter, yes, but black lives are repeatedly treated as disposable.

This has to change. If you'd like to help, come to the discussion at Legends at 7:30 Wednesday night. Help put up markers for the deceased on South Quad on Thursday morning.

At the very least, have a conversation. Talk to your friends, talk to your professors, talk to your family. This movement is not against any institution or group of people. It is about securing equal protection under law for all, regardless of race.

In the face of such tragedies, it is tempting to lose faith, to succumb to cynicism. Don't. Change is possible with hope, with solidarity and with action. I would like to close with the advice we chanted on Tuesday as we concluded the protest, "Act up. Act now. Act up. Act now."

Jack Reidy
sophomore
Morrissey Hall
Dec. 3

Let no hello expire

Paige Affinito
Recipes for Getting By

I have 1,637 friends on Facebook, an immense number that falsely speaks to both the nature of my social life and general popularity. Admittedly, there are some who contribute to this digit that I've never formally introduced myself to; I just could not resist the chance to stalk their profile. But the vast majority of this 1,637 represents an assemblage of individuals I've befriended through years of schooling, summer camps and dorm parties. I can't quite wrap my mind around the fact that I've encountered this many people in only two decades of life, but the number stands.

I've always been intrigued by Facebook's ability to filter news feeds according to the friends users interact with the most at any given time period. Now, almost completely occupied with those from my Notre Dame network, my News Feed looks totally different than it did three years ago. It's only once in a while that the kid who "left" high school freshman year or my bunkmate from band camp circa 2010 pop up on my homepage. Because of these social media blasts-from-the-pasts, I know he recently starred as the lead role in a theatre production of "Cats" and she just accepted a position with Google. Yet, if I saw these former peers in person, would I congratulate them on their recent successes? Moreover, if I were to run into each of my Facebook friends on any given day, how many of them would I even say hello to? I know the number would not be close to 1,637. A

As we move to different places and take on different stages of life, do former friendships approach an expiration date? Are hellos for a limited time only? Facebook's news feed filtering system certainly lends itself to this idea.

It's hard to discern the status of our relationships with those who fall between acquaintance and friend: the peers we've sat next to in lecture halls for a semester but never see on campus, the friends of friends we've shared a single meal with at the dining hall, and the dance floor make-outs that last a matter of minutes. As affiliations with these people rarely progress past mere informality, friendly exchanges are bound to expire.

Every Tuesday and Thursday on my way to DeBartolo, I get the "sup" head nod from my freshman orientation three-legged race partner. This hello is long past its due date; I have not spoken to the kid since the first week of school, don't even remember his name. Nevertheless, in our moment of mutual recognition, I am brought back to my freshman year joys and anxieties, the absolute newness of college. In a simple hello, past sentiments and memories that have made me who I am today are momentarily renewed.

Though I have not talked to the boy who would aggressively dance to Lady Gaga at every high school homecoming, and have no idea what that "up-to-no-good-10-year-old-girl" who lived next door to us for a while is actually up to anymore, if I ever crossed paths with these people of the past I'd be eager to at least exchange a wave. Perhaps, in renewing these hellos, I could revive the memories of them that have left such great impressions. If for but a second, I'd love to recall the pure joy I felt watching this sweaty teen leave everything on the dance floor. I'd do anything to relive the time when my neighbor friend and I cut off every luscious lock of our Barbie dolls in declaration of our new tomboy status. These individuals define moments in my life I hope never expire, so why would I passively let the connection die out completely?

I've decided that I am going to renew one expired hello each day for 30 days, as a way to commemorate these people of the past.

I challenge you to do the same. Take the initiative to rekindle a bond that once was: initiate a wave to that peer you haven't greeted since Microbes and Man, text a cell phone contact you haven't used in years, spontaneously Facebook chat your high school locker buddy, send an email to your sixth grade English teacher. Don't worry about awkward rejection — you never or rarely see these people anymore anyway so there's really nothing to lose! Just one person a day — that's it. I have a good feeling the results could be pretty darn cool.

Paige Affinito is a junior studying at the University of Notre Dame, living in Breen-Phillips. You may reach her at paffinito@nd.edu

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

Oxford feminists, cisgender males and abortion

Charlie Ducey
English, Channeled

On Nov. 18, British journalists Brendan O'Neill and Tim Stanley were set to debate the motion "This House believes Britain's Abortion Culture hurts us all" at Christ Church College at the University of Oxford. The debate was scheduled by Oxford Students for Life (OSFL), a secular student organization. But when a coalition of Christ Church undergrads and Oxford feminists voiced disapproval over two "cisgender males" debating abortion, the whole event was cancelled.

Following the cancellation, Stanley, who was to argue for the motion (the "pro-life" position), wrote a follow-up article in *The Telegraph*, which began thus: "I would've thought that the one place in Britain where you could agree to disagree amicably would be Oxford University. But I was wrong. For instance, I've discovered that you're only allowed to debate abortion there if a) you are a woman and b) you're all for it. Any other approach to the subject is liable to attract a mob..."

In light of this event, which has been covered in news publications as diverse as *The Washington Post* and *The Philippine Times* and cited as an instance of censorship, I will endeavor to dissect some of the language used in this controversy as well as in the pro-life / pro-choice debate in general. Terminology, I think we will find, lies at the heart of the issue.

First, more facts: Nov. 18's debate was the third event planned by OSFL during the term, the two prior events featuring the speakers Michaela Aston and Tanni Grey-Thompson. After OSFL announced the debate on their Facebook page, the Women's Campaign (WomCam), an Oxford student movement "to promote gender equality and raise awareness of feminist issues" (as per their Tumblr), spoke out against the event, claiming it "absurd to think we should be listening to two cisgender men debate about what people with uteruses should be doing with their bodies." A comment on their Facebook page invited all opposed to

"take along some non-destructive but oh so disruptive instruments to help demonstrate to the anti-choicers just what we think of their 'debate.'" With the support of the Christ Church Junior Common Room representing the college's undergrads, Christ Church College decided not to hold the debate, citing "insufficient time between today and tomorrow to address some concerns they had about the meeting." When OSFL could not find another venue, the event was cancelled indefinitely. Cue free speech controversy.

Let's step back for a moment and examine the language used.

First, the topic debated was not the legal status of abortion, but whether "abortion culture" is harmful. WomCam, then, had little reason to be upset about people with uteruses being told what to do with their bodies. However, O'Neill (the pro-choice debater) was going to call attention to this very term in the speech he would have given (since made available online), saying that "culture" is added to words to "make something sound scarier than it actually is." On the other hand, Stanley would have argued in his speech that, "Abortion is at the very centre of the therapeutic state: the state that dulls pain with simplistic solutions rather than addresses their complex causes." Certain wordings might invoke fear, but abortion isn't exactly something to calmly shrug off.

Second, the framing of the abortion debate in general seems entirely rooted in controlling words, a battle to see who will be the definer. Just look at the factions: "pro-choice" and "pro-life." Who wants to stand against life and choice? Thus, WomCam defined the opposition as "anti-choicers" while the phrase "abortion is murder" is not unheard of in the opposing camp. Moreover, the entire debate centers on defining what a "human person" is, when "the right to life" begins and what "bodily autonomy" means. The whole reason why WomCam protested the Oxford debate was because they felt women would not be involved in this defining process. But would women really be excluded if two qualified journalists who happened to be male debated the costs and benefits of abortion in Britain?

I don't think so. What I think the debate needs is an

extension of context. On OSFL's Facebook page, one student commented, "When I discuss abortion, it's inseparable from the idea that I wouldn't immediately know what to do if I were to find myself accidentally pregnant. That said, of course men can add value to discussions about abortion. In fact, I'd like to see more men considering the topic of abortion with a view to a pregnancy they might have accidentally caused – rather than as an abstract issue."

I agree; men should think about themselves as potentially involved in unintended pregnancies. And I would take it one step further. Why are so many pregnancies "accidentally" happening? Is it "abortion culture" or "sexual culture" that we should address as the underlying cause?

In the 2008 Battle of Ideas festival in London, pro-choice advocate Anne Furedi (who actually supported OSFL's right to hold the debate in Oxford last Tuesday) explained her opposition to the view "that sex has to take place in a responsible, planned, relationship kind of a way," stating that "we can live in a society with sex without fear of consequences, and abortion is very much a backstop to that."

What? Did a major figure of the pro-choice movement seriously promote a view of sex that is neither "responsible" nor "planned"?

If your definition of sex necessitates abortion, then I think your definition needs some serious reworking. Forget free speech and abortion debates. What we need to talk about is basic responsibility — both for Oxford feminists to actually respond within debates rather than preventing them, and for the whole of society to make responsible choices regarding sexuality and the words we use to define it and its natural consequences.

Charlie Ducey is a junior studying the languages of Mary Wollstonecraft (English) and Joseph Ratzinger (German). For the next academic year, he is residing on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean in Oxford, UK. He welcomes your words. He can be contacted at cducey@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alumnus questions campus GLBTQ discussion

Dear Notre Dame Community,

It's rather odd that I decide to write an Observer article after 17 years have passed since I was a Notre Dame student. I know things have changed, but at the same time, I realize the beauty of Notre Dame is the constancy of the University in so many wonderful facets – the academia, spirituality, athletics and certainly, let us not forget, controversy and exchanges of ideas. Isn't this what a university education is all about?

I write this letter from outside the University looking in, from someone who knows and loves Notre Dame well, but is not there to witness the current daily dynamics of our University. Please understand that I fully admit that my remarks are mere assumptions about today's Notre Dame and merely ask to clarify the situation. I fully understand I may be missing the mark here completely. I am simply putting my thoughts onto paper as an alumnus perceiving activities on campus from afar.

Recently, I have read frustrations regarding Students for Child Oriented Policy (SCOP) – accusations of narrow-mindedness, possible hatred and lack of Christian charity in the group's mission.

Certainly, human sexuality is an immensely complex issue, and I am no expert in the field. Rather, I am an economist in thought. I currently teach economics and understand the natural balance maintained in society and life,

dare I say God's natural law. With 30+ states allowing for the marriage of same-sex couples, it is impossible for Notre Dame to ignore (nor should the University ignore) the new forms of these issues in today's society. As an institution staunchly grounded in the Christian foundation, it is Notre Dame's duty to address any issues affecting society because it affects her students.

I commend the administration, and in particular my former Notre Dame classmate and friend, Erin Hoffmann Harding, who so eloquently addressed Notre Dame's mission and the University's responsibility in this heated debate with the establishment of "Beloved Friends and Allies," a collaborative piece between university and Church that beautifully explains Notre Dame's mission to the GLBTQ community in a distinctly Catholic context.

Of course, with any organization, especially one the size of Notre Dame, human error is never extinct. I am assuming that the execution of this plan and topic on campus is not perfect. And here I arrive at my perceptions and questions.

Are there organizations on campus in support of GLBTQ community walking a fine line on Church teaching? Are they doing just enough to not be antithetical to Church teaching, but somehow promoting ideas against the Church's teachings? I do not know, as one not on campus currently, but from the responses I have seen, it seems that may be the case.

For two years now, students have been walking through

rainbow doorways on campus to come out as whoever they want to be. This is a great concept displaying God's individuality in creation, and it would seem that this movement is done in accordance with the Catholic message. It is here I wonder as well. Is there somewhere a hidden agenda existing that promotes a lifestyle that counters what the Church considers to be God's natural law? Do the members of Students for Child-Oriented Policy (SCOP) sense hidden agendas (whether or not they are actually present)? I would assume that SCOP does sense that a hidden agenda is in place for some groups and activities at Notre Dame.

Is this the natural balance that SCOP provides to the Notre Dame community, or is SCOP merely a right-wing extremist group? Personally, I believe SCOP is providing a needed balance to Notre Dame. I believe that students involved in SCOP love God, God's Church, Notre Dame and all of you reading this. I believe that SCOP is not intending to be hateful, but inform those they care about what the Church preaches regarding sexual unions. Let us never forget that although a university, even a great university, Notre Dame goes beyond and is a great Catholic university.

Gregory Bergman
alumnus

Notre Dame Class of 1997
Dec. 3



CROP TOPS AND KANYE

The Fashion of 2014

By **ERIN McAULIFFE**
Scene Writer

In 2014 normcore was the norm. Everyone from The New York Times to Gap had a stance on the trend that incorporated a dad-esque wardrobe of tennis shoes, baggy light-wash jeans, neutrals and t-shirts into a high-fashion movement. Perhaps the effect of Ezra Koenig's legendary "cool dad" Twitter movement, girls everywhere were thrifting overalls, ditching skinny jeans for a pair of their boyfriend's jeans and wearing socks with heels. Guys at Notre Dame kept wearing sweatshirts and jeans with sneakers and unintentionally capitalized on the trend.

Another trend that capitalized on the demand for fashionable comfort was the sporty movement fueled by the Alexander Wang X H&M collaboration. Rihanna, Leandre Medine, Solange Knowles, Jessica Chastain, Kate Mara, Mary J Blige, Beyonce and Eddie Redmayne have all been spotted in the viral gym-meets-runway collection.

Kanye West, who sat front row at Wang's spring/summer 2014 show embodies the high-fashion takeover of high-school jock attire. In one of many memorable quotes from his GQ exclusive, he divulged how this trend could have topped 2008's list instead of 2014's.

"Whether I'm at a dinner with Anna Wintour, or I'm at a listening session with Pusha, or me and Virgil are in Rome giving designs to Fendi over and over and getting our designs knocked down," the rapper said.

"We brought the leather jogging pants six years ago to

Fendi, and they said, 'No.' How many mothers you done seen with a jogging pant?"

Although the answer to West's question is probably zero on Notre Dame's campus, students can capitalize on less expensive — and less Bieberish — fashionable sportswear styles. For example, joggers — sweatpants that are tighter around the ankles — in heathered or black (no gray please — we can't risk "groutfits") versions can replace those sweatpants you bought at the Bookstore because they resembled issue gear. The trend has girls rocking Jordans with leather or mesh-paneled leggings instead of the same old Lululemon versions. Scuba material, perforated accents and cut-outs all contribute to the sporty trend.

Although it may be 2014, this year saw the return of retro 1950s styles. In tune with this year's announcement of a "Twin Peaks" third season, we saw the revival of full skirts, plaid and turtlenecks while midi skirts — skirts that skim below the knee, usually in a fuller silhouette — replaced mini skirts.

However don't rejoice yet, grandma: while skirts have lengthened, shirts have shortened. That's right, perhaps topping this year's trend list: the crop top.

The year in fashion harkened back to the '90s for inspiration, as we saw chokers, slip dresses and as much midriff as we had since Britney Spears's "... Baby One More Time" music video. This year we also saw Taylor Swift just become a singing, world-dominating human crop top.

This trend was heightened when worn as a matching set. Whether you wore a printed shirt and skirt combo posing as a versatile sundress, a metallic shirt and shorts combo creating a sultry out-on-the-town look or a monochrome top and pant set posing as a youthful version of a power suit, this trend's popularity and versatility could not be matched. It was basically the best thing to happen to your closet since you got rid of your favorite reversible shirt in fourth grade.

Moving out of the clothes realm and onto hair, another short trend that cropped up everywhere in 2014 was the bob. Human crop top Taylor Swift, along with Jennifer Lawrence, Emma Stone and Lily Collins all committed to shorter dos.

While women were cutting their hair, men were attempting to grow their hair out long enough to wear the esteemed "mun" (man bun) after Jared Leto's locks won an Oscar.

Guys embodied the all-American lumberjack look of these buns with corduroy or denim Sherpa-lined jackets, denim shirts and Carhartt workwear. Celebrities like Jake Gyllenhaal, Penn Badgely, Bradley Cooper and Harry Styles have all been trying out this hairy style.

Now that we've looked back at 2014, it's time we keep our eyes out for the tastes and trends of that will define the upcoming year. But don't throw away your joggers and dad jeans just yet.

Contact Erin McAuliffe at emcaulif@nd.edu

Grammy Nominations Surprise and Disappoint



Allie Tollaksen
Scene Editor

With the end of the year finally here, everyone from news outlets to independent bloggers are pitching in their two cents on the best of pop culture in 2014. But the last page on the calendar also signals the start of awards season, a time during which we'd expect academies and industries to applaud the best and brightest in pop culture.

However this December, like every December, the nominations for the 2015 Grammy Awards are a disappointing show of the year in music. In fact, it seems that the Recording Academy has somehow outdone itself in the absurdity of some nominations, and the myopic scope of nominees is unfortunately unsurprising.

The 2014 Grammys were overshadowed by the flurry of nominations and awards that went to Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. The pair nabbed a staggering four awards: Best New Artist, Best Rap Album, Best Rap Song and Best Rap Performance, and the wins seemed so wrong, even Macklemore himself knew he shouldn't have walked away with an award that belonged to

Kendrick Lamar.

With the nominees for the 2015 Grammy Awards released, it appears we're in for some déjà vu. Iggy Azalea, who has been accused of bursting into the scene and white-washing hip-hop this year just as Macklemore did last year, has been nominated for Best New Artist, Record of the Year, Best Pop/Duo Performance and Best Rap Album. We'll see if Iggy and her debut album, "The New Classic," make like Macklemore and steal the hip-hop spotlight while stirring up some outrage.

Even categories that fly relatively under the radar fell flat. The nominees in Best Comedy Album are as predictable as the Best Record nominees, with a list of comedians including Patton Oswalt, Jim Gaffigan and Sarah Silverman. Sure, all three are great comedians with plenty of excellent material, but to claim that any of them stole the show in comedy this year is hilariously tone deaf.

There are, however, a few beacons of light amidst the generally disappointing nominations. The Best Dance/Electronic Album is chock full of great nominees, including Aphex Twin for "Spyro" and Little Dragon's "Namuba Rubberband." Arcade Fire got a nod for Best Music Video with their production of "We Exist," and

St. Vincent grabbed a Best Alternative Album with her eponymous 2014 album, an award she more than deserves.

Still, the rest of the nominees are enough to convince any music fan to keep the TV off when the 2015 Grammys air Feb. 8. The worst part, however, is that the list of nominations is as predictable as they are disappointing, yet we find ourselves tuning in and live tweeting the awards each year.

This year is no exception. Despite my frustration with everything that is the Grammys, I'm afraid I'll catch myself flipping on CBS that evening anyway, if only with the hope of incredible performances from Nicki Minaj or Beyonce, both of whom have been nominated this year. All that's left to do is hope and pray there won't be another performance combining my favorite and least favorite artists (I'm looking at you, Kendrick Lamar and Imagine Dragons this year), saving me from perhaps the most complicated mix of emotions I've ever experienced. A music fan can only hope.

Contact Allie Tollaksen at atollaks@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

6 GIRL-POWER MOMENTS THIS YEAR



By **ALEXANDRA LOWERY**
Scene Writer

Between female artists dominating the music charts to inspirational girls grabbing peace prizes and throwing Little League pitches, here's a look back at the best and brightest moments for women in the media this year.

Beyoncé was Beyoncé and "FEMINIST" was her backup dancer for seven blissful seconds

Somehow topping her 2013 Superbowl halftime show that literally shut everything down, the world stood still for 16 and a half perfect minutes this August at the MTV Video Music Awards as Queen B once again proved that girls do in fact run the world.

The iconic image of her majesty standing in front of the word "FEMINIST" (which has arguably been the most controversial buzzword of the year) suddenly started appearing everywhere, even making a cameo on my pumpkin this Halloween. Beyoncé yet again let us all know that she is not only one of the hardest working and talented women in the industry, one that stands for the empowerment of women and makes the idea of feminism accessible to her fans.

"1989" sells 1.287 million copies in its first week, turning even the haters into Swiftie converts

Taylor Swift unsurprisingly dominated again in 2014, her fifth studio album becoming the second most

successful album of the year, bowing only to the "Frozen" soundtrack, which was released a whole 10 months before Swift dropped the mic in late October. "1989" is an undeniable mainstream masterpiece and showcases T-Swizzle's new identity as an independent woman in a business that always labeled her as simply a "whiny serial dater with a guitar." Whether you're in awe of "Blank Space" or bumpin' it to "Shake It Off," you have to admit that Taylor has killed it on every level this year — and she did it all without a man.

Mo'ne Davis pitched a shutout, got on the cover of "Sports Illustrated" and showed us all how an MLB first pitch should be thrown

"Mo'ne — remember her name" are the large words that caption a photo of 13-year-old Mo'ne Davis on the front of America's most popular sports magazine. Not a big deal, but it made her the first Little League player ever to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated. As the first girl to earn a win and pitch a shutout in the televised World Series for 11 to 13 year olds, Davis told the world girls can do anything a man can — and she hasn't even graduated middle school.

Emma Watson starts a worldwide movement

Unless you spilled Starbucks on your laptop, dropped your cracked iPhone in the toilet or never got around to plugging that cable thing into your TV, then you probably have heard about Emma Watson's speech introducing

the "He For She" campaign at the UN this September. The most talented Hogwarts student of our age reminded everyone that gender stereotypes affect everyone, springing a global movement of male supporters of women's rights. Nearly 200,000 men have taken the pledge, including Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Tom Hiddleston.

Laverne Cox was amazing — and the world finally recognized

We know and love Lavern Cox as Sophia Burset on the Netflix Original Series "Orange is the New Black" — a role that has helped aid in the nationwide discussion of transgender rights in our country. The role has also given Cox a springboard to continue her work as one of the fiercest advocates for equality for the transgender community. After being the first openly transgender person to be nominated for an Emmy in an acting category, the activist went on to be the first openly trans person to be featured on the cover of TIME magazine in May of this year.

Malala Yousafzai

The youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize all in pursuit of better access to education for females around the world, Malala Yousafzai is girl power personified and at 17 years old as an assassination survivor, and she's just getting started.

Contact Alexandra Lowery at alowery1@nd.edu



SPORTS AUTHORITY

Making things interesting in CFP



Isaac Lorton
Assistant Managing Editor

If college football's purpose is to prepare the next generation of NFL players for professional competition, the NCAA needs to add something extra to its bowl selection process.

Ideally it would be an eight-team playoff with the power five conference champions and three at-large bids, as conference champions in the NFL make the playoffs and there are two wild cards. However, there is not enough time for such a setup and student-athletes would no longer need the student part of their title. So, scratch that.

Conference champions are often not the best teams in the league, but somehow they get in and a few even win. I'm thinking of the 7-9 Seahawks of 2010, who won in the first round. And the Giants when they won the Superbowl in 2010 with a 9-7 record and 2007 with a 10-6 record. Looking at the AFC South this year, it looks like a team with a losing record most likely will get in. We could actually see a 6-10 Falcons or Saints make the playoffs, and who knows what kind of havoc they could wreak if they win.

There is no way a team without a perfect, or nearly perfect, record would make the college football playoffs. Granted, there are more conferences and more teams in college football and a greater disparity of talent between conferences; however, there is no sense of random upsets in the college football playoff system. The four teams now in the playoffs all have the best records from the best conferences and have proven themselves throughout the year. There is no such thing as a late-season push for the playoffs in college football. Once a team loses, its hopes at the playoffs are doubtful; once a team loses twice, it is impossible to make the playoffs.

Since the selection process and committee are in their inaugural year, I think we should give the four-team playoff system a chance for a few years to see how it plays

out. However, I think we should add a twist next season. The playoff committee should select a wild-card or two in the truest sense of the word.

This is not an argument for 12-1 Baylor or 12-1 TCU to get into the playoffs, that would be tedious. I'm thinking more like an 8-4 Minnesota or a 7-5 Stanford as possible candidates for the wildcard slot.

These teams are kind of good and have the potential to be good, so give them a shot to maybe win. They will for sure be the long shots in the playoffs but they might surprise a few people along the way. If they make the playoffs, they will play harder, which might make for an interesting game. Once they have something to play for, who knows -- maybe they, too, could make a playoff run and win the national championship. However, it may be hard to pick which mediocre team deserves such a shot. I think the playoff team should arbitrarily or even randomly select which team gets in. I'm not above arguing that the selection committee should roll a dice or assign teams random numbers and have a fan or intern pick a number between 1-100. It would make the playoff system more interesting and give talented yet unlucky teams a shot to win it all.

Every team with a 6-6 record should be written down on a piece of paper and thrown into a large hat, then one of the selection committee members should pull out one or two teams who will get to play in the college football playoffs.

In the world of sports, the best team doesn't always win and underdog stories are the best to follow. No one will ever be happy with college football rankings, so the playoff committee should make at least one team happy around Christmas with a random act of kindness.

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

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL | WICHITA STATE 77, SETON HALL 68

Wichita State overcomes slow start to beat Pirates

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kansas — Ron Baker scored 22 points, Fred VanVleet added 18 points and eight assists and No. 11 Wichita State handed Seton Hall its first loss of the season, 77-68 on Tuesday night.

Darius Carter had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Shockers (6-1), who used a big first-half run to seize control, and then breezed through a foul-filled second half.

Isaiah Whitehead scored 23 points and Sterling Gibbs had 19 for the Pirates (7-1), who beat another Missouri Valley team in Illinois State earlier this season, but had yet to play anybody as deep, talented and filled with seasoned veterans as the Shockers.

Wichita State has won 22 consecutive home games dating to the 2012-13 season.

The Shockers started off poorly, missing eight of

their first 11 shots. That allowed Seton Hall to build a 13-8 lead, along with some confidence.

Everything turned around the final 12 minutes of the first half.

Turning up the pressure, the Shockers forced turnovers on four straight possessions, most of them turning into easy run-outs. Rashard Kelly began the run with back-to-back baskets, but it was Baker who shook the entire building when he slammed a one-handed dunk on a fast break.

By the time Baker curled in a 3-pointer, the Shockers forced another turnover and Shaquille Morris made a pair of foul shots, a 13-0 run had produced a 21-13 lead.

Wichita State stretched its run to 26-5 near the end of the half, with each of the Pirates' points coming from Whitehead, who had 18 at the break. But even

his virtuoso performance had a noticeable blemish — after knocking down a 3-pointer in front of Wichita State coach Gregg Marshall, Whitehead was whistled for a technical foul for celebrating.

Whitehead hurt his right shoulder early in the second half when he got tied up jumping for a rebound. While he lay on the court, coach Kevin Willard walked onto the floor — apparently trying to stop the game — and was whistled for Seton Hall's second technical foul.

Whitehead eventually returned with about 15 minutes to go.

By that point, Baker had knocked down a 3-pointer off a nifty feed from VanVleet, and then scored an open layup to lift Wichita State to a 53-32 advantage. The Shockers cruised from there, Seton Hall hitting a series of shots late to make the final score respectable.

NHL | BLUE JACKETS 3, FLYERS 2 (OT)

Connauton's first goal lifts Blue Jackets in OT

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Kevin Connauton scored his first goal of the season off a lead pass from Ryan Johansen at 1:58 of overtime to lift the Columbus Blue Jackets past the Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 on Tuesday night for their fourth straight win.

Johansen took a drop pass and waited for Connauton to slip past Matt Read. He then fed a pass to Connauton for the high shot that beat Steve Mason.

Boone Jenner scored in his career-best fourth straight game, and Scott Hartnell also had a goal. Sergei Bobrovsky made 19 saves.

Brayden Schenn had both goals for the Flyers, including one after a video review with 55.3 seconds left in the third period. Mason stopped 21 shots.

Columbus' longest winning streak of the season follows a six-game skid that was part of a 2-13-2 stretch.

Connauton played his seventh game since being picked up off waivers from Dallas on Nov. 18.

The Flyers, playing the last of a five-game, 11-day trip, have had lost 10 of 11 before beating Los Angeles on Saturday.

Mason made his first start against his former team in Columbus. He had split four decisions in Philadelphia since he was traded to the Flyers in April 2013. He was the rookie of the year in 2009.

Columbus, plagued by injuries all season, welcomed back center Brandon Dubinsky. An integral leader, he played his first game of the season after abdominal surgery.

The Blue Jackets took a 2-1

with their second power-play goal in two chances.

Midway through the second period, Columbus had the puck in the offensive zone for most of the first 90 seconds of the power play. Defenseman Jack Johnson shot wide, but then centered the puck. Nick Foligno got a stick on it and the puck ended up between Hartnell's skates. He jabbed at it twice before finally pivoting and scoring his sixth of the season but first in 13 games.

Jenner scored for the fourth game in a row when he took a pass from Dubinsky down low. His centering pass was blocked back to him and he jammed in the puck.

The Flyers countered late in the period when Claude Giroux's setup from the right circle provided Schenn with a one-timer for his eighth of the season.

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merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas with every Christmas card I write may your days be merry and bright, and may all your Christmases be white. May your days be merry and bright, and may all of you Christmases be white.

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NHL | BLACKHAWKS 3, DEVILS 2

Blackhawks rally to win shootout over Devils

Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey — Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane scored in a shootout, and the Chicago Blackhawks rallied late to earn their seventh straight victory with a 3-2 win over the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday night.

Bryan Bickell and Duncan Keith had goals in regulation for Chicago, whose winning streak matches the NHL high for this season. Scott Darling made 22 saves, including two stops in the shootout.

The loss spoiled the first NHL start for Devils goalie Keith Kincaid, who made 37 saves, but was no match for the Chicago stars in the shootout.

Jordin Tootoo and Stephen Gionta scored for New Jersey, and Steve Bernier added two assists for the Devils, who were trying for back to back wins.

Darling made a glove save on Martin Havlat to start the shootout, and Toews easily beat Kincaid with a backhand. After Darling made a pad save on Jaromir Jagr,

Kane skated in on Kincaid, danced in front of him and slid the puck into the net for the Blackhawks' fourth win in four shootouts.

Chicago had tied it with 3:13 left in regulation when defenseman Duncan Keith put the rebound of Marian Hossa's shot into an open net. The play developed after the Blackhawks kept the puck in the Devils zone, and Toews found Hossa for a good shot in close.

Until the goal, it appeared that Stephen Gionta's goal on a baseball swing at 2:31 of the third period was going to be the winner.

Defenseman Damon Severson took a shot from the right point that Darling stopped. Blackhawks defenseman Klas Dahlbeck used his glove to swat the rebound away, but Gionta lined it right into the net.

Havlat nearly gave the Devils a two-goal lead later in the period but his breakaway hit off the post and crossbar with 9:30 left.

Kincaid, called up from Albany of the AHL earlier Tuesday after giving up one goal in each of his last three starts, had stopped Patrick

Sharp on a breakaway just about 30 seconds before Gionta's second goal of the season.

Chicago was a little off its game in the first period, but it dominated the second, outshooting New Jersey 17-7. Bickell got the only goal with a shot from the right circle after he carried the puck into the Devils zone leading a 3-on-1 break.

Sharp, playing for the first time since Nov. 4 because of a lower body injury, got the only assist on the play set up by Devils turnover.

New Jersey's goal also was the result of a turnover. Tootoo scored from the same circle as Bickell after taking a pass from Bernier.

NOTES: The game was the second of a five-game trip for Chicago. ... Keith played 30:36 for Chicago. ... Devils F Dainius Zubrus missed the game after getting stitches in his leg Monday night. ... Schneider had started 27 of 28 games. ... This was the Devils' 11th home game, tying them with Vancouver for fewest in the NHL this season.

NHL | SABRES 1, KINGS 0

Enroth, Buffalo shut out Los Angeles at home

Associated Press

BUFFALO, New York — Tyler Ennis' third-period, power play goal lifted the Buffalo Sabres to a 1-0 win over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday night.

Jhonas Enroth made 34 saves for his first shutout since April 13, 2013, and the Sabres kept up their home mastery of the Kings. Los Angeles is 1-11-1 in its last 14 games in Buffalo.

Jonathan Quick had a shutout streak of 119 minutes, 54 seconds against Buffalo snapped by Ennis. Quick blanked the Sabres on Oct. 23 in Los Angeles.

The Sabres snapped a two-game losing streak and won their third straight at home. The defending champion

Kings lost consecutive games for the fourth time this season.

The game marked the second meeting between Sabres coach Ted Nolan and his son, Kings right wing Jordan Nolan.

Cody Hodgson nearly opened the scoring 14 seconds into the second period when he darted from the left end boards to Quick's post, but the goalie slid over the cover the opening.

Enroth made a shoulder save on a deflected shot by Robyn Regehr at 7:55.

The game's first penalty wasn't called until Zemgus Girgensons held Los Angeles' Anze Kopitar with 13:39 gone in the second.

The Kings had their best chance of the period during

the man advantage as Enroth had to stop his momentum from carrying Dustin Brown's low shot into the net.

Former Sabres defenseman Robyn Regehr was called for roughing early in the third, and Buffalo had several chances to beat Quick in tight before Ennis finally scored.

Matt Moulson, Quick's brother-in-law, carried the puck into the corner before finding Ennis alone in front of Quick for the goal 4 minutes into the third.

Drew Stafford also earned an assist.

Enroth then stopped Tyler Toffoli twice within seconds to preserve the shutout.

With Quick pulled, Ennis was tripped by Drew Doughty to give Buffalo a final-minute power play.

NHL | WILD 5, ISLANDERS 4

Wild come back to beat New York

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Nino Niederreiter tapped in the go-ahead goal with 4:33 left and capped a furious comeback by the Minnesota Wild in a 5-4 win over the New York Islanders 5-4 on Tuesday night.

The Wild trailed 3-0 after the first period and 4-1 at the second intermission, but they were fired up midway through the game. Defenseman Keith Ballard was sent to a hospital after his head bounced hard on the ice, following a hit from Matt Martin.

Jason Pominville, Mikko Koivu, Erik Haula and Thomas Vanek scored for the Wild, and Niederreiter followed with the most dramatic goal against the team that chose him No. 5 in the 2010 draft.

Chad Johnson, who made 25 saves for the Islanders, whacked his stick against the boards near the bench at the next whistle.

New York lost its second straight after leading 3-0 in the first.

Johnson got the surprise start over Jaroslav Halak, who had an 11-game winning streak stopped on Saturday when he gave up six goals to St. Louis after being given a big lead.

Michael Grabner, Brock Nelson and Martin scored early for the Islanders, and Josh Bailey gave them a 4-1 lead on their lone shot of the second period. The Islanders became the first NHL team this season to score on its only shot in a period.

But the Wild weren't deterred. Haula's shot off Thomas Hickey's skate brought them within 4-3. Just 45 seconds later, Vanek tied it in a pile of bodies in front when he found the puck underneath Nelson and knocked onto Johnson's chest as the goalie fell backward into the net.

Niklas Backstrom made 15 saves for the Wild, who outshot the Islanders 27-8 over the final two periods.

The Wild were listless in the first period, booed by the crowd as they left the ice.

Grabner scored for the second straight game, just his third appearance of the season following his hernia surgery, with a wrist shot the glanced off Ballard's stick

while Anders Lee screened Backstrom.

Nelson tacked another goal during a power play, ending a streak of 15 straight penalties killed by the Wild over five games, with his team-leading 13th goal that was set up by Nick Leddy's slap shot. Just 32 seconds later, Martin jumped to try to avoid Hickey's rebound shot, but the puck nicked his skate and trickled across the line.

The Wild and their fans were riled up midway through the second after Ballard's injury. Those boos came back, but for the officials when no penalty was called on Martin. Koivu yelled at them, too, as they prepared to restart the game.

Mikael Granlund immediately hit Kyle Okposo, who drew a slashing penalty for angrily hitting Granlund in the leg in response.

Pominville scored on the first of three assists by Ryan Suter, making his return following a two-game absence to the mumps. Then Kyle Brodziak dropped the gloves with Martin as he re-entered the game.

Most NHL teams typically have at least one native Minnesotan playing in front of family and friends against the Wild, but the Islanders generated more extra ticket sales than usual with Okposo (St. Paul), Nelson (Warroad), Leddy (Eden Prairie) and Lee (Edina). Okposo and Leddy, who was the Wild's first-round draft pick in 2009, also played briefly for the University of Minnesota before turning pro.

NOTES: Lee was fined \$2,286.29 for elbowing St. Louis defenseman Carl Gunnarsson on Saturday. ... Zach Parise skated with Vanek on a line for the first time this season, with Granlund centering. Pominville joined Koivu and Jason Zucker on the second line. ... The last NHL team to score on its lone shot of a period, according to STATS research, was Buffalo in the second period on April 10, 2014. ... The Wild have outshot opponents in 23 of 26 games this season. ... The Islanders kept their injured list at five, taking defenseman Lubomir Visnovsky (upper body) off before the game and placing center Casey Cizikas (upper body) on it. Cizikas was hurt on Saturday.

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FENCING

Collineau continues to impress in first year

By **BEN PADANILAM**
Sports Writer

"He just continues to amaze us."

These were the words Irish head coach Gia Kvaratskhelia used to describe freshman foilist Virgile Collineau following his second-place finish at the Penn State Garret Open just over two weeks ago.

Collineau has continually impressed the coaching staff this year, as he has made his transition to American-style fencing with relative ease. Having grown up in France, Virgile recognized that his craft would need to adapt to the American approach.

"It's different from what I used to do in France, but I think now I've almost fully adapted," Collineau said. "[Maybe] not fully, but I'm well adapted. I really like Gia's way of doing things and way of coaching and giving lessons. I think in the U.S., [fencing] is more aggressive. Now here, I have really been trained in my decision making and in my aggressiveness, which are really a part of American fencing and different from the French way of doing things."

Collineau, one of 12 competitors on France's junior national team, had to face the decision when he expressed his desire to pursue both his academic studies and fencing career.

"I knew there weren't a lot of choices if I wanted to keep on fencing and doing studies because in France it is kind of hard to do both," Collineau said. "So my only alternative in France was to go to Paris to train at the senior national training center, which worked similarly to the junior national team. But I was not selected as one of the 12 for the team."

It was at this point Collineau decided to look for opportunities outside of France. After much research, he said he narrowed it down to one program in particular: the University of Notre Dame.

Although he had never visited the school, Collineau said he decided Notre Dame was the best program for him to work on both his studies and his craft. He finally did make the trip to the U.S. — just two weeks before the start of classes.

"I didn't know what to expect when I arrived," Collineau

said. "I was afraid. I arrived in August with one or two weeks to acclimate, but it was very nice. The coaches came to the airport to pick me up, so I was never on my own. They helped me to acclimate at the beginning. The classes are very different from what they were in France, but I didn't really have trouble acclimating."

One of the most important factors in his relatively easy transition was the family atmosphere that the fencing team provided, Collineau said.

"Concerning the fencing, it's way different than when I was in France," Collineau said. "I find it better for me because we are a very big team and everybody is very nice and friendly. In France, it was very competitive. Here, I feel like everybody is working together for the team. It's less individual and more like a team spirit, and the coaches are really nice too."

With the season now underway, Collineau's performance continues to regularly improve, as he adapts to the American-style of fencing. Though his second place finish at the Penn State Open marks his best on the season, he said he did not believe that was his



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Notre Dame junior foil Sarah Followill lunges during the Decicco Duals in February at Notre Dame's Castellan Family Fencing Center.

best overall best performance.

"I fenced pretty well, but it was not an outstanding performance," Collineau said. "I made some mistakes, and I didn't win the final bout which I should have won. I think what was nice was that I was very relaxed, and one of the things about me is that when I am relaxed, I fence much better than when I am tense. I think Penn State was a good way for me to show it."

Going forward, Collineau said he believes he can continue to bring that mindset into his bouts with him. As a more relaxed foilist, he believes he

can better contribute to both his personal goal for the end of the year, as well as help the team reach the NCAA Championships.

"From a personal point of view, I would like to do well in the competition back in France and qualify for the World Cup," Collineau said. "I would also really like to do well in the upcoming NCAA event. I think we have a very good team this year, so I hope I will help the team to win the [NCAA] championship."

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NBA | CAVALIERS 105, RAPTORS 101

Cavaliers defeat Raptors on last-minute James jumper

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 35 points, making the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 48 seconds remaining, and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied to beat the Toronto Raptors 105-101 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight victory.

James' jumper from the top of the key gave Cleveland a 102-99 lead and tied him with Mark Price for the franchise record for 3-pointers at 802.

James scored 10 points in the fourth quarter as Cleveland rallied from a 10-point deficit early in the period. Dion Waiters came off the bench for 18 points and Kevin Love added 17.

Jonas Valanciunas and Terrence Ross each scored 18 for Toronto. Kyle Lowry added 16, but only scored two in the fourth quarter as he was hounded defensively by Cavaliers guard Matthew Dellavedova.

Following Lowry's missed shot that hit the top of the backboard, James added a free throw with 14.2 seconds remaining for a four-point lead. Ross' dunk on an offensive rebound with 4.2 seconds left made it 103-101, but Kyrie Irving's two free throws with 3.8 seconds left sealed the win.

Trailing 95-85 early in the fourth quarter, Cleveland went on a 10-2 run and tied the game on Love's 3-pointer with 3:50 remaining.

Patrick Patterson's basket gave Toronto the lead but James tied it again with two free throws at the 1:56 mark.

The Cavaliers haven't lost since falling 110-93 to the Raptors at Quicken Loans Arena on Nov. 22, after which James said they were "fragile." Cleveland got a measure of revenge with a 105-91 win in Toronto on Friday. The Raptors built a double-figure lead Tuesday, but couldn't hang on in the team's third matchup in 18 days.

Toronto, which has the best record in the Eastern Conference, went ahead midway through the first quarter and pushed the lead to 13 points just prior to halftime. The margin remained in double figures for most of the second half. Cleveland cut the lead to 97-92 on baskets by James and Irving with five minutes remaining.

Both teams were coming off eventful nights Monday. Toronto couldn't hold a big lead at home against Denver, but emerged with a 112-107 win in overtime.

Prior to Cleveland's game in Brooklyn, James and Irving wore

"I Can't Breathe" shirts during warmups in support of Eric Garner, who died in July after a police officer placed him in a chokehold when he was being arrested for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

The game was also attended by Prince William and Kate Middleton, who were presented with gifts by James following the game.

Toronto shot 14 for 21 in the first quarter and led 63-55 at halftime. Valanciunas had a strong first half with 14 points and nine rebounds.

Tip-ins

Raptors: Lowry and Ross are the only Raptors to start every game this season. ... Toronto began a stretch of eight straight games against East opponents Tuesday. ... DeMar DeRozan (torn groin) has missed six straight games and is out indefinitely.

Cavaliers: The Cavaliers have won eight in a row for the first time since March 2010. ... Love had nine rebounds, ending his streak of double-doubles at five games. ... G Mike Miller (concussion) missed his third straight game. The 15th-year pro was injured on Dec. 4 at New York.

NBA | TRAIL BLAZERS 98, PISTONS 86

Portland hands loss to Pistons

Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan — LaMarcus Aldridge had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Wesley Matthews scored 19 points, and the Portland Trail Blazers picked up their fifth straight victory with a 98-86 win over the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.

Detroit lost its 13th in a row, one short of the franchise record set in 1979-80 and tied in 1993-94. Those were both aging teams, with the second group marking the end of the Bad Boys era at the Palace. The current Pistons haven't had a winning season or won a playoff game in seven years.

Greg Monroe had 22 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which only got 40 points from its starting lineup. The pattern of the game was established early, as Portland was able to convert most possessions into good scoring opportunities, while the Pistons struggled to finish at the rim. Detroit, one of the worst teams at scoring inside despite the presence of Josh Smith, Andre Drummond and Monroe, shot 44 percent in the paint in the first half.

Portland's defense slowly

took control in the third quarter, holding the Pistons to 22 percent shooting (4 for 18) and expanding the lead to as many as 17 points. It was 76-62 going into the fourth, but the Pistons finally put together enough baskets and stops to make a run.

Monroe's layup pulled Detroit within 81-77 with 7:12 to play, but Aldridge hit two straight baskets and Damian Lillard rattled home a 3-pointer to keep the Pistons at bay.

Tip-ins

BLAZERS: Chris Kaman, a native Michigander who played his college basketball at Central Michigan, was 6 of 8 in the first half for 12 points. ... Portland has beaten Detroit four straight times, and has won in five of its last seven visits to the Palace.

PISTONS: Detroit had three previous 13-game losing streaks, including one each in the 1979-80 and 1993-94 seasons after the 14-game skid. The third came in 2009-10, which also featured an 11-game losing streak. ... Jodie Meeks, who has missed the entire season with a stress fracture in his back, is expected to resume practicing this week and could play on Detroit's upcoming three-game road trip.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Reaney breaks US record

By **REBECCA ROGALSKI**
Sports Writer

While the Irish squad split up this weekend to compete in elite meets in Texas and Iowa, senior Emma Reaney traveled internationally to Doha, Qatar, where she participated in the FINA Short Course World Championships from Dec. 3 to Dec. 8. This marks Reaney's first international meet representing the United States.

Reaney, a Lawrence, Kansas, native and five-time All-American, won a silver medal in the women's 200-meter medley relay with a time of 1:44.92, breaking an American record. The USA relay team finished second to Denmark, who claimed first with a time of 1:44.04. Reaney also qualified individually in the finals of the women's 50-meter breaststroke.

Reaney said her reaction upon finding out she had won silver was intensified even more when she realized she was standing alongside her swimming idol, Natalie Coughlin.

"At first we were all kind of bummed we didn't win, but then I remembered I got to be on the podium at my first international meet and was ecstatic," Reaney said. "Being able to get my first international medal with Natalie Coughlin, someone I've idolized in the sport of swimming since I was little, was beyond amazing. I'm honored to have my name in the record books with those girls."

Reaney continued her success in the pool, as she

qualified for the 50 breast medley. In her first finals appearance of the championship, she finished in sixth place with a time of 30.05.

"I feel really great about my finish," Reaney said. "I really wanted to break 30, so it's a little frustrating to be that close, but I think it's a really good sign that my 50, an event I'm not normally really great at, is that fast."

Along with a silver medal and qualifying time, Reaney brought home an abundance of lessons and memories that she said will last her a lifetime.

"I learned to always use your resources. The coaching staff will do whatever they can to help you succeed, and making sure you speak up for that is essential," Reaney said. "Recovery resources are important too, so making sure I got massages and ice baths was something I learned as well. I realized I just need to take it all in and have fun because being too nervous is just a waste of energy that you could be using during your race."

Even after returning from Qatar, Reaney said she continues to reflect on the moment she stepped on the podium to receive her silver medal alongside her teammates.

"I don't know if it's even really set in yet," Reaney said. "Everyone asked me if I cried, but I didn't. We were just having too much fun up there for me to even realize what was going on. It was pretty awesome."

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Big Ten faces major challenge after ACC

Associated Press

Now, the Big Ten has an even bigger challenge ahead — against a pair of undefeated top 10 teams on the same court and the same night.

After winning eight out of 14 games in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge last week, the league will be represented by unranked 7-1 teams Indiana and Illinois in the Jimmy V Classic on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden. That includes another game against the ACC.

Illinois is playing seventh-ranked Villanova (8-0) from the Big East for the first time since a second-round NCAA tournament game in 1988, a game Villanova won 66-63 to get to the Sweet 16.

In the nightcap of the 20th anniversary of the Jimmy V Classic, Indiana plays fourth-ranked Louisville (7-0) in a series last played in 2003 but dating back to 1921.

Coach Rick Pitino's Cardinals have won their last eight games at Madison Square Garden, where they were crowned the 2012 and 2013 Big East tournament

champions before moving to the ACC.

Louisville and Indiana both won their ACC/Big Ten Challenge games last week, with the Cardinals winning 64-55 at home against Louisville and the Hoosiers beating Pittsburgh 81-69.

Villanova has already held three opponents under 50 points, and its 74-46 win over St. Joseph's on Saturday was already the Wildcats' fourth win by at least 20 points this season. Illinois is averaging 83.9 points per game.

2 Shades of Winning Blue

There is Kentucky blue and Carolina blue, and a lot of trophies between them.

Top-ranked Kentucky and No. 21 North Carolina, who have a combined 13 national championships, are no strangers on the court. Two of college basketball's winningest programs play in the regular season for the 14th time since December 2000 on Saturday.

The Wildcats (9-0) are the unanimous No. 1 in the AP poll this week, but they were still growing up when they

were ranked 11th and lost 82-77 to then-No. 18 North Carolina in Chapel Hill last December.

The perennial powers also met in a regional final in the 2011 NCAA tournament, a game Kentucky won 76-69.

Saturday Showdowns

The North Carolina-Kentucky game is the first of several quality matchups on the second Saturday of December, when there is a little lull between the conference football championship games and the first bowl games.

Anyone who wants a basketball-watching binge, there are four games in particular that are spread out Saturday — starting about noon and ending around midnight Eastern time.

Kentucky and North Carolina get things started, and lead into the only other game this week matching a pair of ranked teams.

No. 10 Kansas, back in the top 10 after a five-game winning streak since a 32-point loss to Kentucky, plays No. 13 Utah in Kansas City.

NCAA FOOTBALL

NCAA chief: UAB cutting football is 'troubling'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — NCAA President Mark Emmert said Tuesday that it was troubling to see the University of Alabama-Birmingham drop its football program, but he believes Olympic sports are more vulnerable to cuts as schools look at athletic budgets.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Emmert said he worries that while autonomy for the Big Five conferences will lead to more money being spent on athletes it could decrease the overall number of opportunities in college sports for students.

UAB dropped its football program last week. The school cited rising costs of college athletics, including pressure to pay the full cost of attendance for athletes. That proposal was supported by Emmert and pushed by the wealthiest conferences.

"I think it's really hard and hard for people to understand when you have to back away or make a decision to back away from a sport," Emmert said. "But schools do that fairly often, actually, they just rarely do it in

football or men's basketball or women's basketball."

Emmert was president at the University of Washington when the school dropped its men's and women's swimming program.

"Those were hard decisions but they were the right ones for us," he said. "I know UAB and their administration has to make the decisions that work for them over the long run."

UAB said it estimated paying the entire cost of attendance for an athletic scholarship would cost the school \$5,442 for each football player on full scholarship. FBS schools are allowed to carry 85 scholarship football players, a limit that is usually reached.

"What everybody pays attention to and what we all love as a country is football and basketball," he said. "But when schools are trying to support those programs they are starting to feel the pinch in the Olympic sports: volleyball, soccer, gymnastics, wrestling and a variety of other things."

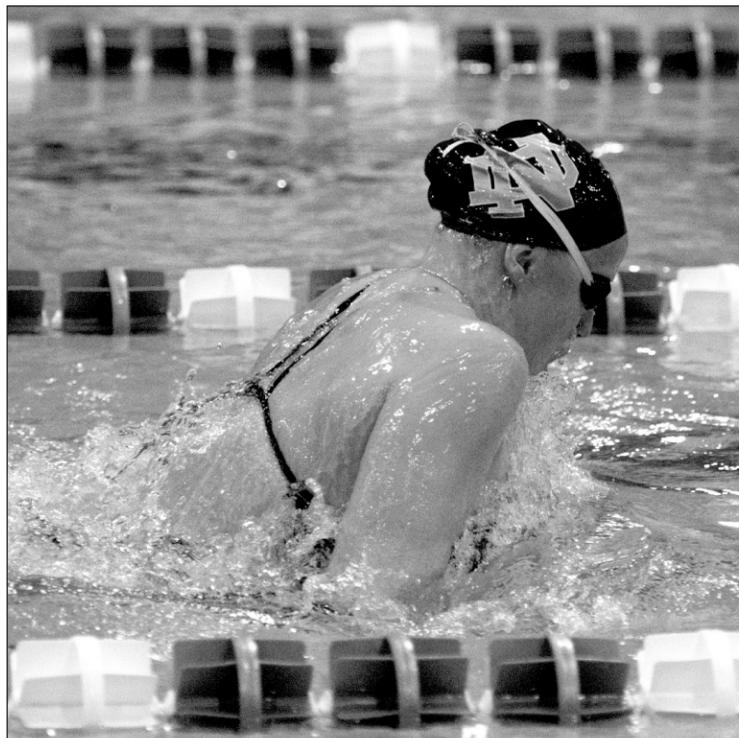
"I do worry a lot we may well see in the coming years

a reduction of commitments from our campuses in those programs."

The NCAA earlier this year approved a new governance structure that would allow the Big Five conferences — Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, Atlantic Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference — to create rules in some areas without the support of the rest of Division I.

UAB competes in Conference USA. C-USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky, along with the commissioners of the other four FBS conferences, has said his league will try to increase benefits for athletes and do things such as pay cost of attendance, provide free meals and long-term medical benefits.

"Any time you're increasing the financial commitment for student athletes or any part of your program, whether it's for your students or whether it's for your facilities, or whatever the model is, it increases competition," Emmert said. "And so there's folks that are right now wringing their hands saying 'Wow, I don't know if we can compete at that same level financially.'"



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish senior Emma Reaney swims the length of the pool during a meet against Purdue on Nov. 1 at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish senior guard Jerian Grant drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 81-54 win over Grambling State in the Purcell Pavilion on Nov. 26. Grant was one of three Irish players to score 19 points on Tuesday.

M Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

[tonight]. ... It's definitely something to build off. Just want to keep getting better every game, and as long as we're winning basketball games, that's all that matters."

Brey said he has recently challenged Vasturia, and the sophomore responded against the Mountaineers.

"This is the next step in the whole aggressiveness theme," Brey said of Vasturia. "He should hunt stuff just like Jerian and Demetrius and that's the theme that we started with him before [Michigan State]. ... We need him to be [aggressive], he can be, he's potent."

"And then the other thing is he always takes away the best perimeter guy ... He's amazing to do that and take that shooter completely away."

With Vasturia finding some offense of late, a growing sense of confidence is spreading throughout the Irish locker room, Grant said.

"Everybody's a threat on the floor," Grant said. "To have Steve now getting into a great rhythm, they're going to have to guard everybody."

Junior forward Zach Auguste (19), senior guard Jerian Grant (19) and Jackson (15) joined Vasturia in double-figures for the Irish, who have now scored at least 74 points in all 10 of their games this season. Notre Dame's hot shooting continued against the Mountaineers as the Irish shot 36-for-61 (59%) from the field as well as 8-of-14 (57%) from behind the 3-point arc.

"I think we were just having fun out there," Vasturia said. "We were pushing the ball,

hitting a lot of open shots and that's kind of what we've come to expect."

The Irish also controlled the rebounding battle against a big Mountaineer team. Notre Dame finished with a 41-31 advantage on the glass, led by a game-high eight boards from Auguste. Senior guard/forward Pat Connaughton and junior forward Austin Burgett also pulled down six rebounds each, a career-high for Burgett.

"We had to come out focused," Auguste said. "It was a good test for me to finally get some size to play against again, but it was fun out there."

Notre Dame now turns its attention to its first ACC game of the season Saturday night when it hosts Florida State at Purcell Pavilion. Brey said one of his areas of focus is still on the defensive boards, especially in the 2-3 zone the Irish went to at times against The Mount.

"We'll have to use [zone] some," Brey said. "When it's bigger, it's pretty good. But we do need a change of pace as we go to league play. ... Your concern about it is rebounding out of it though. We're already having trouble sometimes blocking out when we have matchups, but then when you're in zone you don't have necessarily a definitive matchup when the shot goes up."

"I think we can defend the first shot. Can we keep to one-and-done enough to win on Saturday is a big concern and will be a big focus as we move forward in practice."

The Irish and the Seminoles (4-4) are set to clash Saturday at 8 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Zach Klonsinski at
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W Bball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

on Dec. 3 and could not compete against Connecticut. Cunningham said Turner's status is day-to-day.

"Certainly we love having her on the floor," Cunningham said. "She has such an inside presence offensively and defensively, but DePaul runs a four and almost five guard lineup, so there's a good chance we'll be playing a lot of the game with four guards and one post to keep up offensively. We'll be counting on [sophomore forward] Taya Reimer and [senior forward] Markisha Wright to fill the void in the paint, both on offense and defense."

Because of the potency of the Blue Demon offense, Cunningham said the Irish will emphasize locking down the perimeter and dictating the game's tempo.

"We've got to do a great job containing the ball off of the dribble and defending the three point line because they've got lots of kids that can stand at

the line and make shots," Cunningham said. "Again, they're averaging 90 points a game so they'll want to handle the ball on offense as much as possible. A big key for us will be playing our style."

"Certainly we can get up and down the court and push transition when we need to, but at the same time we have to pick and choose when we do that and play our own game at our own pace."

The loss to Connecticut ended a 34-game home winning streak for Notre Dame. Looking to regain its win streak, Cunningham said the team's concentration is even more important competing on the road.

"Any time you go on the road in someone else's gym, you have to focus and bring your best game," Cunningham said.

Notre Dame and DePaul tip off Wednesday at 9 p.m. in the McGrath-Phillips Arena in Chicago.

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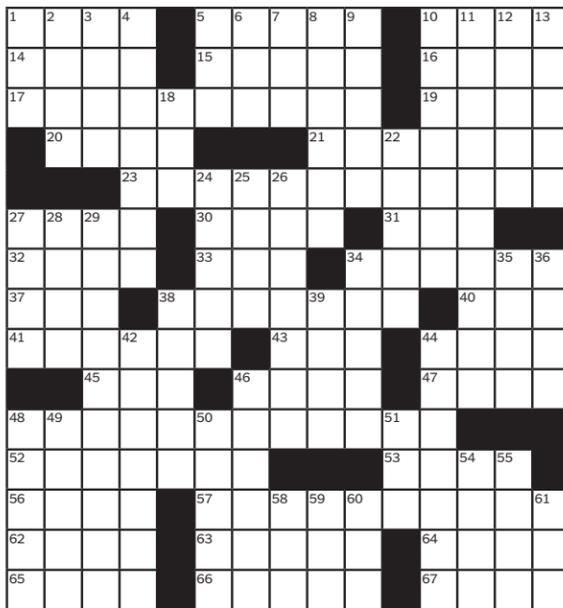


WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish senior forward Markisha Wright dribbles around a Connecticut defender during Notre Dame's 76-58 loss to the Huskies on Saturday in the Purcell Pavilion.

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Rescue op
 - 5 100 centimes, once
 - 10 Belgium-based imaging company
 - 14 Dodeca- halved
 - 15 Fiery feeling
 - 16 Nursery bagful
 - 17 Balm business?
 - 19 Mischievous Norse god
 - 20 Bottom-of-the-barrel stuff
 - 21 Learn by ___
 - 23 Yodeling tribute band's repertoire?
 - 27 Place for a washer and dryer: Abbr.
 - 30 Cross one's fingers
 - 31 Call a game
 - 32 R&B pioneer Johnny
 - 33 N.Y.C.'s first subway line
 - 34 Tattoo ___
 - 37 Steamrolled stuff
 - 38 Words of encouragement to a tailor?
 - 40 "Evil Woman" grp.
 - 41 Regency hotels
 - 43 Place to play video games
 - 44 Next-to-last Greek letters
 - 45 Comic Margaret
 - 46 Cameron who voiced Fiona
 - 47 Matey's greeting
 - 48 Figure at Sarah's cigar store?
 - 52 Gear with docking stations
 - 53 "Born from jets" automaker
 - 56 Mass vestments
 - 57 "Columbo" trench coat?
 - 62 Pucker-producing
 - 63 More faithful
 - 64 Busy place
 - 65 Influence
 - 66 Rec centers
 - 67 New Ager who sings in Irish Gaelic
- Down**
- 1 Comments accompanying shrugs
 - 2 Osso buco need
 - 3 What a drivetrain connects to
 - 4 "As is" and others
 - 5 Marbled meat feature
 - 6 Grammar school basics, briefly
 - 7 Decay-fighting org.
 - 8 A real smarty
 - 9 Dimin.'s opposite, in music
 - 10 Here, there and everywhere
 - 11 Bodily reaction to fear
 - 12 Hot-coals walker
 - 13 Out of kilter
 - 18 Alien's subj.
 - 22 Bugs of the underworld
 - 24 Pop music's Collins and Spector
 - 25 Suit material?
 - 26 Decided to join



Puzzle by Tony Orbach

- 27 This and that
- 28 Hang around
- 29 Push-up garment
- 34 Kind of scheme
- 35 This and that
- 36 Looking up
- 38 Do penance
- 39 Scan, as a U.P.C.
- 42 Like under-watered plants
- 44 Pizazz
- 46 Render harmless
- 48 Some H.S. exams
- 49 Counselor-___
- 50 Pushover
- 51 "... lovely ___ tree"
- 54 Very similar
- 55 Group of quail
- 58 TV captain Jean-___ Picard
- 59 Mauna ___
- 60 Takers of 48-Down: Abbr.
- 61 Caddy's contents

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

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRÜCKER



DOME NUTS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN

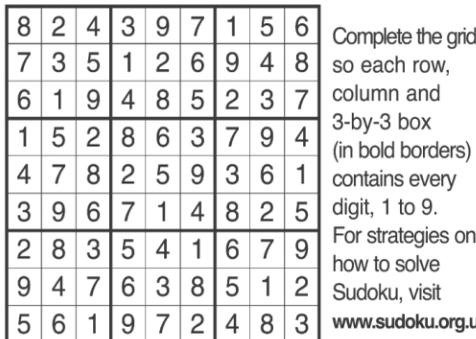


SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4



SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE 10/10/12



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

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: Stabilize your financial, medical and emotional future. Don't take chances when you should be protecting yourself and putting everything in perspective. Much can be accomplished if you are strict and disciplined, keeping uncertainty from making you appear vulnerable. Showing a little bravado and confidence will go a long way when it comes to getting what you want. Your numbers are 3, 13, 19, 23, 28, 33, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay on top of your domestic situation or any home improvements you are making. Problems with fire, electronics or a tiff with someone you love can quickly lead to trouble. Expand your knowledge to prepare you for future trends.★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think matters through carefully. Moderation will be critical when dealing with investments. Don't allow an emotional situation to cost you. Getting bent out of shape will not solve problems; it will only make matters worse. Stabilize important relationships.★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be easily distracted. Don't let anything hinder your ability to get a job finished. Partnerships will improve if you are a team player. Explore and expand your options. Thrive on change and show your diversity. Romance is on the rise.★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your unique and expressive insight to keep anyone trying to interfere in your plans at arm's length. Protect what's yours by relying on your experience and past connections to ensure you are in control and on track.★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Roll out the red carpet and get ready to show off what you have to offer. You'll attract both personal and professional interest if you share your thoughts. Romantic opportunities are present, but you may have to make the first move.★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll face opposition at home and must be careful not to confuse facts with fiction when dealing with personal matters. Precision and detail will be necessary when expressing your views. Keep your wits about you and avoid discord.★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let your emotions interfere with what needs to be done. Speak up and take action. Someone you worked with in the past will help you out. Make the first move and you will take any opposition you face by surprise.★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Work-related matters should be put into play. Use your skill, intuition and memory to help make things happen. Keep in mind that quality must be put before quantity if you want to stay ahead of the game financially.★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Embrace change. You'll surprise everyone with your ability to handle whatever comes your way. Draw on your experience and nothing will stand in your way. Positive changes at home will add to your comfort and happiness.★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Choose your partners carefully. Make sure that both parties in a relationship have something to contribute. Equality will determine the longevity of any connection in which you intend to participate. Be smart and considerate of others.★★★

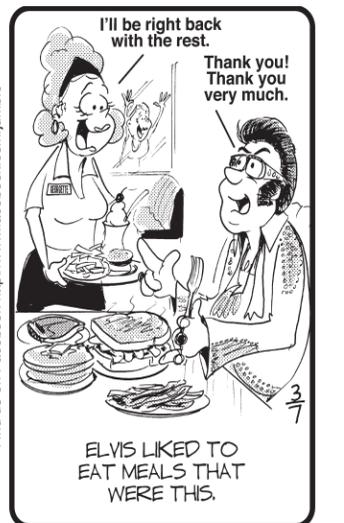
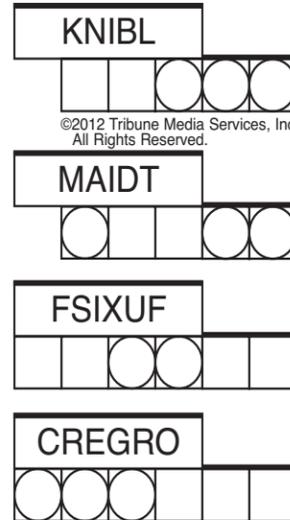
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make unique changes. A new job or finding a way to make some extra cash is apparent. Branch out by using your talents in diverse ways. Applying what you know or do best to fit the current economic trends will pay off.★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get caught in the crossfire. Take a course or discuss your concerns to help you get a better view of what you are dealing with. Invest in yourself and the things you want to pursue in the future.★★★

Birthday Baby: You are driven, innovative and adaptable. You are quick and impatient.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALONG PSYCH UNRULY DINNER
Answer: He refused to draw the Jumble cartoon because the idea behind it wasn't this -- "PUNNY" ENOUGH

WORK AREA

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 93, MOUNT ST. MARY'S 67

Vasturia, Irish conquer Mount

Recently-ranked ND dominates as sophomore records career-high points

By ZACH KLONSINSKI
Sports Writer

After appearing in the AP rankings for the first time since the 2012-2013 season, newly-christened No. 25 Notre Dame cemented its place in the national polls with a 93-67 defeat over Mount St. Mary's last night at Purcell Pavilion.

"I thought we got off to a good start," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We were ready to come out of the gate."

The Irish (9-1) began the game with 14-3 run, distancing themselves from the Mountaineers (2-5). Mount St. Mary's pulled within four with 11:31 remaining in the half, 22-18, but a 30-4 run after an Irish timeout put the Irish firmly back in control. Back-to-back 3-pointers by sophomore guard Steve Vasturia and two more by classmate guard Demetrius Jackson sparked the run.

"To be honest, I forget," Jackson said Brey's message during the stoppage. "But it was probably something inspirational to kind of get us going."

"There was no strategy," Brey said with a laugh. "I wanted those guys sitting there to get

in the game. ... Darn they made me look good, didn't they? I just wanted them in the game. I didn't actually want to talk to anyone."

Vasturia knocked down 14 points in the first half, one shy of his career-high last year against Pittsburgh. The sophomore set his new personal mark in the game, totaling 19 points, while also grabbing four rebounds and dishing out a trio of assists. He was perfect on the offensive end: Vasturia made all seven of his shots from the field, including three from distance as well as his two free-throw attempts. While it is usually fair to call Vasturia a defense-first player, the Medford, New Jersey native has been working hard on the offensive side of the game as well, he said.

"It's just getting stronger, being more aggressive, and building your confidence game-by-game," Vasturia said of his development. "It's a testament to my teammates and my coaches just having confidence in me so I can feed off that."

"I got a lot of open looks and I was able to knock them down

see M BBALL PAGE 14



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Steve Vasturia sets up for a shot against Grambling State in an 81-54 victory on Nov. 26 in the Purcell Pavilion. Vasteria went 7-7 on the night with 19 points.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ND looks to bounce back against DePaul



WEI LIN | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd scans the court during Saturday's 76-58 loss to Connecticut in the Purcell Pavilion. Loyd tied her career high with 31 points against the Huskies.

By RENEE GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

The No. 5 Irish will travel to Chicago on Wednesday to take on No. 25 DePaul at 9 p.m.

The Irish head into the matchup after a troubling 76-58 loss to No. 2 Connecticut on Saturday at home. The Blue Demons (6-2) are the third consecutive ranked opponent for Notre Dame (8-1), who defeated No. 14 Maryland, 92-72, last week. Assistant coach Beth Cunningham said DePaul's offensive attack makes it a challenging team to play against.

"They have a high-octane offense that scores 90 points a game, and four or five starters averaging 10 points or more," Cunningham said. "They have a lot of versatility and the ability to put up a lot of points since they play a fast-paced, track meet style of game."

Cunningham said the Irish have improvements to

make after the performance against Connecticut, especially on defense, but they also have a number of advantages over DePaul. She said the play of junior guard Jewell Loyd, who scored a career high 31 points Saturday, will be crucial.

"Jewell Loyd is playing great right now; she's probably the best player in the country," Cunningham said. "We're a young team right now, and there's a lot that we have to learn from the Connecticut game. Our inside game can be a real strength against [DePaul], but the most important thing is we have to play better defense and rebound better and continue to share the ball and make good shots on offense."

Notre Dame's play in the paint will be strongly affected by the potential absence of freshman forward Brianna Turner, who suffered a shoulder injury

see W BBALL PAGE 14