Christmas is All Around

Maura O’Reilly ’23, Rachel Swan ’23, and Cameron Landers ’24, editors of The Gates, teamed up to gather some fun Christmas favorites from around campus for this special 12th Day of Christmas issue!

See their interactive story on p. 3. Enjoy!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

by Katie Onderdonk ’23

Changes are happening here at The Gates! I am super excited to announce that we are launching a new platform and giving our school newspaper a bit of a makeover. With our new digital platform, it will be much easier for you to access The Gates online. In honor of this shift, the newspaper staff thought it would be a great idea to highlight the designs of The Gates from years past.

We hope you enjoy our new look and welcome your feedback!
Shelby on Cinema

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

by Shelby Parker ’26

Because of Chadwick Boseman’s passing in 2020, many were skeptical about how the sequel to Black Panther (released in 2018) would turn out. A script was already in the works; however, many vital aspects were changed or removed entirely. All that was left was the grief and respect for Boseman, effectively conveyed by director Ryan Coogler via the film itself. In the end, Coogler did a phenomenal job of expanding Black Panther’s rich storyline while at the same time honoring the actor’s legacy as T’Challa. Watching this tribute made it feel like we were mourning the late Black Panther. The accolade was tasteful, respectful, and concise. The sequel lived up to the first movie, and I think Boseman, who succumbed to colon cancer at 43 years old, would be pleased.

Compared to the first movie, the CGI here was dramatically improved, showcasing the technology behind the designs, costumes, makeup, weapons, and architecture. The film was often mind-blowing, and I give kudos to the director, the actors, and countless others who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create such a memorable experience. As for the story, tensions mount when other countries begin hunting down vibranium, and a new nation is introduced. The leader of this society is Namor, a human-Atlantean hybrid determined to protect his people. Shuri declines to help, instead teaming with an aspiring inventor named Riri (Dominique Thorne) and Wakandan army general Okoye (Danai Gurira) to mobilize Wakandans against Namor and his nation.

Like many viewers, I was pleased by the Latino and indigenous representation. It was breathtaking to see another beautiful POC nation thriving. The film exceeded my expectations, so I am thrilled to give it 4.5 out of 5 stars. But why only 4.5? I was willing to sit through a two-and-a-half-hour film, but I felt it really could have been shorter. There were many drawn-out elements that were unnecessary. Despite its length, however, I would recommend this movie to everyone.

It’s a Wrap

Fiona Amos ’23

ND’s excellent theater program finished its production of Legally Blonde, the musical, on November 12! It was an energetic and comedic production that definitely got people laughing and engaged. The opening number, “Omigod You Guys,” included the entire cast—and really captivated the entire audience! The performers and crew worked hard in the weeks and months leading up to the production, and all of their efforts definitely showed in their outstanding performance. The musical preview for ND students and staff (held on Friday, November 11) showcased four major songs to give an idea of what the show was all about. Opening night was nothing short of show-stopping. In the lead role as Elle Woods, 10th grader Sadie Locke truly brought her A-game and led the whole rest of the cast to greatness. Closing night, November 12, was even better. The whole cast seemed natural and comfortable under the lights, and the audience was laughing and engaged the whole show—a job well done by the ND theater program. Special shout-out to directors Mrs. Devenney, Mrs. Miller, and Dr. Klause for once again staging a spectacular show.

Give us more, you say? What’s next? The next show coming to our stage, this time courtesy of the Middle School, will be Matilda Jr. (more about this production in the coming months).
Christmastime is (Still) Here!

**Continued from pg 1**

We collected answers from all over the ND campus. The results will shock you.

OK, not really. But they’ll probably inspire you to pour one last egg nog before the season’s over. You can watch Cameron Landers, ‘24, gathering holiday favorites in her car, or hear Lorna Petrizzo ‘23 waxing festive on the season. Be sure to listen to the favorite holiday tunes captured here, and maybe try a few fun recipes!

Our heartfelt thanks to all of the faculty contributors to this piece!

**What is your favorite Christmas carol?**

*What Sweeter Music* by 17th-century poet Robert Herrick, “A Christmas Carol, Sung to the King in the Presence at White-Hall” There is a lovely musical setting by John Rutter. (DJC)

“Twelve Days of Christmas” (TW)

“Quelle est cette odeur agréable?” Beautifully sung here by VOCES8 (ML)

“The Twelve Days of Christmas” (TW)

“O Holy Night” I am a sucker for the “fall on your knees” crescendo! And I love “Mary Did You Know” but only when NDU Women’s Chorale sings it. (JT)

“Santa Claus is Coming to Town” (EP)

“Do They Know it’s Christmastime?” (LM)

“Carol of the Bells” (TM)

“Run Run Rudolph” (MM)

“Good King Wenceslas” by the Roches (SW)

“Dominick the Donkey” (JR)

“Jingle Bell” (Rui Deng)

“O Tannenbaum” (in German) My father used to play this one on an old record from Germany given to him by his father. When I was about 6, I finally asked what the lyrics meant, and I fell in love with the line “Du grüßt mich in Sommerzeit / und auch im Winter wenn es schneit” - You greet me in the summer time, and also in the winter when it snows. (AL)

**What’s for breakfast on Christmas?**

French toast souffle (TW)

French toast casserole (JT)

Scrambled eggs with bacon (MM) and donuts (LL)

Scrambled eggs and ham casserole (SW)

Coffee. A bigggg cup. (JR)

**What’s your go-to holiday movie?**

Elf. on Christmas Eve (JLP, LL, RD)

Best Man Holiday (TW)

The Muppet Christmas Carol (THE best movie adaptation of the book.) (ML, TM)

It’s a Wonderful Life (JT)

Planes, Trains and Automobiles (MM)

The Family Stone (EP)

A Christmas Story (1W)

One Magic Christmas (SW)


**What is a favorite gift you’ve given or received?**

Favorite gift you have ever given someone?

My favorite gift I’ve given was one that my siblings and I gave to my parents. We gave them a gift certificate to an old, fancy restaurant called Le Bec Fin. I think it was the first gift from us that my parents genuinely enjoyed. (KM)

An Evan Piccone camel hair peacoat from Leo at a time when we really couldn’t afford it. (SW)

My favorite gift ever was a portrait of my dog. (RD)

My favorite gift ever received was a claddagh ring with my birthstone from my parents. (PP)

**Rachel and Maura’s holiday favorites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rachel</th>
<th>Maura</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite Christmas Carol?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Favorite Christmas Carol?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>O Come Let Us Adore Him</td>
<td>“Hallelujah” (by Pentatonix)</td>
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<td><strong>Go-to holiday movie?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Go-to holiday movie?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elf</td>
<td>Christmas Vacation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What’s for breakfast on Christmas morning?</strong></td>
<td><strong>What’s for breakfast on Christmas morning?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>French toast, sticky buns, and bacon.</td>
<td>Santa Waffles</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Favorite gift ever</strong></td>
<td><strong>Favorite gift ever</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>One year I received a cotton-candy maker. The cotton candy tasted just like the kind on the Boardwalk.</td>
<td>I gave my dad the idea to take my mom to see Hamilton, and she ended up taking me instead. So it worked perfectly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The right time to decorate and turn on the Christmas music?</td>
<td>The right time to decorate and turn on the Christmas music?</td>
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<tr>
<td>The day after Thanksgiving.</td>
<td>November 1st</td>
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<td>The best Christmas cookie?</td>
<td>The best Christmas cookie?</td>
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<tr>
<td>My mom’s spritz cookies.</td>
<td>Peanut Butter Blossoms</td>
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<td><strong>Favorite Christmas treat?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Favorite Christmas treat?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peppermint bark.</td>
<td>Hot Chocolate</td>
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<td><strong>The most important thing about Christmas?</strong></td>
<td><strong>The most important thing about Christmas?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior</td>
<td>Spending time with family</td>
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INTERVIEW WITH
Cameron
from the Car

Lorna
Waxes
Festive

Rachel
Maura

INTERVIEW WITH
Rachel
Maura

Rachel
Maura
Let’s make sure we don’t bury the lede: Despite the sad news that Coach Adele has decided to step down as head coach, she will definitely not be leaving the ND field hockey community. In fact, she has chosen instead to take on the role of Director of Coaching. At my interview with her last week, she assured us all that the team will definitely see her watching their games and occasionally still coming to practice to observe.

Over her twenty-one years of coaching field hockey, Coach Adele has had many great achievements, but the one that stands out to her the most is the PAISAA Championship in 2011. This was the first time that ND field hockey (or “Nockey” as the players call it) had ever won the championship, and it certainly is a memory that will not be forgotten. Over Coach Adele’s many years as a coach, she has always fostered an atmosphere in which the players work hard but also enjoy themselves and have fun in. She says that kind of environment is something that has remained extremely important to her over time, because Nockey became her second family when she came to the United States from South Africa in 2001. Everyone agrees she has had an enormous impact on the Nockey community, making it what it is today.

SD: How did you end up being the head coach for Notre Dame field hockey?
AW: I remember it was July and I had two interviews scheduled, one with Notre Dame and one with another school in the area. I went to the Notre Dame interview and went home for a few minutes in between. I got ready for my second interview and walked out to my car, and lo and behold, it wouldn’t start. I ended up having to postpone my second interview that day, but I got the call from Notre Dame saying that I got the job. I thought, ‘Well that must say something.’ I knew it was meant to be.

SD: What would you say are your greatest achievements?
AW: Definitely the PAISAA Championship in 2011. It was the first time we won it and there was a huge dog pile of winning players in the middle of the field. That dog pile is something that will probably stay in my mind for a long time.

SD: What is the most important aspect of the Nockey community to you?
AW: I’ve always wanted an environment where I know the girls will have fun. Family is also important for me. When I originally came from South Africa in 2001, this became my second family. Family is huge for me, especially when it comes to this team, because I believe that you would do anything for family.

SD: And what will you miss the most about being head coach of Nockey?
AW: Honestly, the day-to-day interactions with the players. It’s the little things—the little comments here and the little joke there. I have already started thinking about how much I will miss that.

Speaking as a member of the field hockey team and as the Sports Editor of The Gates, I know that we will, too, Coach Adele! All of us thank you so much for your years of hard work and dedication to the Nockey community, and we congratulate you on your successful athletics career!