

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Jenkins says ND mission is global in nature

Trip significant to University and key to presidency

By MADDIE HANNA
News Writer

University President Father John Jenkins didn't go to Uganda just to help people.

First, he went to learn — and while he sees aiding a country that faces tremendous challenges as both an opportunity and an obligation, he says it takes a certain approach.

"It is very important not to come to a place like Uganda with a condescending attitude, that, you know, 'We're going to help you get back up' — there's a sort of hidden arrogance in

that that I think is wholly unhelpful, and it's insulting to the people of Uganda," he said Thursday.

Jenkins arrived in Uganda two weeks ago, accompanied by Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers, Associate Vice President for Marketing Communication Todd Woodward, Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative (NDMDI) Director Father Bob Dowd, NDMDI Assistant Director Tim Lyden, Africana Studies department chair Richard Pierce and sophomore Tess Bone.

The trip was significant in a number of ways, Jenkins said. Besides the desire to explore another culture, there was the goal to connect with the universal Church — two ideas that Jenkins called "central to the

core mission of Notre Dame" and key to his presidency.

There was also, of course, the purpose that is probably most associated with the week-long trip — meeting the people of Nindye, who Notre Dame will work with through the Millennium Villages Project, founded by Columbia University's Jeffrey Sachs.

"[Uganda] is a poor country, education is less than what it should be, diseases that are easily preventable people die from in large numbers," Jenkins said, "and the sense of justice and fairness — but also the sense of Christian charity — requires that, in the way that we can, we strive to help people ... to rise out of poverty enough to have a dignified

see MISSION/page 8



Observer File Photo

Since his inauguration in Sept. 2005, University President Father John Jenkins has traveled frequently, including his recent trip to Uganda.

Report on Catholic schools optimistic



Observer File Photo

The ACE Program has helped improve many Catholic schools, according to Father Timothy Scully.

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

In response to declining enrollments at Catholic primary and secondary schools, the Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Education has produced a report that outlines a strategic plan to strengthen Catholic schools.

Task force chair Rev. Timothy Scully, who directs Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives, said the report is optimistic about the future of the world's largest private school system.

"We're bullish about Catholic schools," Scully said.

The report, entitled "Making God Known, Loved, and Served: The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States," was produced by a committee of approximately 50

people from Notre Dame and around the country, including educators, administrators, investment specialists and leaders in other fields.

The task force began meeting in September 2005 when University President Father John Jenkins commissioned the study in response to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) 2005 pastoral statement, "Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium."

The bishops' statement said Catholic education is "the responsibility of the entire community." As the leading Catholic university in the United States, "Notre Dame not only has a responsibility, but also an enormous opportunity" to continue the tradition of Catholic

see TASK/page 4

Early action applicants increase

1,340 accepted for 2011 class out of 3,812

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

Christmas arrived early for approximately 1,340 high school seniors worldwide who applied to join the Notre Dame class of 2011. These individuals were among the 35 percent of candidates selected from a pool of 3,812 applications considered for Early Action Admission by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions this winter.

Prospects who received their acceptance letters early, like Tanner Ryan of Jesuit College Preparatory School in Dallas, were elated to receive notification a few months earlier than their regular decision counterparts.

"Though I was anxious to receive my decision letter, I was relieved to know I was accepted somewhere great with plenty of time to decide," he said.

Under Notre Dame's non-binding Early Action admissions procedure, high school seniors must submit a completed application to the University by Nov. 1, and can expect a notification of either admit, defer, or deny by Dec. 1.

1,575 applications — or 41 percent of the pool — were denied admission, and 680 were deferred to the regular decision round. Students admitted under Early Action have until May 1 to notify the University if they plan to attend or not.

The Undergraduate Admissions committee was shocked to see the surge in applications, 1,200 more

see ACTION/page 9

Presidential campaigns heat up with debate

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

The three tickets for Saint Mary's student body president tried to win over voters Thursday evening in their first campaign debate, fielding questions ranging from campaign promises to diversity.

Interaction between the candidates remained amicable as they responded to inquiries from both moderator Christin Molnar and the nearly 50 students present for the debate at Noble Family Dining Hall.

The first ticket to speak, junior presidential candidate Colleen Ferreira and her running mate, sophomore Jenny Antonelli, highlighted their leadership roles on campus.

Ferreira, who served as president of her sophomore class, wants to reposition herself at the helm of the student body.

"Being [sophomore class] president was so gratifying," she said. "I am really looking forward to the opportunity to lead the whole student body in the future."

The Kimberly Hodges-Kelly Payne ticket also spotlighted prior directive roles. Hodges, who boasts leadership roles in a variety of student government and diversity groups and activities, recognized that being student body president is a multi-tasking role.

"I have always been involved and made an effort to be a leader in different groups," she

see DEBATE/page 4



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Juniors Annie Davis and Courtney Kennedy answer questions during the student body presidential and vice presidential debate Thursday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Weather wonders

Whenever I can't think of something to say, I usually turn to talking about the weather. It's a fallback, a last-ditch effort to salvage a dying conversation. Usually.

Here, however, I'm going to begin (and end) by discussing the weather.

I'm going to admit it: I am not a huge fan of snow. I like to look at it from inside my house while sitting comfortably toasty under a blanket, drinking hot chocolate. I try to avoid personally interacting with snow, or other forms of precipitation, as much as humanly possible. The inconvenient truth is that however much I try to avoid it, snow happens.

Except this year. When I returned to my lovely home state of New Jersey, usually bombarded with snow by mid-January, I was greeted by the sun and downright balmy temperatures.

I didn't wear a coat. I didn't wear my new sweaters. I didn't wear the scarves I knitted in attempt to pass the hours of the afternoon I spent doing absolutely nothing.

And I really didn't care.

It was fifty, sixty, seventy degrees! When it hit seventy-four, my friends and I piled into my car, rolled the windows down and drove down the shore. At times it was a little too chilly to sit on the beach, and the ocean was most definitely frigid. It may have been a little ridiculous in retrospect, but we couldn't resist. And we weren't the only ones — the beach was surprisingly full that afternoon.

It was, after all, the middle of January, not a prime beach-going time.

I began to get a little uneasy about this unseasonable weather near the end of break. We did get some rain and some cold nights, but I felt as if I was missing out on winter. I couldn't believe what I was thinking — me, missing cold, slippery snow? The snow that turns black on the streets and makes walking my very small Yorkshire terrier impossible?

But when I arrived back to campus last Sunday it was cold and I was happy. When it snowed and I got to wear my coats and sweaters and scarves, I smiled. In public. To no one in particular. And I felt like an idiot, but I was that excited to finally get to experience winter.

It still hasn't snowed, really snowed, once at home, even though the temperatures are dropping. I feel badly for my friends who go to school there because they're not experiencing a proper, dreaded east coast winter. What good is the excitement of spring if summer comes in January?

I used to wish it would be nice outside year-round. But now I want to keep my seasons just the way they were: disgustingly humid in the summer, damp in the fall, freezing in the winter and gorgeous in the spring.

And though I still prefer the snow the best when walls and windows separate me from it, I'm going to maybe interact with it and enjoy it when it comes this year.

Or try to, at least.

Contact Jennifer Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

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

Jennifer Metz
News
Production
Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: Do you buy your books from the bookstore? Why or why not?



Tom Susdorf
sophomore
off campus

"Yes, because [Veterans Association] pays for it anyway."



Gordon Farmer
senior
Alumni

"No, I prefer to make bids."



Bill Westfall
junior
Fisher

"Yes, because I'm too lazy to go to half.com and I put it on my student account anyway."



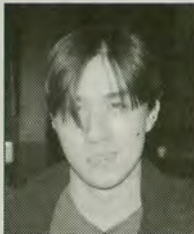
Tres Studer
junior
off campus

"Yes, because I can charge it to my student account and save valuable cash."



James Spitalere
sophomore
Morrissey

"Yes, and everyone else's books too!"



Carl MacMichael
junior
Siegfried

"No, because I like money."



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

The Humor Artists put on an improv comedy show last night at Legends, which included junior Steve Tortorello, left, acting out a tragic death scene.

IN BRIEF

The Snite Museum is hosting a new exhibit of 290 photos taken during the Vietnam War by photojournalists who died in the violence. The exhibit, titled "Requiem," will be on display at the museum from Jan. 4 until March 4. Admission is free.

The Notre Dame Track and Field Indoor Opener will be held today at 5:30 p.m. at the Loftus Sports Center.

The film "Marie Antoinette" directed by Sofia Coppola will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 in The Browning Cinema of The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are six dollars for the general public and three for students. The film will also be shown Saturday at 10 p.m.

Hypnotist Tom DeLuca will perform tonight at 8 in Washington Hall. This show is free and open to all students.

The film "Old Joy" directed by Kelly Reichardt will be shown Saturday at 7 p.m. in The Browning Cinema of The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are six dollars for the general public and three for students.

The Notre Dame women's basketball team will play Syracuse Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

The Notre Dame men's basketball team will play South Florida Sunday at 1 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

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

OFFBEAT

Couples betting 7/7/07 is lucky for love

SACRAMENTO — Will lucky sevens result in wedded bliss for the lucky in love?

Wedding planners say July 7th — or 7/7/07 — as the date appears in print, has become the most popular day in years to get married.

From vaunted Napa Valley wineries to vistas along Lake Tahoe, California couples have booked up thousands of churches and reception sites hoping to begin wedded bliss on the lucky date.

"It's the most popular

date — ever," said Tonya Simmons, wedding specialist with Boomtown Casino Hotel on the outskirts of Reno, where lining up sevens more often means winning a slot-machine jackpot.

Richard Markel, head of the 800-member Association for Wedding Professionals International, said group members first began noticing extra interest in the novelty date last year.

Helicopter pilot saves deer

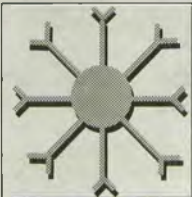


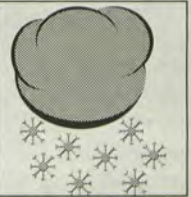
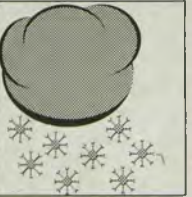

NORMAN, Okla. — The pilot of a TV news helicopter used the wind from the aircraft's rotor to push a

stranded deer to safety after it lost its footing on a frozen lake and could not get up.

A small crowd had gathered to watch the deer struggling, its hooves repeatedly slipping, near the shore of Lake Thunderbird around 4 p.m. Wednesday.

With the helicopter's camera rolling, KWTU pilot Mason Dunn used the wind from the rotor to push the deer, initially sending it into a break in the ice where the animal managed to hold onto the ice with its front legs.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	25	8		23		12		28		27		25
				4				20		15		10

Atlanta 48 / 31 Boston 23 / 12 Chicago 29 / 23 Denver 34 / 14 Houston 39 / 37 Los Angeles 69 / 43 Minneapolis 27 / 18 New York 31 / 24 Philadelphia 33 / 24 Phoenix 60 / 39 Seattle 36 / 29 St. Louis 37 / 28 Tampa 72 / 60 Washington 36 / 26

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication 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.

Huddle gets an aesthetic facelift

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

The LaFortune Student Center underwent its latest facelift during Christmas break as the University renovated the nook in the southeast corner, home to quarter dogs and the wall of candy: the Huddle Mart.

Jim Labella, Huddle manager, said the Huddle Mart was "originally going to be part of the summer renovations" that included the main lounge and seating areas around Subway and Burger King. While the Office of Student Activities was responsible for renovating these areas, Food Services was put in charge of changes to the Huddle Mart.

The refurbishing, which includes new flooring, lighting, counterwork, a new ceiling and an expanded display area, was the first in the Huddle Mart's 11-year history. The plans were the result of a collaborative effort between Labella, designers employed by the University, and the vendor from whom Food Services purchased the counterwork, Labella said.

"It turned out very well; I'm very happy with the outcome," he said.

As for new products, Labella said the Huddle Mart's products are always changing, but nothing major was added or replaced over Christmas break — he did say, however, that with more display area, there will be room for more and

perhaps some different products.

Especially considering the attention paid to LaFortune over the summer, Labella said, decorum changes for the Huddle Mart were due.

"Now everything blends in," he said.

Senior graphic design and marketing major Noel Carson appreciates the new aesthetics of the convenience store, calling it "more professional, less cluttered."

Great-great grandmother Helen Hitte has been a LaFortune employee for "39 years last October," Hitte said, and she has seen a lot of changes during her tenure. She recalls the days of selling smokes to students at what she called the "cigarette counter" years ago, and talking to the football players when they would come in after practice.

"The Huddle [Mart] wasn't even here about twenty years ago," Hitte said. "The renovations are nice; it's nice and bright for the kids so they can come in at night and get their food," she said.

At 84 years old, Hitte continues to work at LaFortune because "I just like to be around people," she said.

Hitte believes that with its new renovations, LaFortune will likely continue to attract plenty of students seeking good food, a place to study or, for regulars like Hitte, the company of friends.

Contact Meghan Wons at
mwons@nd.edu

Students benefit from book sales

Buyback program not breaking even with original prices

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Long lines, low semester-end refunds and hefty price tags at the Notre Dame Hammes Bookstore regularly frustrate students at the start and end of each semester, despite the convenience of services the store offers.

With the price of a semester's worth of books tipping the scales at up to several hundred dollars, and the refund on those books being what many describe as a paltry few dollars, many students are finding ways around these issues by taking their business elsewhere. As a first semester freshman, Ellen Rolfes said she "didn't really know of any other way" to purchase texts, and as a result paid close to \$800 at the bookstore in August — a sum she called "ridiculous."

But when she returned those books to the bookstore through the Buyback program offered at the end of each semester, she was further dismayed.

"I brought five books back (at the end of the semester). One went for \$1.50, another for \$30 ... I ended up keeping the one for \$1.50, with the

others they wouldn't take," she said.

Many students have similar stories and do their best to find the most convenient and reasonable methods for acquiring their textbooks.

Knowing which texts they require in time to employ such other methods — like ordering books online — can be the first obstacle, students say.

But according to the bookstore's textbook manager Bob Thompson, beginning around Jan. 1, students were able to search and find lists of required books for each course on the bookstore's website. The bookstore typically makes the textbook listing available in the weeks before the semester begins.

For other students, like senior Ellen Pollock, professors are often an additional resource to find out what books are required, well before the list is posted online.

Pollack said that some of her professors have sent the course syllabus in advance, and in other cases students can contact the professor on their own.

After determining what needs to be purchased, senior Marie Lange looks to online sources like Amazon.com and Half.com, a division of eBay.com.

According to Lange, Half.com is usually cheapest, "even when shipping can cost

a lot."

She has had positive experiences shopping online for books in the past, Lange said.

"Even the books that I've bought used, they're not even really that 'used' ... they are often quite new," she said.

And in the one case where Lange didn't get the book she purchased in the mail, she was able to resolve the issue and receive a prompt refund.

At the end of the semester, Lange said she returns to Half.com to sell her books. While she is responsible for selling and shipping the items, Lange said the benefits outweigh the cost.

Still, others state that the convenience of bookstore services is worth the extra cost.

For junior Allyson Connelly, the bookstore has kept her loyalty thus far, she said.

"It's convenient; I know they have what I need, and I can get it on time," she said. Still, she commented, she would like to pursue purchasing and selling her books outside of the bookstore in the future in order to save a little.

Rolfes' entrepreneurial plans for her textbooks ought to yield her at least a little more than \$1.50.

"Instead of giving them back," she said, "I'll keep them and sell them to freshmen next year."

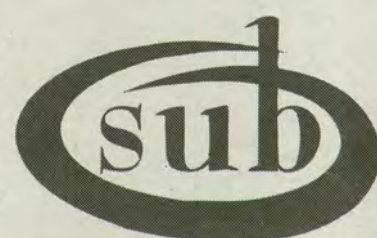
Contact Aaron Steiner at
asteiner@nd.edu

BEN BAILEY COMEDIAN



has made appearances on shows such as the Late Late Show, Premium Blend, Last Call with Carson Daly, and The Tonight Show

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
LEGENDS 10PM



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Task

continued from page 1

schools, Scully said.

Citing a book by Anthony Bryk, Valerie Lee and Peter Holland titled "Catholic Schools and the Common Good," Scully said Catholic schools provide an educational experience that cannot be found in government-run schools. Catholic schools offer a sense of community, a basic curriculum with a focus on reading, writing and arithmetic and remain free from political pressures, Scully said.

"The most important thing is that Catholic schools offer a learning environment that is penetrated by faith," Scully said. "And that makes a difference. The learning enterprise ... is one where values are taught as an integral part of the curriculum."

"It's not just information," he added, "— it's knowledge in pursuit of faith and faith in pursuit of knowledge."

According to Scully, the growing number of faith-based schools throughout the country suggests a growing interest in alternative choices to state-run schools. Enrollment has been increasing at such alternative schools — excepting Catholic parochial schools, he said.

Enter Notre Dame's task force report.

The report identifies four goals for improving elementary and secondary Catholic schools: strengthening Catholic identity, attracting and forming talented leaders, ensuring academic excellence and financing Catholic schools. Based on these four areas, the report recommends specific ways Notre Dame and the Church can achieve these objectives.

The twelve recommendations

for Notre Dame include:

♦recruiting and forming a new generation of Catholic school teachers and leaders

♦forming partnerships with other Catholic colleges and universities as well as Catholic primary and secondary schools

♦attracting and supporting the Latino community to attend Catholic schools

♦accessing public funds for Catholic schools and students

♦using Notre Dame's marketing prowess to attract families to Catholic schools.

Marketing Catholic schools is a complex issue, Scully said. The marketing strategy must be individualized for its audience, he said, so the techniques to recruit suburban families will be different from those used to recruit inner-city students. But before a Catholic education can be marketed, Notre Dame and the Catholic Church should make sure the

quality of the education offered is "superb," Scully said.

So, "[t]he report aims at, before marketing anything, enhancing the quality of the experience," he said. "[This includes] both the educational and the faith-based experience of a Catholic education."

One way Notre Dame will continue to enhance the quality of American Catholic schools is through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), a two-year service program founded by Scully. The program, started in 1994, gives participants a Master of Education degree and two years of teaching experience. ACE has sent "the best and the brightest" to under-resourced Catholic schools in the United States, Scully said.

"What education is about essentially is about recruiting talent," Scully said. "The best schools are the schools that recruit the most

talented people.

"What ACE has done is dramatically improve the quality and the character of the talent that is available to Catholic schools."

Now that the report has established the areas of focus, the next step is to break the requirements of the report down into "bite-size pieces, pieces we can chew," Scully said.

Scully was invited to present the report to a joint session of the USCCB education and catechesis committees Jan. 9 in Washington.

"The Bishop's conference gave us [its] full blessing and support as we move forward toward implementation of these recommendations," Scully said.

The University will accomplish most of its objectives through the Institute for Education Initiatives and ACE, Scully said.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Debate

continued from page 1

said. "I plan to continue to be involved in these groups once elected."

Juniors Annie Davis and Courtney Kennedy also have experience leading students in student government and also in clubs — Davis is vice-president of the Notre Dame Figure Skating Club.

"Everyone is a leader. In order to best represent a women's college, we all need to have the opportunity to take leadership roles," Davis said.

When asked about their accessibility once elected, Ferriera emphasized her availability to students.

"I am a student too," she said. "I am not here to be a power over you, but to represent you."

While Ferriera and Antonelli's

campaign centers around costly improvements on campus, they also stressed how well they'll represent their constituents.

"We want what you want. That is the most important thing," Antonelli said.

Seniors having the opportunity to vote this year, according to Ferriera, will greatly affect the future of the College.

"Why not bring immediate change?" she asked. "Our mission and tradition is strong, but we are not working for twenty years from now. We are working for now and the seniors can help put the school in good hands."

Ferriera and Antonelli spoke confidently about their lofty budgetary increases, including campus-wide wireless Internet and maintaining printer clusters in the dorms.

"Many girls have asked me about going wireless," Ferriera said. "It is a feasible idea and we have a great administration will-

ing to work with us on these ideas."

Hodges and Payne centered on the student voice during the debate. Pontificating students to the administration and student government is a major part of their platform.

"We want to host open forums so that students will always have a voice," Hodges said. "Many students are uninformed about so many things on campus and we want that to change."

Hodges and Payne also see the need for change.

"To lead is to change," Hodges said. "We must take initiative to implement changes to make Saint Mary's better for students during their time here."

Reflecting on her leadership experience, Hodges recognized that she would not have been as informed had she not been a leader.

"We want to make you happy. We know what you need and we

are not working for us," Payne said. "We are working for you."

The ticket also describes diversity as a "second nature."

"Diversity is so important to us," Hodges said. "I have always learned not to complain, but to try and make a change."

Hodges, who was one of three African-Americans in her freshman class of approximately 400, has been working to increase diversity at Saint Mary's. She is the vice president of the Student Diversity Board and founded the Diverse Student Leadership Conference.

"It is not just about recruitment, but retention," she said. "We want diversity in all things, like race, religion, background and so on."

The final ticket, juniors Annie Davis and Courtney Kennedy emphasized communication.

"Now, the student government relies on e-mail as the most efficient way to connect to students;

but there are other ways," Davis said.

These ways included a suggestion box and "Letters to the President" in the Bellzine.

Davis and Kennedy also welcomed the senior vote.

"It is a chance for [seniors] to leave a legacy behind," Davis said. "It is definitely something good for the college."

Davis, who works closely with admissions, termed their primary election goal the "Identity Initiative."

"Right now, the Board of Trustees and administration is reworking how Saint Mary's is portrayed. You are the identity and we want your input to show what the real SMC woman is," Davis said.

Elections will be held Monday night on PRISM.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Attention JPW Registrants



If you plan on attending either the JPW Dinner or Brunch and would like to be seated with friends, you must participate in Seating Registration

JPW Seating Registration
Monday, January 22nd
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
115 McKenna Hall

Each table seats up to nine guests. You may select a different group to sit with for each of the two events. Send one representative from your table group to Seating Registration with the names and NetIDs of each student at the table.

For more information, visit the JPW website:
<http://www.nd.edu/~jpw>

REQUIEM

BY THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO DIED
 IN VIETNAM AND INDOCHINA

JANUARY 14 - MARCH 4, 2007

SNITE MUSEUM OF ART UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME



The body of an American paratrooper killed in action in the jungle near the Cambodian border is lifted to an evacuation helicopter. Photo by Henri Huet. War Zone C. Vietnam, 1969.

Sunday, January 21, 2007

2 to 4 p.m.

Opening reception at the Snite Museum

3 p.m.

Gallery talk by Steve Moriarty, Milly and Fritz Kaeser Curator of Photography

4 p.m.

The Dillon Brothers and Friends (Gene Halton, Doug Rice, Ben Giamo and friends) to perform a selection of anti-war/protest songs from the 1960s and 1970s in the Annenberg Auditorium.

www.nd.edu/~sniteart 574.631.5466
 All events are free and open to the public.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

LUCY BLANDFORD PILKINTON

A. B. , M. A. , P. H. D.

27 FEB 1943 - 19 JAN 1994

WORLD & NATION

Friday, January 19, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Northern Europe buffeted by rain

LONDON — Hurricane-force winds and heavy downpours hammered northern Europe on Thursday, killing 25 people and disrupting travel for tens of thousands — including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, whose plane was forced to circle for 15 minutes before landing amid winds gusting to 77 mph.

The storms were among the fiercest to batter northern Europe in years, ripping off part of the roof at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, toppling a crane in the Netherlands and upending trucks on Europe's busiest highway.

By evening, weather-related accidents had killed 25 people, including a 2-year-old boy hit by falling brick from a toppled wall in London.

Al-Qaida linked to convoy attack

CAIRO, Egypt — An al-Qaida-linked coalition of Iraqi Sunni insurgents claimed responsibility Thursday for an attack in Baghdad on a convoy of a Western democracy institute that killed a 28-year-old Ohio woman and three security contractors.

The Washington-based National Democratic Institute identified its slain staffer as Andrea Parhamovich of Perry, Ohio. Contractors from Hungary, Croatia and Iraq also were killed in the ambush Wednesday. Two other people were wounded, one seriously.

Parhamovich, a graduate of Marietta College in central Ohio, had been working with NDI in Iraq since late 2006 as a communications specialist advising Iraqi political parties on how to reach out to voters and constituents. She was helping "build the kind of national level political institutions that can help bridge the sectarian divide and improve Iraqi lives," NDI said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Pentagon releases new trial rules

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon set rules Thursday for detainee trials that could allow terror suspects to be convicted and perhaps executed using hearsay testimony and coerced statements, setting up a new clash between President Bush and Congress.

The rules are fair, said the Pentagon, which released them in a manual for the expected trials. Democrats controlling Congress said they would hold hearings and revive legislation on the plan, and human rights organizations complained that the regulations would allow evidence that would not be tolerated in civilian or military courtrooms.

Crew acted properly before crash

BROOKS, Ky. — Federal officials said early inspections indicate the crew of a CSX train acted properly just before it derailed, igniting a massive chemical fire that forced evacuations south of Louisville.

The fire sent thick black clouds of smoke into the sky, prompting officials to evacuate residents and shut down a major highway. Firefighters were finishing a controlled burn of some chemicals from tanker cars.

"We have not found any anomalies in operations at this point, we've not seen any train handling issues at this point," said Mark Rosenker, chairman of the National Transportation and Safety Board.

LOCAL NEWS

Police intensify search for student

WEST LAFAYETTE — Hundreds of volunteers joined police Thursday in an expanded search for a Purdue University freshman who has been missing since Saturday.

Wade S. Steffey, 19, was last seen leaving a party at the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity house on the north side of campus.

Police said Thursday that a \$50 withdrawal from Steffey's bank account was made from an ATM at a campus dining hall at 8:30 p.m. last Friday. Originally, they thought the withdrawal was at 1:11 a.m. Saturday, but that was the time when bank records were downloaded, not when the withdrawal was made.

IRAN

Ahmadinejad warns Iraq is ready

Criticism at home does not stop Iranian president's tough stance towards U.S.

Associated Press

TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lashed back over the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf, saying Thursday that Iran is ready for any possibility in its standoff with the West over its nuclear program.

The president made clear he was not backing down in his tough rhetoric toward the United States, despite criticism at home. At the same time, his top national security official, Ali Larijani, sharply denounced U.S. policy in Iraq, accusing Washington of fueling Shiite-Sunni hatreds.

Washington has accused Iran of backing militants fueling Iraq's violence and has tried to rally its Arab allies in isolating Tehran. The Iraq crisis has increased tensions between the U.S. and Iran amid the dispute over Iran's nuclear program, which Washington says aims to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States sent an aircraft carrier, the USS Stennis, to the Gulf this week — the second to deploy in the region — a buildup that Defense Secretary Robert Gates said was intended to impress on Iran that the four-year war in Iraq has not made America vulnerable.

In an apparent reaction to the deployment, Ahmadinejad vowed Thursday that Iran would not back down over its nuclear program, which Tehran says is being developed only to produce energy.

"Today, with the grace of God, we have gone through the arduous passes and we are ready for anything in this path," state-run television quoted the Iranian leader as saying.

The U.N. Security Council recently imposed limited sanctions to punish Iran for



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad waves as he leaves Tehran on Jan. 12, for a Latin American trip. Ahmadinejad lashed back over the U.S. military buildup Thursday.

defying a resolution demanding that it suspend uranium enrichment, a process that can produce fissile material to fuel nuclear reactors or, at purer concentrations, the core of nuclear weapons.

In Paris, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said he was concerned the sanctions could escalate Iran's standoff with Western powers.

"I don't think sanctions will resolve the issue ... Sanctions in my view could lead to escalation on both sides," he warned.

ElBaradei said the pressure has failed to break a

consensus in Iran that the oil-rich nation needs to master the complex process of uranium enrichment. Iran this week said it is moving toward large-scale enrichment involving 3,000 centrifuges, which spin uranium gas into enriched material.

ElBaradei called for a resumption of talks with Tehran and said he would support any efforts to "engage Iran," including the possibility of a French negotiator. "My worry right now is that each side is sticking to its guns," the International Atomic Energy Agency chief said.

"We need someone to

reach out."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said this week that now is not the time for the United States to talk to Iran, adding that Tehran does not appear ready to accept a conditional U.S. offer to join European talks over its nuclear program.

ElBaradei warned that only applying pressure could prompt the Islamic republic to follow the path of North Korea, which kicked out U.N. inspectors and pulled out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 2003 and then conducted its first nuclear weapons test last October.

Pelosi seeks to set up committee

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sought on Thursday to create a special committee in an effort to jump-start long-delayed government efforts to deal with global warming and produce a bill by Independence Day.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said she would ask the House for a vote to set up the committee. She wants it to hold hearings and recommend legislation on how to reduce greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide generated by fossil fuels, that most scientists blame for a gradual warming of the earth's climate.

Existing committees that deal with energy, environment and tech-

nology would be asked to draft bills based on the global warming committee's recommendations.

"The science of global warming and its impact is overwhelming and unequivocal," Pelosi said in a statement. "With this new select committee, we demonstrate the priority we are giving to confront this most serious challenge. Now is time to act. The future of our country, indeed our entire planet, is at stake."

Pelosi set a goal of the Fourth of July for finishing a global warming bill that would "truly declare our energy independence."

The committee will be led by Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., who shares Pelosi's goals, said a

Democratic leadership aide, speaking on condition of anonymity because Pelosi had yet to announce her choice.

Pelosi's move increases the likelihood that Democrats will propose far tougher constraints on greenhouse gas pollution than the Bush administration wants. She also has outflanked for now — and angered — a few Democrats who head important House committees.

"We should probably name it the committee on world travel and junkets," said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Iran plans for installation of uranian enrichment program

Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran is ready to start assembling thousands of centrifuges to produce enriched uranium — a possible pathway to nuclear arms — after finishing most preliminary work on an underground facility housing such machines, a diplomat and a U.N. official said Thursday.

The two said much, but not all, of the hardware needed for the installation of the centrifuges was now in place at the Natanz facility designated to house Tehran's industrial-scale enrichment program.

Both men — who spoke on con-

dition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss confidential information — emphasized that the facility had been ready for some time, and there was no sign that actual work on putting in the centrifuges would begin at any particular date.

The revelations — based on reports by inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency visiting Natanz this week — appeared to strengthen claims from Tehran that it is moving toward large-scale enrichment involving 3,000 centrifuges, which spin uranium gas into enriched material.

Low-enriched uranium can be used to generate power, while highly enriched levels serve as the fissile core of nuclear warheads.

"We are moving toward the production of nuclear fuel, which requires 3,000 centrifuges and more than this figure," government spokesman Gholamhossein Elham told reporters Monday. "This program is being carried out and moving toward completion."

Iran's leaders have suggested those machines would be in place by March 20, the end of the Iranian year. But the diplomat and official said quick completion

of such a large-scale project was unlikely, saying the complicated process takes months.

Another point of uncertainty is how many centrifuges Iran has assembled. The IAEA has not seen any beyond the few hundred Tehran has shown inspectors. But David Albright, whose Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security tracks Iran's nuclear activities, said Tehran technicians are likely to have built more than 1,000 of the machines at a secret location.

Even if Tehran proves successful in installing 3,000 centrifuges, experts estimate that it would

take Tehran several years for all of them to be running smoothly and without breakdowns. Once that happens, Tehran could produce two bombs a year.

Iran plans to ultimately expand its enrichment program to 54,000 centrifuges. That would give it the capacity to produce dozens of nuclear warheads a year, if it chose to develop weapons.

It also imposed an asset freeze on key companies and individuals in the country's nuclear and missile programs named on a U.N. list and gave the country 60 days to comply or face the likelihood of tougher nonmilitary sanctions.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	12,567.93	-9.22

Up: Same: Down: Composite Volume
1,731 143 1,537 2,599,548,630

AMEX	2,063.03	-17.38
NASDAQ	2,443.21	-36.21
NYSE	9,125.38	-20.88
S&P 500	1,426.37	-1.16
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,258.42	-112.51
FTSE 100(London)	6,210.30	+5.80

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-1.85	-0.83	44.08
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	+4.92	+0.19	4.05
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.85	-0.39	20.65
APPL INC (AAPL)	-6.19	-5.88	89.07

Treasuries		
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.75	-0.036 4.751
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.000 4.980
30-YEAR BOND	-0.72	-0.035 4.846
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.59	-0.028 4.750

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.76	50.48
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-5.20	633.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.25	96.00

Exchange Rates		
YEN		121.3150
EURO		0.7701
POUND		0.5061
CANADIAN \$		1.1748

IN BRIEF

Economists find low inflation in 2006

WASHINGTON — Americans finally saw some relief when they filled up their gas tanks and visited their doctors.

A retreat in energy costs from last summer's record highs and the smallest rise in doctor charges in more than a half century helped to keep the lid on consumer prices.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that the Consumer Price Index rose 2.5 percent in 2006, the best showing on inflation in three years.

And in further good news, workers got a boost in the paychecks with the biggest jump in wages, after adjusting for inflation, in nine years.

That 2.1 percent gain in wages, after removing the effects of inflation, followed three straight years in which wages had fallen even as many corporations were enjoying record profits.

Democrats focused on those wage declines to argue in last fall's congressional elections that President Bush's economic policies were failing the middle class.

Analysts attributed the rise in real wages to the slowdown in inflation and to a low unemployment rate, which meant companies had to pay more to attract qualified workers.

Benefits could thwart CVS' takeover

NEW YORK — There is nothing like greed in corporate America.

For the lucky few, it makes them wealthy almost beyond imagination. But it can ruin careers, businesses and in the case of Caremark Rx Inc., possibly even thwart a takeover deal that many on Wall Street think has merit.

That's because the leaders of the pharmacy-benefits manager seem to have put their own interests before those of shareholders. Regulatory filings suggest they got CVS Corp. to promise them all sorts of perks — big money, job protections and indemnification from legal proceedings — if they support Caremark's combination with the nation's largest retail drug chain.

Such behavior has given a rival bidder, Express Scripts Inc., some good ammunition to potentially win investor support.

Plea offered in HP spying case

State prosecutors will drop felony charges if defendants plea guilty to misdemeanor

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — State prosecutors offered to drop felony charges against former Hewlett-Packard Co. Chairwoman Patricia Dunn and the four other defendants in the company's boardroom spying scandal if they agree to plead guilty to a misdemeanor, a defense lawyer said Thursday.

Stephen Naratil, lawyer for private investigator Bryan Wagner, said the attorney general's office offered a plea deal that would eliminate all four felony charges against his client in exchange for a misdemeanor guilty plea.

Naratil said Deputy Attorney General Robert Morgester also told him that the other four defendants in the case — Dunn, former HP ethics chief Kevin Hunsaker, and outside investigators Ronald DeLia and Matthew DePante — were offered the same deal.

The attorney general's office declined to comment, as did lawyers for DePante and DeLia. One of Hunsaker's lawyers, Thomas Nolan, also declined to comment but said his client is not interested in taking any plea deal.

"We're not involved in the plea negotiations because Kevin didn't do anything wrong and didn't do anything illegal," Nolan said.

Dunn's defense lawyer could not immediately be reached Thursday, but he has said previously that he plans to challenge the charges at trial.

Each defendant faces four felony counts — identity theft, conspiracy, fraud and illegal use of computer data — for their alleged roles in HP's ill-fated effort to root out the source of boardroom leaks to the news media.

Former Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed the charges in October amid a media frenzy over the



Former HP chairwoman Patricia Dunn smiles in a Santa Clara County courtroom November 15, 2006. State prosecutors offered to drop felony charges against Dunn and four others.

scandal, which rattled the top ranks of a company long known for its professionalism and commitment to privacy.

The scandal led to the departure of Dunn, Hunsaker and former general counsel Ann Baskins and prompted investigations by state prosecutors and several federal agencies.

Naratil said each of the charges can be prosecuted as either a felony or a misdemeanor, and the defendants were offered the chance to plead guilty to any one of the lesser offenses.

So far, apparently none of the defendants has agreed to the deal, and the difficulty in negotiating

any plea bargains at the state level is compounded by an ongoing federal investigation.

Wagner pleaded guilty last week in San Jose federal court to identity theft and conspiracy. He acknowledged using the Social Security numbers for HP directors, journalists and their family members to trick telephone companies into divulging phone records and conspiring to share the information with others involved in HP's probe.

Wagner never had any direct contact with anyone inside HP and was at the bottom of a long chain of security subcontractors that led back to HP, his lawyer said.

On Wednesday, the state attorney general's office said it would probably not oppose a motion by Wagner's lawyer to dismiss all the state charges against him because he had admitted to the crimes in federal court.

California law prohibits prosecutors from pursuing charges against someone convicted of the same crime in federal court.

Lawyers for all five defendants appeared in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Wednesday to discuss the progress of the case. Wagner's lawyer is scheduled to return to court Jan. 26 to file his formal motion to dismiss the charges.

Fannie Mae's weaknesses persist

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have made progress toward correcting financial weaknesses, but tight government supervision is needed as the mortgage giants emerge from accounting scandals, a federal regulator said Thursday.

James B. Lockhart, director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, also disclosed that Fannie Mae, which just last month announced a restatement of \$6.3 billion in profit for 2001 through mid-2004, had a loss in the third quarter of 2006. He did not specify the amount of the loss.

"They unfortunately have very, very large problems," Lockhart said in a

meeting with reporters, referring to the government-sponsored companies that are the two biggest financiers in the \$8 trillion home-mortgage market in the United States. "They have a long way to go; there are still significant worries."

The problems "are massive and they're ongoing," he said.

Lockhart noted that the companies' financial results continue to be volatile from quarter to quarter, saying that both lost money in the July-September period last year. Freddie Mac, the smaller of the two, recently forecast a loss of about \$550 million for the quarter due mainly to declines in interest rates, compared with a profit of \$880 million in the third quarter of 2005.

Fannie Mae has not reported or fore-

cast its results beyond June 2004. The company, which is the second-largest U.S. financial institution after Citigroup Inc., is not expected to return to timely financial reporting until early next year.

Fannie Mae spokesman Brian Faith declined to comment on the third-quarter results.

With the Democrats now in control of Congress, prospects have improved for compromise legislation tightening the government's reins on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The accounting scandals that roiled both companies in recent years brought demands by Republicans in Congress and the Bush administration for cuts in their massive mortgage holdings — a move vehemently opposed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Mission

continued from page 1

life."

What's important to realize, Jenkins said, is that Notre Dame isn't just pouring dollars on Nindye — it's a partnership. And partnerships work both ways.

"I think we need to help in what ways we can ... to assist [the villagers]," Jenkins said. "I do believe that in that process, we will be the beneficiaries as much as they are. Because we will learn about their culture, we will work with them and form relationships that will enrich our lives as much as it enriches their lives."

While Notre Dame's involvement with the Millennium Villages Project is unprecedented, the trip itself wasn't. After all, Notre Dame presidents are frequent travelers.

Global connections

University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh has been "all over" Africa.

He visited Uganda in 1958, "before Holy Cross got there," he said. Those priests arrived years later, and since then, more Holy Cross priests and teachers have gone to the region.

"We're not an isolated place in northern Indiana, but we're a Catholic institution interested in the whole world," Hesburgh said, echoing one of Jenkins' reasons for the trip. "We pick and choose the places where we can have an influence educationally."

Hesburgh's successor, University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy, has also taken multiple trips to Africa.

"Notre Dame's an international university, and I think everyone who's part of it needs to think globally," Malloy said.

Malloy, who has been to Cameroon, South Africa, Madagascar and Uganda, said he was "delighted" to hear of Jenkins' recent trip.

And while both Hesburgh and Malloy noted that Notre Dame presidents are expected to see the world, they recognized the importance of this particular trip.

"It's an important step. When you're president of Notre Dame, it's important you have firsthand knowledge of the places where you choose [to help]," Hesburgh said. "And we've been doing that for years ... especially in Chile [and] Bangladesh."

In the past, Notre Dame has helped schools in those two countries, he said. Hesburgh believes the educational approach to providing aid — like the idea behind Millennium Villages Project —

is the one a university should take.

"Good ideas have to be institutionalized, and there's no better way of doing it than creating a learning center that will exist and grow and be a constant help to an emerging area," he said.

Catholic character

Another way Jenkins grew to know the Ugandans was not through their culture, but through their religion.

While the Notre Dame group did meet those at the forefront of the Ugandan Catholic Church — not unlike last January's trip to Rome, where Jenkins and University Trustees built on relationships with Vatican leaders — Jenkins emphasized the value in less official encounters.

"We went to parishes in Uganda, just ordinary, faithful people," he said. "You do feel a bond with them — it's a common faith, common commitments, that brings you close to one another. The whole idea of the Mass, and the Eucharist, is formative of a community. ... I think all of that is part of this richness of community that extends across cultures, across languages, across countries, to a deeper unity and a deeper solidarity with one another."

"I think that's part of what we believe here at Notre Dame, and that's why the struggles of people in Uganda are our struggles, their joys are our joys. And it's important always to remain aware of that."

Enriching a community

Members of the Notre Dame community will travel to Uganda again, but apart from Lyden — who's slated to go back in February — definite plans haven't been made, Jenkins said.

He said there would be research opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students.

"I think it's a great educational opportunity for our students, and again, it would be a limited number of people, but ... I think there are possibilities there," Jenkins said.

The opportunity provided by Nindye village isn't directly related to Provost Thomas Burish's initiative announced last fall to increase research at

the University, Jenkins said, but the two are intertwined.

"I think Tom Burish's emphasis is more focused on certain areas, that our faculty do research on, but it's all part of the same plan — that is, Notre Dame is a place where people ask questions and try to answer them in intelligent and creative ways," Jenkins said. "And so all that is part of research."

It will take a few years to see if Notre Dame's involvement in Uganda is successful, and Jenkins knows that.

"I think that there's some criticism that [Millennium Villages Project] is too optimistic," he said. "It is true that

development programs have been undertaken in sub-Saharan Africa for many years, and many of them just haven't succeeded. So people are skeptical about their success, and it's yet to be seen whether this village can be self-sufficient, but we'll see."

"I just think the alternative, doing nothing, is not acceptable. And I'm sure there are other criticisms, but if someone has a better idea, let's hear it. I haven't heard a better idea. So that's why we're happy to be involved in this," he said.

As for Jenkins, more trips are in the works. This semester, the president plans to visit multiple U.S. cities,

Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, as well as Jerusalem this May.

"I think of my job both kind of on campus and off campus, and I think Notre Dame has a job obviously to educate the students ... but it also has an obligation to interact with the world," he said.

Like his predecessors, Jenkins hopes those interactions will benefit the entire Notre Dame community.

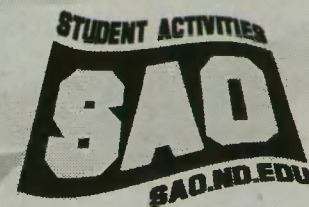
"[Uganda] really was an enriching trip," he said, "and I have great hopes it will enrich this community in the future."

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

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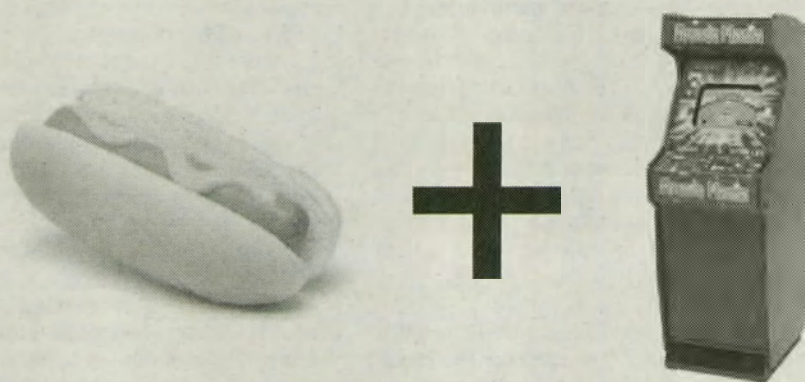
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Action

continued from page 1

than last year, which caused the selectivity rate to drop from about 1/2 for the class of 2010 to around 1/3 for 2011, said Director of Admissions Operations Bob Mundy.

"Certainly the increase in applications indicates our rise in popularity and is positive for the institution," he said. "Unfortunately, the things we measure tend to be very statistical information like SATs and class ranking, so it becomes harder to gain admission."

From this year's application pool, the average class rank of each accepted applicant was within the top 3 percent, up from 3.7 percent last year. The average SAT score was 1442 (sans the writing component) up from 1420 last year, and average ACT score was 32.7, up from 32.4.

Additionally, approximately 190 valedictorians, 69 salutatorians, and 22 students with perfect test scores were admitted. Legacy students also comprised about 20 percent of the admitted group.

At this point, the admissions committee is still in the process of tallying the number of applications submitted for the regular decision round. Mundy projects that while the number of applications for Early Action consideration went through the roof, it doesn't necessarily mean that it will be same for regular action.

"There's still plenty of uncertainty that exists in Early Action in that we ask, 'does it have any bearing on the numbers for regular action?'" he said. "Last year, Early Action numbers were down, but regular action numbers rose by about 1,500, so it's never quite clear. Still, we do project that regular apps will be up to some degree."

Despite the fact that Notre Dame's ranking in the "2006 US

News and World Report" dropped slightly, the University did receive several other recognitions that may have boosted the rise in applicants.

"Newsweek-Kaplan College Guide" nominated Notre Dame as the "Hottest Legendary School," among 25 other schools listed, while "Business Week" ranked the Mendoza School of Business as the No. 3 undergraduate business school in the nation.

Katherine Novinski, a senior at the Hockaday School in Dallas, was moved to apply early because Notre Dame has "an ingrained spirit and tradition" that she was looking for in her college selection criteria.

"I know I wanted good academics, a sense of family and community, and spirituality," she said. "It's one of my top choices right now, and the final decision will come down to scholarship and financial aid."

Undergraduate Admissions Counselor Beth Giudicessi attributes the rise to many factors, ranging from the baby boom to the University's strong academic caliber becoming more widespread.

"Most importantly, I think our team of fifteen members traveling worldwide telling the ND story is what really draws our candidates," she said. "It's less of a recruitment process and more of informing students about Notre Dame, and they make the decision on their own."

The University was also very proactive in attracting more minority students to campus. The number of admitted multicultural students from Asian, African American, Latino, and Native American backgrounds grew nine percent from 230 last year to 253. Twenty-two international students were also offered admission.

"We spent a lot more time visiting students from schools that we haven't seen before," said Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions Son

Nguyen. "For instance, we gave special attention to an inner city school in Camden, New Jersey, because we felt that if an under-represented school had some potential for ND, we would let them know more about the school."

Other highly selective schools — such as the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, and Northwestern — recently adopted the common application as a tactic to increase the number of minority applicants. Though the Notre Dame Admissions Committee deliberated as to whether they should use the Common Application in lieu of Notre Dame's customized one, they opted not to.

"Students who want to go to Notre Dame will fill out our applications, which indicates that they're putting in the extra effort because Notre Dame is important to them," said Nguyen. "Without the Common App, we're still getting many prospects and high yield, showing that many people want to be here."

Usually, admitted Early Action candidates comprise about 25 percent of each incoming freshman class. Until the May 1 deadline, however, much is left to be done with Early Action admits. Financial award packages will be mailed in March, and shortly after will come Spring Visitation weekend to host admitted minority students.

For now, high school seniors like James McKee, also a student at Dallas Jesuit, are happy with where they stand and will wait a few more weeks before they know for sure where they are headed.

"I'm still waiting to hear from my other top choice, Duke University," he said. "But even if I'm accepted there, I still might want to attend Notre Dame because I know so many people who are going there. We'll just have to see."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

Rice says peace talks too early

Associated Press

LONDON — Israel and the Palestinians can pick any agenda they want for a preliminary peacemaking summit with the United States, but it is too early to tackle the toughest issues, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday.

"We're not yet at the point where I think we can determine what we would do about formal negotiations, when and if they can occur," Rice said at the close of a week's trip to the Middle East and Europe. "It's really a time to try to get the parties into more of a confidence-building phase and we'll see what comes after that."

Rice said her three-way meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas probably would take place in the Middle East in the first half of February.

Rice said her talks with both leaders last weekend "broke through that." Olmert and Abbas agreed to the three-way meeting, a symbolic advancement both of their relationship and the involvement of traditional peace broker Washington.

Olmert and Abbas are both politically compromised: Olmert by last summer's disappointing war in Lebanon and allegations of political corruption in his ranks; Abbas by his yearlong internal power struggle with Hamas radicals.

Rice hopes the meeting will be part of a wider effort to support Abbas in that fight.

Both Abbas and Olmert inherited the 2003 plan agreed to by others. U.S. officials say it may be time to fine-tune some requirements in the plan, and that

an agreement between Abbas and Olmert about how to do that could be a first step toward larger accords.

"It really should be up to them to put anything on the agenda that they'd like," Rice said, but she made clear that she hopes to discuss more than the outlines or borders of an eventual Palestinian state.

Assessing the prospects for progress on the Palestinian questions, the chief U.S. diplomat met in Berlin and London with European leaders who are keenly interested in an issue with wide public appeal.

In Kuwait, Rice sat down with foreign ministers from eight Arab states, including the three U.S.-allied heavyweights Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The grouping encouraged by the United States excludes Iran and fellow U.S. outcast Syria, but Rice has avoided comment on the perception that she is forging an anti-Iranian alliance.

Rice's second in command planned another round of diplomatic calls in the region next week.

Some Arab media depicted Rice's visit as a failure. "The whole jet-setting trip turned out to be yet another stage-managed, futile diplomatic exercise. ... In effect, Rice returns to Washington empty-handed with a lot of false promises rather than optimism," the Doha, Qatar-based Peninsula newspaper wrote in editorial.

Jordanian analyst Labib Khamhawi said that besides their doubts over the plan itself, Arab leaders had a difficult time throwing support behind it "when there has been a total failure in Iraq and the Palestinian territories with no attempt to soften the anger that is seething in the Arab and Muslim countries."



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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

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Uganda methods set example

The importance of service is ingrained in the Notre Dame culture. Large numbers of students volunteer on a regular basis and regularly devote a year or two of their post-graduate lives to programs like ACE and Teach for America.

So it's not that surprising that the University has chosen to affiliate itself with a group of people in Uganda, vowing to support Nindye village in its quest to raise the quality of life.

What's notable about this project, however, is the way it's being done.

Notre Dame's approach to the Millennium Village Project appears to be a smart one. The goal is not to just pour money into Nindye every time the villagers need it — it's to lift people up. The University community needs to recognize that the project is not just intended to make "do-good Notre Dame" look generous. Rather, Notre Dame is entering the partnership. It is one of many participants, one of two universities and 5,000 hardworking villagers aiming to create change and dialogue.

Most importantly, the project is a promising alternative to what could have simply been a lump-sum charitable gift — generous, absolutely, but probably not as enriching for both

communities. If the relationship progresses like those behind the project believe it will — a partnership on a slower scale, gradually building to self-sufficiency — the Ugandans will receive the basic tools they need to succeed. Furthermore, a long-term relationship will be created that should benefit both Nindye and Notre Dame.

Now, it's a matter of spreading the word.

It is important that those who went to Africa continue the initiative. This isn't the only focus for University President Father John Jenkins, and he knows it won't be everybody else's. But this can't be a worthy initiative that falls off the radar or gets lost in a mess of played out awareness weeks. It's the job of Jenkins and the others who have

been to Nindye to prioritize. It is equally important that those who go in the future keep the bigger picture in mind. Nindye cannot be a place used simply to conduct personal research and write for academic journals. To appropriately support the project, people need to understand why it's important — and no one can better transmit that information than those who have been to Nindye and develop relationships with villagers.

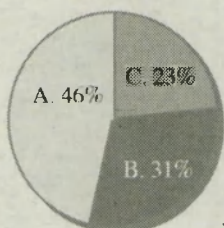
Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Do you think Father Jenkins' trip to Uganda was important for Notre Dame?



- A. Yes.
B. No.
C. I don't care.

This poll was based on 572 responses given at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Half the world is composed of those who have something to say but can't; the other half is of those who have nothing to say and keep on saying it."

Robert Frost
American poet

Well wishes for the new year

With the advent of a new calendar year comes greetings and well wishes that — like the beginning of each school year — roll off the lips of everyone for about a week until routines smother the outwardly moment. What a wonderful place it would be if we coddled that openness throughout the entire year. With that in mind, here are well wishes for 2007.



Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

To the senior class, drink in every moment of your last semester. By savoring every moment of your final semester, you can actually slow the progression of time. The semester will seem much longer, and you will truly enjoy yourselves. Ten years from now, you will recall more fond memories from this semester than most of your college career because you seized the semester and absorbed every precious moment that will not be repeated in this lifetime.

For Notre Dame's Director of Security Police Rex Rakow, whose herculean battle against a debilitating disease teaches us the meaning of dignity and courage, my thoughts are often of you regardless of time of year. Speaking with Rex in my section at the UCLA football game capped a wonderful

weekend beyond expectations. My prayers have always been soaked in admiration and will continue throughout 2007.

One of the loudest well wishing calls goes out to 200 of the late Rev. Robert Griffin, CSC's closest friends to assist in establishing a Notre Dame scholarship in Griffin's name. Thus far, the Notre Dame Development Office has only heard from nine of you ... only 191 more yet to be found. Last semester this column called for Father Griffin's 200 dearest friends to contribute \$500 each to achieve the minimum \$100,000 endowment goal. "Griff," as the many young souls whom the priest comforted and sometimes saved affectionately called him, had legions of followers. May 2007 be a time to contact them with what can most commonly be called, "the word."

Turning to the world of politics, we Democrats could gloat over our congressional gains by repeating Newt Gingrich's immortal statement when Republicans swept the legislative branch in 1994, "Get over it." But that was the recipe for more than a decade of acrimony which must end with Democrats being gracious winners. It is humorous to see how quickly the president abandoned his over-the-top "doom and gloom" campaign rhetorical characterizations and begin admitting his mistakes. My wish has two parts. First, the president cannot ever again tell us that "the American public needs to

understand" one thing or the other. Secondly, for the president's 30 percent of support, the Bush side of life needs to understand Coca-Cola's newly launched advertising campaign. It is perfect for the beginning of a new year with the jingle, "You give a little love, and it all comes back to you. The Coke side of life."

On the lighter and arguably more comfortable side of life, my two new year's wishes for the auditioning contestants this week on "American Idol," the reality television talent contest, can prevent much heartache and many tears. First, avoid dressing in costume or using props. Boxing gloves never impress the judges. Neither do juggling batons, excessively large Cat-in-the-hat top hats, cowboy hats or pants pulled up above your belly button. Dress to fit the Idol brand, not to impress nor depress the judges.

Additionally, judge yourselves by listening to your tape before Simon describes you as "juvenile, mediocre and horrible" while you make fools of yourselves before 37 million viewers. Do not expect your 10 years of singing lessons or your degree in vocal anything to magically advance you to Hollywood. Expect the judges to ask you to sing Abba's "Dancing Queen" when your initial song repeats the lyrics, "I had a bad day." One girl in pigtails violated both rules by propping her hand-made Wizard of Oz poster while singing the cowardly lion's "courage" song ...

complete with rolling animal noises. When asked to sing a Prince song, she included her unique (and atrociously sounding) rolling noises during that performance. Any wonder the judges did not even want her poster?

My college classmate — an English major and Notre Dame graduate — who considers himself "a maker of book," for sports entertainment purposes only, notes that all four of last weekend's NFL underdogs beat the Vegas odds. His new year's wish is more of a personal resolution, namely to be the most possibly accurate "maker" this year for clients. He offers advice with new year's generosity and good humor for the upcoming championship and Super Bowl games ... the Saints over the Bears and the Colts to win, but to "push" by equaling the point spread. For the Super Bowl, note that the game has never gone into overtime, and the odds favor its likelihood.

Personally speaking, our world would be better this year if everyone followed the decade's old Coca-Cola slogan, "A Coke and a smile make you feel good."

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hottline@aol.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Minimum wage argument flawed

Mark Poyar opens the new semester with the latest salvo in the ongoing minimum wage debate. I wish to applaud him for his rigorous argumentation and join with him in praising the virtues of examining the implications of our beliefs. He presents an eloquent argument of the sort logicians and mathematicians call a "reductio ad absurdum," in which we reject one principle because it is inconsistent with another. In particular, let us call the two principles he considers the Principle of Self-Ownership and the Principle of Minimum Wages. Then his conclusion, which I will grant for the sake of argument, is: If the Principle of Self-Ownership is true, the Principle of Minimum Wages is false. But is the Principle of Self-Ownership true? Mr. Poyar speculates that many people would not disagree with it, but of course this falls short of a strong argument for its truth. And perhaps many people would disagree with it, if they knew that it was inconsistent with other principles they hold more dear.

Indeed, this is the argument I want to make in this letter: while Mr. Poyar has given us an elegant reductio ad absurdum, I believe it is actually a reductio ad absurdum of the Principle of Self-Ownership, not the Principle of Minimum Wages. That is, the conclusion we should arrive at is that, since the Principle of Minimum Wages is more likely to be true, the Principle of Self-Ownership is more likely to be false, relatively to each other. So, why is the Principle of Minimum Wages more likely to be true?

I have several reasons for thinking this; here is just one, which I am simplifying for the sake of space. The Principle of Self-Ownership implies that we only have moral obligations to not harm others, and do not have any moral obligations to actively prevent others from suffering harm. For example, suppose I happen to come across an infant drowning in a shallow pool of water. Rescuing the infant would require no more of a sacrifice on my part than expending a small amount of time and energy. Nevertheless, the Principle of Self-Ownership says that it is entirely within my rights to let the infant die. She has no right to even this minimal use of my property. On the other hand, the Principle of Minimum Wages finds some support from the intuition that we do in fact have moral obligations to prevent harm — in particular, to prevent at least the worst harms of the deepest poverty. Since it seems true by a moral intuition that we have these sorts of positive moral obligations, it follows that the Principle of Minimum Wages is intuitively more attractive than the Principle of Self-Ownership. And by Mr. Poyar's reasoning, since we must reject at least one of these, I conclude that we must reject at least the Principle of Self-Ownership.

Dan Hicks
grad student
off campus
Jan. 17

Actually, minimum wage preserves self-ownership

If all basic needs were provided for in our society, I might see Mark Poyar's point ("The other side of the coin," Jan. 17). I support the idea that an affluent 17-year-old should be able to bargain for a job contract of any price. After all, he can choose not to enter into a job contract at all. Many workers do not have this choice; they must accept some job contract, or perish on the streets. Without minimum wage laws, it is possible or even likely the best offers a base-laborer could find would be insufficient to meet his or her basic needs. But this person would have no choice but to enter into the contract, no matter what this meant (18-hour work days, living in the factory, etc.) Poyar says that a belief in self-ownership and minimum wage laws are incompatible; I disagree. The minimum wage ensures that the contract a person can find will meet at least some degree of basic sufficiency. In most cases, the minimum wage works to prevent workers from being stripped of self-ownership.

Scott Feister
sophomore
St. Edward's Hall
Jan. 17

Wednesday Lunch Fast an easy way to show support

Every five seconds, a child dies of a hunger-related cause. This means that while I ate my lunch today in North Dining Hall, about 350 children died because they were born into poverty. If you're like me, you're looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of the millions who go to bed each night hungry. Preferably, an easy way.

Luckily, I have one for you: the Wednesday Lunch fast. Students that sign up for the Wednesday Lunch Fast simply give up their Wednesday dining hall lunch. This means they will not go to the dining hall between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and will have one less meal each week. The money the dining hall saves will go to help many in poverty. Signing up is easy. Just e-mail your full name and ndID number (the number on our IDs that begins with 90) to whc@nd.edu by Friday, Feb. 2. I hope that you join me in skipping this one dining hall meal a week.

Jessica Pillarella
junior
Pasquerilla East
Jan. 17



'SUNSHINE' REMAINS RADIANT

Hoover Family's Heart Beats in DVD and Soundtrack

MATT HUDSON/Observer Graphic

'LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE' DVD GLOWS

By SEAN SWEANY
Assistant Scene Editor

Every family has its quirks. No recent film demonstrates this so wholeheartedly as the charming, sleeper hit of 2006, "Little Miss Sunshine," recently released on DVD. With a buzz generated at last year's Sundance Film Festival, "Little Miss Sunshine" — helmed by husband/wife directing team Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris — took Hollywood, the indie circuit and both mainstream and art-house audiences by storm.

Faris and Dayton, who had previously done only television commercials and music videos for bands like The Red Hot Chili Peppers and Smashing Pumpkins, turned the initially small-budget production into an award-winning film.

The movie follows a girl, Olive Hoover (Abigail Breslin), who aspires to win the Little Miss Sunshine beauty contest but needs the help of her family to cross the country in their bright yellow Volkswagen bus amidst several family crises to make it to the pageant on time.

The opening sequence of the film travels

from character to character, showing the audience vignettes of each person and their personal problems. Richard (Greg Kinnear) and wife Sheryl (Toni Collette) face the struggles of supporting their family when money is a problem. The son, Dwayne (Paul Dano), begins the movie in a vow of silence in honor of Nietzsche and, like any teenager, finds his family crazy.

Steve Carrell breaks away from his usual funnyman antics and portrays the Proust scholar and clinically-depressed brother of Sheryl, Frank, who recently attempted suicide because of a failed romance with a male graduate student. Alan Arkin — the perennial supporting actor best known for roles in "Edward Scissorhands" and "Wait Until Dark" — plays the vulgar, drug-addict grandfather who shepherds Abigail on her path to win the beauty contest.

The undoubted star — playing the character whom all the others revolve around and eventually look to for stability in their family — is Breslin, who began her career as Mel Gibson's daughter in M. Night Shyamalan's "Signs." She perfectly plays Olive, who is not the conventional entrant in a beauty pageant, but who has the dream and desire to compete regardless.

Comparisons to Dakota Fanning are easy to make, but Breslin shows a much broader and wide range of talent than Fanning has ever shown. Her best trait, which makes the movie so endearing to the viewer, is the



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

"Little Miss Sunshine" begins with a dysfunctional family. The film then follows them through humor and emotion on the way to the titular beauty pageant.

ability to act as a character who is markedly different than everyone around her, but yet feels no shame or embarrassment from this. Her performance is stunning to watch and goes down as one of the best screen performances of 2006.

The DVD is light on extras, but this is not terribly noticeable as the main attraction is the film itself. Several alternate endings make up the bulk of the special features, which give interesting insight into the thought processes of the directors in crafting an ending to the film. Beyond this, the various commentaries are interesting, but nothing more or less than in most other films of this nature.

This character drama succeeds because the audience becomes the final family member traveling in the dilapidated VW bus across the country and lives the ups and downs of life together with the Hoovers. The sense of reality is tangible and any viewer can find traits to which they can relate in various characters. At times hilarious and at times dark and sad, "Little Miss Sunshine" is one of those rare films that is able to entertain while also teaching audiences something about family at the same time.

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Little Miss Sunshine

20th Century Fox Home
Entertainment



'LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE' SOUNDTRACK LENDS HEART TO FILM

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

"Little Miss Sunshine" opened to massive critical acclaim and made the jump from the indie circuit to the mainstream — one of those rare art films that connected with those outside the art house theaters. It was original, interesting and, more importantly, it had heart, and critics praised its development of familial conflict that was quirky but somehow intimately real.

One of the integral reasons this film was able to connect with such a large audience was the music. The soundtrack contains many songs written by DeVotchKa, the Denver, Col. based indie band that has been influenced by film genres such as the

Spaghetti Western and traditional dancing music from Eastern Europe. The band's sound provides the emotional center of this film, from the mellow and haunting opening track, "The Winner Is" (co-written with Danna), to the final track of the film before the credits roll entitled "La Llorona" — a piece that would sound more at home in a Leone film than at the end of what the best of American indie had to offer in 2006.

Aside from these songs by DeVotchKa, the group also composed most of the songs throughout the soundtrack with a few notable exceptions. Other DeVotchKa highlights include the second song on the soundtrack, "Til the End of Time," which brings frontman Nick Urata's crooning vocals to the fore and provides an upbeat counter to the aforementioned "The

Winner Is." A French accordion leads "Let's Go" through its wobbly yet highly enjoyable trajectory that halts, stalls and restarts in its own time lending itself to the film it was meant to complement. If one song had to epitomize the film, it would be this one, not only through its title but also through the methods by which this DeVotchKa/Danna co-production operates. It has an internal rhythm much like the family in the film, but there are points where it seems on the verge of collapse only to find itself again.

The notable exceptions to the DeVotchKa solo efforts or the DeVotchKa/Danna efforts are two tracks by indie-folk singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens and the Rick James super-hit "Superfreak." Stevens's songs are not as strange as the DeVotchKa songs because they maintain a more traditional folk sound, one that may not be as ear catching but is as equally soothing and appropriate to the film as any other song on the soundtrack.

Rick James's "Superfreak" and Tony Tisdale's "Catwalkin'" are the only points of the soundtrack that bring some pop influences to the front and provide entertaining points in the film, especially the "Superfreak" incident. They are points on the soundtrack that are pure pop and pure

Little Miss Sunshine

Official Soundtrack

Lakeshore Records



Recommended tracks: 'Til the End of Time,' 'La Llorona,' 'We're Gonna Make It,' 'Superfreak'

enjoyment.

Overall, this film's soundtrack is excellent for two reasons: it compliments the film extremely well and it also stands alone extremely well. This may be due to the fact that most of the songs were written by DeVotchKa. However, most of the group's songs on the soundtrack were not written exclusively for the soundtrack, and their style, in and of itself, is incredibly diverse.

This is a film everyone should own and a soundtrack everyone should own. Most bands could only hope to put together an album as enjoyable as this, and the soundtrack does not fall prey to the cliché that film soundtracks only work in the film and not outside unless the music is from "Star Wars," "Jaws," etc.

"Little Miss Sunshine" is a great film that is complimented by some great music. One can't go wrong with either.

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Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

The soundtrack of the film can be melancholy or warm, sad or joyous. The music is part of the film but is also an excellent collection of music in and of itself.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Balboa' lacks original film's underdog spirit

New DVD edition of 'Rocky' released on heels of lacking 'Rocky Balboa'

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

ROCKY BALBOA

That "Rocky Balboa" is not a terrible film is a testament to the character and Sylvester Stallone's obvious respect and affection for his creation, but that doesn't make it a good film either. Its positive critical reception seemed mainly due to low expectations, and while it doesn't tarnish the "Rocky" legacy, it doesn't really enhance it either.

"Rocky Balboa" is ridiculously illogical, and this is its biggest problem. This, in a lot of ways, has become the series' trademark. Somewhere between Rocky's bouts with Clubber Lang (Mr. T) and the Soviet Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren), his humanity and warmth were stripped away and replaced with a superhuman quality that was more comical than epic.

"Rocky Balboa" was written by, directed by and stars Sylvester Stallone — as were "Rockys II – IV." While "Rocky Balboa" presents itself as a stripped-down return to the realism of the first installment, the truth is that the central conceit of the film is more outrageous than even his mountain-climbing, wood-chopping trip to Russia. A simulated fight between Balboa (Stallone) and reigning Heavyweight Champ Mason "The Line" Dixon claims that an in-his-prime Rocky would've beaten Dixon. Balboa himself is retired, but runs a restaurant called Adrian's. Adrian herself passed away sometime between "Rocky V" and "Rocky Balboa," so the Italian Stallion is left with just Paulie, who has become no happier nor wiser since the first "Rocky."

Balboa, who spends most of his time putzing around his restaurant entertaining guests, finds a new friend in Little Marie (Geraldine Hughes), whom fans might recognize as a foul-mouthed girl from the original film. Grown up and with a son, Rocky takes her under his wing, presumably because he has nothing

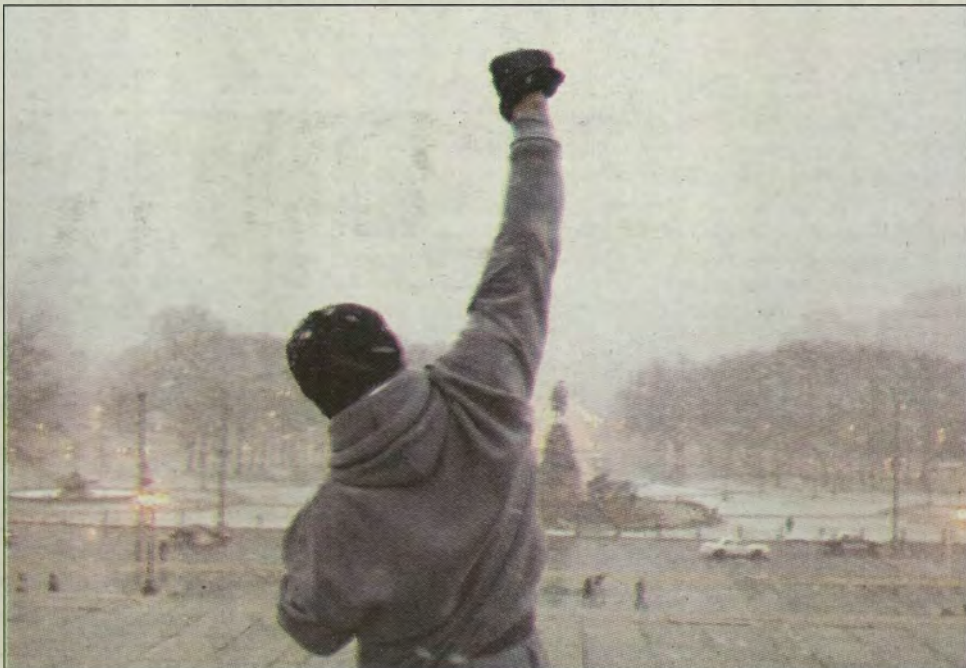


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Sylvester Stallone returned to the silver screen for the last time as American icon Rocky Balboa in 2006's "Rocky Balboa." This film lacked the heart of the original.

ing better to do. He also tries to reconcile things with his son Robert (Milo Ventimiglia), who has become an office worker and resents being in the shadow of his famous father.

Upon hearing about the simulated fight, Rocky is persuaded to step into the ring one last time. You can guess what happens next.

When Dixon's agents approach Balboa for the first time, they tell him that the simulated fight got a lot of people interested, which is why the proposition of an exhibition match between the former champ and the reigning champ is put on the table. Yeah, right. ESPN could simulate a football game and claim that the 1977 Notre Dame football team could've beaten 2006 Florida, but odds are that it's not enough to inspire Joe Montana and Ken McAfee to suit up and take to the field. It's just not realistic.

"Rocky Balboa" is a nice little movie and it's a solid "goodbye" to the cinema icon, but it didn't need to be made. If anything, it just undoes the damage of "Rocky V," a truly horrendous film that really, really didn't need to be made. Yet somehow, Stallone managed to make the character age gracefully.

There are obvious elements missing from "Rocky Balboa." If it is, as Stallone purports, the last of the series, then why not tie up all the loose ends? Key charac-

ters like Apollo Creed and Mickey are simply ignored, and the film leaves open the possibility for another sequel. If Stallone wanted to close on the highest possible note, it would have been better if he had come full circle and made the series feel like a complete arc.

The first "Rocky" was about going the distance, fighting until the last bell and winning the girl of your dreams. It was a simple movie, and that simplicity was part of its appeal, something the sequels lost sight of. "Rocky Balboa" is more like those sequels than it seems, it is a superhero send-off, but it also shares a key quality with the original that hearkens back to the simplicity of the 1976 Best Picture Oscar winner — it is not a film about a man who wants to win, it is a film about a man who once again wants to go the distance, to prove to himself that he wasn't just some bum from the neighborhood.

ROCKY: THE COLLECTOR'S DVD

Something lost in the sequels, the hubris and the less-than-stellar career of Sylvester Stallone is that the original "Rocky" is — surprise! — a fantastic movie. The Best Picture winner of 1976, "Rocky" helped launch the careers of its director, John "Karate Kid" Avildsen, and its writer/star, Sylvester Stallone,

drawing comparisons to (and this is true) Marlon Brando and Robert DeNiro in the process. And while the careers of Stallone and Avildsen and the subsequent sequels have done much to dilute the original's impact, "Rocky" is still the ultimate underdog story and a really great picture in its own right.

"Rocky" follows a small-time boxer and hustler, Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone), as he is given a chance at the title by World Champion Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers). He enlists the help of crusty old trainer Mickey (Burgess Meredith) while also romancing local pet shop worker Adrian (Talia Shire).

Another year, another DVD edition of "Rocky," which means there are at least three releases of the same film — the original "Special Edition," the upgraded "Better Picture Quality" and now the two-disc "Collector's Edition." Like the series itself, the DVD of "Rocky" seems to have breathed its last, only to resurface yet again. This version promises to be the last, because really, can MGM put much more content on these discs? The picture quality (a "new high-definition transfer") is quite good, and the film includes a sparse 5.1 audio track, which is unsurprising considering that it was originally released in mono (a track which is noticeably absent). There are three commentary tracks, and two of them are new — one from Sly himself, and one featuring trainer Lou Duva and commentator Bert Sugar. Stallone's commentary is intelligent and informative, filled with anecdotes and asides about the blood, sweat and tears that went into the making of "Rocky."

Few people probably thought that the "Rocky" franchise would run its course over 30 years and five sequels. And really, it didn't have to. The first film is a minor miracle, a serendipitous marriage of timing and talent, and a complete and satisfying story. Watching the first film again is a reminder that "Rocky" is truly a great film, free from the glossy sheen and cheap thrills that marred the sequels. While Stallone might have thought that audiences wanted slick, action-packed "Rocky" movies, he should have looked to the original and remembered that nothing is more thrilling than the simple pleasure of watching the Italian Stallion run up the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum to the strains of "Gonna Fly Now."

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Rocky Balboa



Director: Sylvester Stallone
Writers: Sylvester Stallone
Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Burt Young, Tony Burton, Geraldine Hughes, Milo Ventimiglia



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

In the newest "Rocky" installment, Rocky fights Mason "The Line" Dixon. "Rocky Balboa" was based on an illogical computer simulated fight.



Photo courtesy of moviegoods.com

The original "Rocky" garnered the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1976. It has been released three times on DVD with the latest being the best.

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Fifth-graders boost Arizona State to victory

Freshman point guard Houts scores career-high 21 points to help No. 16 Georgia take down No. 14 Vanderbilt

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona State's noisiest home game was also one of its best.

Danielle Orsillo scored 16 points to lead five Arizona State players in double figures and the 10th-ranked Sun Devils routed UCLA 92-52 on Thursday.

Aubree Johnson added 15 points, Dymond Simon 14, Jill Noe 13 and Briann January 10 for the Sun Devils in a game played in front of several thousand enthusiastic fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders on "Sparky's Kids to College Field Trip."

"Let's have a field trip day every game," Johnson said. "It was awesome."

With the kids cheering them on, the Sun Devils (17-2, 7-1 Pac-10) led by as many as 24 in the first half and 44 in the second, handing UCLA (9-11, 3-5) its most one-sided loss of the season.

"I felt like I was at home because of the screaming children," said ASU coach Charli Turner Thorne, who has three young sons. "It was great."

The Sun Devils, who play USC on Sunday, shot 59 percent in their fifth straight win and 32nd regular-season home victory in their last 33 tries. The Bruins shot just 33 percent and committed 25 turnovers in their fourth loss in five games.

"That's the Sun Devils operating on pretty close to all cylinders," Turner Thorne said. "Now the challenge is to bring that again for our next game because we've had a tendency to let up defensively in those second games."

Lindsey Pluimer led UCLA with 17 points. Noelle Quinn added 13 but made just 5-of-18 shots.

Turner Thorne said the defense against Quinn was crucial.

"She's one of the best players in the country but we didn't allow her to be that today," the Sun Devils' coach said.

It was the first meeting of the two teams since the Bruins beat Arizona State in the semi-finals of last year's Pac-10 tournament.

UCLA coach Kathy Olivier said she will reserve judgment on just how good the Sun Devils are until her team plays them in Los Angeles.

"They're very comfortable at home," she said, "and they just get it done."

She said the Bruins wanted to use their height advantage against the Sun Devils.

"But their perimeter defense is so disruptive it's hard to get the ball inside," Olivier said.

The balanced scoring showed Arizona State's depth.

"That's what is so great about this team," Orsillo said. "We don't rely on just a couple of players and everybody has everybody else's back."

The Sun Devils made 11 of their first 12 shots, 4-of-4 by January, to bolt to a 25-10 lead on Jill Noe's 3-pointer with 12:42 left in the half. It was never close after that.

The lead reached 37-13 after Johnson made two free throws with 4:22 to go in the half.

Seven players scored as Arizona State took a 46-23 lead at the break. Orsillo led with 10 first-half points, followed by January and Simon with eight apiece. The Sun Devils shot 56 percent in the first half (19-for-34) compared with 28 percent for the Bruins (8-for-29).

Georgia 83, Vanderbilt 71

Georgia won more than just a key conference game Thursday night. The Lady Bulldogs also won some extra free time on Friday.

Ashley Houts scored almost half of her career-high 21 points from the free-throw line, and No. 16 Georgia made 32 of 42 free throws to beat No. 14 Vanderbilt 83-71.

"What it means is we get out of practice 10 minutes earlier (Friday) because we shot all our free throws tonight," Georgia coach Andy Landers said.

Georgia's 32 free throws made was its eighth-highest total, and its 42 attempts ranks 10th in the program's history.

Georgia broke open a close game with a 10-0 second-half run and then protected the lead by making free throws in the final minutes. Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb used a full-court, trapping defense in an effort to force turnovers or get the Lady Bulldogs to miss free throws.

Despite the pressure from Vanderbilt's defense, Georgia committed only 11 turnovers.

Landers said he was impressed by his team's poise "because they're coming after you, trying to trap you and stop you and we didn't give it up in that situation very often, if even once."

Vanderbilt was called for 31 fouls and had two players foul out and three finish with four fouls.

Houts was 10-for-13 on free



Arizona State forward Kayli Murphy, center, grabs a rebound over UCLA center Chinyere Ibekwe and guard Noelle Quinn Thursday night. The Sun Devils beat the Bruins 92-52.

throws.

"Free throws down the stretch were key," said Houts, a freshman point guard. "It feels good to be able to pull out a win, especially after a tough loss."

Georgia, coming off a 52-41 home loss to No. 4 Tennessee, regrouped offensively with four players scoring in double figures.

Tasha Humphrey had 18 points, and Janese Hardrick added 17 points, eight rebounds and four steals for Georgia (15-4, 3-2 Southeastern Conference). Hardrick, a senior, matched her career high in rebounds.

Christy Marshall was 7 for 8 from the free-throw line in the last 3 minutes and added 13 points.

Christina Wirth led Vanderbilt (16-3, 3-2) with 16 points. Merideth Marsh, Caroline Williams and Carla Thomas each added 12 points, but couldn't keep the Commodores from falling to 2-2 against ranked teams.

Thomas, fourth in the SEC averaging 17.4 points per game, was 4-for-11 from the field.

Marsh and Wirth fouled out

late in the game.

"We were able to hang around, and I was proud of my team for that," Balcomb said. "... It's always tough to come in here and play. We'll find the positives from this game and build on them."

Vanderbilt, led by Williams' nine points on three 3-pointers, led 30-29 at halftime. Georgia shot only 31.3 percent from the field, but stayed close on Humphrey's nine points, also on a season-high three 3-pointers.

"I thought her 3s gave us the confidence to get started," Landers said. "I thought they were huge."

North Carolina 78 Georgia Tech 31

Reserve Alex Miller scored 15 points, Ivory Latta added 14 and No. 2 North Carolina held Georgia Tech to its lowest score ever, beating the Yellow Jackets 78-31 Thursday night.

Camille Little added 12 points and Jessica Breland 10 for North Carolina (21-0, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Reserve Jacqua Williams scored 11 to lead the Yellow Jackets (11-7, 2-3), who had no starter with more than four

points.

It was the fewest points North Carolina has allowed any ACC opponent and the Tar Heels' biggest margin of victory in their series with Georgia Tech.

North Carolina led 33-16 at the half.

Latta went 4-for-6 from 3-point range to account for her 12 first-half points. She hit 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to key an early 17-4 run.

Miller scored 11 points when North Carolina pulled away in the game's final 14:57. She scored seven points in a 1:52 span to spark a 13-2 North Carolina spurt.

Georgia Tech was 11-of-59 from the field (18.6 percent).

The Yellow Jackets hit just eight of their first 36 shots and had more turnovers (13) than field goals in the first half.

North Carolina hit 12 of its first 17 shots in the second half and finished 29-of-62 from the field.

Georgia Tech went 8:28 without a basket in the second half and had just one field goal in the last 14:24. North Carolina closed the game by outscoring the Yellow Jackets 24-7.

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It's Friday people! TGIF

R.I.P. GEORGE

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 19, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Hockey
USCHO.com/CSTV Top 25

Table with 5 columns: rank, team, record, points, previous. Lists top 25 NCAA Hockey teams.

NCAA Hockey
CCHA Standings

Table with 5 columns: rank, team, points, league record, overall record. Lists CCHA standings.

Women's Basketball
MIAA Standings

Table with 5 columns: rank, team, league record, overall record. Lists MIAA Standings.

around the dial

NBA
Detroit at Minnesota
8 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS
Australtian Open
10 p.m., ESPN2

NFL



Falcons quarterback Michael Vick scrambles for a first down in a Dec. 10 17-6 win over Tampa Bay. Vick had a water bottle likely containing marijuana confiscated in security at Miami International Airport Thursday.

Vick in trouble after airport incident

Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — For the third time in nine months, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick is making headlines for all the wrong reasons. Vick reluctantly surrendered a water bottle to security at Miami International Airport that smelled like marijuana and contained a substance in a hidden compartment. He was not arrested and was allowed to board an AirTran flight that landed in Atlanta before noon Wednesday. Miami police said Thursday it could be weeks before a decision is made on whether to file charges

against the three-time Pro Bowl player, who this season became the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards. Falcons owner Arthur Blank, general manager Rich McKay and new coach Bobby Petrino met with Vick, who left team headquarters without speaking to reporters. McKay described Blank as being "upset" with the quarterback, whose \$137 million contract was richest in the NFL when Vick signed it three years ago. "We are an organization that prides itself on not having off-the-field issues," McKay said. "I think we have done a pretty good job

of bringing the right people in here so we don't have to face these types of issues. We don't like it. We don't accept it. It is not what we want." Under Florida law, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine. First offenders rarely do any jail time. "We'll do an analysis and see what it is. There's no sense of urgency to it," Detective Alvaro Zabaleta said Thursday. The NFL's substance abuse policy states any team can decide that a player's "behavior, including but not limited to an arrest,"

can warrant a physical exam from its appointed medical director. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said no decision had been made in Vick's case. "We have a process that provides guidelines for every situation," Aiello said. "Our doctors conduct a lengthy evaluation, if necessary, and then decide if enrollment in a treatment program is necessary." Last April, Vick settled a lawsuit filed by a woman who claimed the player knowingly gave her herpes. In November, Vick made an obscene gesture toward Atlanta fans who heckled the team as it came off the field after a 31-13 loss.

IN BRIEF

Trezza, women's baseball leader, dies at 81
NEW YORK — Betty Trezza, a pioneering player in the World War II-era All-American Girls Professional Baseball League and a model for one of the characters in the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own," has died. She was 81. Trezza died of a heart attack on Tuesday at her Brooklyn home, where she lived with her two sisters, her sister-in-law Sally Trezza said Thursday. Her brother, Daniel Trezza, of Brooklyn, called her "a pioneer in sports." Trezza, born Aug. 4, 1925, in Brooklyn, was one of 12 children. Trezza played with the league for seven seasons. She was 17 years old when she was recruited as a shortstop in 1944 and assigned to the Minneapolis Millerettes. When Minneapolis was replaced in 1945 by the Fort Wayne Daisies, Trezza split the year between the Daisies and the South Bend Blue Sox.

Jaguars resign linebacker Smith to five-year deal
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars locked up another key defensive starter Thursday, signing linebacker Daryl Smith to a five-year contract extension worth about \$25 million. Smith, a second-round draft pick from Georgia Tech in 2004, has started every game the past two seasons and led the team with 170 tackles last year while filling in for injured middle linebacker Mike Peterson. The new contract, which begins in 2008, includes \$10 million in bonuses. The 6-foot-2, 244-pound linebacker became the seventh defensive starter to sign a long-term deal with the Jaguars since coach Jack Del Rio took over in 2003. Defensive linemen Marcus Stroud, John Henderson and Reggie Hayward, cornerback Brian Williams and linebacker Mike Peterson each signed contracts worth at least \$20 million.

Sosa continues contract talks with Rangers
DALLAS — Sammy Sosa and the Texas Rangers kept up negotiations on a minor league contract Thursday, working their way toward a deal. The Rangers and Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, have exchanged a couple of proposals. While they could finalize a deal this week, Katz said Thursday that the sides had not yet reached an agreement. Texas has offered Sosa a deal that would require him to earn his spot on the roster during spring training. The 38-year-old former slugger, 12 short of 600 home runs in a 17-season career that began with the Rangers in 1989, didn't play in the major leagues last year. If completed, the contract likely would be worth about \$500,000 if Sosa is placed on the 40-man roster. He would have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses.

NCAA

NAACP asks to stop talk on Duke rape case

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — The state chapter of the NAACP on Thursday called on those involved with the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case — from defense attorneys to state bar officials — to stop talking publicly while the state attorney general's office begins its review.

"We sincerely believe that the high level of public scrutiny and controversy involved in this matter is unwarranted and threatens to pervert the truth-finding process," said the Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

No parties involved in the case have indicated whether they plan to stop speaking publicly.

Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong, under heavy criticism for his handling of the case, asked the attorney general's office this month to take over the prosecution — a decision Barber said his organization applauded.

Until turning the case over to state prosecutors, Nifong led the investigation into alle-

gations that a 28-year-old black student at North Carolina Central University, hired to perform as a stripper, was raped and beaten by three white men at a March 13 party thrown by Duke's highly ranked lacrosse team.

In late December, after the accuser changed a key detail in her account, Nifong dropped the rape charges. Legal experts have said there appears to be little evidence to support the remaining charges against Dave Evans, Collin Finnerty and Reade Seligmann. All three have strongly proclaimed their innocence.

"Nobody knows the totality of the facts," Barber said. "We do not expect, nor should North Carolina citizens condone, a resolution of this case based on biased and political or public pressure from the public or any overzealous supporters on either side. What we must do is insist that we follow the facts wherever they lead and face the facts when they are all in."

The state bar has also accused Nifong of making misleading and inflammatory comments about the lacrosse team, charges that could lead to his disbarment.

NFL

Two long decades for Bears

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Two decades and forever. That's the time span between trips to the Super Bowl for the Chicago Bears and New Orleans Saints.

While various players from each side have been to the NFL's biggest game with other teams, these are two organizations mired in, well, Super droughts. The last time the Bears played for the league title, it was in January 1986, and the stars were named Payton, Singletary, Hampton and McMahon. The defense was overwhelming and Da Coach, Mike Ditka, was overbearing.

That 21-year hiatus is distressing in Chicago, but it's also 19 years shorter than the span New Orleans has gone without a Super Bowl trip. Those four decades make up merely all of the Saints' existence.

Because Sunday's NFC championship game involves franchises that haven't enjoyed much success in the Super Bowl era, the celebrations might be just a bit more exuberant.

"Growing up watching the NFL, being such a fan of the sport and the league," Bears quarterback Rex Grossman said, "it means a great deal to be in this position. I really respect where we are at right now as far as the history of the league. I'm approaching it with a ton of intensity and focus, but not trying to make it bigger than it is. It's still just a football game we are playing at Soldier Field against the Saints."

Sure it is. But it's also the biggest game of the careers of every Bears player except five with previous Super Bowl game experience: wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad; defensive backs



Bears cornerback Charles Tillman, left, and Rashied Davis celebrate with Chicago fans after defeating the Seahawks 27-24 Sunday.

Ricky Manning Jr., and Dante Wesley; tackle Fred Miller; and punter Brad Maynard. Backup quarterback Bob Griese was with Denver in 1999, but didn't get on the field.

"I think experience teaches you a lot, so if you have been in that situation ... we have a few, we don't have many," said coach Lovie Smith, the defensive coordinator for the 2001 Rams that lost to New England for the NFL title. "But yes, it has to have helped, especially if you've been there recently."

"But once you get down to it, gametime we're going to kick it off and now it's just another football game. You know the week leading up to it is quite a bit different. But beyond that I don't see

much."

Beyond the second round of the playoffs is farther than the Saints ever have traveled. They've made this uplifting journey in the wake of a nomadic season where they played home games in three cities after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. They went 3-13 during 2005, and Sean Payton was hired as coach.

Payton's work this season, when the Saints went 10-6 and won the NFC South, earned him AP Coach of the Year honors. He and his players, from All-Pro quarterback Drew Brees to rookie stars Reggie Bush and Marques Colston to longtime Saints Joe Horn and John Carney, have been vital forces in the revival of their city's spirit.

NFL

Cameron front-runner for Dolphins' position

Current San Diego O-coordinator sought

Associated Press

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins hope to complete their two-week search for a coach by Saturday, and the front-runner appears to be San Diego Chargers offensive coordinator Cam Cameron.

The former Indiana coach kept his hotel room near the Dolphins' complex Thursday night after a second day of interviewing with team officials. A Dolphins spokesman said management was still weighing the candidates.

"I can tell you with 100 percent certainty that no decision will be made today," Dolphins senior vice president Harvey Greene said Thursday evening. "We hope to finish the process by tomorrow or Saturday at the latest."

Cameron first interviewed with the Dolphins shortly after coach Nick Saban left for Alabama on Jan. 3. Cameron became available when San Diego was eliminated from the playoffs Sunday by New England.

Other candidates still in the mix to replace Saban include Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey, Dolphins defensive coordinator Dom Capers, former Atlanta Falcons coach Jim Mora and former Alabama coach Mike Shula, the son of ex-Dolphins coach Don Shula.

Cameron was coach at his alma mater, Indiana, from 1997-2001 and has directed a high-powered attack the past five years as San Diego's offensive coordinator. The Dolphins might opt for a coach with an offensive background because a sputtering offense is a major reason they've failed to make the playoffs the past five seasons.

The Dolphins interviewed at least 13 candidates in their most extensive coaching search since the franchise's first season in 1966. They hope to make a decision before next week's Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., where teams scout college prospects and assemble coaching staffs.

The 55-year-old Gailey was Miami's offensive coordinator from 2000-01 before leaving to become the head coach at Georgia Tech. He is 37-27 with Tech and has taken the team to five straight bowls.

Gailey also was 18-16 in two playoff seasons as the Dallas Cowboys' coach from 1998-99. He interviewed for the Pittsburgh Steelers' opening but was not one of three finalists to replace Bill Cowher.

Gailey just completed the first season of a five-year, \$5 million contract extension at Georgia Tech that runs through 2010. He and Tech athletic director Dan Radakovich were awaiting a decision by the Dolphins before commenting on the situation.

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NFL

Dungy, Smith could be first black coach in Super Bowl

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Two weeks ago, Lovie Smith made the three-hour trip from Chicago to watch Tony Dungy's Colts take on Herman Edwards' Chiefs in a first-round NFL playoff game.

The night before, the three old friends and their wives dined at P.F. Chang's in downtown Indianapolis in what was as much a symbolic meeting as a gathering of old pals — three black coaches celebrating the arrival of their teams in the NFL playoffs.

"We talked about starting in '96 in Tampa and some of the things we remembered from then," Dungy recalled on Thursday. "How great it is that we are in the playoffs and that at least two of us have a chance to make it to the Super Bowl. You realized it would be awesome if it happened and, hopefully, it will."

It's officially one game from being awesome.

If the Colts beat the New England Patriots on Sunday and Smith's Bears beat the New Orleans Saints, it would put two black coaches in the NFL's marquee game for the first time in its 41 years. Even if just one of them wins, that, too, would be a first.

There were just three black head coaches in the NFL when

Dungy started nearly a decade ago in Tampa, with Edwards and Smith on his staff. Back then, 70 percent of the league's players were black — a percentage that still holds.

This year, there were seven black coaches, including Dennis Green in Arizona and Art Shell in Oakland. Both men were fired after the season, although Shell will remain in the Raiders' front office. The others are Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis and Cleveland's Romeo Crennel.

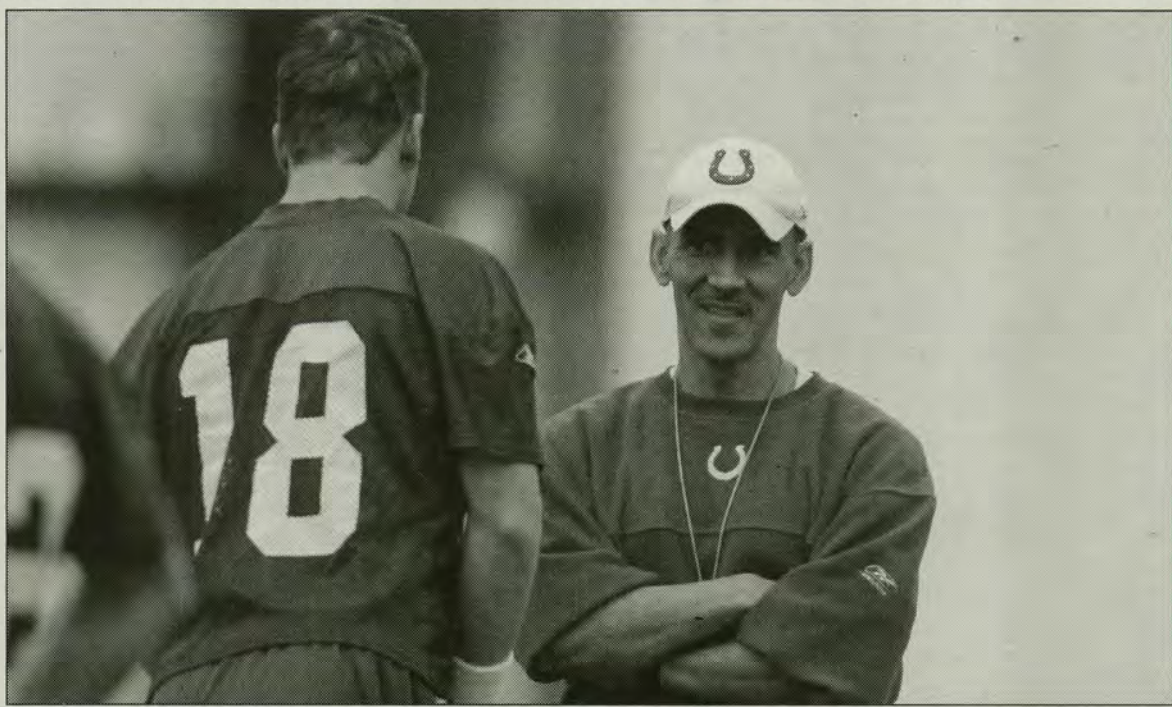
Though he didn't coach this season, Ray Rhodes coached Philadelphia and Green Bay in the 1990s.

Despite the strides, no black head coach has ever taken the final step.

"Of course, it would be special if that happened," Smith said. "I hope for a day when it is unnoticed but that day isn't here. This is the first time, I think, two black men have led their teams to the final four. You have to acknowledge that. I do, we do. I realize the responsibility that comes with that."

So do black players.

"We're making progress slowly," says defensive tackle Anthony McFarland of the Colts, who played for both Dungy and Smith in Tampa Bay.



Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy speaks in practice with quarterback Peyton Manning. Dungy and Chicago Bears head coach Lovie Smith could become the first black coaches to coach in the Super Bowl.

"I don't think players think of 'black players' and 'white players.' It shows that for Tony and Lovie to come this far that there are at least some organizations that have confidence that black men can be head coaches. I hope it goes beyond that so we don't

have to think of their race," he said.

NFL leaders acknowledge that's in the future.

"We still have problems with the front office," said Pittsburgh's Dan Rooney, one of league's senior owners.

An example: When Jerry Reese was promoted to general manager of the New York Giants this week, he became just the third black man in that key position, joining Baltimore's Ozzie Newsome and Houston's Rick Smith.

NFL

Testaverde hopes another Super Bowl win won't slip away

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The clock ticks down to zero, confetti falls, the Super Bowl trophy is hoisted overhead by

some other quarterback and Vinny Testaverde clicks off the television.

"Every year I watch it and I

think, 'It got away from me again,'" the New England Patriots' third-string QB said Thursday as he prepped for the

AFC championship game against Indianapolis. "I've always been on the outside, looking in. I've always wondered what the players went through. I think I'd enjoy that experience."

Let others complain about the distractions and hype surrounding the Super Bowl. Testaverde would just like a chance to see what it's like after failing to make it to the NFL title game, so far, during an otherwise distinguished 20-year career.

A Heisman Trophy winner at Miami who was the first overall pick in the 1987 NFL draft, Testaverde is on his seventh stop with five franchises. At 43, he is resigned to the fact that he probably won't be barking out signals in a Super Bowl huddle, but he still has a chance to tag along as an emergency QB if the Patriots beat the Colts on Sunday.

"I came here knowing it would be an opportunity for me to win a championship, something I've never experienced," Testaverde said. "I've been fortunate enough to play this long, to be in position to do it again. It's exciting. This is what you live for."

"It'd be nice," he said. "It'd be nice."

Testaverde played his first six years for the woeful Buccaneers and the next five for the Browns-turned-Ravens, making the playoffs only once — in the 1994 season while playing for coach Bill Belichick in Cleveland. It was at his next stop, with the New York Jets, that Testaverde came closest to the Super Bowl.

After leading the Jets to their first AFC East title in 1998, he helped them to a 10-0 lead over Denver in the AFC champi-

onship game. But John Elway, in his final season, led the Broncos to a 23-10 victory and then to their second straight Super Bowl title.

"It was really tough," Testaverde said, swallowing hard, "to let it go then."

Testaverde tore his anterior cruciate ligament in the '99 opener — against the Patriots — and lost in the first round in 2001 in his final playoff appearance as a starter. After coming out of retirement when the Jets' Chad Pennington was hurt last year, Testaverde was out of the league again this season when Belichick, who had been working with two quarterbacks on the roster, asked if he wanted to be an insurance policy.

"We all knew what the situation was going to be. I knew I was the emergency guy," Testaverde said.

And he was OK with that. "If I wasn't, I wouldn't be here to begin with," he said.

Although Belichick insisted at the time that the goal was to keep Testaverde off the field, the 43-year-old veteran appeared in four regular-season and playoff games. Three of them were kneel-down situations, but in the regular-season finale against Tennessee, Belichick gave him the chance to throw a touchdown pass that was meaningless except that it extended his record to 20 consecutive seasons with a scoring pass.

"That's the thing about Vinny," said No. 2 quarterback Matt Cassel. "He has so much respect in this locker room. You'd love to see him get a chance to do that at the end of his career. I hope I'm lucky enough to be around long enough to have that kind of success."

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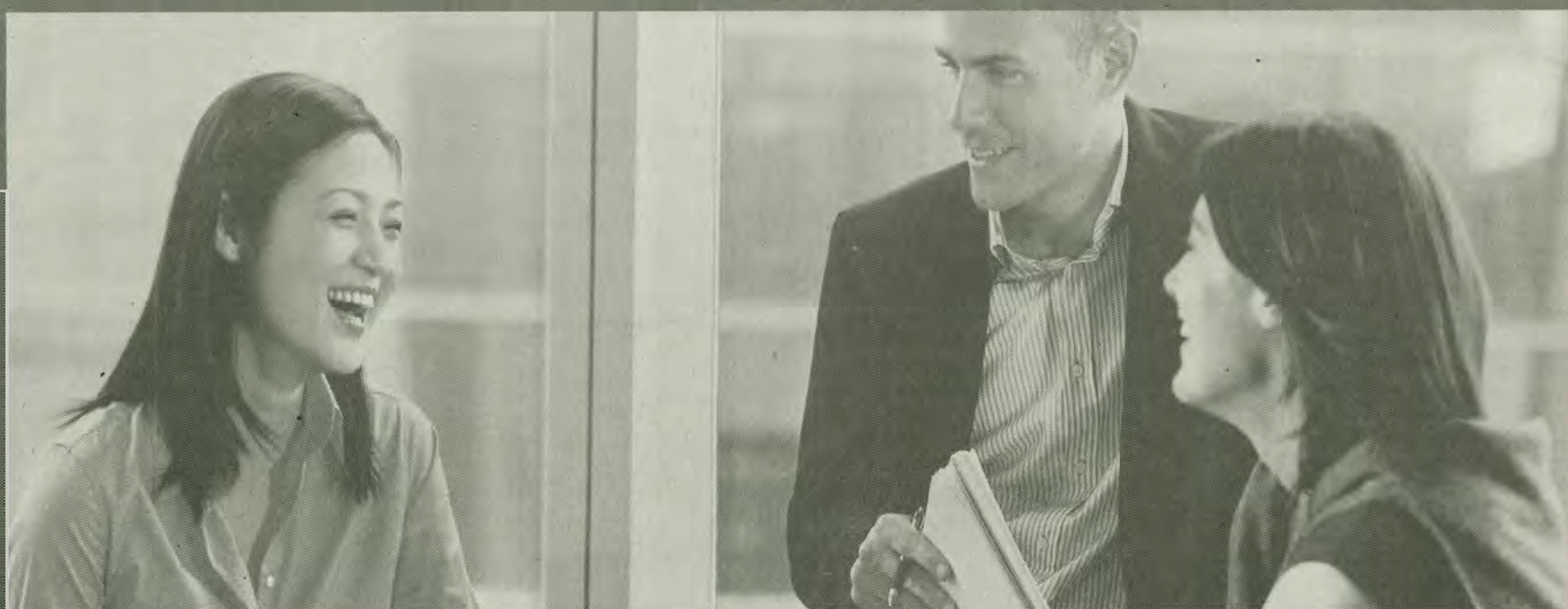
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MLB

Owners warned to work with steroids investigation

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell warned baseball owners that a lack of cooperation with his investigation into steroid use will "significantly increase" the chances of government involvement.

Speaking to owners at baseball's quarterly meetings, Mitchell said he intends to interview active players and raised the possibility that Congress or other government authorities could compel testimony.

"I believe it will be in your best interests, and the best interests of baseball, if I can report that I have received full cooperation from your organizations, and from others, in conducting this investigation," Mitchell said in remarks that were released to reporters.

Mitchell cited last week's Hall of Fame vote to underscore the importance of his investigation. Mark McGwire was picked on 23.5 percent of ballots — far below the necessary 75 percent needed for induction. The vote was viewed by many as the first referendum on how history will judge an age when bulked-up players came under suspicion of using performance-enhancing drugs. Baseball didn't ban steroids until after the 2002 season.

"If nothing else, the results of the Hall of Fame voting last week, and the reaction to it, offer fresh evidence that this issue will not just fade away," Mitchell said. "Whether you think it fair or not, whether you think it justified or not, Major League Baseball has a cloud

over its head, and that cloud will not just go away."

Mitchell cannot compel testimony. He warned the clubs that Congress or other federal or state authorities which do have subpoena power could get involved.

"I believe that a report that is not credible and thorough will significantly increase the possibility of action by others, especially if it's the result of a lack of cooperation by the clubs, or by anyone else who is or has been involved with baseball," Mitchell said.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a series of hearings on steroids and pro sports in 2005 and 2006.

"The use of steroids in professional sports continues to be an issue the committee is interested in, and we are looking forward to learning more about the progress Senator Mitchell has made in his investigation," said Rep. Henry A. Waxman, the California Democrat who chairs the committee.

Keith Ausbrook, Republican general counsel for the committee, said he's almost certain Mitchell has not been in contact with the panel recently about this issue.

"We've certainly been very interested in his investigation and what the results are going to be," Ausbrook said. "If he's not getting anywhere, we'll certainly consider whether to re-engage in it."

The players' association declined comment, spokesman Greg Bouris said.

Mitchell did not speak to reporters after addressing owners. He was hired by commis-



Former St. Louis slugger Mark McGwire is sworn in before testifying March 17, 2005 to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee about steroids in baseball. Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, who is heading an investigation into the issue, has warned baseball owners to cooperate and not impede his work.

sioner Bud Selig last March following more than a year of allegations against Barry Bonds, McGwire and other stars. No timetable was set for Mitchell's report.

Bonds is under investigation by a federal grand jury as to whether he perjured himself when he testified in 2003 in the BALCO steroid distribution case that he hadn't knowingly taken any performance-enhancing drugs.

The San Francisco Giants are negotiating a contract with Bonds, who needs 22 home runs to surpass Hank Aaron's

mark of 755. Speaking to reporters at a golf tournament in the Dominican Republic this week, Bonds declined to discuss ongoing negotiations with the Giants, or his reported positive test for amphetamines last year. Giants owner Peter Magowan declined to answer questions about Bonds.

Selig also spoke to the owners about Mitchell's investigation. Asked if he had urged the clubs to cooperate with Mitchell, Selig said, "Urge is probably not strong enough."

"Look, some clubs have been more cooperative than others,

but at this stage, I'm not concerned about that," Selig said. "He will have cooperation."

Selig would not say which clubs are lagging in their cooperation. Mitchell acknowledged that teams aren't used to dealing with "large-scale document discovery," which can be time-consuming. But he said his investigation would move faster if clubs cooperated more quickly.

"Many have asked when my report will be completed," he said. "The pace of this investigation is dictated by the rate at which information is received."

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SMC BASKETBALL

Close contest awaits Belles

By DAN COOPER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's takes the court at home Saturday at 3 p.m. against Adrian in an important conference game.

The last time these two teams met, Saint Mary's came from behind to beat the Bulldogs 56-48 at Adrian.

This time, Saint Mary's plays host and a Belles victory would move them to third place in the MIAA. As it stands now, the Belles have a 4-4 conference record and are 5-10 overall. Adrian is 2-6 in the conference and 7-8 overall.

Sophomore guard Meghan Contay recognized the importance of this matchup.

"We can't overlook them, they're a scrappy team," Contay said.

Contay also noted that the top four teams in the conference have the advantage of starting the conference tournament at home.

The game will feature two sharply contrasting offensive game plans. Adrian has a balanced offensive attack, with no single player averaging double figures in scoring. Saint Mary's, on the other hand, runs its offense through junior guard Allison Kessler, who is averaging 19.9 points and 3.4 assists per game. She was also recently named MIAA Player of the Week.

"All five [starters] need to play aggressive D," Contay said. "We need to make sure no single player has a stellar game."

Rebounding has been a main focus in practice this week after Saint Mary's was out-rebounded 42-28 in Wednesday's loss to Albion.

"We struggled on the boards last week," Contay

said. "We've been working hard on rebounding in practice."

The Belles will look to neutralize Kim Olech, the Bulldog's leading scorer and rebounder. Adrian's greatest strength is rebounding, with a positive rebound differential of 6.9 per game.

In their first meeting, Adrian out-rebounded Saint Mary's 44-39 and the Belles have a negative turnover margin on the season.

Conversely, the Bulldogs greatest weakness is their tendency to turn the ball over. Adrian has a negative turnover margin of 3.3, and Saint Mary's will look to exploit this weakness to come away with a victory.

Contact Dan Cooper at
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"All five [starters] need to play aggressive D."

Meghan Contay
Belles guard

ND TRACK AND FIELD

Young runners ready for indoor season opener

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will take to its home track for the first time in the spring season when it hosts the Notre Dame Indoor Opener at the Loftus Sports Complex today.

The meet is a chance for young athletes to try to qualify for the Big East Indoor Championship and to allow both the men and the women's teams to get back into routine after being away over break.

"There will be good competition for the [young] guys to try to hit [Big East] standards," junior distance runner Adam Currie said. "And it's a tester meet to try to see where [we] are at after being away."

The team comes off a successful showing at the Purdue Invitational, where individual winners were determined, but an overall team score was not kept. The women's team had two individual winners, senior Cassie Gullickson and sophomore Mary Saxer. Gullickson garnered a victory in the high jump with a 1.63-meter jump. She also met her season-best mark with an 11.46-meter win in the triple jump. Both wins guaranteed her a spot in the Big East Indoor Championship in each event.

Saxer took first in the pole vault with a season-best clearance of 3.8 meters — again qualifying her for the Big East Championship. Freshman Michelle Ripple was not far behind with a personal-best vault of 3.35 meters, just short of a Big East qualifier.

The Irish saw success on the

men's side as well. Freshman pole vaulter Jim Merchun took seventh with a season-best height of 4.45 meters — placing him in the Big East Championship. Sophomore Brian Mahon and freshman Matt Schipper both cleared the 4.3-meter mark but fell short of 4.45-meters, which would have allowed them to grab a spot in the Big East Championship.

Senior Christopher Jacques led the men's squad with two top-five finishes in the long jump and the high jump. Jacques' 7.03-meter long jump was second best, trailing behind the 7.08-meter jump of Purdue's Nolan Petties. Jacques also took fourth in the high jump with a 1.91-meter clearance. Freshman Eric Quick was not far behind Jacques with a season-best 6.62 mark in the long jump — making him the first Irish rookie to gain a place in the Big East field.

Senior Garet Koxlien furthered Notre Dame's success in the field with a third-place finish in the weight throw with a toss of 16.64 meters.

Both teams have experienced veterans returning to guide the way for the new faces. The men's team will turn to leaders like Jacques and senior distance runner Kurt Benninger. The women will continue to rely on Gullickson as both teams hope to take the Big East Championship and send a handful of runners to the NCAA Championship.

"Both teams sent a minimum to win the Big East and get as many people as we can to the NCAA championship," Currie said.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Wildcats pose biggest threat of year

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Coming off a quad meet victory that improved its dual meet record to 8-0, No. 20 Notre Dame will face the greatest threat yet to its undefeated record when it hosts No. 8 Northwestern this Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Rolf's Aquatic Center.

The Wildcats boast their own undefeated dual meet record, having won all five of their contests. Their record includes a win over then-No. 18 Purdue. Northwestern also picked up first-place finishes in its TYR NU Invitational and last weekend's prestigious Dallas Morning News Swimming and Diving Classic.

"They're an excellent team," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "They haven't lost in anything they've done all year, and they might be under-ranked. They could be the fastest team to swim in this pool since the late '90s."

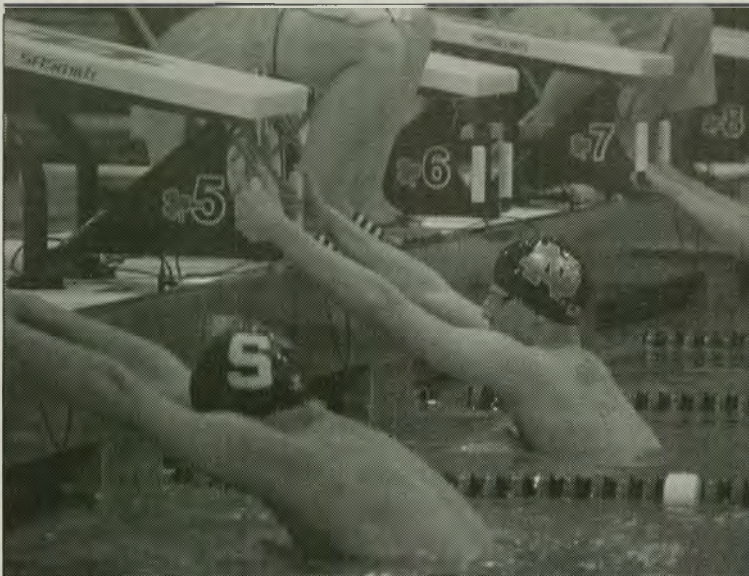
In Dallas last weekend, Northwestern triumphed over a quality field that included No. 3 California, No. 10 Florida State and host Southern Methodist. The Wildcats finished with 359 points, besting Cal's total of 334.

The Irish, however, have reason to be confident despite facing a quality opponent.

Last weekend's defeat of Cleveland State, Xavier and Duquesne gave Notre Dame its best start since the 1974-1975 season. Along the way, the Irish have defeated traditional foes Purdue, Michigan State and Pittsburgh.

Welsh said that the team is very excited about their potential this season.

"This is as good a start as this team has ever had, and we had a wonderful training



Michigan State and Notre Dame swimmers get ready to start a race Nov. 10 at Rolf's Aquatic Center.

trip between the semesters," Welsh said. "We're optimistic about how our season will end and how fast we can get."

The Irish will likely need to be faster Saturday than at any other point this season. Despite their impressive record, Notre Dame has yet to face a team of Northwestern's caliber. The Irish have competed in a

dual-meet against a top-25 team only once this season.

"We want to measure ourselves at [Northwestern's] level because that's where we want to be," Welsh said. "We want to come out of this meet and be able to say we're improving. We're swimming faster than we have all year."

Contact Greg Arbogast at
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Ice

continued from page 24

Western Michigan has played the lumberjack to three top-20 ranked team's sequoias this season, chopping down then-No. 3 Michigan State, then No. 6 Miami and then-No. 6 Michigan — all at Lawson. And the Broncos have the nation's 13th most potent offense, averaging 3.33 goals per game.

The Irish are no strangers recently to upsets in college hockey either. Robert Morris defeated Notre Dame 4-2 at the Joyce Center Jan. 7 in what the Colonials Athletic Department called, "the biggest upset in Robert Morris University athletics history."

"They're a good enough team to where they can beat those [ranked] teams, which tells you something," Jackson said.

Notre Dame recovered from the unexpected pothole with a two-game sweep of No. 15 Lake Superior State last weekend on the road and its fortunes this season and beyond shined a little bit more brightly with the release Tuesday of the National Hockey League's Central Scouting Service Mid-Term Rankings.

The CSS Rankings showcase the top 210 undrafted skaters and top 30 undrafted goaltenders in North America in preparation for the NHL Entry Draft. All seven incoming Irish freshman for the 2007-08 season were ranked in the list that impacts pro teams decisions when the draft begins June 22 in Columbus, Ohio.

"On paper, this class is one of

the best classes that I've ever recruited," Jackson said. "A lot of the credit has to go to [Irish assistant coach] Andy [Slaggett] and [associate head coach] Paul [Pooley] — Andy specifically because he does most of the recruiting."

Recruit Brad Phillips, the Under-18 U.S. National Team Development Program's goalie, was ranked No. 4 in goaltenders and was the highest-rated goalie to sign a collegiate letter-of-intent.

Phillip's teammate on the NTDP, Teddy Ruth, was rated the No. 34 North American skater and the 12th best defenseman. Forwards Ben Ryan, Robin Bergman and Calle Ridderwall were No. 50, No. 97 and No. 109, respectively. Defenseman Ian Cole was at No. 113 and forward Billy Maday was at No. 177.

"It's a little bit of a gauge, but it still doesn't predict on how fast they develop," Jackson said. "You don't know if they're going to come in and be gangbusters as freshman."

Jackson noted the impact that undrafted Erik Condra made in his freshman season when he led the Irish in points, and how current undrafted freshmen Kevin Deeth and Ryan Thang are currently second and fourth on the Notre Dame points leaderboard.

Many prospects listed on the CSS Rankings forego college and jump straight from United States and Canadian junior leagues — particularly the Canadian major juniors — into the NHL or their pro team's minor league affiliates.

Notes:

♦ Irish goalie Dave Brown

and right wing Mark Van Guilder were named Jan. 10 as two of the 40 finalists for the Hobey Baker Award, given to the top college hockey player in the country each year.

"I'm proud of [Van Guilder's nomination] because he's an unsung player," Jackson said. "He doesn't get the recognition as maybe some of the top players in our league — let alone the country."

Brown is currently the frontrunner for the award among college hockey analysts.

Fan voting will now run until March 4 and will combine with votes from all 58 Division I head coaches to determine the final 10 candidates. From there, a Selection Committee composed of media, NHL scouts and college coaches appointed for three-year terms by an Advisory Committee will decide the winner.

♦ Sophomore Christian Hanson will miss the next three to four weeks with mononucleosis. Hanson has five goals and two assists this season, serving mostly as center on the same line as leading goal-scorer Van Guilder.

"We're going to miss him taking face offs, we're going to miss him from an instinctive part of the game," Jackson said. "He's a smart player and he has good hands. He always has the potential to score or create offense."

Sophomore Justin White will see increased ice time, along with freshmen Dan Kissel and Christiaan Minella in the next few weeks, Jackson said.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

Sabre

continued from page 24

The Observer was unable to contact Zagunis Thursday night.

What's more, 2004 NCAA women's sabre champion Valerie Provenza, a senior, is recovering from an appendectomy, and Bednarski was unsure how well she would bout.

Nonetheless, Bednarski said the Irish are mentally and physically prepared to succeed.

"From one point of view, it will give a chance for the younger kids" to prove their talent, Bednarski said.

Senior sabre Matt Stearns and sophomore foil Adrienne Nott are two of the top fencers who will be available for Notre Dame in the home event. Stearns earned All-America honors in 2005 and 2006. He is a three-time participant in the NCAA Championships. Nott captured All-America honors as a freshman and serves as the women's foil co-captain with junior Rachael Cota.

Among the top squads that will be testing the Irish are Ohio State, Wayne State and Stanford. Despite failing to earn points in the women's foil, the Buckeyes finished third at the 2006 NCAA

Championships with 155 points, just 10 behind the winning Harvard squad. Stanford placed seventh, while Wayne State earned 10th place at the competition.

Notre Dame and Ohio State are scheduled to bout Saturday and Sunday beginning in the JACC Fieldhouse at around 11:20 a.m. in what figure to be some of the most competitive

"It will be very tough for us, but I believe that those who haven't had a chance to be starters will ... do their best to defend the place," Bednarski

"It will be very tough for us, but I believe that those who haven't had a chance to be starters will ... do their best to defend the place."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

said, referring to Notre Dame's home arena advantage. At last weekend's North American Cup event in Columbus, nine Buckeyes earned top-20 finishes, compared to six for Notre Dame. Ohio State sophomore Mike Momtselidze had the best finish for the Buckeyes, earning second in the men's sabre — one spot ahead of Ghattas.

This weekend's competition is the first of four events Notre Dame will host this year. The Irish will fence at home in the Midwest Duals Feb. 3, the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships March 3-4 and the NCAA Midwest Regional March 10.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Allen

continued from page 24

very consistent — she's been taking great shots. She's being patient, looking for her opportunities. We're encouraging her to shoot more and to be more aggressive. I think in the last couple of games she's definitely done that."

Of the three, the strong play of Sipaviciute early in the season has concerned McGraw the most. The Orange center has not only averaged double digit

this season scoring, but also has 5.5 blocks per game and 35 blocks this season.

"Defensively, they have a really good big kid — Sipaviciute — she hurt us a lot last year," McGraw said. "So we've got to get ready to guard her."

Matching up with Sipaviciute for the Irish will be the duo of junior Melissa D'Amico and freshman Erica Williamson. D'Amico is coming off a strong performance against St. John's, posting her first career double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Williamson has been

one of the conference's top freshmen centers, averaging

7.5 points and eight boards against Big East opponents. Williamson also set the Notre Dame rookie record for boards against South Florida with 18.

To McGraw, the main problem for her team defensively has been their 3-point defense.

"We're leading the league in

3-pointers given up," she said. "Teams have been shooting really well from the 3-point line, and we have to fix that."

"The three kids that are scoring in double figures are the three that we have to focus on."

Muffett McGraw
Irish coach

McGraw has planned for this game similarly to how she prepared for St. John's. The main areas of focus have been preparing the offense to play against Syracuse's zone defense.

To that end, the Irish have

tried to improve their 3-point shooting, something that has hindered them in the past. Overall, the Irish are only shooting 31.4 percent from long distance in conference games and 29.0 percent overall.

But overall, the Irish will need to come out strong on both sides of the court if they want to extend their winning streak against the Orange to seven games.

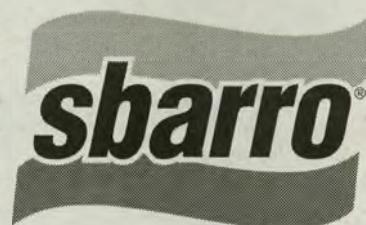
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Recycle
The
Observer.

Big East

continued from page 24

only unbeaten team in conference play — just 19 days into January. Notre Dame was controlled from the start in its most recent game Wednesday at Villanova. The Wildcats dictated the tempo early and never allowed the Irish to recover in a 102-87 landslide.

The Irish had a similar performance at Georgetown Jan. 6 when it lost 66-48.

"We've had this cycle before, win by a good margin at home, lose by a good margin on the road," Brey said in a radio interview following Notre Dame's loss to Villanova. "They both count as just one league win and one league loss."

And that attitude — focusing on Sunday's home game against USF — is crucial before the Irish address their recent struggles on the road, Brey said.

South Florida's lone conference win came against Cincinnati on Jan. 14. The Bulls lost contests at Connecticut, at Pittsburgh, home against Louisville and at West Virginia.

Last season, Notre Dame and South Florida matched up once, on Feb. 15 at the Joyce Center. The Irish won the game 62-55 and guard Russell Carter led the team with 13 points on 5-of-10 shooting to go with five rebounds and three steals.

South Florida, despite being 0-10 in conference play at that point in the season, hung with the Irish and outscored them 36-31 after being dominated in the first half.

But that was last season.

This year, Notre Dame has a clear statistical advantage over South Florida. USF is among the bottom half of the conference in offensive categories such as scoring margin (plus 2.5, 13th) and scoring offense (66.9 points per game, 13th).

The Irish lead the conference in both categories. Notre Dame, though, despite showcasing an improved effort thus far this season working the ball inside — has still fired 416 attempts from 3-point range this season, which is second in the Big East behind West Virginia (491).

And South Florida's strength defensively might very well be

its perimeter defense. The Bulls hold their opponents to 32-percent shooting from 3-point range.

The Bulls have four players who average double figures in points per game — Melvin Buckley (16.4), Kentrel Gransberry (14.4), McHugh Mattis (12.7) and Solomon Bozeman (17.7).

Gransberry leads the team with 10.7 rebounds per game and Bozeman has 89 assists in 19 games this season. Mattis had 12 points and 11 rebounds in 28 minutes last season against the Irish.

Tip off is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Joyce Center Sunday.

Contact Bob Griffin at
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ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Colin Falls, right, moves the ball down the court in Notre Dame's 90-45 win over Winston-Salem State Nov. 29. Notre Dame takes on South Florida Sunday.

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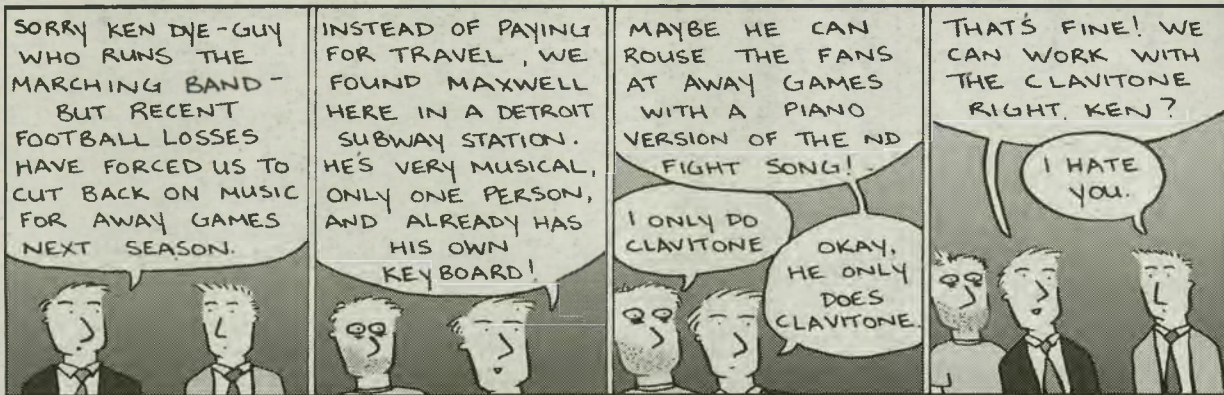
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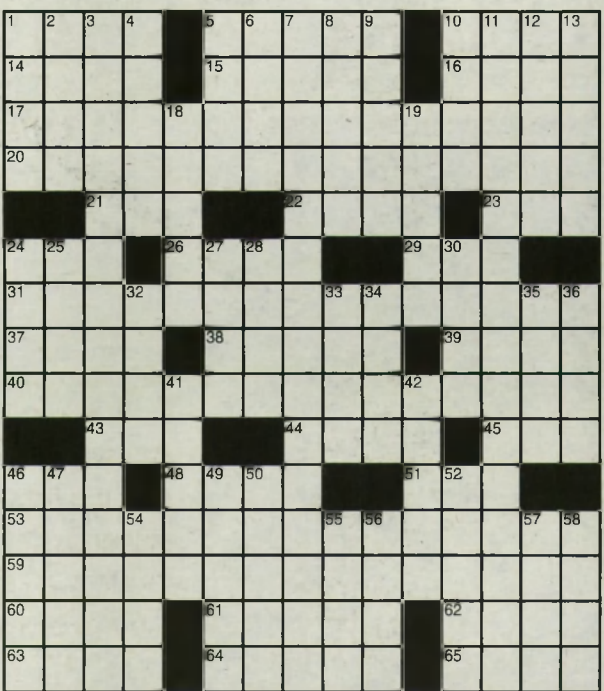
LIAM MORAN



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Hoc ____ in votis"
- 5 Six-Day War hero
- 10 Eponym of a classic Minnesota-brewed beer
- 14 Specify, in a way
- 15 Pungent fish garnish
- 16 Novel of the South Seas
- 17 Implement with a serrated front edge
- 20 Forestalled potential impediments
- 21 Stink
- 22 Fresh
- 23 Biblical possessive
- 24 Start of a new season: Abbr.
- 26 R.J. Reynolds brand
- 29 Sound associated with a 40-Across
- 31 Shark's activity
- 37 "Dies ____"
- 38 ____ Krispies
- 39 "Dial ____ Murder"
- 40 Doctor's tool
- 43 ____ Center (Chicago's second-tallest building)
- 44 End of abnormalities?
- 45 Little ____
- 46 It's read for a price: Abbr.
- 48 Bad thing to live in
- 51 Whip
- 53 Lightheaded people?
- 59 A century in American politics
- DOWN**
- 1 Hwy. dept. employee
- 2 Opera ____ (classical music record label)
- 3 Passage leading to Panama?
- 4 Halfhearted
- 5 Crackers
- 6 River of Leeds
- 7 Bar line
- 8 Common biography subtitle
- 9 Munitions compound
- 10 Bad thing to abandon
- 11 Quite some time
- 12 Bum
- 13 Composition of some rolls
- 18 Japanese mushroom
- 19 Sp. misses
- 24 Bar in a bar and grill
- 25 Dollar rival
- 27 Hardly at all



Puzzle by Harvey Estes

- 28 Start of an invocation
- 30 Tourist stop conveniences
- 32 Big name in blocks
- 33 Swells
- 34 River to the Rhine
- 35 Time to draw?
- 36 Goes off
- 41 Flabby, e.g.
- 42 These, in Cádiz
- 46 Underdog's thrill
- 47 Newbie, of sorts
- 49 "Waterworld" girl
- 50 Goldfinger's first name
- 52 End of ____
- 54 Digs of "Rent"
- 55 Champ who lost his title to Braddock
- 56 Geo. Washington and M.L.K. Jr. were awarded them
- 57 German iPod holder
- 58 Form data: Abbr.

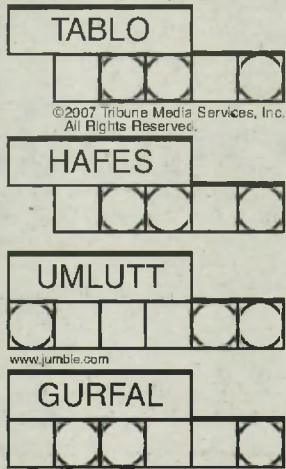
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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

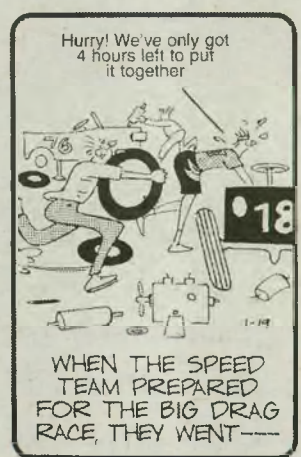


A: [Grid of letters] " [Grid of letters] "

Yesterday's Jumbles: HEDGE MUSIC JOYFUL ALPACA
Answer: How he paid for the freezer - "COLD" CASH

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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Happy Birthday: Be unique and take a different approach to something that has been overdone in the past. Refresh, recycle, renew and redo will all work well for you this year. You can pull everything together. Hard work will pay off and leave a lasting impression. Your numbers are 4, 17, 18, 25, 32, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep looking until you find exactly what you want. Someone you asked to do something for you will probably let you down. Connect with someone from your past who should still be in your life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Things may be looking up but don't be too trusting of someone who promises to do things for you. Take the initiative if you want things done to your own specifications. A change will turn out better than you thought. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a very original approach to everything you do today and you will reign supreme. Don't let personal issues that arise cause emotional stress. You are likely to overreact given the chance. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You've got a lot on the line today and, if you don't realize it, you better take a second look. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you financially. Stay in control by keeping close track. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may find your temperature rising if someone hasn't been honest with you or if you are caught in a lie or uncompromising position. Protect your interests by staying clear of anyone who may make your life difficult. A romantic opportunity is apparent. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do things with friends, your lover or children. This is a great time to bond with the people you enjoy spending time with. A change in one of your personal relationships may leave you feeling confused or deceived. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If someone is looking for answers, reveal what you know. A deal that can help you develop one of your ideas looks very promising. Love is on the rise, so put time aside. If you don't, you may upset the very person you want to impress. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel, attending a seminar or getting together with friends will all be better than dealing with the people you live with. You need to remain active if you want to accomplish anything at all today. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel and communications may present a problem for you. A new idea or way of presenting an old one will enable you to make a career adjustment. Be true to your beliefs. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Once you have everything in order, you will be in a better position to make suitable changes. You may feel a little on edge regarding a partnership. If you don't know where you stand, ask. You'll be relieved and have a better sense of where you are heading. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Things are picking up so there will be no room for error. This is not the time to make changes. A chance to get involved in a new project should be taken advantage of. Money can be made. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep a close eye on what everyone around you is doing and saying. A secret affair or private matter may be exciting but will probably result in a problem if you are the least bit underhanded. ****

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HOCKEY

Lawson Lunatics await contenders

Rankin returns home to the 'Zoo for series against Western Mich.

By KYLE CASILLY
Sports Writer

Junior right wing Evan Rankin got intimate and bloody real fast with Western Michigan's Lawson Ice Arena.

"The first time I stepped on the ice there, I fell right on the ice and split my chin open," Rankin said. "I was three or four years old."

Rankin is a native of Kalamazoo, Mich. — where Western Michigan is located — and called Lawson Arena home throughout much of his youth hockey days. Rankin went with his father to Broncos games before he could even walk, and once he got his feet beneath him, he would spend the game running around the arena with friends.

This weekend, Rankin won't be exploring the bowels of the raucous rink, but will barnstorm into his hometown as a member of a national contender and provide a juicy target for Western Michigan's notorious student section — the Lawson Lunatics.

"Every single year it seems that Western's fans get rowdier and rowdier," Rankin said. "It's going to be pretty exciting to play there again."

"Yeah, we have a big mark on our back right now, but if we just have the right mindset — we'll be alright."

The No. 3 Irish (19-4-1, 13-2-1 CCHA) travel to Kalamazoo tonight for a two-game series against eighth-place Western Michigan (8-12-1, 7-9-1 CCHA). Notre Dame heads into the series with sole control of first-place in the CCHA, one week before a crucial two-game set at home with second-place Miami.

The Lunatics designate certain hecklers to sit behind the opposition's penalty box and taunt players as they are whistled for penalties, Rankin said. But both Rankin and Irish coach Jeff Jackson were unconcerned about any challenges to the Irish that were not presented directly on the sheet.

"If you allow it to become a distraction — it can," he said. "But I think it does more for the home team than it does for the visiting team."

Last season, Notre Dame fell victim to the Broncos at Lawson, dropping a 4-3 decision before taking a 3-0 win the next day at

see ICE/page 21



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Junior right wing Mark Van Guilder skates Dec. 2 against Alaska in a 3-1 win. Van Guilder was recently named one of 40 finalists for the Hobey Baker Award, along with Irish goalie Dave Brown.

FENCING

Irish face 'impossible' home dual

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski is honest about the Irish's prospects in this weekend's highly competitive Notre Dame duals, kicking off Saturday and Sunday at 8 a.m.

"To win looks impossible," he said.

With 10 top teams from around the country coming to the Joyce Center for a season-opening rendezvous, Notre Dame will compete without two of its top fencers, who will be taking on international competition at an event in Istanbul.

Irish senior sabre Patrick Ghattas and junior sabre Mariel Zagunis will be in Turkey for a World Cup event there.

Ghattas will return to the team Monday after the Istanbul competition, but in Zagunis' case, the absence will be more than temporary. The reigning Olympic champion in her weapon has decided to withdraw from school for the next three semesters in preparation for her medal defense in 2008.

see SABRE/page 21

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Squad looks for lucky No. 7

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

If Irish coach Mike Brey's teams have learned anything over the past few years, it's that there are no givens once Big East play begins. That's why the No. 20 Irish (15-3 overall, 3-2 in the conference) won't be looking past South Florida this Sunday at the Joyce Center.

South Florida (10-9 overall, 1-4 in-conference) is one of two teams with one win in the Big East. Rutgers is the other after dropping a 68-54 home contest against Georgetown Wednesday. Cincinnati is winless in three tries.

But in a league defined by parity, especially this season when seven teams have three or more wins, anything is possible when the ball is thrown in the air.

No. 6 Pittsburgh remains the

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DAN COOPER/The Observer

Junior forward Rob Kurz drives down the court earlier this season against Alabama. Notre Dame faces South Florida Sunday.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Allen to lead team at Joyce against Orange

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has not lost to Syracuse since March 3, 2003 — and doesn't want to change that Saturday when the Irish (12-5, 3-1 Big East) square off against the Orange (8-11, 1-4) at 2 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

So far this season, the squad has fared well against Big East opponents, and especially in the Joyce Center. The Irish have won both of their home conference games with ease — a 83-65 drubbing of Saint John's Jan. 16 and an 81-70 win over Cincinnati Jan. 10.

Overall, Notre Dame has won 9-of-10 home games this season, falling only to Indiana 54-51.

One thing that could trouble the Irish is the high-scoring Orange trio of freshman guard

Nicole Michael (16.5 ppg), junior center Vaida Sipaviciute (13.6 ppg) and junior guard Fantasia Goodwin (12.6 ppg).

"[Sipaviciute is] impressive, and they have a freshman who leads them in scoring, and she's playing really well," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "The three kids that are scoring in double figures are the three that we have to focus on."

Even though the Orange bring three top scorers into South Bend, the Irish have their own prolific shooter to counter with — junior guard Charel Allen. Allen has averaged 19 points in four Big East games this season and has shot 5-of-7 from the arc.

"She's the one we look to, to lead us in scoring," said McGraw of Allen. "She's been

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ND TRACK

Irish to host indoor event

Today, 5:30 p.m.

Young runners race for chance at Big East Championship.

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ND SWIMMING

No. 20 Irish will face off with No. 8 Northwestern this Saturday at the Rolfs Aquatic Center at 2 p.m.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Adrian at Saint Mary's

Saturday, 3 p.m.

Belles look for winning conference record against Bulldogs.

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MLB

Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell warns baseball owners not to impede steroids investigation.

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NFL

Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith could be the first black coaches to appear in a Super Bowl.

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NFL

Vinny Testaverde looks to earn a Super Bowl ring as New England's third-string quarterback.

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