CURRAN CELEBRATES DECADE OF DAYTON MEMORIES

JACOB ROSEN
Editor-in-Chief

Daniel Curran will celebrate his 10th year since taking the job of University of Dayton president later this month.

Looking back at his tenure, which almost never even started, Curran said he is most excited about working with the students.

“Ten years have gone very fast for me,” Curran said. “For me, probably the biggest thing it means is 10 classes have graduated during my tenure. And that’s the most exciting thing for me, that all these graduates are going out into the world and making a difference.”

In UD’s last 10 years under Curran, first-year applications, campus size, total endowment dollars and sponsored research dollars all have nearly doubled, according to an August 2011 University of Dayton Magazine story.

But initially, Curran said he declined UD’s offer to apply for Brother Ray Fitz’s former position. Fitz, the university’s longest-serving president who served from 1979-2002, announced his retirement in September 2000 that he would step down two years later.

When first approached in January 2001, Curran said he was happy as the executive vice president of academic affairs at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, his alma mater.

But following a failed initial search, Curran said the UD search committee contacted him again in December 2001. Curran said he then toured the campus with his family right before Christmas and formally accepted the job at a press conference on Feb. 18, 2002.

“When you looked objectively at Dayton, there were so many good things happening, and the possibility to do even more was clear as could be,” Curran said. “It was one of those situations where I literally said, I guess I finally reached the age where I could say, ‘If this is God’s will, this is where I’ll be.’”

Fitz said he met with Curran three times during his day-and-a-half-long first visit to campus in 2001. Fitz said he discussed the university’s possible next steps with the individual who later became the school’s first lay president.

See Curran on p. 3

FLYERS HEAD TO NYC, LOOK TO END STREAK, PAGE 12

NEWS, UD ALUMNI’S BUSINESS GAINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION, PAGE 4

A&E, ‘CALLING ALL CREATIVES’ PAGE 7

OPINIONS, JOIN SHANE AS A CRUSADER OF COMEDY, PAGE 8

SPORTS, UD BEATS 49ERS ON MATH DAY, PAGE 11

Republican candidate Gingrich discusses campaign at Dayton visit

WILLIAM GARBE
Special Projects Editor

Republican presidential primary candidate Newt Gingrich used his Tuesday, Feb. 8, campaign stop in Dayton to laud the tradition of local inventors and respond to recent criticism by University of Dayton faculty members.

The former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives delivered a public speech in downtown Dayton’s Memorial Hall that lasted about 43 minutes. He began by explaining his recently ridiculed plans for the space program, calling Dayton the right place to have a discussion about the plan.

Gingrich said he would redesign the space program to encourage individual innovation, and spent about seven minutes recalling the Dayton-native Wright brothers as an example of “ordinary everyday Americans with a big dream.”

“I believe if we had fewer bureaucrats and more entrepreneurs, if we had fewer rule-makers and more inventors, we would be a dramatically better country,” he said.

Gingrich also criticized President Barack Obama for taking credit for the recent decline in unemployment. Gingrich claimed Obama’s presidency has led to the largest decline in workforce participation in American history.

“At this rate, if he could convince everybody still looking [for work] to quit looking, we’d have zero unemployment,” Gingrich said. “He’d be really doing well because everybody would be sitting at home getting their food stamps instead of being out looking for work.”

Gingrich’s visit to Dayton comes after more than 40 Catholic theologians, including five UD religious studies professors, sent a Jan. 19 letter to Gingrich and fellow candidate Rick Santorum asking them to “stop perpetuating ugly racial stereotypes on the campaign trail.” Specifically, the letter called out Gingrich’s references to Obama as a “food stamp president.” After the speech, Gingrich called the professors “silly,” and denied the term is racist.

“It is a fact it has nothing to do with racism,” Gingrich said. “In fact, most people on food stamps are white.”

William Portier, a religious studies professor and Mary Ann Spearrin chair of Catholic theology, was one of the writers of the letter. He said that while the group of theologians might not be significant to Gingrich, the reason why they sent the letter to Gingrich and Santorum is because the candidates are public about their Catholic faith, and using such language might be against Catholic values.

“To what [Gingrich] said, it doesn’t matter if the majority of people on food stamps are white,” See Gingrich on p. 5
THE TICKER

LOCAL

DONOHER’S SON ARRESTED
Brian Donoher, son of former UD men’s basketball coach Don Donoher, was one of eight men charged with seeking prostitution on Saturday, Feb. 4. All eight men requested sexual services from a decoy ad set up by detectives.

Information from
The Dayton Daily News

POP-UP BAKERY COMES TO OAKWOOD
Sweet Nothings Luxury Confections will pose as a “pop-up” bakery in Oakwood’s Get Dressed! Boutique, located at 2501 Far Hills Ave., from Feb. 13-14. The bakery will sell sweets including brownies, cookies, coffee cakes and its specialty sea salt toffee.

NATION

CHUCK NORRIS ENDORSES GINGRICH
Chuck Norris, martial artist, television actor and cult legend, publically endorsed Newt Gingrich for the Republican presidential nomination this week in an editorial for WorldNet Daily.

M.I.A. INDECENCY
The National Football League and NBC apologized Monday, Feb. 6, for singer M.I.A.’s obscene gesture during the Super Bowl halftime show on Sunday, Feb. 5. The singer raised her middle finger while performing alongside Madonna. The network attempted to blur the gesture, but was two-thirds of a second too late.

Information from
The Washington Post

CAMPUS

PRICE IS RIGHT
Play The Price is Right Game Show from 8-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. For more information, contact Campus Activities Board at daytoncab@gmail.com.

V-DAY DINNER
Campus Activities Board will host a Valentine’s Day Dinner from 6:15-8:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, and from 6:15 to 8 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge. Tickets are available at the KU box office.

BURMESE REFUGEES SPEAK
Three Burmese refugees will share stories of their experiences for the first day of UD’s Human Rights Week at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the Kennedy Union West Ballroom.

The Dayton Flyers women’s golf team, the winner of the Academic Cup for the highest team GPA, poses for a photograph during an annual scholar-athlete awards reception, Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Kennedy Union Ballroom. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BRIAN KARST VIA LEON CHUCK

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BUSINESS FROM A HIGHER PERSPECTIVE

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Fitz said he is proud of the steps UD has taken under Curran’s leadership. “He has taken some bold moves to move the University of Dayton forward, but he’s also been extremely concerned that those bold moves are shaped by our Catholic and Marianist educational tradition,” Fitz said.

University members said the upcoming anniversary reminded them of Curran’s achievements. “An anniversary always gives an opportunity to look back and see what someone has accomplished,” said Teri Rizvi, university vice president of communication. “And from my perspective, what he’s accomplished here has been nothing short of amazing.”

Rizvi said Curran “has a tremendous vision for the university” and is a bold, calculated risk-taker. Paul Fain, a writer for InsideHigherEd.com, an online higher education news source, wrote the UD Magazine feature story on Curran last summer as a freelance writer. In the article, Fain, wrote that UD’s “pace of change has been among the most rapid and substantial at any American university” during Curran’s tenure. “He’s confident and aggressive in a way that applies throughout the university,” said Fain, an Oakwood native, in a phone interview.

Members of the President’s Emissaries, a selected group of students who participate in events with Curran, said they agreed with Fain. Danny McCorry, a junior biology and philosophy major and President’s Emissaries member, said he joined the group specifically because of Curran. “I’m a strong believer in Dr. Curran, I like what he’s done with the campus since he’s gotten here and I wanted to be able to work more closely with him,” McCorry said.

Michael Galligan-Stierle, president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, also said Curran has done a great job balancing overall university improvements with Catholic Marianist improvements. “I would say he has not only maintained a balance, but he’s taken the school to new heights in both ways,” Galligan-Stierle said. “So it isn’t just strengthening the academy, it’s also strengthening the academy in a Catholic Marianist way, which I think is important.”

And to Curran, although he didn’t consider the opportunity for almost a year before arriving at UD, he said all of his high hopes have come true. “I was so excited about the possibilities and the great thing is, for me, that everything that I thought the community was about here and the faculty and the students and the staff, really has been 99.9 percent true,” Curran said. “… Everyone wants the best for the university.”

“[Curran’s] been working hard to make UD known to the world. … I think we’re slowly moving up, we’re still in the development stage, but I think one day UD will be a world-known school like hopefully Harvard or Yale.”

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UD alumnus starts online company to help with college search

CHRIS CRISANTI  
Staff Writer

Welcome to College, an online business venture started by a University of Dayton alumnus, has gained recent national recognition.

Justin Bayer, who graduated from UD in 2001 with a bachelor’s in business management, said the site helps prospective college students plan campus visits and search and rate schools throughout the United States. Bayer said he launched the website in September 2010.

The site earns profits through signed partnerships with various universities. It’s signed with 20 universities in 10 states and added DePaul University, St. Mary’s College, and High Point University at the end of 2011, according to a Jan. 28 Dayton Daily News article.

Bayer said Welcome to College’s current market is located throughout the Midwest and east coast. He said he is excited that the company is also conversing with larger schools from the Big East, Southeastern, and Big Ten conferences at the moment.

With the website on the rise as a notable college search engine, Bayer said he credits much of his success to his UD years.

“UD did an amazing job preparing me for the real world, both inside and outside of the classroom,” Bayer said. “I knew the minute I stepped on campus this was where I needed to be successful but also have an incredible experience along the way.”

Bayer said his experience as a UD tour guide made him think about launching Welcome to College to help students and families.

“It was through my experiences outside of the classroom, being a tour guide and serving as [Student Government Association] president, where I found my passion for what I wanted to do in life, but it was the in-class experiences that taught me the process and skills to make something like this happen and work,” he said.

Bayer said the website won Fast Company magazine’s 2011 Visualizing Success competition. Fast Company is a magazine which specializes in covering modern business innovation.

The Visualizing Success competition was judged based on descriptions about how “business facts informed the development of their business,” according to the website. Fast Company staff members judge submissions based on creativity and “how the business facts informed the business,” the website said.

Bayer said Fast Company chose Welcome to College for the award because of its recent accomplishments.

Fast Company’s website lists facts about why it chose Welcome to College for the national award, such as statistics about the company’s growth and the fact that it rates over 400 colleges and universities.

Bayer said he started Welcome to College alongside Michael Lofton, a 2005 UD alumnus, and Marisa Westheimer, a University of Vermont graduate.

He said he met Westheimer as a graduate student at the University of Vermont, where he received his master’s degree and Westheimer received her bachelor’s in Asian studies and religion.

“They [Lofton and Westheimer] do an amazing job building relationships with colleges across the country to share the value of the data we are collecting about their campus tours on Welcome to College and how this can help measure and manage their campus visit programs,” Bayer said.

Rob Starrett, a 2011 finance and entrepreneurship UD alumnus, said he helped out Welcome to College this past summer. Starrett, who is currently working for a real estate developer in Cleveland, said he and Bayer were good friends outside of the business and believes the site is beneficial to people trying to decide on the right school.

“I think it’s a great concept and idea, especially in a world of social media this is the next tool for potential college students,” he said.

Bayer said Starrett helped him develop the idea for marketing the company’s Mobile Research Vehicle, alongside Jim Saywell, a 2011 political science and psychology alumnus, and Joe Guy, a 2011 operations management alumnus.

“They really helped me through the whole research vehicle concept,” Bayer said. “We’re probably one of the only websites out there where we’re taking our product directly to the students [through the MARV].”

MARV is the RV equipped with technology to gather information about students to aid them in their college search, in which Welcome to College employees travel, according to the website.

He said the company was invited to participate in South by Southwest, the largest interactive business convention in the world with other companies such as Facebook and Twitter, on March 9 in Austin, Texas.

For more information on Welcome to College, visit welcometocollege.com, call 937-281-0263 or email info@welcometocollege.com.

Greek groups strive to meet GPA requirements

KAYLEIGH FLADUNG  
Asst. News Editor

University of Dayton Greek life members and administrators say they do a lot to ensure students meet GPA requirements.

Each fraternity or sorority has the ability to establish their own GPA requirements, but UD requires that all recruits maintain a 2.25 or above cumulative GPA in order to join Greek groups on campus.

The overall average for female undergraduate students for fall 2011 was 2.88, while the men’s overall average was 2.73 according to a spreadsheet from Greek Life and Student Programs detailing the GPAs of all social sororities and fraternities on campus.

Last semester, Pi Beta Phi and Zeta Tau Alpha had the highest GPA averages for sororities with 3.41 and 3.35, respectively. Phi Sigma Kappa and Beta Theta Pi held the highest averages for fraternity members who studied the most.

“We want to make sure we’re on top academically,” Cheesman said. “It’s not just about being competitive, it’s about making sure our girls are in good academic standing.”

Charlie Brown, a senior communication management major and former vice president of Phi Sigma Kappa, said GPA standards are very important in his fraternity.

“We have had the highest GPA among fraternities, and we are very proud of that,” Brown said. “We are at an academic institution and grades are paramount.”

Mark Hawk, a sophomore biology major and Beta Theta Pi brother, said in an email to Flyer News that his fraternity’s GPA average has ranked in the top six for all Greek values-based fraternities and sororities since fall 2009.

“Beta Theta Pi’s mission is to develop men of principle for a principled life,” he said. “It is extremely important to have GPA standards because it is an indicator of a young man’s principles.”

Kara Riely, a junior history and adolescent to young adult education major and president of Panhellenic Council, said the group offers academic aid to its sororities. She said the UD sorority-governing group has a scholarship chair who is available to give advice and study tips to any sorority member seeking help.

Brown said that this spring, Phi Sigma Kappa will hold study tables each week for recruits. He said this is a great bonding experience and a way to keep up with work. Brown said he saw an improvement in his grades after he joined a fraternity because he had to organize and manage his time more carefully.

Hawk also said his brothers make sure they are helping each other out to keep grades on track.

“To keep our grades up during recruitment, we come together to work on homework and study for exams,” Hawk said.

Kara Beth Neike, assistant director of Student Life and Kenne dy University, said in an email to Flyer News that academics have always played a large role in Greek life.

“In the creeds for each chapter, there is most definitely a strong academic component, which calls members to be scholars in every sense of the word,” Neike said. “With that being said, those values of strong scholarly pursuits are still encouraged today.”

GPA BY CATEGORY FALL 2011 FALL 2008

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Source: Greek Life and Leadership Programs

For more information on Wel come to College, visit welcometocollege.com, call 937-281-0263 or email info@welcometocollege.com.
CLICK!

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A circus performer and elephant of Antioch Shrine Circus entertain a UD Arena crowd, Friday, Feb. 3. The circus held its annual UD performances last weekend through Sunday, Feb. 5. KEVIN LONGACRE/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

GINGRICH
(cont. from p. 1)

there are in fact functioning stereotypes in our language and it seems like in that remark, which is repeated, that he appealed to one,” he said.

David O’Brien, the university professor of faith and culture, said the letter was written to confront the hurt that is felt by people on food stamps when they hear such comments. He said the historical stereotypical treatment of people in great need has been racially biased, and said there’s a feeling Gingrich is insensitive to areas of Catholic social teaching regarding the needs of the poor.

“We worry about public dialogue when these very important principles of the option for the poor and the common good are not taken as seriously as we think they should be,” O’Brien said.

Gingrich said he and his wife Calista, who accompanied him on his visit, would visit the Wright brothers’ home after the speech. The Dayton Daily News reported that the couple visited the Oakwood home before traveling to an appearance in Columbus.

FLYER NEWS CORRECTION:
In Issue 24, published on Jan. 31, the “Click!” photograph on page 5 was incorrectly attributed. The photo was taken by Caitlin Murray, Staff Photographer, and not Mickey Shuey, Lead Photographer. Flyer News sincerely apologizes for this error.

Housing

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Local group plans new downtown beautification project

JOELLEN REDLINGSHAER Staff Writer

A local organization designed to foster economic growth in the Dayton area by engaging young talent is “calling all creatives” to help with a city beautification project.

The updayton Creative Communities Planning Team is looking for a design to paint on the pedestrian bridge located over US-50 that connects the South Park and Oregon District areas.

“We chose to focus on this bridge because we see the bridge as an asset to the community that is underutilized,” said Laura Estandia, updayton project leader. “We were inspired by other street painting projects in other cities as a way to bring the community together.”

The Creative Communities Planning Team strives to “make downtown a more desirable place to ‘be’ while strengthening neighboring communities,” according to updayton.com.

The artist or team of artists whose design is chosen for the bridge will be awarded $500. Gerard Gerace, a senior visual communication design major, and seven other University of Dayton students participated in a similar city enhancement initiative sponsored by updayton in 2009. The group designed and painted a mural on the Wayne Avenue train overpass, located downtown near Gar- den Station.

Gerace said he thinks the purpose of these updayton art projects is to bring beauty to the city.

“It provides a sense of community because it’s members of the community coming together to do these projects,” Gerace said. “I got involved because it was my opportunity to get connected with the Dayton community and leave a mark here long after I graduate.”

Designs for the Bridge Paint Project must be submitted by March 5. After the initial submissions are reviewed, the top designs chosen by the committee will be posted online for an open vote. The winner will be announced March 23.

On May 5, updayton will host a “painting extravaganza” to begin working on the winning design.

Gerace said he suggests UD students get involved with the Bridge Paint Project.

“It’s a great experience to get involved in a community outside of the university and an opportunity to be part of something larger than yourself,” Gerace said.

For those not interested in this particular project, Estandia said she suggests getting involved in other updayton initiatives.

“This young professional group really gives you the tools to bring your ‘big ideas’ to life,” Estandia said. “Dayton is really concerned with the opinions of its young people and is looking to them to lead the way. There is a lot of support for new ideas and start-up projects.”

For more information on submitting designs for the Bridge Paint Project or volunteering with updayton, email project leader Laura Estandia at updaytonco@gmail.com.
Local authors offer evening of networking, inspiration

ANNA GODBY
Asst. A&E Editor

Dayton-area authors will gather Friday, Feb. 10, for an event in support of black literacy and to discuss the real world of writing and publishing.

Dayton Authors Celebrate Black History Month will take place from 5-8 p.m. Friday at The Meeting Place, located at 904 E. Main St. in Trotwood.

The event offers a chance to experience readings, book signings and networking with the authors and local businesspeople. A wine and cheese tasting also will be provided by The Meeting Place, as well as winter hand-care treatments by Shakena Campbell.

The authors in attendance will be Valerie J. Lewis Coleman, Andrea Foy, Gail Miller, Marcella Ashe, Marita Teague, Lena Arnold and Charlotte L. Brown.

Coleman said she graduated from the University of Dayton in 1992 with a Master of Business Administration. She has worked on numerous awards, including the Amazon.com top 100 best-sellers and the Christian Small Publisher’s Association 2008 Nonfiction Book of the Year for her book “Blended Families, an Anthology.”

According to Coleman, this event will offer an excellent opportunity for networking with authors and appeals to people across multiple disciplines. “This is a chance for anyone, especially those who are interested in writing or publishing, to learn about entrepreneurship because authorship is entrepreneurship,” she said.

Foy said the diversity of the authors is important to the celebration of Black History Month. “The majority are women celebrating the past, present and future, letting people know where we are, where we have been and where we want to go,” Foy said. “One of the things about black history is we tend to celebrate the same things after a while, and this is an opportunity to have a different event with a fun new twist to it and focus on talent.”

Tamiko Troutman, co-owner of The Meeting Place, said this is the first time the venue will be open to the public. She said the atmosphere is cozy and café-like, similar to a sophisticated community center.

“The Meeting Place is like an incubator for people to meet, socialize and exchange business ideas,” Troutman said. “We help reach out and help get people where they are trying to go.”

Troutman said college students could especially benefit from attending the event. “For any college student, this gives them a chance to come away from UD and spark their creativity to give more to the community,” she said. “So many young people need mentors, positive people to look up to and inspiration to get your education and with your education, bless the community with your knowledge and skills.”

Coleman said she encourages people to come to the event because many of the principles of publishing are universal, regardless of the industry. She said the event also gives students the opportunity for a relaxing study break.

Foy said she thinks everyone has a book inside of them. “Look at this as an inspirational event,” Foy said. “If you have a dream in you, it is possible to just pursue it. We got a chance to be able to see our dreams come true, and we encourage others to come to make them dream more and attempt to do it this year.”

For more information about Dayton Authors Celebrate Black History Month, contact Valerie J. Lewis Coleman at 1-888-802-1802 or visit www.valeriejcoleman.com.

Local author and 1992 UD graduate Valerie J. Lewis Coleman encourages students to attend Dayton Authors Celebrate Black History Month on Friday, Feb. 10. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY VALERIA COLEMAN VIA ERINANAN PHOTOGRAPHY
fneditorial

Scholarly:

GREEK LIFE IMPROVES WITH STRONGER DEDICATION TO GRADES

On a normal basis, published stories in Flyer News concerning the University of Dayton’s Greek life deal with either the latest group of fundraisers outside Kennedy Union or the most recent organization to violate policy and lose its standing on campus.

But that’s not the case in this issue. Today, the editors are proud to present an article that sheds light on an aspect of Greek life little discussed: grades.

According to last semester’s statistics courtesy of Greek Life and Leadership Programs, sorority and fraternity cumulative GPAs are at an all-time high. Pi Beta Phi sorority and Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity top the charts with 3.41 and 3.26 averages, respectively.

For all the Greek work this publication recognizes – bake sales, floor-shattering parties and everything in between – it is important to acknowledge the pride students take in upholding their organizations’ academic standards.

All undergraduates on campus, ranging from the super-involved Greek participants to those that proclaim to be “God-damn independents,” share a common bond as students. Flyer News commends Greek participants to those that proclaim to be “God-damn independents’ academic standards.

On a normal basis, published stories in Flyer News concerning the issues that are affecting us shine a different kind of light on our campus. The world is messed up as it is, so we might as well be able to laugh at it.

“So, have we had any unique or interesting reactions to the article?”

John Fleming of Louisiana made a Facebook post about an article in The Onion, a satirical news source, in which he cited the story as truth. The Onion article, from May 18, 2011, described Planned Parenthood’s opening of an $8 billion “Abortionplex” to which Rep. Fleming wrote, “More on Planned Parenthood, abortion by the wholesale.”

Please, let us disregard Rep. Fleming’s utter stupidity in actually thinking that The Onion was a credible news source and look at the real story here: Satire is alive and well in America. I have always been a strong advocate of the use of satire to shine a different kind of light on the issues that are affecting us today. Through the use of comedy, people are able to voice their concerns with the country while simultaneously making everyone laugh.

I am not the only one who holds this belief. Just look at the cult-like following of Comedy Central’s Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. Stewart and Colbert have managed to highlight the absurdity of the American political scene through their sharp humor and insightful commentary on a number of issues. Even if you don’t necessarily believe satire has a place in a professional setting, it’s hard to deny the effectiveness of this medium. For example, Colbert’s creation of a Super PAC has been highly publicized through his show, “The Colbert Report.” It has even been reported on by news sources outside of Comedy Central for highlighting the ludicrousness of the United States’ current campaign finance laws. However, I don’t think satire should be limited just to the national scope. It can be used in a smaller setting, such as on the University of Dayton’s campus, to deal with issues that are relevant to the students and to make them laugh. Notable crusaders in this fight are the anonymous contributors to the Twitter account @Fake_FlyerNews. With sporadic updates concerning UD, they provide comic relief and spark discussion on a range of issues from Dayton to Daytona to the assaults experienced on campus earlier this year.

Although I commend the Fake Flyer News, I don’t think its work is enough. In order to truly utilize the wonderful tool of satire there has to be more than just Twitter updates: We need to start writing stories. I believe this campus would greatly benefit from a publication or an addition to publications we already have on campus, such as the Flyer News, that deals with satire.

I urge all students on campus who appreciate satire and the effectiveness of this medium to get involved. First, subscribe to @Fake_FlyerNews on Twitter and enjoy the commentary. Second, leave comments at flyernews.com – it could be in this column’s comment box – and to Flyer News on Twitter expressing your wish to see more satire on our campus. The world is messed up as it is, so we might as well be able to laugh at it.
Social distractions are what we make of them

What distracts college students these days? Is it Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube or music? There are so many different social media accounts that can distract anyone with one quick click. We say that we are studying, however, we have multiple accounts and programs open on our computer screens as we are writing our six-page philosophy paper.

Personally, I always have some other window open while I’m on my computer for my academic assignments. If I have to research a topic or write a paper for a few hours, I am chatting with someone on Facebook, checking the tweets my brother sent me or even online shopping.

The real question should be how negatively does this effect students? I am very curious to know the statistics behind it. Such websites are a distraction for me because it takes me twice as long to finish an assignment while I am preoccupied with something else. I think students would be less stressed out if we got our work done quickly and efficiently and not the night before or morning of. But a student could argue that being on different Web-offerings keeps them focused. Jared Young, a sophomore premed major and close friend of mine, told me how his attention deficit disorder is not difficult to manage, and having several windows open actually helps keep him focused constructively. Young listens to his favorite tunes while sending a tweet or two and writing a paper, which works for him. He gets his work done when he should and does well. I’m sure it does not work like this for everyone, but it works for some.

I think that everyone needs to find something that helps them get their work done and done well. I do not know one person that can sit in a chair at a desk and crank out all of their assignments in one sitting without getting up to eat, watch television, listen to music, workout or surf the Web. We need to entertain our brains to “keep the blood flowing,” as my grandma always told me. “Never sit down for more than two hours without taking some form of a break.” Thanks gram-gram! She gets it.

MARIA VITALE
SOPHOMORE
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Criticism of Obamacare fails to consider religious equality

In the Jan. 24 Flyer News column titled “Obamacare rules out religious freedom,” it was argued that certain policies of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act violate the religious freedom of certain groups, namely those that “respect the sanctity of human life.” I find this reasoning and conclusion flawed for two reasons.

First, by aligning government policy squarely along the lines of one religious tradition, the religious freedoms of other sects are being infringed upon. It is important to recall that America is a vibrant melting pot of races, traditions and religions. Although the U.S. is predominantly Christian, there are still over 60 million U.S. people that do not believe in any form of Christianity. If the U.S. government was to choose to follow the teaching of the Catholic Church, for example, all those of other faith traditions would be forced to practice those beliefs. The resulting theocracy could destroy the right to religious freedom for all citizens of other faith traditions. Although the cause for protecting the unborn is a noble one, it is not appropriate to argue for it on the basis of religious freedom. If policies were enacted as Opinions Editor Dan Cleveland outlined, it would only guarantee Christians religious freedom. America was founded to escape religious persecution, but by allowing any religion to dictate or unduly influence public policy, the nation could slowly morph into exactly what the founders traveled across the world to avoid.

Second, American tax dollars often pay for programs and activities that violate the ethical principles of the electorate. It is a fact that we often like to avoid, but the activities of the U.S. government are often in direct violation of moral principle. The killing of millions of innocent civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki would not have happened if it was not for the $20 billion Manhattan Project, partially funded by taxpayers’ money. The invasion, occupation of Afghanistan, and subsequent death of tens of thousands civilians would not have happened without hundreds of billions of tax dollars. Therefore, to say that the potential funding of certain reproductive procedures through taxpayer funds is somehow morally worse than what already goes on is wrong.

JOHN MALONE
SENIOR
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Faculty letter is only first step

A few days ago, I read “UD religious studies professors write letter to GOP candidates” in Flyer News, and it just annoyed me a little. I do not disagree with what was written on Jan. 27, it is more a disappointment with what was not mentioned in that article, which never really seems to be mentioned at all.

Abortion is one of the biggest political injustices that I see occurring, and the Catholic Church also acknowledges this. While it is true that referring to a specific nationality and making a negative blanket statement about them is inappropriate, I really do not think from these comments or anything else I have seen that the Republican primary field is full of racists. To me, this topic just looks a bit more like some careless words not actually meant in such a negative way. This really makes me wonder why so many Catholic professors are up in arms about these words when there are so many more serious injustices currently happening.

In addition to the ongoing injustice of abortion, there is now an attack on Catholic freedom of religion, as well as other religions. Just in the past few weeks, President Barack Obama’s administration mandated that all institutions must provide contraceptive health care coverage for their employees as part of the recent health care law. Some of these contraceptive methods could kill a fetus after conception.

RON ZESZUT
SENIOR

“Catholic professors are up in arms about these words when there are so many more serious injustices currently happening.”

Maria Vitale
Sophomore
Public Relations

Got somethin’ to say?
Share your thoughts with us and your fellow students:
editor@flyernews.com

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UD softball hoping to prove predicted sixth place finish wrong

STEVE MALONEY
Lead Sports Writer

The University of Dayton women’s softball team hopes to improve on last year’s campaign with an experienced squad for the 2012 season.

The team is coming off a 22-26 record from the 2011 season, including an 8-11 mark in the Atlantic 10 Conference. UD is predicted to finish sixth in conference play by the A-10 softball coaches’ preseason poll.

Fifth-year head coach Cara LaPlaca said she thinks this team is out to prove it is better than that ranking.

“The biggest challenge is going to be that we’ve increased our goals,” she said. “We’re trying to do something that no team here has done before. We have to knock off two All-American pitchers in our conference [University of Massachusetts’ Sara Plourde and Fordham University’s Jen Mineau] to do that. In the long run, we want to be competing for a championship.”

UD returns all of last year’s team except two graduated seniors. The Flyers have five seniors this year led by infielder Lauren Nacke, a first-team All-Atlantic 10 selection last season. She led the team in batting last season with a .403 average, including 16 home runs and 48 RBIs.

LaPlaca said this team’s experience will benefit the Flyers this season.

“We have two returning catchers that can call games and manage the pitching staff,” she said. “A lot of these seniors have been starting since they were freshmen. That experience is priceless. They’ve played against elite competition, and they know the difference between good and bad softball. They know what our expectations are, and they know what the possibilities are for us as well.”

Seven of the team’s top eight hitters from last season are returning for the 2012 season. One of them is sophomore pitcher Alysha Isaacs.

In 23 starts for the Flyers last year, she finished with a 12-13 record and a 3.21 ERA. She also was third on the team in batting with a .302 average.

Isaacs said this year’s team is close-knit, hard-working and ready to prove itself.

“Everyone works so well together and our goals really click with everybody,” she said. “There are no problems on the team; everyone works well together, there’s good communication and there’s a lot ahead in our future. This year we’re going to prove to everyone that we can win.”

Nacke said that as a senior, she may not lead vocally, but she is going to do her part to make sure the team stays focused on its goals.

“My role will be to make sure that all the other players know what we’re looking for, and that it is our goal to win the A-10 championship,” she said. “I’m not much of a vocal leader, but I lead by example by doing extra hitting and coaching the younger players.”

The Flyers open their season Feb. 17 in San Marcos, Texas, with the CenturyLink Classic against the University of Texas at Arlington.

Commentary

Guard situation is at critical mass for Dayton’s season not to explode

T h e r e are a few ideas bas e t b a l l players have for b r e a k i n g out of slumps. S o m e say shoote rs should continue to shoot and eventually the ball will go in the basket. Others believe by doing well in other facets, such as defense or rebounding, shooting will naturally become better.

Right now, though, nothing seems to be working for a pair of University of Dayton men’s basketball players.

Senior guard Paul Williams has been a spotty scorer this season for Dayton, averaging 8.5 points per game heading into the team’s matchup against Fordham University on Saturday, Feb. 11, in Bronx, N.Y. Recently however, his individual game totals have plummeted severely from that average.

After a 13-point effort against rival Xavier University on Jan. 21, where everyone’s play on the team took a step up, Williams has scored a combined 16 points in his last four games. He’s shot a combined 3-for-31 from the field in those games, with all three makes coming from the three-point line.

Not scoring in the game following a big performance – as he did against St. Joseph’s University on Jan. 25 after Xavier – was not unprecedented either.

Earlier this season, he had a similar problem following the Old Spice Classic tournament final victory against the University of Minnesota. After scoring eight points against Minnesota and 31 points during the tournament, Williams came up empty in a 28-point loss to the University at Buffalo on Nov. 30, 2011.

Head coach Archie Miller said after the loss to the University of Rhode Island on Jan. 28, he knows what Williams is probably feeling and how long it can take to get out of a rut.

“Players work through it,” he said that day. “I’ve been there when I was a player. Sometimes it takes six games, seven games and that’s what Paul has to do.”

Well, Miller implemented a solution that could help the team and get Williams comfortable. He replaced Williams in the starting lineup with redshirt senior guard Josh Parker.

But the plan has yet to do either.

Parker has not been lighting up the scoreboard himself, averaging 8.4 points per game this season. He has hit the same slump as Williams since the Xavier game. In his two starts, totaling 40 minutes of play, he has gone 0-for-8 from the field.

So where is there to be done?

The lack of depth on Dayton’s bench makes this a puzzling issue that seemingly has no clear answer.

Parker gives UD a second ball-handling option to help back up redshirt junior point guard Kevin Dillard. Opponents with athletic frontcourts have often used them against the Flyers because of the team’s lack of dribble-drive penetrators on the floor. Parker has not done this as well lately, and has zero free throw attempts in his last four games.

Williams has been considered one of UD’s best defenders this season and has started to step up his play in other statistical categories, such as rebounding and assists. But, when he has been able to get to the basket, he has not been a great finisher. He has missed every two-point field goal attempt in his last nine halves of play.

There are a ton of other intangibles going into decisions like this and more pressing problems Dayton needs to deal with, such as the team’s defense. Opponents have shot 49.8 percent from the field during the team’s four-game losing streak.

Depth had been creeping up as an issue when redshirt junior forward Josh Benson was lost for the season to an ACL injury on Dec. 30, 2011, and it seems to have engulfed UD. With no other options available to come off the bench, it’s up to Williams and Parker to beat their slumps, which may help revive the rest of the team.

If not, it could be a bumpy road during the final seven-game stretch for Dayton, where four of its opponents currently are behind them in the Atlantic 10 standings.
Editors rank their favorite commercials from Super Bowl XLVI

MOORMAN
Sports Editor

It was a contest that needed the closing moments to decide the winner.

Of course, this is not an allusion to the 2012 Super Bowl, but rather the annual voting contest for the best Super Bowl commercial.

The actual game, which the New York Giants won 21-17, was not on the radar of things to watch this weekend for many.

Chris is a Cincinnati Bengals fan, still smarting a first-round playoff loss. Steven’s alliances fall with the Dallas Cowboys, who of course fell short again. So why would we care about the Super Bowl? If anything, we’re counting down the days until pitchers and catchers report for baseball spring training. It’s nine days for most teams, by the way.

But the commercials were the main source of getting people to tune in to the Super Bowl. And as a whole, they didn’t disappoint. But, they didn’t dazzle either.

Here is how we rank the top three ads of Super Bowl XLVI.

Chris Moorman, Sports Editor

1. Doritos yearly fan contest produced another great spot. This year, it included a dog bribing his owner with Doritos to not tell his wife about the family cat being buried. It’s always humorous to look at how language is dumbed down to what we think are the ways pets would say and write things, and the message the dog wrote saying “You DIDN’T SEE NuthIN” was classic.

2. Volkswagen also came on with their “risque” ads air. It’s just not high-pitched tone.

3. And just when I thought the commercial viewing was over, rock band The Darkness shows up for Samsung with “I Believe in a Thing Called Love.” The only thing missing that we needed to hear was Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher ending his cameo by trying to sing the lyric “Just listen to the rhythm of my heart” in his best high-pitched tone.

For both of us, the Super Bowl is like visiting GoDaddy.com after their “risque” ads air. It’s just not worth it unless your team is in it.

Women’s Basketball

Flyers ‘control destiny’ in A-10 after morning blowout

CHRIS MOORMAN
Sports Editor

Steven Wright, Asst. Sports Editor

Plenty of points were scored for calculating purposes by the University of Dayton women’s basketball team in its annual Math Day game at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at UD Arena.

UD jumped out to an 18-point lead at halftime and cruised to a 91-68 victory over the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Freshman guard Andrew Hoover and senior forward Justine Raterman scored 18 points each to lead UD in front of a crowd of 6,788 people, mostly local schoolchildren.

With the win, Dayton moved into second place in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

Raterman said the Flyers are now in “control of their destiny.” Dayton now is one game behind Saint Bonaventure University (23-2, 10-0 A-10).

“It feels great to be in control of our own destiny,” she said. “Sometimes you have to sit back and hope this team beats that team. … But right now we kind of control our outcome. It’s really a great feeling to be doing that well this late in the conference season.”

Junior guard Samantha MacKay scored 16 points, all of which came in the first half, in just 15 minutes off the bench. Dayton head coach Jim Jabir praised MacKay after the game.

“Sam drives me crazy because she can be amazing or drive me absolutely nuts,” Jabir said. “She was instrumental in our win.”

MacKay said Dayton prepared defensively stop the 49ers from getting pulling-up jumpers.

“They [Charlotte] like to drive and like to pull up and we practiced about not giving them that pull-up and box out their post, and I think we did a really good job preventing them from what they want to do today,” MacKay said.

Dayton (16-5, 8-1 A-10) had five players score in double figures. The Flyers shot 47 percent from the field in the game. Dayton also shot 9-for-23 from the three-point line while holding the 49ers to 2-of-4 from behind the arc.

Raterman said the multiple contributors with double-figure scoring is proof Dayton’s offense is a challenge for opposing defenses.

“I think it says a lot,” Raterman said. “On any given night, anyone can go off and put points on the board. If you try to take one person away, there are others who can hurt you.”

Charlotte (15-9, 7-3 A-10) jumped out to an early 4-0 lead in the game’s first two minutes. UD took the lead by responding well to Charlotte’s run with a 9-0 run of its own.

The 49ers were led by junior forward Jennifer Hailey with 20 points on a 9-for-13 shooting from the field.

UD next plays host to Saint Bonaventure at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 at UD Arena.
Men’s Basketball

Dayton looks to put losing streak in the past

CHRIS MOORMAN
Sports Editor

It’s been a difficult current stretch in the Atlantic 10 Conference for the University of Dayton men’s basketball team, according to redshirt senior guard Josh Parker.

Dayton (14-9, 4-5 A-10) has lost four straight conference games for the first time since January 2006. The Flyers recently fell 58-50 to Saint Louis University Saturday, Feb. 4, in St. Louis. Senior forward Chris Johnson led UD with 16 points and seven rebounds in the loss.

Parker said it has been tough for the team, but no one has lost focus on the season.

“Anybody losing four straight, there would be some downs, but our team has stayed with it and coach has been doing a good job keeping us focused and telling us we’ve just had a little bump in the road and we can come back and pick it back up,” Parker said.

Dayton just had its second conference bye week to prepare for its next game Saturday, Feb. 11, against Fordham University in Bronx, N.Y. The Flyers lead the all-time series 21-5 and won last year’s matchup 91-57 on Jan. 22, 2011.

First-year Dayton head coach Archie Miller said in the weekly A-10 teleconference that he expects Fordham to run an extensive zone defense against the Flyers. He also said the Flyers will continue to do what they’ve been trying to do every game all season.

“The same thing we do every game,” Miller said. “We’re going to try to execute. We’re going to try to get the ball into the paint with the pass and get it inside-out. … Fordham is no different than any other team that we play.”

Dayton is coming off a game in which it shot 24.6 percent from the field and 4-for-24 (16.7 percent) from behind the three-point line.

The lack of production from the No. 2 guard is something concerning Miller. Senior guard Paul Williams and Parker are a combined 8-for-54 shooting in Dayton’s last four games. Against Xavier University on Jan. 21, the two combined for 29 points on 8-for-17 shooting.

But Miller said he was more concerned with the lack of production from the post in Saturday’s loss to Saint Louis.

“I thought the most disappointing thing about the Saint Louis game was the play in the paint,” Miller said. “We could not get anything in or around the basket. Give them [Saint Louis] credit.”

The Rams (9-13, 2-7 A-10) are led by senior forward Chris Gaston. The second-team All-Atlantic 10 preseason selection is averaging a double-double for the season with 16.1 points per game and 10.2 rebounds. Gaston has 14 double-doubles in the 21 games he’s played this season and 50 for his career.

In Fordham’s last game against the University of North Carolina Charlotte Saturday, Feb. 4, Gaston was a game-time decision, according to Fordham head coach Tom Pecora. Gaston, with a hurt back, scored 25 points and gathered 14 rebounds.

Fordham also has the current A-10 rookie of the week in freshman guard Bryan Smith. The Brooklyn native averaged 18.5 points a game for Fordham in two games last week.

Defensively, both teams are near the bottom of the conference. Dayton is second-to-last in field goal percentage defense, allowing opponents to shoot nearly 46 percent from the field. Fordham is second-to-last in three-point percentage defense as opponents have shot 36 percent from behind the arc against the Rams.

For the Flyers though, Fordham shoots only 38 percent from the field and 28 percent from the three-point line.

Fordham has lost two in a row and seven of its last 10. Pecora said in the A-10 teleconference that he planned on using the team’s bye week as a chance to work on shooting, something that has hurt the Rams here of late.

“I’m planning on some shooting drills,” Pecora said. “We have good shooters who are shooting poorly.”

Saturday’s game also could be a do-or-die situation for both teams for the A-10 tournament in early March in Atlantic City, N.J. Only 12 of the conferences 14 teams qualify for tournament play.

Fordham is the biggest game of Dayton’s season with the recent string of difficulties. He also said Dayton is determined to win and rebuild on the success earlier in the year.

“There’s still seven conference games left,” Parker said. “We can either go up or we can go down. We can still do what we want to do. We got knocked down a few times, now it’s time to pick ourselves up.”

Event: UD plays Fordham University at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at Rose Hill Gym in Bronx, N.Y.

Background: The Rams are 2-7 in the Atlantic 10 Conference so far this season. In the two previous seasons, Fordham won only one conference game.

Key Player: Chris Gaston leads Fordham in scoring (16.1) and rebounding (10.2) and is coming off a 25-point, 14-rebound performance against Temple University with an injured back.

Obstacle: Dayton is on a four-game losing streak and the chances of making the NCAA tournament are quickly slipping away after big wins early in the season. The Flyers need to regain that swagger and senior guards Paul Williams and Josh Parker need to shoot better for UD to win.