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Funds complete for building project

Spes Unica Hall will ultimately be the most expensive construction project in College's history

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

When the 2008 fall semester begins at Saint Mary's this August, students will attend many classes in a building completed after the most expensive construction project in College history.

Spes Unica Hall is a new academic building currently under construction on the northeast side of campus. Fundraising for the building has recently been completed, and the building is set to open for classes in the fall.

The total cost of the project is $19.2 million, making it the most expensive construction project in College history. The building was entirely paid for in donations, without putting to use any other college funds, said Saint Mary's spokesperson Gwen O'Brien. More than 600 donations came in from faculty, staff, alumnae, students and friends of the College, she said.

College President Carol Ann Mooney said the opening of the building will allow continued growth at Saint Mary's.

"This building represents our future — a future that will see us ever more ambitious and ever more widely recognized for the excellent education of women," she said. "I am most grateful to our donors for their commitment to our mission and vision."

The building's name, Spes Unica, is Latin for "our only hope" and refers to the cross of Jesus Christ. It is the motto of both Saint Mary's and the College's founding order, the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The name was chosen by one of the significant donors to the project, O'Brien said.

"A number of names for the academic building were considered; however, when the name Spes Unica was considered, it spoke to our mission," said Shari Rodriguez, vice president of College Relations.

Ground was broken on this 65,000 square-foot building in the fall of 2006. Spes Unica will house 13 of the 20 academic departments at Saint Mary's, as well as the Center for Academic Innovation, the Center for Spirituality and the Center for Women's

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College of A&L sells own course packets

Professors seek alternatives to limit costs for course materials using electronic reserves

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

Students can buy Arts and Letters course packets this semester directly through the College of Arts and Letters in Decio Hall, though professors may still sell packets through the Hammes Bookstore.

Some professors are also trying to help students save money by placing materials online on e-reserves, as an alternative to selling hard copy packets.

Last semester, the College's decision to consolidate course packet distribution by selling all packets through the Bookstore met with dissatisfaction by students who found the packets significantly more expensive than previous semesters.

Robert Becht, director of Finance and Administration for the College of Arts and Letters, said that with the new arrangement, the College of Arts and Letter's copy organization Design, Copy and Logistic (DCL) Services can sell course packets itself and still allow students to buy them at one location and pay with their student accounts. Instead of selling course packets at multiple locations throughout campus, all of DCL Service's packets are now sold in a Decio Hall conference room.

"We made the decision to bring the retail sales back to our [operations], and it made

see PACKETS/page 4

CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA / The Observer

Senior Jeff Simmer, a computer science and engineering major, reads a course packet for his engineering class.

Dining hall theft still rampant

12,960 spoons, 216 trays missing in 2007

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

It's not everyday that students walk out of South Dining Hall carrying long wooden tables and chairs back to their dorm rooms, but missing items from both campus dining halls have added up during the 2007 calendar year.

Notre Dame Dining Hall managers reported that losses of plates, utensils, bowls and cups have been similar to losses experienced in prior years, said Dave Prentkowski, director of Food Services.

Some of the most frequently pilfered items are glasses, silverware and bowls, said Mary Ann Sobieralski, head monitor at South Dining Hall. Since students have been able to bring their backpacks into the dining hall, monitors do not see many students taking items, she said.

The policy of students being able to bring their backpacks into dining areas has been in place for about five or six years, said Marc Poklinkowski, general manager of food services at South Dining Hall. Food Services has no plans to discontinue allowing bags in the dining halls.

It is impossible to monitor everyone in dining halls, since South Dining Hall alone can accommodate between 800 and 900 students at one time, Poklinkowski said.

see THEFT/page 6

Choir tries Trappist lifestyle

By MEG MIRSHAK
News Writer

During winter break, the Notre Dame Folk Choir spent four days on retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani, observing the lives of Trappist Monks and reflecting in an environment with limited distraction.

Fifty of the 55 choir members embarked Jan. 11 for Trappist, Ky., where they focused on personal relationships before beginning the second semester of the academic year.

Founded in the 1970s, the Folk Choir combines traditional choral repertoire with contemporary music. Today, the choir uses instrumentalists such as guitar, violin and flute to accompany the organ and choral voices.

Every two years, the Folk Choir tries to make a retreat to the Abbey of Gethsemani, said

see CHOIR/page 6

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME FOLK CHOIR

The Notre Dame Folk Choir spent four days in Trappist, Ky., as part a retreat over winter break.

Stanford Hall mourns loss of beloved 'Honey'

By BRIAN McKENZIE
News Writer

Two weeks before they returned to campus, Stanford Hall residents were notified through e-mail about the loss of dorm dog Honey.

Honey, a golden retriever, was 15 years old.

Residents were affected by the loss of Honey, who was described as a "comforting presence" by Assistant Rector Dan Sathre.

Stanford Rector Father Tom Gaughan said Honey was "very gentle and people-friendly."

"She was like a little person with a tail," Gaughan said. He jokingly listed Honey on the duty-board as an RA.

"She's always on duty, always looking out for the guys here," he said.

He said that he planned to keep up Honey's plaque for the year. Gaughan adopted her when she was nearly eight-years old, and she passed away at the age of 15 years.

"We spent seven years, nine months and one week together," Gaughan said.

He said that he wanted Honey's memory to encourage adoption, especially of older dogs. Priests at Notre Dame have been unable to get permission to adopt new pets since 2001, Gaughan said. Pets like Honey, who was adopted in 1999, were grandfathered in under the old rules that allowed pets.

"If that policy changes [again], I would be open to adopting again but I don't foresee that happening soon," Gaughan said.

see HONEY/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Thank you, trailblazers

Chris Khorey

Sports Editor

When I was a kid, I had a paper route.

Like most paper boys, I quickly learned that I could deliver papers more efficiently if I didn't walk back to the sidewalk and just went straight from door to door through peoples' yards.

This worked great for eight-months out of the year. Except for the house with the stupid waist-high brick wall that I either had to walk all the way around or vault over with a sack full of newspapers on my back. But I digress.

At any rate, eight months out of the year, I had pretty free reign across the front yards of the neighborhood. But when Michigan winters hit, my path was suddenly blocked with snow.

But not for long.

For the first couple days after the snow fell, I would put on my snow pants and trudge through the route. I made absolutely sure to walk over the same route every day.

After a few repetitions, the snow was packed down so much that I didn't need snow pants any more. Even when it snowed again, there was still a trench that I could walk through, leading from door to door to door with minimal snow coverage. A couple times, I watched the mail man follow my "paper boy trail."

I'm sure I wasn't the only kid that ever did this. So why does this merit an inside column?

Because I want to thank everyone that does it at Notre Dame. Last Friday, I walked from DeBartolo to the Pasquerilla Center. I cut across Library Quad at an angle without walking on a sidewalk — and without getting my feet wet.

There are countless places across campus where this is possible - another one of my favorites is the angle between the north end of O'Shaughnessy and the front door of Riley. They're shortcuts without sidewalks, but without snow either.

Shortcuts like these are even more essential with post-football construction season heating up. I live in Siegfried — almost one-third of my dorm is surrounded by fencing where the new CSC building is going up. I already have to walk around that construction site to get anywhere — if I had to restrict myself to just the sidewalks on the rest of my wak across campus, I'd never get to class on time.

When the snow first fell, brave pioneers were willing to endure wet ankles and calves and trudge through that snow. And whereas my trail helped out me and maybe one other person, their trails serve hundreds — maybe thousands.

You are true heroes, paper-boy-trail makers. And I, for one, thank you.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publicatin and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: *IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD IT BE?*

Sarah Patten

senior
McCandless

"Wherever they'll give me a job."

Andrew Deck

senior
Stanford

"Kelley's Island, Ohio, just because."

Jay Samilo

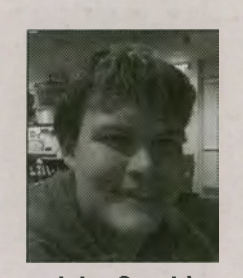
senior
Stanford

"Groom Lake, Nevada, because the truth is out there."

Katie Szewka

senior
Opus

"Europe, before the ice caps melt and it's underwater."



John Gorski

senior
Stanford

"Hawaii – but not the parts inside the volcano."

Photo courtesy of Casey Carney

Sophomore Cinthya Mabee works on her 3-D relief for her 3-D Foundations class in Riley Hall of Art. This is only one of many Studio Art classes offered each semester. Students can also study photography, drawing, painting, watercolor and ceramics.

OFFBEAT

Cops: Drunk took mower to store in snowstorm

ADRIAN, Mich. — A man was charged with drunken driving after going through two bottles of wine, cutting through a snowstorm on his lawn mower and riding down the center of the street to reach a liquor store, authorities said.

Police found Frank Kozumplik, 49, homeward bound on a John Deere tractor Saturday night, toting four bottles of wine in a paper bag, officials said.

He told officers that his wife had taken their car to work, and that the mower was the only way he could reach the store, two miles from home.

His blood alcohol level was 2 1/2 times Michigan's legal driving limit of 0.08 percent, police told WLEN-FM. They arrested him and confiscated the mower.

Kozumplik declined to comment Monday night.

W.Va. mayor uses magazine to prove ID

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Charleston Mayor Danny Jones had a problem as he tried to get through the security gate at a California airport: He had misplaced his driver's license, and the expired one in his wallet wouldn't do.

The guards at John Wayne Airport in Orange County searched his bag, he told the Charleston Daily Mail for a story published Monday.

Then he remembered picking up a copy of Charleston Magazine. Inside was a photograph of him standing in downtown Charleston and an article Jones had written as mayor welcoming visitors to the state capital.

Only then was he allowed to board his flight home.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Prints from the **Snite Museum of Art's** collection that focus on artistic subjects from the **17th century** will be displayed **today** from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The exhibit, **"Rembrandt and the Art of Printmaking in Holland,"** will highlight the golden age of Dutch art.

The **Winter Career Fair** and **Diversity Reception** will be held **Wendesday** at the **Joyce Center.** The Diversity Reception will be held from **12** to **2:30 p.m.** The Career Fair will be held from **4** to **8 p.m.** Further information can be found online at the Career Center Web site.

The **SugarTone Brass Band**, New York's premiers New Orleans-style brass band, will perform **Wednesday** at **7:30 p.m.** in the Leighton Concert Hall of the **DeBartolo Performing Arts Center**.

Women's basketball will play **Providence** on **Wednesday** at **7 p.m.** at the **Joyce Center arena**.

The film **"In July"** will be shown at **7 p.m.** and again at **10 p.m. Thursday** in the **Browning Cinema** in the **DeBartolo Performing Arts Center**. Tickets will cost **$3** for students, **$5** for faculty and staff, and **$6** for general admission.

Men's basketball will play **Providence** on **Thursday** at **7 p.m.** at the **Joyce Center arena**.

Men's hockey will play the **U.S. Under-18 Team Friday** at **7:35 p.m.** at the **Joyce Center ice rink** in an exhibition.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu

LOCAL WEATHER

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH	45	27	25	30	25	29
LOW	28	15	17	13	18	20

Atlanta 63 / 43 **Boston** 42 / 28 **Chicago** 43 / 40 **Denver** 35 / 21 **Houston** 75 / 63 **Los Angeles** 57 / 45 **Minneapolis** 11 / 10
New York 45 / 29 **Philadelphia** 46 / 27 **Phoenix** 60 / 44 **Seattle** 37 / 32 **St. Louis** 54 / 49 **Tampa** 66 / 45 **Washington** 47 / 33

Symposium applies Aquinas to Iraq war

By SARAH MAYER
News Writer

At the 11th-annual Saint Mary's symposium on Saint Thomas Aquinas on Monday, Timothy Renick, a theologian from Georgia State University, spoke about lessons Aquinas might teach about the current war in Iraq.

The College holds a symposium each year on Jan. 28, the feast day of Aquinas, to honor excellent teaching. Aquinas, a 13th-century Dominican, was a scholar who taught theology and wrote the famous work Summa Theologica.

Renick opened by speaking about the current situation in Iraq.

"On May 1, 2003, President George W. Bush walked off the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln with a banner behind him that read 'Mission Accomplished' and stated how major combat operations in Iraq have stopped," he said.

Renick then cited several statistics. In March and April of 2003, 138 Americans were killed. Since then, 3,854 have died. He said that, according to the Washington Post, 655,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed in the war as of last week.

After giving background on Iraq, Renick incorporated the teachings of Aquinas. According to Aquinas, "War is only to be entered as last resort."

Renick said Aquinas would only approve of a war with cold hard evidence that it is just and necessary.

"According to George W. Bush, the United States had enough history and facts to believe that [Saddam] Hussein posed a great danger to the United States," Renick said. "He continued to say that Bush insisted Hussein was harboring chemical warfare and keeping him on the loose was a risk the United States just could not take."

But, Renick said, Aquinas would take issue with this as a justification for war.

"According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, just speculation that the weapons were in his possession were not enough," he said.

Renick brought up the fact that since St. Thomas Aquinas lived in the Holy Roman Empire, he was constantly surrounded by the Crusades.

"If Aquinas has not left a historical teaching on Christian versus Christian war with any evidence of opposing it, then we can conclude that there was sufficient evidence for the fighting," Renick said.

He concluded that Aquinas would only approve of warfare in the "rarest of circumstances" and would still find it risky.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@saintmarys.edu

Revue tickets snapped up

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

All free tickets for this year's Keenan Revue were distributed in 20 minutes, said Revue director John Siegel.

"There were a bunch of people [in line] to get tickets early. It was really good to see that people were so interested in the show based on past year's shows," Siegel said.

The Keenan Revue, now in its 32nd year, is a long-standing hall event that has notoriously poked fun at various aspects of campus life. It will run this Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

"When our producer Peter Viganali and I talked about what we wanted for the show, we [realized] that we are more like caretakers for the Revue than we are making our own show," Siegel said. "The Revue is a big tradition for our dorm, and so it's the job of the producer and the director to organize everything and get it off the ground."

Free tickets for the annual comedy show were distributed at the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center starting at 4 p.m. last Thursday. Students eager to get tickets started lining up around 2 p.m., Siegel said. Sales also took place at Saint Mary's beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday.

Although all three performances of the Keenan Revue sold out, tickets to Thursday and Saturday performances were the first to go. The remaining Friday tickets were gone within the twenty minutes.

Revue sales for the past two years have boasted selling out in around twenty minutes or less, Siegel said.

There were about 1,300 tickets available for each night of the show.

Keenan Hall advertised for the show sales using posters around residence halls, classroom buildings and dining halls as well as on Saint Mary's College.

According to Siegel, everyone who waited in line was able to get tickets to the Revue.

"We were glad that we sold out of tickets and that we didn't have to turn anyone away," he said.

> *"I would say this is the 'Empire Strikes Back' of Keenan Revues."*
>
> **John Siegel**
> **Revue director**

In addition to tickets given out last Thursday, Keenan residents also receive four tickets they can distribute to their own discretion. Additional tickets are reserved for faculty members.

This year's Keenan Revue, called "The Night of the Living Revue," takes its inspiration from horror films.

The two-hour show will be performed at the O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's.

The Revue has been performed at O'Laughlin for the past 30 years because it is the best venue for the size of audience that the Revue attracts, Siegel said. Other venues on Notre Dame's campus are either too large or too small, he said.

"There will be a lot of dancing, Harry Potter stuff, zombies, and some poking fun at the rectresses," Siegel said. "We also have some synthesizers which we are very excited about."

All skits for the show are created and performed by Keenan residents and were finalized last Sunday. The show includes about 90 Keenanites including performers, dancers, and people working behind the scenes.

"Our choreographer, Mark Weber, has gotten adventurous with the numbers this year," Siegel said. "A couple of them are more complex numbers than usual. And the skits are really strong. This could be one of our best Revues yet."

Keenan residents are preparing for the show for the next three days at Saint Mary's to get the acts ready for Thursday night.

Siegel said he is very enthusiastic about this year's Revue.

"Since [the show] is a movie theme, I would say this is the 'Empire Strikes Back' of Keenan Revues, instead of the 'Phantom Menace,'" Siegel said. "It should be a very good show this year. We are very excited about it."

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

The Observer is accepting applications

for the 2008-09 term for the following positions:

Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editor,
News Editor, Sports Editor, Viewpoint Editor, Scene Editor, Saint Mary's Editor, Photo Editor, Graphics Editor, Advertising Manager, Ad Design Manager, Web Administrator, Systems Manager, Business Manager and Controller

Applicants for Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor should demonstrate strong journalistic and management skills. An in-depth understanding of newspaper production, including skills in Microsoft Word, Quark XPress and Photoshop, is required. Experience with Macintosh computers is helpful.

Applications for Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor should be 12 pages long and should explain the applicant's qualifications and goals.
Applications for other editorial positions should be at least five pages.

All applications should be submitted this week to Chris Hine in The Observer office, located in the South Dining Hall basement.

Please direct questions about these positions to Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu or Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Building

continued from page 1

InterCultural Leadership. The new building offers state of the art classroom, laboratory and office space. There are also a number of common areas where faculty and students can gather, such as a café, reflection room and patio.

The features of Spes Unica will facilitate its role as a place to integrate various aspects of College life, Mooney said.

"One of the hallmarks of a Saint Mary's education is that students and faculty work and learn together," Mooney said. "Collaborative work requires the kind of spaces that will be found in this new building.

"This first-rate facility will match the quality of our faculty and reflect the value that we place on them and on the learning environment for our students."

Spes Unica also utilizes "green" or environmentally-friendly materials. There are solar panels to help heat the hot water system, furniture and carpeting made from recycled materials, large areas of glass for extra lighting and operable windows to increase airflow. The building was designed by Ballinger Architects of Philadelphia and Architecture Design Group of South Bend.

With the opening of the new building, the current main academic building, Madeleva Hall, will get a minor facelift but will remain in use as an important classroom facility.

"The Madeleva Interior Renovation Committee, consisting of faculty, students and administrators, is working with architects to assess needs and plan the interior renovation of the Madeleva building," Rodriguez said.

Contact Nikki Taylor at Ntaylo01@saintmarys.edu

Honey

continued from page 1

Honey was euthanized because her age put her in a lot of pain.

"She couldn't stand or walk," Gaughan said.

Freshman Minh Nguyen said he sometimes accompanied Gaughan as he took Honey on walks.

"Honey's almost like a part of the family," Nguyen said. "It's hard to explain."

"Honey's almost like a part of the family."

Minh Nguyen
Stanford freshman

Father Tom said that "every day brought" an enjoyable experience with Honey.

"I'd be out walking and I'd let her hunt," he said. "Everyone on the main quad would stop and laugh at her intensity," he said.

Freshman Colin McNamara was deeply saddened to hear the news.

"Sure, my eyes welled up," he said. "I loved that dog."

Freshman Franco Zarama doesn't have a dog at home, but he said he will miss Honey.

"Sometimes we students can get bogged down," he said. "Having a dog made it all seem more real, less intimidating. She made us feel more at home."

Andrew Deck, a senior in mechanical engineering, said he had kept dog biscuits in his room when he lived on Stanford's first floor.

"Honey would come by and I'd give her treats," he said.

He said that a few friends that didn't know about Honey saw the biscuits in his room.

"They asked some awkward questions about my dietary habits," he said.

Sathre recalled Honey's special fondness for squirrels.

"Even though she was pretty old, when she saw a squirrel, her ears would perk up and she would just take off," he said. "That always amazed me."

Contact Brian McKenzie at bmckenzi@nd.edu

Packets

continued from page 1

more logistical sense to create one point for the students to come to," Becht said.

Last semester, DCL Services produced course packets and sold them through the Bookstore to make shopping more convenient, he said.

"The rationale for switching to the Bookstore was that so the students could purchase the text books and course packets all at the same time and so they could purchase the course packets through their student accounts," Becht said. "It was a cooperative venture through the entire campus."

For some students, however, the disadvantage of higher prices for course packets at the Bookstore outweighed any additional convenience. In a survey conducted by the Student Senate last October, more than 67 percent of students said they were "very dissatisfied" with the course packet cost last semester.

According to Fisher Hall senator Stephen Bant, the College of Arts and Letters was receptive to student and faculty concerns with course packet prices.

"Within [the College of] Arts & Letters, they took it very seriously and encouraged DCL servcies to stop selling in the Bookstore."

Stephen Bant
Fisher Hall senator

"Within [the College of] Arts & Letters, they took it very seriously and encouraged DCL Services to stop selling in the Bookstore," Bant said.

This semester, while DCL Services has stopped selling though the Bookstore, faculty still have the option to produce their course packets through Tichenor Custom Publishing or FedEx Kinkos and sell through the Bookstore, Becht said.

Students may find, however, that Bookstore prices are not as high as they were last semester.

Daniel Skendzel, director of Administrative Services for the University, said the Bookstore changed its policy of pricing course packets in order to make them more affordable for students. While the industry normally marks up copyright costs and production fees, the Bookstore has agreed to stop marking up copyright costs, he said.

"The Bookstore has been very willing to work with the campus and students," Skendzel said. "Students should have seen a price reduction because of that."

"I'm not willing to use course packets anymore because of how exorbitant they've become for students."

Susan Blum
anthropology professor

Some professors have allowed students to avoid buying course packets through the use of the Hesburgh Library's electronic reserves (e-reserves) or Concourse.

Anthropology professor Susan Blum said she uses e-reserves because she believes course packets have become too expensive.

"I'm not willing to use course packets anymore because of how exorbitant they've become for students," Blum said.

Blum said that in addition to saving students the price of a course packet, e-reserves give professors more room in planning what readings to use for a course.

"E-reserves is [a nice system] because it's flexible, and we can add things as we go," Blum said.

Instructors in the College of Arts and Letters are not the only ones who considered alternatives to Bookstore course packets. Last semester, accountancy professor Jim Fuehrmeyer tried placing PowerPoint slides on Concourse. He found, however, that despite the lower price of the electronic option, most students preferred to save time by buying the course packet.

"There's a cost to me for everything I do myself," Fuehrmeyer said. "What's the cost of my time? When could you better use the time that goes to copying and printing ... PowerPoint presentations?"

Graduate student Joe McKenna, who is in Fuehrmeyer's course, said having a printed course packet made it more convenient for him to finish his work.

"It was just so much easier to buy it and have it set up for you," he said.

However, 50 percent of the students that the Senate surveyed said they would support using e-reserves as "a primary means of access to course material," and 18 percent were neutral about the issue. Bant said he feels that saving money is more important than the convenience of having a printed course packet.

"Although it might be inconvenient for some, it's more inconvenient for people to pay $50 to $100 to buy a course packet that you could find online," he said.

Instructor Christin DePouw, who uses e-reserves in her Education, Schooling and Society classes, said that although e-reserves can save money and are environmentally friendly, professors should decide which method best works for them.

"I think it depends on the class," she said. "I think it's up to the professor to decide."

Becht said the choice to use e-reserves or a printed course packet is a "pedagogical decision" and the faculty will be able to choose what to do.

"Our primary business is to support the faculty and the College," he said. "If that requires us to help support faculty in making the transition to e-reserves, if that's what they want as a teaching tool, then we do provide scanning capabilities."

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

Work for News

Contact Karen at obsnews@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Post-election violence rises in Kenya

KISUMU, Kenya — Thousands of machete-wielding youths hunted down members of President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe Monday in western Kenya's Rift Valley, torching homes and buses, clashing with police, and blocking roads with burning tires.

Witnesses described seeing two people pulled from cars and stoned to death, while another was burned alive in a minibus — the latest victims of a month of escalating violence triggered by a disputed presidential election. The death toll has soared over 800.

Kibaki has said he is open to direct talks with opposition leader Raila Odinga, who is from the Luo tribe, but that his position as president is not negotiable. Odinga says Kibaki must step down and only new elections will bring peace.

Gunmen end five-hour standoff

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Gunmen held dozens of students and teachers hostage for five hours at a school in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, but authorities allowed the captors to flee without punishment to avoid bloodshed, a tribal negotiator said.

None of the hostages were hurt. But the standoff underscored the government's fragile grip on Pakistan's borderlands near Afghanistan, where crime is rife and security forces are struggling to contain rising Islamic militancy.

Kidnapping for ransom is common in Pakistan, particularly in the northwest, and police said the gunmen were criminals seeking profit rather than militants.

The mounting violence has contributed to the growing unpopularity of President Pervez Musharraf, who was on his last stop Monday of a European tour.

NATIONAL NEWS

Insurgent attack kills 5 U.S. soldiers

BAGHDAD — In a daring ambush, insurgents blasted a U.S. patrol with a roadside bomb Monday and showered survivors with gunfire from a mosque in increasingly lawless Mosul. Five American soldiers were killed in the explosion — even as Iraqi troops moved into the northern city to challenge al-Qaida in Iraq.

Iraqi reinforcements, along with helicopters, tanks and armored vehicles, converged on Mosul for what Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged would be a decisive battle against al-Qaida in its last major urban stronghold.

California precipitation subsides

LOS ANGELES — Skies were clearing Monday over waterlogged California after a week of downpours and heavy snowfall that led to avalanche and traffic deaths but only minor flooding and slides.

Highways closed because of heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada were reopened Monday, including a nearly 130-mile stretch of U.S. 395 just north of Bishop to the Nevada state line, state officials said. Interstate 80 through the Sierra between Sacramento and Reno, Nev., also was reopened Monday but chains were required, according to a Department of Transportation Web site.

The storm produced wind approaching 40 mph.

LOCAL NEWS

Inmate freed, served over 20 years

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — A man who spent more than two decades in prison for the slaying of an 89-year-old woman walked into the Vigo County Courthouse shackled to three other prisoners and walked out a free man after a judge agreed with prosecutors that DNA evidence exonerated him.

Vigo Superior Court Judge Michael Lewis ordered the release of David L. Scott on Monday during a brief hearing.

"Mr. Scott, you're free to go," Lewis said. Scott nodded his head as the judge ordered his release.

Scott and his relatives did not make public comments and avoided reporters after leaving the courtroom.

Scott, 39, had been serving a 50-year prison sentence for the 1984 murder of Loretta Keith, who was bludgeoned to death in her bed a

Bush delivers State of the Union

President addresses economic concerns, urges bipartisan cooperation

Associated Press

AP

President Bush delivers the State of the Union address before Congress, Monday in Washington as Vice President Dick Cheney and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi listen.

WASHINGTON — President Bush, focusing on gnawing recession fears as went before Congress with his final State of the Union address, said Monday that Americans are troubled about their economic future and lawmakers should urgently approve a $150-billion rescue plan.

On Iraq, always a main topic of his annual addresses to Congress, Bush said last year's U.S. troop buildup is succeeding after five years of a long and costly war that has claimed the lives of 3,940 members of the U.S. military. "Al-Qaida is on the run in Iraq and this enemy will be defeated," Bush said.

With his approval rating near its all-time low and less than a year remaining in his presidency, Bush lacked the political clout to push bold ideas before a hostile, Democratic-led Congress. Offering modest plans, Bush proposed a $300 million "grants for kids" program to help poor children in struggling public schools pay for the cost of attending a private school or a better public school outside their district.

The White House urged lawmakers, particularly in the Senate, to resist any temptation to enlarge the economic-stimulus plan that he and House leaders agreed on last week. "At kitchen tables across our country, there is concern about our economic future," the president said. "In the long run, Americans can be confident about our economic growth."

Excerpts of his prepared text were released in advance by the White House.

On two issues that were centerpieces of State of the Union addresses past — Social Security and immigration — Bush passed the buck back to Congress, which had ignored the president's earlier proposals. Contending that entitlement spending is "growing faster than we can afford," he said, "I ask members of Congress to offer your proposals and come up with a bipartisan solution to save these vital programs for our children and grandchildren."

A major challenge for Bush in his address to Congress was simply being heard when many Americans already are looking beyond him to the next president.

His speech came hours before Florida's presidential primary election and just eight days before Super Tuesday when voters in more than 20 states go to the polls on the biggest day of the primary campaign. Republicans running for president rarely mention Bush, preferring to focus on conservative hero Ronald Reagan instead. Bush will turn from Monday's speech and plunge into politics, raising money for Republicans from Wednesday through Friday at events in California, Nevada, Colorado and Missouri, sandwiched around other appearances to tout themes from his speech.

As for the Democrats, presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "Tonight is a red-letter night in American history. It is the last time George Bush will give the State of the Union. Next year it will be a Democratic president giving it."

Bush, calling for bipartisan cooperation in Congress, said, "Let us show them that Republicans and Democrats can compete for votes and cooperate for results at the same time."

In Iraq, he said, U.S. adversaries have been hit hard, though "they are not yet defeated and we can still expect tough fighting ahead."

The address came one year after Bush, defying the wishes of Congress and rising anti-war sentiment in the country, ordered a major troop buildup in Iraq. The increase has helped quell violence, but there is no end in sight to the U.S. troop commitment, which Bush says will extend beyond his presidency. There are 158,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, a number that is expected to drop to 135,000 by July. There are 28,000 in Afghanistan, the highest number of the war, which began there in October 2001. The Iraq war began in March 2003.

Sen. Ted Kennedy backs Obama in race

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Summoning memories of his brother the slain president, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy led two generations of the First Family of Democratic politics Monday in endorsing Barack Obama for the White House, declaring, "I feel change is in the air."

Obama is a man of rare "grit and grace," Kennedy said in remarks salted with scarcely veiled criticism of the Illinois senator's chief rival for the presidential nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as her husband, the former president.

Obama beamed as first Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy, then Caroline Kennedy and finally the country's best known liberal took turns bestowing their praise. "Today isn't just about politics for me. It's personal," Obama told a boisterous crowd packed into the American University basketball arena a few miles across town from the White House.

It was also about politics, though, and a rapidly approaching set of primaries and caucuses across more than 20 states on Feb. 5, with more than 1,600 national convention delegates at stake.

Kennedy's endorsement was ardently sought by all three of the remaining Democratic presidential contenders, and he delivered it at a pivotal time in the race. A liberal lion in his fifth decade in the Senate, the Massachusetts senator is in a position to help Obama court voting groups who so far have tilted Clinton's way. These include Hispanics, rank-and-file union workers and lower-income, older voters.

Kennedy is expected to campaign actively for Obama beginning later this week, beginning in Arizona, New Mexico and California. Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of John Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963, will also make campaign appearances, officials said.

Choir

continued from page 1

Campus Ministry intern Joe Nava. Nava, a Notre Dame graduate, is now in his sixth year as a member of the choir.

Father Dan Parrish, former rector of Zahm Hall accompanied the choir.

The purpose of the abbey is to allow living without distraction, Nava said. The Folk Choir briefly experienced monastic life at the cloistered monastery, where the monks pray out loud seven times a day.

"It was fascinating to observe a contemplative lifestyle," said senior Michael McKenna, who joined the Folk Choir his sophomore year. "It is a unique way of finding our vocation and a part of our Catholic tradition that not many are exposed to."

The retreat was a profoundly religious experience for some attendants, Nava said.

"Finding God in the silence is the gift of Gethsemani to the students," Nava said.

The students participated in prayer and sang Gregorian chant with the monks and otherwise kept silent on the abbey grounds.

"We hope students can make it to the abbey," said Nava, who said he was pleasantly surprised to see the eagerness of students to enter into the silence and lessons of the retreat.

"I enjoyed observing the way Trappist monks live their everyday life," junior Mary McLaughlin said. "The monks accept others into their homes, lives, and worship."

McLaughlin particularly enjoyed walking the local trails in the pleasant weather the group enjoyed.

"Gethsemani is beautiful, quiet, and peaceful," McLaughlin said. "And it is nice to be with God, nature, and friends."

The retreat, planned by students and Nava, included talks from five students and Karen Kirner, associate director of the Folk Choir. Father Chrysogonus Waddel, a renowned musical composer, presented a guest lecture to the choir. The Folk Choir also performed a concert for the monks in the church of the abbey, which currently houses 65 Trappist monks.

Also invited to the choir concert were members of the surrounding towns of Bethany, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. French religious missionaries, who founded the abbey in 1842, established a strong Catholic community in the area of the abbey, Choir Director Steve Warner said.

The Gethsemani Abbey shares a close history with Notre Dame, Warner said, noting that Father Badin was a missionary in the same region of Kentucky. Badin's remains are buried beneath the historic Log Chapel on campus.

The choir had the opportunity to reflect and listen as individuals, Warner said, and it helped to replenish the group.

"It was a great experience at the start of the semester, especially as a senior to examine my faith life and reflect on the things I have done during my time at Notre Dame," McKenna said.

The Folk Choir provides the music for Sunday Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 11:45 a.m. The choir also performs at special University liturgies and tours around the United States and other countries. At the end of the spring semester, the group will perform in Scotland and Ireland.

The choir is composed mostly of undergraduate students, although a few graduate students join them each year. Auditions for upperclassmen are held in May, and freshmen can audition during orientation week each August.

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Mormon leader dies at 97

Believers mourn the death of Church of Latter-day Saints's president

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Thousands of believers were in mourning Monday following the death of Gordon B. Hinckley, the humble head of the Mormon church who added millions of new members and labored long to burnish the faith's image as a world religion. An announcement of his successor was not expected for days.

Hinckley, the 15th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died Sunday of complications arising from old age, church spokesman Mike Otterson said. He was 97.

In a statement, President Bush praised Hinckley as a "deeply patriotic man."

"While serving for over seven decades in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Gordon demonstrated the heart of a servant and the wisdom of a leader. He was a tireless worker and a talented communicator who was respected in his community and beloved by his congregation," Bush said.

The church presidency is a lifetime position. Before Hinckley, the oldest church president was David O. McKay who was 96 when he died in 1970.

Hinckley, a grandson of Mormon pioneers, was president for nearly 13 years. He took over as president and prophet on March 12, 1995, and oversaw one of the greatest periods of expansion in church history. The number of temples worldwide more than doubled, from 49 to more than 120 and church membership grew from about 9 million to about 13 million.

AP

Brigham Young University students mourn the death of Morman Church president, Gordon B. Hinckley, Monday on campus.

Dozens of mourners gathered Sunday night outside Mormon church headquarters to honor Hinckley. College students sang hymns by the light of their cell phones. On Monday, Kelly Ford, 28, of Kaysville stared at a painting of Hinckley in the church visitor's center as a snowstorm swirled outside and recalled how he took time to speak to teens.

"He was a complete optimist. ... He talked about our potential and what the Lord expects of us," Ford said. "He was the greatest optimist I've ever known."

Hinckley became by far his church's most traveled leader in history. And the number of Mormons outside the United States surpassed that of American Mormons for the first time since the church, the most successful faith born in the United States, was founded in 1830.

Hinckley worked to show that his faith was far removed from its peculiar and polygamous roots. Still, during his tenure, the Roman Catholic Church, Southern Baptist Convention and United Methodist Church — the three largest U.S. denominations — each declared that Mormon doctrines depart from mainstream Christianity.

"The more people come to know us, the better they will understand us," Hinckley said in an interview with The Associated Press in late 2005. "We're a little different. We don't smoke. We don't drink. We do things in a little different way. That's not dishonorable. I believe that's to our credit."

Theft

continued from page 1

"We just hope for the best," he said.

He also said that between January 2007 and January 2008, costs incurred by missing dining hall items have reached over $38,000, as opposed to the $31,000 incurred in losses from last year.

Much of this rise in cost stems from increasing costs of replacing items.

"The financial impact has increased by as much as 20 percent as the cost of replacing [missing dining hall items] has increased," Prentkowski said.

The quantity of lost spoons was the greatest, with a total of 12,960. Next were cups, with a total 12,528 missing. The most costly item to replace, the plastic trays on which students load their food at a price of $6 each, numbered a total of 216 missing.

Not all lost items have been stolen, Poklinkowski said. Many have been accidentally broken or thrown away.

Prentkowski said the costs of replacing lost items must be drawn from other Food Services funds.

"Unfortunately these costs must be covered from somewhere so they get absorbed into dining hall costs which ultimately end up keeping us from using these funds for menu items or other enhancements to the dining program," Prentkowski said.

"The financial impact has increased by as much as 20 percent as the cost of replacing [missing dining hall items] has increased."

Dave Prentkowski director of Food Services

Many residence halls put out a collection bin at the end of each academic year to collect dining hall items students might have taken, Poklinkowski said. The impact of these returns, however, is not significantly high, he said.

While Sobieralski does not usually notice students taking items out of dining halls, she said that during her 18 years monitoring the doors at South Dining Hall, she has seen students taking items as large as chairs and even tables.

She once came into work to find a table in front of South Dining Hall with a note reading, "Thanks for the table."

"I have not seen that kind of thing in a long time," she said.

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Dow Jones	**12,383.89**	+176.72

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,376	72	1,809	610,637,442

AMEX	2,198.42	+3.37
NASDAQ	2,349.91	+23.71
NYSE	8,978.41	+150.91
S&P 500	1,353.97	+23.36
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,371.65	+283.74
FTSE 100 (London)	5,788.90	-80.10

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEIPTS (SPY)	+1.65	+2.20	135.24
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+0.77	+0.34	44.33
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	+3.57	+0.97	28.15
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+3.79	+1.01	27.65

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.06	+0.002	3.586
13-WEEK BILL	-0.23	-0.005	2.215
30-YEAR BOND	0.00	0.00	4.282
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.39	-0.011	2.778

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)	+0.28	90.99
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)	+16.40	927.10
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.38	85.88

Exchange Rates

YEN	106.8450
EURO	0.6767
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0047
BRITISH POUND	0.5035

IN BRIEF

Iran's gasoline black market thrives

BANDAR ABBAS, Iran — Each day, the boulevard in this port city derisively dubbed "OPEC Street" is lined with dozens of vendors selling plastic jugs of black-market gasoline to desperate drivers who haggle over the price of a tankful.

Iran is the world's fourth-largest producer of oil. But its government imposed gasoline rationing last year in hopes of trimming extensive government subsidies. That has created a booming black market across the country — feeding Iranians' discontent with the economic policies of hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

In the capital Tehran and other cities, the black market thrives around gasoline stations and mostly at night as drivers looking to buy fuel approach others who have high gasoline quotas, such as taxis or vans.

CEO departs from Sears Corporation

CHICAGO — Sears Holdings Corp. abruptly announced the departure of president and chief executive Aylwin B. Lewis on Monday, leaving a management void at the top of the department store chain controlled by Chairman Edward S. Lampert as it tries a high-stakes restructuring to reconnect with customers and reinvigorate slumping sales.

Lewis was an executive at fast-food chain Yum Brands Inc. and had little retail experience when he was hand-picked by Lampert in 2004 to run Kmart and later Sears. W. Bruce Johnson was named as interim CEO while the company looks for a permanent successor.

Monday's announcement marked the latest chapter for the venerable retailer, which has seen its competitors snatch away customers since Lampert acquired Kmart in 2003 and Sears, Roebuck and Co. in 2005.

Hubbar's departure comes as Bush faces one of the biggest economic challenges of his presidency, a severe slump in housing and a credit crisis that have roiled financial markets and triggered fears of a recession.

Home sales experience record dive

Wall Street investors believe Federal Reserve will cut interest rates again this week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New home sales plunged in 2007 by the largest amount on record while home prices tumbled sharply in December. Analysts forecast more trouble in 2008 as housing tries to emerge from its worst slump in more than two decades.

The Commerce Department reported Monday that sales of new homes dropped by 26.4 percent last year to 774,000. That marked the biggest decline on record, surpassing the old mark of a 23.1 percent plunge in 1980.

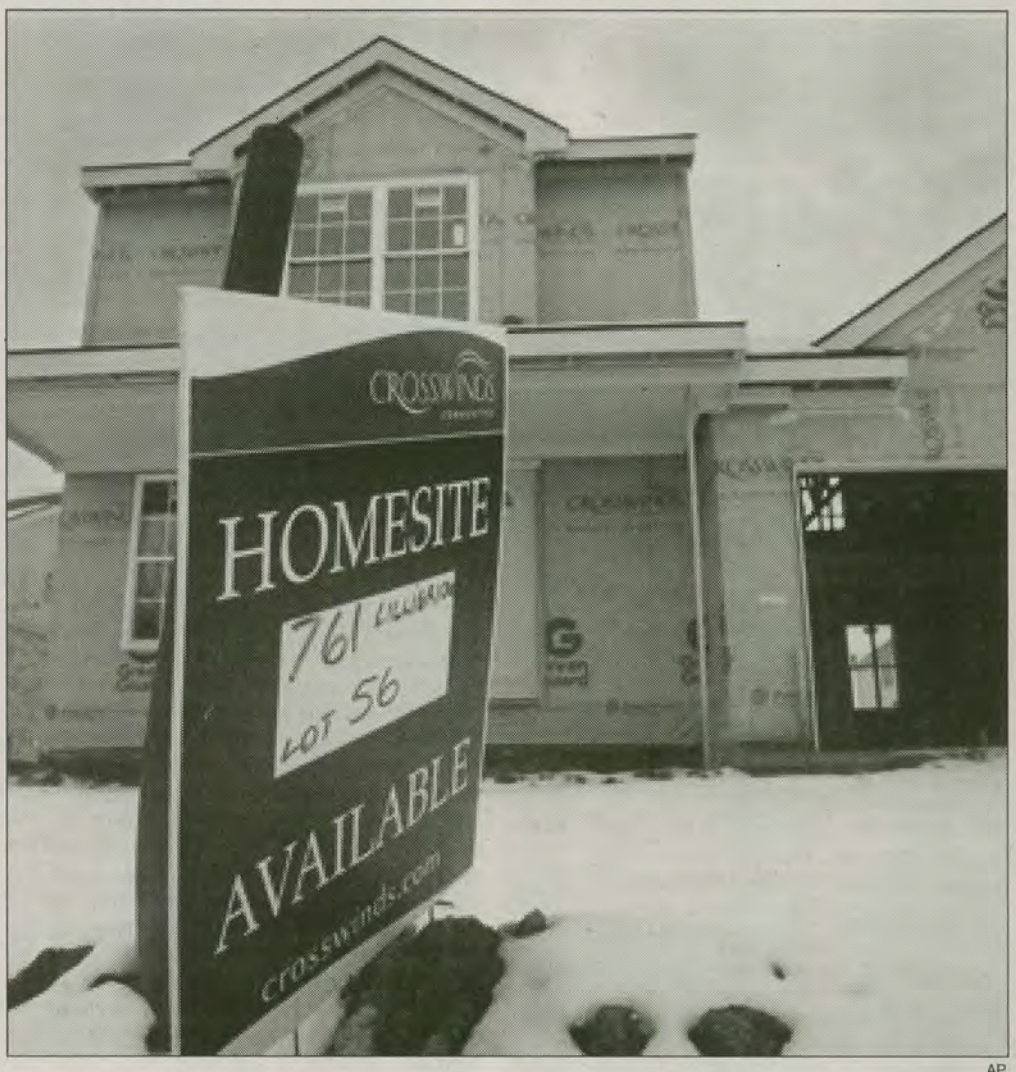
The government reported that the median price of a new home barely budged last year, edging up a slight 0.2 percent to $246,900, the poorest showing since prices fell by 2.4 percent during the 1991 housing downturn.

And the slump in sales and prices appeared to be worsening at year's end. December sales fell by 4.7 percent, a bigger-than-expected drop, while the median price of a home fell by 10.4 percent last month, when compared to December 2006, the biggest 12-month decline in 37 years.

"It looks like the floor fell out of the housing market in December," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. He said the current slump is already on par with the deep housing downturn of the 1980s and could end up being the worst in the post-World War II period.

The data on new homes followed earlier reports that sales of existing homes dropped 13 percent last year, the biggest decline since 1982, while construction of new homes and apartments fell by 24.8 percent, the largest drop since 1980.

Zandi predicted that sales of new and existing homes will likely hit bottom this spring and that construction will level off by this summer. But he said prices were likely to keep falling for the entire year as weak demand forces sellers to cut asking prices even further to move homes.



AP

The Commerce Department reported Monday that sales of new homes dropped by 26.4 percent last year to 774,000 homes.

Housing is slumping now after a five-year boom. Demand for both new and existing homes hit all-time highs for five straight years, ending in 2005, the peak of the boom. New home sales fell by 18.1 percent in 2006. The sales level last month is now down by 56.5 percent from the monthly peak hit in July 2005.

The prolonged slump in housing is raising concerns that the weakness could be severe enough to push the country into a full-blown recession. In an effort to guard against that threat, the Federal Reserve cut a key interest rate last week by the largest amount in more than two decades with a further rate cut expected on Wednesday when the Fed completes a two-day meeting.

The bad news on housing actually gave a lift to Wall Street with investors believing it raised the chances the Fed will cut rates again this week. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 176.72 points Monday to close at 12,383.89.

President Bush and House leaders reached agreement on a $150 billion economic stimulus package last week which included items to boost housing by increasing the size of the mortgages that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration can handle. But critics said the continued plunge in housing showed that more dramatic action is needed.

French trader causes billions in losses

Associated Press

PARIS — Societe Generale said Sunday that a trader who evaded all its controls to bet $73.5 billion — more than the French bank's market worth — on European markets hacked computers and "combined several fraudulent methods" to cover his tracks, causing billions in losses.

The bank says the trader, Jerome Kerviel, did not appear to have profited personally from the transactions and seemingly worked alone — a version reiterated Sunday by Jean-Pierre Mustier, chief executive of the bank's corporate and investment banking arm.

But, in a conference call with reporters, Mustier added: "I cannot guarantee to you 100 percent that there was no complicity."

Kerviel's lawyer said the accusations of wrongdoing against his client were being used to hide bad investments by the bank related to subprime mortgages in the United States.

"He didn't steal anything, take anything, he didn't take any profit for himself," the lawyer, Christian Charriere-Bournazel, told The Associated Press by telephone. "The suspicion on Kerviel allows the considerable losses that the bank made on subprimes to be hidden."

Officials said Kerviel was cooperating with police, who held him for a second day of questioning Sunday, seeking answers to what, if confirmed, would be the biggest-ever trading fraud by a single person.

The questioning was "going very well and the investigation led by the specialists of the financial police is extremely fruitful," said Jean-Michel Aldebert, head of the financial section of the Paris prosecutor's office.

Kerviel was giving "very interesting" explanations, Aldebert added. "From what he told me, he was fine psychologically." He refused to say whether Kerviel might face preliminary charges.

Kerviel, 31, has not been seen in public since the bank's bombshell revelation Thursday that his unauthorized trades resulted in 4.9 billion euros ($7.1 billion) in losses.

Even before his massive alleged fraud came to light, Kerviel had apparently triggered occasional alarms at Societe Generale — France's second-largest bank — with his trading, but not to a degree that led managers to investigate further.

"Our controls basically identified from time to time problems with this trader's portfolio," Mustier said.

But Kerviel explained away the red flags as trading mistakes, Mustier added.

"The trade was canceled, there was no specific follow-up to do," he said. "From our understanding today, the number of mistakes was not higher than (for) any other trader, so from our understanding that was not a reason to ring a bell."

Kerviel's lawyer said the trader made money for the bank through 2007 and has since been "thrown to the wolves of public opinion."

"He made profits for the bank until Dec. 31. From Jan. 1, he took risky positions like all traders," said Charriere-Bournazel,

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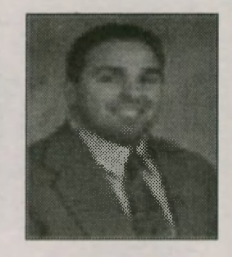
True diversity



Greg Yatarola

Dome and Domer

Years ago, use of racial preferences was justified mainly as social justice — blacks and Hispanics tend to be disadvantaged relative to whites, and thus should get a hand in admissions or hiring. Fair enough.

As someone who grew up without car or phone, I strongly agree that lower-class applicants, whatever their color, should get a break.

But not all blacks and Hispanics are disadvantaged. In fact, when they marry and form stable families, they move into the middle class about as well as everyone else. Moreover, not all whites are privileged.

Far from it.

So in giving preferential treatment to blacks and Hispanics, it often happens that schools or employers discriminate in favor of someone who's enjoyed more advantages, and against someone who's had fewer.

The simple, obvious solution would be to favor those applicants who can actually show some degree of hardship in their backgrounds, instead of trying to infer it from their races. Too sensible?

In any case, the justification today for racial preferences seems to be the nebulous concept of "diversity." Schools in particular, the argument goes, have an interest in creating a student body with the broadest possible variety of students.

I'm not denying that schools may have such an interest, though I think that interest isn't nearly so critical as many people today argue. But then, I think the main purpose of a university is intellectual in nature, whereas a large and ever-increasing part of the educational establishment considers it to be social, even sociological. Sure, college can be a place where students learn to deal with people unlike themselves — if they spent their first eighteen years in solitary confinement.

But what is real diversity, as it relates to an institution like Notre Dame? Is it merely seeing a wide range of melanin levels?

Consider a silly analogy. One basket holds red grapes, green grapes, purple grapes and yellow grapes. The other contains red meat, red wine, kidney beans and beets. Which basket is more "diverse?"

Or a more timely example — the two political parties' fields of presidential candidates. One party has a half-Kenyan, a half-Mexican and a half-woman; but from what I can tell, they all agree on pretty much everything. The Republican field is all white men, but they're all over the spectrum on many issues. So which is really more diverse?

When I enrolled in the graduate program at St. John's College, one of the first things that struck me about the place was how weird the undergraduates were. Sometimes it seemed every day was Halloween. Though St. John's is just a fraction of the size of Notre Dame, it's got a much wider variety of characters.

There are pothead stoners, wannabe jocks, loathsome preppies, no-kidding Marxists, adorable nerds, troubled goths, D&D-ers, S&M-ers, an unlikely clutch of devout Catholics, another of Eastern Orthodox, some Nietzscheans, Ayn Rand-ophiles, neo-pagans/Wiccans, eco-radical vegans, Zen/Buddhist posers, etc. But apart from a few kids of East or South Asian descent, the place is lily-white.

I'm not saying Notre Dame, or any place, should strive to be racially monotone. What I'm saying is that diversity is about more than skin color, if it's even about that at all. Yeah, I too got kind of tired of meeting the same type of person over and over at Notre Dame, though with me it was mainly because that type of person wasn't one I liked.

If you're someone who looks around your classes and bemoans how few pigments are on display, I suggest you switch to other courses, like differential geometry, where you'll have better things to worry about, like what the hell is that strange man writing on the board.

I would also like to know, though, while you're wondering why there are so few black people around, do you ever wonder how come there are no rednecks? Or fundamentalists/evangelicals? Or hippie tokers, poor white trash, or Jews? Wouldn't people like these make Notre Dame diverse too?

Assuming students bring a different perspective simply because they're black or Hispanic is as foolish as assuming they're poor. What would happen if a guy were admitted because he was black, but he turned out to be from a middle-class family, hated rap, and was Republican? Would he get expelled for not being really black?

And what about Hispanics who are blond? Likewise, assuming someone is just like everyone else and brings no diversity to the place, simply because he's white, is extremely offensive. Ignorant, too.

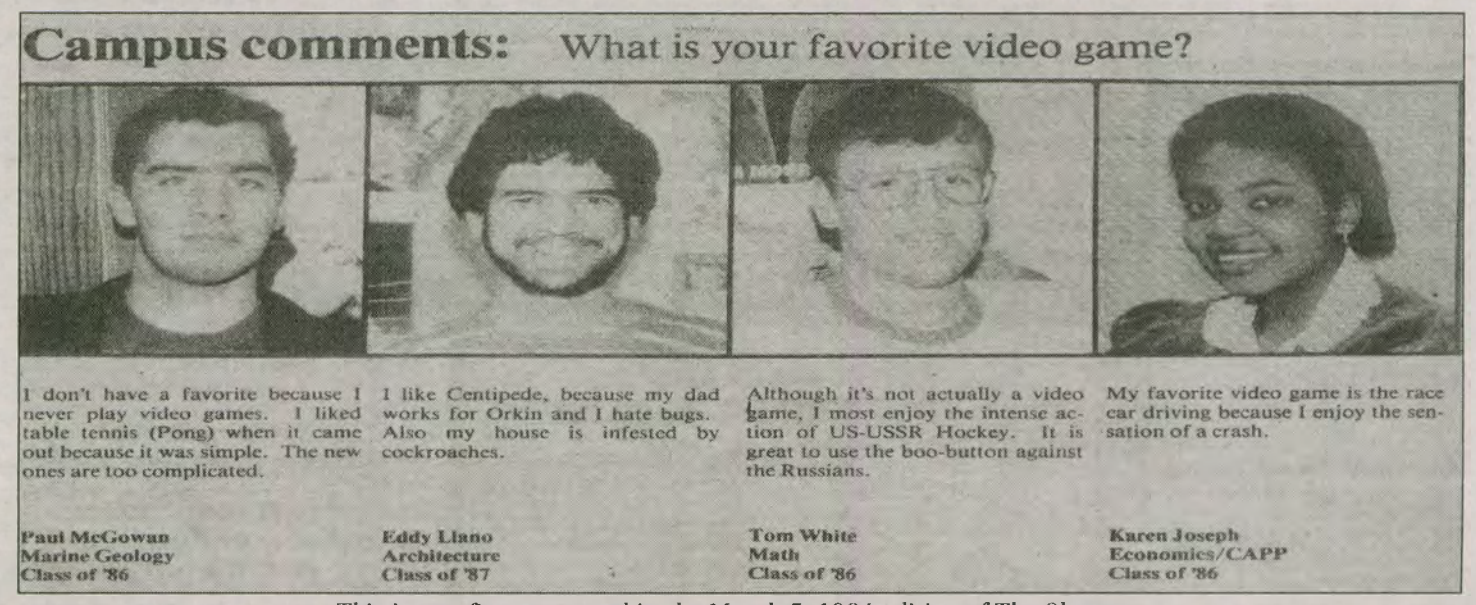
If Notre Dame wants real diversity, I suggest that, instead of asking applicants' racial backgrounds, admissions should ask: How many of your relatives have done time? How much pot have you smoked? Have you ever worn clothes from Goodwill, not as a joke? Squirrels: feed 'em, or eat 'em?

Naturally, not all diversity is good. Pederasts, al Qaeda sympathizers, and skinheads would all make Notre Dame more diverse; that doesn't mean they should be tolerated. I, myself, wish the whole school were pro-life, but we're lucky if the whole C.S.C. is. Good or bad, though, "diversity" is no excuse to discriminate by skin color. Notre Dame should stop doing so.

Greg Yatarola is a 1999 alumnus. The psychiatrist he works out with tells him he's a very diverse person. His address is gregpy@hotmail.com

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

PERSPECTIVE: MARCH 5, 1984



This image first appeared in the March 5, 1984 edition of The Observer.

OBSERVER POLL

Are you more excited about the Notre Dame men's basketball camouflage night or blackout night?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"O Lord, help me to be pure, but not yet."

Saint Augustine
Catholic theologian

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An insult to muffindom

Brothers and sisters, we have all noticed a dramatic drop in Letters to the Editor this semester. There are many suspicions — the tameness of the comics, a lack of humorous misogynistic remarks, a remarkable increase in the writing prowess of Ohio State University students (seriously guys?) — but I am here to give a voice to the silent majority that can no longer muster the energy to write this letter — those who have been shocked into a comatose state by the miniaturization of South Dining Hall muffins.

Clearly they are the gem of the pastry aisle — when there are still dozens of glazed donuts and an entire mountain of cheese Danishes, the muffin bin always runs dry by 12:15. I know I'm not the only one who grab-and-goes six muffins and a juice box. It's the best calorie/bag ratio available.

However, the current shrinking of the muffin threatens to destroy one of God's finest creations — the sanctity of the muffin. I have one relic from ancient times — a true mammoth muffin measuring in at a towering 8.7 cm. The insult to muffindom I snagged at lunch today tips the scales at a puny 6.3 cm.

Notre Dame: we can do better. The silent majority must remain silent no longer — rise up, and protest the desecration of the beloved institution that is the South Dining Hall muffin. The issue boils down to one simple question: would you rather have more or less muffin in your muffin?

John Greil
freshman
Keough Hall
Jan. 28

Response to racist letters

When one receives a letter with no return label merely addressed to "occupant," one should be suspicious. However, the letters my dorm received didn't contain any conventional dangers, rather, they contained something more sinister: Hate.

While I agree that this letter deserves none of our respect, I must disagree with Rector Colonna in his proposition of tossing the letter outright. To throw out this letter would be ignoring a major problem that still exists in our nation.

We may like to think that racism is gone, but as this letter indicates, there are still those out there clinging to these views. I propose reading the letter. Now, I'm not asking you to read hateful junk mail.

However, I do ask you to see the so-called "reasoning" behind racism, to see how competent writing can still be laden with terribly fallacious arguments, to confirm your beliefs that racism is irrational and abhorrent.

The man from North Dakota wants attention and change. Let's give the problem some attention. Let's make some change in the direction of equality.

David Crisostomo
sophomore
Knott Hall
Jan. 28

Truth, lies and politicians

I was impressed to see that Andrew Nesi could muster up some righteous indignation over the fact that politicians lie. Of course, his brilliant exposé on the matter simply shocked me. Politicians are not entirely truthful? Can I still believe that Bill Clinton did not have sex with that woman? That W is a uniter, not a divider? That Richard Nixon is not a crook? That George Bush the Elder would not raise taxes? That Thomas Jefferson would not expand governmental powers? What a shame that, given the impressive record of truthiness in American presidents, today's candidates refuse to uphold this tradition.

Unfortunately, I believe that Mr. Nesi forgot two examples of political dishonesty in this year's campaign from his preferred candidates. In an act that I am sure was completely accidental, Mr. Nesi forgot to mention that Barack Obama's claims of bi-partisanship don't stand up to the light of his voting record.

He also forgot that John McCain has lied about never receiving pork for his state. In truth, every single one of the candidates has lied at least once. It's a part of the process, and it will continue to be so until Americans learn to appreciate disappointing truths.

Perhaps, instead of focusing on campaign promises, we should focus on a candidate's voting record or gubernatorial achievements. It would be wise to base any presumptions on what a candidate would do in office off his or Hillary's deeds instead of their words.

Candidates lie. It's the way they all play the game. Don't vote for the candidate who can delude you the most into thinking they are an honest and upright individual. Vote for the person that has best acted out your own beliefs on government in their political careers, whether that individual is named Clinton, Obama, Romney, McCain, Huckabee or O.J. Simpson.

Will Guappone
sophomore
Fisher Hall
Jan. 28

EDITORIAL CARTOON

MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

By DAMON JASON
Scene Writer

In the events of "One More Day," Marvel made the decision to end the 20-year marriage between Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson. Through various machinations, Peter and MJ struck a deal with the demonic character Mephisto to have their marriage erased from history in order to save the life of Peter's dying Aunt May.

While fans met the decision to end the marriage with almost universal disgust, the poorly conceived story and its ill timing angered fans even more. Nevertheless, sales of the popular wall crawler's series have never been higher.

"Brand New Day" is the name of the first story arc following the demise of Peter and MJ's marriage. Longtime fans will notice many changes to the continuity that had been constructed over the last 20 years.

Peter is back to living with his Aunt May, web shooters make their return, Harry Osborn (one of the various Green Goblins) is back from the dead and Peter has not revealed his secret identity to the world.

It is almost as if Marvel is saying the last 20 years of plot development simply did not happen.

How these developments affect Spider-Man's cross-continuity with other characters in the Marvel Universe has not been revealed at this time; however, "Brand New Day" strives to build upon the Spider-Man legacy in a story that feels like many of the classic Spider-Man stories from the 1960s and 70s.

Brand New Day follows a Peter Parker who has given up his role of Spider-Man. He has resorted to borrowing money from his pal Harry Osborn to get by. Only when Peter's financial burdens become too much does he don the popular red and blue spandex.

In classic Spider-Man tradition, Parker attempts to confront various criminals, photographing himself as Spider-Man stopping them in the act, and then selling these photos to the Daily Bugle. Along the way, Spidey encounters a new crime boss, Mr. Negative, and unravels his plot to take control of New York's most powerful crime families. While a serviceable story, I can't help but feel like I have read it before.

And herein lies the problem with the changes to Spider-Man's status quo. On its own two legs, "Brand New Day" is not a bad story. It is written by Dan Slott, one of today's best writers, and is accompanied with beautiful artwork by Steve McNiven. However, longtime fans of the series will undoubtedly feel like they have read this story before.

It is almost as if Marvel is saying the last 20 years of plot development simply did not happen. The decision to basically reset the comic's continuity leads to a more simplified story, which has undoubtedly attracted many new readers.

However, Marvel must be careful not to isolate long-time fans of the series, because the surge in sales is atypical and simply will not continue unless Marvel strives to put out top quality story telling.

To be completely honest, I was expecting much more from "Brand New Day," considering all the media hype it received. The story itself was functional, but was hampered by the fact that it felt so familiar as compared to the previous installments of the classic comic.

The decision to ship the title three times a month helped "Brand New Day" because there simply was not enough going on if it stayed a monthly title. I will reserve final judgment of this new status quo to see if writers can continue to deliver solid story telling of everyone's favorite wall crawler.

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Damon Jason at djason@nd.edu

Photo shakingthrough.net

Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) and Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst) "hang around" in the film adaptation of Spider-man. The couple's recent split has fans up in arms.

By BOB COSTA
Scene Writer

Last night, Georgia-based rock band The Whigs played on CBS's "Late Show with David Letterman." The guest spot was well-deserved recognition for this emotive and bluesy rock trio, who came out with their second album "Mission Control" last Tuesday.

The Whigs — all in their twenties and hailing from Athens, Georgia — released their self-financed and independent album "Give 'Em All A Big Fat Lip" in 2005. The band quickly gained many fans who found The Whigs' early-Nineties rock vibe refreshing in the current rock scene. The Whigs look like they could be buddies of acoustic surfer-dude Jack Johnson, but they rock with the energy of guitar-heavy, jam-band groups such as Gov't Mule and The Band.

Their indie release helped get The Whigs the attention of another Southern rocker, Dave Matthews, who runs ATO Records in New York. ATO re-released "Give 'Em All A Big Fat Lip" in 2006 and The Whigs toured nationally, playing in the cotillion of jam-band festivals, Bonnaroo, in 2007. The Whigs spent most of 2006 and 2007 on the road winning over fans and critics with their full throttle alternative pop-rock. "Mission Control" is definitely a masterful senior thesis for these former college rockers.

Rolling Stone magazine declared the three-piece "the best unsigned band in America" a few years ago. Now that The Whigs are signed, they've used their new resources well on "Mission Control," giving more resonance and subtlety to their sound on songs like "Production City" and "Sleep Sunshine."

"Mission Control" was produced by Rob Schnapf, best known for his work with the late Elliott Smith. Although The Whigs play much harder and louder than Smith ever did, Schnapf manages to keep the band's songwriting as the album's central focus. It enables the lyrics to be more than just an addendum to all of the cool sonic happenings in the back of each track.

Rolling Stone magazine declared the three-piece "the best unsigned band in America" a few years ago.

"A Thousand Wives" is a cocky track, combining smooth bass lines with lyrics full of early-twenties angst. The song twists and dives from being a mellow rocker into an uplifting anthem, never deciding what it is exactly. That's what's different about this album - the music may sound familiar to rock fans, but the structure of the songs is innovative and deceptive, leading the listener on and then turning him on his head.

"Like A Vibration" picks up the pace, pulsing with more heavy bass and pounding drums, bringing to mind the sound of bands like Kings of Leon, The Strokes and even hints of Tom Petty.

"I Got Ideas" is the best track on the album, combining energetic horns with Southern rock bombast, bouncing around like the Allman Brothers trying to sing a three-minute pop song.

The final and title track, "Mission Control," is an ethereal evocation of the sound of early David Bowie and recent material by Foo Fighters. Think "Space Oddity" meets "Everlong." Lead singer Parker Gispert told NPR he thinks of the sound of "Mission Control" as "space blues."

That's a pretty apt description. The music is not as esoteric and colorful as Bowie but does have the urgency and alternative-rock vibe of Pearl Jam albums like "Yield" and "Vs."

Keep an eye out for The Whigs on their upcoming tour, since many of the tracks on "Mission Control" are just begging to be let loose live by this young Southern rock band.

Contact Bob Costa at bcosta1@nd.edu

Mission Control
The Whigs
Released by: Ato Records / Red
Recommended Tracks: "A Thousand Wives," "Like a Vibration" and "I Got Ideas"

By JAMES COSTA
Scene Writer

In a marked change from its first few albums, Sam Beam's band Iron and Wine has moved away from the hushed-lullaby song concept to a far more developed sound. In their latest, "The Shepherd's Dog," the band utilizes a strong percussion element to augment intricate arrangements of vocals and instrumentals.

Iron and Wine began as a one-man affair, Beam, who recorded bedtime songs for his son. Since then, Beam has added members and instruments to the band, with the progression seen clearly on the EP "Woman King" and 2005's full band record "In the Reins," which was a collaboration with Calexico.

The band received some recognition in 2004 after the film "Garden State" came to theaters. The film, starring Natalie Portman, featured the song "Such Great Heights," a cover of the Postal Service song by the same name.

Ever conscious of the band's simple origins, Beam began this album in a similar fashion. In "Pagan Angel and a Borrowed Car," the recording is rough until the arrangement kicks in and a full instrumental sound takes over. Rattling along, the song pulls in the sounds of the acoustic slide guitar, the steel guitar and the tack piano.

The influences are wide-ranging, from Sufjan Stevens to Bruce Hornsby to the falsetto period of Bruce Springsteen. And it all sounds darkly delightful.

A more ambitious and intricate element of the album is Beam's incorporation of international influences into his Americana focus. This is seen in the West African-inspired track "House by the Sea."

Willing a spirit into the music that seems garnered straight from a night spent wandering through the coastal Senegalese city of Dakar, Beam begins with a wandering rhythmic pulse and then adds a haunting bass and woodwind section. It creates a feeling of evening darkness.

Sam Beam's band Iron and Wine has moved away from a hushed lullaby song concept to a far more developed sound.

Another highlight of the album is the richly composed, almost Persian sounding, "White Tooth Man." The song pounds along in a frantic, ominous passion, which contrasts with the eerie and mischievous "Boy with a Coin."

As noted, the album is different from Iron and Wine's previous offerings. It takes a few more listens to appreciate the extent of Beam's latest effort.

Each song stands alone as an individual journey into the swelling emotions and ideas of the singer, which takes a bit of time to appreciate in its entirety. The final track, "Flightless Bird, American Mouth," delivers a restrained end to a record that feels held in uncomfortable suspension for the preceding eleven tracks.

With a chilling use of Beam's emotive voice, the song moves toward its final verse, asking "Have I found you? / Flightless bird, brown hair bleeding / Or lost you? / American mouth / Big bill, stuck going down." In a tragically uplifting tone, the vocals bleed to silence as the music fades slowly behind, letting the record resolve itself into a quiet, if slightly wounded finish.

There isn't a bad song on the disc, with each one offering a unique perspective into the mind of Beam and his talented collaborators as they bring us deep into the heart of the shepherd's dog.

Contact James Costa at jcosta1@nd.edu

The Shepherd's Dog
Iron and Wine
Released by: Sub Pop Records
Recommended Tracks: "House by the Sea" and "White Tooth Man"

MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

NBA

Paul dishes out 10 assists in Hornets' win

Williams tallies double-double in Utah's fifth-straight victory; Mavericks begin tough road trip by beating Memphis

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Chris Paul emerged from a scrum under the basket, nimbly dribbling out to the perimeter to reset another Hornets possession.

A jubilant crowd rose to its feet, chanting, "M-V-P, M-V-P!"

Perhaps local fans are figuring out they don't need visits from players like Allen Iverson to bring them out to the games. They have a star of their own, not to mention one of the best teams in the NBA right now.

Paul had 23 points, 17 assists and nine rebounds, and the New Orleans Hornets ran away with their ninth straight win, 117-93 over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night.

Down the stretch, the crowd repeatedly chanted superlatives in recognition of a masterful performance by the Hornets' third-year guard, who is New Orleans' best hope for a representative in the All-Star game when coaches elect the reserves this week.

Other candidates include center Tyson Chandler and forward David West, as Paul was quick to mention when asked what he thought of the MVP chants.

"I was thinking they're exactly right," Paul said. "D-West and Tyson might be MVPs."

Even in a game featuring Iverson, recently elected an All-Star starter, Paul was the best player on the floor. Iverson also scored 23, but had only three assists and got little help other than from Kenyon Martin, who scored 18.

Hornets coach Byron Scott said he would be "shocked" if Paul wasn't invited to the All-Star game, but Paul insisted he has other short-term goals.

"The only thing that's on my mind right now, to tell you the truth, is to get my coaches in the All-Star game," Paul said. "I'm looking at the standings all day, every day, right now. I think that would be the greatest feeling for me if (Scott) could coach in that game."

That will happen if the Hornets (32-12) remain in their surprising perch atop the powerful Western Conference until Feb. 3.

"I am not ready to jump on their bandwagon, but they're pretty good and I'm not sure what weakness they have," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "Chris Paul is a great point guard. He can go anywhere he wants to go. They have size, they have shooters, they play as a team, they have a good bench ... . One can argue that have an All-Star player at four positions."

Monday's matchup also featured a pair of centers vying for a reserve spot in the All-Star game in Chandler and Denver's Marcus Camby.

In this game, there was no comparison. Chandler finished with 10 points and 16 rebounds. Camby was a nonfactor for most of the first three quarters. He didn't score until he made a free throw with 1:52 to go in the third period. He finished with three points and five rebounds.

"I definitely feel like I should be in the All-Star game," Chandler said. "I've worked hard all year, I've helped my team win basketball games and I really feel like that's what being an All-Star is all about. You should be rewarded for good basketball and winning and hopefully the coaches see it in my favor."

The second-best center in the game was Hornets reserve Melvin Ely, who had 16 points and nine rebounds in 23 minutes.

Peja Stojakovic hit four 3-pointers and finished with 19 points for New Orleans, and Jannero Pargo and West each scored 13 points.

Recently elected All-Star Carmelo Anthony missed his fourth straight game with a sprained left ankle, and the undermanned Nuggets struggled to keep pace.

New Orleans built a 20-point lead in the first half and maintained that margin through most of the second half.

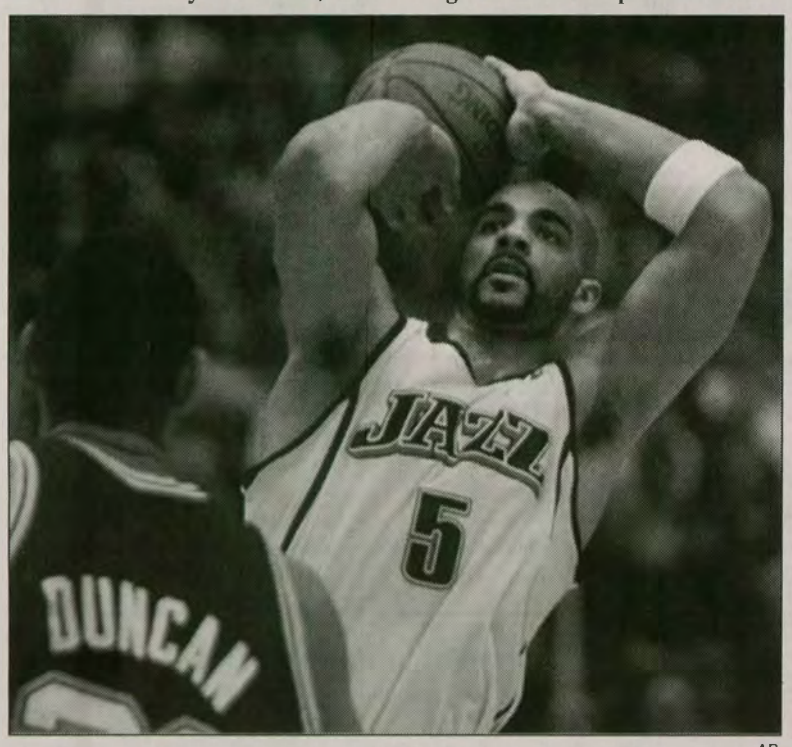
Iverson's driving layups on consecutive possessions gave Denver a glimmer of hope, cutting the score to 91-76 early in the fourth quarter.

But with Paul running the offense, the Hornets quickly sealed it with a 12-0 run that started when Paul set up Ely for a score inside and finished when Paul tossed an alley-oop on rookie Julian Wright's dunk.

New Orleans ended up shooting 51 percent for the game and outrebounded Denver 52-33.

AP

Hornets guard Chris Paul drives past Nuggets center Marcus Camby during New Orleans' 117-93 home victory Monday night.



AP

Jazz forward Carlos Boozer shoots over Spurs forward Tim Duncan during Utah's 97-91 home victory Monday night.

Jazz 97, Spurs 91

The Utah Jazz were ready to push back this time against the San Antonio Spurs.

The Jazz, who were dominated by the Spurs in the Western Conference finals last spring, never trailed Monday night and held off the defending NBA champions. The game was full of collisions, hard fouls and some verbal exchanges and the Jazz countered everything the Spurs had.

Deron Williams had 11 points and 14 assists and Carlos Boozer and Andrei Kirilenko scored 23 points each for Utah, which won its fifth straight and improved to 10-2 in January.

The Spurs committed 20 turnovers and were just 13-for-38 from the field in the second half.

"I think our team is playing well because that's what happens when you play better defensively," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "It's a lot of work to play defense."

Tim Duncan had 26 points and 11 rebounds, but was the only San Antonio starter to score more than five points. Williams smothered Tony Parker and held him to five points and three assists.

"They were better," said Manu Ginobili, who led the Spurs with 29 points. "We turned the ball over way too much. Twenty times against the Jazz is really hard to overcome."

The Spurs finished with 11 assists, three fewer than Williams. Boozer had seven assists and Kirilenko added four steals for the Jazz, who played a much rougher game than they did in the one-sided playoff series.

Mavericks 103, Grizzlies 83

The Dallas Mavericks started one of their toughest road trips of the season with an easy victory.

With three games looming against Eastern Conference division leaders, Josh Howard hit his first eight shots on the way to 26 points and Dallas shot 54 percent in a victory over the lowly Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

"Every team is a great team, especially on its home court," said Howard, who was 10-of-17 from the floor. "We had to take [the Grizzlies] seriously. It's a great start, but we've got three more to go."

The Mavericks still have to play Boston, Detroit and Orlando on a four-game trip before returning home Feb. 6 against Milwaukee.

Playing on Memphis' home floor really isn't that tough for the Mavericks. Dallas has won 13 straight over the Grizzlies, including a sweep of Memphis in the opening round of the 2006 playoffs. The Mavericks have never lost at the FedExForum, which opened in 2004. The Grizzlies' last home victory over Dallas was Feb. 17, 2004, in their previous home, The Pyramid.

Dirk Nowitzki added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Jason Terry finished with 14 points for the Mavericks, who won their fourth straight and 12th in the last 14. Erick Dampier contributed 11 points and 12 rebounds.

The Mavericks were without starting guard Devin Harris and forward Jerry Stackhouse, one of their top reserves, who sat out with injuries.

"We pride ourselves whenever we have a man down, banning together and really putting together some great efforts," Terry said.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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For more information, visit our website at: http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml or see our bi-weekly ad in The Observer.

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit http://osa.nd.edu/departments/rape.shtml

Around the Nation

Compiled from The Observer's wire services

Men's College Basketball Polls

	AP team		Coaches team	
1	Memphis (46)		Memphis (20)	1
2	Kansas (26)		Kansas (11)	2
3	Duke		Duke	3
4	North Carolina		North Carolina	4
5	UCLA		UCLA	5
6	Georgetwon		Georgetown	6
7	Tennessee		Michigan State	7
8	Michigan State		Tennessee	8
9	Washington State		Washington State	9
10	Texas		Texas	10
11	Indiana		Indiana	11
12	Butler		Butler	12
13	Wisconsin		Wisconsin	13
14	Stanford		Stanford	14
15	Xavier		Xavier	15
16	Drake		Marquette	16
17	Marquette		Drake	17
18	Pittsburgh		Vanderbilt	18
19	Vanderbilt		Florida	19
20	Florida		Saint Mary's	20
21	Saint Mary's		Pittsburgh	21
22	Kansas State		Mississippi	22
23	Texas A&M		Texas A&M	23
24	Mississippi		Kansas State	24
25	Baylor		Mississippi State	25

Women's AP College Basketball Poll

	team	points	previous
1	Connecticut (50)	1250	1
2	Tennessee	1200	2
3	North Carolina	1128	3
4	Rutgers	1086	5
5	Maryland	1051	4
6	Baylor	990	6
7	Stanford	980	7
8	LSU	908	9
9	Duke	817	10
10	California	772	8
11	Oklahoma	753	11
12	West Virginia	661	14
13	Old Dominion	658	15
14	Pittsburgh	528	19
15	Wyoming	502	18
16	George Washington	451	20
17	Georgia	419	17
18	Kansas State	375	22
19	Ohio State	348	15
20	NOTRE DAME	271	16
21	Oklahoma State	258	14
22	Syracuse	216	24
23	DePaul	161	NR
24	Illinois State	84	NR
25	Texas	79	NR

USFCA Fencing Polls

	Men's team		Women's team	
1	Penn State		NOTRE DAME	1
2	Ohio State		Ohio State	2
3	NOTRE DAME		Columbia-Barnard	3
4	St. John's (N.Y.)		Penn State	4
5	Columbia		Harvard	5
6	Pennsylvania		Northwestern	6
7	Harvard		St. John's (N.Y.)	7
8	Princeton		Pennsylvania	8
9	Brandeis		Temple	9
10	Stanford		Princeton	10

around the dial

NBA Basketball
Timberwolves at Bulls
8:30 p.m., CSN

College Basketball
Ohio State at Penn State
7 p.m., ESPN
Tennessee at Alabama
9 p.m., ESPN

MLB

AP

Roger Clemens practices with trainer Brian McNamee during spring training last February. According to the Mitchell report, McNamee injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone.

Clemens' agent refutes Mitchell Report

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Roger Clemens' agent released an 18,000-word statistical report Monday to rebut allegations the pitcher's career rebounded about the time he was accused of using performance-enhancing drugs.

"Clemens' longevity was due to his ability to adjust his style of pitching as he got older, incorporating his very effective split-finger fastball to offset the decrease in the speed of his regular fastball caused by aging," said the report, created by Randy Hendricks and two associates at his firm.

Clemens' former trainer, Brian McNamee, claimed in last month's Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball that he injected the pitcher with steroids and human growth hormone at least 16 times in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Clemens vehemently denies the allegations, and Clemens and McNamee are among five witnesses scheduled to testify before a House committee on Feb. 13. Clemens also has sued McNamee for defamation.

Hendricks' report, which includes 38 charts, in some ways resembles a salary arbitration case. One of the charts shows Clemens' ERA was lower than the league average in all but two of his 23 major league seasons. The report also compares variations in Clemens' career with those of Randy Johnson, Curt Schilling and Nolan Ryan, and maintains slumps often can be correlated with injuries.

"Of the six years that feature Clemens' best ERA margins, two occurred in Boston, after he had been in the major leagues for several years; two occurred in his two years in Toronto; and two occurred after he switched leagues and pitched for the Houston Astros," the report said.

Clemens went 40-39 in his last four seasons with the Red Sox, and when the pitcher left Boston's general manager at the time, Dan Duquette, said Clemens was in the "twilight" of his career. Clemens was 192-111 with the Red Sox and won three Cy Young Awards and an MVP, then went 162-73 with Toronto, the New York Yankees and Houston, winning four Cy Youngs.

"Clemens was far from being in the 'twilight of his career' or 'washed up' in 1996, as some have speculated," the report said. "During the 1996 season Clemens ranked first in strikeouts in the American League and tied his own record by striking out 20 batters in Detroit on Sept. 18, 1996. In addition, he ranked sixth in the AL in ERA, second in the AL in hits per nine innings, and fifth in innings pitched. This performance cannot be reasonably categorized as a 'twilight.'"

"I'd like to thank my parents — my dad for taking the line drives off the elbow and my mom for teaching me how to talk trash," he said.

In Brief

Ryan to return as Ravens defensive coordinator

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Rex Ryan would have preferred to be a head coach. Instead, he got the second-best thing: His old job, a new title and more responsibility.

Ryan was hired as the assistant head coach/defensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens on Monday. The hire was made by new head coach John Harbaugh, who prevailed over Ryan in the team's quest to find a replacement for Brian Billick.

The 45-year-old Ryan and the rest of the coaching staff were fired with Billick after the season. Ryan was one of six people to be interviewed for the head coaching vacancy in Baltimore, and he interviewed with the Atlanta Falcons and Miami Dolphins.

No one offered him a job, so Ryan returned for a 10th season with the Ravens, the fourth as defensive coordinator.

Mariners may trade prospect for Bedard

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners have asked top prospect Adam Jones to leave his Venezuelan Winter League team and return to the U.S., amid reports he's headed to Baltimore as part of a trade for pitcher Erik Bedard.

Mariners spokesman Tim Hevly confirmed Sunday night the team had requested the return of Jones, who was expected to be one of Seattle's starting outfielders when the season begins.

"We did ask Adam to come back from Venezuela," Hevly said, declining to give a reason for the request.

That confirmation followed Sunday's Seattle Times report that Mariners general manager Bill Bavasi was making Jones the centerpiece of a deal for Bedard. The Times, citing comments obtained from a Venezuelan newspaper, reported Jones said he'd discussed the deal with Bavasi and was going to Baltimore on Monday for a physical.

Tour de France champion donates bikes to N.M. kids

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Johan Bruyneel and some members of cycling team Astana gave bicycles to 25 New Mexico children.

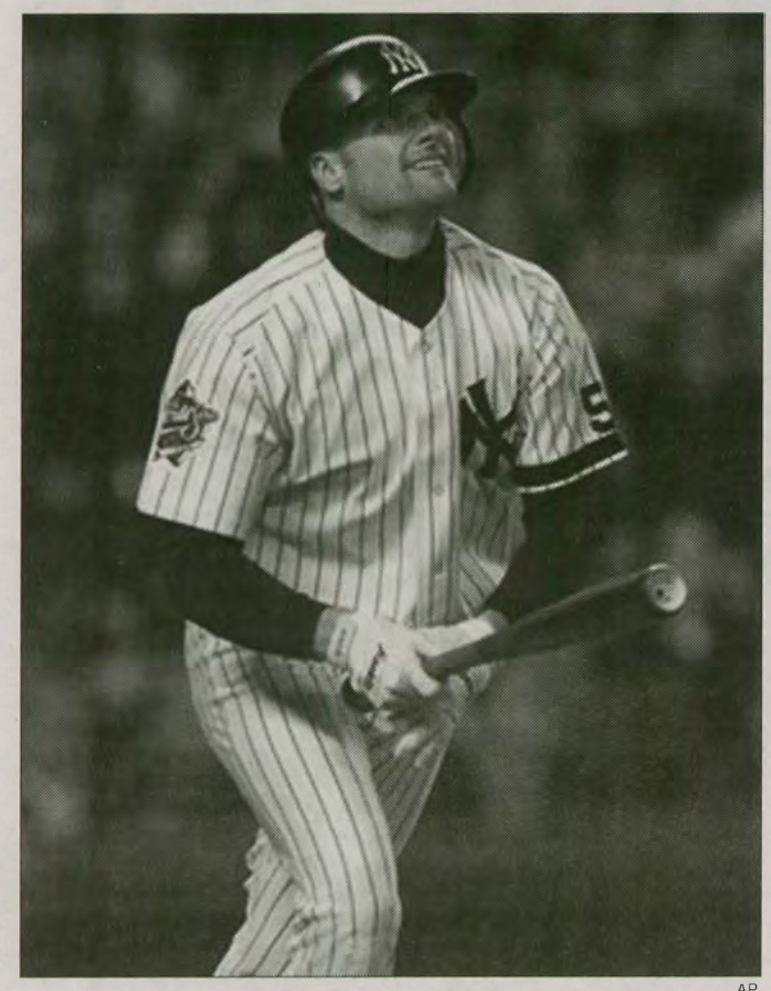
Bruyneel and his team, including Tour de France champion Alberto Contador and USA national road champion Levi Leipheimer, are in Albuquerque for two weeks of high-altitude training. It's the first time Astana has held a training camp in the United States.

Bruyneel spent part of the afternoon shaking hands and giving out Trek bikes of all colors and sizes as part of a new program with Bernalillo County dubbed "Johan's Kids."

Charles Ovis, a local training camp representative, said Bruyneel wanted to get involved with the community and the bike giveaway was a perfect way to encourage local children to start pedaling.

MLB

Knoblauch agrees to meet Congress



AP

Former Yankees second baseman Chuck Knoblauch watches his game-tying home run in Game 3 of the 1999 World Series.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chuck Knoblauch is heading to Capitol Hill.

Knoblauch, a four-time All-Star who played with Roger Clemens on the New York Yankees, agreed Monday to speak to a House committee investigating drug use in baseball after initially failing to respond to an invitation to testify.

His silence prompted the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to issue a subpoena last week, but federal marshals were not able to track down Knoblauch right away. The 1991 AL Rookie of the Year eventually did make contact, and his twice-postponed meeting with committee staff for a deposition or transcribed interview will be Friday.

That session is preparation for the panel's hearing Feb. 13, when Knoblauch is among five scheduled witnesses, including Clemens and his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee.

Also scheduled to testify are Andy Pettitte, a former teammate and workout partner of Clemens' who also trained with McNamee, and ex-New York Mets clubhouse employee Kirk Radomski.

"We are pleased that Mr. Knoblauch has agreed to voluntarily participate in a transcribed interview or deposition with the committee. As a result, the committee is withdrawing the subpoena," Oversight committee chairman Henry Waxman and ranking Republican Tom Davis said in a statement.

Members of both majority and minority staffs declined to comment Monday when asked for details on Knoblauch's about-face. A lawyer identified by a committee staffer as Knoblauch's representative did not immediately return requests for comment made via telephone and e-mail.

Pettitte is slated to be the first Feb. 13 witness to appear for a deposition or transcribed interview, with his session scheduled for Wednesday. Clemens is to follow on Feb. 5, with McNamee on Feb. 7. Radomski's meeting with committee staff, originally scheduled for Feb. 1, then announced as "to be determined," is now listed on the committee's Web site for Feb. 12 — the day before the hearing.

Representatives of baseball's players and owners, meanwhile, plan to meet later this week to discuss recommendations George Mitchell made in his report on baseball's steroids era, some of which are subject to collective bargaining.

Letters sent by Waxman and Davis to Clemens, Pettitte and Knoblauch on Jan. 16, requesting their appearances both at the hearing and a pre-hearing meeting, said: "The committee asks that you provide testimony about allegations in Senator George Mitchell's report ... that you and other Major League Baseball players used performance enhancing drugs during your professional baseball career."

The Mitchell Report, released last month, included McNamee's allegations that he injected Clemens with steroids in 1998 while they were with Toronto, and with steroids and human growth hormone in 2000 and 2001 while with New York. Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, has repeatedly denied the accusations.

Pettitte acknowledged McNamee injected him with HGH twice while the pitcher was recovering from an injury.

NFL

No threats for Super Sunday

Authorities have no specific security concerns for Super Bowl

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The police agencies responsible for patrolling the Super Bowl say they're not aware of any threat so far to the biggest single-day sporting event in the country, but they've organized a massive build up of security just in case.

FBI Special Agent John Lewis said Monday that authorities have heard only "what I would call fairly routine, very small incoming complaints about somebody wanting to do this or that.

"That's very typical in these types of cases," he said.

Nevertheless, with millions of people focused on the Super Bowl in Glendale, federal security officials have again designated the game a "level one" special event, just below President Bush's State of the Union address.

This year's Super Bowl festivities also will be complicated by another major sporting event, the FBR Open golf tournament, going on simultaneously in Scottsdale. Security agencies have been meeting for 15 months to ensure that they keep an organized watch over the entire metro area this week.

Glendale Police Lt. Matt Apodaca said more than 800 officers from numerous city agencies will patrol a 2-square-mile security zone around the University of Phoenix Stadium. Apodaca said officers on horseback, on foot and in motorized carts will mingle with fans who are attending the game and the NFL Experience, a weeklong festival nearby.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will bring packs of Labrador retrievers that are trained to sniff out compounds that are common among most explosives.

"We bring in our dogs because they are, quite frankly, the best in the federal government," ATF Special Agent Tom Mangan said.

Police also have installed security cameras throughout the stadium area. Overhead, U.S. Customs and Border Protection aircraft will circle the sky and give authorities a birds-eye view of what's going on.

U.S. Customs will intercept any threat from the air with Blackhawk helicopters and Citation jets based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, about 100 miles to the south in Tucson, said Ken Huffer, the Secret Service special agent in charge in Phoenix.

Huffer said federal authorities will enforce a 30-mile no-fly zone around the stadium below 22,000 feet on game day.

The no-fly zone overlaps with Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, but Huffer said commercial pilots have been notified and should be able to work around the new security limits.

"I can assure you that there will be no interference with scheduled commercial aircraft," Huffer said.

Security officers will be feeding information to a Joint Operations Center in downtown Phoenix. Federal officials, along with representatives of police and fire departments, opened the center this week.

Arizona Department of Public Safety Commander Mike Orose, the liaison between local public safety agencies and the NFL, said the center will help distribute rescue crews in case there is an emergency.

If there is a bomb threat, an ATF response vehicle will be standing by near the stadium to analyze any possible explosive.

Security officials say they hope fans won't notice most of their efforts. But people attending the Super Bowl likely will have to deal with more restrictions than they're used to during the regular season.

Super Bowl officials said they will prohibit fans from entering the stadium with anything larger than a small purse or bag. They also won't allow any binocular and camera cases.

Pregame tailgaters also will be forbidden from much of the festivities they're used to.

Fans will be allowed to tailgate near their vehicles with their own food and drinks, but they won't be allowed to have grills.

They're also not allowed to park in more than one parking spot or pitch tents in the parking lot.

Orose said authorities started working on security plans for the Super Bowl in November 2006.

They used this year's Fiesta Bowl as a dress rehearsal. "Our planning process, communications, the joint operations center — it was really a whole combination of things that we wanted to test out," Orose said.

Orose said a joint operations center will be especially necessary for this year's Super Bowl because of the FBR Open and because the Super Bowl events are spread throughout the metro area.

The only comparable sporting event after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks was the 2001 World Series in Phoenix, Orose said.

That was a huge event and had a lot of media coverage, but it occurred in just one location, Orose said.

"The NFL and the Super Bowl is a weeklong event with a series of activities taking place across the" Phoenix area.

NBA

Webber may head to Warriors

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Coach Don Nelson wants to bring free agent forward Chris Webber back to Golden State, nearly 14 years after a feud ended their first stint together.

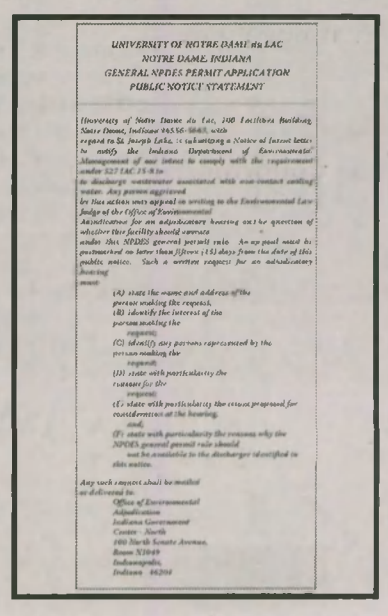
"I hope that it happens to be quite honest with you," Nelson said Sunday before the Warriors beat the New York Knicks 106-104. "I think our team needs it."

Webber was acquired by the Warriors in a draft day trade with Orlando in 1993 after becoming just the second sophomore ever to be the top pick in the NBA draft. He won the Rookie of the Year award and made the playoffs in his only season in Golden State.

But Webber clashed with Nelson and demanded a trade before his second season, and was eventually dealt to Washington in November 1994 for Tom Gugliotta and three first-round picks. At the time, Webber cited unhappiness over Nelson's sometimes abrasive coaching style as a main reason for his wanting out of Golden State.

Nelson was fired shortly after the trade, only to be brought back as Warriors coach last season. Nelson said he and Webber have talked over the years and that both men have matured since their feud more than a decade ago.

"I've learned over the years," Nelson said. "I've softened a bit through some of the experiences I've had. I look back at the time when Chris and I were here early in our careers. We were both pretty stubborn and I was maybe too tough and he was too young to see the positives I was trying to bring to the table."



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME du LAC
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA
GENERAL NPDES PERMIT APPLICATION
PUBLIC NOTICE STATEMENT

University of Notre Dame du Lac, 300 Facilities Building, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5601, with regard to St. Joseph Lake, is submitting a Notice of Intent letter to notify the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirement under 327 IAC 15-4 to
to discharge wastewater associated with non-contact cooling water. Any person aggrieved
by this action may appeal in writing to the Environmental Law Judge of the Office of Environmental
Administration for an adjudicatory hearing on the question of whether this facility should operate
under this NPDES general permit rule. An appeal must be postmarked no later than fifteen (15) days from the date of this public notice. Such a written request for an adjudicatory hearing
must
(A) state the name and address of the
person making the request,
(B) identify the interest of the
person making the
request,
(C) identify any persons represented by the
person making the
request,
(D) state with particularity the
reasons for the
request,
(E) state with particularity the issues proposed for
consideration at the hearing,
and,
(F) state with particularity the reasons why the
NPDES general permit rule should
not be available to the discharger identified in
this notice.
Any such request shall be mailed
or delivered to:
Office of Environmental
Adjudication
Indiana Government
Center North
100 North Senate Avenue,
Room N1049
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46204

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MLB

Inge disgruntled at Tigers' acquisition of Cabrera

Third baseman asked for trade, now 'thought it was time to talk' after two months without being accommodated

Associated Press

DETROIT — Brandon Inge is angry the Detroit Tigers acquired Miguel Cabrera to replace him at third base.

Inge asked the Tigers to trade him after they made the deal at the winter meetings nearly two months ago, but Detroit hasn't accommodated him.

"They're still trying to trade me, but I need to get ready for the possibility that I'm going to spring training with the Tigers," Inge said Monday, speaking for the first time since the trade. "People have said or written, 'Take your $6 million and be happy sitting on the bench.' But money doesn't make me happy — playing baseball does."

"But money doesn't make me happy — playing baseball does."

Brandon Inge
Tigers third baseman

Inge agreed to a $24 million, four-year contract last winter. After talking to team president Dave Dombrowski on Monday, Inge said he is ready to move on and begrudgingly accept his role as a utility player.

"The only reason I'm bitter, mad and frustrated is that I'm probably not going to play as much as I have in the past," he said.

Inge played 469 games at third base the past three seasons. The 30-year-old Inge plans to work out with Detroit's pitchers and catchers beginning Feb. 15 in Lakeland, Fla., where he will get reacquainted with catching, a position he played for 104 games during the 2003 season.

"I'll play [Inge] everywhere but as a pitcher."

Jim Leyland
Tigers manager

Inge has a shot to be Ivan Rodriguez's primary backup because Vance Wilson has not recovered from elbow surgery that kept him off the field all of last year.

The versatile Inge also has major league experience at all three outfield positions. He played shortstop and pitched in college at Virginia Commonwealth.

"I'll play him everywhere but as a pitcher," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "I talked to Ingey today and we both agreed that after we discuss his situation during the first or second day of spring training, we're not going to talk about it anymore and we're going to make the best of it."

Inge hit .236 with 14 homers and 71 RBIs in 151 games last year, when he had 18 errors and probably twice as many spectacular plays on defense.

Cabrera's batting average last season in Florida was .320 and he hit 34 homers with 119 RBIs. In five seasons with the Marlins, the four-time All-Star batted .313 with 138 home runs and 523 RBIs.

Detroit traded for Cabrera and starting pitcher Dontrelle Willis in early December, dealing six players, including two highly rated prospects: left-hander Andrew Miller and outfielder Cameron Maybin.

Inge, one of the most accessible athletes in Detroit, kept his thoughts to himself for weeks and recently was criticized for it.

"I owe everything to my fans, but it wouldn't have done me or the Tigers any good to say, 'I don't know what's going to happen,' or for me to bash anybody about losing my job," Inge said.

AP

Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge secures a high bouncer during a Sept. 14, 2007 game in Minneapolis.

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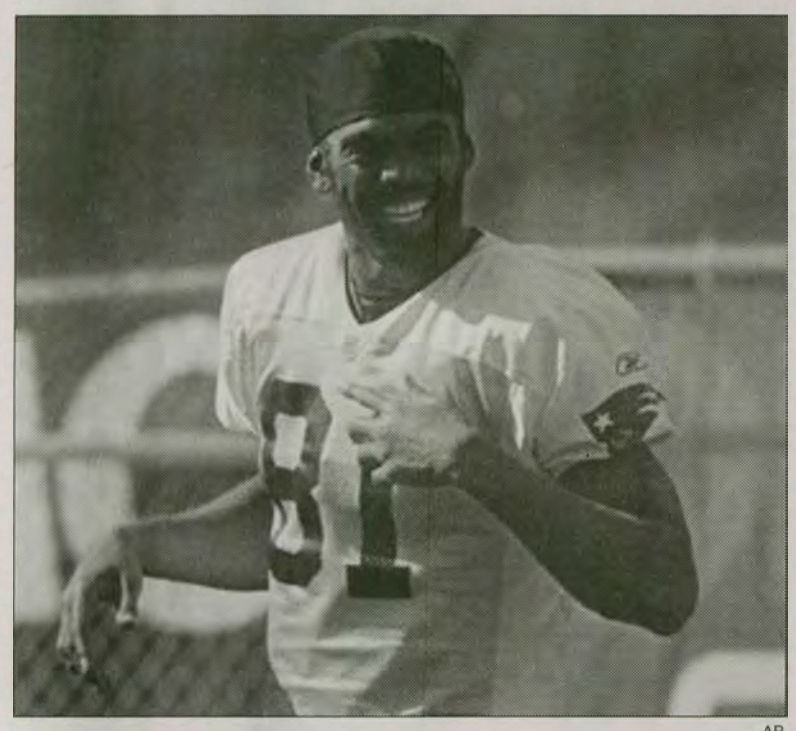
Judge lengthens restraining order



AP

Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss jokes around with teammates before Monday's Super Bowl practice in Tempe, Ariz.

Sanction against Moss extended to March 28

Associated Press

BOSTON — A temporary restraining order against Randy Moss was extended until March 28 while the New England Patriots wide receiver was in Arizona on Monday preparing for the Super Bowl.

Moss' lawyer, Richard Sharpstein, said the decision came at a hearing in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., after he learned the player's longtime friend changed attorneys. She obtained the order Jan. 14.

Rachelle Washington's new attorney is Darrell Thompson, who replaces David McGill. A spokesman for Thompson confirmed the change. McGill did not return calls.

The temporary order required Moss to stay at least 500 feet from Washington. No criminal charge has been brought, and Moss and the woman described each other as longtime friends.

Moss has denied the accusation by Washington that he committed "battery causing serious injury" to her at her Florida home Jan. 6. Washington did not attend Monday's session, Sharpstein said.

"He will stay completely away from her and has no desire to have contact with her," the lawyer told The Associated Press. "He's in Phoenix busy preparing to win the Super Bowl and on a day like today his mind is elsewhere."

Moss defended his conduct in the Patriots' locker room on Jan. 16. Four days later, New England beat San Diego 21-12 in the AFC championship game at Foxborough. For the second straight game, he caught just one pass.

The issue, however, was quickly overtaken last week by the swirl of attention around quarterback Tom Brady, who was spotted wearing a protective boot on his right foot in New York. He didn't comment on it until arriving in Phoenix on Sunday night.

"It's feeling good. I'll be ready to go," Brady said.

On draft day last April, the Patriots sent a 2007 fourth-round draft choice to Oakland for Moss. He set an NFL season record of 23 touchdown catches, breaking Jerry Rice's mark by one. He finished tied for eighth in the league with 98 catches and second with 1,493 yards receiving.

Moss said the woman who obtained the order has been a friend for 11 years and she asked for "six figures" for what he said was an accident in which she was hurt.

"They're false allegations, something I've been battling for like the last couple of days of threats going public if I didn't pay X amount of dollars," Moss said. "This young lady by no means is hurt. I didn't hurt her."

Sharpstein said Monday that if Moss didn't agree to pay "a great deal of money" by 5 p.m. on Jan. 11, the day before the Patriots beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 31-20 in an AFC divisional playoff game, he would go public.

"It's blackmail," Sharpstein said. "Extortion is the technical crime."

McGill issued a statement Jan. 17, saying that Moss' representatives were the first to suggest that Moss pay the woman to keep the issue quiet.

"She has suffered mental and physical harm as a result of his actions," the statement said. "She simply wants him to take responsibility for what he has done. As a battery victim, she has shown great strength throughout this entire ordeal.

Washington also alleged that Moss refused to allow her to seek medical treatment. Moss denied that. Neither McGill nor Sharpstein has specified the nature of an injury.

"He has acknowledged that he was at Ms. Washington's Florida residence and that he was 'guilty' of an 'accident' which occurred," the statement said.

NFL

Crennel agrees to extension

Browns reward league's oldest coach after surprising 10-6 season

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Coach Romeo Crennel has agreed to terms on a two-year contract extension with the Cleveland Browns, his agent said Monday night.

The 60-year-old Crennel, the league's oldest coach, had two years remaining on the five-year deal he signed with the Browns in 2005. His agent, Joe Linta, said the sides have agreed in principle to the extension but that it has not yet been signed.

Crennel began the 2007 season on the hot seat after going just 10-22 in his first two seasons. However, Crennel, who won three Super Bowl rings as New England's defensive coordinator before coming to Cleveland, guided the Browns to a 10-6 mark — their best since 1999 — and the club just missed making the AFC playoffs.

The extension is not a surprise. Last month, general manager Phil Savage said the Browns intended to reward Crennel for turning the team around after years of disarray.

"He really deserves an extension," rookie tackle Joe Thomas said. "He did a great job this year and you can see that his plan is kind of taking hold, what his vision was when he first got hired.

"It will be nice for him to finally not feel the heat from everybody."

AP

Browns coach Romeo Crennel shouts at officials during Cleveland's 27-21 loss to Arizona on Dec. 2.

Crennel's extension comes after some major turnover on his coaching staff.

Defensive coordinator Todd Grantham was fired Jan. 11 and replaced by Mel Tucker, who previously coached Cleveland's secondary. Also, offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski, who was being considered by Baltimore as its next head coach, was given a two-year extension through 2011.

Tucker, too, got an extension and the Browns want to have Crennel in line with his coordinators.

Linta began negotiations with Savage at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., last week.

Crennel's days with the Browns seemed to be down to a few after they were drubbed 34-7 at home by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the season opener. But sparked by quarterback Derek Anderson, Cleveland quickly turned it around, went 7-1 at home, and missed the postseason because of a tiebreaker.

The Browns credited Crennel's calmness, poise and guidance with getting them through a difficult stretch. He's very popular with Cleveland's players, who awarded Crennel a game ball following a season-ending win over San Francisco.

"He's like a father figure," defensive lineman Shaun Smith said. "I feel like he should have been coach of the year. He deserves it. The team went from 4-12 to 10-6. He's straightforward. He tells the truth."

WNBA

Players near new labor deal

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The WNBA players union neared ratification of a new six-year contract with the league Monday in a deal that includes increases in wages and a dual salary-cap system.

Approval of the contract by the league's 165 players, a large number of whom are playing overseas, was running more than 95 percent in favor among ballots cast. About half of the players have voted.

The collective bargaining agreement, reached Friday and announced Monday, includes an increase in the maximum salary from $93,000 to $95,000 this season, with $2,000 increases each year. Veteran minimums will increase by about $1,000 to $50,000, and rookie minimums will increase from $32,600 to $34,500 for the four-month season.

"We are happy with the way the deal turned out," said Pam Wheeler, executive director of the WNBA players union. "We made significant economic strides, we made some significant changes to the system, and enhanced the quality of life for players both during and after the season."

The contract through 2013 includes an annual increase of 3 percent in the basic cap, from $722,000 in 2007 to $750,000 this year. Teams will now be allowed to exceed that figure by a maximum of approximately 4 percent each year, with the cap increasing to $869,000 in 2013, and a 'flex' maximum of $913,000.

"We're extremely pleased to have long-term stability and to emerge from this process with a unified outlook among ownership and players," WNBA president Donna Orender said in a release announcing the deal. "The new collective bargaining agreement, coupled with our new television deal and increased activation on the part of our sponsors provides further affirmation regarding the growth, popularity and quality of our game."

"We are happy with the way the deal turned out."

Pam Wheeler
executive director of the WNBA players' union

Last July, the WNBA signed an eight-year deal with ESPN/ABC that begins in 2009 and will pay the league an undisclosed sum for rights fees for the first time.

The WNBA also announced the expansion draft will be held Feb. 6 for the Atlanta Dream, the 14th team in the league. The WNBA begins its 12th season May 17 when the Los Angeles Sparks play the defending champion Phoenix Mercury on ABC.

This is the third collective bargaining agreement for the league. In 2003, negotiations went into late April and the five-year deal was signed less than a month before the start of the season.

"I don't know if it was necessarily looking at that as the impetus to get things done early as much as just trying to get the deal done so the expansion draft can take place and other orders of business can be taken care of for the WNBA to run properly and be successful," Wheeler said.

Rookies will still sign three-year deals with team options for a fourth year, though players will see increases of 10 percent in the third year and 15 percent in the fourth. Players will still need four years of experience to be restricted free agents, and six years to be unrestricted.

Since 2003, teams have been able to designate two 'core' players, who automatically receive the maximum salary. That will drop to one player starting in 2009, and each player now will be allowed to have the core designation a maximum of five times. The core player also will receive $2,500 on top of the maximum salary.

"We feel very fortunate to have completed a deal that we think will help veterans and younger players alike," said Indiana Fever star Tamika Catchings.

CLUB SPORTS

Volleyball defeats MSU in five games

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame won its first match in the annual "Battle of the House of Noise" against rival Michigan State 3-2 on Saturday.

Fueled by high-powered hitting by middle blocker Tim Goldberg, the Irish offense was going on all cylinders in the first game, cruising to a 25-17 victory.

Following a verbal lashing by their coach, the Spartans came out for the second set with intensity. An early run by Michigan State left the Irish in a hole for the majority of the game. Despite superb defense by outside hitter Alex Lewis, the Irish could not make up the early deficit as Michigan State held on and took the second set, 21-25.

Early in the third set, the Spartans held onto the momentum generated in the previous game. The Irish were down 17-24, facing a Spartan game point, when libero John Tibble went back to serve. Following blocks by Mike Nejedly and kills by outside hitter Dan Zibton, the Irish rallied back with an 8-0 run.

Notre Dame pushed back to regain the lead at 26-25 but were unable to keep their momentum as Michigan State proceeded to score three straight points to win the third set, 26-28.

Notre Dame entered the fourth game needing a win and played accordingly. Starting opposite Mark Iandolo was an unstoppable force, putting down a kill almost every time he touched the ball. In a back and forth game, the Irish emerged victorious, 25-22.

The Irish jumped out to an early 3-1 lead in the fifth set. The Spartans were able to claw back and tie the game 7-7. The Irish took a one-point lead but needed to create a larger one.

With a trick play signaled and a perfect pass, Mark Iandolo flew into the middle and found a net with no blockers. Iandolo spiked the ball and killed the hopes of a Spartan win. Notre Dame controlled the rest of the game and closed the match with a 15-12 fifth set.

Bowling

The 12th annual Blue and Gold Classic had one of the largest and strongest fields in the country, with 81 teams in attendance — 53 men's and 28 women's — including two-time men's national champion Saginaw Valley State and reigning women's national champion Wichita State.

The two men's tournament-high averages were both posted by Saginaw Valley State as Dan MacLelland and Steve MacLelland averaged 230 and 217, respectively. SVSU won the men's event, and Wichita came in second.

Rocio Restrepo of Wichita State averaged 214 to lead the women's tournament, which the Shockers won.

Nick Manieri led the Irish with a 179 average and had high games of 195, 198 and 199, finishing in the top third of men's scoring.

James Breen averaged 155, including a high game of 198. Chris Kieser rolled a 178 before posting a 148 average, Nicholas Jaffa had a 175 high game and 136 average, and C.J. Kaltenbach averaged 130 with a high game of 189.

The women's squad was led by Becky Caples 149 average and 178 high game. Allie Hensley was close behind with a 142 average and 179 game.

Lindsey Zimmerman rolled a 154 on her way to a 129 average; and Alex Desch posted a high game of 154. Sierra McNamara and Tracy Welch also contributed to the Irish scoring.

Almost the entire draw consisted of ranked scholarship varsity teams or teams just outside the top-20.

The men's draw featured 12 of the top 20 ranked teams, including No. 1 Wichita State, No. 2 Lindenwood, No. 3 Saginaw Valley State, No. 5 Purdue, No. 8 Calumet and No. 11 Florida State.

Thirteen of the top-20 women's teams in the country ventured to South Bend, including

No. 2 Lindenwood, No. 3 Wichita State, No. 5 McKendree, No. 6 Purdue, No. 7 Penn State, No. 10 Robert Morris and No. 11 Martin Methodist.

The tournament switched venues this year, moving to the Chippewa Bowl.

Skiing

Notre Dame took to the slopes again this weekend, in the MCSA divisional qualifier at Crystal Mountain, finishing with 22 top-15 finishes.

The Irish matched up against Grand Valley State, Michigan State, Western Michigan, Central Michigan and Ferris State in the meet.

In men's slalom, Joel Sharbrough finished third, Chris Knoedler placed in sixth and captain Steve Feutz took 12th place.

Justine Murnane also claimed third in the women's slalom, with teammate Katie Paquette in eighth. Sarah Rauenhorst was 13th, just ahead of Deirdre Murdy and Liz Keedy in 14th and 15th place, respectively.

On Sunday, Sharbrough finished third in the giant slalom, while Shaw finished in seventh, Dacey in ninth place and Knoeder 11th

Murnane again took third in women's giant slalom, while Vosler placed seventh, Merdy was in 10th and Keedy finished 11th.

Freshman Nick Detrempe rebounded from a nasty fall in Saturday's snowboarding to take one of the top finishes on Sunday. Captain Oliver Short took fourth overall.

Results are not yet tabulated for snowboarding.

Equestrian

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's participated together at the Tournament of Champions in Virginia this weekend, an invitation only event for the country's top clubs.

Krista Jones, Brittany Gragg and their teammates failed to earn ribbons against the nation's elite teams.

Ciobanu

continued from page 20

freshman year when she made it to the finals in the ITA Midwest Regionals.

"She beat a series of very good players to get to the finals as a freshman," Louderback said.

Along with those two eye-opening performances, Ciobanu led Notre Dame with 36 singles victories last year, which marked a tie for fourth-most in school history. Her dual-match winning percentage of .963 set one of several new Irish records.

At one point, Ciobanu suffered through three straight losses, but then turned her play around to notch 24 straight wins. Coupled with her intense work ethic, it is no surprise that the sophomore now plays from the No. 1 singles spot for Notre Dame.

"Cosmina works really hard," Louderback said. "With tennis and school both. She's a pre-med and anthropology major and just works hard at everything. She always seems to get in early to get in extra hits. One thing she can really do is manage her time between academics and athletics."

This year, Ciobanu is 12-5 overall and 1-1 in dual match play and continues to exhibit consistently solid technique in both her singles and doubles matches.

Not only is Ciobanu a budding talent, but a great teammate also.

"Our three sophomore girls are really close," Louderback said. "Cosmina, Colleen [Rielley] and Kali [Krisik] all help each other with their game. We have good depth, and they just all feed off each other in practices and games."

However, Ciobanu and her teammates didn't arrive where they are on their own. Junior Kelcy Tefft has been one of the upperclassmen who aided the rising talents transition into both university life and tennis.

"Kelcy gets along with all of them real well," Louderback said. "She's been able to help them with anything they need, be it in tennis or in life."

One aspect that separates excellent players and leaders from the pack is the ability to make one's teammates better and assist in their improvement. With Ciobanu, Louderback said there is no exception to the rule.

"She just works so hard in practice that it kind of rubs off on her teammates," Louderback said. "She's an excellent role model as an athlete and a person."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

NFL

Brady practices with slight limp

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Tom Brady was back where he belongs Monday, behind center for the New England Patriots' first practice session of Super Bowl week.

The NFL's Most Valuable Player missed three practices last week with a tender right ankle, which was taped for Monday's training at Arizona State in nearby Tempe. According to the Chicago Tribune's Dan Pompei, the designated pool reporter, the star quarterback appeared to have a slight limp but participated in all phases of practice, including jogging the length of the field twice at the end of drills.

Coach Bill Belichick, as usual, declined to comment on injuries or elaborate on Brady's presence.

"Everybody practiced," Belichick said. "The injury report will be out Wednesday."

Brady's return from an injury sustained in the AFC championship game against San Diego was a welcome sight to receiver Wes Welker.

"Anytime the MVP of the league is back, it has to be a positive," Welker said. "He looks good — the same dimples and all."

Brady talked about the ankle for the first time Sunday, shortly after arriving, and said it wouldn't be a problem for the game.

"I'm not concerned about how it's going to affect my play," he said. "This won't keep me out."

Nor do his teammates seem concerned.

"I don't worry about Tom," tackle Matt Light said. "He can take care of himself. I have a bunch of guys in front of me from the Giants to worry about."

Brady's health became an issue a week ago when he was spotted wearing a protective boot on his right foot while visiting supermodel girlfriend Gisele Bundchen in New York. He sat out all three practices in Foxborough, Mass., when much of the game plan was being installed.

Fans have to wonder whether the ankle will slow down the record-setting passer against the New York Giants in Sunday's NFL title game, when New England tries to become the first league team to go 19-0.

AP

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady runs before practice on Monday in Tempe, Ariz., after missing three practices with an injury.

"This won't keep me out of this game," he said Sunday, comparing the injury to a similar problem before the 2002 Super Bowl, in which he was the MVP. "That ankle didn't keep me out of the last game. It would have to take a hell of a lot more than an ankle."

Before the Patriots headed to Arizona, Brady appeared at a departure rally at Gillette Stadium and walked without slipping on a light dusting of snow on the field.

He also didn't limp when he arrived at Sky Harbor Airport and, later, at the news conference.

Monday's 1 hour, 40-minute workout was conducted in shorts and shells rather than full pads. The footing was good despite the recent rain.

"We just wanted to get a good, crisp practice and work on our timing," Belichick said. "We had a lot of contact last week."

Indeed. It was a week during which Brady's health overshadowed the Patriots moving in on the first perfect NFL season since the 1972 Miami Dolphins. Yes, the three-time champion quarterback's persona has transcended even the Super Bowl.

"I feel energized down here to come into the hotel and to kind of start the process," Brady said Sunday night. "It is going to be a very fast week. I am not concerned about how it is going to affect my playing, and I can't run anyway, so it is not going to have much of an impact.

Shooting

continued from page 20

against UConn was enough to inspire despair in anyone.

It wasn't that Notre Dame fell hopelessly to the top-ranked team in the nation; its defense played well and the offense showed signs of life. The Irish managed 64 points against a team that entered Sunday's game allowing only 46 points per game. But that's what makes the loss even more frustrating.

After Notre Dame got over the shell-shock of watching Huskies freshman forward Maya Moore drain four 3-pointers, a jumper and a foul shot in the first five minutes, it got its act together and fought back. Peters scored twice, sophomore guard Ashley Barlow hit two free throws, and junior guard Lindsay Schrader and senior center Melissa D'Amico both hit jumpers to tie the score at 21 with 11:12 remaining in the first half.

With less than six minutes remaining in the second half, the Irish answered UConn on four straight possessions. Barlow, Peters, senior guard Charel Allen and Schrader all hit jump shots in response to Connecticut's points.

Granted, UConn led by 20 at this point, but at least the Irish battled. The offensive life was there, but it wasn't consistent.

Notre Dame shot 33.8 percent from the floor and scored only 16 of its 64 points in the paint. The offense endured a complete reversal from the offense that dropped trips on Georgetown last week.

The difference lies in Notre Dame's shot selection. Throughout the game, but especially in the second half, Notre Dame would rush its shots, taking pull-up jumpers on fast breaks rather than setting up an offense or hastily driving the lane only to run into a wall of defenders. It also rushed the possessions it did set up, at times forcing bad passes and attempting to score too quickly.

"We could have done a little better at attacking the basket. I think we settled for too many jumpers."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Five minutes into the second half, down 13 points, Allen drove the length of the floor and fired an off-balance, pull-up jumper. A few minutes later, sophomore guard Melissa Lechlitner threw away a pass, causing McGraw to call a timeout. After the timeout, Allen drove into two defenders in the lane.

WU YUE/The Observer

Irish point guard Tulyah Gaines attempts an off-balance shot during Notre Dame's 81-64 loss to No. 1 Connecticut on Sunday.

The team continued to take bad shots and force bad passes for the rest of the game. McGraw, however, wasn't worried about the shot selection.

"I think there were times when we rushed it, but we want Lindsay, Charel and Ashley — they have to score for us," McGraw said. "I would rather they went 5-for-14 than didn't take their shots. I thought Ashley had great shot selection tonight."

Since Notre Dame trailed for most of the game, it's only natural that it would look for a chance to get back in the game quickly. The Irish have shot 45.4 percent from the field this season. Barlow, Peters and sophomore center Erica Williamson all shoot over 50 percent, Allen shoots 47 percent and Schrader shoots 45 percent. You can't fault them for taking the shots.

But if they aren't falling, you need to try something else. UConn did.

Once Notre Dame found the antidote for Moore, the Huskies funneled the ball in the lane to sophomore center Tina Charles, who scored 22 points.

Once the Irish found that their shots weren't falling, they needed to attempt to get the ball inside. This would help the consistency that the Irish lacked against the Huskies. McGraw hinted at this concept.

"We could have done a little better at attacking the basket," McGraw said. "I think we settled for too many jumpers."

With the size the Irish have under the basket (D'Amico is 6-foot-5, Williams is 6-foot-4 and Peters is 6-foot-2), they need to make an effort to penetrate and take high-percentage shots.

Against the No. 1 team in the country, it may not have worked, but the team needs to make the attempt.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Bulfin

continued from page 20

first time I did it, so that made it even better. The goal in my sport is to consistently improve, and I think our team is doing a great job at that."

"He's got a great spirit about him and he loves to dive."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

But Irish coach Tim Welsh said Bulfin's great diving ability is more than just talent. Welsh said he is a diver with a great work ethic that focuses on the team.

"He is reaching a peak at exactly the right time. He earns his success and practices very hard every day. He's got a great spirit about him and he loves to dive. You can see it when he competes," Welsh said. "We're very proud of the success he's had. And hopefully it will continue for the next couple of months."

The Irish and Bulfin ended the regular season in victorious fashion, but there is still work to be done with the Big East championships just three weeks away.

"We're starting to really focus on some fundamentals right now," Bulfin said. "It is important that we are doing the little things right. Next week we will start to go big on the boards again."

After careful work and preparation, Bulfin and his teammates will head into the Big East meet with a 4-6 record, looking to reclaim the title that they won in 2005 and 2006.

"The Big East competition is going to be tough this year, but I think Notre Dame has a great shot at winning it," Bulfin said. "As a diving team everyone is performing great, so I don't think it is too far of a stretch to think that we could put six guys in the finals this year."

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Zone

continued from page 20

ward Luke Harangody touches on most possessions to open the floor for cutters and outside shots.

Brey said the defensive switch came as a result of Villanova's guard-heavy lineup and a need to give his team a new look.

"But I thought we needed some kind of change before we went on the road again."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

"People get into a rhythm playing against you and say, 'This is how Notre Dame plays offensively, this is how they play defensively,' but you have to keep it fresh and get some new looks," Brey said.

"If you're one of the 16 [Big East] coaches, we should have our heads checked for our sanity because this thing is hard to predict."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

The 1-2-2 allowed Notre Dame to cover more of the perimeter and contain Villanova's guards, specifically leading scorer Scottie Reynolds, who only scored 13 points, with six of those points coming in the final three minutes after Notre Dame opened up a comfortable lead.

Brey also made a slight change in personnel, starting junior Zach Hillesland in place of junior Ryan Ayers. Even though the switch didn't result in a dramatic change in playing time for either player, Brey said it did motivate both players.

"One of the things I think the change in the lineup did was it jacked up two guys," Brey said. "It kind of woke Zach up, and I think it had Ryan play with a little chip on his shoulder, and he was more aggressive offensively. Now, you could also screw up two guys. That day, though, it worked and hopefully they'll continue to do that."

Brey chose to put the 6-foot-9 Hillesland and 6-foot-7 Ayers at the top of the zone, using their height to prevent Villanova from getting good looks at the basket.

"Size is a key," Brey said. "The length up there is helpful and it's hard to shoot over that guy and he can get his hands on things, but it gives you size up on the top and they play that spot really well because they're rangy."

Brey left well enough alone on the offensive end of the floor, running the offense through Harangody and allowing Hillesland and sophomore guard Tory Jackson to penetrate and create open looks for junior guard Kyle McAlarney and senior forward Rob Kurz. In the two road losses against Marquette and Georgetown, the offense struggled, but was able to find its groove against Villanova, who could not play defense on the level of Marquette and Georgetown.

"I would give credit to a Marquette and Georgetown defense more than the failure of our offense," Brey said. "We couldn't establish our style of play. For whatever reason, maybe the inexperience of Villanova, and the size of their front line, we were able to play inside-out ball with Harangody. When we can do that, that's when we're at our best."

Notre Dame sits at 4-2 in the Big East, good enough for second place, and has winnable games coming up against Providence and DePaul. Luckily for the Irish, both games are at home, a plus in the chaotic Big East, which has already seen 14 of 16 teams lose at least three conference games.

"If you're a fan, this is unbelievable following the Big East," Brey said. "If you're one of the 16 [Big East] coaches, we should have our heads checked for our sanity because this thing is hard to predict. But it is fun being a part of it."

Even though the Irish have a 31-game home winning streak, the third-longest active streak in the country, Brey said they can't afford to take a night off against Providence and DePaul, who both have the potential to pull off an upset.

"We put ourselves in good position coming back home, but you can't take anything for granted."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Black Dog

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

Tastes Like Failure

RICH PROTIVA & ANDY SPANGLER

The Observer is now accepting applications for new cartoonists.
Contact Maddie Hanna
at mhanna1@nd.edu

Crossword

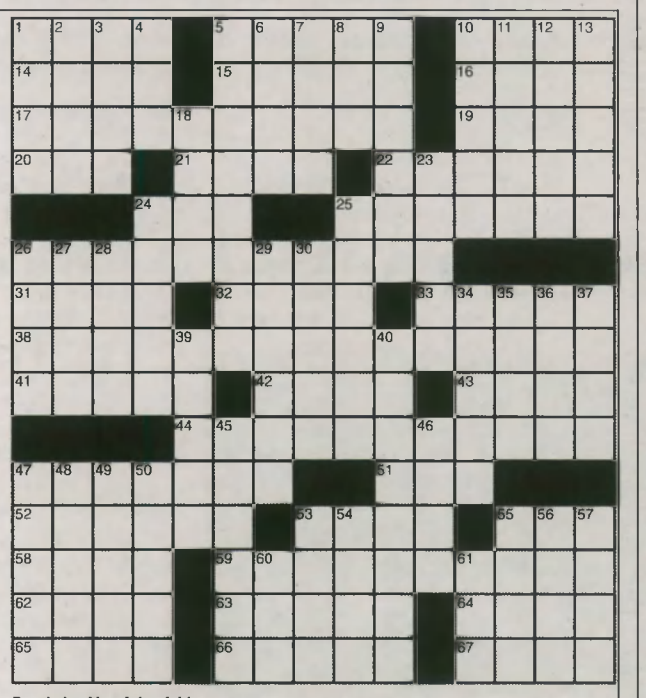
WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Comment not to be taken seriously
5 ___ Marley's ghost in "A Christmas Carol"
10 Con game
14 Unwanted spots
15 Band together
16 Poi source
17 Response to a knock
19 29,035 ft., for Mt. Everest
20 Have a bawl
21 Designer label letters
22 Heap kudos on
24 "For instance ..."
25 Empathize with
26 The important thing
31 A Chaplin
32 Sluggers' stats
33 Lhasa ___ (Tibetan dogs)
38 Doctor's query
41 Scattered about
42 Entre ___
43 Metropolitan ___
44 "Never!"
47 Some apartments
51 Uno + due
52 Apartment window sign
53 Kudrow of "Friends"
55 Mediterranean fruit
58 Both: Prefix
59 Discounter's pitch
62 Computer with an iSight camera
63 Have an ___ mystery
64 Plow pullers
65 Unit of force
66 Teammate of Snider and Hodges
67 Classic computer game set on a seemingly deserted island

Down

1 1975 Spielberg thriller
2 Eerie cave effect
3 One not associating with the likes of you?
4 Private eye, for short
5 Place to find auto parts
6 Have ___ with
7 Half of an E.P.A. mileage rating
8 Pony players' locale, in brief
9 Paging device
10 Incredible bargain
11 Where the San Andreas Fault is: Abbr.
12 "Ain't!" retort
13 Shaker's partner
18 Genesis patriarch
23 Convened again
24 "Can you believe this?" look
25 Come clean
26 Knocks the socks off
27 Alternative to a Twinkie
28 From the top
29 Steakhouse selections
30 Attach, in a way
34 Terrible twos, e.g.
35 Browse, as the Web
36 Sportscaster Hershiser
37 Hang around
39 Dickens's Drood
40 "Can I come out now?"
45 Armed conflict
46 Battleship shade
47 Sober
48 Rock opera with the song "Pinball Wizard"
49 Densely packed, in a way
50 Pour salt on, perhaps
53 Apollo's instrument
54 N.Y.S.E. debuts
55 Full of guile
56 Tees off
57 Fellow
60 Step on it
61 Soccer ___



Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	L	M	A		I	B	A	R		S	I	D	E	B
M	U	O	N		R	I	L	E		P	R	A	D	A
S	A	R	A	T	O	G	A	S	P	R	I	N	G	S
O	U	T	L	A	N	D	S		R	A	S	C	A	L
		G	O	T	O		N	O	W	H	E	R	E	
N	I	A	G	A	R	A	F	A	L	L	S			
O	R	G		R	E	L	I	N	E		E	S	A	U
M	E	E	T	S		T	E	T		S	A	I	L	S
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A	D	O	R	E	S		A	T	L	A	N	T	I	S
J	O	N	A	T	H	A	N	W	I	N	T	E	R	S
U	S	O	N	E		O	K	I	E		A	R	A	T
N	E	S	T	S		L	A	G	S		S	A	N	S

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Jumble

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FROOL

JETEC

SIPHOL

DILFED

www.jumble.com

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: HE ____ ____ "____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CHIME DIZZY EMBALM MANAGE
Answer: When the little Indians got lost, the cornfield became a — MAIZE MAZE

Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: LeAnn Rimes, 25; Jason Priestley, 38; Shania Twain, 42; Daniel Stern, 50

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions hold you back when you have so much going for you this year. Don't sit idle when there is so much to do. Select what's important and move full steam ahead. Your numbers are 5, 10, 13, 17, 38, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need to get away from it all. A place you can relax and ponder over what you want to do next is in order. Don't be fooled by changes going on around you at work. It is as you see it. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may be falsifying information. Don't give to a charity or group you know little about. Stick to what you know and refrain from overreacting. A surprise is in the works. 4 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be patient, especially when dealing with colleagues and family. Emotions will be running high and saying something you'll regret is evident. Focus more on kindness, generosity and getting along with others. 2 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You've got so much going for you, so don't waste it procrastinating or thinking you can't. You should be discovering new things that you can turn into a profitable venture. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be concentrating on financial matters, closing deals and finalizing settlements, investments or even contracts that are pending. Place your calls and corner the people who need to do their part. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Things may be up in the air today, especially where partnerships and personal matters come into play. Stand your ground but don't do so with force. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take off and do something different or exciting that will stimulate your imagination and captivate your mind. You are due for a change so surround yourself with new people, places and pastimes. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a bold stance, stick to your plans and present what you have to offer. You may not grab everyone's attention but the people who do get what you are doing will be fascinated. 5 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't even think about spouting off or causing a ruckus. You are better off taking a wait-and-see approach and keeping your thoughts to yourself. 2 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Things are turning around for you. The deals that appeared to be taking so long to play out are now likely to go forward, allowing you the freedom to move on. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be very careful how you word things. Someone may try to misquote or misinterpret you. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions will be hard to control. Don't let them overrule what you have to do professionally or educationally. A partner or someone you like may surprise you with his or her decision to make alterations that will influence you. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are strong, passionate and have an active mind and imagination. You are adventuresome and tend to live on the edge. You have spunk and fortitude and will stand up to anyone who opposes you.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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THE OBSERVER
SPORTS

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

MEN'S BASKETBALL

1-2-2 punch

Defensive switch helped Notre Dame beat 'Nova

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

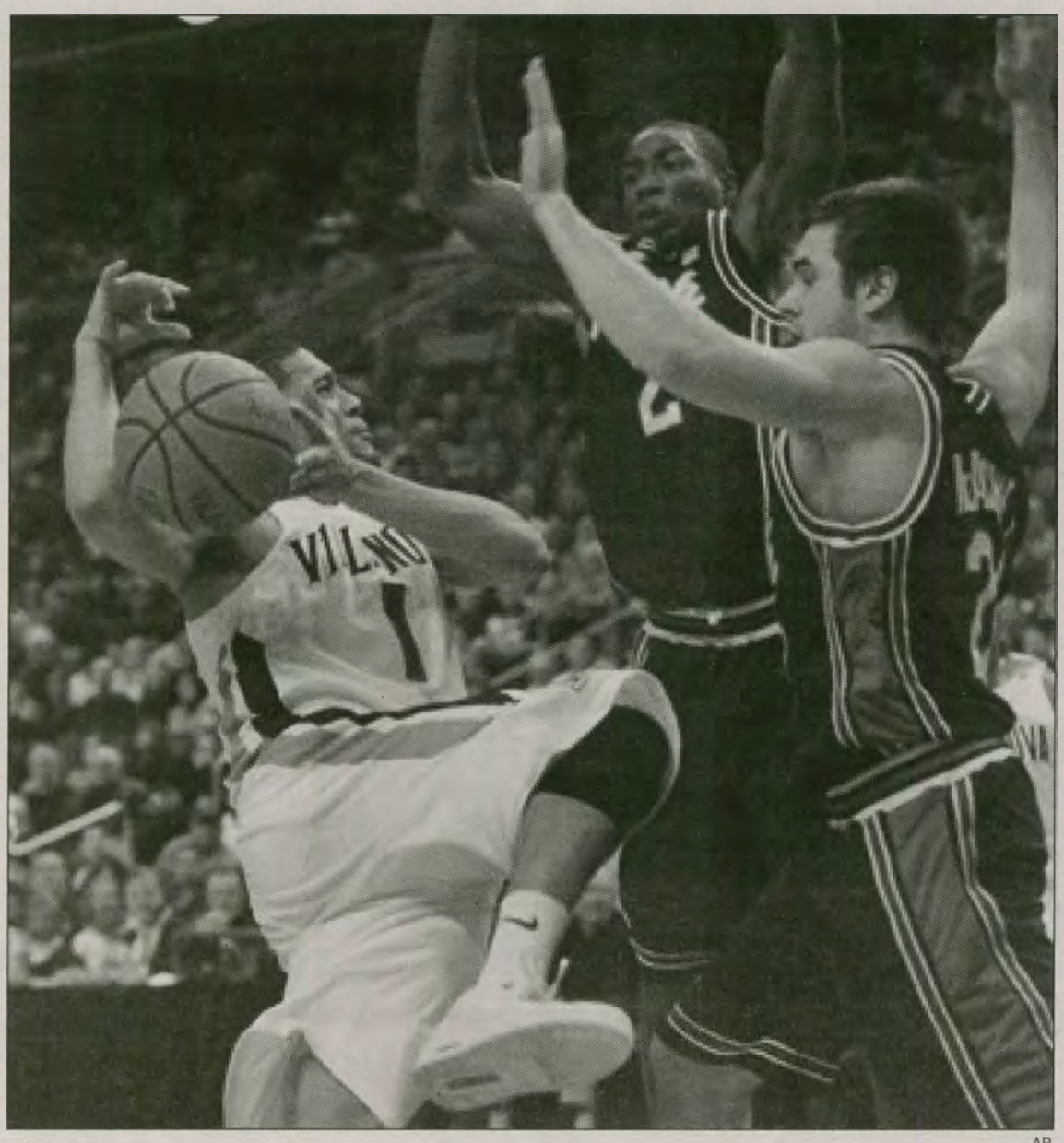
With a week to prepare for Villanova after struggling to put points on the board against Georgetown, coach Mike Brey decided something needed to change if Notre Dame was going to be successful on the road.

"When you have a week to work on things after a tough loss, and I've been in this a while, and you want to maybe adjust some things, but then you're careful that you don't over-coach and change too many things and screw your team up," Brey said. "But I thought we needed some kind of change before we went on the road again."

In looking at how his Irish matched up with the Wildcats, Brey decided the change he needed to make was on the defensive end of the floor, leaving Notre Dame's offensive game mostly intact.

For most of its 90-80 win Saturday, Notre Dame played a 1-2-2 zone, a departure from the 2-3 zone and man-to-man the Irish normally play. Offensively, the Irish were able to take advantage of Villanova's lack of height and play their inside-out game, getting sophomore for-

see ZONE/page 18



AP

Irish guards Kyle McAlarney, right, and Tory Jackson, center, double team Wildcats guard Scottie Reynolds during the second half of Notre Dame's 90-80 win over Villanova on Saturday.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMENTARY

Irish need to be more selective

Muffet McGraw must have some of the toughest toes in the business.

On every game night, she squeezes them into tight pointed shoes, all with three-inch-plus heels. Oddly enough, McGraw is most comfortable when she assumes this position when her team's play pleases her, or the Irish are in a good game.

Bill Brink
Sports Writer

She stands for timeouts, to call out plays or assignments — and when she's angry. Against Connecticut on Sunday, she stood nearly the entire game.

McGraw crouched once, at the beginning of the second half — for 43 seconds. When freshman forward Devereaux Peters committed her third foul under a minute into the half, she popped back to her feet. She didn't crouch again until the final two minutes, when the game was out of hand.

I don't blame her for her frustration. Watching the Irish

see SHOOTING/page 18

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Ciobanu poised with racket

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Last March, then-No. 2 Notre Dame was on the verge of being upset by No. 23 Duke — until Cosmina Ciobanu upended Blue Devil senior Tory Zawacki.

"That's when I knew we had a special player in Cosmina," Irish coach Jay Louderback said.

The Irish were winning 3-1 early in the match, but struggled and lost the next two to the Blue Devils. After her match was tied 5-5 in the final set, Ciobanu, now a sophomore, stepped up and won her match — and captured the victory for Notre Dame.

"Duke was a top team, and she played against a very experienced and talented senior," Louderback said. "On top of that, she had the pressure of the whole match riding on her, and was able to pull out a win."

Ciobanu had shown promise as early as October of her

see CIOBANU/page 17

PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish sophomore Cosmina Ciobanu prepares to volley during Notre Dame's 4-3 win over Vanderbilt on Jan. 28, 2007.

MEN'S SWIMMING

Diver makes a splash in team record books

Bulfin won four state titles in high school

By ELLYN MICHALAK and CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writers

Junior diver Michael Bulfin is a natural-born diver, but he didn't begin exercising his talent until the age of 13.

"I got into diving through a friend who was on the local club team. I visited the coach one day and jumped off some platforms and decided I could get used to it," Bulfin said.

Shortly after learning of his innate ability to dive, Bulfin attended St. Aquinas High School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The team won four state championships with Bulfin on the roster and has sent three swimmers to the Olympics in recent years. During his four years at St. Aquinas, he set every school diving record.

His decision to attend Notre Dame was influenced by his family background, academics and the chance to be under the instruction of Notre Dame diving coach Caiming Xie.

"My dad graduated from here, and my sister attended here as well," Bulfin said. "Academically it is a privilege to attend here. That, coupled with the fact that Caiming Xie coached an Olympic gold medalist and is one of the most distinguished coaches in the world, made it hard to pass up."

Bulfin has made the most of his opportunities at Notre Dame by setting and then again breaking the school record in the 3-meter dive (393.97) in consecutive weeks, a record which was previously held by Irish diver Andy Maggio, who graduated in 2003. Bulfin's family was there to see the diver achieve success.

"It was great breaking those records," Bulfin said. "My parents were at the meet the

see BULFIN/page 18