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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

New CSC construction underway

After \$14 million, revamped Center will be four stories high and provide needed space

By KATE MCCLELLAND
News Writer

A quick walk across the north end of campus will show that the new year has brought more new construction to Notre Dame.

Ground recently broke on the new Center for Social Concerns building, which is projected to be finished in the summer of 2009.

At four stories high and 64,000 square feet, the new Center will provide the much needed space and resources that the old Center — at only 11,400 square feet — lacked.

The Institute for Church Life will be moving from its

current location in Hesburgh Library to the new building as well. Additionally, 25 percent of the new space has been designated for future growth.

During construction, the CSC will operate from Building No. 1042, which is located behind Rockne Memorial on the west side of campus.

In an e-mail, Jim Lyphout, vice president for business operations for the University, said the new CSC will cost the University \$14 million to build. Most of the funding was donated by Michael and Sheila Geddes and Thomas

see CSC/page 6



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Construction is underway for the new CSC building, scheduled to be finished in the summer of 2009.

McAdams injured in accident

Notre Dame employee hurt in car wreck

By KAREN LANGLEY
News Editor

Longtime Notre Dame employee Patricia McAdams was badly injured in a car accident Sunday while returning from the women's basketball game in West Virginia.

McAdams, a computer support technician in the Main Building, is in critical but stable condition in Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, a hospital spokesman said Tuesday afternoon. She was flown to Parkview from the scene of the accident on Interstate 69 in Fort Wayne.

Office of Information Technologies phones have been deluged with calls from people inquiring about McAdams' condition, Associate Provost Gordon Wishon said.

"We're just devastated to learn of the accident," said Wishon, who is OIT's chief information officer. "Patricia is such a valued member of our family and the whole Notre Dame family."

The accident occurred just after 10 p.m. Sunday night. McAdams was standing outside her parked car, between the passenger's side door and the guardrail, when a passing car lost control and struck her car. The Journal Gazette of Fort Wayne reported Monday. McAdams was then struck by

see ACCIDENT/page 4

SMC choirs recognized in holiday competition

Women's Choir, Madrigal Singers place in top 12 nationally in 'Clash of the Choirs'



Photo courtesy of Saint Mary's Women's Choir

The Madrigal Singers perform at the annual Christmas dinner in 2006. The group was one of the 12 choirs featured recently on NBC.

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

For a few moments, members of the Saint Mary's Women's Choir and Madrigal Singers had their primetime television debut as winners of the NBC competition "Clash of the Choirs."

Both choirs were featured on Dec. 17 as part of the four-night competition. Choir director and Music Department chair Nancy Menk heard about the competition through a choral Listserv and asked her choirs if they wanted to participate.

The competition was open to any choir, from five to 500 singers, Menk said.

"We had to choose from four or five pieces to sing, and we already had a couple of them prepared once I heard about it, so we were all ready to go," she said.

The Women's Choir performed "Amazing Grace" and the Madrigal singers sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Each of the choirs was featured in the national Holiday Challenge competition and both were recognized as two

see CHOIRS/page 4

College alumna survives bombing

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's alumna Suzanne Seidl Griffin survived a suicide bombing attack in Kabul, Afghanistan while working as senior project manager of education for the Save the Children USA program in Kabul.

The attack took place at the Serena Hotel in Kabul on Jan. 14 and was the deadliest direct attack on a hotel in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

Griffin was in the gym during the attack.

"There was blood on the

floor all the way to the kitchen. There was a lot of blood in the lobby," Griffin told the Associated Press. "There were shell castings outside."



Griffin

Last year, Saint Mary's awarded Griffin, a 1967 graduate of the College, the Humanitas Award, an award the College

bestows on an alumna who

see ATTACK/page 4

ND students mentor community

Take Ten teaches conflict resolution through the Robinson Learning Center

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

As violence in schools continues to trouble the American education system, Notre Dame students are visiting South Bend area schools to teach healthy conflict resolution through the Robinson Learning Center.

The center runs the Take Ten program, a program geared toward preventing violence in South Bend and Mishawaka schools. Its mantra is "Talk it out, walk it out, wait it out," and the curriculum encourages students from kindergarten to high school to "take ten deep breaths

see TAKE TEN/page 6



Photo courtesy of Ellen Kyes

Notre Dame students participate in an annual bookmark competition that took place before break as part of Take Ten.

INSIDE COLUMN

Rock Band

"We're going to Best Buy sometime today," my roommate Bobby told me.

"Why?"

"I'm getting Rock Band."

Little did I know my life would change forever.

I'm the guy with no voice who still sings Nirvana in the shower, so Rock Band offered the perfect solution to my subconscious yearnings to be a superstar.

Bill Brink

Sports Production Editor

The idea of my voice amplified to 120 decibels — whether in Madison Square Garden or my tiny room in Fisher Hall — excited me beyond belief.

Once American Gladiators was over Monday night, we went to work. It took three of us 20 minutes to decipher the destinations of the myriad wires and plugs before we got going, but once we did, it was glorious.

Creating our characters offered me another escape from reality. My pale, skinny, 5-foot-11 frame has never exactly intimidated anyone. But my muscular 6-foot-8 alter-ego, with his purplish-yellow mohawk, ripped jeans and tight black T-shirt, scares the bejesus out of people.

When our band, Alliteration, got its first gig, palpable tension rippled through the room. On our first song, Weezer's "Say It Ain't So," that tension cracked; we failed miserably. The crowd threw things on stage in protest. But the loss of a few fans could not deter us.

We soon mastered our respective trades, and began to rock. We now play "Say It Ain't So" better than Weezer ever could. And don't even think about Radiohead's "Creep," thanks to a cameo by our RA, who busted out 98 percent of the notes correctly, you would swear Thom Yorke was in the room.

Whether I pound out a beat on the drums or anchor the tune with a steady bass groove or unleash a powerful rendition of Metallica's "Enter Sandman," I feel like I'm a part of something. I'm a cog in a gear, a piece of a puzzle, a quarter of a string quartet. If that quartet could replicate Nine Inch Nails flawlessly.

What's more, I'm surrounded by superior talent. My friends are all more fake-musically inclined than I am, so Alliteration has nowhere to go but up. We'll be taking home Electromusic Grammys in no time.

We tore up the States — Chicago, Seattle, LA, NYC — so we took our act overseas. We hit Stockholm, Amsterdam and London and shredded them too. We won a van, played charity gigs (for the kids), stole groupies and earned a manager and bodyguards. We're living the dream, playing Mark Wahlberg in our real-life version of Rock Star.

Rock Band brings out the best in people. You're never so connected to someone as when you're crammed elbow to elbow cranking out great tunes.

Want proof it can elevate people to another level? I just watched my inebriated bandmate stumble across his room and fall helplessly beneath his futon. But as I write this, he's playing the drums like Charlie Watts in London.

All in a day's work for a rock star.

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

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS THE MOST EXCITING THING YOU DID OVER WINTER BREAK?



Saad Saffo

*junior
off campus*

"I watched two whole Denzel movies."



Grant Schmidt

*sophomore
Knott*

"I got to eat Mom's cooking. There's nothing better."



Kayla Condeni

*sophomore
Farley*

"I watched Ohio State lose."



Chris Vanderhurst

*junior
Knott*

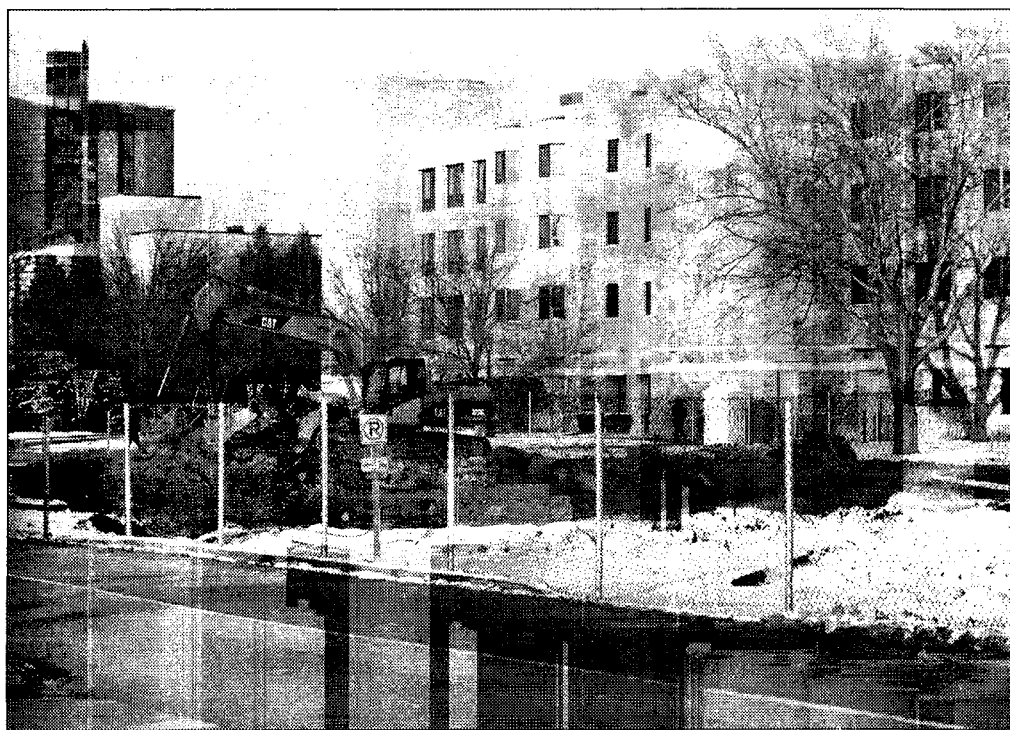
"I got my teeth whitened for my upcoming campaign."



Theresa Olivier

*sophomore
PE*

"I represented my undying love for J.T.T. at a 90s party."



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Construction continues on the site of the newly demolished Center for Social Concerns building near Siegfried Hall. The new center will be completed in the summer of 2009 and will also house the Institute for Church Life.

OFFBEAT

Talk about things going really wrong

KOKOMO, Ind. — Police say a man accidentally shot himself in the groin as he was robbing a convenience store. A clerk told police a man carrying a semiautomatic handgun entered the Village Pantry Tuesday morning demanding cash and a pack of cigarettes.

The clerk put the cash in a bag and as she turned to get the cigarettes, she heard the gun discharge.

Police say surveillance video shows the man shooting himself as he placed the gun in the waistband of his pants. The

clerk wasn't injured.

A short time later, police found Derrick Kosch, 25, at a home with a gunshot wound to his right testicle and lower left leg. He was expected to have surgery at a hospital.

Police plan to charge him with armed robbery.

I knew I forgot something

INDIANAPOLIS — A court security deputy was fired and two others suspended after an inmate was left in a holding cell for more than two days without food.

The three deputies were disciplined for dereliction

of duties, the Marion County Sheriff's Department said Monday.

Deputy Tucker M. Parker forgot to take James Logan back to the county jail Friday following a sentencing hearing on cocaine dealing and possession charges in Marion Superior Court, said Julio Fernandez, a spokesman for the sheriff's department.

"He completely forgot," Fernandez said. "He just forgot that the guy was in there."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Women's basketball will play Villanova tonight at 7 in the Joyce Center.

Registration will begin Thursday for instructional classes from 8 a.m. to midnight at Rolfs SportsRec Center at the RSRC registration desk.

Jeffrey Herbst, Provost and Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Miami University (Ohio) will deliver the lecture "Why We Were Wrong About Zimbabwe" in room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center Thursday at 4:15 p.m.

The film "Golden Door" will be shown Thursday at 7 p.m. in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center as part of "Immigration: A Notre Dame Perspective" two-part film series. Tickets are \$3 for students.

There will be a Family Guy Trivia Contest Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 in the LaFortune Ballroom. Sign-ups will begin at the door at 6:30 p.m. Test out your Family Guy knowledge for a chance to win a life-sized Stewie and a Family Guy DVD set.

Men's and women's indoor track will host the ND Indoor Opener Friday at 5 p.m. at the Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

Men's swimming will host Louisville Friday at 5 p.m. in Rolfs Aquatic Center. Admission is free.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	38	23	28	13	28	8	18	3	14	-3	18	10

Atlanta 48 / 30 Boston 35 / 19 Chicago 35 / 23 Denver 16 / 10 Houston 51 / 45 Los Angeles 69 / 48 Minneapolis 19 / 15 New York 41 / 30 Philadelphia 43 / 29 Phoenix 62 / 41 Seattle 41 / 29 St. Louis 40 / 26 Tampa 68 / 42 Washington 46 / 28

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Group will amend document

Goal is to 'refresh' student government at SMC, Hodges says

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

The Board of Governance Constitution may see some changes this semester in order to improve student government, chief of staff Sarita Fritzler said at Tuesday's meeting.

In the group's first meeting of the semester, revising the document was the primary focus.

In order to refresh the board, student body president Kim Hodges said this semester members would "take [the constitution] apart piece by piece." The constitution includes the jobs and job descriptions of the board. The board will do evaluations and review, correct and update the document.

Once members have made the necessary corrections, the document will be presented to the Constitutional Review Committee for approval. BOG must then consent to the changes made by the review committee.

These changes are the board's attempt to improve the student government by trying to ensure that the executives and commissioners are getting their jobs done, Fritzler said.

In other BOG news:

◆ The First-Year Formal will be held on Jan. 26 from 9 p.m. to midnight. The dance is called Moonlight Masquerade and will be held in Haggar Parlor. Tickets are \$10 per person and \$15 per couple, and will be on sale in the Student Center during lunch and dinner hours.

◆ Hodges also announced that Heritage Week will be from Jan. 21-25. On Jan. 22, "History of Times," which is a lecture about how major historical events have impacted the college. On Jan. 23, there will be a surprise by the Student Activity Board. Breakfast will be served in Reignbeaux Lounge on Jan. 24. On Jan. 25, there will be tours of Reidinger House and Heritage

House. A sock hop will also be held that night from 9-11 with an ice cream bar in Student Lounge.

◆ Student Activities Board will have breakfast in Le Mans at 7 a.m. on Thursday, SAB president Cassie Callon said.

◆ Cassie Quaglia, president of the Residence Hall Association, said Saint Mary's all-school formal will be held Feb. 2 at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend. Tickets are on sale in Reignbeaux Lounge from 4 p.m. to 6 and 8 p.m. to 10 starting today. It is \$10 per person and \$20 for a couple.

◆ A community Mass will be held at 4:15 p.m. Sunday in honor of Blessed Father Anthony Moreau at The Church of Loretto, said Mary Frantz, missions commissioner. College President Carol Ann Mooney will attend, and it will be the only Mass held on Saint Mary's campus Sunday.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members discuss allocation of funds

By JOSEPH McMAHON
News Writer

In a short, sparsely attended meeting, the Council of Representatives started the new semester with a discussion on the review and allocation of funds made by the Financial Management Board (FMB).

The FMB, which is composed of all the treasurers of the organizations represented by COR, was pleased with the fiscal responsibility of all groups involved and made only several small changes to its original plans for the spring allocation.

"It was our job to evaluate the spending of each organization and to make sure everyone is being fiscally responsible," said junior Kadeja Gaines, the Student Union treasurer and FMB member. The group was pleased with its findings, Gaines

said.

Gaines pointed to the Off-Campus Council as an example, which returned \$500 that it felt it no longer needed. In addition, the Club Coordination Council received an extra \$826 and the Student Union Board received an additional \$7,000.

The money for the spring allocation comes from the student activity fees students pay at the beginning of the fall semester.

In other COR news:

◆ COR members briefly discussed attending a three-day fair in St. Louis run by the National Association of

Campus Activities. About four Notre Dame students will receive a free trip to the conference, which will feature presentations by a wide variety of companies.

"It was our job to evaluate the spending of each organization and to make sure everyone is being fiscally responsible."

Kadeja Gaines
Student Union treasurer

Contact Joseph McMahon at jcmah01@nd.edu

The Observer is now accepting applications for its 2008-09 Editor-in-Chief.

Applicants should submit a resume and 12-15 page application to The Observer's South Dining Hall office by Tuesday, January 22 at 5 p.m.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at 631-4542 or mhanna1@nd.edu with questions.

Choir

continued from page 1

of the 12 winning choirs across the nation. The "Clash of the Choirs" live show featured five celebrity choir directors — Nick Lachey, Patti LaBelle, Blake Shelton, Kelly Rowland and Michael Bolton.

The directors then traveled to their hometowns to create a choir to compete live on the program for the title of "America's Best Choir." The viewers at home judged the choirs.

Team Lachey, from Cincinnati, won the competition and \$250,000 to go toward The Children's Hospital of Cincinnati.

The Saint Mary's choirs were not part of the live competition, Menk said. The Holiday Challenge was a taped contest. The winning Saint Mary's choir were featured in promos that ran during the broadcast.

"If you blinked, you would have missed it, but it was exciting to be on T.V.," Menk said.

The recordings could be viewed on the NBC Web site, which is where most of the alumnae and friends of the College saw the performances.

"Last time I checked, there were almost 3,000 hits for the Women's Choir," Menk said. "I

also got a lot of e-mails from alums."

Of those promos on the Web site, three were featured each night for a few seconds on the live show.

In an e-mail to Menk and the College, Lewis de Dios, associate producer of comedy/on-air promotion at NBC said, "Your performance of Amazing Grace was incredibly inspired and beautiful."

The contest was fairly simple, even though they didn't know what to expect, Menk said.

"We knew the music already, so we made a tape using one of the students' hand-held video cameras in the Church of Loretto, wore casual clothes and memorized the piece. We just wore casual clothes and tried to make it appealing," she said.

Nancy Menk
Saint Mary's
choir director

clothes and tried to make it appealing." Menk was notified shortly thereafter that their tape would be posted on the Web site. The Women's Choir consists of 37 students and tours nationally every other year. They appeared at Carnegie Hall in 1999, 2001 and 2005. They have also recorded four CDs since 1997.

Contact Katie Kohler
at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Accident

continued from page 1

her own car and thrown over the guardrail onto the embankment, according to the published report.

"She had catastrophic injuries to her legs (and) multiple other injuries," Wishon said. "After speaking to her family, they would like everyone to pray for her."

Wishon spent Monday with McAdams in the hospital. Representatives from Notre Dame were with McAdams until her family arrived from out of town that afternoon, Wishon said. She is not yet able to receive visitors, he said.

In addition to her work

through OIT, McAdams has become known on campus as a devoted supporter of the women's basketball team.

Head coach Muffet McGraw said McAdams has volunteered organizing trips to away games, selling programs and helping at games for at least a decade.

"She's kind of indispensable," McGraw said. "There's a big hole with what we're doing now."

McGraw, who visited McAdams in Fort Wayne on Monday, said McAdams has been "a godsend" in helping the team build its fan base over the

years.

University President Father John Jenkins presided over a fully attended Mass for the healing of McAdams at 12:30 p.m. Monday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University spokesman Dennis Brown said.

"After speaking to her family, they would like everyone to pray for her."

Gordon Wishon
Associate Provost

"There are many people at the University who hold her dear and certainly have her in our prayers," Brown said.

Contact Karen Langley
at klangle1@nd.edu

Attack

continued from page 1

has made significant contributions to the College. Recipients are outstanding in their personal and volunteer accomplishments and recognized for their concern for the interests and welfare of fellow human beings, Gwen O'Brien, director of media relations at the College, said in a press release Monday.

The award also exemplifies the qualities of personal dedication, compassion, selflessness and sacrifice through social action, education and reform within the community, church or world, she said.

According to the Associated Press, the gunmen threw grenades and

fired AK-47 assault rifles and one man blew himself up. The bomber killed six people, one of whom was American.

During the attacks, the remaining people in the hotel took shelter in a gym.

"We all just sat on the floor and got as far as we could from any glass. We turned our phones on silent," Griffin told the Associated Press.

Griffin joined the Peace Corps in Afghanistan shortly after graduating from Saint Mary's. She focused her

work on the English as a Second Language movement. She worked in several academic positions on the west coast,

"We all just sat on the floor and got as far as we could from any glass. We turned our phones on silent."

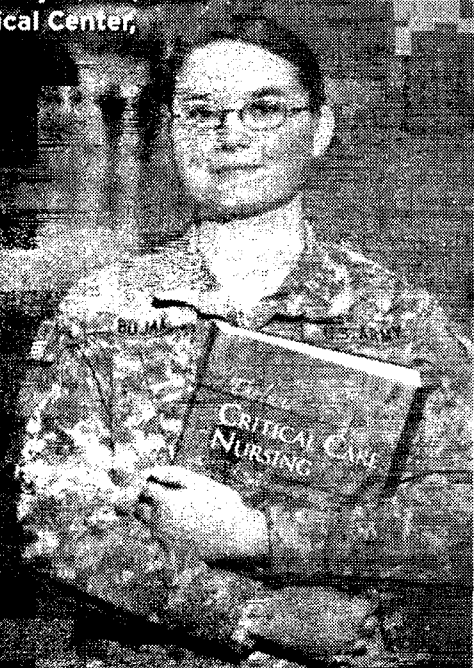
Suzanne Seidl Griffin
Saint Mary's alumna

most recently Seattle. After the death of her husband in 1999, she returned to Afghanistan. Her focus remains on literacy and women and children's health.

O'Brien told The Observer that Griffin declined to do any more interviews at this time.

Contact Katie Kohler
at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

1st Lt. Malgorzata Bujak, RN, BSN
Brooke Army Medical Center,
Texas



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REMINDER!

2008 – 2009

RESIDENT ASSISTANT APPLICATIONS

MUST BE SUBMITTED BY:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2008

to the

Office of Student Affairs

316 Main Building

Applications are available for downloading at:

osa.nd.edu

or

osa.nd.edu/hall-staff-opportunities/ra.shtml

Write News. Call 631-5323

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bush: Oil prices threaten US economy

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — President Bush warned Tuesday that surging oil prices threaten the U.S. economy and urged OPEC nations to boost their output. His plea drew little sympathy from oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which said production levels appear normal.

Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also pressed Arab countries to do more to reach out to Israel and help achieve a Mideast peace agreement before the president's term runs out next January. Avoiding specific orders to Arab allies, Rice said the delicate question of diplomatic relations with Israel, the Arab world's historical enemy, was "another matter and undoubtedly down the road."

Taliban targets restaurants in Kabul

KABUL — The Taliban said Tuesday that its suicide bombers would attack restaurants where Westerners eat in Kabul, an ominous new threat that forced American and European workers to restrict outings in the Afghan capital.

The country's intelligence chief linked Monday's deadly attack on the Serena Hotel — a well-guarded, high-profile property in Kabul frequented by Westerners — to a Pakistani militant. Afghan officials arrested four people, and said they included one of the three attackers, who was disguised in a police uniform for the assault.

The death toll in the bombing and shooting attack on the hotel rose to eight. An American, a Norwegian journalist and a Filipina who died of her wounds Tuesday were among those killed.

"We will target all these restaurants in Kabul where foreigners are eating," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told The Associated Press by telephone.

NATIONAL NEWS

Marine not threatened by colleague

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. — A 20-year-old pregnant Marine who disappeared in December told victims' advocates at Camp Lejeune that she didn't feel unsafe in the presence of the colleague now wanted in her death, Marine Corps officials said Tuesday.

Marine Cpl. Cesar Armando Laurean never violated the military protective order directing him to stay away from Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach, and he continued to report for work on time in the weeks after her disappearance, denied having any kind of sexual contact with her colleague, said Col. Gary Sokoloski, the judge advocate general officer for the II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Tiger-attack victim left waiting for aid

SAN FRANCISCO — One of the men mauled in a tiger attack at the San Francisco Zoo pleaded for help from a 911 dispatcher and asked why it was taking so long to get it, according to a recording of the call released Tuesday.

The dispatcher told the young man that paramedics could not come to his aid until they could be sure they weren't in danger of being attacked themselves, according to the recording.

One of brothers Paul and Kulbir Dhaliwal made the 911 call, though it was not immediately clear which one.

"It's a matter of life and death!" the young man shouts minutes into the call.

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar refugees flee to Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE — Northeastern Indiana charities bracing for another wave of refugees fleeing Myanmar's repressive regime say \$133,000 in grants from Catholic Charities will help provide health care to the often sickly new arrivals.

Catholic Charities, the local State Department-approved refugee-sponsoring agency, expects about 30 refugees to arrive in Fort Wayne in early February from Myanmar, also known as Burma.

Those arrivals will be the first of an estimated 800 to 1,000 new refugees from Myanmar who will settle in the city this year, said Debbie Schmidt, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend.

"We have a massive amount of refugees coming in," said Schmidt, who was in Washington, D.C., last week to lobby for additional aid for Catholic Charities and other local agencies serving the refugees.

Romney wins Michigan primary

Candidate's victory reinvigorates presidential campaign, fuels Republican race

Associated Press

DETROIT — Mitt Romney scored his first major primary victory Tuesday, a desperately needed win in his native Michigan that gave his weakened presidential candidacy new life. It set the stage for a wide-open Republican showdown in South Carolina in just four days.

Three GOP candidates now have won in the first four states to vote in the 2008 primary season, roiling a nomination fight that lacks a clear favorite as the race moves south for the first time.

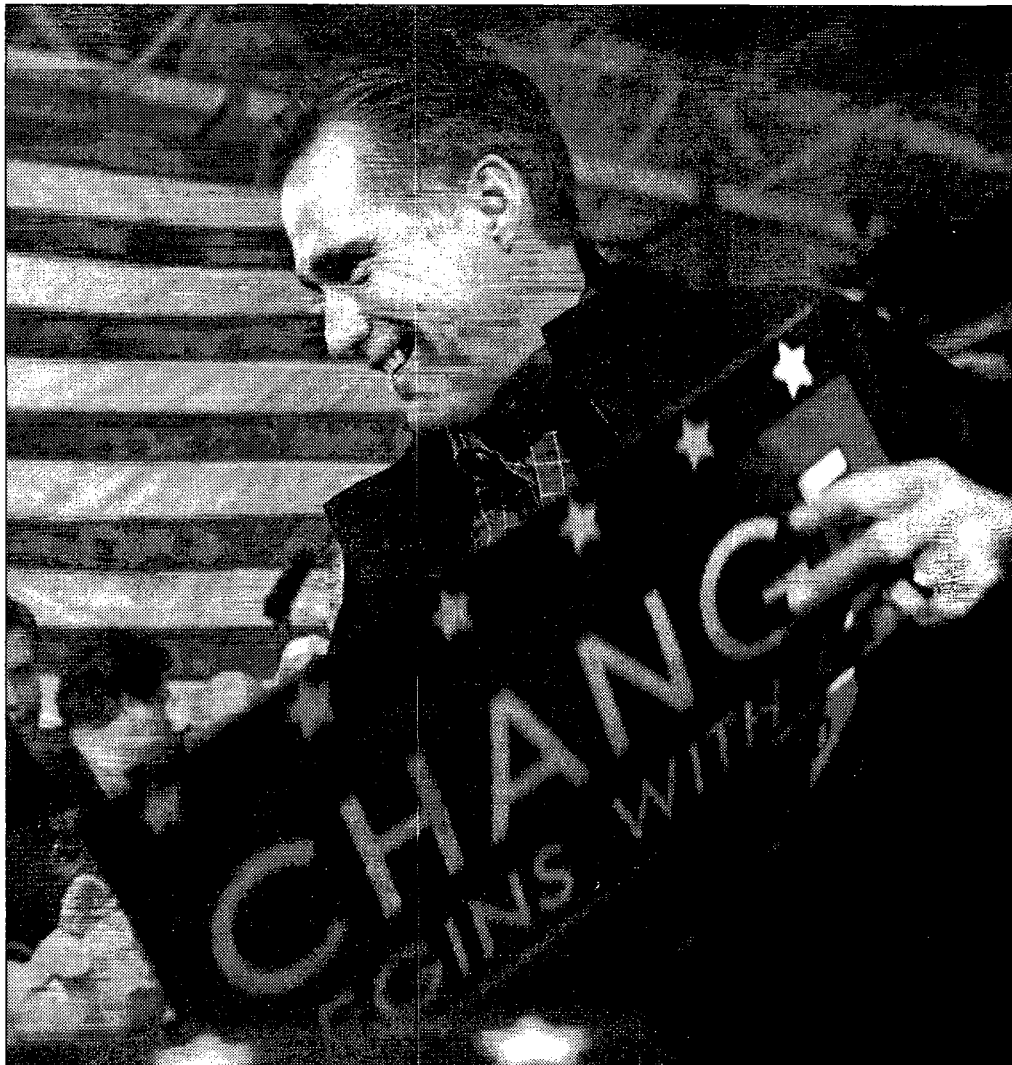
The former Massachusetts governor defeated John McCain, the Arizona senator who was hoping that independents and Democrats would join Republicans to help him repeat his 2000 triumph here. Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, trailed in third, and former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson is making a last stand in South Carolina.

"It's a victory of optimism over Washington-style pessimism," Romney said in an Associated Press telephone interview from Southfield, Mich., echoing his campaign speeches and taking a poke at McCain, the four-term senator he beat. "Now on to South Carolina, Nevada, Florida."

Minimizing the significance of Tuesday's vote, McCain said he had called Romney to congratulate him "that Michigan welcomed their native son with their support."

"Starting tomorrow, we're going to win South Carolina, and we're going to go on and win the nomination," McCain declared, also in an AP interview from Charleston, S.C.

Huckabee, too, already campaigning in the next primary state, said in Lexington, S.C.: "We're going to win South Carolina. We put a flag in the ground here Saturday." He also



AP

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney won his first primary in Michigan on Tuesday, defeating John McCain and Mike Huckabee.

jabbed at Romney, who has poured at least \$20 million of his personal fortune into his bid: "We need to prove that electing a president is not just about how much money a candidate has."

Though he now has come in third in New Hampshire and Michigan after winning in Iowa, Huckabee said, "Whatever it takes, we're in it for the long haul."

In Michigan, with 37 percent of precincts reporting, Romney had 39.4 percent of the vote, McCain had 30 percent and Huckabee 15.4 percent. No other Republican fared better than single digits.

Hillary Rodham Clinton was the only top contender

on the Democratic ballot. With 43 percent of precincts counted, she had 58.7 percent of the vote to 35.9 percent for uncommitted delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Romney's ties to Michigan proved beneficial.

Four in 10 voters said his roots factored into their votes, and more than half of that group backed Romney, according to preliminary results from surveys of voters as they left their polling places, taken for The AP and the networks. He also led among voters who said the economy and illegal immigration were their most important issues, and won a majority of

Republicans, conservatives, and voters looking for a candidate with experience.

McCain had an edge with those who wanted an authentic president, and he won among moderates, independents and Democrats. But fewer non-Republican voters participated in the GOP primary this year than in 2000 when those voters helped him beat George W. Bush. Independents and Democrats accounted for roughly one-third of the vote, compared with about one half eight years ago.

Romney had a slight edge over McCain as the candidate likeliest to bring needed change.

KENYA

Gang mutilates opposition supporters

Associated Press

NAIROBI — For two terrifying hours, the woman crouched inside her shop, watching as a gang attacked five men in the street, pulled down their trousers and sliced their genitals with rusty machetes.

"The men were screaming and saying, 'Please don't kill me, don't cut me,'" the 35-year-old vendor told The Associated Press, asking to be identified only by one initial, K., because she feared reprisals by the gang.

In the violence that has followed Kenya's disputed presidential election, a notorious gang has been mutilating the genitals of both men and women in the name of circumcision — inflicting a brutal punishment on

members of a rival tribe that does not traditionally circumcise.

The attacks do not appear to be widespread, but they drive home how a fight touched off by opposition allegations that Kenya's president stole the election has exploded into a broader conflict fueled by ethnic resentments in what had been one of Africa's most stable nations.

Many of the mutilation victims belong to the Luo tribe of opposition presidential candidate Raila Odinga, say witnesses and even a recruiter for the gang itself.

The gang, called the Mungiki, draws mostly from President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe, which has long dominated politics and business in this East African country.

Mungiki, which means "multitude" in Kikuyu, originally promoted traditional Kikuyu practices, including female genital mutilation. But in recent years it has become involved in extortion and murder and it also provides hired muscle for politicians.

The recruiter called forced "circumcisions" simple revenge on Luos for attacks on Kikuyus since the Dec. 27 election. More than 600 people have been reported killed in the upheaval.

"They must pay for the destruction and the deaths," the female recruiter said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the gang has been outlawed since 2002, after its members beheaded 21 people in a turf war with a rival gang.

CSC

continued from page 1

and Mary Cabot, and the new building will be named Geddes Hall.

Michael Geddes earned his bachelor's degree from Notre Dame and also serves as a trustee on Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life Advisory Council. He was the 2006 recipient of the Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., Award.

Thomas Cabot is a graduate of Harvard University; his youngest son graduated from Notre Dame. Cabot and his wife are the primary sponsors of the CSC's international summer service initiative, in which Notre Dame students participate.

Paul Horn, communications director for the CSC, said it will have an auditorium, an improved student lounge, a chapel, a larger coffeehouse, increased office space for community-based research and community-based learning initiatives and also a small library space, which will hopefully become home to a collection works on Catholic Social Teaching, justice education and civic participation.

"The CSC staff is looking forward to settling into its new home, which will provide not only space, but a formal place of prayer that is environmentally friendly and will allow a venue for larger events that could not have taken place previously."

Paul Horn
CSC communications
director

"The CSC staff is looking forward to settling into its new home, which will provide not only space, but a formal place of prayer that is environmentally friendly and will allow a venue for larger events that could not have taken place previously," he said.

While the temporary location of the CSC might not take much getting used to, residents in dorms like BP, Farley and Siegfried will have to adjust to some of the problems associated with living next to a construction site.

Lyphout wrote that residents in neighboring buildings "will experience varying degrees of inconvenience." Construction crews are scheduled to start early in the morning, which could make noise a problem for students.

However, all contractors have been made aware of the need to respect campus residents, and their top priority is the safety of the students who will travel past the site on a daily basis, Lyphout said.

Contact Kate McClelland at
mmcclell@nd.edu

Take Ten

continued from page 1

before you say something that hurts; take ten steps back before getting involved in a fight; and take ten seconds before using something as a weapon."

The program — which was first a subset of the Center for Social Concerns, and later part of Robinson Learning Center — receives significant support from the Notre Dame community.

"We have had a lot of really enthusiastic responses from the University, especially from the professors that let me recruit in their classes," said Ellen Kyes, a Take Ten project coordinator.

She builds her staff largely with Notre Dame volunteers, and is supported by professors of all different fields.

"I have professors from even the business school that let me recruit," Kyes said.

Although Take Ten uses volunteers from other local schools, including IUSB, Holy Cross and Bethel, most of the volunteers are Notre Dame students partly because of the program's origins, but also because "there is a high level of commitment to community service on campus," Kyes said.

"We tend to get a lot of college students from here who are interested in serving the community, and working for peace," she said.

The program requires the student volunteers to visit various area schools weekly. At the high school level, the curriculum is mostly in the form of discussion, role-play and games, while at the elementary level, the students engage the children by reading together. The curriculum, however, changes according to the

needs of the students, Kyes said.

"One of the things about Take Ten that we stress to the volunteers is that it is flexible," she said. "The students have creativity, and they can put some of their own input into the curriculum."

At the end of the program, the volunteers evaluate the students' growth and receive input from the teachers.

"The way the curriculum works, we have an evaluation process in place. We give a pre-and post-test to see if the kids are actually learning what we teach them," Kyes said. "Our research shows that we are making some changes in their minds, and the teachers think that the climate is better because of the program."

Kyes also believes that the Notre Dame volunteers get as much out of the program as the students do.

"One of the side effects that comes out of Take Ten is that a lot of the college students end up forming mentorships with the kids. They build a relationship with a child," Kyes said.

She referred to a story about a group of Saint Mary's students who formed a pen pal relationship and wrote back and forth throughout the year. At the end of the school year, the former volunteers invited the students to campus for a picnic.

"These kids thought they would be on a two-hour bus ride. They live less than five miles away, and they had no idea," Kyes said. "A lot of these kids don't see college as a possible thing in their life. When they get to know a real live college student, it really broadens their horizon. That's when I thought, what a difference we can make to these kids."


Contact Madeline Buckley at
mbuckley@nd.edu

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tryouts/workouts.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,501.11 -277.04

Up: 838 Same: 96 Down: 2,496 Composite Volume: 307,841,830

AMEX	2,313.50	-55.16
NASDAQ	2,417.59	-60.71
NYSE	9,172.17	-267.17
S&P 500	1,380.95	-35.30
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,695.75	-276.88
FTSE 100 (London)	6,025.60	-190.10

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-2.76	-1.32	46.55
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	-2.20	-3.11	138.17
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-7.30	-2.12	26.94
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.69	-0.39	22.69

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-2.43	-0.092	3.701
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.000	3.085
30-YEAR BOND	-1.85	-0.081	4.292
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.22	-0.068	2.996

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-2.30	91.90
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-0.90	902.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.03	84.65

Exchange Rates

YEN	106.6350
EURO	0.6754
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0203
BRITISH POUND	0.5095

IN BRIEF

Supreme Court rules against investors

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday against investors who sue businesses that help manipulate stock prices of publicly traded companies.

In a 5-3 decision that split along conservative-liberal lines, the court gave a measure of protection from securities lawsuits to suppliers, banks, accountants and law firms that do business with corporations engaging in securities fraud.

The ruling comes at a pivotal point for a similar class-action lawsuit covering more than a million shareholders who invested in scandal-ridden Enron Corp. Stockholders in Enron, once the nation's seventh-largest company, are seeking more than \$30 billion from Wall Street investment banks, alleging they schemed with Enron to hide its financial problems.

"This is a very anti-investor opinion and it could severely impact the ongoing Enron case," said Patrick Coughlin, lead attorney for Enron investors.

Retailers experience decline in sales

WASHINGTON — Consumer spending, the critical bulwark that has kept the country out of recession, is showing signs of cracking. Retail sales plunged by 0.4 percent last month as consumers handed retailers their worst Christmas in five years. Consumers have been battered by a sinking housing market, rising unemployment and the credit crunch.

The Commerce Department's sales report Tuesday was just the latest in a string of weaker-than-expected numbers that have economists worried that the current economic expansion, now in its seventh year, could be in danger of faltering.

Analysts said the worry is that all the problems weighing on the economy could prompt consumers — who account for two-thirds of economic activity — to sharply limit or even stop shopping. Already, consumer confidence has slipped significantly amid the oil price spiral and the continuing housing slump. At the same time, some of the nation's biggest financial institutions have reported billions of dollars in losses stemming from a meltdown in the mortgage market.

Citigroup reports \$10 billion loss

Company suffers worst deficit in history; economic data suggests impending recession

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bad bets on mortgages drove a \$10 billion loss for Citigroup Inc. in the last three months of 2007, the worst in its 196-year history, adding to a wave of weak economic data pointing toward a recession.

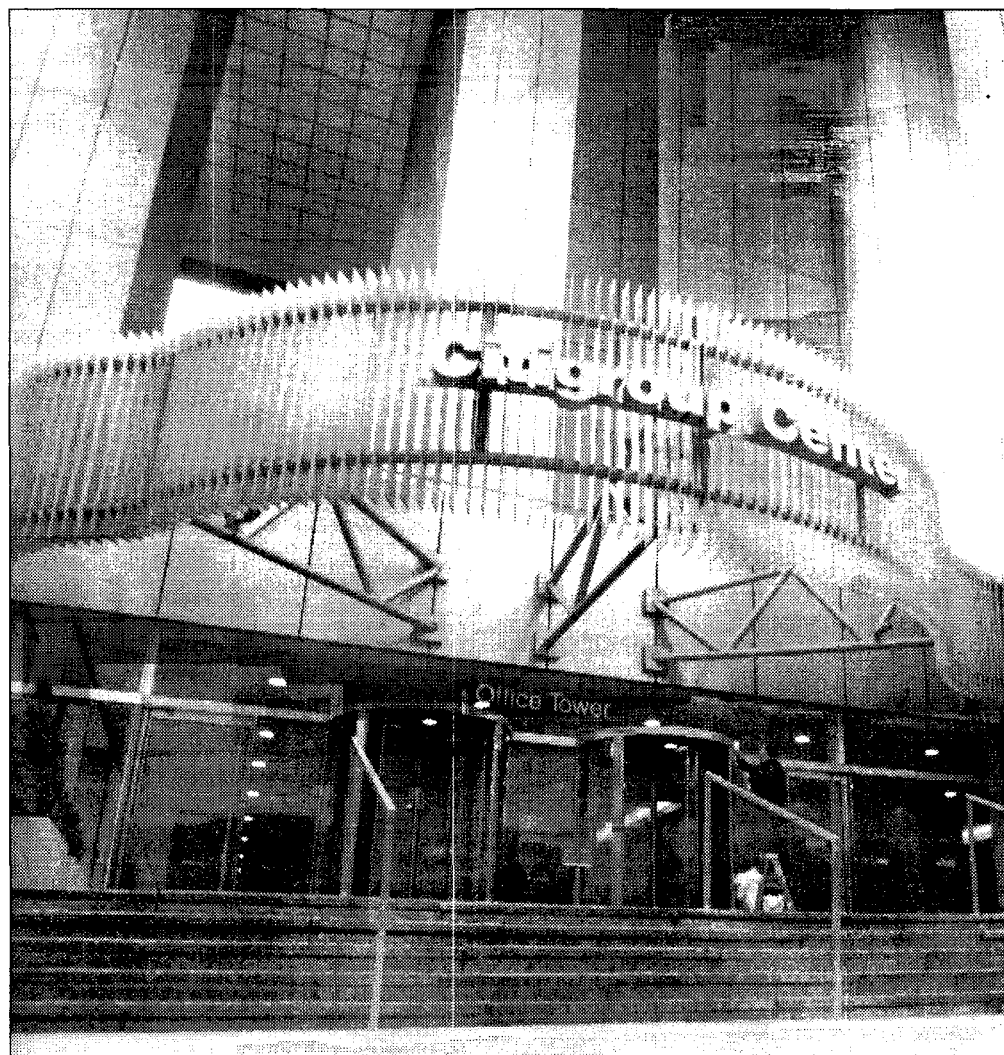
The nation's largest bank also announced Tuesday it had cut 4,200 jobs and slashed its dividend, and the poor performance forced Citi to turn to foreign investors for an infusion of cash.

The news helped drag the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 277 points and wiped out almost \$10 billion in market value in Citigroup stock alone. Shares in the bank skidded 7 percent to a new five-year low.

The biggest hit came from a \$19.1 billion writedown in the value of the bank's investment portfolio. But it also set aside \$4 billion Tuesday to cover anticipated losses on loans to U.S. consumers — a sign that deflated home prices, high energy and food costs and rising unemployment are making it difficult for many customers to keep up with their payments.

The grim report came on a day when the government reported that retail sales fell in December and inventories of unsold goods piled up at manufacturers and wholesalers, signs that consumers are pulling back their spending.

Citigroup's chief financial officer, Gary Crittenden, startled analysts on a conference call by saying the bank doesn't expect the housing industry to stabilize anytime soon. He predicted already slumping U.S. home prices could fall 7 percent



Citigroup, Inc. announced on Tuesday a \$10 billion loss for last quarter. The deficit is the worst in the company's 196-year history.

further this year and by a similar amount in 2009.

That led some analysts to predict more writedowns this year. New CEO Vikram Pandit acknowledged as much, saying "the environment continues to be uncertain" and that the company's future results "will definitely be influenced by the economy."

Besides the housing slump, economists are growing more worried about the snowball effects of a shaky job market, exacerbated by the loss of tens of thousands of jobs in the

mortgage and housing industries.

Citigroup added to the total Tuesday by saying it had cut 4,200 jobs in the fourth quarter, on top of 17,000 layoffs announced in the spring. And Crittenden said more job cuts are coming.

Most of the cuts have been, and likely will continue to be, traders and investors in markets and banking — the main source of the bank's losses.

Pandit, who replaced Charles Prince as CEO in December, said the fourth-

quarter results were "unacceptable." He said he had not finished his review of whether Citigroup's Smith Barney brokerage unit or other parts of the global bank's operations should be sold, or other once-unthinkable changes ordered.

Pandit also said Citigroup would continue to sell "non-core" assets. The bank has already sold shares in Redcard, a card business in Latin America, and an ownership interest in a unit of the Japanese brokerage Nikko Cordial it bought last year.

IndyMac to lay off 2,403 employees

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mortgage lender IndyMac Bancorp Inc. said Tuesday it will slash its work force by 24 percent, laying off 2,403 employees in a bid to cut costs as it tries to weather the worsening housing slump and sagging demand for home loans.

The job cuts include a significant reduction in temporary vendor staffs, mainly in India, the Pasadena-based company said.

"This action is clearly painful, but it is necessary in our drive to return IndyMac to profitability soon," Mike Perry, IndyMac's chief executive, said in a memo outlining the layoffs to employees.

The latest round of layoffs follows a reduction of about 1,600 workers last year through voluntary resignation. The company ended 2007 with a work force of 9,938.

The lender said the job cuts were necessary because the company still

faces a lack of demand for home loans on the secondary market and tighter access to capital due to the credit crunch that followed the collapse of the subprime mortgage market in August.

Perry noted the company has "a significant capital cushion and strong liquidity" but needs to keep costs down because it has been unable to sell its prime jumbo home loans on the secondary market and must keep them on its balance sheet.

IndyMac said it would take a pre-tax charge to earnings for severance and other expenses related to the work force cuts of about \$25 million in the first quarter, among other charges still to be determined.

The company expects to save \$136 million annually in labor costs, in addition to other savings from vacated office space.

"The bottom line is that these savings are essential in our drive to return IndyMac to profitability soon," Perry said.

The lender posted a loss of \$202.7 million during the third quarter ended Sept. 30.

IndyMac — which primarily originated alt-A loans for customers who cannot provide documentation like traditional, prime borrowers — has come under increasing pressure like other lenders as delinquencies and defaults among mortgages rose in recent months.

Because of the rising delinquencies, investors shied away from purchasing mortgages in the secondary market. Lenders like IndyMac rely on secondary markets to replenish capital to originate new loans.

As of Sept. 30, IndyMac had about \$366 million in nonperforming loans in its held-for-sale portfolio and another \$463 million in other portfolios.

Last month, Perry said in a statement that he expected the company to report a loss in the fourth quarter and was hoping it can be profitable again by the second half of next year.

New Trump tower's construction stopped

New York buildings commissioner halts building's progress after a worker plummets 40 stories to his death

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump introduced the gleaming Trump SoHo on his TV show "The Apprentice" and hosted a red-carpet press event in the half-built skyscraper four months ago, announcing that it was already a big success.

Behind the glitz and fanfare, though, there were problems. Neighbors strongly opposed the 46-story tower from almost the beginning, calling it an eyesore and complaining that the construction crews were careless and sloppy.

Then on Monday, a worker plunged 40 stories to his death while pouring concrete; the city immediately halted work on the tower.

"They will not be allowed to go back to work until they've demonstrated to us what they're going to do to keep this site safe," Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster said Tuesday outside the building. "Because even one tragedy is too many."

The victim was identified as Yurly Vanschytskyy, whose age was not available. Two other workers were hospitalized with serious injuries. The accident happened when forms used to pour concrete somehow gave way while a crane was helping with the job.

The workers were doing what amounts to some of the most dangerous work anywhere — toiling with heavy equipment hundreds of feet above the city. A man washing the windows late last year miraculously survived after plunging almost 500 feet after a scaffolding collapse.

"We've been hearing complaints of shoddy construction practices. This was a rush job."

Sean Sweeney
SoHo Alliance director

The site was cordoned off with yellow police tape Tuesday, and the building was being secured before residents were allowed into nearby structures.

For the ones who opposed the building all along, the cause of the accident seems obvious.

"We've been hearing complaints of shoddy construction practices," said Sean Sweeney, director of the SoHo Alliance, which unsuccessfully sued to stop construction from starting. "This was a rush job."

Harry Pincus, an artist and illustrator who lives down the street from the Trump building, said work was proceeding "at breakneck speed" in order to put 40-plus stories up before neighborhood opposition could stop them.

The Trump SoHo project received several violations in the last year, although Lancaster acknowledged it's common for big building projects to receive numerous citations.

In one case, neighbors reported that a crane hoisting steel rods swung and hit a nearby building. In another, a neighbor said a crane hit her building and broke a window. Last month, the builders were cited after a neighbor said a crane accidentally dumped cement on a neighboring property.

The new Trump tower on the western edge of the artsy SoHo enclave has been controversial from the start, in part because it is several times the height of surrounding industrial structures.

Scheduled to open in spring 2009, it is being marketed as a condo hotel. Buyers of the units will be permitted to stay in them for no more than 120 days in a year; the rooms will be rented to hotel guests the rest of the time.

The arrangement was negotiated with city officials because new apartment buildings are prohibited by the area's zoning, but hotels are allowed.

Foes have sued to challenge the building's hybrid ownership structure, fearing that it could set a precedent for similar projects and ruin the feel of the neighborhood.

The project is a joint venture between the Trump Organization and New York-based developers the Bayrock Group LLC and the S a p i r Organization.

Trump's company sells the right to use his name on luxury condos around the world, but Bayrock's executive vice president, Julius Schwarz, has said that the Trump SoHo is a partnership and not a licensing deal.

Bayrock and the Trump organization referred calls Tuesday to general contractor Bovis Lend Lease.

Bovis released a statement Monday saying the company was conducting its own investigation with the con-

crete subcontractor while working with authorities to determine the cause of the accident.

Bovis was the main contractor handling the dismantling of a former bank building across from ground zero that caught fire in August, killing two firefighters.

"They will not be allowed to go back to work until they've demonstrated to us what they're going to do to keep this site safe. Because even one tragedy is too many."

Patricia Lancaster
buildings commissioner

Trump himself is accustomed to problems with the brash, boundary-pushing construction projects he has built among his New York neighbors, and even seems to revel in the opposition.

At September's catered news conference, the developer boasted that there were already 3,200 applications for the SoHo building's 400 units, which will range from 422-square-foot studios to a "presidential suite" taking up the three top floors.

Across the street from the media fete, 50 protesters hoisted anti-Trump signs.

Instead of ignoring them, Trump thanked them, "for helping to make this job so successful."

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WORLD VIEW IS AN INITIATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ABOUT ISSUES OF RACE, CLASS, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, AND GENDER THROUGH THE ARTS.



In this sensitive documentary, filmmaker Billy Luther, whose mother was crowned Miss Navajo 1966, opens the door to the Miss Navajo competition, inaugurated in 1952. This competition challenges contestants with diverse styles, physiques, and political orientations to answer tough historical questions in the Navajo language and showcase their spiritual and practical knowledge of practices like governance, traditional singing, or butchering a whole sheep. The film subtly illustrates the sacred dimension of Miss Navajo as well—how participation places the young women on a timeless matriarchal continuum going back to creation and the first Diné (Navajo) life-giving ancestor, Changing Woman.

Friday, January 18 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
Director Billy Luther will discuss the film and answer questions from the audience after the first screening.



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Upcoming World View Events	10 Questions for the Dalai Lama February 1 Director Rick Bay will discuss his film Cosponsored with Kroc Institute for Peace, Center for Ethical Education, and DeBartolo Performing Arts Center	Desert Bayou February 22 Director Alex LeMay will discuss his film	The Kite Runner March 4	Blood Diamond April 3 Cosponsored with Center for Social Concerns
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Freedom in decline, survey says

World study shows 2.4 billion people in 56 countries are not free

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Freedom declined in 2007 for a second consecutive year as 36 percent of the people in the world — about half of them in China — were not living in freedom, according to a survey by a private democracy watchdog organization.

Nearly four times as many countries showed significant declines during the year as registered improvements, the New York-based Freedom House reported. While the number of countries judged not free declined by two to 43 last year "there were many and overwhelmingly negative changes within countries already designated not free," the survey found.

The number of countries judged free stood at 90, representing 47 percent of the world's 193 countries, and those considered partly free stood at 60, or 31 percent.

Those found not free accounted for nearly 2.4 billion people, about half of them living in China.

Expectations of government concessions on human rights or modest democratic reforms in advance of the 2008 Summer Olympics did not pan out in China, where the regime continued to crack down on political activists, Internet journalists and human rights lawyers, the report said.

Reversals in freedom were seen in one-fifth of the world's countries, including Pakistan, Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria and Venezuela. One country, Mauritania, joined the list of democracies, while three, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Kenya, dropped off it.

Two countries, Thailand and Togo, were upgraded from not free to partly free.

South Asia, the former Soviet Union and the Middle East did particularly poorly, giving "an alarming signal about the development of freedom worldwide, something formerly viewed as inevitable," said Jennifer Windsor, executive director of Freedom House.

Four stark reminders of the perilous condition of freedom were singled out:

—Parliamentary elections in Russia were held under patently unfair conditions.

—Democracy in Georgia was sullied by imposition of a state of emergency and a violent police crackdown on demonstrators.

—In Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated, and terrorism by Islamic extremists rose.

—In Kenya, hundreds were killed in rioting in the wake of "highly credible reports of vote-rigging by the government" in the country's presidential election.

In Russia, political parties

and candidates who challenged President Vladimir Putin were sidelined, and the news media, largely controlled by the state and Putin's supporters, gave overwhelming coverage to the president and his allies while the opposition was kept fragmented and tame.

Using its enormous oil and gas resources, Russia exerts influence in former Soviet republics, providing political, moral and material support to authoritarian regimes that dominate Central Asia, the report said.

Three of the countries in the region, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, have consistently ranked among the world's most repressive societies, Freedom House said.

Modest gains in the Middle East, where President Bush focused his hopes for democratic change, came to an end last year, the report said, with major declines in both the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Authority was downgraded from partly free to not free, due to the collapse of a unified government after Hamas took over Gaza. Israel's military incursions, restrictions on delivery of food and violent dispersal of protests led to a decline in civil liberties, Freedom House said.

Bridge collapse caused by error

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Steel plates connecting beams in the Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis were too thin by half and fractured, "the critical factor" in the collapse that killed 13 people and injured 145, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday.

The connectors, called gusset plates, were roughly half the 1-inch thickness they should have been because of a design error, NTSB Chairman Mark Rosenker said. Investigators found 16 fractured gusset plates from the bridge's center span.

"It is the undersizing of the design which we believe is the critical factor here. It is the critical factor that began the process of this collapse. That's what failed," Rosenker said at a news conference.

What caused the bridge to collapse during rush-hour traffic in the early evening of Aug. 1 — "the straw that broke the camel's back," as Rosenker put it — was not yet known, he said. A final report by the NTSB was expected this fall.

The Minneapolis span was a steel-deck truss bridge that opened in 1967. Rosenker said it wasn't clear how the design flaw made it into the bridge because investigators couldn't find the design calculations.

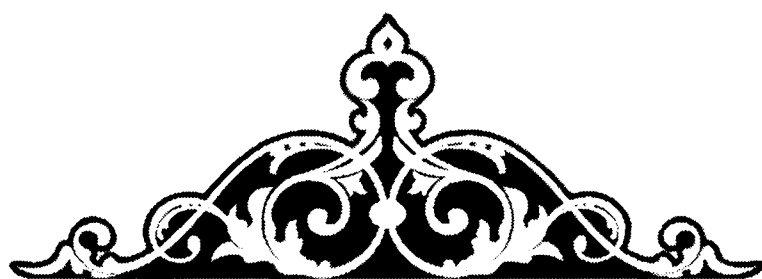
The bridge was called "fracture critical," or lacking redundancies, meaning that a failure of any number of structural elements would cause the entire bridge to collapse.

Rosenker said the safety board had no evidence that the deficiencies in the Minneapolis bridge design "are widespread or go beyond this bridge."

However, the NTSB couldn't discount the possibility of similar errors in other like bridges, he said, and cautioned that states and contractors should look at the original design calculations for such bridges before they undertake "future operational changes." The NTSB issued a safety recommendation to the Transportation Department's Federal Highway Administration suggesting that the agency require bridge owners to do so.

Transportation Secretary Mary Peters called on states to calculate how changes in bridge weight, capacity or evolving bridge conditions will affect gusset plates. "With a few calculations, we can help reassure travelers that our bridges remain safe," Peters said in a statement.

Rosenker noted that structural weight had been added to the Minneapolis bridge in two major renovations, in the 1970s and 1990s.



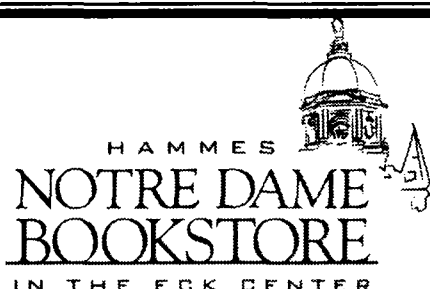
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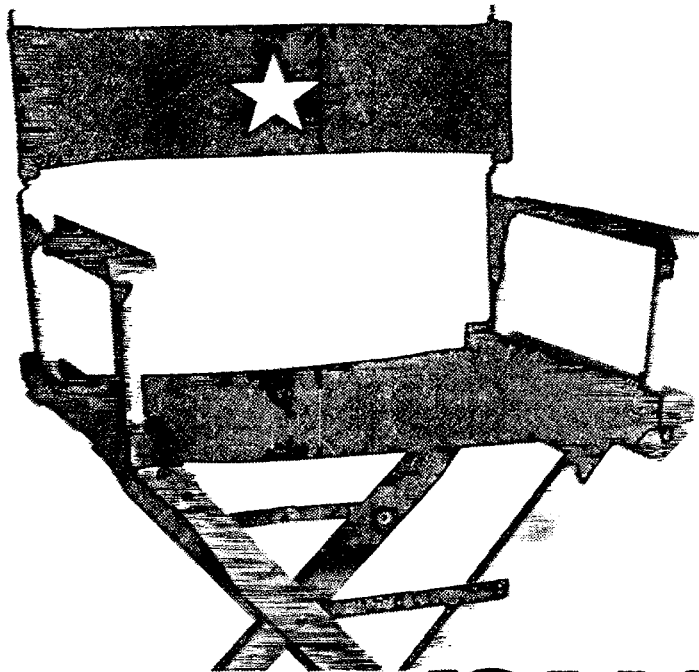
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Wednesday, January 16, 2008

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Maddie Hanna.

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Republican candidates misguided

After returning home from another wildly unsuccessful Las Vegas trip two weeks ago, I had the misfortune of watching most of the ABC/Facebook debate between the leading Republican contenders. The five "mainstream" candidates sparred for an hour and a half in what looked like a competition for the crown of village idiot. Fortunately, ABC News decided to also include Ron Paul, the ten-term Congressman from Texas, in order to introduce some rationality into the debate.



Mark Poyar

Bulletproof Ideas

One incident in particular stands out in my mind. The moderator, Charlie Gibson, said that our foreign policy used to be based upon defense, rather than offense. America would form alliances and would only engage another country militarily with international consensus. America would not initiate hostilities; America would only attack if attacked. However, America abandoned this policy in favor of preemptive war with the invasion of Iraq by the Bush Administration. To use the words of the moderator, the "Bush Doctrine" meant that the U.S. has "a right to a pre-emptive attack, that we can attack if this country feels threatened." It was on this basis that the U.S. invaded Iraq. Gibson then asked each candidate whether he agreed with the Bush Doctrine.

In response, Ron Paul said that he fully supported the foreign policy that helped elect Bush in 2000, namely a humble foreign policy, no nation building, and minding our own business. In fact, he reminded the Republicans that they were very critical of Bill Clinton's involvement in Kosovo and bombing of Iraq. Accepting the Bush Doctrine would be the first time in our nation's history that

we accepted as our policy that we start the wars.

Paul then said the real issue of the campaign is the nature of terrorism, specifically why the terrorists hate America so much that they would sacrifice their own lives to kill innocent American civilians. It is not because we are free or prosperous. It is because the United States invades Middle Eastern countries, occupies their countries, has bases in their countries and holy land, props up dictatorial regimes and has been doing so for over fifty years. It is because they object to our continued presence and influence in their internal affairs. Osama bin Laden told the world after September 11th that "I swear to God that America will not live in peace before all the army of infidels depart the land of the prophet Muhammad." Our bases in Saudi Arabia were the excuse for that day.

But surely, no one with even half a brain could object to the argument that U.S. foreign policy is the motivating factor in terrorism against the United States? Wrong. Every single one of the other candidates rejected this self-evident line of reasoning. Paul's comments set off a ten minute long heated but sadly amusing exchange in which every other candidate argued against the obvious.

Mitt Romney blamed terrorist attacks not on U.S. foreign policy, but on "radical jihad" that is trying to take down every government and replace them with radical Islamic theocracies. Pretend that Romney is correct and the real reason that the terrorists attack America is their desire to institute Islamic theocracies around the world. If this is their goal, why then aren't they trying to bring down China, Luxembourg or Sweden? Indeed, how does attacking America in any way help them to institute an Islamic theocracy in America? If U.S. foreign policy has nothing to do with why they attack us, then isn't atheist China a more guilty target that the U.S.? Isn't it obvious that the main targets of terrorism — the

U.S., Israel, England, and Spain — were supporters of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East? Apparently not. As Paul said later in the debate, the question they are unwilling to ask is why is it that they attack America but not others.

Thompson declared his support for the Bush Doctrine. Giuliani then said that Paul's analysis of the situation was "seriously flawed" and then stated that the terrorism threat that America faces "has nothing to do with our foreign policy" and is "completely irrelevant." Seriously.

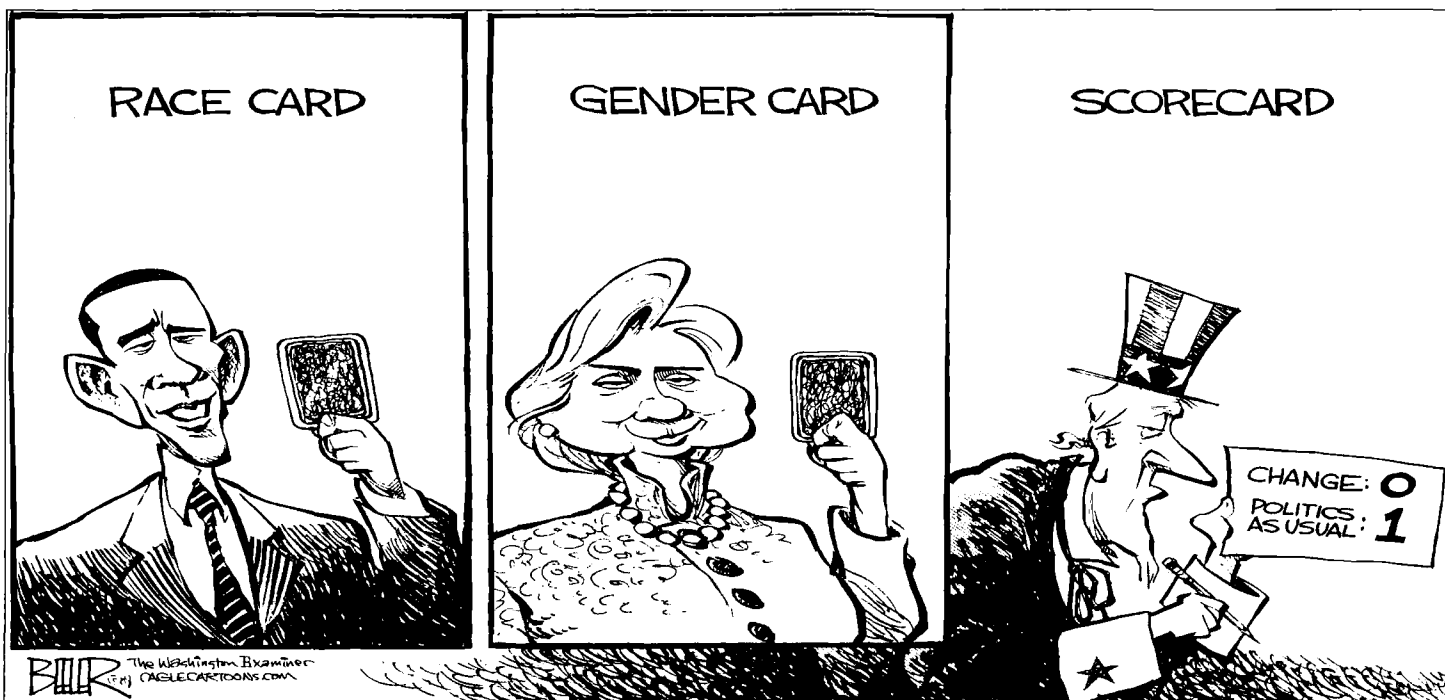
Paul asked them to visualize how we would feel if China came from halfway around the world and said "We want you to live like us. We want you to have our economic system. We want bases on your land." Clearly, America would be furious, and rightfully so. Rather than respond, Romney maturely accused Paul of "reading their propaganda." Huckabee then agreed with Romney's position.

It is a sad testament to the Republican Party that someone who says that the threat of terrorism has absolutely nothing to do with the United States' foreign policy could possibly be taken seriously. Not only are Giuliani and his fellow goons taken seriously, they represent the mainstream of the party. Meanwhile, the only man who actually represents the things Republicans routinely pay lip service to — federalism, free trade, low taxes, cutting spending, sound money, balanced budgets, deregulation, the Constitution, freedom and peace — is about as popular as a wet fart in a sauna within Republican Party establishment. Ron Paul is too honest for his own good, and the liars around him know it. America deserves better than them.

Mark Poyar is a senior finance major and vice president of the College Libertarians. Their Web site is <http://ndlibertarians.blogspot.com>. He can be contacted at mpoyar@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTES OF THE DAY

"We turn not older with years, but newer every day."

Emily Dickinson
American poet

Submit a Letter
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QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Not a shred of evidence exists in favor of the idea that life is serious."

Brendan Gill
American journalist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Finding happiness

I fear for the future of our generation. For some reason it seems that it has become cool to become "chill" — to just not care. I fear that we have created a new mantra for our generation: "Shun the soul who cares too much. Relax. Put out the fire." And we wonder why, five years down the road, we feel our lives are empty as we dread Monday through Friday just to get to the glorious weekend.

Happiness was a philosophical college dream. How often do you go on vacation from school or work, hoping that that is where you can find happiness? And when you come back to "real life," does it hurt when you realize that true, lasting happiness has evaded you once again? As you awake in your bed, it is again Monday. And you think two things: "I cannot wait to get back here. I cannot wait until the weekend." The weekend arrives and you are only saddened that it has not come sooner. Happiness? Please, I am just trying to survive the week. As if we were meant to squander away our lives merely surviving.

Where do we find this happiness that

often seems so fleeting and elusive? It is not to be found in some far off vacation time on the calendar of tomorrows. Rather, it is to be found today and it is to be found within you! It is to be found in the grateful discovery and humble exploitation of the gifts that God has hardwired into your own heart. Never surrender your spirit to those unspoken, yet potent societal rules that hold you to the standard of being lifelessly "chill" — a vicious euphemism that domesticates our true and unbridled desires.

The late theologian Howard Thurman once quipped, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive ... what the world needs is people who have come alive." Let that holy fire that burns within you be visible through the song of your life. Fire spreads. So light your candle now and find that incredible life that awaits you.

David Grabosky
graduate student
Fischer Apartments
Jan. 13

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U-WIRE

I want 'Heroes' back, but I'm on their side

I think it would be super cool to be a television writer. They get to create all the amazing shows we watch and become addicted to. You know that deep down you cannot focus on day-to-day life without having your weekly dose of "Grey's Anatomy," "Heroes," "John Stewart" or "Family Guy." Yes, there is that underlying motivation to promote the writers' cause because we so desperately need some sort of entertainment other than booze and homework.

Jessica Dunlow

However, what is causing the writers' strike? It is important to understand why they are picketing the studios, because it inherently affects us all. According to the Writers' Guild of America, the studios are depriving the writers of these hit television shows, along with those of talk shows and late night programs, of their proper compensation considering the rise in television DVD sales, Internet promotions on iTunes and other web sources, and the networks' allowing shows to be posted on studio websites.

According to recent news releases, Tina Fey ("30 Rock"), Tim King ("Heroes"), Seth McFarlane ("Family Guy"), Matthew Perry ("Friends") and dozens of other actors who support writers stormed the picket lines, and unfortunately, the networks are not understanding. Seriously? How can they not?

The writers are the most imperative part of a television show. Without them, there would be no witty jokes, no sappy love stories and no quirky nerds stealing the hearts of the nation. Writers work their creative minds off to provide the general public with some ounce of culture, and the networks repay them by undercutting their genius with lacking compensation.

The networks say they will not consider negotiations until the strikers return to work, whereas the picketers refuse to return without talking first. It is a game of chicken, and we would all like to see the writers win. The movie industry will not suffer because the studios have screenplays stacked up from years past, and they can choose from the scripts they already paid for. Even then, screenplay writers join the ranks and walk the lines. The Director's Guild of America contains numerous writers and directors walking the picket line, so it is hard to understand why they are being stubborn and refusing to talk (*cough* greed *cough*).

Despite my desire to enter the television writing field, it is the ethical obligation to side with the writers because they are underappreciated for their hard work, and if the actors are acknowledging them, so should the rest of us.

In addition, regardless of the fact that it would pave a smoother way for aspiring television writers of the future, it means our shows could enjoy full-length seasons. I don't know about you, but if I have to be left hanging as to whether or not HRG and Claire find each other again on "Heroes," I am not going to be a happy camper.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 15 edition of The East Carolinian, the daily newspaper at East Carolina University.

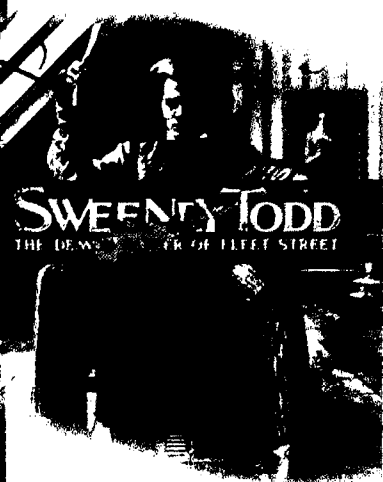
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Writers' strike dulls GOLDEN GLOBES

Best Picture Comedy/Musical



Best Actor Drama



Best TV Series Drama



The only good that came out of the absence of a red carpet before Sunday night's announcement of the winners of the 65th Annual Golden Globe

Awards was that audiences were spared a barrage of crude and stale jokes from comedian Joan Rivers. With the exception of that one blessing, the evening was a bizarre disappointment to everyone but the winners, who didn't even have a stage to accept their award and bask in the glory.

A strike-induced cloud hung over the speedy 32-minute press conference announcing this year's winners in film and television categories, voted on by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA). The Globes' typical evening of alcohol-laced celebration was truncated to simple announcements of the winners by an array of entertainment show anchors, who attempted to make witty remarks throughout the press conference. This begged the question of which is worse: Mary Hart's failure to deliver an impromptu joke or the scripted banter that we are usually subjected to at the Golden Globes?

The Golden Globes award ceremony became another casualty of the writers' strike when the Writers Guild of America (WGA) refused to grant the award show a waiver to allow writers to script the show. The WGA threatened to picket the event if NBC, Dick Clark Productions and the HFPA made the decision to go on with the ceremony as usual, and the Screen Actors Guild boycotted in solidarity. The HFPA then opened the event to all media. The end result was a writer — and star-less press conference broadcast on the TV Guide Channel and CNN. NBC chose to broadcast a two-hour Golden Globes "Dateline" special hosted by Matt Lauer followed by a one-hour special telecast announcing the winners, hosted by "Access Hollywood"'s Billy Bush and Nancy O'Dell.

Even if the Globes press conference itself was unremarkable (with the exception of El's Giuliana Rancic's inarticulate attempt to vocalize her support for the writers), the winners from each category were a mixed bag of sure bets,

Cassie Belek

Scene & Heard

upsets and pleasant surprises. On the television side, the AMC original series "Madmen" scored big with a best drama series win and a best actor in a drama series win for Jon Hamm. The HFPA traditionally prefers to spread the award wealth and recognize new series and rising stars, which may account for the absence of nominations for "The Sopranos" and James Gandolfini.

The most tiresome win on the television side was Jeremy Piven ("Entourage") for best supporting actor. It was a stale choice as Piven continues to win accolades for his portrayal of Hollywood agent Ari Gold. The biggest television upset of the evening went to David Duchovny ("Californication") for best actor in a comedy series. The HFPA chose Duchovny over the highly favored and more deserving Alec Baldwin, who delivers brilliant performances week after week as corporate boss Jack Donaghy in NBC's "30 Rock." However, Baldwin's co-star Tina Fey did take home the Globe for best actress in a comedy series, beating last year's winner America Ferrera ("Ugly Betty"). "Extras" won for best comedy series, making it star Ricky Gervais' second series (the first being BBC's "The Office") to take home the top prize at the Golden Globes.

Of course, the Globes are really more important for their effect on the Oscar race. Most races are still neck and neck, with the exception of the best supporting actor category which will certainly go to Javier Bardem for his villainous character in "No Country for Old Men." However, a race that was formerly set in stone is now on shaky ground. Cate Blanchett ("I'm Not There") won best supporting actress in a drama for her Bob Dylan portrayal, beating Oscar frontrunner Amy Ryan ("Gone Baby Gone") who has so far dominated awards season.

Johnny Depp ("Sweeney Todd") finally won a Globe for best actor in a comedy or musical after eight Golden Globe nominations, dating back to his 1991 nomination for "Edward Scissorhands." It is unlikely Depp will score a win at the Oscars, however, as Daniel Day Lewis ("There Will Be Blood") gains momentum after his Globe for best actor in a drama.

Julie Christie ("Away From Her") won best actress on the

drama side with Marion Cotillard ("La Vie en Rose") winning best actress on the comedy or musical side. The race is essentially down to these two women, dwindling Ellen Page's ("Juno") chances to take home the Oscar.

Surprisingly, "Juno" was completely shut out at the Golden Globes. In addition to Ellen Page's loss, "Sweeney Todd" overtook "Juno" for best comedy or musical and Diablo Cody's screenplay lost to Ethan and Joel Coen's "No Country for Old Men." However the "Juno" and "No Country" screenplays will be in separate categories (best original screenplay and best adapted screenplay, respectively) at the Academy Awards, meaning a surefire victory for "Juno," which has won most screenplay awards this season.

The race for best picture has become more complicated with a victory for "Atonement" at the Globes. Previously, "No Country" had been dominating the awards, with "There Will Be Blood" gaining momentum behind it. However, "No Country"'s chances would have been bolstered by a best director win for Ethan and Joel Coen; instead the duo lost to Julian Schnabel ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly").

The degree of the Globes' impact on the Oscar race remains uncertain due to the lack of a ceremony, which cost the L.A. economy an estimated \$80 million. Sunday's NBC telecast drew in only 5.8 million viewers, putting it in fourth place for the night and hampering the likelihood of films getting a box office boost from their Globes victories. The fate of the Oscars ceremony, scheduled for Feb. 24, is still up in the air as the WGA decides whether or not to grant it a waiver.

If the WGA refuses a waiver for the 80th Annual Academy Awards, then we may all have to suffer through another night of an entertainment show anchor's insightful opinions on the best films of the year instead of seeing our favorite stars walk the red carpet and get the chance to thank their parents and agents.

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

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Best Picture Drama



Best Actress Drama



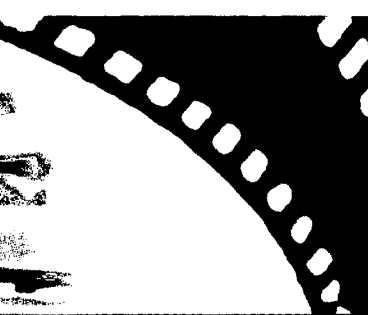
Best Director

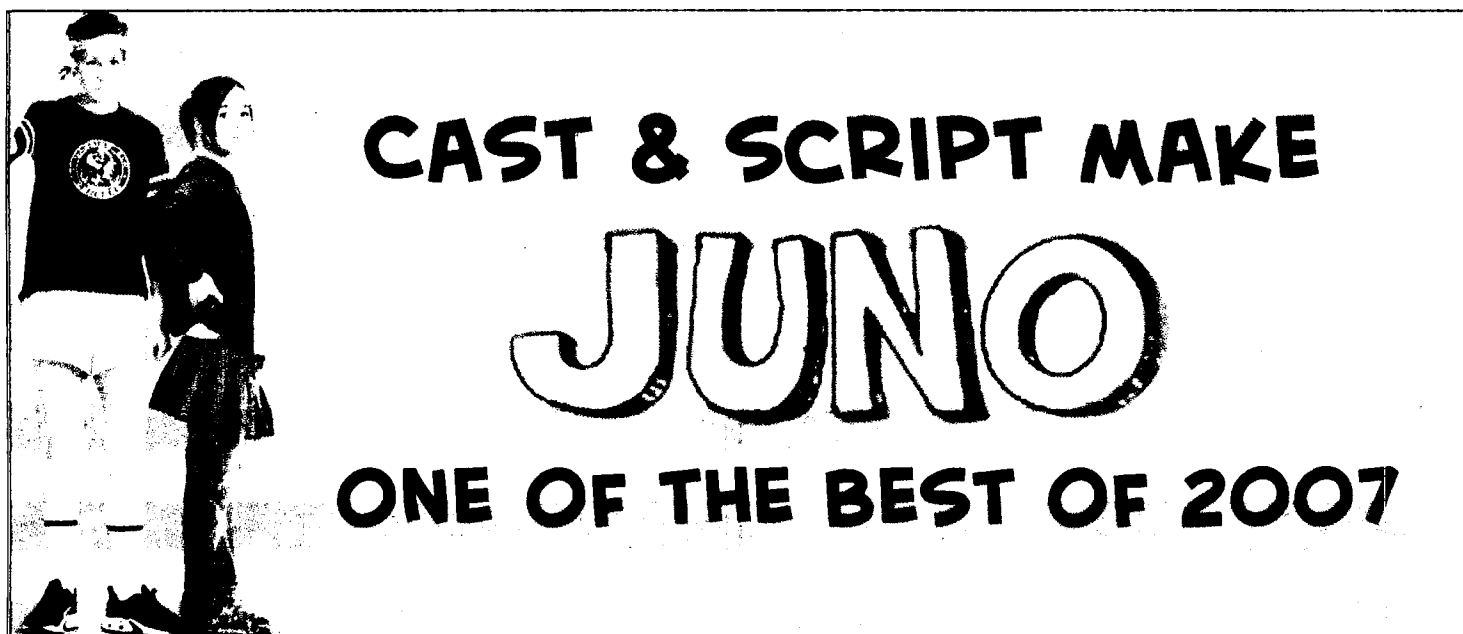


Best TV Series Comedy/Musical



Best TV Series Comedy/Musical





By T. EDWARD ANDREWS
Scene Editor

Whether talking on her hamburger phone, slurping down massive blue slurpees or puking them back up in her stepmom's favorite pottery, free-wheeling Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) finds herself faced with the same problems as any other high-school junior stuck in suburban America: homework, gossiping girls and battling boredom.

However, after an in-chair sexual encounter with then-boyfriend Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera), Juno finds herself immersed in a very adult situation, courtesy of a copious amount of Sunny Delite and the unanticipated results of a pregnancy test: She's expecting.

"Juno" follows its titular character as she navigates the nine months and several seasons of her pregnancy, dealing with boy troubles, the mean stares of high school mean girls and finding a way to secure a future for her unborn child.

Rookie of the year and stripper-turned-screenwriter Diablo Cody excels in her debut effort, providing "Juno's" talented and deep cast with a lively, snappy script that gives every actor in it memorable lines and good material.

Like Ms. Cody herself, in Juno she has created a larger-than-life dynamo with a name to match. As Juno says while her mounting pregnancy causes her waistline

to balloon, "I'm a planet." Everything in the film revolves around her, and Ellen Page delivers the goods as a sarcastic small-town girl with a big mouth. Although her quips and quirks project Juno's carefree attitude, Page manages to convey an innocence and sensitivity even as Juno compensates for the difficulty of her pregnancy with her over-the-top antics. She remains every bit a teenager stuck in a tough situation. At times cynical, crass but always precocious, Juno MacGuff doesn't take guff from anyone, but she does need the support of her friends and family.

Michael Cera continues to amuse audiences and make them laugh with his awkward on-screen antics as Juno's boyfriend Paulie Bleeker, a dedicated cross-country runner with a penchant for orange Tic Tacs and a knack for impregnating his girlfriend. Cera also manages to show some skin onscreen in sporting a pair of rather revealing short shorts to better display his pasty runner's thighs.

Running out the cast are comedy staples Jason Bateman and Jennifer Garner as Mark and Vanessa Loring, the yuppie couple that wants to adopt Juno's child. Garner surprises as Vanessa, delivering a convincing and earnest performance as a wannabe mommy. For his part, Bateman does well in a more serious role than his typical comedic fare.

Actor J.K. Simmons also performs well in a supporting role as Mac MacGuff, Juno's gruff, blue-collar dad who dotes on his daughter and also may have given her that mouth of hers. During a meet-and-greet with Mark and Vanessa Loring, the would-be adoptive parents of Juno's unborn child, Juno replies that she would like a Maker's Mark bourbon whiskey. Seeing the shocked expression on Vanessa's face, Mac MacGuff quickly explains, "Junebug has a wonderful sense of humor. Just one of her many genetic gifts."



MADELINE NIES & MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com
Juno shakes hands with boyfriend Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera).

Much like last summer's blockbuster hit "Knocked Up," "Juno" takes the serious subject of pregnancy and manages to have fun with it while acknowledging the gravity of the situation.

Diablo Cody's humorous but heartfelt screenplay can't help but succeed in the hands of a talented cast. With its mix of laughs, romantic comedy and touching moments, "Juno" stands out as one of the best movies of 2007.

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10 things I love about Juno

"Juno" is one of my new favorite movies and it could quite possibly crack my sacred top 10 list if it keeps stealing my heart each time I see it (that's three times so far).

Cassie Belek

The last recent movie to accomplish such a feat

Scene & Heard

was love of my life Judd Apatow's "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." I knew I would enjoy "Juno"; I just wasn't expecting to fall in love with the film and all its characters. So while "Juno" fights for a spot on my top 10 list of favorite movies, I'll offer another list of the top 10 reasons why I love "Juno."

10. Rollo, the convenience store clerk, portrayed by Rainn Wilson. Wilson is a scene stealer even in the tiniest of roles.

9. Juno's hamburger phone. It has to be the coolest on-screen phone since Nickelodeon's "Clarissa Explains it All."

8. Mark and Vanessa's photos hanging in the stairwell. They are the epitome of yuppie love, and I can't quite get the image of Jason Bateman's goofy, gleeful smile out of my head.

7. Michael Cera's legs. Talk about sex appeal.

6. Jennifer Garner's performance. Garner's portrayal of a yuppie woman wanting a baby isn't to be overlooked. She makes us love and understand her initially icy character, and she has a special knack for making me cry.

5. When Juno is asked how far along she is, she responds, "I'm a junior," missing the reference to her pregnancy. Despite Juno's maturity, the film does well in subtly reminding us that she is still very much a teenager.

4. Bren telling off the ultra-sound technician for insulting Juno. The next time someone insults me, I want Allison Janney in my corner. Maybe she could whip out some of that snappy Aaron Sorkin "West Wing" dialogue and hurl it their way.

3. The soundtrack. With tracks from Kimya Dawson, the Moldy Peaches and Buddy Holly, the music seamlessly floats in and out of the film, setting the tone and adding a bit of whimsy.

2. The characters' little quirks that make them all so unique: Bren's obsession with dogs, Bleeker's addiction to orange Tic Tacs and Leah's love for old men expressed by the collage in her bedroom.

1. Juno's profession of love to Bleeker. She lets herself feel and speaks from the heart without putting up guards or relying on her wit. Honest to blog, it's one of the sweetest "I love you's" in film.

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

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Juno
Director: Jason Reitman
Starring: Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman and J.K. Simmons



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com
Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) has baby talk with her father Mac (J.K. Simmons) over the dinner table.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com
Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) talks on her hamburger phone while contemplating her impending pregnancy.

NBA

LeBron lights up Grizzlies for 51 in OT win

Sixers come back from 16-point second-half deficit to top Rockets behind Miller's 26 points, Dalembert's key block

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Now this is the way LeBron James likes to go for half a hundred.

James scored a season-high 51 points, including 25 in the fourth quarter and overtime, to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 132-124 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday night.

It was the fourth time the league's leading-scorer has reached 50 points in his career.

"When we win, it means a lot. Every point counted tonight," said James, who is averaging 29.8 points. "I've lost a couple of games scoring 50 points, and I didn't like it too much. To have that accomplishment, and win the ballgame, means a lot."

Cleveland improved to 2-2 in games James scored 50.

James made 18 of 28 shots and had nine assists and eight rebounds as the Cavaliers handed the Grizzlies their fifth straight loss. James' career high is 56 points against Toronto in March 2005. The 51 points matched the best scoring performance in the NBA this season. Denver's Allen Iverson had 51 against the Lakers on Dec. 5.

"LeBron is fantastic," Memphis coach Marc Ivaroni said. "I think he's got more passing ability than Magic (Johnson) because he can put it on a dime and with zip. It's a function of his ability to score. He allows people to get free. He's 6-foot-9, and he can see."

Rudy Gay scored 30 for the Grizzlies, and reserve Juan

Carlos Navarro went 6-for-10 from 3-point range on his way to 26 points. Mike Conley had a career-high 20 points, and added seven assists.

The teams were tied at 113 at the end of regulation after Navarro's 3-pointer with 10.3 seconds left. James missed the potential game-winner from 19 feet as time expired.

Pau Gasol finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who shot 54 percent from the field.

Cleveland shot 53 percent in winning its ninth game in the last 12, and edging two games above .500 (20-18) for the first time since the Cavaliers were 9-7 on Nov. 25.

Daniel Gibson scored 18 for the Cavaliers, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 14. Drew Gooden finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Memphis trailed by as many as 10 early in the fourth, and at one point, James scored 10 straight Cleveland points.

But back-to-back 3-pointers by Gay followed by a James turnover that led to a fastbreak basket by Navarro helped Memphis take a 106-104 lead with 2:55 remaining.

Neither team could gain much of an advantage the rest of the way, including three more ties in the final 1:28 in regulation.

"We don't like having to have a shootout," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said. "We've got to do a better job of finishing when we get up big, and a better job of focusing in on doing the correct things in terms of moving

the ball. We had some bad turnovers."

James had 13 points, and Gibson added 10 to help Cleveland take a 56-53 lead at halftime.

Navarro provided a spark for the Grizzlies with 11 first-half points, and Gay had 10.

James leads the league in scoring average in the fourth quarter with 9.4 points, and down the stretch in both regulation and overtime Cleveland had him running the show. In addition to the 25 points in the final two frames, James had four assists.

"We have a fourth-quarter team right now that's playing really good basketball," James said. "We didn't get stops like we usually get, but for some odd reason, we know how to execute on the offensive end. We make plays, and we make big plays."

For the Grizzlies, it was another missed opportunity. Memphis already is 1-9 in games decided by three points or less. After Tuesday's loss, the Grizzlies are 0-3 in overtime.

"Once again, it's a tough game to get over, losing these game by a couple of possessions," Conley said. "I thought we fought hard. We got the game back into overtime. We started off overtime pretty well, but they just kept fighting back at us and got the ball to bounce their way a couple of times."

Sixers 111, Rockets 107

Down by 16 points in the second half, the Philadelphia 76ers somehow forgot that they'd lost seven consecutive games.

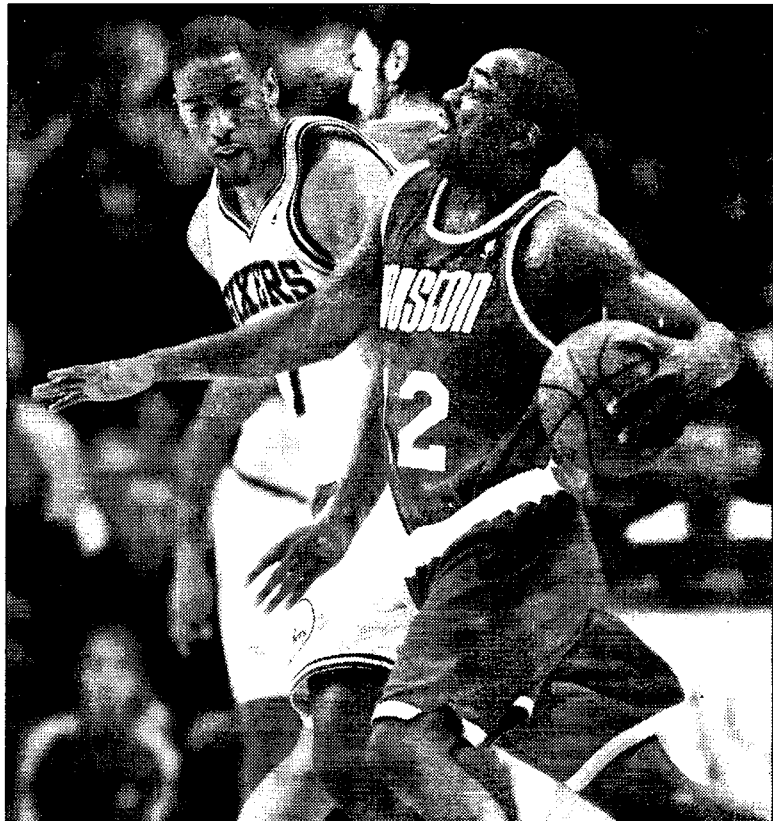
Andre Miller scored 26 points, Samuel Dalembert added 19 points and blocked a shot in the final seconds, and the Sixers rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Rockets on Tuesday night.

"We found a way to finish off the game," said Miller, who also has six assists and five rebounds. "After losing that many games, a lot of teams would fold on this road trip. We came out and played good basketball."

Louis Williams scored 18 and Andre Iguodala had 17 for the Sixers, who also snapped a five-game road skid.

"The main thing is to focus on the season and never try to have a really down point," said Iguodala. "But we had it, and it's good for us to bounce back and get a win like we had tonight."

The Rockets led 83-67 in the third quarter and still seemed in control when they led by 89-77 with 10 minutes left in the game. But Houston committed nine turnovers and went five



Rockets guard Rafer Alston tries to drive around 76ers guard Andre Miller in Philadelphia's 111-107 win Tuesday.

minutes without a field goal in the fourth quarter to fuel Philadelphia's comeback.

"It didn't look good," said Dalembert. "But then we came back with a roar."

Rafer Alston's running one-hander put Houston up 101-98 with 3:43 left, but Miller sank two free throws and Dalembert hit one to tie the game. Alston made a bad pass — his sixth turnover — and Dalembert dunked at the other end to put the Sixers ahead 103-101 with 2:24 remaining.

"We stopped doing the things that got us the lead," said Alston. "It was a total let-up."

The Sixers led 107-104 after Dalembert scored with 35.1 seconds left.

Luis Scola rebounded Yao Ming's miss at the other end, but Dalembert blocked Scola's put-back try. Iguodala hit two free throws with 16.6 seconds left to put the game out of reach.

Philadelphia outscored Houston 37-22 in the fourth.

"We hung together and played hard and we got something good out of it," said Philadelphia coach Maurice Cheeks.

While the Sixers were looking at the win as a possible turning point of the season, the Rockets were chastising themselves for letting one slip away.

"We acted like the game was over starting the fourth quarter," said Coach Rick Adelman. "We're not good enough to act like the game is over."

Yao scored 25 points and Alston added 20 for Houston,

which dropped to 7-4 since Tracy McGrady went out with a left knee injury. McGrady is expected to play against San Antonio on Saturday.

The Sixers beat Houston for only the third time in the last 12 meetings. They also beat the Rockets 100-88 on Dec. 10, securing their first series sweep since the 1988-89 season.

Both teams shot well in a fast-paced first quarter that ended with Houston up 31-30. Alston and Luther Head combined for 14 points in the quarter, but Dalembert hit 6 of 7 shots and scored 12, one above his per-game average.

Shane Battier and Head sank 3-pointers early in the second quarter as Houston stayed hot and stretched its lead to nine. The Rockets were shooting 67 percent (20-for-30) with five minutes left in the half.

Head scored 16 in the first half, but Iguodala swished a 3-pointer with 2.3 seconds left to cut the Rockets' lead to 60-55.

Houston opened the second half with an 8-0 run, with Battier's layup giving the Rockets a 68-55 lead. The Sixers missed seven of their first 10 shots after the break and Houston stretched the lead to 83-67.

Yao, who took only four shots in the first half, scored 13 points in the third quarter as Houston took an 85-74 lead into the final period. Miller scored 13 of the Sixers' 19 points in the third — the rest of the team missed 13 of 15 shots.



Cavaliers forward LeBron James drives Tuesday against Grizzlies forward Mike Miller in Cleveland's 132-124 overtime victory.

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PERSONAL

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Happy Birthday Chris Savino

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

NCAA Men's Basketball

AP Poll

team	record	previous
1 North Carolina	17-0	1
2 Memphis	15-0	2
3 Kansas	16-0	3
4 UCLA	16-1	5
5 Georgetown	13-1	7
6 Tennessee	14-1	8
7 Duke	13-1	9
8 Washington State	14-1	4
9 Indiana	14-1	10
10 Texas A&M	15-1	11
11 Michigan State	14-2	6
12 Butler	16-1	14
13 Marquette	13-2	15
14 Dayton	14-1	17
15 Pittsburgh	14-2	20
16 Vanderbilt	16-1	13
17 Wisconsin	13-2	21
18 Mississippi	14-1	16
19 Texas	13-3	12
20 Xavier	14-3	24
21 Miami(Fla.)	14-1	25
22 Arizona State	13-2	28
23 Rhode Island	15-2	22
24 Clemson	13-3	18
25 Villanova	11-3	19

NCAA Women's Basketball

AP Poll

team	record	previous
1 Connecticut	15-0	1
2 Tennessee	14-1	2
3 North Carolina	16-1	3
4 Maryland	20-1	4
5 Rutgers	13-2	5
6 Baylor	14-1	8
7 Stanford	14-3	7
8 California	15-2	9
9 LSU	13-3	11
10 Duke	13-4	12
11 Oklahoma	10-3	6
12 Georgia	14-2	10
13 George Washington	13-3	17
14 West Virginia	12-3	16
15 Old Dominion	12-3	18
16 Ohio State	13-3	19
17 NOTRE DAME	13-3	14
18 Oklahoma State	14-1	25
19 Texas A&M	12-4	13
20 Wyoming	14-1	21
21 Auburn	13-4	22
22 Pittsburgh	13-3	26
23 DePaul	12-3	24
24 Texas	12-4	15
25 Colorado	12-3	23

MIAA Women's Basketball Standings

team	league	overall
Hope	5-0	13-0
Albion	5-1	12-2
Adrian	3-2	5-8
Olivet	3-2	4-8
Calvin	3-3	7-6
SAINT MARY'S	2-3	6-7
Alma	1-4	3-8
Kalamazoo	1-4	4-9
Tri-State	1-5	4-10

CCHA Standings

team	league	overall
Michigan	13-1-0	20-2-0
Miami	13-3-0	21-3-0
NOTRE DAME	11-4-0	18-7-0
Michigan State	10-2-1	14-5-3
Nebraska-Omaha	6-9-3	9-12-3
Bowling Green	7-7-0	10-10-0
Ferris State	6-7-1	9-9-2
Alaska	5-8-3	5-11-4
Northern Michigan	6-10-0	9-14-1
Ohio State	3-10-1	7-15-2
Western Michigan	1-10-3	3-13-4
Lake Superior	2-12-0	6-15-1

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Duke at Florida State

7 p.m., ESPN



MLB commissioner Bud Selig, left, and Donald Fehr, executive director of the MLB Players' Association, are sworn in before testifying in front of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Tuesday.

Mitchell Report hearings start in Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barry Bonds' team should have reported concerns about the home run king's personal trainer to Major League Baseball, commissioner Bud Selig told Congress on Tuesday during a hearing on the sport's steroids era.

Even though no players were present, unlike the theatrical March 2005 session, the names of Bonds, seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens and 2002 AL MVP Miguel Tejada all were raised during the 4-hour, 15-minute proceedings prompted by last month's Mitchell Report.

Selig and union leader Donald Fehr sat side-by-side before a House committee friendlier in tone than three years ago yet still concerned about how serious baseball is in dealing with its doping problem.

Before any of Tuesday's testimony, which began with former Senate majority leader George Mitchell appearing for two hours, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman Henry Waxman announced he and ranking Republican Tom Davis asked the Justice Department to look into whether Tejada lied to committee staffers when questioned in connection to Rafael Palmeiro's perjury case in 2005.

Tejada's older brother, Freddy, was killed Tuesday in a motorcycle accident in the Dominican Republic, said the Aguilas Cibaenas, the shortstop's winter league team. Tejada, who had been scheduled to play Tuesday night, wasn't at the ballpark and could not immediately be reached for comment.

Since the release of Mitchell's findings, the focus largely has been on Clemens, the star pitcher scheduled to testify at a separate hearing Feb. 13, along with his former trainer, Brian McNamee, who said he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone.

Clemens has vehemently denied the allegations.

But Bonds was brought up by Waxman, who asked Selig whether the San Francisco Giants should have reported their concerns about Bonds' trainer, Greg Anderson, and the slugger's alleged steroid use to the commissioner's office.

"Of course," Selig responded.

IN BRIEF

'Pacman' Jones accused of hitting woman in strip club

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A woman is seeking an arrest warrant against suspended Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones, claiming he punched her at an Atlanta strip club.

Fulton County Magistrate Court officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Wanda S. Jackson asked for the warrant after a Jan. 3 altercation at the Body Tap Strip Club.

Jackson, an attorney, says she was in the club's office when an angry Jones accused managers of stealing his money and bracelet.

Jackson said Jones lunged at her numerous times and then "sucker punched" her in the left eye.

Jackson did not immediately return a phone message requesting comment.

Jones' attorney Manny Arora said no warrant has been issued against Jones.

Last month Jones pleaded no contest to a disorderly conduct charge related to a strip club shooting in Las Vegas that left one man paralyzed.

Trinidad and Jones to fight in New York

NEW YORK — Felix Trinidad and Roy Jones Jr. will be fighting more than just each other on Saturday night at Madison Square Garden.

They'll also be fighting perceptions that both are far past their primes.

Jones, considered the pound-for-pound king for the better part of a decade, turned 39 this week. He showed up to a news conference at the Garden on Tuesday with a beard that made him appear much older, though he promised to shave it off when he makes weight of 170 pounds.

He's fought just twice since losing an unanimous decision to Antonio Tarver in 2005, both lackluster decisions against lesser opponents.

For Jones (51-4, 38 knockouts), this 12-round fight represents one last step before a potential super-middleweight title bout — a road block to a ninth world title.

Duke lacrosse prosecutor files for bankruptcy

RALEIGH, N.C. — The disgraced former prosecutor who led the debunked Duke lacrosse rape case filed for bankruptcy Tuesday, citing more than \$180 million in liabilities — the majority from the threat of two pending lawsuits.

Mike Nifong reported \$243,898 in assets of real and personal property to U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The filing came the same day he and other defendants were required to respond to a sweeping federal lawsuit filed in October by the three exonerated players whom Nifong had falsely accused of rape.

In the lawsuit, attorneys for Reade Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and Dave Evans accuse Nifong, the city of Durham, police investigators and others of conducting "one of the most chilling episodes of premeditated police, prosecutorial and scientific misconduct in modern American history."

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Tuesday, January 22, 2008

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The Morris Inn

Application deadline: Wednesday, January 30, 2008

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2016 OLYMPICS

Chicago reveals Olympic plans

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Organizers of the American bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics unveiled details of their plan Tuesday, promising a "spectacular" lakefront experience in the heart of the nation's third-largest city.

Chicago's plan clusters the majority of venues in four sites near downtown and along the shores of Lake Michigan, the world's fifth-largest lake. Ninety-one percent of athletes would be within 15 minutes or less of their venues, and the Olympic stadium would be a six-minute drive from the village.

"The plan envisions the games woven into the landscape of Chicago's century-old lakefront and in walking distance," of many cultural and entertainment attractions and sports facilities, said Patrick Ryan, chief organizer of Chicago 2016.

"We believe Chicago promises a spectacular Olympic experience in the center of our city, in the heartland of this great country," Ryan said.

Details of the plan — which includes 16 new permanent and temporary venues and money to make existing venues Olympic caliber at an estimated cost of \$900 million — were included in a questionnaire submitted to the International Olympic Committee and released by Chicago bid organizers.

It does not include a \$1 billion athlete's village, a public-private venture officials said will be built regardless of whether Chicago gets the games.

Chicago would hold the games July 22-Aug. 7, 2016. The paralympics would follow Aug. 18-28.

Chicago 2016 organizers esti-

mated the games would generate \$2.5 billion in revenue just from domestic marketing, including sponsorships, licensed merchandise and ticket sales. Organizers would give 500,000 free tickets to Chicago schoolchildren.

"The people of Chicago will experience these games like no people of any Olympic city before them," said Doug Arnot, operations chief for Chicago 2016.

As Chicago released its bid documents, details also emerged Tuesday about plans for the other six bid cities.

Tokyo said 95 percent of its competition venues would be within five miles of downtown. Organizers in Madrid, Spain, said the eastern edge of its city would be the focus for the Olympics. There would be 15 competition venues there, and all but five of the 30 venues would be about seven miles from the city center.

Chicago organizers said their plan for clustering the Games downtown and near Lake Michigan is unique.

"Compact is one thing, it's where it's compact," Arnot said. "We've taken the very heart of the city and put so much of the games right there. That is unparalleled in any games."

For example, the trip from the athletes' village to the stadium — that Ryan says during the games would be a six-minute drive because of dedicated Olympic lanes — is at most 14 minutes in normal traffic, according to the bid document.

Besides Chicago, Tokyo, and Madrid, the other bid cities are Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Baku, Azerbaijan; Doha, Qatar; and Prague, Czech Republic.

The IOC will whittle the seven applicant cities to an unspecified number of candidate cities in June. The IOC will select the host city in October 2009.

Chicago's price tag is likely to grow if history is any guide. Costs for the 2012 London Olympics are now more than triple original estimates, topping \$19 billion.

The Chicago bid documents don't give a total price tag for the games, but Ryan said comparisons to London's ballooning costs aren't fair. London is undertaking a major urban redevelopment as part of its games, including decontaminating land from years of industrial use.

"Have you been to the East End of London recently? That's been a desolate area for centuries. This is a rebuilding of something that is critical to London," Ryan said.

Of Chicago's 27 venues, 22 already are built or would be temporary structures. The Olympic stadium will carry the biggest expense, costing nearly \$386 million in 2007 dollars. But an unidentified developer was part of the design process, and already has committed to building it for that amount.

The questionnaire submitted to the IOC by Chicago and other bid cities covers everything from competition venues and financing to security and transportation. It's part of the process for the IOC to pick a host city next year.

Chicago 2016 estimates it will spend \$49.3 million in its bid process, and that assumes it will be one of the finalists chosen in June. Ryan pledged all of that money will come from private sources.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Federer rolls in 1st round despite illness



No. 1 seed Roger Federer lunges for a backhand Tuesday in a win over Diego Hartfield in the first round of the Australian Open.

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Sick and tired of talk about his stomach bug, Roger Federer wanted to show he was in Grand Slam form.

He left nobody in doubt.

The man who has had the No. 1 ranking just about glued to him for almost four years began his bid for a third straight Australian Open title Tuesday by doing something he had never done at Melbourne Park.

He opened the season's first major without dropping a game in the first set at Rod Laver Arena, beating Argentina's Diego Hartfield 6-0, 6-3, 6-0. In eight previous trips to Melbourne, he had never swept the opening set.

Federer has not played a competitive match in two months. He withdrew from the Kooyong exhibition last week after being told by doctors he had food poisoning, causing speculation about his fitness.

"I could have maybe played on Saturday, but I didn't want all the fuss — the media, analyzing my game, thinking they know best and all that," Federer said. "I took an extra day. It's tough, but I played a couple of sets out here the last few days and it's paid off."

Unable to get his usual fine-tuning done at Kooyong, Federer had to settle for doing it in real time. He tested his entire arsenal, mixing his powerful backhands and forehands with some rushes to the net, and alternating serves wide and down the line on the new blue surface.

"Everything was working perfectly," said Federer, who is 26-1 in the last four Australian Opens and has figured in the last 10 Grand Slam finals. "I never expect a result this extreme obviously, but I was playing well in practice, moving well, serving well, and conditions were perfect."

Just before Federer went on court, things turned violent among spectators during a match between Greece's

Konstantinos Economidis and seventh-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, last year's losing finalist.

Tournament officials said play was interrupted for five minutes while police subdued three people with pepper spray. Five were evicted and banned from the venue for at least 24 hours.

Wimbledon champion Venus Williams played her first match in three years at the Australian Open. She downed China's Yan Zi 6-2, 7-5 but hit 29 unforced errors and only 19 winners.

"Errors happen," Williams said. "That's tennis."

She was a first-round loser in 2006 and missed last year because of injuries, watching from a distance when sister Serena made a stunning run to the title.

Serena Williams, unseeded and ranked No. 81 when she beat top-seeded Maria Sharapova in last year's final, plays Wednesday in the second round against China's Yuan Meng.

No. 5 Sharapova has the toughest second-round match of the highly ranked players, facing 2000 Australian champion Lindsay Davenport in the night match on center court Wednesday.

Davenport is in her first Grand Slam and only fifth tournament since returning to the tour following the birth last June of her son. She needed three sets to beat Italy's Sara Errani in the first round and extend her record to 19-1 since her comeback.

No. 1 Justine Henin will open on center court against Olga Poutchkova. No. 10 Marion Bartoli, the only player to beat Henin in the last six months — in the Wimbledon semifinals — was the highest of four seeded women players ousted in the first round Tuesday, losing to Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson.

Advancing were No. 2-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova, No. 4 Ana Ivanovic, No. 6 Anna Chakvetadze, No. 9 Daniela Hantuchova and No. 14 Nadia Petrova.

A Great Cloud of Witnesses: Saints in the Catholic Tradition January 18-19, McKenna Hall

On the occasion of the first feast day celebration of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, this conference will explore the development of the canonization process and the significance of the saints in Catholic life and devotion.

Friday, January 18

4:00 p.m. *Thinking Seriously about the Saints*

Lawrence Cunningham, University of Notre Dame

7:30 p.m. *Making Saints*

Kenneth Woodward, Former Religion Editor, *Newsweek*

Saturday, January 19

9:00 a.m. *All Saints: The Universal Call to Holiness*

Ann Astell, University of Notre Dame

10:30 a.m. *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*

Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik, Rector, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

2:00 p.m. *Blessed Basil Moreau*

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C.

3:30 p.m. *Saints in Everyday Life*

Robert Ellsberg, Editor, Orbis Books

On Sunday, January 20, Cardinal McCarrick will preside at the Eucharistic liturgy at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 10:00 a.m.

"By canonizing some of the faithful, i.e., by solemnly proclaiming that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace, the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #828)

NBA

Balanced attack helps Hawks hold off Nuggets

Associated Press

ATLANTA — After Denver's big three was reduced to one, the Nuggets' big comeback against Atlanta ended.

Carmelo Anthony, Allen Iverson and J.R. Smith combined for 84 points, but Iverson and Smith were ejected with 38.9 seconds left and the Hawks held off a late rally by the Denver Nuggets for a 104-93 victory on Tuesday night.

Iverson was called for turnovers on consecutive possessions in the last 90 seconds, the second with 38.9 seconds left and Atlanta's lead down to 8 at 101-93.

Iverson, who argued that he was fouled on each play, protested to officials and was ejected by official John Goble. Smith joined the argument after the second call and was ejected.

"I thought it was two no-calls," Iverson said. "I was upset about it. At that juncture of the game, those calls mattered. Once you take those two possessions away from us and at the time I didn't think we had the opportunity and I just reacted the way I reacted."

Smith caused a stir in the stands when he threw his headband and jersey into the crowd after leaving the court.

Anthony scored 36 points, Iverson had 27 and Smith 21. Only two other Denver players scored. Denver had been 12-2 when Anthony scored 27 or more.

The Hawks won with superior balance.

Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 22, including 17 in the first half. Marvin Williams scored 19 and

Josh Childress 17 as six Atlanta players scored in double figures.

"We're playing well," Williams said. "We're playing together."

Iverson appeared to be pushed by Atlanta's Anthony Johnson when he was called for the first turnover with 1:27 left. Iverson protested the call but didn't draw a technical. He earned two technicals when arguing his second turnover, again when guarded closely by Johnson.

"It's an obvious push in the back," Iverson said. "Two possessions. I watched it on film. Obviously, two shoves in the back. It's a good thing for their team, they got away with it. I'm pretty sure they're pretty happy about the way those two plays ended."

Denver coach George Karl said at least one of Goble's turnover calls against Iverson was bad.

"He got bumped out of bounds on the first one," Karl said. "I don't know about the second one."

"It was just a young referee made a judgment call that we didn't gain an advantage on. I think the first one made him not call the second one. It's kind of human nature."

Denver trailed by 25 early in the third quarter but cut the lead to 101-93 on Anthony's fallaway with 1:50 left.

"A.I. and Carmelo are great players," Childress said. "You know they're going to get theirs, so you have to limit everybody else."

The Hawks (17-17) have two straight wins since commissioner David Stern ruled Friday



Hawks guard Joe Johnson drives against Nuggets guard J.R. Smith Tuesday in the fourth quarter of Atlanta's 104-93 win over Denver. Johnson scored 22 points, including 17 in the first half.

they must replay the final 51.9 seconds of a Dec. 19 game against the Miami Heat on March 8.

"As far as I'm concerned, we're over .500," said Hawks coach Mike Woodson. "We'll deal with that in March."

Woodson's only complaint was his team's sluggish finish against the Nuggets.

"We have to learn how to finish games strong," he said. "I thought we had some slippage down near the end."

There were two ties in the opening minutes but Atlanta never trailed.

Marcus Camby's jam cut the lead to 12 at 97-85 with 4 minutes left. Anthony Johnson, who had 13 points, and Josh Smith answered with baskets for Atlanta.

The Nuggets were short-handed and potentially distracted. Teammate Nene underwent surgery Monday in Denver to remove a testicular tumor. A biopsy will determine if it was

cancerous.

The Nuggets also were without starting forward Kenyon Martin, who returned to the team hotel after having a staph infection on his buttock treated before the game.

"We gotta deal with what we got," Iverson said. "Nobody's gonna feel sorry for us and we can't feel sorry for ourselves. We understand that we're in a tough situation right now but if we stay together then we can get out of it."

NFL

Carter, Green among Hall of Fame finalists

Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — Cris Carter and Darrell Green are finalists in balloting for the Pro Football Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility.

Carter, a star wide receiver for the Eagles and Vikings, and Redskins cornerback Green are among 17 finalists who will be considered for election on Feb. 2, 2008, the day before the Super Bowl.

Carter spent 1987-89 with Philadelphia, then 1990-2001 with Minnesota before ending his career with a season as a Dolphin. In 2000, he became the second player in NFL history to catch 1,000 career passes, behind only Jerry Rice. He finished his career with 1,101 receptions, second on the all-time list; had 130 TD catches, also second; and gained 1,000 yards receiving in eight straight seasons. Carter was a member of the NFL's 1990s all-decade team.

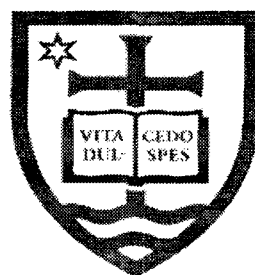
Green spent all 20 of his seasons in Washington, tying a league record with one team, and played 295 games after being a first-round draft pick in 1983. He holds the NFL mark with at least one

interception in 19 consecutive seasons and made 54 interceptions overall for 621 yards and six TDs. Considered one of the best shutdown cornerbacks in football, he also was one of the league's fastest players and a first-rate punt returner. Green also was on the NFL's 1990s team.

The other finalists, of which a minimum of four candidates and a maximum of seven can be chosen, are 12 modern-era players. They are defensive ends Fred Dean and Richard Dent; linebackers Randy Gradishar, Derrick Thomas and Andre Tippett; guards Russ Grimm, Bob Kuechenberg and Randall McDaniel; punter Ray Guy; wide receivers Art Monk and Andre Reed; and tackle Gary Zimmerman.

The contributor finalist is former commissioner Paul Tagliabue. The Senior Committee nominees, announced last August, are Chicago Cardinals back Marshall Goldberg and Kansas City Chiefs cornerback Emmitt Thomas.

To be elected, a finalist must receive a minimum of 80 percent of the 44 votes.



Information Session
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Assistant Rector
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Thursday, January 17, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Law School Courtroom

OR

Wednesday, January 23, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
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Light refreshments served

For further information visit
<http://osa.nd.edu/>

NFL

Garrett meets again for Ravens job

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Dallas Cowboys offensive coordinator Jason Garrett spent more than six hours Tuesday interviewing for the head coaching job of the Baltimore Ravens, but left the team's training facility without filling the vacancy.

The 41-year-old Garrett was the first person to receive a second interview for the job, which became open when owner Steve Bisciotti fired Brian Billick on Dec. 31.

"I had a really productive day today," Garrett said. "I'm going to continue through this process I'm in right now and at some point we'll make some decisions on both sides."

Garrett met with Bisciotti, team president Dick Cass and

general manager Ozzie Newsome.

Ravens spokesman Kevin Byrne said, "We had a good day of interviews. It's the start of the second round. We have more interviews for the second round later on in the week."

Neither Garrett nor the Ravens said a contract had been placed on the table, or that the Cowboys had offered a counterproposal.

"It was a great day. I had a chance to start this process last week, and was excited to come back and visit again," Garrett said. "It's been an exciting time for me to be here."

Newsome declined comment, and Bisciotti was not made available. Newsome will be out of town Wednesday, and interview sessions could resume as soon as Thursday.

Garrett has attracted interest from the Ravens because of his success in Dallas. In his first season as the architect of the Cowboys' offense, Garrett directed an attack that ranked second in the NFL with 455 points. Quarterback Tony Romo set franchise records with 36 touchdown passes and 4,211 yards passing.

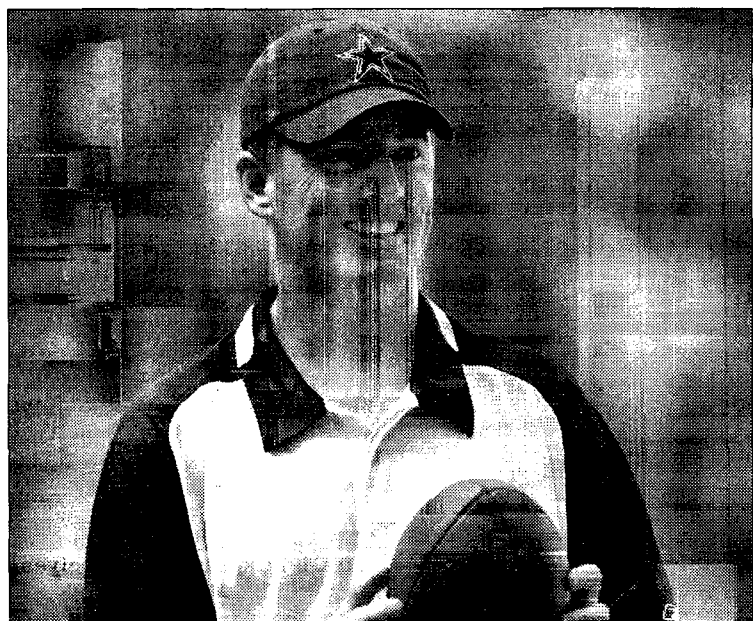
The Ravens, meanwhile, are looking to cure a stagnant offense that this season ranked 22nd in total yardage and was 24th with 17.2 points per game. In nine years under Billick, the Ravens never ranked higher than 14th in total offense.

Dallas was third in total offense this season, averaging 365.7 yards per game. But the Cowboys averaged only 10.5 points in their final four games, including a 21-17 playoff loss to the New York Giants on Sunday that took the luster off Dallas' 13-3 record during the regular season.

Garrett began his second interview with Baltimore on Monday night. He arrived at the team's training complex Tuesday morning with his wife, Brill, and spent much of the day negotiating a deal.

Garrett has connections to members of the search committee. He and Cass are Princeton graduates. And Garrett's father, Jim Garrett, coached vice president of football administration Pat Moriarty, when Moriarty was with the Cleveland Browns.

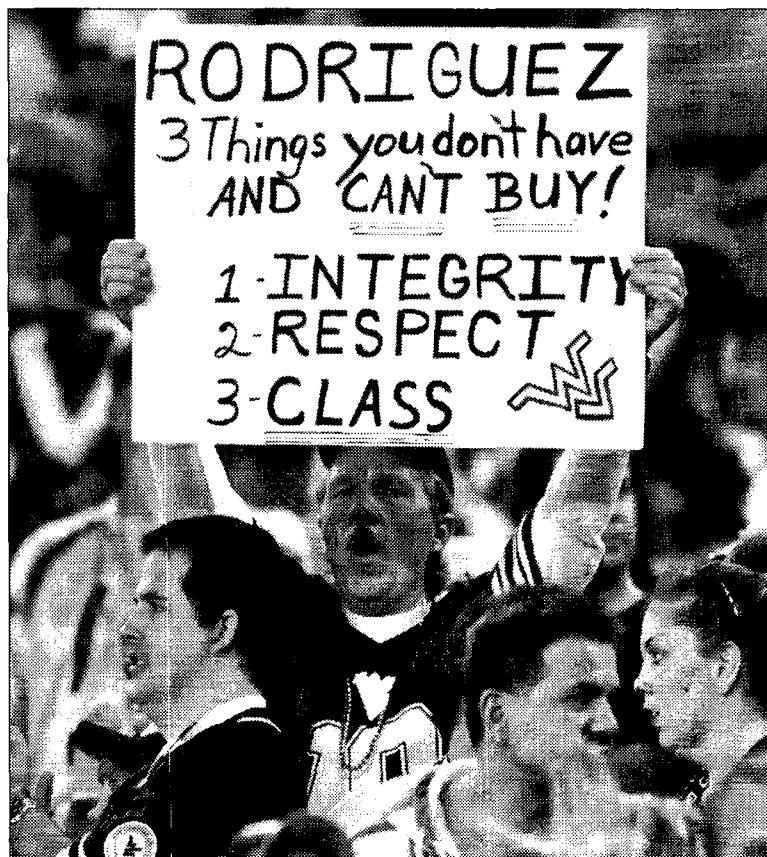
The Ravens are also interested in Philadelphia Eagles secondary coach John Harbaugh, who was a finalist for the UCLA job that went to former Ravens offensive coordinator Rick Neuheisel.



Cowboys offensive coordinator Jason Garrett met with Ravens team officials for the second time on Tuesday.

NCAA FOOTBALL

WVU to investigate missing documents



A Mountaineer fan protests Rich Rodriguez's departure from West Virginia at the Fiesta Bowl. After the former coach left for Michigan, several football files disappeared.

Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — West Virginia is investigating the disappearance of records associated with the school's football program, a topic the agent for former coach Rich Rodriguez says will be addressed in court documents when the time is right.

Citing anonymous sources, The Charleston Gazette reported Tuesday that files kept in Rodriguez's private office disappeared between Dec. 16 and Jan. 3, along with strength and conditioning records from the weight room.

Assistant athletic director Mike Fragale told The Associated Press some files are missing but that he does not know what was in them. The athletic department won't have any further comment until its investigation is finished, he said.

The newspaper report claimed the missing documents included players' personal contact information, scholarship payments and class attendance records, as well as strength and conditioning records and photographs that tracked players' physical progress.

WVU is suing Rodriguez, who accepted the head coaching job at Michigan last month, to collect on a \$4 million buyout clause in his contract. A response is due in about a week, and agent Mike Brown told The Associated Press late Tuesday that's when his client will respond to most of the accusations in the newspaper report.

The report has "a lot of misinformation and untruthful statements," Brown said.

Brown denied Rodriguez kept a personal file on each player and that a strength coordinator took photos of them. Every time players were tested, he added, "those records were given to the head coach and every assistant coach."

That means current head

coach Bill Stewart should have copies.

"Regarding the class attendance records, I sure hope that West Virginia's compliance and academic office keeps those records because if they don't, they have serious institutional control problems," he said.

Brown said the university also should have any records involving the finances of the summer camps it ran.

He declined to answer questions about whether Rodriguez removed or destroyed documents.

"There's a process that's now in place that has to be followed" because of the litigation, Brown said. "There is an appropriate time we can make comments and statements in regard to the allegations in the lawsuit and the allegations and statements that have been made by individuals in West Virginia."

Those individuals, he noted, include both Gov. Joe Manchin and WVU president Mike Garrison.

After Rodriguez resigned, Manchin blamed "high-priced agents" for the departure of a West Virginia native who had said his lifelong goal was to coach at his alma mater.

Since his departure, relatives of Rodriguez say they've been harassed and threatened. His mother, Arleen, said the coach's home was also vandalized, and dozens of groups devoted to her son's downfall have appeared on the Facebook social networking site.

Feeding fan fury is that after seven seasons in Morgantown, Rodriguez raided the Mountaineers' program, taking assistant coaches and perhaps recruits with him, as well as the six-member strength and conditioning staff.

Several wealthy football boosters claim there was behind-the-scenes tension between Rodriguez and the WVU administration, but the coach has yet to publicly discuss the matter.

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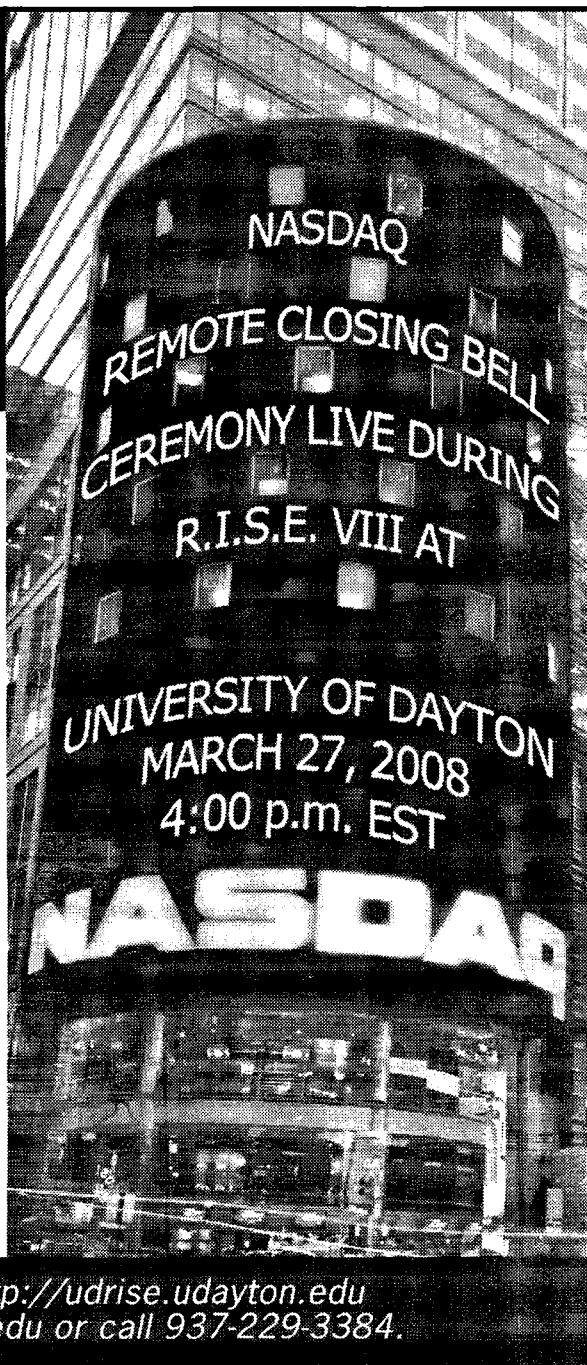
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NASCAR

Dale Jr. ready for new season with Hendrick

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. is already feeling the pressure, and the season hasn't even started.

As his winless streak nears two years, NASCAR's most popular driver knows he must produce in his new Hendrick Motorsports ride.

Anxious about the new job and the pressure of driving for the elite team, Earnhardt showed up a week early at preseason testing just to talk to his new teammates.

Back this week to actually drive his No. 88 Chevrolet, Earnhardt went right to work. His single lap speed of 185.820 mph on Tuesday morning easily bettered the mark of 184.782 mph set by teammate Jimmie Johnson in last week's session, and Earnhardt was 10th fastest when drafting began in the afternoon.

"I just like running up front every week," he said. "I like going to the racetrack and being ... toward the top of the chart, at least on the left side of the page in practices."

It's a good start to a fresh season, one without the drama that engulfed him last year when he publicly sparred with stepmother Teresa. His unhappiness was painfully evident this time last year, when he used his media availability session at testing to reveal their relationship "ain't no bed of roses" and said contract negotiations with Dale Earnhardt Inc. were tense.

Four months later, he decided to leave his late father's company and embarked on the most frenzied free agency in NASCAR history. Courted by just about every car owner in the industry, he settled on Hendrick in June and anxiously awaited switching teams.

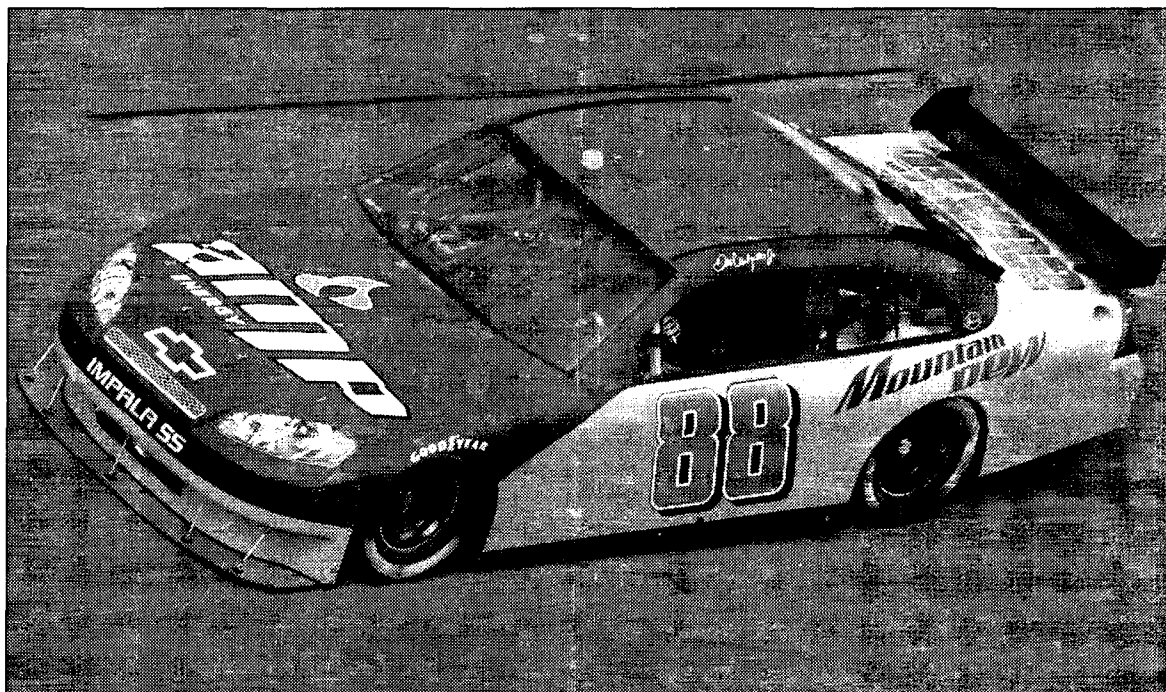
Now that he's officially a Hendrick driver, he knows the expectations are immense. Hendrick drivers won 18 of 36 races last season, and Johnson is the two-time defending Cup champion.

Earnhardt, meanwhile, hasn't won since May 6, 2006, in Richmond, a span of 62 races.

"There's a little bit less pressure in certain areas and more pressure in other areas," he said. "I didn't have to worry about job security when I was over at my other job, but I've got to worry about that now. I think if I do what I've been doing, I should be fine. But with being the son of the guy who built the place, you can get away with a few more things than most guys could."

"But I've got a really good owner that makes me feel comfortable, and so that eases a lot of other pressures, talking to him and hearing from him and listening to his thoughts on what we're doing. It takes away some pressure from that side of it."

The expectations clearly exist, though, and crew chief Tony Eury Jr. did his part to pile on by predicting Monday the team will win four races this season. He didn't



Dale Earnhardt Jr. rounds a turn during preseason testing at Daytona International Speedway on Tuesday. Earnhardt Jr. will race for Hendrick Motorsports in 2008 after leaving DEI.

back off the number when pressed Tuesday, either.

"You try to find a realistic number because too many people try to get you to make predictions and want you to say 'We're gonna win 11, or we can for sure get 10,'" Eury said. "But four should be simple. I mean, I look at how competitive we ran last year — and things happened — and if we close out them deals this year, we should be able to win four races easily."

"I'm not guaranteeing any-

thing. But I'm going to be disappointed if we don't win at least four. I know what kind of equipment we've got around here, know what kind of people we've got around us. I don't see any reason why that shouldn't be our goal and it should be a reachable goal."

Earnhardt refused to play the prediction game.

"I don't want to sit here and guess how many races we'll win," he said. "We'll win some races, and I expect to win soon. I'm a

good driver with a good team, and if we don't make mistakes on a Sunday we should have great finishes and win some races."

All of that has allowed Earnhardt and Eury to relax a bit after a stressful 2007 that saw them fighting to stay focused amid all the drama that surrounded their exit from DEI. The team failed to make the Chase, which ultimately freed Eury to go to Hendrick before the season ended but still led to a disappointing departure.

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NFL

Seahawks coach Holmgren considers future

Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — It only felt like a retirement.

Mike Holmgren looked nervous. He leaned forward and pushed his hands into the armrest of his chair. A half-dozen photographers jostled for position around him. They flashed at each of the Seattle Seahawks coach's expressions.

There were smiles. Deadpan stares. And, when reminded how much Seattle wants him to stay, there was obvious emotion in reddened eyes and pressed lips.

"I'm kind of getting the feeling you guys are moving me toward the door here," Holmgren, 59, said Tuesday, chuckling during his annual season-ending news conference, which offered more hints that the most successful coach in Seahawks history may retire after 16 seasons.

Seattle will find out soon. Holmgren said he could decide "perhaps" by next week, after he spends a few days talking with his wife, Kathy, at their home in Arizona.

"We're going to bang around some stuff and talk about the future. We have our lists [of pros and cons] made up," he said, adding he is or soon will be seeking the advice of Joe Gibbs, Bill Cowher, Bill Parcells and Tony Dungy.

All have recently retired from coaching or, in Dungy's case with Indianapolis, is considering it.

Holmgren was speaking three days after Seattle's fifth consecutive postseason appearance ended with a 42-20 loss to Green Bay in the NFC divisional

playoffs. He sees three options for next season: retirement, which he's contemplating for the third consecutive offseason; completion of the final year of the two-year contract he signed soon after the Seahawks' loss in the Super Bowl 23 months ago; or something he prefers over option two, something he called "longer, larger" — a new extension to stay in Seattle.

When asked if the Seahawks have already offered him a new deal, Holmgren said, "Let's not get too specific."

"There are very few Joe Paternos around," he said of college football's 81-year-old coach at Penn State.

"It just takes a lot out of you, so at the end of the season you're tired."

Holmgren told his players Sunday in a final team meeting that he needed time to clear his head before deciding whether he would return.

"I've heard talk like that for so long, for so many years with him. I think the best thing we do as football players is we worry about the stuff that we can control," said Pro Bowl quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, for whom Holmgren traded with Green Bay to make him Seattle's starter in 2001.

"Obviously, Coach knows how we feel about him. He's meant a lot to the turnaround of this franchise."

His record with Green Bay and Seattle, where he arrived in 1999, is 170-110, one win behind Gibbs for 10th in NFL history. Holmgren is 86-68 in nine seasons with Seattle. He passed Chuck Knox this season for most victories by a Seahawks coach.

Seattle won its fourth consecutive NFC West title in 2007 and will return the core of its team next season. Five of the Seahawks' six division titles have come with Holmgren.

Yet Holmgren said maybe, after seven years and two Super Bowls in Green Bay and another Super Bowl appearance in Seattle, it's time for someone else.

The nearest and most qualified someone else is former Falcons coach Jim Mora, now a Seahawks assistant. Mora was due to leave Wednesday for Washington to interview for the head job with the Redskins.

Holmgren acknowledged all his assistant coaches are "in a little limbo," too.

"In fairness to everybody, there's also a time where maybe it's time for someone else to get you over the hump," Holmgren said of the Seahawks, who are without a league title since their inception in 1976.

"You start thinking, 'Are they still listening to me? Am I still as effective as I once was?'"

It's the most open he's been in discussing retirement, which he has hinted for months he may do this offseason.

But, he emphasized, he hasn't decided anything. Yet.

"It's not going to be a long thing. Just bear with me a little bit," he said.

Holmgren also announced leading receiver Deion Branch will have knee surgery that's likely to keep him out past next season's opener.

Branch sought the second opinion this week of noted specialist Dr. James Andrews, who confirmed the team's diagnosis



Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren smiles as he addresses reporters at a news conference on Tuesday.

of a torn anterior cruciate ligament in Branch's left knee. Andrews will perform the surgery in Alabama "soon," Holmgren said. The coach estimated that the former Super Bowl MVP, injured early in the loss to the Packers, will miss at least nine months.

Shaun Alexander, the league MVP two seasons ago who just finished his least productive season as a starter, will have surgery to repair the left wrist he broke in the season opener. It never healed under the cast with which he played the rest of the season, as doctors

hoped.

Holmgren also said All-Pro left tackle Walter Jones, who turns 34 Saturday, is likely to have surgery on his chronically sore left shoulder for the second consecutive offseason.

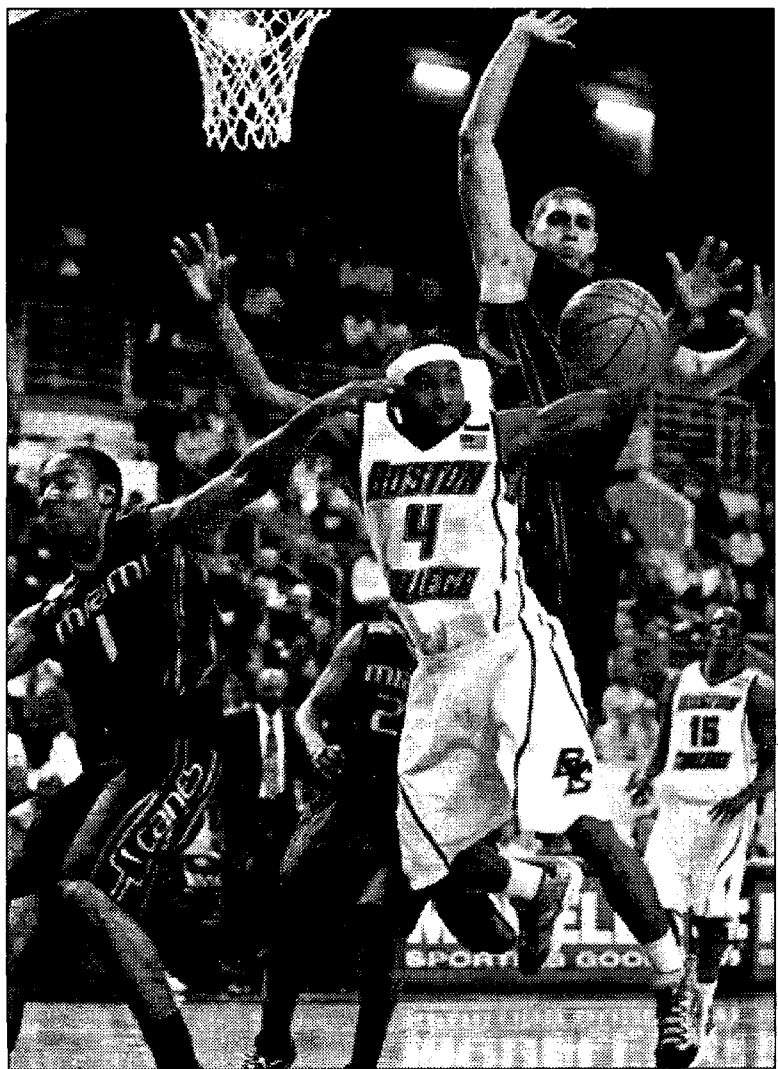
As for his own health, Holmgren scoffed at Sunday's revelation from linebacker Julian Peterson that the coach had a gall bladder problem this season.

The coach said health is not a factor in the decision on his future.

"No, I'm good. ... I feel fine," Holmgren said.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Boston College upsets Hurricanes in 21st straight series win



Eagles guard Tyrese Rice eyes a loose ball during Boston College's 76-66 win over Miami Tuesday.

Associated Press

BOSTON — Tyrelle Blair blocked five shots against Miami, and that was enough to make the Hurricanes worry about him every time they put the ball up.

"I think he changed more shots than he blocked," Boston College coach Al Skinner said after the Eagles beat No. 21 Miami 76-66 on Tuesday night. "That's probably as important."

Blair had 11 points and 12 rebounds to go with his blocks, and Rakim Sanders scored 20 points to lead BC to its 13th consecutive victory over the Hurricanes. Tyrese Rice had 14 points, eight rebounds and six assists as BC (12-4, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat a ranked opponent for the first time since last February.

Jack McClinton scored 20 points on 6-for-26 shooting for Miami, which had won consecutive games since it lost to Winthrop on Dec. 29 to snap a season-opening 12-game winning streak. James Dews scored 15 points for the Hurricanes (14-2, 1-1), who would have tied the best start in school history with a win.

The Eagles had lost two of three — a 25-point defeat to No. 3 Kansas and another that was even more embarrassing: 57-51 at home to Robert

Morris last Monday.

"Coach called us out after the Kansas game," Rice said. "We took it to heart. We tried to prove that we could be better than people think we can."

Boston College scored 14 of the first 16 points and led 50-27 with 11:26 to play before McClinton hit a 3-pointer to start a 23-10 run that pulled Miami back into the game. He had 13 points in all over the five-minute span, including three 3-pointers.

The Hurricanes were still down 68-58 with 3:13 left, but despite their full-court pressure and fouling they couldn't get any closer than nine points. BC hit 14 of 18 free throws down the stretch.

"We obviously got off to a slow start. They just took it to us," Miami coach Frank Haith said. "Rakim Sanders was amazing. Blair just intimidated our guys. The first two plays of the game, we tried to get the ball inside. We need to get the ball inside, but Blair affected us."

It was BC's first victory over a ranked opponent since it beat then-No. 16 Virginia Tech last Feb. 3.

Miami, which leads the ACC in 3-point percentage, was just 8-of-26 from beyond the arc, making 3-of-13 in the first half. Miami missed its first 13 3-point attempts in Saturday's

victory over Georgia Tech, and missed 14 of its first 15 shots overall against BC.

"We came out with a nonchalant attitude and didn't execute as well as we should have. That attitude put us in a hole," McClinton said. "It's on us. There's really nothing the coaches can do. We have to prepare for the challenge."

In November, BC snapped a 15-game losing streak against Miami in football — its first victory over the Hurricanes since the "Hail Flutie" pass ended one of the greatest games in college history. But Miami's chances of ending its losing streak against BC in basketball disappeared quickly.

The Hurricanes missed their first five shots before McClinton hit a jumper, while Boston College scored the first eight points of the game and opened a 14-2 lead with 13:21 left in the first half.

The Eagles made it 20-4 before the Hurricanes strung some offense together, cutting the deficit to 20-10 on two 3-pointers by Dews. BC took a 17-point lead on John Oates' 3-pointer with just under 2 minutes left and led 36-22 at half-time.

Miami shot 26.5 percent (9-for-34) in the first half, making 3-of-13 from 3-point range, and totaling just three assists as a team.

NHL

Hossa nets hat trick in Atlanta's rout of Detroit

Ovechkin's power play goal in third helps Caps beat Senators; Theodore shuts out Tampa Bay in Avs win

Associated Press

DETROIT — Marian Hossa gave himself and the Atlanta Thrashers a big boost.

Hossa scored the team's first three goals and Kari Lehtonen made 46 saves in a 5-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Tuesday night.

"It's great to get three goals and help the team," Hossa said. "But also help with the self-confidence."

It was Hossa's seventh career hat trick and first in nearly a year — since Jan. 16, 2007. Eric Perrin and Slava Kozlov also scored, while Tobias Enstrom and Mark Recchi each added two assists for Atlanta.

"It's a lot of fun. Obviously, I have a lot of family and friends here — about 40 tickets or so. It was well worth it," said Don Waddell, Atlanta's executive vice president, general manager and coach.

Waddell is from Detroit and a former Red Wings assistant general manager.

"I have to say, I was looking forward to this day, and now that it's here and gone I'm pretty happy about it," he said.

Niklas Kronwall scored for NHL-leading Detroit, which has lost three straight. Chris Osgood stopped 13 shots before being pulled in favor of Dominik Hasek less than halfway through the game.

"They were better than us early," Red Wings coach Mike Babcock said. "They scored on their opportunities and we didn't."

Hossa, who has 19 goals, opened the scoring with a power-play goal 7:33 in when he skated out of the corner to the front of the net and beat Osgood.

His second goal came with 5:38 left in the opening period when Hossa stripped the puck from Detroit defenseman Brett Lebda in the Red Wings zone and put a shot between Osgood's torso and arm.

He made it 3-0 just 1:14 into the second period on a wristed shot from the high slot.

"They were some of the greatest goals, too," Waddell said. "His first goal, coming out of the corner; his second goal; and the third goal, a one-timer off the quick pass there. Those are great goals."

Perrin's power-play goal made it 4-0 at 7:28 and sent Osgood to the bench.

It was the first time since he rejoined Detroit in 2006 that Hasek has come in during a game. Detroit is usually hesitant

to bring him off the bench cold because of his history of groin injuries.

"Mike told me after the third goal to get ready, so I stretched a little bit," Hasek said. "I stretched for about five minutes. I felt comfortable going in."

The Thrashers didn't have a shot for the remainder of the period while Detroit took 19 at Lehtonen from that point until the end of the period. The Red Wings had 16 shots in the third period.

"They just showed they never give up," Lehtonen said. "I'm sure some teams would be done after a 4-0 lead, but they kept coming and coming and I was very lucky to be able to keep the score the way it was."

And though he was busy stopping pucks, he also found time to be a spectator.

"I never played against Detroit before and just to see [Pavel] Datsyuk and [Henrik] Zetterberg, it's just amazing skill level," Lehtonen said. "It was nice to be there. I think I had the best seat in the house to watch those guys do their tricks and I was lucky enough to make the saves tonight."

Kronwall foiled Lehtonen's shutout bid with 6:18 left, but Kozlov got his 13th goal with a minute left.

Capitals 4, Senators 2

Bruce Boudreau can't explain the Washington Capitals' dominance of the Ottawa Senators. The rookie coach is certainly happy to be done playing the offense-laden Eastern Conference leaders.

Alexander Ovechkin scored the tiebreaking goal on a third-period power play as the Capitals completed a season sweep of Ottawa with a victory Tuesday night.

"Somehow, we've got their number," Boudreau said. "I don't know why it happens."

Asked if he was sorry to have met Ottawa for the final time this season, Boudreau responded quickly: "Absolutely not. They're the best team in the

league. We don't want to play them every night."

On the day the Capitals learned they had lost center Michael Nylander for the rest of the season, they shrugged off his absence to complete the club's first sweep of Ottawa since 1995-96.

Ovechkin collected Brooks Laich's long rebound between the circles and pushed in a knuckling shot that glanced off the right leg pad of Ottawa's Ray Emery at 9:11. Ovechkin's team-leading 34th goal sealed Washington's fourth win this season against the Senators, whose 62 points are second-most in the NHL.

"They're leading our division, so this is very important to win," Ovechkin said. "But for us, it doesn't matter who we play. We have to win. Two points is two points, whether it's against Ottawa or anyone. We want to go up [in the standings]."

Alexander Semin had two goals and an assist and Mike Green also tallied for the Capitals. Tomas Fleischmann added two assists.

"There are teams in the league you play good against," Green said. "Ottawa, we just seem to get excited to play them."

Dean McAmmond and Wade Redden scored for Ottawa.

"Every game we lost [to Washington] this year, it's our own doing," Senators defenseman Chris Phillips said. "Beating ourselves, making mistakes and they're capitalizing on them."

Both teams played without key offensive personnel out with shoulder injuries.

Ottawa forward Dany Heatley, the team's second-leading scorer with 25 goals and 31 assists, sat out his second game and will miss up to six weeks with a separated right shoulder. Nylander, whose 37 points are second-most on the Capitals, will undergo season-ending surgery Wednesday to repair a torn left rotator cuff.

Washington, which outscored

Ottawa 18-10 in its previous three victories, took a 1-0 lead on Green's 13th goal 47 seconds into the second period on a power play. Green, dashing through the right circle, converted Viktor Kozlov's tricky pass out of the left corner and through the crease.

McAmmond and Redden struck 1:22 apart in the second to put Ottawa up 2-1. From between the circles, McAmmond ricocheted a shot off the stick of defenseman John Erskine at 13:41.

Redden whacked Patrick Eaves' rebound past Brent Johnson at 15:03.

Semin tied it again 23 seconds later, intercepting a pass, driving down the right wing and lifting a shot over Emery.

After Ovechkin put Washington ahead, Semin gave the Capitals a two-goal advantage, poking home a loose puck at 11:56.

Avalanche 3, Lightning 0

Colorado goalie Jose Theodore was the big star on the ice. Tampa Bay coach John Tortorella stole the postgame spotlight.

Theodore made 22 of his 32 saves in the third period, leading the Avalanche past the Lightning on Tuesday night. It was his 24th career shutout and first since Feb. 28, 2004, against Carolina. He had gone 109 games without recording a shutout.

"It feels like it's been a while, obviously," Theodore said. "Every time you enter a game, you always think about the shutout. You want to win, but when you look back, it's always a bonus. A shutout is really a team effort."

Tampa Bay's poor play through the first two periods resulted in a heated postgame media session by Tortorella.

"It's probably the most embarrassed and disappointed I've been since I've been here," Tortorella said. "I've never been more embarrassed."

The Lightning, last in the Eastern Conference, have lost

12 of 15.

Jeff Finger and Paul Stastny had power-play goals for the Avalanche, who have won three games in a row. Milan Hejduk added an empty-net goal with 1:34 left.

"It was one of those games where special teams got us the win in the end," Stastny said.

Tampa Bay's Vincent Lecavalier was held without a point for the third straight game, his longest drought this season.

Colorado's struggling power play converted its first opportunity when Finger snapped a personal 18-game goal-scoring drought at 5:30 of the second. The Avalanche entered with the second-worst power-play unit in the NHL and had just one man-advantage goal in 29 chances over the previous nine games.

Stastny made it 2-0 with a rebound goal on Colorado's third power-play with 3:33 left in the second. It was the fifth time this season, and first since Dec. 9, that the Avalanche scored more than one power-play goal.

Colorado outshot Tampa Bay 20-10 through two periods, including 11-3 in the second. Theodore was rarely tested during the stretch but did stop a high-slot shot by Brad Richards late in the second.

The Lightning's Karri Ramo kept his team within two by making a glove save on Tyler Arnason's shot from the low slot early in the third. He finished with 22 saves.

"Our second period, it was awful," Ramo said. "We didn't have any energy."

Tampa Bay had 10 of the first 12 shot during the opening six minutes of the third, but Theodore turned aside an in-close shot by Martin St. Louis.

"I thought he was rock-solid," Colorado coach Joel Quenneville said. "He looks real sharp in this last stretch of games, and tonight was as good as we've seen him."

The Lightning failed to convert on two power plays, both coming in the third.

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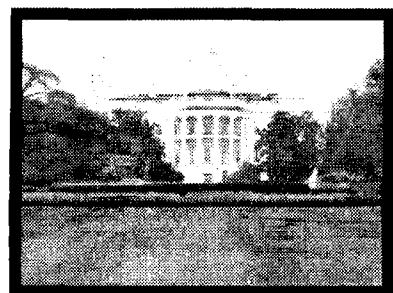
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FENCING

Foilist dominates in season opener

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Adi Nott began 2008 even better than she ended 2007. The junior foilist went 15-0 at the Air Force Western Invite last weekend and led the Notre Dame women to a victory in the season-opening team event.

Nott, who captured third at the 2007 NCAA Championships, finished the weekend competition with a touch count of 75-5, including 12 shutout wins.

But she wasn't the only Irish fencer to dominate her weapon. Sophomore epeeist Kelley Hurley and freshman foilist Hayley Reese each went 15-0 in to Notre Dame's victories over Air Force, Stanford, Cal State Fullerton, UC San Diego and Florida.

"They showed great form. They showed the great level. It was a pleasure to observe their bout," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said of the performances of Nott, Hurley and Reese.

The Irish men went 4-1, beating Air Force, Cal State Fullerton, Florida and UCSD. Notre Dame's only team loss was a 14-13 defeat to Stanford. Foilists Mark Kubik, a junior, and Teddy Hodges, a freshman, led the squad in winning percentage with identical 10-1 records. Junior sabre Bill Thanhouer finished 13-2, and junior epeeist Karol Kostka went 10-2.

The Irish defeated the Cardinal 7-2 in foil and 5-4 in epee, but lost 8-1 in sabre. Notre Dame's top two sabreists — freshmen Avery Zuck and Barron Nydam — did not compete because they were fencing at the Junior World Cup in Goppogen, Germany.

"We didn't have a full team," Bednarski said. "The best kids were sent to Europe."

Still, with Stanford's loss to Air Force after the Cardinal

beat Notre Dame, the Irish nabbed a team victory. Notre Dame finished with a higher bout winning percentage than Stanford, and thus won the event — though Bednarski said the team had left Cadet Gymnasium before the final tally confirmed the victory.

"Frankly speaking, we took first, not a tie for first," Bednarski said.

Besides the absence of Zuck and Nydam, Notre Dame also fenced without senior foilist Jakub Jedrkowiak, who had not yet returned from winter break from his native Poland. Bednarski was pleased with the performance of the fencers who took the places of the missing competitors.

"They showed great form. They showed the great level. It was a pleasure to observe their bout."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

"Most important, this competition — we got a lot of freshmen ... and they were able to see what NCAA competition was like," Bednarski said. "They got experience."

Note:

Notre Dame signed the nation's No. 1 foilist, 17-year-old Gerek Meinhardt, to a scholarship beginning with the 2008-09 academic year.

Meinhardt, who is a virtual lock to be part of the U.S. Olympic team for the 2008 Beijing Games, holds the distinction of being the only male fencer to compete with the U.S. senior, junior (under-20) and cadet (under-17) national teams in the same season.

Meinhardt, who has a reputation as an excellent student in addition to his fencing acumen, will work with second-year Irish foil coach Gia Kvaratskhelia. Bednarski said the ability to work with Kvaratskhelia was a major reason Meinhardt chose the Irish.

"We were very happy," Bednarski said of Meinhardt's signing. "He had the door open for all the Ivy League."

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SMC BASKETBALL

Team improves despite 6-7 record

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Going 3-3 over break wasn't what Saint Mary's hoped for, but it continued to improve as conference play began.

The Belles started their break with a loss to undefeated Hope, the top-ranked team in the MIAA. Saint Mary's continued with two wins against North Park and Kenyon and a loss to Otterbein to close out 2007.

"Our team has seen some very good competition over the holiday break, both in and out of conference play," Belles head coach Jennifer Henley said.

The start of the new year gave the Belles a fresh start against their conference opponents when they took on Alma.

The Scots took the lead early in the game, but freshman Liz

Wade tied the game at 18 with seven minutes to go in the first half. A layup by Mary Lynn Carlson and four free throws by Erin Newsom in the last two minutes of the first half gave the Belles a boost as they headed into the second half, leading 33-27.

The Scots' defense wasn't able to stop the Belles from scoring 26 points in the second half. Alma started a comeback in the last six minutes of the game, scoring 20 points in that time. Alison Kessler's four free throws in the last 30 seconds and a missed 3-pointer by Alma at the buzzer gave Saint Mary's its 59-56 win.

On Jan. 9, conference play continued for the Belles when they traveled to Albion, the second-place team in the MIAA. Saint Mary's had trouble scoring in the opening period and trailed 36-22 at the half. The struggle continued in

the second half for the Belles, with Albion consistently raising its lead. The Belles' missed shots and Albion's tough defense handed Saint Mary's an 85-56 loss.

Saint Mary's has held its own against conference opponents this season, and is presently No. 6 in the MIAA. The team will play at Kalamazoo tonight at 7:30. The Hornets are in eighth place, two behind the Belles.

"Kalamazoo is a good team. They are strong on the inside as well as on the boards," Henley said. "It will be a good challenge for us as we continue to play on the road. At this point in the season we know what we are capable of doing — it's just a matter of finding some consistency from this point on."

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish make a splash in opener

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame made waves in its last dual meet over winter break with a 174-126 victory over Oakland on Saturday.

The Irish should benefit from the victory that followed a successful winter training session in Florida and leads into an important stretch of meets.

"We had an excellent training trip," head coach Tim Welsh said. "We got a lot of work done while we were down there, and morale was high."

Leading the way for Notre Dame were sophomores John Lytle and Ross Moore and junior Michael Bulfin, each of whom placed first in two events and combined for six of the 10 Irish victories that came in 16 events.

Lytle's first victory came in the 200-yard freestyle as he clocked in at 1:41.08. The result in the 100-yard freestyle was similar: Lytle's

time of 46.27 was good enough for his second victory of the day.

Moore's wins came in the 200-yard fly (1:51.59) and 100-yard fly (50.44). Bulfin secured first-place finishes in both the 3-meter dive (380.62) and 1-meter dive (327.82).

Irish divers also filled the next three spots in each event. In the 3-meter dive, senior Sam Stoner finished second, followed by freshmen Eric Lex and Geary Nathan. In the 1-meter event, Lex and Stoner swapped positions, while senior Steven Crowe finished fourth.

Sophomore Andrew Hoffman also had a productive day. He was part of a 200-meter medley relay team that finished second, took first in the 50-yard freestyle (21.31), and finished third in the 100-yard freestyle (47.58).

A sweep of the top three spots in the 1,000-meter freestyle, all claimed by freshmen, also helped put the

Irish on top. Michael Sullivan took first with a time of 9:40.20, Christopher Douville was second (9:42.67), and Steven Brus (9:58.54) completed the sweep.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Christopher Wills, another freshman, finished first in 52.18, while junior Bill Bauman (53.28) finished third. Rounding out the victories for the Irish was sophomore Andrew Deters, who won the 500-yard freestyle in 4:38.22. He was followed by freshman Joshua Nosal, whose time of 4:43.37 was good enough for second place.

Welsh was pleased that the Irish pulled out a victory while still showing some fatigue from the rigorous winter training regimen.

"When you do so much hard training, you never know how it's going to go," Welsh said. "We had a solid meet on Saturday and got a good look at what we need to do to swim faster."

The Irish will be busy next weekend. They will host conference foe Louisville on Friday at the Rolfs Aquatic Center, and then head to Evansville, Ill., to take on Northwestern on Saturday.

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SMC SWIMMING

Belles lose only winter break meet

By PETE REISENAUER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's had one meet over winter break — a dual meet against unbeaten Hope — and fell to the Flying Dutch.

In the Jan. 11 meet, Hope was able to win 10 of the 16 events and moved its record to a perfect 5-0 overall and 4-0 in dual meets.

Meanwhile, the Belles dropped to 5-2 overall and 2-1 in dual meets on the year.

The meet started out close, but Hope was able to win seven consecutive events to seal the victory. Although it is the first season of diving for Saint Mary's after a two-year hiatus, Leah Bocinsky was able to win the three-meter diving competition, finishing as one of the strongest competitors in the meet.

Senior captain Kelly Tighe won the individual 200-yard race with a time of 2:29 to win that event for the Belles. Another strong finisher was fellow captain Melissa Gerbeth, who won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:26.

Saint Mary's travels to Olivet on Friday.

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Prince

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back who carried 15 times for 21 yards in 2006, played sparingly in 2007 and made three tackles. He was also involved in an infamous play during the 38-0 loss to USC on Oct. 20 when an Irish punt hit him and the Trojans recovered the resulting loose ball.

On the recruiting front, Notre Dame lost the verbal commitment of one highly-regarded player, but added another to its ranks.

Defensive tackle Omar Hunter from Buford, Ga., abruptly dropped his commitment to the Irish, deciding instead to choose between Georgia and Florida, two schools closer to home.

"He's a loss definitely," said Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame recruiting for IrishEyes.com. "It's rare that you get a guy with that kind of size that moves as well as he does."

Hunter's de-commitment had a controversial element. Frank said he believes the high school senior kept the

Irish coaching staff in the dark about his wavering intentions.

"I definitely believe that he was not being upfront about his interest in other schools," Frank said. "It came as a big surprise to Notre Dame that he was wavering at all."

To replace Hunter on the incoming

"It's really important to continue to land elite guys one right after another because that breeds competition."

Mike Frank
IrishEyes.com
recruiting analyst

freshman list, Notre Dame has targeted defensive lineman Mike Martin. The Redford, Mich., native is currently verbally committed to Michigan, but has felt uncomfortable with the Wolverines head coach

Rich Rodriguez's staff, Frank said.

"[Rodriguez's staff hasn't] done a lot of recruiting of him," Franks said. "They just hired a defensive coordinator. [Notre Dame defensive coordinator] Corwin Brown has taken advantage of that."

"It will come down to where

[Martin] feels the most comfortable."

On Jan. 5, Notre Dame received a verbal commitment from wide receiver Deion Walker. Walker is rated the 11th best wideout in the country by Scout.com.

The Christchurch, Va., native joined Scout.com's fifth-and 21st-

best receivers, Michael Floyd and John Goodman, respectively, on Notre Dame's commitment list.

"It's really important to continue to land elite guys one right after another because that breeds competition," Frank said.

Notre Dame's recruiting class is ranked No. 1 in the nation by Scout.com, just ahead of Alabama and Georgia. As of Tuesday, it featured 22 players.

Two of those players — offensive lineman Trevor Robinson and defensive lineman Sean Cwynar — attended their first classes at Notre Dame on Tuesday as early-entry freshmen. They will participate in spring practice.

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Break

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teamed her when she didn't have the ball. We really didn't do what we wanted to do."

Notre Dame opened conference play with an 82-74 win over Louisville on Jan. 8. Irish guard Charel Allen scored 26 points on 10-of-16 shooting and grabbed nine rebounds, her best performance of the year. The teams were tied at the half, but a 10-2 Irish run in the second half helped Notre Dame pull away. Freshman forward Devereaux Peters earned her first start in the game.

Notre Dame ranks third in the Big East in scoring, but against West Virginia it forgot why and how. The Irish shot 17.9 percent from the field in the first half and scored only 11 points at the break.

"I kept looking out there going, 'What can I do?'" McGraw said.

The Irish found their way in the second half and worked their way back into the game. Notre Dame trailed by three with 1:22 remaining, but the Mountaineers made a field goal and eight foul shots that put the game out of reach. Notre Dame's 11 first-half points was a school-record low.

"I felt we played individually instead of as a team," McGraw said. "They needed to work together a little bit more, and that's why I felt there was a big change in the second half because we did work together a lot more."

Freshman guard Brittany Mallory hit a season-high three 3-point shots in the game. The Irish recruited Mallory for her long-range abilities, and McGraw said she likes Mallory on the perimeter.

"We need a 3-point threat, and I think she has to be that threat

for us," McGraw said.

The Irish also defeated IUPUI, St. Francis and Richmond during the break.

Notre Dame continues conference play against Villanova tonight at 7 in the Joyce Center. The Wildcats (11-5, 1-2 Big East) defeated Georgetown on Saturday 57-51 at home, after dropping two of three.

Villanova, McGraw said, plays a five-guard system, similar to Notre Dame's four-guard style. The system is especially taxing on the larger Irish team, McGraw said.

"They have a lot of motion in their offense, so it's very difficult and they're very, very, very smart," McGraw said. "They read the defense well, and they look at every opportunity to get an open shot. It makes it really hard defensively for our big guys, especially, to guard them."

Notre Dame may play five guards to counter the offense, an option McGraw said the team did last year and something she referred to as Plan B.

The Wildcats have three players — forwards Stacie Witman and Laura Kurz and forward/center Lisa Karcic — who average in double figures. The trio has scored 98 of the Wildcats' 106 points in the past two games and scored Villanova's only points in its 51-49 loss to Seton Hall on Jan. 8.

McGraw said Peters will come off the bench against Villanova despite earning a starting nod against Louisville.

"She does great things when she's in there," McGraw said. "Maybe with this game in particular she can watch a little bit more, and see what she can see from the bench."

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Rebound

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for just the second time of the season. But Luke Harangody scored 22 second-half points and 25 total as the Irish cruised to their program-record 31st straight win at the Joyce Center.

"We needed to relax in there and just play our game," Harangody said. "That's what we did in the second half."

McAlarney made four 3-pointers after halftime and finished with 22 points.

"I think one of [the 3-pointers], I actually called it in front of the bench before it even went in," McAlarney said. "It feels great; as soon as it leaves your hand, you know it's going in."

After Irish junior forward Zach Hilesland made two free throws to tie the game at 25, Cincinnati scored five straight points on a basket by freshman forward Kenny Belton and a 3-pointer by senior guard Marvin Gentry. Notre Dame then called a timeout to regroup, but the Irish were still unable to cut into Cincinnati's lead and the Bearcats went into the break leading 34-27.

But Harangody said the Irish never questioned their ability to grind out the win.

"We're a confident group and seven points isn't anything to us," Harangody said. "Everyone on the team knows what we're capable of."

The Irish displayed their propensity for scoring in bunches in the second half.

With 14:30 left, Harangody made a short jumper to cap an 11-0 Notre Dame run and give the Irish a 48-42 lead. The Irish never allowed Cincinnati to close the gap to fewer than three points the rest of the game and led by as many as 19.

To the delight of the Joyce Center crowd, Irish sophomore

guard Jonathan Peoples threw down a breakaway dunk with four seconds left in the game.

"He pumped his shoes up, I guess," Jackson said of his teammate's aerial maneuver. "He had the air-pumps on."

The Irish shot 6-of-25 from the field in the opening frame, and no player for either team scored more than seven points in the first half.

But Brey said the team closed the game well enough to leave him confident for Saturday's showdown with No. 5 Georgetown in Washington, D.C.

"I look at it always as the glass half-full," Brey said. "We just played a great half before we go play Georgetown."

Marquette 92, Notre Dame 66

MILWAUKEE — The Notre Dame team that won its first two Big East games forgot to board the bus destined for the Bradley Center on Saturday, and the Marquette club that lost to West Virginia and struggled against bottom-dwelling Seton Hall didn't show up either.

The result? A Marquette blowout of Notre Dame that allowed many in the packed arena to leave early and get home in time for the start of the Green Bay Packers playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks.

"I did a double take to make sure that counted as one loss," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "They were fabulous. The last eight, nine minutes, man, I'm saying, 'I want to get guys out and get them ready for Tuesday because we're not closing the gap today.' Everybody in the building knew that. They were putting on their Brett Favre jerseys with 10 minutes to play."

Thanks to a lethal combination of lightning-quick guard play on both ends of the floor and dead-eye outside shooting, No. 13 Marquette dealt the Irish a blow to their confi-

dence and their worst loss in the 109 meetings between the two schools.

Marquette shot 12-for-24 from three-point range and had five players score double figures.

Guard Jerel McNeil led the way with 18, forward Lazar Hayward netted 17 to go along with 11 rebounds, and guard Dominic James had 16 points and seven assists.

The Golden Eagles were as balanced offensively as a skilled tight-rope walker. Notre Dame, if on that same high wire, would have crashed to the ground.

Marquette had trouble stopping Irish forward Luke Harangody, who had 29 points to lead Notre Dame, but after Harangody, Notre Dame's production on offense fell considerably. Forward Rob Kurz was the only other Irish player in double figures with 11 points. Guard Kyle McAlarney, who had a career-high 32 points against Connecticut, had a hard time getting open against Marquette's pressure defense and finished with only eight points.

"Nothing really went well for us," Brey said. "But it was a lot of Marquette playing very, very well. A lot of guys for them made big shots and big plays."

A Kurz 3-pointer cut Marquette's lead to five with 17:12 to play, but after that, the rout was on. Marquette went on a 10-1 run over the next two minutes. James, who finished the first half with just three points had five points and two assists during that key run which put the lead back up to 14. (56-42).

Forward Wesley Matthews, who finished with 15, extended Marquette's lead to 20 with 10:58 to play. Notre Dame never got closer than 15 the rest of the way.

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Struggles

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(and current No. 7) Michigan State to a 1-1 tie.

"We haven't played our best hockey, that's for sure," said senior center Mark Van Guilder, whose 18 points (8 goals, 10 assists) are second on the team to Erik Condra's 27 points (10 goals, 17 assists). "I think if we keep playing well defensively, the puck will start going in for us."

The return of freshman defensemen Ian Cole from U.S. Junior competition and Teddy Ruth from injury, described by Jackson as "two of our best shots from the point, and two of our grittiest defensemen," should help cure some of the team's recent struggles, especially when it comes to the fatigue of their fellow defensemen.

As Cole and Ruth return, however, the Irish lost another emerging freshman in forward Robin Bergman. Bergman, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, has decided not to return to the University this semester, returning to his USHL team in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"It was a culmination of things for [Robin] — nothing negative," Jackson said of the freshman who netted one goal and six assists in 20 games played. "It was all a little overwhelming for him: the academics, the schedule with hockey and training ... it's a pretty tough and demanding thing, and for freshmen, sometimes it's a bit of a culture shock."

Bergman could still potentially return to Notre Dame and the

team, as defenseman Luke Lucyk did after leaving the school early last year for another season in juniors, but, as Jackson said, "it's in [Bergman's] hands."

With No. 1 Michigan looming ahead this weekend, the Irish will need to rid themselves of their winter doldrums in a hurry if they hope to compete. The Wolverines will have home-ice advantage Friday before the two teams take center-stage at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Jackson says the Palace showcase will allow the Irish to "sell our game" to Michigan-based alumni and potential recruits alike, as well as affording current players the opportunity to play in a large, storied venue. It will also bring in additional revenue for the hockey program.

So while the Irish, who were 20-5-1 through 26 games a year ago, may not have the ideal record or the nation's top-ranking (as they did last season) to show for their efforts thus far, a difficult schedule has already begun to prepare the team for its broader goals: tournament play.

"[Playing such a tough schedule] kind of gets to you a little bit, but I think it's only going to make us better for the end of the season," Van Guilder said. "When it comes down to it, you're going to have to beat top-ranked teams in the CCHA playoffs."

"Last year, we may have peaked a little bit earlier, but I'd prefer playing our best hockey come tournament time, and there's plenty of time to build toward the playoffs."

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46556

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Pressing the Bearcats

Squad follows blowout with 31st home win

By FRAN TOLAN and
CHRIS HINE
Sports Writers

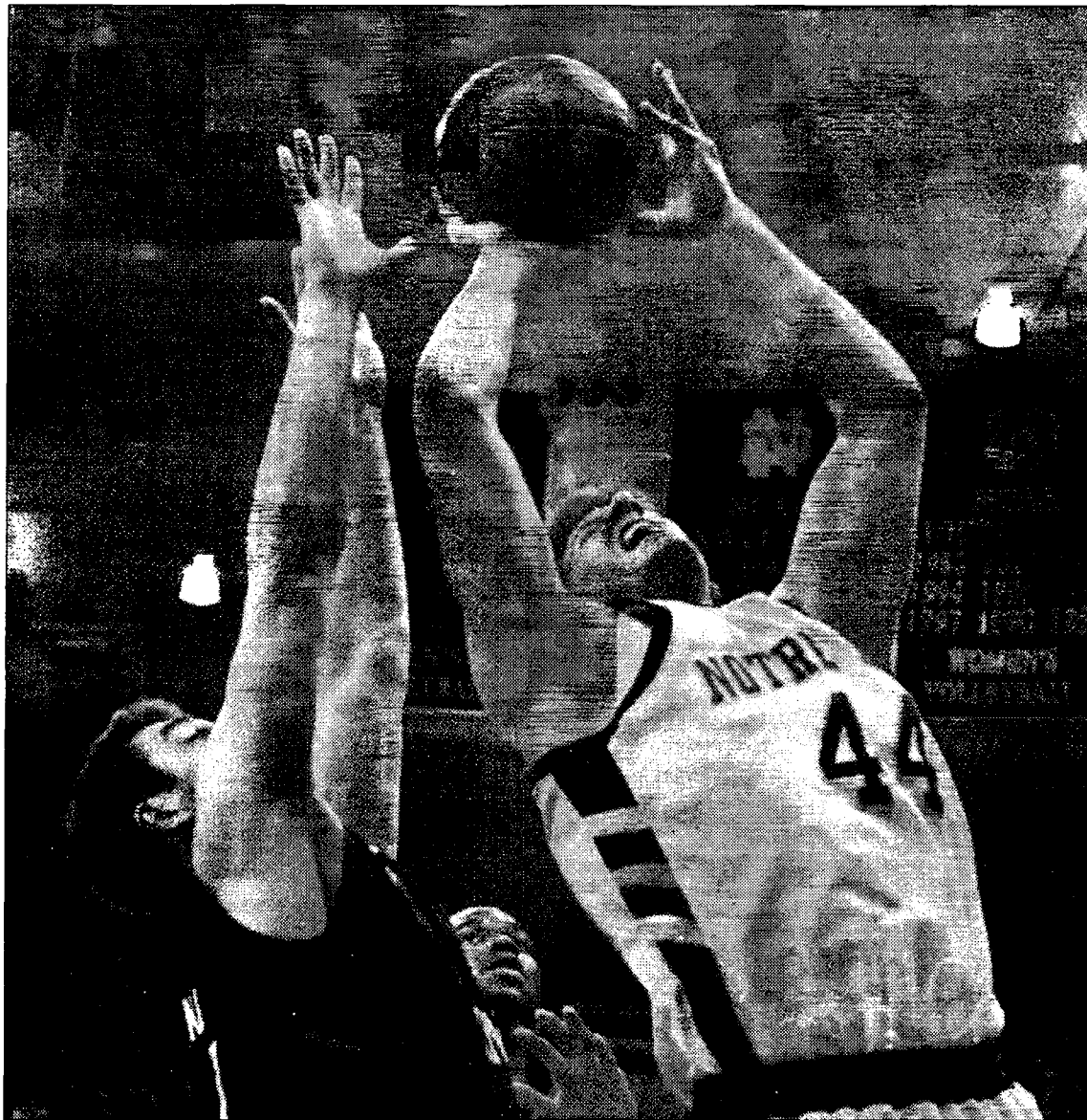
Just when it looked like Notre Dame's 30-game home win streak might be in jeopardy, the Irish simply applied pressure to stop the bleeding. After trailing for most of the first half, the team employed a full-court press to propel it past Cincinnati 91-74 Tuesday night.

Less than five minutes into the second half, Irish junior guard Ryan Ayers stole the Bearcats' inbounds pass and dropped in an easy layup to give Notre Dame its first lead of the half and just its third of the contest. On the following play, sophomore guard Tory Jackson forced a turnover then passed the ball to junior Kyle McAlarney for a 3-pointer, giving the Irish a 46-42 lead.

"That [defensive pressure] got us going and the building going and kind of jumpstarted the whole thing," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "That's kind of what you needed in a game like that."

Coming off their worst defeat of the season — a 26-point loss Saturday to Marquette — the Irish were flat in the first half and trailed at the break

see REBOUND/page 26



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish forward Luke Harangody attempts a shot in the low post during Notre Dame's 91-74 win over Cincinnati Tuesday night at the Joyce Center.

FOOTBALL

3 seniors apply for fifth year

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

Even without a bowl game to play in, it was a busy holiday season for Notre Dame.

Irish coach Charlie Weis saw one player transfer, then welcomed back three who announced they will apply for a fifth year.

On Jan. 8, Weis released a statement announcing that linebacker Maurice Crum, defensive lineman Justin Brown and cornerback Terrail Lambert will apply for a fifth year of eligibility.

Crum started all 12 games last season and ranked fourth on the team in tackles with 84. He also intercepted two passes, recovered two fumbles and scored a touchdown in the team's 20-6 win over UCLA on Oct. 6.

Lambert also started every game last season, recording 34 tackles and one interception. Brown played in 10 games, started five and made 30 tackles and one sack.

In the same statement, Weis announced that sophomore cornerback Munir Prince has elected to leave the University and will enroll elsewhere.

Prince, a converted running

see PRINCE/page 26

HOCKEY

Offense struggles in six break games

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

After posting a 2-3-1 mark during an up-and-down holiday break during which the No. 8 Irish failed to win consecutive games, Notre Dame saw its record fall to 18-7-1 and its ranking drop two spots.

Much of the blame for the sudden cold stretch can be attributed to its inability to score four or more goals in any of its games over break. Conversely, during a nine-game winning streak directly preceding the winter break, the Irish scored four or more goals eight times.

"I am concerned about [the lack of scoring], but I'm hoping we'll get out of it sooner rather than later," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "It's better that it happens now rather than in March."

Special teams play has emerged as a concern for the Irish, between a sputtering power-play unit mired in a 0-for-30 streak and a penalty-killing unit that has taken a dip as of late. Changes have been made,

but consistency has become Jackson's main priority.

"Changing things isn't the answer anymore," Jackson said. "You get to the point where you keep changing things, and it only magnifies the problem. It's just a matter of putting the right chemistry set together."

The Irish rode a nine-game winning streak heading into the Lightning College Hockey Classic in St. Petersburg, Fla., but fell 4-3 to Massachusetts, now ranked No. 10, in the tourney opener on Dec. 29. They defeated Rensselaer 3-1 the next day.

The Irish then traveled to Marquette, Mich., and took a split in a two-game set with Northern Michigan. After losing the first game 2-1 on Jan. 4., Notre Dame took game two the next day by the same margin before traveling to East Lansing, Mich., and falling to Michigan State 3-1 on Jan. 11.

In their first home game since a 5-0 thrashing of Nebraska-Omaha on Dec. 1, the Irish finally returned to the Joyce Center of Jan. 13, playing then-No. 9

see STRUGGLES/page 26

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish lose twice to ranked teams

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

The Irish won four of their six games over the break, but their perimeter defense haunted them once again.

No. 17 Notre Dame lost both games played against ranked teams — at home against No. 2 Tennessee 87-63 on Jan. 5 and at No. 14 West Virginia 56-50 Sunday. The Irish (13-3, 1-1 Big East) allowed 11 three-pointers against Tennessee, their highest since they allowed 12 to Maryland on Nov. 16.

Tennessee guard Angie Bjorklund destroyed the Irish defense, hitting 7-of-9 on 3-point attempts. Irish coach Muffet McGraw called her team's performance a "total breakdown of the defense."

Volunteers forward Candace Parker added 20 points and eight rebounds. McGraw said the team may have focused its defense too much on Parker, something it did not intend to do.

"We really weren't planning on trying to shut Parker down," McGraw said. "We were going to double team her if she got the ball. We kind of triple-teamed her sometimes, and double-

see BREAK/page 26



AP

Volunteers forward Candace Parker attempts a shot during No. 2 Tennessee's 87-63 win over No. 17 Notre Dame on Jan. 5.