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The debate surrounding SOFT's attempts to become a student organization is not black and white, Fitz said. It is filled with complexities, he added, comparing it to the national debate on gun control laws.

"In that debate, I think people of goodwill differ on where to draw the line, to which side to give attention or the most weight to, the common good or individual rights," Fitz said. "And so there are decisions that are not black and white, but are open and you just have to make a decision. Those of us who made this decision feel we have to uphold our search for truth, grounded in faith and reason."

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**Rector responds to final denial of Freethinkers**

CHRIS MOORMAN
Editor-in-Chief

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THE TICKER

LOCAL

VICTORIA THEATRE HOSTS THE LITTLE PRINCE

The Victoria Theatre will host a performance of “The Little Prince” at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 at the theater. Tickets can be attained by calling (937) 228-3630.

Information from events.activedayton.com

CENTREVILLE PLANS NEW PARK

After a donation from a Washington Township resident, the city of Centerville began planning for a new 23-acre park along Social Row Road. The new park will be named Robert F. Mays Park. Centerville community members will be invited to help with the planning at an open house. The park will likely have athletic fields, shelter house facilities and a playground.

Information from Dayton Daily News

THE ARTS CHANGE EVERYTHING.

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD.

Dayton Jazz Ensemble

Friday, February 15
7 p.m. Kennedy Union Ball Theatre

Symphonic Wind Ensemble & University Concert Band

Sunday, February 17
3 p.m. Kennedy Union Ball Theatre

University Orchestra

Wednesday, February 20
8 p.m. Kennedy Union Ball Theatre

Flyer Lab Band and University Jazz Band

Thursday, February 21
8 p.m. Kennedy Union Ball Theatre

Free admission. Presented by the Department of Music.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.UDAYTON.EDU/ARTS

VATICAN

POPE BENEDICT XVI RESIGNS

Pope Benedict XVI, 85, recently announced that he will be resigning the papacy at the end of the month. The papal conclave will gather 15 to 20 days following his resignation to select his predecessor. The pope will give his last appearance Feb. 27 in St. Peter’s Square.


NATIONAL

AUTHORITIES CLAIM DORNER COULD BE DEAD

Ex-LAPD officer Christopher Dorner, who killed one police officer and two civilians, exchanged gun fire with authorities, on Tuesday in California. Dorner was last seen in the San Bernardino Mountains in California before a cabin where he was staying burned down. As of publication, forensics tests were being conducted to determine the identity of the charred human remains found in the cabin.

Information from usatoday.com

ETHOS BLITZ

Students are invited to participate in a two-day innovative engineering competition where they can build environmentally friendly devices beginning Saturday, Feb. 16 in Kettering Labs. The cost is $10 per person. Contact ethos.blitz@gmail.com for more information.

Information from the Chicago Tribune

STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ETHOS BLITZ

WIND & BAND CONCERT

Conductors Patrick Reynolds and Tremon Kizer will lead the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and University Concert Band performance at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, in Kennedy Union’s Ball Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

Information from events.activedayton.com

CHICAGO

ILLINOIS DEBATES MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The legalization of medical marijuana is a possibility for the state of Illinois. State lawmakers recently proposed a bill that would allow the sale and distribution of medical marijuana at specific centers in Illinois.

Information from the Chicago Tribune

ST. LOUIS

STUDENT BRINGS HANDGUN TO SCHOOL

A 13-year-old male student at Jefferson Elementary School is currently in police custody after bringing a handgun to school to show his classmates Feb. 7. Although the gun was not loaded, the sixth grader faces charges in the juvenile court system.

Information from stltoday.com

Cleveland

KIDS ARRESTED FOR LOBBING CONCRETE AT CARS ON HIGHWAY

Three kids were arrested Tuesday for throwing concrete chunks and other items off the railroad overpass onto Howe Avenue. Only one concrete block hit a car traveling under the overpass. The driver and his 5-year-old son were not injured.

Information from Newsnet5

ChINA

CHINESE CELEBRATE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Chinese across the world celebrated the beginning of the year of the snake at midnight, Feb. 10. The snake is associated with wisdom, beauty, intelligence, pride and anger.

Information from bbc.com

Pittsburgh

‘THIRSTY’ MAN BREAKS INTO BAR, DRINKS

The Castle Tavern on Library Road was broken into Tuesday after a man claimed he was thirsty, according to Castle Shannon Police. James O’Hanlon, 54, broke a window to enter the establishment and cracked open a cold beer.

Information from wpix.com

SAUDI ARABIA

ILLEGAL ZOO SHUTTERED

Riyadh: An illegal zoo at an amusement center named Fantasyland was recently shut down by Riyadh Municipality for allegedly having exotic animals without a permit. The animals have been moved to an appropriate facility.

Information from arabnews.com
Founders set to undergo summer construction

CHRIS CRISANTI
Lead News Writer

The University of Dayton will renovate Founders Hall, the oldest residence hall on campus. Although construction on the elevator shaft will begin next month, Founders Hall will undergo renovations this summer starting May 6.

According to Beth Keyes, vice president of facilities management, the Founders renovation is the final phase for renovating first- and second-year student housing buildings, such as Marycrest Complex, Virginia W. Kettering Hall, Stuart Complex and Campus South.

“Incoming freshmen and current students should expect Founders to have a new look with new restrooms, carpeted rooms, no window AC units and nice closets,” Keyes said. “An accessible entrance and new elevator shaft will be added on the courtyard side on the east elevation.”

In addition, Founders will also undergo renovation on the building’s bathrooms, showers and heating and cooling system. Showering rooms will still contain six showers per room and window air conditioning units will be terminated.

“Yeah, it’s tiny, but the new freshmen will be getting a whole new Founders experience.”

Danielle Mitchell, a sophomore accounting major, said Founders was a big part of her freshman year and that incoming freshmen will enjoy the benefits it brings along with the changes.

“It [the renovations] makes our memories much more special because I think the old Founders will be more of our generation,” Mitchell said. “Plus, I know the new freshmen will appreciate those new bathrooms.”

Keyes said that administration is currently in the process of ordering parts and materials for the renovation. If construction goes all according to plan, incoming freshmen should expect to newly renovated building to kick off the start of their college careers.

“I appreciate the renovations, but I’m going to miss the old Founders. It makes our memories so much more funny,” Scollin said. “Yeah, it’s tiny, but the new freshmen will be getting a whole new Founders experience.”

Students walk by Founders Hall, Wednesday, Feb. 13. Founders is scheduled to undergo a $10 million renovation, which should be complete by August. ETHAN KLOSTERMAN/MANAGING EDITOR

SGA taking applications for organization funding

JIM VOGEL
Staff Writer

Now through Feb. 24, the University of Dayton Student Government Association is accepting applications from on-campus student organizations to secure funding for the semester.

SGA President Emily Kaylor, a senior political science major, explained that the SGA constitution requires at least 25 percent of the budget to be allocated for student organizations.

Kaylor said the application process is the best way for SGA to make decisions on who gets funding, and how much they get for what they want to do.

Their yearly budget comes primarily from the activity fee that each student pays as a part of tuition. Of the $700 charged to students as a “University Fee,” SGA receives $12 per student. The remainder of the budget comes from SGA’s distribution of the student directories, Kaylor said.

“The student org funding definitely gets priority in our budget. It is student money that we receive, so we should be giving it back to the students,” Kaylor said.

Kaylor emphasized that this is only a minimum amount and that money will be adjusted in the budget, if needed, to meet the needs of the students.

SGA Vice President Megan Abbate, a junior English major, stressed that SGA has strict guidelines for how the organizations can use the funding.

According to the SGA website, requests for money to finance T-shirts, fundraising supplies, car rentals, alcohol or tobacco products, or anything else that goes against the mission of UD will be denied.

Kaylor and Abbate encouraged all interested student organizations to complete an application for funding.

“There is a maximum of $1,000 allowed for each organization,” Kaylor said.

Last semester, SGA received 57 student organization applications for funding, which was a record high, according to Kaylor. Almost $45,000 was distributed to student organizations, Kaylor said.

“Only four organizations did not receive funding,” Kaylor said. “While the other 53 may not have received the full amount they applied for, the finance committee does their best to fairly distribute the money allocated in the budget.”

The finance committee, headed by Scott Bridwell, junior mechanical engineering major, meets to review the applications and looks over the requests to decide if the claims are valid and if they can provide the full amount that was requested, Kaylor said.

SGA is hopeful for another record number of applications as Kaylor felt that students have become much more aware of the process.

Students can drop off their applications outside of the SGA office in Kennedy Union 253 and will receive a response from SGA on funding shortly after February 24, Kaylor said.

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UD, Holy Angels formalize collaborative partnership

BRADY ASHE
Chief News Writer

The University of Dayton is formalizing a partnership with the Holy Angels Church on Brown Street after decades of unofficial cooperation.

The newly-formed partnership is the latest in a series of recent collaborative unions among parishes in the archdiocese of Cincinnati, according to the Rev. Jim Fitz, S.M., university vice president for mission and rector.

Fitz said archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati approached university president Daniel Curran this year to join the coalescent effort and that the university eagerly capitalized on the opportunity.

“This is another opportunity to help the archdiocese, the city of Dayton and the UD community,” Fitz said. “It’s a chance for us to use our gifts to help others and better serve the church, the university and the world.”

As the partnership develops, liturgies at the Immaculate Conception Chapel will be coordinated with and complemented by those at Holy Angels, according to Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H.

Some of UD’s 10 Marianist priests will preside over liturgies at Holy Angels as part of the collaboration.

“The Church of Holy Angels is only a block and a half away from the campus academic buildings,” Zukowski said. “The partnership is going to give students more opportunities to attend Mass on campus. In the past, Masses between the two parishes were often scheduled in conflict.”

Zukowski said the Brown Street church will also be beneficial to the UD community for special events that require a larger meeting space. This year’s freshman class is the largest in UD’s 163-year history.

Also among the beneficiaries of the partnership, according to Zukowski, is the Forum for Young Catechetical Leaders program, a two-year undergraduate and graduate program that teaches students how to effectively teach in Catholic schools and parishes. Zukowski co-directs the educational forum with Susan Ferguson from the Center for Catholic Education.

The FYCL members will intern at Holy Angels when the partnership is finalized in the fall. The interns will teach catechism classes and offer programming in adult faith formation and sacramental preparation. Zukowski said the new location provides students who are without off-campus transportation a unique opportunity to get involved in the forum.

As part of the partnership, a UD graduate student will help direct a kindergarten through 6th grade faith formation program at the parish, according to a university-issued press release. UD will also handle some of the maintenance at Holy Angels and link the church and school to the university’s networking and phone services.

Aside from formalizing its partnership with Holy Angels, the university is raising money through public fundraisers and alumni donations for proposed renovations to the UD chapel.

Fitz said the renovations won’t be as extensive as originally planned since the partnership with Holy Angels will provide a larger seating capacity facility for special ceremonies.

“We were planning on including an addition in the renovation, but with the new venue on Brown Street, we won’t have to,” Fitz said. “It’ll still be a major renovation but it will be considerably less complicated than we once anticipated. It’s just one more reason why we’re excited about the partnership.”

Students can learn more about FYCL and other faith-based opportunities by contacting Zukowski at azukowski1@udayton.edu.

For three hours a day, Heritage Center offers trip to past

SARAH DEVINE
Staff Writer

The Heritage Center, the building located in between Chaminade Hall and the Rike Center, has been everything from a men’s washroom to a post office, according to Pat Detzel, a volunteer at the museum and former director of institutional studies in the Office of Financing and Administrative Services.

The 110-year-old building originating dubbed the “Crystal Palace” now serves as a space to honor the University of Dayton’s rich history, she said.

“Dick Ferguson, director of the Fitz Center, and other administrators had the brilliant idea to showcase some of the historical memorabilia and information about the university after the UD post office moved from here to its new location in 2004,” Detzel said. “It displays the accomplishments of UD as a Catholic university.”

The Heritage Center, which was made possible through donations by the Dayton Alumni Association, opened in 2006 displaying numerous informational boards containing facts and photographs along with a few artifacts.

Some of the notable exhibits include a photograph of Brother Raymond Fitz celebrating enrollment success in 1992 by dancing on a table or a student time table from 1890 listing every daily obligation of a UD student, Detzel said.

Despite its historical significance, very few people take the time to explore Heritage Hall, which is run by 22 volunteers, most of whom are alumni or retired UD employees, Detzel said.

“I’m lucky if three people come in on any given day,” Detzel said. “I’ve had students come in and tell me they’ve been at UD for four years and they’ve never looked in here before.”

David Griffith, a junior electrical engineering major, knew about Heritage Hall, but only through word of mouth.

“I’ve heard about it,” Griffith said. “I think there is information about the Marianists in Heritage Hall. Every time I walk by it seems like it’s closed, but I’ve never actually been in there though.”

Marshall Dismer, a senior Spanish major, said he also has never visited the building.

“I’ve walked by it so many times and wondered what’s in there, but I’ve never actually gone in,” Dismer said. “I want to look around one day before I graduate in May.”

Detzel said she wished more students would stop by and learn more about UD and the Marianist tradition.

“I think when you spend time in a place, it’s good, fun and interesting to know where it came from,” Detzel said. “It gives you a good sense of where it could go and what it’s all about. A lot of students don’t know UD began as an all-male high school. The whole background of how UD began and the history of the Marianist brothers would be a good thing to know if you’re a student here.”

The Heritage Center is open to visitors from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.
any direct contact with SOFT or its leaders, but that’s because the issue should be handled at the level of Student Development or Campus Ministry, which Fitz was in charge of from 1998-2002.

This debate is not exclusive to UD, according to Fitz. DePaul University has a university-recognized secular student group. Notre Dame University and Duquesne University have both ruled similarly to UD and turned down secular groups for recognition. The issue of whether SOFT was denied due to going against Catholic values is not necessarily the case, Fitz said. He pointed out that there are student organizations that promote religions that differ from Catholicism.

“I think as a Catholic university, we have not forced our Catholic faith on any faculty, staff or student,” Fitz said. “No one is ostracized for their belief. No one has ever been expelled from the university because they have expressed a skeptical or agnostic point of view.”

“If anyone has to work this out at their own level, it is their responsibility to do so. … We want to be part of the interfaith dialogue,” King told Flyer News.

Fitz agreed, saying he wants to move past any conflict or confrontation to a point of productive dialogue and discussion.

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New outlook on love, relationships suggests looking inward

Roses are red, violets are blue, whether you are single or taken, here is an article for you!

Feb. 14 can be as bittersweet as Godiva chocolate. It is no wonder why this romantic holiday stirs up a multitude of emotional romantic illusions, even for the strongest and most independent single guy or gal on campus.

The honest truth is that we all want someone to fill us up with love and passion on Valentine’s Day. We desire to be in a romantic relationship for security, excitement and companionship and cyastically “cute” couples for all of their endearing happiness. Be honest with yourself; does this resonate with you?

I recently heard a friend of mine refer to this romantic holiday as “Singles Awareness Day.” How slyly it is to think that a day originally devoted to acknowledging loving relationships, has managed to shift into a monument of our single, unromantic shame.

I propose a new outlook on love. Rather than focusing all of our energy on the hot, passionate love interest we may currently lack, let’s imagine what our lives would look like if we turned inward.

Instead of finding completion in the arms of a romantic partner, fill yourself up with a spiritual love connection. One of the beautiful lessons I have learned through my yoga practice is that we all hold the love we desire within ourselves. This may sound like a trippy, new-age hippie concept, but trust me, it works. When we release this idea that something outside of us can compensate for what is lacking within, beautiful things happen.

Here is your glorified self-help manual to a fiery hot Valentine’s Day:

Demystifying the “Special Relationship”:

Take a moment to examine whom you have made special in your life. In many cases, we deem our romantic partners as more valuable and more important than the relationships we have cultivated throughout time. We create idols of our partners and unconsciously separate ourselves and others from their “divine presence.” When we are living in a way where we are making people sacred and separate, we are putting them on a pedestal. We put so much faith in our idol and expect them to continuously provide us with love and support that we forget when our idol falls, we fall with them. When we have a special partner, we begin to act out in jealous ways.

We manipulate and attack the people who are talking to our “special” partner. This is because we live in constant fear that if our romantic partner leaves us, we are no longer complete. Recognize whom you have made special in your life and how you are separating yourself from them.

Focus on the Content, Not the Frame:

In our society, we are overly focused on these questions of whether or not our romantic partner is calling us on time or buying us dinner. We are completely sucked in to these egotistic illusions and forget to focus our attention on the important material, like whether or not they inspire or make us a better person. This is not to say that you cannot have a “frame.” You should be apologetic in what you want in a relationship, but be more conscientious of bringing more content to your list. Let go of what the relationship needs to look like.

Editor’s Note: For Riley Quinn’s full column please visit flyernews.com.
Flyer News: As juniors, how did you get such a good location in the Ghetto? Ryan Berry: We got priority housing because we’re on the baseball team.

Ray Stallings: So we got to choose two or three houses we wanted to get before everyone else.

Spencer Rohr: We had a house on Lowes first, but then went in and saw it was tiny, so we changed to this house.

Robby Sunderman: We were pretty lucky to get priority housing. One of the perks to being an athlete I guess.

FN: What are differences in the house dynamic between baseball season and the off-season?

RS: Well, we are home a lot more. When we are in season, it is very rare that all six of us will be in the house at the same time because we all have class and practice at different times.

Michael Miller: And we can have parties.

RS: In season we’re gone a lot for games, and we tend to be a little bit more quiet on the weekends. But out of season in the fall, we’re just like any other house in the Ghetto.

FN: Does living together impact how you play together?

SR: We know each other better, so we trust each other more and rely on each other.

RST: Yeah, it definitely helps with chemistry.

RB: There are no negative side effects to living together, unless you have a terrible game and you don’t want to talk about it.

MM: Then you can’t escape it.

SR: Except when you live with Ray.

RST: Or when you live with Spencer.

RS: You definitely want to see your roommates do well when they play. It makes for a much happier house after the games.

FN: What does a typical Saturday night look like at 421?

RST: Just hanging out here with our team. A lot of the guys usually come over.

RB: In season we play a lot of “Blitz.”

RST: Out of season we hang out a lot on the stoop, our front porch, socializing and conversing with our fellow Ghetto neighbors.

MM: We like to go to Tim’s on Saturday.

RS: Come on over and see for yourself.

FN: Do you guys have any house rules?

MM: So, we honestly don’t.

RB: I’m sure we have some.

MM: Do we? I don’t think so.

RB: Yeah, we do. You can’t throw any clothes in Spencer’s room.

RST: Don’t get crumbs in my butter.

RB: If there is cheese or eggs in the fridge they are fair game, and Mel never has to clean.

RST: It’s pretty rambunctious.

MM: Our house is inviting.

MM: Our house is inviting.

RS: Loud.

RST: Dirty, about 70 percent of the time.

SR: Yeah, when you don’t pick your s--- up.

MM: Our house is inviting.

SR: Fun.

RS: Easygoing.

RS: Inviting.

RST: It’s pretty rambunctious.

FN: You definitely want to see your roommates do well when they play. It makes for a much happier house after the games.

RST: Yeah, Flyers are always welcome.

NF: Any last words?

RST: We’ve got a lot of games coming up in the spring, it would be nice to get some fellow Flyers out there to watch the baseball team. We don’t get very many fans in the stadium.

SR: And anyone can stop by.

RB: Yeah, Flyers are always welcome.

Joellen Redlingshafer
Staff Writer

Students recognized for excellence in theater, receive scholarship

Katie Christoff
Lead A&E Writer

Sophomore theater and English major Jenna Gomes and junior English major Alex Chilton have been nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship in 2014 for their contributions to theater.

The scholarship provides recognition, honor and financial assistance to outstanding student performers wishing to pursue further education, according to kennedycenter.org.

Gomes and Chilton will perform at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival among peers from their region next January.

Students who advance at the regional festival get the chance to perform at the Kennedy Center, where two national winners are chosen.

The University of Dayton had not nominated students for the scholarship since the 90s, until Matt Evans, the technical director for Bell Theatre and a faculty lecturer for the theater department, decided to begin participating again last year.

“I was curious why we weren’t doing it,” Evans said, “so I began researching and got us involved again.”

Students are nominated after a respondent from the festival attends one of their productions. The respondent gives their response to the show, and then nominates up to two students along with the show’s director, according to Evans.

“When I saw my name, I was so happy that I got up and danced around my living room, which was a little embarrassing considering my roommate witnessed the whole thing,” Gomes said.

She was nominated for her role as Grandma in “The American Dream.” Gomes said she was incredibly excited and not expecting it.

Chilton was ecstatic to receive his second consecutive nomination for the scholarship, this time for his role as Jerry in “Zoo Story.”

“To get two in a row was very exciting for me. This finally made me start to consider myself a good actor,” Chilton said.

He typically focuses on trying to improve his acting, and this gave him reassurance that his hard work has showed.

He said playing Jerry was a complex role, and emphasized the importance of human interaction and expressing oneself.

“I learned a lot from playing him,” Chilton said.

Gomes also felt a special connection with her role as Grandma because of how much it challenged her. She said that she has never even known grandparents, so she did not know how a grandma was supposed to act.

“It was a role very outside of myself,” Gomes said. “I had to spend a lot more time than I normally do getting to know the character really well, and completely leaving myself off the stage.”

Evans is happy for these two students to have the opportunity to perform at the festival next year. He said that UD is still trying to learn more about the festival, after taking a break from participating for years.

“This gives them the chance to get out of the ‘UD bubble’ and work with students from other colleges and see what others are doing,” Evans said.

Whether the students advance to the Kennedy Center or not, Evans said the whole point of the festival and the Irene Ryan Scholarship is to celebrate what they do.
fneditorial

ALMSGIVING:
IS THE ‘I LOVE UD T-SHIRT DONATION AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO HELP POOR?"

Let’s take a minute to digest this week’s “Break Up With Another School” event. During this event held on Valentine’s Day, students were encouraged to “Donate a shirt from a different college to St. Vincent DePaul and get a free I Love UD shirt while supplies last.”

Exchanging T-shirts from other schools for brand new UD T-shirts accomplishes two things: it gives students a new UD branded T-shirt, and it gives the least among us a used T-shirt screaming the names of prestigious colleges and universities – taunting them with an education they likely do not have. And all of this pseudo-charity in February, a month when the cold weather makes a T-shirt essentially useless.

Most troubling, this apparent effort to help others fails to respond to the bigger question: “Why do people in the Miami Valley need the services of St. Vincent DePaul at all?” Phrased another way, “Why are some people in the Miami Valley unable to enjoy the dignity of making basic consumer choices about their living conditions?”

To ask and answer these questions is to seek justice. For the UD community to receive new goods as a reward for charity pawns off a Gospel veil itself in good intentions. Those good intentions mask what will certainly be an unintended consequence: slighting the people who use the services of St. Vincent DePaul.

After a series of horrific mass shootings, many people in America are finally admitting that it’s time to take a closer look at our gun laws. Among the proposals has been a call for a federal assault weapons ban.

I can’t really say that I’m thrilled about an outright ban on assault weapons because it distracts us from bigger issues like handgun violence and an inadequate mental health system, but I definitely say it’s worth a shot. If anything, maybe it will be a step closer to dismantling our nation’s homicide-obsessed culture. Even if it’s only symbolic, it could be constructive.

What has really frustrated me, more than the potential impotency of an assault weapons ban, has been the fact that nobody has tried to dispel some of the most repeated, and most easily disproven, arguments against the assault weapons ban. Not the crackpot ones about an assault rifle variant of the bullet coming out of the gun, one means the actual killing power of a small rifle variant of an assault rifle variant firing a .223 Remington round will be less lethal than an elephant gun.

The thing is, though, nobody uses an elephant gun in a mass shooting, while recently people have started to use popular assault rifles. Additionally, the cosmetic features that make a gun an assault rifle make it more lethal in mass shootings because of the added mobility and ease of use.

Of course, there is the argument that the efficiency of these guns justifies their ownership for self-defense reasons. What people conveniently forget, however, is that the government already restricts what we can do with our rights. No matter how efficient I may think it is, I can’t jaywalk because it creates a danger to myself and others. If we want to agree on the principle that the government can’t control how we choose to live our personal lives, that’s fine with me, but I’m not sure the hardcore conservative groups fighting gun control want to be seen supporting the right to choose.

Opinions Editor

Matthew Worsham

2012-2013

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University stands firmly on Catholic values

Despite the two full pages of outrage in Flyer News over the Society of Freethinkers being rejected official recognition by our university, I admired the decision by university officials.

For once, a Catholic university is willing to stand up for its (gasp) Catholic identity, an identity that embraces both faith and reason, as Amy Lopez Matthews wrote in her magnificent rejection letter. While some of my fellow writers claim that this rejection is trampling the students’ First Amendment rights, I actually read the letter. Nowhere does it say that these students cannot believe (or rather, not believe) whatever they want, or practice that wherever they want. It simply says that the University of Dayton will not endorse an organization that runs counter to the university’s mission of faith. The rejection letter even goes so far as to say the university has “offered you space to meet,” and all but says that despite the university’s attempts to reach out to SOFT, it’s SOFT that hasn’t been willing to play ball.

Students attending UD know full well that they are attending a Catholic, Marianist university, and as such, it’s expected that people who choose to come to UD respect the university’s Catholic identity. At a bare minimum, students who attend UD are not expected to actively recruit others to dismiss their faith. It’s one thing to have a different faith; it’s another to deny faith altogether.

Furthermore, I take personal offense that Branden King accuses three well-respected men and women of being bigots for denying their faith. It’s one thing to have a different faith; it’s another to deny faith altogether.

As a UD student who is self-assured in my Catholic faith, I personally have nothing against SOFT and hope they continue to meet as a supportive group for secular students; however, formal recognition by the university is something that should not, and will not happen.

MATTHEW DANSE
JUNIOR
BIOLOGY

SOFT dilemma handled correctly

The University of Dayton is correct in rejecting the Society of Freethinkers’ request for official recognition.

UD was founded as a Marianist school under the practice of Catholicism, with a commitment to Marianist education and development of the mind, body and soul with respect to Catholicism. SOFT was created, as the organization says, to view intellectual matters in a secular nature. The university has no choice but to reject the organization of official recognition.

The core values that led to the creation of SOFT are contradictory to the core values that the University of Dayton has: a commitment to preaching, educating and instilling Catholic values in its students. The situation is not much different than that of communism in the United States in the 1950s. The United States, built as a democracy, could not allow the spread of communism, which had economic, political and social principles that were contradictory to the American democratic values the country had been built on.

As a UD student who is self-assured in my Catholic faith, I personally have nothing against SOFT and hope they continue to meet as a supportive group for secular students; however, formal recognition by the university is something that should not, and will not happen.

MATTHEW DANSE
JUNIOR
BIOLOGY

UD should recognize SOFT

As a Christian and University of Dayton alumna, I strongly believe that the Society of Freethinkers deserves official recognition as a university-affiliated student organization. As of Feb. 1, that belief has been permanently ignored.

SOFT exists as an open community for discussion of religious issues from a secular point of view, and is populated by those of all faith and non-faith backgrounds. It seems that the administration felt that only their direct involvement and monitoring of the group meetings would “offer a balanced approach to faith and reason,” as stated to founder Branden King in the official rejection letter.

I can assure you that faith and reason were present in every SOFT-mediated event I attended. Throughout my involvement from the very beginning, I have been met with a wealth of knowledge and experience presented to me by individuals of varying faith backgrounds. I participated in some truly fascinating discussions where contemporary issues were critiqued and analyzed from virtually all sides.

I recently attended a UD Speaker Series event in which Eboo Patel keynoted the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration. Patel, an Indian-born American Muslim, is founder of the global movement promoting interfaith cooperation.

That’s right. A Muslim-American speaking—preaching, one might argue—about the importance of interfaith dialogue, highlighted by his reverence for a famous Baptist minister.

I couldn’t help but feel confused that the very university who invited such a diverse speaker would attempt to silence an entire group of students wishing to speak openly in their own attempt at interfaith cooperation.

Just a couple of years ago, in 2010, Patel published an article in Newsweek titled “Beyond Aggressive Atheism.”

In it, he declares that “Atheists today are partnering with religious groups to do service projects; dialoguing and engaging with other religious groups and organizations on campus; and changing the public discourse through blogs... Sounds a heck of a lot like interfaith leadership to me.”

Regrettably, I do not think he was familiar with the University of Dayton back then.

The Society of Freethinkers fits perfectly into Eboo Patel’s definition of “interfaith cooperation,” but there is an unfortunate inconsistency between what the University of Dayton promotes to its students—via diverse lecture series—and what they allow the students to practice themselves.

ELIZABETH FOWLER
CLASS OF 2012
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Flyer News policy

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University of Dayton head coach Archie Miller has said his team’s games against Xavier University are taken seriously. Dayton gets another shot at defeating its rival when Xavier visits UD Arena on Saturday, Feb. 16, at noon.

"From my perspective, since I’ve arrived here, we’ve approached this game in a very serious tone," Miller said. "I’m sure Xavier always will approach this game with [one]."

Dayton (13-11, 4-6) is coming off a 75-72 loss against the University of Rhode Island on Wednesday, Feb. 13. The loss moved Dayton’s record in games decided by six points or fewer to 2-8.

Dayton has won three of the last four meetings between the two schools at UD Arena, most recently being an 87-72 winner on Jan. 21, 2012.

“I think the attitude in practice and the consistency we’ve had all year pretty much all year, but most recently in the month of January needs to stay the same,” he said. “As a competitor this is the arena you want to be in.”

Last month, Xavier (14-9, 7-3) extended Dayton’s futility streak in Cincinnati to 32 years and 28 straight games with a 66-61 win on Jan. 30 at the Cintas Center. Redshirt sophomore forward Matt Derenbecker missed a shot at a game-tying 3-pointer with seconds remaining.

Xavier comes into Saturday’s match up winning two of its last three since the two teams first meeting, most recently defeating Fordham University in Cincinnati, on Wednesday.

Xavier was picked to finish ninth in the conference this season, one spot behind Dayton in the preseason A-10 poll. While Xavier has exceeded those expectations so far, currently putting itself in position for a shot at a bye in the conference tournament, Dayton has underperformed and is fighting to earn a trip altogether. Only the top-12 finishers in the final conference standings compete in the season-end tournament.

“Archie always talks about whoever wins the backboards wins the game,” redshirt senior forward Josh Benson said. “Probably 99 percent of that is true. We just have to keep our same rebounding mentality, and we have to defend.”

Miller said the battle on the boards is important for his team to win in every game.

"That has to be a staple for our team to be successful, not only on the offensive backboard but in particular on the defensive backboard," Miller said. "Of course, this is a vital conference game for us as well so we can stay in the race."

The teams overall have performed close to each other in rebounding this season, as both average around 35 boards while out-rebounding their opponents by close to five per game. It was a key stat in the first meeting, as Xavier had the upper hand with a dominating 36-18 edge, with more than half of its total coming on the offensive end.

"Archie always talks about who wins the backboards wins the game," redshirt senior forward Josh Benson said. "Probably 99 percent of that is true. We just have to keep our same rebounding mentality, and we have to defend."
Goals set high as anticipation for 2013 season grows

Mickey Shuey
Chief Sports Writer

The University of Dayton softball team has a short list of expectations this year: play together, dominate on the pitchers mound and make a statement in the A-10 tournament.

According to head coach Cara LaPlaca, the team spent most of its fall schedule getting to know each other, and it seems to have paid off.

“It was [a good showing] up and down the line,” LaPlaca said. “We had a lot of consistency and the players were able to set the tone for their chemistry.

“We have a veteran pitching staff... we [hope] will carry us beyond where we’ve been the past couple of years.”

After going 22-29 and finishing just short of a second-straight Atlantic 10 Conference tournament appearance a year ago, the team not only expects to make this year’s tournament but possibly win it.

Despite being picked 9th in the A-10 this year, seniors like [infielder] Carlyn Maloof are big factors,” she said. Maloof enters her senior year four doubles away from becoming the all-time leader in the category in program history.

She said the concept of being a team player has been something driven into them since the first day of workouts.

“It’s something that’s on my radar,” she said. “I think it’s cool, but the focus for me is to help the team.”

According to LaPlaca, such an approach will come in handy throughout the year, starting with a season opening trip to Denton, Texas, for the Lovelace Invitational hosted by North Texas University.

The Flyers will open their schedule Friday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m. against the University of Iowa, with a game against the University of Nebraska immediately afterward. On Saturday, Feb. 16, the Flyers will face Oklahoma State University and the host North Texas. It will close out the first weekend slate with a second game against Nebraska on Sunday, Feb. 17.

“For us, the non-conference schedule is a great tune-up time before starting conference play,” LaPlaca said.

Of the 51 games on the 2013 schedule, the Flyers will play 21 at home, which Maloof said is something her teammates are looking forward to.

“We have a stretch of three weeks where we play all home games,” she said. “This is something I’ve never really had a chance to do in my time here.”

Even so, Maloof said the team has no intention of overlooking other games, adding the team has an approach of taking it one game at a time this season.

LaPlaca said that the team is rich in talent, with players like redshirt sophomore infield Jordan Jennings and junior catcher Kasie Vasquez taking on larger roles this year.

“We have players who have experienced success here,” she said.

With our freshmen, we have even more talent, too.”

In hoping for a trip back to the A-10 tournament, held in Amherst, Mass., from May 8 through May 12, LaPlaca said she feels the potential of this year’s team has a chance to be one of the program’s best ever.

“We just need to focus on the game, stick together and give it our all,” she said. “Then we can be the team we want to be.”

Olympics drop wrestling; Big Ten Conference FCS foes

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, it was announced the IOC plans to drop all wrestling events, freestyle and the aforementioned Greco-Roman styles, from the 2020 Summer Olympic games.

Wrestling is an original Olympic sport that was conducted in Athens in 1896. The United States has won 36 percent of the medals all-time in the sport, but the majority came in the early era of the sport. Starting with just five men representing four nations in 1896, the sport has grown where at the 2012 London Olympics, 71 nations were represented with 29 of them winning a medal. The exclusion of wrestling must be more than an American outrage, but a worldwide gathering.

In the Feb. 8 issue of Flyer News, I wrote about the ridiculousness that the summer games are becoming the events being chosen to stay and go. Little did I know, at the time of writing about it, that only a week would pass before the IOC would continue to prove its stupidity.

We won’t know where the games that year will be held until Sept. 7 when the IOC officially elects its location. The final three are down to Istanbul, Turkey; Madrid, Spain or Tokyo, Japan.

No matter where it’s held, a huge mistake has been made that needs to be corrected by voting it back on the schedule in May during the final eight spot vote for one spot.

Big Ten Conference schools vow to stop scheduling Football Championship Subdivision opponents

On Aug. 30, 2014, you can bet the University of Michigan football programs plans to get revenge on Appalachian State University for its monumental upset in 2007.

Thankfully, it should be among the last time we see these type of games played.

ESPN.com reported on Tuesday, Feb. 12, that University of Wisconsin Athletic Director Barry Alvarez told a local radio station that its member schools have decided to stop scheduling opponents below the Football Bowl Subdivision level in its non-conference games.

I applaud this move in so many ways.

Schools that are in one of the six Bowl Championship Series automatic bid conference have been scheduling these games for far too long after the NCAA allowed schools to add a 12th game to their schedules and counting a win over FCS toward the six wins needed to become a bowl eligible.

In fact, in the first week of the 2012 college football season, 77 games were contested involving a school at the FBS level. Among those games, 38, or barely under half, were against a school in the FCS level. That is awful for what should be a celebrated opening week of the return of football.

It doesn’t end there though, as by the fourth full week of the season in 2012, 35 percent of all games played involving an FBS school were still against an FCS level opponent.

Next year is not any better of a start, as 25 of these games have already been scheduled for next year’s opening week of games.

You cannot completely say that these games should not be played because of how overmatched FCS schools should be, because of games like ASU and Michigan, as well as James Madison University defeating Virginia Tech University in 2010.

But those type of upsets are as rare as these schools getting multi-million dollar contracts to come lose, which is essentially what FBS schools are asking them to do.

Alvarez in the interview was quoted as having said the Big Ten’s non-conference schedules are unappealing with the way they look from FCS schools comprising them. I could not agree more, and hope that this move will be the first step in ridding games like this from being scheduled at all across college football.
Women’s Basketball

UD READY FOR SHOWDOWN WITH DUQUESNE

DAN WHITAKER
Asst. Sports Editor

The University of Dayton women’s basketball team will put its undefeated conference record on the line when it faces off against Duquesne University on Monday, Feb. 18, at 9 p.m. at UD Arena.

The Flyers (21-1, 9-0 A-10) are ranked in the top 25 of both major polls for the 13th consecutive week, ranked No. 17 in the AP Top 25 poll and No. 15 in the USA Today Coaches poll.

Meanwhile, the Dukes are putting together a good season of their own, as they are currently 19-5 overall and 8-2 in the Atlantic 10.

The Dukes have also won both of their games against top 25 opponents this season, defeating then No. 17 University of Delaware on Dec. 20, 2012. For head coach Jim Jabir, who won his 400th career game on Sunday, Feb. 10, against Fordham University, said he is not treating this game as any different than any other team Dayton has faced this season.

“Every game in the conference is important, every game is critical,” Jabir said. “As we get close to the end of the season, every game will get more difficult, so none of them are any more or less important.”

As for redshirt senior forward Brittany Wilson, having played in this level of a game before, she said she and her teammates know what to expect come Monday. “It’s going to be like a boxing match,” Wilson said. “It’s not going to be an easy game by any means. It’ll always be a dog fight in conference games. In the end, it’s all about who wants it the most.”

The Flyers are led this season by junior forward Wumi Agunbiade, who leads the team in scoring with 13.3 points per game, as well as blocks with 38 on the season.

The leader on the defensive side of the ball, in which Duquesne is holding teams to 51.2 points, as well as forcing 23 turnovers on average, is senior guard Jocelyn Floyd, who leads the A-10 in steals with 112 on the season.

According to Jabir, the inside game is going to be a key focus point for the Flyers. “Both of their post players are talented, both have the ability to go crazy on us,” Jabir said. “We just need to control the game on defense, and not let them get inside.”

For the Flyers, this game not only represents a key conference game, it is also their second nationally televised game, as well as their latest start time for a game this season.

Despite the caliber of the game, and the potential distractions, Wilson said that the team is ready to handle any and all pressure. “Even though we’re playing late, and on television, we have to play hard UD basketball,” Wilson said. “We just have to handle the pressure, and we’ll be fine.”

As part of the being on the national stage, UD Arena is putting on a promotion benefiting the American Heart Association by selling $1 general admission tickets to fans who wear red to the game. The first 700 fans will also receive a coach Jabir “face stick.”

Amid all of the fanfare and promotions, Jabir just hopes to see an energized and a great game day atmosphere Monday night. “I hope we have a great crowd, it’s a nationally televised game, so I hope we have a great atmosphere,” Jabir said. “We’re going to give it our best effort, and hopefully we can come out on top.”

Track and Field

Flyers prep for A-10 Indoor Championships at Hoosier Hills

TOM STANKARD
Staff Writer

The University of Dayton track and field team headed to Bloomington, Ind., for the second time this season on Friday, Feb. 8, and Saturday, Feb. 9, to participate in the Hoosier Hills hosted by Indiana University.

The Flyers entered the competition after an impressive third place finish at the Youngstown State Invitational on Feb. 2, scoring 130 points overall.

UD took advantage of the Hoosier Hills to prepare for the A-10 Track and Field Indoor Championships coming around the corner on Saturday, Feb. 16.

“We just had a couple of athletes compete in the meet,” said head coach Jason Francis. “Those who competed were those who have been injured and didn’t get some early competition in. We tried to use that for final preparation for this weekend.”

Senior sprinter Jada Henderson represented UD in the 60 meter sprint, running past the finish line in 7.99, earning 13th place.

In the 600 meters, Lang completed the race in a time of 1:45.61 in 16th place. Behind her, Maj came across in 1:48.02, placing 17th.

Junior sprinter Noelle Taziol finished the 200 meter race in 25.41 for fourth place, setting a new personal best and finishing with the second fastest time by a Flyer ever recorded at this distance. Not far behind, Henderson past the finish line in ninth place in 25.48, trailed by junior hurdler Cassie Grandstaff in 12th place with a time of 25.68.

Francis said the Hoosier Hills was a good tune up for next week, as the meet was beneficial for the athletes who competed. He said there’s no room for improvement this late in the season with the championships taking place next week.

“At this point in the season, we are who we are,” Francis said. “We just need to control the game on defense, and not let them get inside.”

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