**Dillon hosts annual light show**

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

*By MADISON JAROS*

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

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

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

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

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

Kempf said the prices provided for each hall were based on last year’s actual expenses. The holiday decorations and lights involved in Dillon’s Light Show are the most difficult on campus to put up each year, he said.

“Dillon’s Christmas light display is by far the most complex and labor intensive display of any of the residence halls, requiring trade labor and lift equipment to install and remove,” Kempf said.

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

“Maintenance sent us an email that said, ‘I pulled the time cards from last year’s installation/removal at Dillon. It took 22 carpenter hours, 12 sheet metal hours and 9 hours of lift time.’” Woitchez said.

“Considering the tradesmen on campus are union workers, and the circumstances surrounding it, I thought it was ridiculous,” Woitchez said.

By KIERA JOHNSEN

**SMC hosts ‘Lessons and Carols’**

The Church of Our Lady of Loretto will host two events this Christmas season, "Lessons and Carols" on December 14, and Christmas at Loretto on December 21.

Both celebrations begin at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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By MADISON JAROS

**The Shirt Project celebrates 25th anniversary**

*By MARGARET HYNDs*

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

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

The Shirt Committee’s current vice president Molly Howell, who will be replaced next semester when she goes abroad, described the circumstances surrounding the creation of The Shirt. “It started in 1990, it was the idea of a student [Brennan Harvath] who ran an Tostal,” Howell said.

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

By KIERA JOHNSEN

**ASCE awards Ph.D. candidate**

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

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

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

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

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

“The civil engineering profession is recognizing that this is really important work and hopefully spreading the word...” Gibbs said.

By CLARE KOSSSLER

**The Shirt Project celebrates 25th anniversary**

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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you could go anywhere, where would you go?

Gabriel Prado
junior
Alumni Hall
“San Sebastian, Spain.”

Katya Simon
senior
McGlinn Hall
“Rome, Italy.”

Samuel Leung
senior
Krehan Hall
“Paris, France.”

Spencer Schmidt
senior
Morrissey Manor
“Jerusalem, Israel.”

Emily Horton
junior
Cavanaugh Hall
“Narna.”

Lucinda Krahl
junior
Farley Hall
“Heaven, but I think that’s cheating. So Hogwarts.”
Post-doctorate paper on dark matter

By ANDREA VALE
News Writer

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

Bramante studied high-energy theory, a field which includes the study of particle physics, high energy processes and reactions of the universe at the smallest distances.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Andrea Vale at avale@nd.edu


Physics professor receives award

By OWEN LANE
News Writer

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

Garnavich said he was surprised to discover that the third iteration of the Breakthrough Prize would be awarded in this field.

“I was reading the New York Times the morning after the prize was announced and I saw our team members and the competing team leader in their pictures and I said, ‘Oh, they’ve won another big award!’” Garnavich said.

Then I saw that physics received $3 million. It was only at the end of the article that I realized the entire team had also been named and would be receiving a share [of the prize].

Garnavich said when he and his team members compiled the necessary data from the “standard candle” supernovae for analysis in 1997, they realized that it would be a measure of the degree of dark energy in the universe’s expansion.

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

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

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

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

“It keeps us in business.”

Contact Owen Lane at olane@nd.edu


Telescope to gather data on a category of supernovae with a uniform brightness known as “standard candle.”

“Just like if you look at a street light and you would know that it is 300 watts, or something like that, you don’t know what light is in the dark except that it is actually further away,” he said. “So we use the same technique with these supernovae, if we know what their luminosity actually is. By the late ’80s to early ’90s it became clear that this particular type of supernova was a really excellent distance indicator.”

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

Peter Garnavich
physicist professor

received the 2011 Nobel Prize for Physics for High-Z’s discovery of the Hubble expansion of the entire universe. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2011 for being the first to observe the expansion of the universe on a large-scale basis.

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

Contact Andrea Vale at avale@nd.edu


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that you don’t have to choose between a career in international development and a career in civil engineering,” she said. “There are ways to figure out how to mold your passion for service into a traditi- onal, conventional civil en- gineering path.”

Dillon had also become involved with Bridges to Prosperity, an organization that builds foot- bridges to provide safe trans- portation to people liv- ing in isolated regions, during her undergraduate studies at Notre Dame.

Now a board member of Bridges to Prosperity, Gibbs said the “main focus” of her doctoral studies is determin- ing the structural soundness of the footbridges built by the organization.

“I believe we have here, I will have an answer about if Bridges to Prosperity’s brid- ges are susceptible to wind, and now we have a solution to making them safer,” she said.

Gibbs’ doctoral advis- or, Notre Dame’s Robert M. Dankoff, Professor of Civil Engineering Ahsan Kareem, said Gibbs’ newfound way to utilize smartphones, a rela- tively cheap technology, in bridge-testing distinguishes her research.

“I think her real recogni- tion by ASCE is primarily for this innovation which she has implemented in looking at the performance of these bridges,” he said.

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

“What I’ve been doing with smartphone apps and these little micro-comput- ers called Raspberry Pis is just figuring out a portable, low-cost way to test those bridges, because the way we do it here in the U.S. is you send a team of engineers and it’s very expensive,” she said. “It requires a lot of expertise.”

Gibbs said she came to the University to work alongside Dr. Kareem and researched the susceptibility of tall build- ings and long-span bridges to wind and earthquakes.

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

“After going to Nicaragua I could see the difference,” Kareem said. “I couldn’t believe how those important those bridges are for those people. It’s not typical engineering. I think it’s more of a philanthropic engineering where you have a service-orien- ted contribution to science and technology.”

Contact Clare Kossler at ckossler@nd.edu

The shirt in the sense that its funds are to be used to sup- port the student body and student activities.

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

“He told us this recently … that he was really proud of how we test these major reasons that he wanted to start The Shirt was that they all had to wear uniforms in the band,” Harvath said. “He thought there should be a unifying front for the students as well. He really liked that idea, a unified student section.”

Kareem said the best Shirt sold out in its first weekend.

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

That established the second part of the Shirt as today – part of the profits go to a certain fund that helps students that are suffer- ing from extraordinary medical conditions and have these costs that they just can’t afford to pay.”

Dankoff said about 2 million Shirts have been sold in the last 25 years.

Half of the profit money goes to the Student Union, and it is then split into two parts; some goes to help fund the more than 400 clubs on campus, and to allevi- ate the student activity fee that, be- cause of the money from The Shirt, has not gone up since 2010 accord- ing to Howell. The other money that goes to the Student Union goes directly to student individuals, it goes through the financial management board which is run by students.”

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

“Our main message is that all the funds in different ways are re- turned to the student body, or are available for the student body to use,” Howell said.

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

“Just by purchasing a shirt, stu- dents are really supporting them- selves and supporting everybody else at this university,” Dankoff said. “It’s really kind of adds to the in- clusiveness of the mission of Notre Dame as a whole.”

Contact Margaret Hynds at mhynds@nd.edu

Shirt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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

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

“It got to two different things; one is the Rector Fund, which peo- ple might be familiar with,” Howell said. “It’s the fund that students can apply to get funds from, for football tickets, for dance tickets, for senior photos; things that most Notre Dame student do and par- ticipate in but that do have a finan- cial component.”

“The second portion of funds goes to The Shirt charity medical account,” Howell said. “Students may also apply to that one if they are for whatever reason unfortu- nately suffering from extraordi- nary illness or an accident and they have these medical costs. That’s confidential, and we don’t deal di- rectly with those individuals, it goes through the financial management

Dillon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

requiring this many hours to install/remove, I hope you understand how costs can explode if you don’t know what you’re doing,” he said. “It’s like everything, if you have everything going, you can do everything we can to try to keep costs down, but with this particular display there is really no way around it.”

But [Maintenance] didn’t build anything for us — the show doesn’t involve any sheet metal at all. We already have all the lights and chick- en wire — essentially all they do is provide a solution to making them safer, she said.

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“I think her real recogni- tion by ASCE is primarily for this innovation which she has implemented in looking at the performance of these bridges,” he said.

DiGaetano said. “Sure, the light show is not as good as it normally is, but there are a lot of tricks and things we can do to make it look better. And we’re all hoping that people will see the lights show and think ‘Hey, that’s Notre Dame in the first place. It’s a school that’s rich in tradition,” said DiGaetano.

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Dillon, one of the oldest dorms on campus, it’s a place where a lot of tradition – a legacy has developed, where people have been able to keep the tradition alive any way that they could, and other dorms felt the same way and other dorms did the same thing,” she said.

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

“Since it would be entirely student resources, the light show is not as grand as it nor- mally is but the spirit behind the light show is just as grand if not more,” he said. “... The men of Dillon decided to keep the tradition alive any way that we could, and other dorms felt the same way and decided to help out. Sure, it was a little disappointing to have fewer lights and not as good of a show, but you have to work with what you have.”

The support for the light show has continued to be overwhelming, despite these difficulties, DiGaetano said.

The show will continue to run after Milkshake Mass and on Friday at 7 p.m.

“I would say there were no real detrimental effects (that resulted from the change with the lights),” DiGaetano said. “Sure, the light show is not as good as it normally is, but there are a lot of tricks and things we can do to make it look better. And we’re all hoping that people will see the lights show and think ‘Hey, that’s Notre Dame in the first place. It’s a school that’s rich in tradition,” said DiGaetano.

Even though the show would be smaller without the dorm light display, Woitcek said he believed it was “imperative” that there be some kind of Dillon Hall Light Show this year.

“As President, I didn’t want to see the tradition die on my watch,” Woitcek said. “I’m a big traditions guy, that’s one of the reasons I came to Notre Dame in the first place. It’s a school that’s rich in tradition, and being placed in Dillon, one of the oldest dorms on campus, it’s a place where a lot of tradition – a legacy has developed, where people have been able to keep the tradition alive any way that we could, and other dorms felt the same way and decided to help out. Sure, it was a little disappointing to have fewer lights and not as good of a show, but you have to work with what you have.”

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Lessons
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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

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

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

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

The traditional Advent and Christmas carols the assembly sings essential to “Lessons and Carols” are based on the Anglican Christmas Eve Service, according to the press release. Anna Fanelli, a senior Women’s Choir member, said “Lessons and Carols” puts the audience and singers alike in the right mindset for Christmas.

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Kiera Johnsen at kjohns02@saintmarys.edu

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Contact Kiera Johnsen at kjohns02@saintmarys.edu
What next for love and marriage?

Christopher Damian
Ideas of a University

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

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

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

For much of my life, I saw the Christian calling filtered through 1950s American life: fall in love, get married, raise successful children. This is the narrow vision shared both by the religious right and by the secular left: if love, then marriage. Historian Stephanie Coontz has pointed out that “new in the 1950s was the cultural consensus that everyone should marry.” She also notes that marriage has become the primary institution for intimate long-term relationships in American society. Coontz discusses a study, which found that “the number of people who depended totally on a spouse for important conversations, with no other person to turn to, almost doubled [from 1985 to 2004].” And the number of people saying they didn’t have anyone in whom they confided nearly tripled.” Somewhere in history, marriage began to subsume our imaginative capacities when it comes to love. Increasingly, the only relationship of love with concrete long-term responsibilities that we can imagine is marriage. This is true both for the right and for the left. The American gospel teaches: “There is no greater love than to live in the suburbs with one’s spouse.” We ground the future of love and of society in arguments over the meaning of marriage. We’ve relegated love to marriage, and so we’ve been told to believe that denying a person marriage is to deny a person love.

The real Gospel also quite explicitly teaches, however, that the highest love is self-sacrificial friendship: “Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” Our inability to see friendship as the primary call to love for both gay and straight people bespeaks the lifelessness with which many of us present the Gospel. In coming to terms with my own sexuality, I despaired of friendship with others. I could only see being gay through the lens of “intrinsically disordered” or “gay marriage.” Gay people are often viewed either as a personified psychological disorder or as an embodied political issue. Christian rhetoric about homosexuality largely teaches gay people to be afraid of ourselves and to despair of our lonely futures.

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

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

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

THE OBSERVER | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014 | NDMOCOBSERVER.COM
Martin Luther King, Jr., writing in his book “Strength to Love,” declared this beautiful sentiment: “Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a already deaden void of despair. Darkness cannot drive out dark- ness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Hate tears down society with a vo- nacy unmatched by any other human desire, yet Dr. King presents a genuine and profound answer to one of human- zy’s great challenges: fight hate with love.

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

Both sides of these debates must recognize the failures across the board, whether that be a history of racial pro- filing and police brutality or a history of needle point Giles alongside protests. After the tragedies of losing these young men — representing power structures that sometimes abet or even enable such tragedies — it is time to come together, learn from our mistakes and forge a future rooted in justice and love.

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

When Charles Barkley sparked controversy in a CNN interview last week, he asserted that it is important to “judge everyone on their own merits” (sic). While this is a worthy goal, it is imperative to understand that this ideal is rarely the case. Everyone holds biases and more often than not, white people get free passes that black people do not receive. Free passes can include having police officers let someone off with a warning, knowing that one’s rights will not be violated on account of race, or a leg up on job applications. In fact, these free passes can be so ubiquitous that the majority or the rich and famous, constitute privilege. In a country where our laws declare that all men and women are created equal, it is our duty to accept this reality and undertake the noble goal of improving it. Dr. King wrote in the same book: “Nothing in all the world is more danger- ous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”

To deny the existence of privilege, even with good inten- tions, is certainly dangerous. To be clear, I don’t confl ate the concept of privilege with an accusation of guilt. Rather, acknowledging privilege is an expression of empathy, moving our hearts to experience our neighbor’s pain.

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

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

The Drug War has clearly failed to stem the flow of drugs into the United States as they continue to incapacitate communities and fragment families. Mandatory mini- mums are a red herring, masquerading as policies that are “tough on crime.” Rather, according to a 2013 RAND and Association research concluding that addiction is a disease that requires treatment, the federal government continues to spend substantially more money on enforcement than treatment. We are unmistakably missing an opportunity to rehabilitate drug users — predominantly African- Americans — into society, as well as address the horrible circumstances that lead individuals into drug use, includ- ing trauma, mental illness and abject poverty.

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

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Robert Rodes, ‘radical Catholic’

Last week, Robert Rodes was laid to rest after a crowded Mass in the Basilica. A professor for more than half a cen- tury in Notre Dame’s law school, he was recognized by the liturgy and tributes at the funeral mass were significant.

In the closing pages of the letter he asks of Notre Dame a range of questions, for example: “Do our teaching and research priorities reflect a preferential option for the poor, a concern for the margins of society? Or do we go with the conservative mindset in matters ecclesial, i with a vision of the new pluralism,” a chapter in Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C, editor, The challenge and promise of a catholic Church in the USA. It was in this unfolding historical context that Bob’s insights challenged but also meshed with mine, our fragile democracies and hastening impending climatic change.

Together we shared and debated the insights of John XXIII and Vatican II, particularly those of Mater et Magistra (Mother and Teacher), Pacham in terris (Peace on earth) and the Pastoral Constitution of the Church Gaudium et spes (Joy and Hope). All this was followed in the 1970s by the impact of Gustavo Gutiérrez’s Liberation Theology arising out of the structures of injustice in Latin America and building, in part, on Europe’s “Political Theology” as well as earlier Catholic social teaching in the United States.

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By ADAM RAMOS
Scene Writer

Recently the U.S. news system has gone a bit off the deep end, and lucky for us, Adult Swim has taken sweet advantage of it with their hilarious show “Newsreaders.” Smart, funny and relevant, with an impressive cast to boot, Adult Swim’s “Newsreaders” gets it right.

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

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

AB: Thank you!

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

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

AB: I got to meet David Hasselhoff!

BD: see, Alison got to meet David Hasselhoff.

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

BD: Like how tall is he?

AB: He is like 17 feet tall.

AR: Right, that sounds right.

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

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

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

BD: Well, I will say the show is not improv. There are improvised moments at the beginning and the end you can kind of play with and all that, but I mean yeah, we’re all stuck in our bodies so there will be some semblance of me in there.

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

AB: [laugh]

BD: I mean, you’re in college…

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

AB: She’s married, back off!

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

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

BD: Mhm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BD: Oh, absolutely.

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

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

AB: Alan knocked it out of the park.

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

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

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

AR: Wow, okay.

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

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

AR: Perfect, channeling in your inner Lady Gaga.

BD: And, I will be entering a “World’s Creepiest Man” contest.

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Angel Olsen - "Burn Your Fire For No Witness"

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

FKA Twigs - "LP1"

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

St. Vincent - "St. Vincent"

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

Run the Jewels - "RTJ2"

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

Mac DeMarco - "Salad Days"

On Mac DeMarco’s second full-length album, the gap-toothed Canadian slacker who once freaked out his anxieties about aging and relationships, with a robust guitar and rich drum arrangements that per- tain to his moods and existential but highly-sensationalized “beef” between accessibility and abrasiveness in his major-label debut. The great variety in production, excellent ensemble of guest stars and first-rate showmanship demonstrate that “Oxymoron” is one of the most exciting, hardest-hitting party rap albums of the year.

Real Estate - "Atlas"

Real Estate’s laid-back feel is complemented by robust guitar and rich drum arrangements that per- tain to his moods and existential but highly-sensationalized “beef” between accessibility and abrasiveness in his major-label debut. The great variety in production, excellent ensemble of guest stars and first-rate showmanship demonstrate that “Oxymoron” is one of the most exciting, hardest-hitting party rap albums of the year.

The War On Drugs - "Lost in the Dream"

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

Schoolboy Q - “Oxymoron”

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

The only problem with Sharon Van Etten’s self-titled debut album was that it wasn’t talked about. The singer-songwriter’s fourth album, “Are We There”, is Etten at her best.

Lana Del Rey - "Ultraviolence"

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

Spoof - "They Want My Soul"

Foxgyen - "...And Star Power"

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

Caribou - "Our Love"

Sylvan Esso - “Sylvan Esso”

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

Sun Kil Moon - “Benji”

Say what you will about Mark Kozelek the per- son — or Mark Kozelek the persona — but the man behind Sun Kil Moon has created his most powerful statement this year with his sprawl- ing album “Benji.” Kozelek concocts a beauti- ful blend of classical guitar work and twisting, tangent-laden songwriting that totals to his magnum opus. Steeped in intimate, personal accounts and a lifetime’s worth of tragedy, no album was more emotive, or irrational-fear induc- ing, in 2014.

Ben Howard - "I Forget Where We Were"

Although he had not released music to add to my “Chill/Study” playlist since 2011’s “Every Kingdom,” Ben Howard did not “Forget Where We Were” — delivering the raspy, captivating vocals and hypnotizing guitar riffs I had been waiting for. His vocals, instrumental arrangement and his turns to be the catchy, sumptuous-nostalgic lyrics while you mowwalk.

Walk the Moon - "Talking is Hard"

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

Taylor Swift - "1989"

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

Zach Klonsinski
Sports Writer

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

“This is it. The year when all those BCS flukes are eliminated and college football has had a season final it was meant to have. Four teams, most likely from the five power conferences… Wait, Four… and five… Uh oh… I told you so.

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

In the September article, titled “Klonsinski: NCAA botched its big chance,” I would have agreed to validate my claim, not only did I roast the NCAA, but I also laid out how the Bowl Playoff would work. In short:

“Eight teams make the playoffs.

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

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

No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 8 Boise State

Borough would have realized Boise State to even make this a game this year? Probably not. Yet everybody said that in 2007, too… No, let’s be honest. The Broncos, my non-power-5 conference school, would get steamrolled by the Crimson Tide. But hey, they have a shot, and someone like them is at least guaranteed a shot every year. America loves the underdog, and some team in this position will shock the world that previously never would have gotten through.

No. 2 Oregon vs. No. 7 Mississippi State

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

No. 3 Florida State vs. No. 6 UCLA

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

No. 4 Ohio State vs. No. 5 Baylor

There you go, Baylor fans and all college football fans really. Vegas will start this matchup of potent offenses and conference champions with an over/under of 136 combined points.

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

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

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

NHL

Sharks, Pavelski defeat Edmonton

Associated Press

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

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

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

Jordan Eberle, David Perron scored for the Oilers, who were unable to carry over the momentum from their 2-1 win over the Sharks that snapped an 11-game losing streak. Ben Scrivens made 19 saves.

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

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

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

So rest up, and you will be just fine.

The Observer welcomes business every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame Office, 904 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for daily classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per cent per page, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without sacrificing words.

From me personally, have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!
Lions give top-ranked Kentucky all it can handle

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

After all, Kentucky hadn’t faced a double-digit deficit this season until the Ivy Leaguers scored the first 11 points Wednesday night. But the Wildcats recovered for a 56-46 victory in a game that served more as a wakeup call than the tuneup they sought for Saturday’s showdown against No. 21 North Carolina.

“At tipoff, we were down 11-0 and the guys were kind of deflated,” Kentucky forward Trey Lyles said after scoring seven points and grabbing 10 rebounds. “They came in, played well and hit shots. We had to fight from behind for the majority of the game, but we came out, played as a team and got the win.”

Nothing came easy, though.
Kentucky still trailed at halftime and finally shook off its slow start to finally take a lead it never relinquished despite some tense moments at the end.

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

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

“You have got to give a lot of credit to Columbia,” Calipari said. “They were not afraid. They played Michigan State the same way they played us at Michigan State and they knew they could do this. They did a great job of spreading us out.

The Wildcats ultimately clamped down on defense to make several stops in the second half and took the lead for good at 36-34 on Derek Willis’ two free throws with 13:38 remaining. Harrison scored 14 points and Willie Cauley-Stein added 10 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky. Injured freshmen guards Tyler Ulis and Devin Booker didn’t play.

Maodo Lo scored 16 points for Columbia, which was outrebounded 41-28 — including 24-13 in the second half. Kentucky used its size and strength to rally, and avoided adding its name to the list of recent surprises.

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

Columbia took its shot at becoming a giant killer in the first half, but its lead slowly slipped away behind 38 percent shooting. Kentucky shot just 37 percent, including 2 of 17 from 3-point range.

“didn’t quite execute keeping them off the glass, which is everyone’s No. 1 priority,” Columbia coach Kyle Smith said.

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

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

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

“We just have to make sure we come out with energy,” Harrison said. “It’s kind of hard to play our style of basketball when the offense they were playing is really tough to guard.”
Hockey
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“[Vasturia’s] a pretty mentally tough guy,” Brey said Tuesday. “The numbers say that he should shoot it. I love the way he is hunting and driving more to be aggressive. He’s going to get fouled if he gets in there, and he’s almost automatic from the foul line. … We told him not to play so safe, and we created a monster.”

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

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

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

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

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

Brey echoed that sentiment, commenting on defensive rebounding as one area in which the Irish struggled against Michigan State, another team with size.

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

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

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

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

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

Notre Dame and Florida State will meet for the first time as ACC foes on the Purcell Pavilion floor Saturday at 8 p.m. Additionally, the Irish will resume non-conference play over winter break Dec. 20 against in-state rival Purdue in Indianapolis for the Crossroads Classic as well as Northern Illinois (Dec. 22) and Hartford (Dec. 30) at home before jumping into the ACC full-time. Notre Dame will host Georgia Tech on Jan. 3, take a trip to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to face the Tar Heels on Jan. 5 and welcome Virginia to Purcell Pavilion on Jan. 10.

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W Basketball
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done this since 2012.
“In the last game, the defense was packing it in and daring us to shoot jumpers,” said Madison, who was 10 of 11 from the field and 2 of 2 from beyond the arc.
“I like the four-guard lineup. I just like to see our post step up a little bit, especially off the bench.”

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

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

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

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

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

In the final 2:50 of regulation, the Irish rallied from six points down, with Loyd scoring 7 of Notre Dame’s final 10 points. The team was also helped out by poor free-throw shooting on the part of DePaul senior guard Brittany Hrynko, who missed four shots from the charity stripe in the last 22 seconds of the second half.

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

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

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

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

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Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

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Horoscope | Eugenia Last

Celebrities Born on This Day:

Jenna Fischer, 1976; Javier Bardem, 43; Ron Howard, 60; Alan Thicke, 66

Happy Birthdays:

Don’t let others do you down. You’re free to think outside the box and be willing to take a different approach if you want to see the connection. Don’t start with what is wrong or will lead you to a different avenue. By the end, you will come up with a positive statement that leads to advancement. Your numbers are 4, 14, 22, 37, 38, 46.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Keep personal matters a secret. Information in the wrong hands can lead to consequences that are unacceptably. Focus on an innovation you want to make and skills and tools you want to learn. Balance is in the stars.★★★★★

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Test your judgment over someone else’selial of view, especially when it comes to financial concerns. How you see your long-term plan. Someone else might want to make an argument that will win your relationship. ★★★★

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Do not waste your energy on projects. Prepare for any circumstances that arise by remaining calm and applying practical solutions. Stay away from anyone playing emotional mind games with you. Find a way to secure your position personally and professionally.★★★★★★

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Start a new hobby in doing something of the ordinary. You need to spice up your life and experience something that will inspire you to see your situation and discover your hidden talents. Stay away by becoming a participant.★★★★

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Take stock of your zeal and indulge in memorable days that bring your memories to the surface. Remembering experiences that bring you a bonus will help you through future potentially disappointing times. Other suggestions? But don’t drink your cash. Live and learn.★★★★

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You’ll pay off of your take action without giving thought to how other feel. Appreciate will be ignored if you don’t do your research.★★★★

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will try to follow and support if you are learning your motivator and know how to engage your self-doubt and for the people you are dealing with. Love and romance are in the stars, and a constitution can be raised.★★★★

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick close to home. Don’t pay for someone else’s mistake. You must protect your possessions and assets, regardless of the circumstances. Reconnect with someone who has skills that can help you achieve your goals now.★★★★★★

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won’t know which way is up if you get involved in an argument with someone who can’t control emotional blackmail. Back off and rethink your position before you fall into a trap that will be difficult to escape.★★★★

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put more emphasis on health and self-improvement. Getting off of the treadmill will bring you some new perspectives. Take heed of the warnings about a new project. Someone else you will be able to face any fear you have. Invest in you and your future.★★★★

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Follow your heart and your basic instinct and you will find your way up the top. You have plenty to offer someone who believes in you. A commitment will inspire you to find what you want and to aspire to greater heights.★★★★★★

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Don’t meddle or you will be stuck in a no-win situation. Problems that don’t end relations and nightmares will very be as you are destined to be. Someone from your past may comfort you, but the person will also be able to diminish your love life.★★★★

Birthday Story: You are a creative dreamer. You imagine, project and strive for completion.
Notre Dame escapes upset bid by DePaul

By GREG HADLEY
Associate Sports Editor

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

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

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

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

Irish to square off with Seminoles in early ACC clash

By ZACH KLONSKIN
Sports Writer

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

After 10 non-conference games largely against softer competition, No. 25 Notre Dame will kick off its 2014-2015 ACC regular-season schedule by welcoming Florida to Tallahassee.

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

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Men’s Basketball

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

Hockey

Russo steps into leadership role

By JOSH DULANY
Sports Writer

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

On the ice, Russo is logging enough minutes that he said teammates have been a large part of the team’s success. They are a little bit like us in the Big East. (Seminoles coach) Leonard [Hamilton] has a program that knows how to win in this league.”

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