

## EDITORIAL BOARD

## Panama hits the papers

*WE SAY: Rally against the injustices exposed by the Panama Papers*

If you haven't heard of the Panama Papers or don't know what they mean, then this is your chance for a brief insight into the thousand of pages of documents leaked last week.

As it turns out, the stereotypical trope of rich people hiding all of their money in a Swiss bank account is actually true, except the accounts happen to be in Panama.

The world's richest and most powerful people invest their money in fake business in order to avoid taxation.

This results in \$21 to \$32 trillion in untaxed income globally, according to the Tax Justice Network.

It's easy to skim over that figure without a second glance, but try to appreciate just how much money that is.

The lowest estimate, for instance, is well above our

entire national debt.

One writer from Forbes estimates if the share of money belonging to the United States had been taxed, we would have received \$100 billion annually — an amount that covers Bernie Sanders' plan to provide tuition-free college to everyone without raising taxes.

This is the importance of the Panama Papers. It reveals just how much the rich, by using loopholes in the system, are cheating their fellow countrymen out of better lives across the globe.

Income equality and tax evasion are important issues for anyone. Social justice, though principally a matter of the heart, might be advanced by economic prosperity.

And the prosperity of the 99 percent is being squandered by the few at the top.



ILLUSTRATION BY MERCER T. SUPPLIER | IDS

## A boost for Sanders against Clinton

While the Panama Papers are tearing through the political sphere in many countries, the United States has avoided most of the shockwaves.

But don't be surprised if that changes.

For one, this scandal may shift the tone of the presidential race by giving credibility to Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign.

The Vermont senator's quest for the Democratic nomination has a laser-like focus on how the wealth and corruption of the billionaire class hurts most Americans.

The Panama Papers force voters to consider Sanders might be on to something.

Even more eye-opening is the fact that, during his fight against a Panama-U.S. free trade agreement in 2011, Sanders took to the Senate floor and issued an eerie warning about how the tax-haven status of Panama could be abused by the ultra-rich.

A new YouTube clip of Sanders' speech, which sounded like bland political speak at the time, has quickly

earned hundreds of thousands of views. Among other things, the senator prophetically singled out Panama as a "world leader" at harboring tax avoidance and evasion.

Sanders, who hasn't lost a state to Clinton in more than three weeks, will likely gain traction as Americans notice his stance against the sleaze.

Clinton's support for the Panama-U.S. trade agreement that Sanders opposed won't make it easier for her.

She may also be scarred by news that her campaign chairman, John Podesta, may have indirect connections to Russian banks and shell companies listed in the Panama Papers.

Still, although the Panama Papers may give the Sanders campaign a shot of adrenaline, this scandal alone likely won't be enough to shatter Clinton's near-insurmountable delegate advantage.

If Sanders doesn't pull off the upset, expect the Panama Papers to continue weighing down Clinton's image all the way to the general election.

## FIFA has a Messi corruption problem

Once again, FIFA has found itself in hot water with the gradual release of the Panama papers.

But this time it's not former president Sepp Blatter, but recently inaugurated president Gianni Infantino.

Arguably the best player in the world, Lionel Messi, is implicated.

Messi, who's currently on trial for tax evasion in Spain, is no stranger to the limelight, and his personal finances are certainly suspect.

It's not surprising, considering how corrupt FIFA is.

After the recent scandal surrounding Blatter and the rest of FIFA had been resolved, there was hope that the organization was past its shadowy past.

Once again, its found itself in hot water, and nobody can truly be surprised by this development.

This time, the documents in question are dealing with the sale of TV rights to a third

party company, which then sold the rights again for three times the price.

Naturally, Infantino, the former secretary general of Union of European Football Associations, has denied any wrongdoing.

There were millions of documents released in the leak, but FIFA's inclusion cannot be overlooked.

The organization can't seem to rid itself of corruption, even if it occurred several years in the past.

The organization has bit off more than it can chew, and its quest to reform itself into a clean organization has hit another snag.

Who knows what other documents will be released concerning FIFA from the Panama Papers. Unfortunately, we'll have to wait and see.

Although world football can be quite lucrative, it's so important for the beautiful game to return to its purest form, without the corruption and scandal its governing body can't seem to shake.

## Anarchy in the UK and a global uprising

British Prime Minister David Cameron admitted his involvement in the Panama Papers and said he held shares from his mother and late father's investment fund from a firm based in the Bahamas.

The Panama Papers leak from the Mossack Fonseca firm revealed Cameron received £200,000, or \$280,000, from his mother and £300,000, or \$400,000, from his late father.

These benefits came from a company that went untaxed for 30 years, and, with the current moral issues the Conservative Party faces, the prime minister faces backlash and calls for resignation in addition to Edward Snowden's call for an uprising.

The Conservative Party, also known as the Tories, is facing increasing pressure to reveal information about the tax returns and end all loopholes in tax evasion.

Cameron defended the investments as "entirely standard practice," the Independent reported.

He should respond

quickly to criticisms and admit his wrongdoings, similar to his advocacy for financial transparency.

Iceland's Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson has stepped down after widespread protests of his family's involvement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has also been implicated as having links with the wealth of secret offshore companies.

While there hasn't been much evidence to show Putin is directly involved in the leaks, investigators are looking into the details to determine how involved, if at all, Putin is.

Putin has rejected any sort of involvement in the deals of the leaks as he said, "There is no subject to discuss," reported the BBC.

Chinese president Xi Jinping's family has stepped up censorship of the news after his brother-in-law was implicated in the papers.

Jinping fears political opposition, as do those in power around the world.

## THE PANAMA PAPERS THE DOCUMENTS HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

The Panama Papers leak has affected global figures and world leaders from all over the globe. Whether directly or indirectly, those implicated have experienced repercussions for their connection to or allegations of involvement with the financial scandal. The sheer size of the leak and the global reach of the scandal means the Panama Papers are having worldwide consequences.



GRAPHIC BY JORDAN RILEY | IDS

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The IDS encourages and accepts letters to be printed daily from IU students, faculty and staff and the public. Letters should not exceed 500 words and may be edited for length and style. Submissions must include the person's name, address and telephone number for verification. Letters without those requirements will not be considered for publication. Letters can be mailed

or dropped off at the IDS, 120 Ernie Pyle Hall, 940 E. Seventh St., Bloomington, Ind., 47405. Submissions can also be sent via e-mail to [letters@idsnews.com](mailto:letters@idsnews.com). Questions can be directed to the IDS at 855-0760.

## CRAZY IS MAJORITY RULES

## The American Dream

I was browsing Scientific American magazine recently and came across an article with some interesting parallels to a few points I made in an opinion column earlier this year, "On the decline of American idealism."

The article brought attention to the notion of the American dream with respect to attaining genetic potential.

Based on the original definition of the term, the article regards having attained the most success possible given one's genetic endowment as true achievement of the American dream.

To test the reality of the American dream using this definition, a 2015 study measured the effect of socioeconomic status on metrics predictive of success such as IQ.

This impact was then compared across countries, with the finding that in many countries besides the United States, people have similar IQs across socioeconomic strata.

This contrasts with the U.S., where socioeconomic status is a strong predictor of IQ. This means other countries represent the ideal of the American dream better than the U.S.

I was interested in how this related to my previous column because of the similar subject matter, namely the absence of the American dream and the decline of American idealism.

I thought perhaps these two topics are related in a meaningful way.

The first noticeable detail here is that the possibility we aren't truly obtaining the American dream could feed into the decline of American idealism.

The second thing I found was that a particular point from my previous column is buoyed by the news about IQ differences across the population.

I mentioned the prophesied decline of American idealism might not be such a bad thing.



JACOB WORRELL is a freshman in neuroscience.

It would give us a chance to reinvent the image of what we want our country to be, as well as how we wish to achieve those ideals.

The kind of results published in this study are exactly why this would be so good.

There seems to be an incongruence between our framework and the ideals it purports to push us toward.

Taken with the first realization, this second point actually shows us the foundation of our country kind of works — we witness here a prime example of rule by the people, in extreme slow-motion.

The fact we're not attaining the American dream showed up in the deterioration of our ideals, which will eventually allow us to open to the sort of reinvention I referenced above.

I admit this point of view requires a great deal of contrivance, but it's refreshing to see an optimistic way in which a person can connect the dots, even if it is, at first, a bit naïve.

It's entirely possible we allow our ideals to deteriorate and never go through the reshaping process, or that people's attention gets gradually diverted over the years and we never even make it to the ideological plane from which we could consider any changes to our government.

That this feedback loop is even apparent to the casual observer means our country has institutionalized structures of governance that make it nearly impossible to attain our ideals.

Nonetheless, I think there is some sliver of tangible optimism to be taken away from this small bit of evidence that our country seems to be working.

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## FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

## Cashing in on athletes

When high school phenomenon Thon Maker announced last week that he would enter the 2016 NBA Draft, IU basketball fans were forced to accept the reality of what they have feared all along.

Maker, a seven-foot tall player with the agility of a point guard, couldn't forego a seven-figure salary and more in sponsorship deals to attend a school like IU to work towards a degree that he will likely never need.

Professional sports are big business and there is a lot of money to be had by team owners and players alike.

The inherent issue in professional sports today lies in the fact players aren't treated as value-adding employees but rather as commodities.

Forget about athletes, most 19-year-olds don't know the first thing about how to successfully lead a financially independent life.

To young adults, there's not much that is more appealing than the prospect of earning more than \$25 million throughout the life of a rookie NBA contract, much like rookie Karl-Anthony Towns is set to do.

Aimed to cash in on athletes in their physical primes, ballooning sports salaries encourage vulnerable youth to concede a valuable education in order to provide financial support to themselves, family and friends.

Team owners and league officials should realize earning the services of prized athletes is a two-way street, and more should be done to educate them on life skills such as money management and living independently.

Leagues are slowly catching on and implementing short rookie transition retreats.

But wide-reaching results have yet to appear.

Former Atlanta Hawks general manager Danny Ferry's claim that Miami's



DANIEL KILCULLEN is a sophomore in marketing and sustainable business.

Luol Deng has "a little African in him" suggests some in the industry view players as little more than prized race-horses.

If those discriminatory comments seem like an aberration, consider the questions NFL scouts ask draft prospects.

The general manager of one unnamed franchise was concerned retired running back Rashard Mendenhall read too many books. "A guy with an expanded worldview, now that's fearful," Mendenhall said ironically of the industry's view toward intellectually curious players.

It's almost as if team owners want players to stay as dumb as possible so teams can continue milking their athletic abilities until they have nothing to offer.

This would leave players to be financially self-sufficient with nothing but the vestigial remains of their career earnings and a high school education.

The opportunities professional sports provide underprivileged youth, and youth in general, allow many to live a life that would be otherwise unfathomable, but problems arise when players are treated like cattle.

Educational forums offered by professional leagues are a good starting point, but more comprehensive measures must be taken, like pairing players with financial advisers.

As athletes work hard to fill arenas, their employers have a clear duty to provide for their employees.

Owners, if you're asking athletes to sell tickets, make sure they can balance a checkbook first.

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## Jordan River Forum

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Therin Showalter, I read the article, "Modern American Christians..." and appreciated the challenge to show equal concern for all sin, not just sexual sin. James 2:10, as pointed out, does indeed express how God regards sin. In committing the slightest sin we have offended God as if we had violated all the commandments of God, and we have shown that we deserve the wrath of God. Since we have all sinned (Romans 3:23), God would be justified in condemning us all to eternal damnation.

A number of sins are listed in the article — divorce, gambling, drunkenness, lying and coveting — as examples of sins found in the Bible. Then it is added, "assuming you interpret the text in the

literal, archaic fashion as the Mississippi legislature." Is there some way of interpreting the Biblical texts that does not identify these practices as sin?

It is insisted that "Christianity doesn't assign value to sins," but "Modern American Christianity... definitely does." However, God definitely assigned "value" to specific sins.

This is true, for example, in the same chapter of the book of Leviticus. In chapter 20, verse 17, we learn that a man who takes his sister "so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness" is to be cut off from their people. They are to be excommunicated. However, in verse 14, "a man who marries a woman and her mother — both he

and they shall be burned with fire." And in verse 13, "if there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, — they shall surely be put to death." God's instruction to His people was not to treat all sin alike. It is actually shameful that modern evangelical Christians tolerate infidelity, gambling, drunkenness, lying and coveting the way we do, as if they are not sinful.

God does not tolerate any of these. He hates all sin. Why else would He demand the death of His Son as payment for sin? It is an accurate observation that we often give too little thought to these sins. But that doesn't mean we should equally disregard sexual sin. And the Bible does call adultery, homosexuality and sex, apart from that

between a husband and his wife, sin.

Finally, regarding Ephesians 2:8-9, this text in no way dismisses sin. In its context it explains how God has dealt with sin. We are all sinners, though we do not commit all of the same sins.

This text addresses how God saves sinners. He does not dismiss the sinfulness of sin. His Son bore the sin of His people and suffered the punishment that we deserved for that sin. By the grace of God, through faith in this substitutionary work of Jesus Christ, God saves us. Apart from faith in Christ, there is no salvation — for the sexual offender, the liar or the drunkard.

Rev. Dr. David A. Crum  
Bloomington

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I was recently in a discussion regarding Indiana Senate Bill 35, which criminalizes using the wrong gendered bathroom. Much of the discourse revolved around feeling safe in a bathroom, the possibility of being sexually harassed, protecting children, and so on. Much of the public discussion I have heard

around this topic has been of a similar nature. The frustrating thing about this is most people are falling for the political ploy that this legislation is. It is not about protecting women or children, it is absolutely about discriminating against transgendered individuals.

There have been zero cases of reported sexual as-

saults perpetrated by transgendered people. There also has never been a case of a man dressing like a woman for the purposes of sexually assaulting a woman in the lady's room. With the progression of LGBT rights, let us stop falling for lawmaker's disingenuous attempts at pretending to protect the "innocent."

If Indiana wants to improve its image, protecting those that are clearly discriminated against, such as transgendered people, should be the first action lawmakers take instead of creating laws to stop a phantom problem.

Joe Linky  
Bloomington

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I've recently learned about a bill that is waiting to be passed, Senate Bill 35.

I don't think anyone should support it because it is simply ridiculous to monitor the restroom use of others. This bill states that it would prevent transgender people from using the same restroom as the one they identify with. So if they were to walk

into the restroom that they are not biologically identified with, then they would be fined.

Why does it matter whether this person truly identifies as a man or a woman? If they mean no harm, then why should we worry? If I have to use the restroom why would I care if the person next to me who

identifies themselves as a woman is really a woman or man? Why would I want someone who identifies themselves as a woman that looks like a woman to have to go pee in a men's restroom because that was their given gender? It honestly comes off as a tug of war with power and control.

Ever since the same-sex

marriage law, it seems as if they are finding ways to pick at LGBT community in any way possible. I feel this bill is ridiculous, and I hope it is not amended. By amending this bill you are simply fining others' restroom use of their preference.

Victoria Gee  
Bloomington, Ind.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a young Christian seeking to define my identity, I have never identified myself as an LGBT activist. I have, however, identified myself as someone who rejects mistreatment, injustice and hate.

Statistics have shown that trans individuals have a

higher risk of being victimized by sexual assault, harassment and hate crimes as awful as homicide. Statistics also fail to report substantial evidence of trans individuals using their identity to harass or violate cisgender individuals in restrooms. There seems

to be a FAULTY assumption that transgender is synonymous with sexual predator.

Everyone desires to be safe and ensure the safety of our loved ones, but fighting over who gets to use which room to dispose of their bodily waste is not an argu-

ment of safety, but a childish way to show disapproval of individual choices. We should not allow Indiana Senate Bill 35 to be entertained any longer.

Jamie Johanson  
Bloomington

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Most of us are familiar with the Jared Fogle case involving child exploitation and child pornography. Jared was caught with the possession of over 600 images of child pornography. On top of that, he had numerous sexual encounters with minors between the ages of 12 and 17 years old. As one of his punishments, Jared paid his "victims" \$100,000 each, which totaled \$1.4 million. Jared is currently serving a 15-year sentence. But is that even a good enough punishment for the crime that was

committed?

Senate Bill 14, authored by Sen. Randall Head, was recently passed to up the convicts of child exploitation and child pornography crimes. This takes child exploitation crimes to a level 5 felony and child pornography crimes to a level 6 felony. Yes, many of you may read this and say, "why is this relevant?" or "this is not an issue that even happens in Indiana, let alone the U.S." Unfortunately, this is not the case at all.

There have been quite a few reported cases of teens

and children being trafficked in Indianapolis. Some of these young girls are "pimped out" by their own mothers and families. I am shocked by the fact that this is an issue underreported here in Indiana.

Through research on this topic, I was unable to find any true statistics because they place this issue under child abuse and child neglect. This is important to talk about. If we continue to sweep this issue under the rug and not talk about it, how are we very going to protect these

children from these disgusting crimes?

How are we going to give a voice to children and empower them when we turn a deaf ear to issues that no person at any age should ever have to experience? We speak a lot about how children are the future of this country. For our future to be "successful," we need to protect, care, educate, and empower our youth. The passing of this bill is a step in the right direction.

Courtney Sebo  
Bloomington

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

With the passing of House Bill 1337 in the Indiana Senate, our favorite governor has proven that Indiana is not pro-woman. This bill makes it ever more difficult for women to get an abortion, now banning a woman from the service if she seeks an abortion based on the fetus's sex, race or disability.

Additionally, women who wish to get abortions now have to jump through even more hoops, which includes a mandatory

counseling session at least 18 hours before the procedure and the option to view an ultrasound before the procedure.

Sure, a good handful of Indiana state senators claim to be pro-life. But are they really? Do they really care about the fetus's life outside the womb? If a fetus is born with a disability, whether it be Down Syndrome or something terminal, who's helping the mother take care of that baby? Indiana? Nope.

Now we have women who may be financially unable to provide necessary care to children born with disabilities unable to get an abortion. Republican State Senator Vaneta Becker, R-Dist. 50, proposed a solution by adding an amendment to HB 1337 that would require the state to give assistance to these women. Reasonable, but too lofty. The amendment was defeated. The passing of HB 1337 proves that many who claim to be

pro-life are in fact pro-fetus. Pro-life senators who voted for this bill seem to care about the baby as it grows in the womb, but the second it is born to a mother who isn't ready financially, emotionally, or otherwise, the pro-life senators refuse to provide assistance to allow that baby to grow up healthy and happy. God forbid the mother goes on welfare.

Amanda Nagy  
Bloomington