

Commencement to return to Stadium

Jenkins announces change in ceremony location, addresses core curriculum concerns during town hall

By EMILY McCONVILLE
News Writer

University President Fr. John Jenkins announced Tuesday that the Class of 2015's commencement ceremony will take place in Notre Dame Stadium instead of the Joyce Center, as the University originally planned.

Jenkins made the announcement at an undergraduate town hall meeting in DeBartolo Hall, during which Jenkins, University Provost Tom Burish and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves also updated the student body on staff diversity and inclusion, the Keough

School of International Affairs, the core curriculum review and Campus Crossroads progress.

Commencement 2015

Jenkins said the Commencement ceremony's location change comes due to a relatively mild winter, which led to better-than-expected progress on the Campus Crossroads project.

"Campus Crossroads won't be finished; there will be a little inconvenience, but I'm sure it will be minimal, and it will be a great Commencement," Jenkins said.

see TOWN HALL PAGE 5



EMILY McCONVILLE | The Observer

University President Fr. John Jenkins announces the change in location of the 2015 Commencement ceremony from the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center to Notre Dame Stadium.

Law professor receives Fulbright research grant

By SELENA PONIO
News Writer

Notre Dame law professor Douglass Cassel, an international human rights law scholar, won a Fulbright Fellowship to do research in the spring semester of 2016 on Mexican courts' enforcement of Inter-American human rights law.

Among his credentials, Cassel served as Legal Advisor to the United Nations Commission on the Truth for El Salvador, was an award-winning commentator

on human rights and represented victims of human rights violations in Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela.

Cassel's research in Mexico is for one of the Fulbright Programs for the social sciences, he said. He competed not only against other legal scholars, but also against anyone else involved in the social sciences.

"The research is on the enforcement of Inter-American human rights law, and it's really important in the field of international human rights law,"

Cassel said.

Cassel said a new doctrine implemented in Mexico not only tells national courts to enforce international human rights, but also tells them how they should do it.

"It's a radical departure. ... It's going to be fascinating how the courts react to it," Cassel said. "The purpose of my research is [to see] how the doctrine is working in practice."

According to a Notre Dame

see FULBRIGHT PAGE 5

Alumni create endowment for women's basketball

Observer Staff Report

Former Notre Dame women's basketball player Karen Robinson Keyes and her husband Kevin Keyes made a \$5 million gift to Notre Dame to underwrite the salary of the women's basketball head coach, the University announced Monday in a press release.

The Karen and Kevin

Keyes Family Head Women's Basketball Coach, as the position will be titled, is the first endowed coaching position in University history and is thought to be the largest endowment in women's college basketball, according to the press release.

"We are so very grateful to Karen and Kevin for this

see ENDOWMENT PAGE 4

Panel examines social media in the workplace

By MARTHA REILLY
News Writer

Saint Mary's hosted a panel Monday called "Beyond Just Being Social" to teach students about integrating social media into their careers.

Speakers included College alumnae Liz Harter, a 2009 graduate who works as a social media program manager at Notre Dame; Megan Harr, a 2014 graduate and the current social media coordinator at Flourish Boutique; and Angela

Rupchock-Schafer, a 2003 graduate who serves as the assistant director of communications at Church World Services.

Although all three women work in different branches of public relations, they offered similar advice for anyone seeking a job that revolves around social media: Personal accounts should abide by the same rules that professional ones do.

"Of course I want to hire someone with a personality, but when

see PANEL PAGE 4



MONICA MENDEZ | The Observer

Saint Mary's alumnae Megan Harr, Angela Rupchock-Schafer and Liz Harter discuss the applications of social media in the workforce at Monday's lecture titled "Beyond Just Being Social" in Rice Commons.



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THE OBSERVER

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What did you do for Valentine's Day?

Have a question you want answered?
Email photo@ndsmcobserver.com



Francis Vu
senior
Keough Hall
"RA dutz."



Kaley Cohen
sophomore
Breen-Phillips Hall
"Ate my weight in chocolate."



Spencer Jones
freshman
Carroll Hall
"Nothing."



Grace Hills
freshman
McGlenn Hall
"Lacrosse game and ice skating with my friend Margaret."



Margaret Prakel
senior
McGlenn Hall
"RA dutz."



Susan Nace
junior
Lewis Hall
"I went to the Keenan Revue."



EMMET FARNAN | The Observer

Junior EJ "Binks" Leppert and senior Robert "Eeh-ow" Pak battle during the 85th annual Bengal Bouts. Fights are held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse, and proceeds go to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

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Corrections

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

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?
Email news@ndsmcobserver.com

Tuesday

Men's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Irish take on Wake Forest.

Student Skate Night

Compton Family Ice Arena
10 p.m. - 11:50 p.m.
Proceeds support Operation Smile.

Wednesday

Bengal Bouts

Purcell Pavilion
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Quarterfinals of 85th Bengal Bouts.

Ross Gay Reading

Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Free for Notre Dame students.

Thursday

Mindful Meditation

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Open to students, faculty and staff.

Spirituality Series

Coleman-Morse Center
5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Campus Ministry hosts.

Friday

Junior Parents Weekend

campus-wide
Today - 2/22
Most major events require a ticket.

Film: "Force Majeure"

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
A favorite at this year's Cannes Festival.

Saturday

Third Coast Percussion

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Open to the public.

Saturday Vigil Mass

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Worship service.

Brazil Club promotes Carnaval celebration

By MEGAN VALLEY
News Writer

This week, the Brazil Club, along with the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, is hosting two events to highlight contemporary topics in Brazil and to celebrate Carnaval, a festival held during the four days before Ash Wednesday and Brazil's most important holiday.

Senior Pedro Suarez, co-president of the Brazil Club along with senior Fernanda Osthoff, said celebrating Carnaval furthers the club's mission but is not its only project.

"Our hope is to bring Brazilian culture to both the Notre Dame and South Bend community, as well as provide an educational component where those interested can learn more about Brazil beyond the traditional Carnaval celebration," he said.

Suarez said the club wants to educate students on the importance of Carnaval in Brazilian culture.

"To the casual observer, Carnaval may seem like just a large dance party; however, it is so much more than that," he said. "It is one of the few times during the year where everyone in the country, no matter what

socioeconomic class, race or religion, stops what they are doing to celebrate their nation, culture and each other."

On Monday in Montgomery Auditorium, the club hosted a discussion with Ann Mische, associate profes-

"It is one of the few times during the year where everyone in the country, no matter what socioeconomic class, race, or religion, stops what they are doing to celebrate their nation, culture and each other."

Pedro Suarez
president
Brazil Club

sor of sociology and peace studies, on the recent protest wave. The discussion was followed by a short documentary film "June: the Riots in Brazil." Suarez said this event shed light on events in Brazil and what they mean for the future.



Photo courtesy of Pedro Suarez

Members of the Brazil Club promote Carnaval within the Notre Dame community. Celebrated throughout the four days before Ash Wednesday, Carnaval is the most important holiday in Brazilian culture.

"Both the speaker and the movie [added] more depth to the current situation in Brazil, especially with the increased attention it has received in hosting both the World Cup and the Olympics in 2016," Suarez said.

On Tuesday, the club will host a Brazilian Carnaval celebration in the Legends Club Room from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Food and drinks will be provided.

The Carnaval celebration will feature the dance company Planeta Azul from Chicago. They are all

authentic Brazilian musicians and samba dancers,

"Our hope is to bring Brazilian culture to both the Notre Dame and South Bend community."

Pedro Suarez
president
Brazil Club

world, as well as to several universities in the midwest, and Suarez said the Brazil Club has been eagerly awaiting the group's arrival.

"Brazil Club is excited to be bringing the entertainment group on to showcase an authentic Rio de Janeiro-inspired Carnaval experience, including a performance and an interactive portion where everyone can join in on the dancing," he said.

called passistas. Planeta Azul has traveled all over the

Contact Megan Valley at mvalley@nd.edu

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SMC hosts cancer awareness brunch

By CECILIA GREUBEL
News Writer

Saint Mary's, along with the participation of the South Bend community, will host its annual Stand Up to Cancer brunch March 1. The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Stapleton Lounge in Le Mans Hall.

Club president, senior Christina Hutch, said she believes the event succeeds due to the wide population of people who have had to confront cancer.

"It seems like everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer, whether they have had it, a loved one has had it or they have been a caretaker for someone with it," Hutch said.

One such volunteer, junior Catherine Smith, said, "My sister passed away two years ago from cancer. So many people around us are affected by it."

The purpose of the brunch is to celebrate the lives of those touched by cancer, to

bring hope to those who have experienced loss from it and to bring the community together for a common cause: working towards a cure. The event will include a catered brunch and a raffle, and admission will be free.

"Saint Mary's has a mission of preparing women in-

"Saint Mary's has a mission of preparing women intellectually for their futures and also a mission of social responsibility."

Christina Hutch
president
Saint Mary's Stand Up to Cancer

tellectually for their futures and also a mission of social responsibility," Hutch said. "I think that our club aligns with it through service and community involvement."

Contact Cecilia Greubel at cgreubel01@saintmarys.edu

Endowment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

generous and groundbreaking gift," University President Fr. John Jenkins said. "It is especially fitting, given the central role Karen played in the early success of a women's basketball program that has become — on and off the court — one of the very best in the nation."

Karen Keyes, who studied American studies as an undergraduate and earned a master's degree in business at Notre Dame, played for the Fighting Irish from 1987 to 1991 under head coach Muffet McGraw. Keyes earned the title of Midwestern Collegiate Conference player of the year both her junior and senior year.

"Muffet is one of the most important influences in our lives," Karen Keyes said. "We are proud to honor her, recognize her dedication to the University and continue to admire all of the successful women she has coached and developed over her entire career."

Kevin Keyes, also an alumnus, played varsity tennis for the Irish while earning degrees in economics and business administration.

"We are very grateful to Karen and Kevin for this remarkable gift," Jack Swarbrick, vice president and director of athletics, said. "The fact that Notre Dame's first head coach endowment comes from one of Coach McGraw's former players and her family speaks volumes about the impact Muffet has had on the young women who have been a part of the Notre Dame women's basketball program."

"Kevin was also a varsity athlete at Notre Dame, and we know that both he and Karen believe passionately in the role that athletics plays in the education of young student-athletes and the power of a great educator like Muffet to impact lives."

Karen and Kevin Keyes currently serve on the University's Student-Athlete Advisory Council, which, according to its mission statement, focuses on improving relationships between different sports and individual athletes, encouraging participation in community service projects, aiding communication between the Athletic Department and the athletes and "creating awareness among the campus community of what it is like to be a student-athlete at the University of Notre Dame."

Karen Keyes currently coaches women's basketball at Ridgewood High School in New Jersey and serves on the board of REED Academy, a school serving students with autism. She is also a member of the Women for Health Network at The Valley

Hospital, according to the press release.

McGraw is currently coaching her 28th season of women's basketball at Notre Dame, during which her teams have logged 686 wins. She is a member of both the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

"I am overwhelmed and humbled by the incredible generosity that Karen and Kevin have shown with this gift," McGraw said. "Karen holds a special place for me as one of my first point guards here, and she, Kevin and their family remain a treasured part of the Notre Dame women's basketball program."

"It means so much to me to have our alumnae remain close to our program year after year as we continue to build on the foundation that they created, both on the court and in our community."

Panel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I'm in the process of hiring, what people post on Twitter helps me decide whether or not to put them in the 'let's go further' pile," Rupchock-Schafer said. "You want to build yourself up as someone who is hireable."

Harter agreed social media performance can either help or hurt someone when applying for a job.

"We want to know who we're going to be dealing with," Harter said. "We want to be able to get along and have similar backgrounds and likes and things of that nature. It's really a balance. Social media can be a really great way to get to know someone, but you also don't want to take it too far."

Besides discussing the appropriate online presence required to land a job, the panel spoke about how workers can network

and connect with other people, or even companies, to expand their brands.

"You have to think of who you're trying to market to because different people use different types of social media,"

"Social media can be a really great way to get to know someone, but you also don't want to take it too far."

Liz Harter
social media program manager
Notre Dame

Harr said. "At Flourish, we have to focus a lot on the demographic and who we're trying to sell to."

"On Facebook, a lot of older women try to interact with us, but on Instagram, we post the younger-looking outfits. We try

to post specific things based on the age group we are trying to appeal to."

According to Harr, a professional regard can mix with a conversational tone to engage customers.

"We're constantly like ... 'Look at this top!'" Harr said. "We want to look as professional as possible while still talking to people and getting them interested."

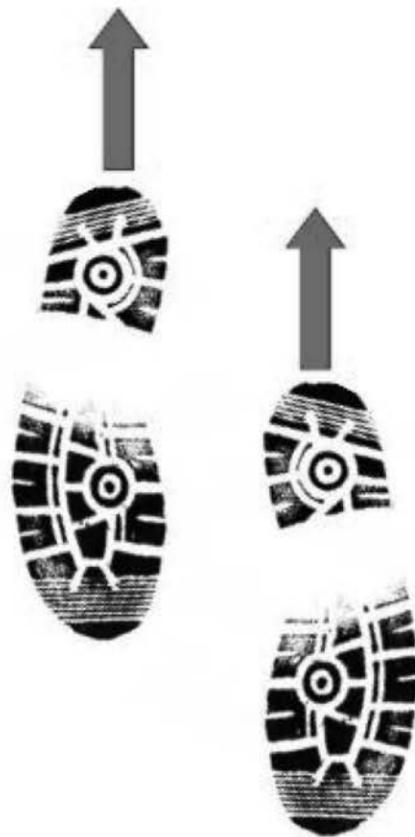
Harter, however, said her job does not permit abbreviations or slang over social media, as she represents a premier Catholic university.

"If it can't be said in 140 characters, it's not said," Harter said. "It's a balancing act. It's about building that brand and understanding the words that people are seeking and the needs of our followers. There are very definite needs and wants from our audience."

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Monica Hernandez (mhernan7@nd.edu), or Marisa Villano (mvillano@nd.edu).

Town Hall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jenkins said he “can’t speak definitively” on the location of the 2016 Commencement, but did not rule out the possibility of having the event in Notre Dame Stadium.

“I think it looks good,” he said.

Keough School

While the focus of the new Keough School for Global Affairs will be its Masters program, Burish said the School will offer an undergraduate program in international affairs.

“It’ll be initially be a supplementary or a secondary major, and there may be a five-year Bachelor’s/Master’s program,” he said.

Burish said the School, Notre Dame’s first new college since 1921, will be housed in Jenkins Hall, a building which will replace the parking lot on Notre Dame Avenue in between the Hesburgh Center for International Studies and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Burish said the Keough School is part of a larger effort to become a “global University,” which includes sending more Notre Dame students abroad and setting aside space in the two new dorms for international students.

“No university can be a great university unless it’s a global university,” Burish said. “If you focus on a specific region, even if that region is the United States of America, your education will be outdated, and it will be delimited. It won’t acknowledge the interaction and interconnectedness of all the countries in this world.”

Core curriculum review

Burish also addressed the upcoming review of University course requirements. He said over this semester, the Core Curriculum Review Committee will consider five questions, including the curriculum’s relation to Notre Dame’s Catholic character and the role of Advanced Placement credits.

The committee will make a recommendation for a new core curriculum and lead a campus-wide discussion for a year before a final decision is made. Burish invited the student body to attend forums and focus groups

and to send feedback to the committee by email.

“Examining the core curriculum and how it could help you in your future and expanding the way we become a global University are two of the most important [academic concerns], and I hope all of you will participate in both of those,” he said.

When asked if the two theology course requirements were in danger, Burish said while all University course requirements stand to be reworked, there is no push to reduce or eliminate the theology requirement.

“We’ve asked everyone to address any one of the questions,” Burish said. “We haven’t said, we won’t listen to you if you ask about theology classes. Someone might say, there should be three. Someone might say, there should be one. Someone might say there’s a different way to substantiate Catholic character which includes theology, but we should add other kinds of courses. We’re not going to say, we won’t listen to you; we’ve already made up our minds.”

Campus Crossroads

Graves primarily addressed Campus Crossroads, the \$400 million stadium addition which began construction in November. He said the project will add academic and student space to an area close to where students live and go to class.

“At many many other schools that have built up around their stadium, the decision was to move the stadium. We weren’t going to do that. At least, I wasn’t going to do that and live,” Graves said. “So the question was, can we use the stadium in some way? And that was really the genesis of the idea. So the idea was to include some academic spaces in the complex in the heart of campus, and then put a student center there which would serve all the students.”

The additions, built on three sides of the stadium, will house the music, sacred music, anthropology and psychology departments, as well as a digital media center, a student union with restaurants and a common space, a gym to replace the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center, space for clubs and student media, the Career Center, a ballroom and premium seating for the



EMILY McCONVILLE | The Observer

University Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves updates the Notre Dame community on the progress of the Campus Crossroads project, including budget concerns.

stadium.

“Instead of having a beautiful football stadium, very traditional, in the middle of campus, used eight or nine times a year — six football games, the Blue-Gold game, commencement, which is what it gets used for — we’ll take it and make it a space that is used 300 days a year,” Graves said.

When asked how the University will keep the project on budget, Graves said \$200 million of the project’s budget comes from donations and money already set aside for specific purposes, such as moving the psychology and anthropology departments. The other \$200 million will come from the sale of season tickets for the premium seating.

Graves said Rolfs will become a practice facility for the basketball teams and the Rockne Memorial Gymnasium will remain a gym. The future use of other buildings such as Haggard Hall, which currently houses much of the psychology department, is unclear.

By August, the steel structures on two sides of the stadium will be constructed, and the project will be complete in July 2017, Graves said.

Diversity and Inclusion

Jenkins recapped three of the motivations in the University’s efforts to increase diversity and inclusion, which he said has been of special importance to the administration for the past year.

“First, it’s a richer educational

environment if it’s a more diverse environment,” he said. “Second is, we can attract a wide variety of students, faculty, staff. The third is that the people who are here, if we’re more diverse and inclusive, are happier with their experience.”

Jenkins said the University’s student diversity initiatives included spreading awareness of Notre Dame’s spirit of inclusion; the creation of Speak Up, a website with information about and a reporting mechanism for sexual assault and harassment; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations; increasing hall staff diversity and awareness of socioeconomic diversity and the first-year course that will replace the physical education requirement.

Jenkins said faculty diversity initiatives have included surveys, ongoing inclusion training and special efforts to recruit and retain faculty of color. New staff now have multicultural competency training; the University recently hired Eric Love as director of staff diversity and inclusion and Christina Brooks as diversity recruiting program manager, and it created a strategic plan to address staff diversity issues.

When asked to elaborate on staff diversity initiatives, Graves said he directed his office to create a two- to three-year action plan for increasing staff diversity and inclusion, which would address specific areas such as gender and ethnic diversity across

different categories of staff, though he did not give any concrete plans.

“I purposefully try to avoid putting in a quota,” he said. “What I’m trying to do across my division, which is mostly the business side of the University, is to say, what are the areas where we need to improve, and to challenge my nine direct reports to tackle the situation. I’m not going to go to one person and say, you have to hire someone. What I’m saying is that across the nine of us, two years from now, we should look differently from how we do now. We jointly have to take that responsibility.”

Divestment

In response to a student’s question asking whether the University would divest from fossil fuel companies, Jenkins said the plan is to move towards a more gradual reduction of fossil fuel usage.

“We’re sitting in a room that’s heated and lighted, and when we drive to where we go, we use fossil fuels,” he said. “It seems to me that it would seem to be hypocritical to say, ‘we’re going to divest from the companies we rely on for the energy, what we need to do business.’ So I think what we need is a gradual but more determined effort to make our use of energy sustainable.”

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Fulbright

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

press release, “The Inter-American Court of Human Rights provides a forum where citizens can sue their own states for violations of the American Convention on Human Rights. Because the Court has limited capacity, it recently developed the innovative but controversial doctrine of ‘control of conventionality’ that, in effect, deputizes the far more numerous national courts to enforce the Convention.”

Cassel said in the press release his proposal outlined a 6-month stay in Mexico, “the country

where efforts to carry out the new ‘control of conventionality’ doctrine are most advanced,” to focus on the policy and examine how it is being carried out by Mexican judges.

“Can it actually work?” Cassel said in the press release. “If so, how? Do national court judges know about it? In practice, do they resist or embrace it? Without training in international human rights law, how can they get its application right? How expansively do they interpret their own jurisdiction, under national law, to become international human rights enforcers?”

Cassel teaches regional as well as international human rights

law at Notre Dame, and this year, one of his students is writing a thesis on this doctrine.

“I will be reading his entire doctoral thesis, which is going to be the most complete and up-to-date scholarly reading on the subject,” Cassel said. “So I’ll have plenty of advanced academic research before I go.”

During his time in Mexico, Cassel will stay at the Institute of Legal Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Cassel’s host scholar there is one of the university’s senior researchers as well as a former judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

“It’s the right institute in the

right country at the right time to study a novel doctrine that will have potential implications not only for Latin American but also for countries across the world,” Cassel said.

Cassel said the application deadline was back in August 2014, and the entire application process went through three stages.

“I got a notification in early November that I made the first cut, did a Skype interview with a group of decision-makers in Mexico City, and then I finally got the notice a week or two ago,” Cassel said.

There were only four recipients of this particular fellowship, and

Cassel said the competition was especially strong this year. He said the competition included a variety of political scientists, sociologists, psychologists and more, so he was thrilled when he received the news he was awarded the fellowship.

“It’s very gratifying for any serious academic to be given a grant that enables you to devote an entire semester to research and scholarship,” Cassel said. “I love teaching, but this frees me up for a semester to really dig in on the scene at the leading edge of a new doctrine in international law.”

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INSIDE COLUMN

Cynically
romanticRebecca O'Neil
News Writer

The second definition of cynic in the Oxford English Dictionary is “a member of a school of ancient Greek philosophers founded by Antisthenes, marked by an ostentatious contempt for ease and pleasure” as they distracted the quest for self-knowledge. I fancy I may be related to a member of Antisthenes’ school — a churlish protégée who eventually relocated to Ireland sometime during the Dark Ages. Down the line somewhere, clever and eloquent critiques became mute sardonic eye rolls, and then I was born.

My sister undoubtedly fertilized this tendency. She helped me fight budding insecurities in middle school by reminding me: “No one cares. They have other things to think about, Rebecca.” We share a deadpan humor, not to be followed without a comprehensive knowledge of current events and an affinity for irony. We set ourselves apart from the human race by surmising that we aren’t poor suckers — not for love, not for misinformation, not for any of it.

And yet, the New York Times’ Style section titled “Vows” has been a part of my weekly routine for a while now. I started reading it years ago after my sister and I watched a beautifully shot and scored short on a random couple featured on the Times’ website.

The nation’s divorce rate is around 50 percent and people still believe in marriage. Further, not only do they believe in marriage, but they also believe in the spectacle of, as the Times titles it, “Weddings and Celebrations: Stories of triumph, hope, loss and love.”

The stories shared are never quite the same, nor do they ever fit any one cliché. They make you feel like you’ve seen a romcom once about this particular couple, but only because the real deal is that good.

Recently, I’ve been struck most by the unions announced by older couples. Whether they’re divorcees or gays only just now able to take advantage of new laws, marriage means opportunity. It’s easy to become swept up in the beauty of overcoming obstacles, even time, to live presently.

“The Wedding Watchers” is another one of my favorite clips on the Times’ website. It shows a band of women (sometimes accompanied by husbands of their own) who come to Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn every Saturday to watch people take their wedding photos. Many of these women have been coming since the 1970s, and oddly enough, I want to join them.

I like to think I’ll always be a cynic. Those Sunday Style stories of love though.

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

Oscars in the trash

Stephen Raab
Let's Talk Smart

It’s an open secret in Hollywood that certain films do not win awards. Science fiction, fantasy, action and comedy are toxic as far as the Academy is concerned. Every once in a while, an exception sneaks through — a “Return of the King” or “Gladiator” — but by and large, films of these genres are lucky even to be nominated. The Oscars, the Academy seems to say, don’t belong to these “trash” genres. Instead, we see award after award go to period dramas and overcoming adversity storylines (I’m picking on the Academy here largely because of their visibility; the problems I discuss are more or less universal).

Perhaps the starkest example of this trend was the 1988 Academy Awards. The winner for Best Picture was “Rain Man,” a film about an autistic savant (Dustin Hoffman) that seemed tailor-made to snag a golden statuette or eight. Meanwhile, the Academy chose to ignore “Die Hard.” Despite having a killer script and great performances from Bruce Willis and Alan Rickman, the film that would be its genre’s gold standard for the next decade received only four nominations for technical awards, of which it won none. Too lowbrow for the delicate sensibilities of the Academy, the film was written off as a mere “guilty pleasure.”

This kind of condemnation is symptomatic of a common attitude among both elder-statesman film critics and certain members of the film-going public — that all action flicks are empty, cash-grab pablum, devoid of artistic merit. Don’t get me wrong, there’s some horrible action out there — B-actors like Jean-Claude van Damme and Steven Seagal have made entire careers out of serving up lifeless machismo. But to conflate their efforts with those who rise above the lowest common denominator only discourages future action directors from trying to elevate their craft above the sea of sameness. Good action ought to be unironically praised, not cast aside as “popcorn cinema.”

In fact, there’s a case to be made to prioritize the blockbuster over the drama when it comes to awards for directing. The complex makeup of a fantasy world, the careful choreography of a sword fight or the precise timing of a comedy testify to the obsessive skill of the filmmaker. Further, film is primarily a visual medium; therefore, a picture that “goes big” ought to be reckoned more faithful to its art than one with more modest camerawork. Example: Which film would lose more of its essential filmic character if it were transcribed as a radio

screenplay — “Raiders of the Lost Ark” or “Twelve Angry Men”?

In order to motivate change, I therefore announce my own personal nomination for Best Foreign Language Film of 2014 — “The Raid 2.” Director Gareth Evans follows up his original “The Raid,” released in 2010, with the continued story of honest cop Rama, who now seeks vengeance for the murder of his brother by infiltrating Jakarta’s organized crime scene. Rama, played by martial artist Iko Uwais, must use his mastery of pencak silat (national martial art of Indonesia) to keep himself alive and undiscovered while thwarting the schemes of local kingpins.

Though tonally similar to John Woo heroic-bloodshed flicks like “Hard Boiled,” “The Raid 2” focuses more on in-your-face melee combat than gun ballet. Rama punches, elbows and kicks his way through wave after wave of baddies, inflicting bone-shattering punishment that literally dropped my jaw as I watched. Imagine if “The Departed” starred Bruce Lee and was directed by a more misanthropic Quentin Tarantino.

“The Raid 2” illustrates perfectly how a top-notch director like Evans can use big visuals to tell his story, rather than interfere. The first fight sequence begins with Rama locked in a prison bathroom stall as angry inmates rattle the door. The tension as the lock weakens perfectly builds anticipation of the battle to come. After a brutal free-for-all in a rain-soaked field and a bloody fight in a restaurant, the film climaxes in the aseptic white of a restaurant kitchen with a one-on-one fistfight between Rama and a man known only as “The Assassin.” Without a single line of dialogue, this seven-minute duel still conveys a complete narrative arc, punctuated by explosive choreography that solidifies “The Raid 2” as the greatest action movie of this millennium.

“The Raid 2” won’t win the Oscar — it wasn’t even nominated. Evans’ gleeful borderline-exploitation was never likely to play well with the Academy’s prejudices. Nevertheless, I’d advise you to check it out if you like action. If nothing else, remember that Iko Uwais and two of his co-stars have been cast in the upcoming “Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens.” So when all your friends are buzzing about how epic that one light saber duel was, you can smile proudly and, with a hipsterish smirk, declare “I was watching them before it was cool.”

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EDITORIAL CARTOON



Tuition increase: some explanation required

Austin Hagwood

Do I Sound Clever Yet?

Subtle, wasn't it? In what has become an annual tradition, our administration came forward wringing its hands last week and murmuring gentle phrases such as "gratitude and connection," "passionate alumni network" and "significant sacrifice" to soften the blow of yet another tuition hike bringing next year's total cost of attendance to \$61,775.

After spending a few happy moments thinking of other ways one might spend \$61,775 — CouchSurfing Scandinavia, for instance, or bicycling in the Himalayas — I wondered whether such unassuming yet persistent climbs in tuition costs really passed the smell test.

In 1991, the average U.S. worker earned \$21,811 and spent just over \$17,000 to send sons and daughters to Notre Dame. The year 2001 witnessed salaries and total costs rise to \$33,000 and \$29,100, respectively — a 5.2 percent tuition upswing that was heralded then (as this year's is now) as "the lowest percent increase" in decades. As of 2013, the average salary was \$45,000, yet the University's price now far outstrips what an average American worker earns.

An increase is still an increase, and celebrating how low it remains fails to mask basic disparities. While household income grew by a factor of 6.5 over the past four decades, private university fees and expenses rose by a factor of 13. Soft explanations and the "value of a Notre Dame degree" also fail to account for how the University's price could have doubled over the course of 13 years and grown at a rate well beyond annual inflation. As I continue to

remark when passing the inexplicable dumpster-turned-modern art-piece entrenched in front of Riley, "Something is wrong with this picture."

We continue to accept the yoke of annual tuition spikes but never stop to question the logic behind them. If costs continue to rise at a rate of three percent per year, the price of a Notre Dame education 25 years from now will be over half a million dollars.

But the arms race among private universities competing for prestige, applicants and ever-fattening endowments is nothing new. Similar surges in price apply to all of Notre Dame's peer institutions. Hiring more administrators, maintaining compliance, funding research and spending \$400 million on a stadium expansion are expensive endeavors, after all. Harvard's cost has doubled since 2000, so what's the problem?

Since Princeton implemented its "no loan" policy in 2001, other universities across the country have followed suit. One notable exception is Notre Dame. Although schools such as Harvard, Princeton, Amherst, Penn and Vanderbilt compete with Notre Dame in price, they all have "no loan" policies replacing student loan offers with additional gift aid and give 100 percent of students the opportunity to graduate debt-free. At Stanford and Yale, families earning under \$100,000 pay no tuition; families making under \$60,000 pay nothing at all.

By contrast, the average student loan debt for Notre Dame's class of 2013 was \$27,000. When you keep in mind that only 45 percent of first-year students receive gift aid and many students can't afford the cost outright, the figure for indebted students becomes much higher.

"But Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and Yale all

have endowments larger than ours!" you say. "How can we hope to be so generous?"

Consider this. By 2014, Vanderbilt's endowment reached \$4 billion, and it has offered a "no loan" policy since 2009. Notre Dame's endowment now stands at \$10 billion and rivals that of Ivies such as Penn and Columbia, yet we continue to fall behind the schools with which we hope to compete and cannot match the financial aid scheme of a university with an endowment less than half of our own. When paired with the wheels of industry digging around Campus Crossings to the tune of \$400 million, it seems a difficult and unnecessary pill to swallow.

Not only would a "no loan" policy alleviate the burden of debt on recent graduates, it would attract more applicants, place Notre Dame in the company of our nation's elite institutions and affirm the University's commitment to accessibility irrespective of economic background. As only 45 percent of first-year students needed gift aid last year, it represents a modest investment with power to transform the post-graduate options of lower-income students.

The University owes students and families a public and thorough explanation for how tuition is used and why it keeps increasing, and the administration should explain its continued resistance to a "no loan" financial aid policy. Until then, I will find it difficult to depict Notre Dame as a better investment than the institutions it claims to rival.

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What if Notre Dame were co-ed

Amanda Peña

Find Your Voice

During my four years as an undergraduate at Notre Dame, I have witnessed most, if not all, students complain about gender relations, the hook-up culture and the social roles both males and females feel they are expected to maintain as students living on campus. These uncomfortable and sometimes tense gender relations are further validated by events designed to encourage the men and women of Notre Dame to interact in healthier ways, engage in dialogues about dating and sexuality and even embrace their own individual quirks and awkwardness to build better relationships with each other.

Although these activities have inherent value for helping individuals navigate the unique social culture here, there seems to be an overwhelming consensus that the University's structures not only create, but perpetuate, a number of these social issues. The Gender Relations Center does a tremendous job in trying to create safe spaces for students to explore their identities as men and women and understand how they influence interpersonal relationships, but it is an issue every department and institute of the University needs to address, especially the Office of Community Standards.

What does it mean to cultivate a spirit of inclusion for a diverse group of students? If we are to call Notre Dame home, it becomes the responsibility of the entire community to develop and nurture spaces for all of its students to thrive in an environment they feel fully accepted in, beginning with the place they are to call home — their dorms. As we know, Notre Dame requires its undergraduate students to live on campus in single-sex residence halls during their first academic year. The dorm a student is randomly assigned to as a freshman becomes their place of

residence for the next four-to-five years unless they opt to transfer to a different hall, join a specific hall if one of its residents pull them in as a roommate or move off-campus after the first year. Most students, however, will usually spend all four years in the same dorm they were first assigned to as freshmen or opt to move off campus as seniors.

Dorm life at Notre Dame can be a phenomenal and enriching experience that allows students to meet people of all races, ethnicities, countries and socioeconomic backgrounds. Although Notre Dame does not have sororities and fraternities, dorm life certainly offers many of those same Greek-life experiences to its residents, from signature events to exclusive dances and charity drives. Additionally, each dorm has developed its own identity, mascot and stereotypes that most students characterize its residents by. Through a variety of University competitions and activities, these identities become something to take pride in, to protect, uphold and maintain — creating rival dorms and brother-sister dorm coalitions. While boosting competition and pride in one's hall can be a great way to strengthen the unity and camaraderie students feel in their dorm and with other dorms, it can also impact and alienate its students' social and individual identity development by promoting a hetero-normative living experience with defined gender roles and expectations. It can be a place of isolation and alienation if you do not fit the mold the student body single-sex living is intended for.

Don't get me wrong — single-sex dorms can be great, but they are not for everyone, and I seriously think it's time we stop shutting down the conversation and start exploring how these living arrangements construct a social expectation of masculine and feminine identities specific to Notre Dame, as well as perpetuate those that are not always inclusive of other students' gender, racial and sexual

identities. With incoming students at Notre Dame compulsorily assigned into single-sex dorms, they are deprived of the opportunity to select the living arrangements that are most ideal for their individual identity development, comfort and safety. Consequently, it sets up and maintains racial, gender and sexual identity inequities other students experience while living on campus. Who, then, is this system really intended to benefit?

I know many gay male students who moved off campus because they did not feel safe or included in their respective dorms' male identities. The rules for a men's residence hall are more relaxed and loosely enforced, making parties more likely to be held there and creating potentially less safe environments for women to drink in. With regard to the University's Spirit of Inclusion, it is important and worthwhile to explore how on-campus living environments influence the social culture that either promotes or subverts inclusion for students from all walks of life. It would also be important to recognize how the structures of dorm life nurture or potentially threaten student safety and racial, gender and sexual identity on campus. Students already come from diverse backgrounds and living situations and often share bathrooms and living spaces with different kinds of people. What would really happen if Notre Dame had a few dorms dedicated to co-ed living? Whether it had gender-based floors is an entirely different discussion, but it would certainly change the nature of campus gender relations.

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SHIFTING

TO
THE

PERSONAL

MARILYN MANSON'S
'THE PALE
EMPEROR'By MEGHAN CLEARY
Scene Writer

I feel any review of Marilyn Manson's work is best prefaced with a brief backstory. The established and highly recognized shock rocker is frequently criticized for his recent albums because of a more mellow and personal approach. Most of his fan base commended Manson for his mid-1990s political statement that shaped a large portion of a culture which challenges conservative America. But Manson should also be commended for his 21st-century output. The focus has shifted from the political to the personal, which caused many fans to lose interest. The statement on personal struggle is, however, equally as relatable, if not more so, than the response to political restraint.

Although industrial rock, heavy riffs and pitches that make you crave a canteen of water were staples to Manson's introduction to the world, this is not where we should limit our expectations. Immediately beyond this, he had laid sounds and aesthetics of glam rock, channeling legends such as David Bowie. In the 2007 album "Eat Me, Drink Me" Manson shifts the focus from the instrumental stress to the lyrical interpretation of something connected to many members of his audience: childhood story. Although counterintuitive, it is better to think of Manson as an individual and a band that collaborate to give rise to different emotions, thoughts and questions with each release. That is where this review of "The Pale Emperor," released Jan. 15, differs vastly from that of the average Manson follower.

"The Pale Emperor" takes on possibly the most drastic change in sound and reaction for Manson to date. This

album cultivates a mood that is simultaneously soporific and attention-grabbing. Dedicated to his mother, who passed away last May, the tracks compile a depressed mood and a struggle to cope with the inevitable truth of human mortality. There are tracks where the intensity compares to white noise; there are also tracks that stomp feet and bob heads. Despite the change in tempo and intensity, it would be false to call the album an uplifting listen.

Opener "Killing Strangers" and closing track "Odds of Even" set conflicting tones to Manson's album. Lyrically invariant and cliché, as well as instrumentally monotonous, these songs are hard to categorize as highlights of the album. If you are looking to implant a subliminal message in your studying regimen or would like to prime yourself for a grim night's sleep, consider giving these a play. Other than that, their obvious message is dragged out for over five minutes each.

Additional slower-paced songs, such as "Third Day of a Seven Day Binge," shed a contrasting light to the way the album begins and ends. The gothicism of Manson's voice over a bassline and guitar riff of a much more mainstream air makes for a great combination. Although it is troubling to some that Manson would be described as mainstream, it is imperative to remember how he uses different rising emotions, which merely fill in the Tetris-like puzzle that is Manson's repertoire. A mellow Manson is not detaching from the past Manson — it is all reactive, and this track truly embodies the influence of the past on the present. More mainstream sounds can be heard in other tracks such as "Cupid Carries a Gun," which is featured as the theme song of WGN America's TV show "Salem."

Then we come across the more upbeat tunes. "Deep

Six" is a brief return to a more familiar style that many identify with Manson. The lead guitar rightfully dominates on this track. With Manson's age, it is no surprise that an attempt at focusing on melody would go on even the hardest and head-banging of songs. Although Manson has a melodic range no wider than Sinatra's, he does manage to throw in a shrill chorus that is very nostalgic, if only for a moment.

Overall, Manson leaves us with a taste of the new and the familiar. Still, the direction and focus are shifted. Manson's focus is vastly more emotionally and personally fixated in "The Pale Emperor" and opens his work to a much wider and more diverse audience. "The Pale Emperor" is just as telling of Manson's opinion as any other album; it is merely the topic that is different. Ironic and seemingly reversed, this album would likely be the initial recommendation for those interested in easing into Manson's discography.

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"The Pale Emperor"

Marilyn Manson

Label: Hell, etc.

Tracks: "Third Day of a Seven Day Binge," "The Mephistopheles of Los Angeles," "Slave Only Dreams to Be King!"

If you like: Tom Waits, Death from Above 1979

By KEELY BERGIN
Scene Writer

Jon Stewart started his comedic career doing stand-up in New York City at the Comedy Cellar. He later developed a television show called "The Jon Stewart Show," which aired on MTV in 1993. It was the network's first talk show, but its meteoric rise was quickly extinguished by 1995, and it was cancelled. Stewart worked a few short-lived television shows until finally landing the role as host of "The Daily Show."

When "The Daily Show" first aired in 1996, it was a brand new show that brought politics to a place in the media where young people were actually interested in watching it. The show poignantly satirizes the insanity that is U.S. politics.

What many people might not know is that the show was originally hosted by Craig Kilborn; Jon Stewart took over as host in 1999. The show has been wildly popular, bringing in guests from all sectors, from President Barack Obama to author Kurt Vonnegut. "The Daily Show" has also played major roles in the careers of many now famous comedians, including John Oliver, who hosts "Last Week Tonight" and actor Steve Carell.

During last Tuesday's "The Daily Show," Stewart announced he would be retiring later this year. He has hosted the show for an astonishing and incredibly

entertaining 17 years.

"Seventeen years is the longest I have ever in my life held a job by 16 years and five months. The upshot being that I'm a terrible employee," Stewart said, characteristically finishing with a joke.

This announcement was met with considerable disappointment on the part of the audience. Thankfully, Stewart will still be hosting the show up until he actually does retire.

"We're still working out details," Stewart said on when the final show would be.

Comedians and celebrities also had something to say, or at least tweet, about his retirement. Craig Ferguson, of the "Craig Ferguson Show," tweeted: "Congratulations to Jon Stewart on an extraordinary groundbreaking run."

Others were not quite as calm and collected as Ferguson. "NOOOOOO Jon Stewart!! We shall tie you to that chair until they can find someone who can fill your shoes," tweeted Harry Shum Junior, an actor best known for his work on "Glee."

Comedy Central sent Stewart off with warm regards in a statement: "[Stewart] is a comedic genius, generous with his time and talent, and will always be a part of the Comedy Central family."

Stewart has maintained his usual sense of humor on the show since his announcement. Among his first remarks on the Wednesday show included his response

to the Internet more or less exploding in reaction to his eventual departure.

"Did I die? 'Cause it all seems very 'I died,'" Stewart said.

Beyond that comment, the show was very much business as usual, with Stewart berating Arby's and the "invented beef" between him and the fast food chain. The show quickly moved back into usual territory: drawing attention to newsworthy politics. He discussed a move by the governor of Kansas that removed an earlier executive order forbidding the state government from discriminating based on sexual orientation.

"... And it being Kansas, I guess Brownback clicked his heels and said, 'There's no place like homophobia,'" Stewart said.

Clearly, the show has no plans to enter into the downward spiral that has been predicted on media such as BuzzFeed, Tumblr and Twitter. Since the announcement, these websites have been buzzing with questions about who will take over and what Stewart will do next. One thing is certain. Whoever does take over will certainly have huge shoes to fill.

"I don't have any specific plans. I got a lot of ideas, I got a lot of things in my head," Stewart said on what he would do after "The Daily Show."

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SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

40

YEARS OF HITS
(AND OCCASIONAL MISSES)

By **MATTHEW MUNHALL**
Scene Writer

“Saturday Night Live” celebrated its 40th anniversary this weekend with a star-studded, three-and-a-half hour special that aired, ironically, on Sunday night. SNL has always been hit-or-miss, varying wildly in quality from sketch-to-sketch. It’s just that in its four decades as a sketch comedy show, the show has racked up such a collection of highs — from Coneheads and Wayne’s World to Debbie Downer and “D**k in a Box” — that the lows start to fade from memory.

Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake kicked off the special with a musical cold open, singing and rapping their way through a medley of the show’s most memorable catchphrases. As a sketch in its own right, it was unimpressive, coasting solely on nostalgia and the sheer force of Fallon and Timberlake’s combined charisma.

But as an introduction to “SNL 40,” a charming, if uneven, tribute to the show’s impact on American culture, it set the right tone. The special was not perfect by any means, but fittingly enough, the highs more than eclipsed the lows.

Among the highs was Weekend Update, which featured the unbeatable trio of Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Jane Curtin behind the famous desk. Fey joked that cocaine, “one of the show’s original producers,” was in the audience, while Curtin stole the show with her Fox News

job: “I used to be the only pretty blonde woman reading the fake news. Now there’s a whole network for that.” They then introduced a segment of celebrities doing impressions of their favorite SNL characters, including Emma Stone as Roseanne Roseannadanna and Edward Norton as Stefon. Most memorably, Melissa McCarthy did a spot-on take on Chris Farley’s motivational speaker Matt Foley, ending the segment by jumping on top of and breaking the Weekend Update desk.

The tribute to the show’s musical skits, overseen by Martin Short and Maya Rudolph as Beyoncé, was also excellent. The medley spanned the show’s 40-year history, from Steve Martin’s classic “King Tut” to Kenan Thompson’s always-funny “What’s Up With That?” Best of all was Bill Murray, in character as lounge singer Nick Ocean, singing a hilarious version of the “Jaws” theme.

Later, Mike Myers and Dana Carvey broke out their long-haired wigs for a “Wayne’s World” reprisal, featuring an SNL-themed top ten. It was thrilling to watch Myers and Carvey play off each other again, making fun of Kanye West and doing Lorne Michaels impressions like they never left the show. Even the in memoriam segment — which featured a still-living Jon Lovitz and ended with Murray cracking, “Generalissimo Francisco Franco is still dead” — managed to be both touching and funny.

The musical guest has always been an SNL staple, and Sunday’s performances were equally memorable and spanned artists from the past 40 years. West, whose

“Runaway” performance on the show in 2010 is still awe-inspiring, performed a medley of “Jesus Walks,” “Only One” and “Wolves” underneath a gorgeous light installation on an all-black stage. Keith Richards introduced Paul McCartney, who sang his classic solo cut “Maybe I’m Amazed” as images of his younger self played on the wall behind him. Miley Cyrus performed a surprisingly great country cover of Paul Simon’s “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover,” while Simon himself closed the show with a stirring performance of “Still Crazy After All These Years.”

The biggest disappointment was Eddie Murphy’s anticlimactic return to SNL after 32 years; Chris Rock’s introduction lasted longer than Murphy’s brief appearance. Likewise, a reprise of the soap parody “The Californians,” which drove its already tired premise into the ground, lasted an interminably long nine minutes and managed to be completely unfunny.

Yet, despite a few missteps, “SNL 40” was a surprisingly enjoyable tribute to what has become a TV institution and a reminder of why SNL is so important to so many comedy fans.

From old cast members reliving their formative years on the show to the bevy of celebrities who wanted to be in on the action, “SNL 40” celebrated a show that has made Americans laugh for four decades and whose hits far outweigh its misses.

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CHANGING music

CHANGING seasons

Rebecca O’Neil
Scene Writer

Last year, I left Indiana for winter break with Chet Faker’s “Thinking in Textures” ringing in my ears. “I’m Into You” came up on a Flume binge sometime around Thanksgiving and soon after infiltrated every playlist I created.

YouTube’s “suggestions for you” just get me.

Faker’s warm raspy voice against the crisp sound of a Prophet synth piano incite the image of a glowing body hidden and protected inside a NorthFace gore-tex parka. The Australian beatmaker’s voice bursts forth as the soul propels said jacketed body forward through frigid conditions.

It treads steadily onward guided by a rhythmic bass, a groove given by smooth manipulations of field recordings and seasoned with keyboard echoes. On my lighter days, somewhere close to Christmas but definitely before finals reared, I thought of an attractive, young Santa Claus when I listened to Faker — an image undoubtedly inspired more by his beard than his rich voice.

Upon returning to the frozen tundra that was South Bend in January 2014, I was introduced to Son Lux and his album “Lanterns.” The self-proclaimed sound “collagist” recreates pizzicato on a synth and pairs it with

his mildly gravelly voice for a sound so perfect and so winter.

The quivering tones emulated in his voice, piano and strings reach operatic highs that give me goosebumps on my neck the same way a too-loose scarf on a windy day might.

My interest in seasons and their correlation to temperance of the soul manifested through music is mild. Good sound is good. There are artists, albums, songs that will pierce humans’ interiors in indescribable ways always, but by simply examining the subjectivity of the term “good,” I’ve realized that even the very best sounds sound better in certain weather.

I’m trying a different approach to this winter’s tunes — a genre so quintessentially summer in my mind, it’s a challenge — funk. My personal classification of modern-day “funk” is rooted in a distinct sway in sound that makes my mind want to “shoegaze” as its vessel bobs vehemently. I’m not talking Nile Rogers; I’m talking what jazz purists might relegate as corrupt.

It all started with “The Heat” by Jungle. Somewhere between my regular searches for psychedelic rock, house music and occasional reggae binges, I ended up on the R&B front.

I don’t watch music videos often but had a pleasant zone sesh as Jungle moonwalked on pink roller-skates. The song is now on my most-listened-to Spotify

compilation of the winter season. The playlist is called Escapists and is inspired by songs that make me think of not being here, there, anywhere. It features everything from the beach goth genre, Beach Boys, Red Hot Chili Peppers, songs with the word “California” in them and forget-yourself dance vibes.

Funk fits well into my step as I walk to class on unsalted sidewalks. When my legs give on the ice, recovery feels smooth if I keep my eyes down and focus on the dipped beats. My wobbly steps feel more like subtle dance moves, although I’m sure I look ridiculous. The electric bass working on a downbeat boosts my confidence. Complex groove dominates the mind, and I’m good to go.

As I continue to recognize funk’s presence in my winter-really-summer-vibe playlist, I’ve noticed my taste has not deviated much.

The up-stroke and chord progression characteristic of funk have appeared more and more in the electronic music scene. The adaptation of jazz into modern-day synth has led to a proto-funk (Dillon Francis’ moombahton — someone debate me on this). Boogie at a rave?

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

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Why the All-Star Game matters

Marek Mazurek
Sports Writer

I will admit I did not want to watch the NBA All-Star Game.

The spectacle surrounding the game has increased to absurd proportions, and, unlike in baseball, the game does not actually count for anything. I'm sure that there are others like me who just want the regular season to resume so we can get caught up on the storylines that really matter. However, despite my personal aversion to the pageantry of all-star weekend, here are a few important reasons why the NBA holds its annual festivities.

First and foremost, all-star weekend allows the NBA to promote its product. By showcasing its best players, the hopes that the all-star game provides a casual fan with a good game of basketball to get them interested in the game. The actual game, however, is of a far lower quality than a real game because the players don't really care, but the NBA is hoping the big name recognition will get people interested. For example, if you aren't a die-hard basketball fan, are you more likely to watch the Minnesota Timberwolves against the Orlando Magic or LeBron James and Russell Westbrook dunking all over the place?

This is also why the NBA has expanded its program of events in recent years to include a red carpet event and new skills challenges. More stuff going on equals more media coverage, which leads to more people hearing about the NBA. This exposure becomes vitally important for the NBA considering how important sports ratings are. The popularity of the NFL requires the rest of the sports world to scrap for the NFL's leftover viewers. The decline of baseball is a testament to this harsh fact, and the NHL has adopted a number of skill-oriented challenges to its all-star game in order to keep up with the NBA. Which shoes the players are wearing, how many dunks are thrown down and which celebrities

show up to watch the game may seem like fluff, but they are events that do generate buzz, and that is the NBA's ultimate goal.

Another reason all-star weekend matters is that it gives younger players a chance to get their names out there and grow their brand exposure. Just think, before Saturday no one knew that Zach LaVine existed, but because of the Sprite Slam Dunk Contest, LaVine and other young players are able to get their names out there.

In recent years, the NBA has added the BBVA Rising Stars Challenge, The Taco Bell Skills Challenge and the Degree Shooting Stars events to the slam dunk and 3-point contests in an effort to give younger players around the league a chance to have their day in the sun. In this respect, the NBA all-star weekend is a lot like the lesser college bowl games: it doesn't really matter too much and the players have fun.

Lastly, people watch the all-star game because simply because it's fun. As I mentioned earlier, I don't like all of the hoopla and red carpet events, but you can bet your tuition money I enjoyed watching Russell Westbrook going berserk. And therein lies the real draw of all-star events like this. People enjoy watching the best players on the planet playing against each other and having fun doing it. It is for that reason that I will probably watch the All-Star Game every year until I die. There is something extremely compelling about watching the players you know and love joking with the referees and each other. It's like being let in on a big inside joke for famous people.

So enjoy the big dunks, enjoy the somewhat-fabricated camaraderie and enjoy the fact that the NBA all-star weekend allows 5-foot-4 Kevin Hart to have as many MVP awards as LeBron James.

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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 | VILLANOVA 80, SETON HALL 54

Villanova takes down Big East foe Seton Hall

Associated Press

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Darrun Hilliard scored 18 points, Daniel Ochefu had 11 points and 12 rebounds, and No. 6 Villanova cruised to an 80-54 victory over Seton Hall on Monday night.

Dylan Ennis had 12 points and Ryan Arcidiacono and JayVaughn Pinkston each scored 10 to help Villanova (24-2, 11-2 Big East) win its seventh straight game.

Isaiah Whitehead scored led the way with 15 points for Seton Hall (15-11, 5-9). Sterling Gibbs had 12 before he was ejected for a flagrant foul in the second half. The Pirates have lost five in a row.

Coming off a comeback win at No. 19 Butler, the Wildcats led from the start and never let up in avenging a 66-61 overtime loss at Seton Hall on Jan. 3.

Hilliard shot 6 for 16 two

days after scoring a career-high 31 points, including a 3-pointer with 1.5 seconds left Saturday to give Villanova a 68-65 victory over Butler.

Hilliard got the Wildcats started in the second half with a lay-up to give them an 18-point lead. But Seton Hall outscored Villanova 16-8 to cut the deficit to 46-36. Kris Jenkins then scored six straight points for the Wildcats on three free throws and a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 52-38.

After Villanova's Josh Hart fought for a pair of offensive rebounds, Ennis hit a jumper, Arcidiacono made a 3-pointer, Pinkston scored on a lay-up and Ennis sank two free throws to give the Wildcats a 61-40 lead.

The lead soared to 30 as nine players scored for Villanova. The Wildcats' relentless defense forced Seton Hall into 32.3 percent

shooting (20 for 62).

The first half was filled with runs. Villanova scored the first seven points before Gibbs hit a 3-pointer 3:34 in. Seton Hall had a 9-0 run, but Villanova answered with a 12-0 spurt to take a 26-13 lead.

Seton Hall missed eight straight 3s at one point before Whitehead knocked one down with 4:04 left in the half. The Wildcats finished the half with six straight points to take a 36-20 lead into the locker room.

TIP-INS

Seton Hall: The Pirates are 8-11 since starting the season 7-0. They're 3-9 since upsetting Villanova last month. That win prevented the Wildcats from the best start in program history. They were 13-0.

Seton Hall visits St. John's on Saturday, while Villanova visits Marquette on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

Study shows coaching can reduce injuries

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — A new study shows young football players are less likely to get hurt or sustain head injuries when playing for coaches who have been trained in teaching proper tackling fundamentals.

Last fall, researchers at the Indianapolis-based Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention collected data from 2,108 football players ages 5 to 15. The organization monitored injuries of 100 teams in 10 youth leagues and four states.

The data showed players who competed for coaches with training in USA Football's "Heads-Up Football" program are better protected than those who did not.

USA Football, the sport's national governing body, commissioned the study.

The data show that players in Heads-Up leagues were 34 percent less likely to get a concussion in practice, 29 percent less likely to get a concussion in a game and could greatly reduce the amount of significant head impacts each season, perhaps by an average of 90 fewer hits per season.

Dr. Tom Dompier, the president of Datalys and the study's chief researcher, believes the information is so convincing, he's putting it to use in his own household. The full results are expected to be released later Monday.

"My son is 6 and he played (flag) football last year and probably will this year. If he does play tackle football next year, it will be under two conditions. One is whether we can find equipment that fits and the second condition is that the league will have to go through Heads-Up Football," he told The Associated Press.

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Tune me in to the wild side of life, I'm an innocent young child sharp as a knife, Take me to the garretts where the artists have died, Show me the courtrooms where the judges have lied, Let me drink deeply from the water and the wine, Light coloured candles in dark dreary mines, Look in the mirror and stare at myself, And wonder if that's really me on the shelf, And each day I learn just a little bit more, I don't know why but I do know what for, If we're all

going somewhere let's get there soon, Oh this song's got no title just words and a tune, Take me down alleys where the murders are done, In a vast high powered rocket to the core of the sun, Want to read books in the studies of men, Born on the breeze and die on the wind, If I was an artist who paints with his eyes, I'd study my subject and silently cry, Cry for my darkness to come down on me. For confusion to carry on turning the wheel.

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PGA

Snedeker stands out at Pebble Beach Pro-Am

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The fog began to roll in off the coast of Pebble Beach, though it didn't matter. Brandt Snedeker had the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in hand, and he had a clear view of where he was going.

There is no better wait than on the 18th tee at Pebble Beach. For Snedeker, there was no better feeling than walking up the famous closing hole with a four-shot lead, his ball in the middle of the fairway and a big reward for a lot of hard work and hard times.

A conservative par gave him a 5-under 67 and a

three-shot victory Sunday, and it brought a renewed sense of direction.

"I think I'm relevant again," Snedeker said after his second win at Pebble Beach in three years.

For the first time in more than three years, Snedeker fell out of the top 50 in the world at the end of last year after his worst season on the PGA Tour. He wasn't in the Masters or any of the World Golf Championships. He already was making plans to play new tournaments. He was going to play every week until the Masters to give himself every chance to secure another tee time at Augusta National.

All that changed in one

week that was close to perfect.

Snedeker made only one bogey over 72 holes on three golf courses, and it still gnawed at him even as he left the room with a crystal trophy. He didn't have a three-putt, no small feat on poa annua greens played on by 156 players and 156 amateurs over three days.

He's in the Masters. By moving up to No. 31 in the world, he can count on all four World Golf Championships. He's also in the PGA Championship (he already was eligible for the U.S. Open based on his top 10 at Pinehurst No. 2 last year). Snedeker was irritated at the thought the world

best players might gather without him.

He didn't like being Mr. Irrelevant.

"Not fun," he said. "Not when you're used to it. I don't like playing golf and not feeling like I can compete and win. For six months, eight months of last year I didn't feel I could do that. I didn't feel like my game was where it needed to be, it wasn't sharp."

He began working with Butch Harmon to understand his swing and how to play the game. That took time. And when the 2015 season began, it was time for him to prove all over that he belonged in the big events.

"This is going to be

hopefully the kind of player I am for many years going forward," he said.

That didn't make Sunday at Pebble Beach easy. Snedeker might have looked calm during the final 5 1/2 hours. He was a wreck inside, especially in the early going when it appeared that any number of players would have a chance.

Jim Furyk had a one-shot lead and disappeared early with a 38 on the front nine, though it was three birdie putts inside 10 feet that really cost him. Furyk felt like he hit the ball where he was aiming and couldn't believe he was losing ground. He closed with a 74, and for the ninth time since his last win at the 2010 Tour Championship, he failed to convert when he had at least a share of the 54-hole lead.

Torrey Pines winner Jason Day made a brief charge in the middle of the round. So did Pat Perez until a pair of bogeys around the turn did him in. The consolation for Perez was winning the pro-am title with Pandora Jewelry co-founder Michael Lund.

The big challenge from Nick Watney, who already had a dream week by having San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey as his partner. Watney opened with four straight birdies and had a two-shot lead. It turned on a bad break and a bad shot. A photographer shot off his camera at the top of Watney's swing on the par-3 fifth, and he came up woefully short in a bunker and made bogey.

With a 4-iron for his second shot on the par-5 sixth, Watney hit his "worst swing of the week." It sailed to right off the cliffs into Stillwater Cover, leading to bogey. Just like that, he was one shot behind, and after another pair of bogeys on the back nine, he was along for the ride.

"Even though I only lost a shot there, it was a momentum stall," Watney said of the bogey on No. 6. "Along with making the bogey on No. 9 with a pitching wedge. Those two, if I could have two back, it would be that swing on 6 and the second shot into No. 9."

There was no stopping Snedeker. He is swinging well. He is putting well. He was a winner again, his seventh on the PGA Tour. And he broke by two shots his tournament record with a 265, and the winning score to par at 22 under previously held by Phil Mickelson and Mark O'Meara.

"I'm just so excited about what's next," Snedeker said.

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish gear up for ACC championships

By DANIEL O'BOYLE
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will travel to Atlanta this week as it competes in the ACC championships, starting Wednesday and continuing through Saturday.

The Irish (7-9) enter the conference championships on a wave of momentum, coming off three straight comfortable wins at Rolfs Aquatic Center, over Iowa and Incarnate Word at the Shamrock Invitational and against Cleveland State one week later.

Irish coach Tim Welsh said he believes his team's success at the Shamrock Invitational marked a turning point in the season, and he thinks this newfound form can continue in Atlanta.

"I think the momentum since the Shamrock Invitational meet has been terrific," Welsh said. "I thought that the Shamrock Invitational was a breakthrough meet for us, and so I'm really excited by what happened, and we've been building on that since."

"That was our breakthrough meet and we'll be carrying that forward into this weekend."

The Irish will be looking for a big performance from senior

All-American Emma Reaney, who won the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke and 200-yard individual medley at last year's championships. In addition to Reaney, who holds the American record in the 200 breaststroke, sophomore Katie Miller will be looking to follow up a third-place finish in last year's 400-yard individual medley with a strong performance this weekend.

Welsh, though, said the primary goal for the Irish this week is just about setting new fast marks for the year.

"What we're interested in primarily is best times," Welsh said. "We'll be trying to be faster than we've been all year, and if we're in real good shape, faster than we've ever been in our lives. For us, it's going to be all about best times this week."

"The work is already done; these people have been training since school began in the fall, and so what we're trying to do now is just to make sure that everything is organized, focused, concentrated and ready to go."

Although this is only Notre Dame's second conference meet since moving to the ACC, Welsh said he believes last year's performances from the

Irish, and in particular Reaney, prove that they can compete with their opponents.

"We haven't paid a lot of attention to the field," Welsh said. "Emma Reaney was the swimmer of the year at these championships last year, so she'll be in position to defend her titles."

"The work's been done; we've had some rest; we've got a big meet in a great facility, so we just have to maintain our focus and our concentration and let loose."

Welsh said the team will just enjoy its chance to perform at the conference championships and hope to see the season's work pay off.

"We're just looking forward to a great meet," Welsh said. "These people trained hard all year, and it's just great to be here with both the swimmers and divers in Atlanta."

The ACC championships begin at the Georgia Tech Campus Recreation Center in Atlanta on Wednesday at 10 a.m. with the diving preliminaries and continue until Saturday evening, with the final session starting at 6 p.m.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL | VIRGINIA 61, PITTSBURGH 49

No. 2 Virginia ups offensive output in win

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Malcolm Brogdon insists that No. 2 Virginia's offensive inconsistency isn't as big a deal as many seem to think.

The Cavaliers struggled to score for long stretches Monday night, but had their defense to thank for keeping Pittsburgh at bay until the shots started falling, clearing the way for Virginia's fifth straight victory, 61-49 against the Panthers.

"It's frustrating when your shots aren't falling and you can't seem to get things going offensively, but at the same time, as long as we were getting stops we weren't going to be too frustrated with ourselves," Brogdon said. "When your offense isn't going well, you've got to lean on something, and for us, our identity is defense. It works out great for us."

Brogdon scored 18 points, including the 1,000th of his career, causing coach Tony Bennett to joke that he needs to follow the lead of NFL quarterbacks that reward their linemen and

buy watches for the teammates whose screens he has used.

Virginia used a late 8-0 scoring run — and another defense-forced scoreless spell for the Panthers — to pull away.

The Cavaliers (24-1, 12-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) three times held Pittsburgh scoreless for more than 5 minutes, and they needed all three. The victory tied the best start to a season in program history, first done in the 1981-82 season.

Darion Atkins, the lone senior on the team, said the Cavaliers "have gotten used to" the offensive struggles.

"We just have to stay poised and not settle for a good shot but a great shot," he said.

And, he said, remember what has brought them to this point.

"If we can't do it on the defensive end, offense is just not going to win it for us," Atkins said.

Jamel Artis scored 20 and Sheldon Jeter 10 for the Panthers (17-10, 6-7), who got no points from scoring leader Michael Young (13.3 ppg). He fouled out in 21 minutes and took just three shots. Nonetheless, the Panthers

cut a 10-point deficit to three with just under 8 minutes to play, but the Cavaliers then reeled off eight straight points.

"They keep coming and they keep making you make the right play time and time again," Pitt coach Jamie Dixon said. "Their size at all positions, I think, is a real attribute for them. Their size and their strength and experience at all spots."

Anthony Gill added 12 points and London Perrantes had 10 points and six assists for Virginia.

The Panthers trailed 25-15 at halftime, but scored 10 of the first 15 points after the break to get within 30-25. Jeter had seven in the burst and he and Artis each contributed a 3-pointer. For the third time, Pitt then went more than five minutes without a point. They missed five free throws in the drought, but Virginia had a similar dry spell, so the game remained close.

A 3-pointer by Artis pulled the Panthers within 36-32, and Cameron Wright had a chance to cut the deficit to two, but he made only the first of a pair of free throws with 7:54 remaining.

NHL | RANGERS 6, ISLANDERS 5

Rangers win on Klein's goal

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Kevin Klein scored with 4:32 left, and the New York Rangers overcame a pair of two-goal deficits and netted three third-period goals to stun the New York Islanders 6-5 on Monday night.

After falling behind 11 seconds in, the Rangers completed their game-long, uphill fight and beat the Islanders for the first time in four tries this season. They trail the Metropolitan Division-leading Islanders by two points and have two games in hand.

Defenseman Ryan McDonagh had the first two-goal game of his career, and Chris Kreider, Derek Stepan and Martin St. Louis also scored for the Rangers, who completed a 4-0 road trip.

Stepan and St. Louis scored 1:37 apart in the third to tie it. Cam Talbot made 38 saves and improved to 5-1-1 while filling in for injured goalie Henrik Lundqvist.

The Islanders appeared headed for their fifth straight win, but they couldn't hold a 3-1 lead in the second period or a 5-3 edge in the third.

Ryan Strome scored twice, and John Tavares, Frans Nielsen and Johnny Boychuk had goals for the Islanders, who dropped to 18-3 against Metropolitan opponents and 11-1 at home.

They had outscored the Rangers 13-4 in three previous wins this season. The teams will meet once more in the regular season.

Jaroslav Halak stopped 36 shots but struggled in his attempt to tie the Islanders' record for wins in a season.

Tavares scored 11 seconds in, Nielsen added a first-period goal, and Boychuk scored in the second for the Islanders.

Klein won it with a shot from the right circle after an Islanders turnover in the neutral zone.

Strome put the Islanders in front 4-3 with 12:19 left in the second when he dug out the puck after Travis Hamonic's shot and

knocked it past Talbot. The goal came 3 seconds after an Islanders power play expired.

Boychuk had given the Islanders another early strike when he raced from the neutral zone to keep the puck on the blue line and ripped a drive that beat Talbot at 1:20 to make it 3-1. Boychuk scored on the Islanders' first shot of the period just as Tavares had done in the first.

The Rangers shook that off and scored twice in 23 seconds to tie it 3-all.

Kreider started the first comeback by chasing down the puck on the left side of the offensive zone and firing a drive past Halak at 3:07 for his 14th goal. The excitable Kreider leaped into the glass at the end of the rink to celebrate his goal.

Before it could be announced to the split crowd filled with fans decked out in Islanders and Rangers colors, McDonagh connected for his second of the game with 3:30 gone. McDonagh let go a drive from inside the blue line that appeared to tip the stick of Islanders defenseman Lubomir Visnovsky before sailing past Halak.

That briefly got the Rangers even after their early meltdown in the first.

Talbot immediately put his club in a hole when he went behind his net and attempted to pass the puck to McDonagh in the right corner. Tavares intercepted the errant pass and fired the puck into an empty net to make it 1-0. Tavares' 27th goal was his third in two games after a two-goal, four-point performance against Columbus on Saturday.

Nielsen doubled the lead at 11:46 when he cleaned up the rebound of Hamonic's drive and scored his 11th goal.

The Rangers got one back before the intermission when McDonagh took a pass from defense partner Dan Girardi and fired a shot in while down on one knee with 5:25 left in the first. It came less than a minute after Talbot stopped Casey Cizikas on a breakaway.

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M Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

carry the Irish to the win over Clemson, pouring in 22 points and adding five assists. The 6-foot-5 guard is one of just four players in the country — along with Hofstra junior guard Juan'ya Green, Northwestern State junior guard Jalan West and Oakland sophomore guard Kahlil Felder — averaging at least 17 points and six assists per game. Of the four, Grant is the only player shooting at least 50 percent from the floor.

"Nobody is more involved in an offense in the country than Jerian Grant, whether he's scoring it or assisting on baskets," Brey said. "He just makes plays for himself and for people."

Brey added he doesn't think there's a better player in the country than Grant in crunch-time. The senior made crucial plays down the stretch against the Tigers — a steal and feed to Irish sophomore guard Demetrius Jackson and a clutch fade-away jumper — en route to the victory.

"We have been an amazingly resilient group all year," Brey said. "I think we actually believe the end of the game is our time. We

have the ultimate closer in Jerian Grant."

Notre Dame is now 7-2 in games decided by five points or fewer.

"They find ways to win close ballgames," Wake Forest head coach Danny Manning said.

Manning's Demon Deacons couldn't do the same against No. 2 Virginia on Saturday. Wake Forest couldn't muster a shot in its final possession and fell 61-60 to the Cavaliers in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The Demon Deacons have also suffered single-digit conference losses to Louisville, Duke (22-3, 9-3), Syracuse, Clemson and Florida State.

"We had a chance to get a win," Manning said. "We just weren't able to make the plays down the stretch. ... We still need to tighten up some defensive rotations and value the ball a little bit throughout the course of the ballgame."

Junior guard Codi Miller-McIntyre (14.2 points and 5.1 rebounds per game) and junior forward Devin Thomas (12.3 points, 9.4 rebounds) pace the Demon Deacons.

Notre Dame and Wake Forest tip off Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Purcell Pavilion.

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Track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

better results at the SPIRE DI Invitational.

"At the SPIRE Invitational, the results were a little bit mixed," Turner said. "I was looking for [senior] Jade Barber in the 60-meter hurdles to have her best time of the year. She had some solid races; she finished third, but I was expecting her to run a little bit faster, in the 8.2 range."

Barber ran the 60-meter hurdles in 8.42 seconds.

Additionally, Turner said he expected more from freshman Parker English.

"My freshman 400-meter runner, Parker English, I was expecting her to have a much better 400-meter race," Turner said. "She was only [at 55.69 seconds] and I was expecting her to be at least full second faster than that. So the results were a little bit mixed."

Turner did praise sophomore pole vaulter Nathan Richartz, who won his event at the SPIRE DI Invitational.

"Nate Richartz, he had a [personal best] in the pole vault," Turner said. "He had 16 feet there, so he's had some hamstring injuries. His hamstring is feeling much, much better, and



WEI LIN | The Observer

Junior Molly Seidel sprints toward the finish during the National Catholic Championships on Sept. 19 at Burke Golf Course.

he vaulted well. He's going to have to get mid-16-foot jumps at the ACC to get some big points for us. He's coming around."

Next week, the Irish will host the Alex Wilson Invitational at Loftus Sports Center. It will be the last regular-season indoor meet before the ACC championships, and Turner said he plans to rest some of his athletes.

"The majority of our athletes who are going to be at the ACC, we're going to

rest them at the Alex Wilson [Invitational]," Turner said. "Our athletes that are very, very good that need a much better mark to qualify for the NCAA championships, we're probably going to put them in their main event and have them run one time. The goal at the Alex Wilson is not to load our athletes up and have them run in three or four races with the ACC the following weekend."

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Divers head to Atlanta for ACC championships

Observer Staff Report

After finishing their regular season with a convincing victory over Cleveland State 226-66, the Irish prepare for the ACC championships which start this week in Atlanta. Hosted by Georgia Tech, the diving championships begin Wednesday, in Georgia while the swimming championships a week later on Feb. 25.

At the ACC diving championships, the Irish will look for a strong performance from sophomore Joe Coumos. Coumos had a school record-breaking performance against Cleveland State on Feb. 7, when after notching a score

of 361.35 in the 1-meter dive he set a new school record in the 3-meter dive, posting a score of 409.27. The previous record was set in 2011, when Eric Lex compiled a score of 405.15.

After his strong performance last weekend, Coumos was awarded the ACC Diver of the Week award for the third time in his career; he notched to honor twice in his freshman year. It also marked the first time this season that an Irish men's swimmer or diver has taken home one of the conference's weekly honors.

Coumos will not be traveling alone, as he is also bringing sophomore

James Lichtenstein, senior Michael Kreft and senior Nick Nemetz with him to Georgia for the event. Against Cleveland State, Lichtenstein finished second in the 3-meter with a score of 371.25, and Nemetz finished third with a tally of 364.95.

The swimmers will take to the pool a week later as they will look to continue their momentum from the win over Cleveland State that saw the Irish win 14 of the 16 events.

The Irish divers get underway at the ACC championships tomorrow in Atlanta at Georgia Tech Aquatic Center with the meet running through Saturday.



MICHAEL YU | The Observer

Irish junior forward Zach Auguste puts up a shot during Notre Dame's 77-73 win over Duke on Jan. 28 at Purcell Pavilion.

Write Sports.

Email Mary at mgreen8@nd.edu

W Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

as the shot clock hit zero to give Notre Dame its first lead of the night, which it never lost.

"At one point, I think with every shot we took, it felt like they were going in, and we were hot for a little bit there," Cable said.

Loyd led all players with 21 points, but McGraw said her contributions on the defensive end were what really propelled the Irish. Loyd matched up with Blue Devils redshirt freshman guard Rebecca Greenwell and limited her to four points, well below her 14.2 season average.

"I was really, really happy with the job that Jewell Loyd did on Rebecca Greenwell," McGraw said. "[Greenwell] didn't get much of a clean look all night long and held her under her average. I thought her defensive intensity and focus was phenomenal."

One of the biggest challenges facing the Irish coming into the game was the matchup on the boards. The Blue Devils lead the nation in rebounding margin and sit fourth in defensive rebounds.

Duke grabbed the game's first six rebounds, but the Irish had a 19-18 advantage at half, with Cable pulling down six and freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld coming off the bench to grab seven, allowing the Irish to head into the break with a 34-24 lead.

"Just knowing coming in that there were some big girls and obviously that they we're gonna have a height advantage and that they were leading rebounding in the country, so you've got to come in with some toughness right away," Westbeld said. "That's just my mindset right when I came in, to just have high energy and be ready to box out."

The Blue Devils held a significant size advantage over the Irish. They started four players 6-foot-1 or taller, including 6-foot-3 senior center Elizabeth Williams, who led Duke with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Notre Dame, on the other hand, started three players 5-foot-10 or shorter.

By the 14-minute mark of the second half, however, Notre Dame opened a 10-point lead that never fell to single digits.

"I just don't think we were consistent," Blue Devils coach Joanne P. McCallie said. "I think at times, we were strong, dominant, and I think it waned a little bit. ... We did win the board battle and the offensive rebounding battle, but we also didn't convert the offensive rebounds. If you give us some free throws and a few offensive rebound conversions, this is a different game."

With their lead in the ACC extended to one game over Florida State and Louisville, the Irish return to action Thursday for a road matchup with Georgia Tech in Atlanta.



SARAH OLSON | The Observer

Irish freshman forward Kathryn Westbeld goes up for a layup during Notre Dame's 63-50 win over Duke on Monday at Purcell Pavilion. Westbeld led the Irish with seven rebounds against the Blue Devils and chipped in eight points off the bench.

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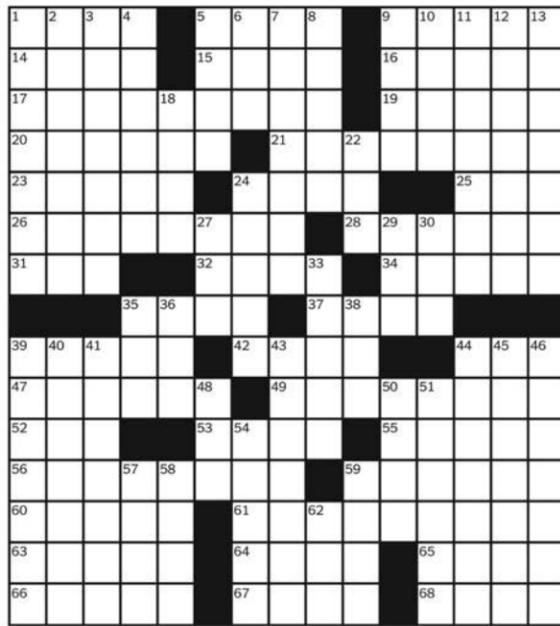


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CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Harness horse's gait
 - 5 Light bluish green
 - 9 Reading chair accompaniers
 - 14 Tennis's Mandlikova
 - 15 It's just under 8: Abbr.
 - 16 Intensely passionate
 - 17 Athlete's booster
 - 19 One of many on a monitor
 - 20 Ving of Hollywood
 - 21 Subject of a Car and Driver report
 - 23 It was transferred to China in 1999
 - 24 Sleek, briefly
 - 25 Detergent with a glass in every box, long ago
 - 26 Where to paint a model
 - 28 Pea or peanut
 - 31 Mormon church, for short
 - 32 D.C. team since '05
 - 34 Kind of colony in "Papillon"
 - 35 & 37 Leave quickly ... or what both words in 17-, 21-, 26-, 49-, 56- and 61-Across could be?
 - 39 Not live
 - 42 "Uh-huh"
 - 44 N.Y.C. commuters' inits.
 - 47 "Yippee!"
 - 49 Catholic remembrance
 - 52 Tokyo, formerly
 - 53 Word after e or G
 - 55 Mitchum rival
 - 56 Tipoff
 - 59 See the light of day
 - 60 Virus that arose in the Congo
 - 61 x
- Down**
- 1 Kind of blanket
 - 2 Mounted a fierce campaign
 - 3 Works without a break?
 - 4 Landing strip
 - 5 Life's pleasures
 - 6 The 9-Down might put one out, briefly
 - 7 Salutation in an old-fashioned love letter
 - 8 Foul-up
 - 9 "Colors" org.
 - 10 Throw ____
 - 11 Screw in the head
 - 12 Suppose
 - 13 Fizzy water
 - 18 Hydrologist's field: Abbr.
 - 22 IM pioneer
 - 24 Japanese brew
 - 27 "Taking Woodstock" director Lee
 - 29 Inventor Whitney
 - 63 Bags with handles
 - 64 Indigo plant
 - 65 Ready to be driven, in golf
 - 66 ____ attack
 - 67 ____ Pop, 2010
 - 68 Lat. and Lith., formerly



Puzzle by Gary Cee

- 30 Bath ____
- 33 Fantastic bargain
- 35 The Doors' "Love ____ Madly"
- 36 Mrs. Morgenstern on "Rhoda"
- 38 D.D.E. opponent
- 39 Meadowlands team
- 40 Birders' magazine
- 41 Plug
- 43 Come up ____
- 44 Puts one and one together?
- 45 Set off
- 46 The 1 and 2 in 1 + 2 = 3
- 48 Soprano Sumac
- 50 ____ Club
- 51 Peaks
- 54 ____ Mountains (Asian range)
- 57 Heartfelt request
- 58 Soak up some rays
- 59 Snakelike
- 62 Korean War fighter

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 BRUCKER

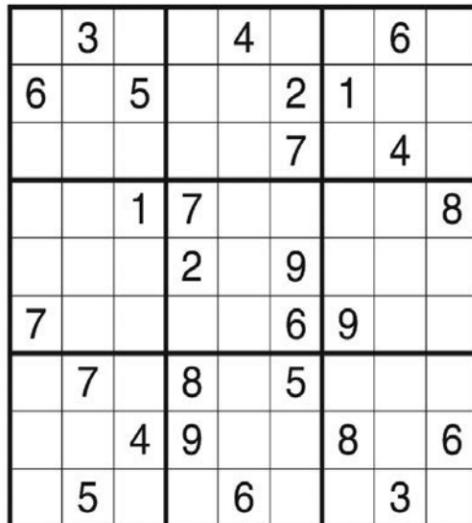


DOMESTICS | ALEXANDRIA WELLMAN

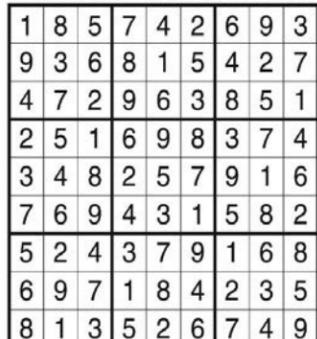


SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: 1 2 3 4



SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE 11/20/12



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

HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

Happy Birthday: This will be a great year for educational pursuits. Whether you learn on the job, online or in a classroom, the knowledge you gain will help you make headway in a direction that offers greater satisfaction mentally, physically and financially. Believe in your abilities and set reasonable but high standards. Imagine your dream and make it happen. Your numbers are 2, 6, 13, 21, 35, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your emotions take over. Productivity will be the name of the game, so stay focused and do a good job. Spend time helping people in need, not those who are in competition with you. Refrain from sharing your secrets. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your eyes and ears open. You will discover valuable information that can save you from making a big mistake. Overdoing and overspending must be controlled. A positive change will be successful if developed and executed in secrecy. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Demands will be made, but that doesn't mean you have to oblige. Consider what's being asked of you and whether or not it is something you want to do. Now is a good time to act with intelligence, not emotion. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try to focus on personal changes that encourage you to feel better as well as boost your confidence. Implementing a unique or creative edge to whatever job you do will separate you from any competition you face. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Question your current vocational direction. If you want to make a change, consider what skills or knowledge you will need in order to reach your goal. Connect through networking events that deal with the industry that interests you. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put greater importance on partnerships and working alongside people who enhance and contribute to your plans. A change in your financial standing or dealing with a legal concern must be handled cautiously and with moderation. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Making alterations to the way you live based on your needs will be beneficial. Don't hesitate to follow your dreams and reach out to people from your past who can help you get ahead now. Don't take no for an answer. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't feel the need to make decisions before you are ready to do so. Work on projects or activities that allow you to use your creative imagination, and you will avoid being pushed into a situation that leads to unnecessary excess. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen and you will detect if anyone is trying to lead you astray. Stay on top of matters involving other people to avoid being taken advantage of. Make changes based on facts you have uncovered, not hearsay. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Carefully consider what you want to do. Don't make impulsive decisions. Use your insight and intuition to guide you financially. An emotional matter will escalate if you are too pushy. Good fortune will come from helping others. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make positive professional changes if you use discipline, knowledge, past experiences and connections to help you advance. Approach change with optimism and positive results will unfold. Don't be a follower when you should be a leader. ★★

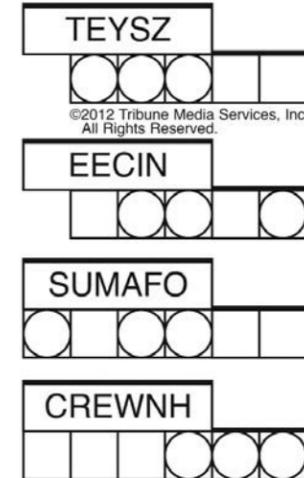
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't stop offering suggestions to others. It's how you deal with others that will make a difference. Your intuition will lead you in the right direction, so follow your heart and do what comes naturally. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are popular, imaginative and independent. You are a free spirit. Don't let others tell you what you can and cannot do and don't be afraid to be assertive. Stand up for what you believe in, and remember that good things will come to those who ask.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. 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.

A: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: BATCH KHAKI FABRIC EXHALE
Answer: When the state park levied a usage fee for its trails, he faced a — TAX HIKE

WORK AREA

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | ND 63, DUKE 50

Loyd's perimeter play paces Irish

By MARY GREEN
Sports Editor

There's something about a 3-pointer that fires up a crowd, and the long-distance shot was exactly what fueled No. 4 Notre Dame to a 63-50 victory over No. 10 Duke on Monday at Purcell Pavilion.

Junior guard Jewell Loyd hit four of her eight attempts from behind the arc, and senior guard Madison Cable added three more. Sophomore guard Lindsay Allen and junior guard Michaela Mabrey rounded out Notre Dame's sharp-shooting with a make each in the victory, which helped the Irish (24-2, 11-1 ACC) retain their hold on first place in the ACC.

The Blue Devils (19-7, 10-3), on the other hand, missed all 12 of their attempts from behind the arc, the first time they have failed to hit from deep all season.

The Irish had not played a game since a Feb. 8 win over Boston College, and they showed some early rust, as the Blue Devils won the opening tip and climbed out



SARAH OLSON | The Observer

Irish junior guard Jewell Loyd drives during Notre Dame's 63-50 win over Duke at Purcell Pavilion on Monday. Loyd led all scorers with 21 points and hit four of her eight 3-point attempts.

to a quick 14-5 advantage.

"We were back on our heels a bit, and maybe the week layoff wasn't as good as I thought it was gonna be," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "Offensively, [Duke]

went right inside, looking for some mismatches, and on our man-to-man defense, we had some mismatches, and they took advantage of it."

But the Irish started to get hot from behind the arc, and

a string of 3-pointers from Loyd, Cable and Allen in a three-minute span helped turn the tide. Cable was able to put up her attempt right

see W BASKETBALL PAGE 14

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Grant leads Notre Dame into clash

By MIKE MONACO
Senior Sports Writer

Roughly 11 months ago in Greensboro, North Carolina, Mike Brey walked off the court following Notre Dame's first-round loss to Wake Forest in the ACC Tournament.

Brey told reporters it was best to end the "saga" of the 2013-14 season, Notre Dame's first losing season since 1998-99.

Fast forward 22 wins and 180 degrees later, and the No. 10 Irish will battle Wake Forest (12-14, 4-9) again Tuesday night at Purcell Pavilion.

Following Notre Dame's 60-58 win over Clemson last Tuesday, the Irish (22-4, 10-3 ACC) had a much-appreciated bye weekend, a reprieve after seven games in 20 days.

"We were able to get a little rest and also get back into a good practice routine," Brey said.

Brey hopes the extended practice time jump-starts Irish junior forward Zach

Auguste, who tallied just two points against the Tigers (15-10, 7-6) on Feb. 7 following a scoreless showing against Duke.

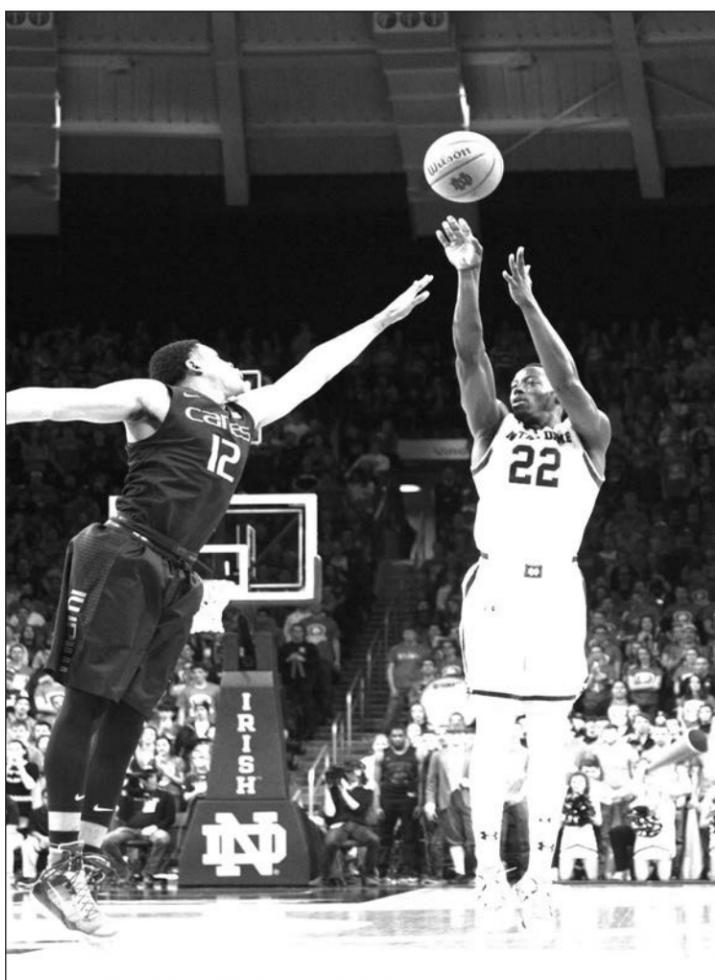
"I think three, four days of practice is your best way to do it, getting into a lot of five-on-five Friday and Saturday. We scrimmaged a lot," Brey said. "That's your best way when a guy's struggling to get back in a rhythm and get going again. I thought he was moving pretty good and in a pretty good flow."

Brey said Irish senior guard Jerian Grant and senior guard/forward Pat Connaughton have been "key" in holding Auguste accountable. The senior leaders pulled Auguste aside last week following the Clemson game and "confronted" the big man before saying they have his back, Brey said.

"When you have that dynamic going on with a group, that is so powerful for a coach," Brey said.

Grant himself helped

see M BASKETBALL PAGE 13



KEVIN SABITUS | The Observer

Senior guard Jerian Grant pulls up for a shot during Notre Dame's 75-70 win over Miami on Jan. 17 at Purcell Pavilion.

TRACK & FIELD

Seidel sets ND record

By MAREK MAZUREK
Sports Writer

This past weekend, Notre Dame sent athletes to the SPIRE DI Invitational in Geneva, Ohio, and to the Iowa State Classic in Ames, Iowa, with the goal of fine-tuning results before the ACC indoor championships in two weeks.

"The goals were to just try to improve on the athletes' individual marks," Irish coach Alan Turner said. "This was the last weekend for a lot of our kids to get in a few races just to better their marks coming in."

During a weekend that was about individual performances, one of the highlights for the Irish was junior Molly Seidel's school record-breaking performance in the 5,000-meter run. Turner said he was impressed with Seidel's time of 15:54.45.

"The big result was Molly Seidel at the Iowa State Classic setting a new Notre Dame record in the 5,000-meter," Turner said. "That time, I believe, puts her at 12th in the country, and she won that race pretty easily. She's in great shape. We feel she's gonna do very well for us in the ACC meet in a couple of weeks, and she should do very well in the NCAA meet two weeks after the conference championship."

Junior Michael Clevenger also set a personal best competing in the 5,000-meter run on the men's side. Clevenger recorded a time of 13:59.91 seconds, which cut 23 seconds off of his previous personal record. Turner said he is happy with Clevenger's performance but believes he can do even better.

"[Clevenger] had a personal best," Turner said. "That puts him at 32nd or 33rd on the national list and moves him up pretty high in the ACC. He was looking for a little better finish than that, but he's another one that's just rounding into shape. Molly [Seidel] and Michael [Clevenger] had great cross-country seasons, and you see that carrying on now during the indoor season."

Turner said he expected

see TRACK PAGE 13