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Poorman steps down after 11 years

Vice president of Student Affairs to be succeeded by Fr. Thomas Doyle on June 30

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Fr. Mark Poorman, vice president for Student Affairs, will step down from his position at the end of the school year, the University announced Tuesday.

Poorman has served as vice president for 11 years and will be succeeded by Fr. Thomas Doyle on June 30.

Doyle currently serves as executive vice president at the University of Portland, a Catholic university in Portland, Ore. affiliated with the Congregation of Holy Cross.

"I am profoundly grateful for the privilege of serving the University for the past decade," Poorman said in a University press release. "This ministry to our outstanding students has been one of the most rewarding of my life as a priest and member of the Congregation of Holy Cross."

Poorman, who took the position of vice president in 1999, said in the release he will be on sabbatical leave next year, and then he will return to the theology department faculty. Previously, Poorman served as executive assistant to the executive vice president and as executive assistant to the president, and he is an associate professor of theology.

The Office of Student Affairs oversees residence life at the University and is involved in programs such as Campus Ministry, the Gender Relations

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Observer File Photo

Fr. Mark Poorman will step down as vice president of Student Affairs June 30. Fr. Thomas Doyle will fill the position.

World AIDS day to raise awareness

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

Countries, cities, communities and people around the world are working to raise awareness of the effects of HIV/AIDS today in observance of World AIDS Day.

On campus, the Center for Social Concerns (CSC), ND-8 and other student activists are sponsoring several events to educate the Notre Dame community about the disease and to stimulate discussion about the disease's effects and its prevention.

The CSC conducted a campus-wide survey to assess the awareness of the Notre Dame community and over 2,000 students responded to the survey.

"The number of responses is telling of campus that there are a number of students that are aware of the issue and take it seriously and have been affected by it in some way," Michael Hebbeler, director of student leadership and senior transitions at the CSC, said.

According to Hebbeler, the survey results, which will be posted today in LaFortune, demonstrate that, though some students are educated about AIDS, others believe the epidemic is only a problem in Africa and it does not affect Notre Dame at all.

Hebbeler hopes this misconception will be proven wrong on World AIDS Day.

"This is definitely a global issue on a massive scale, a

see AIDS/page 3

Stanford loss 'fitting end' to season



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

The Notre Dame alumni band plays during the game against Stanford Saturday.

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

As the clock ran down to zero in Palo Alto Saturday, Cardinal fans put a final punctuation mark on Notre Dame's disappointing season when they stormed the field amid various cheers — some advocating Charlie Weis' ouster, and some advocating star Stanford running back Toby Gerhart as a Heisman candidate.

Despite a large contingent of Irish fans in Stanford Stadium, the field became an overwhelming sea of red as the football team and coach Charlie Weis left the field, ending the regular season and notching their fourth loss in a row — something most students said was not a surprise.

"It (the loss) is a fitting end to a tumultuous season," senior Kristie Koch said of the game, saying the team had its ups and downs, but the string of four losses will define the season.

Freshman Tim Czech agreed the loss Saturday was

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SMC celebrates holiday with service activities

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

The Office of Civil and Social Engagement (OCSE) is celebrating Christmas this year by bringing together service activities for students and staff to participate. The 12 Days of Christmas will take place from Dec. 1 to 12.

The project has several goals, according to the project sheet provided by the director of OCSE, Carrie Call. The event draws together several different service opportunities for students and staff that allow them to adopt families and individuals to buy gifts, collect food and make ornaments for, among other things.

"[The names of families and individuals] come from our partner Title 1 schools, through the College Academic Tutoring program, REAL Services, Mental Health America and the Salvation Army," according to the project sheet.

The funds for the project will be raised through various activities throughout the next 12 days and then purchased by OCSE.

Students will be given the

see CHRISTMAS/page 3

Girls to cut hair in support of charity

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Female Notre Dame students thinking about changing their look might want to think twice about getting a short haircut, according to sophomore Catherine Soler, the president of the sophomore class council.

Next spring, the sophomore class council will be holding an event around the time of the spring Blue-Gold football game, tentatively named "The Bald and the Beautiful: Notre Dame Fights Cancer," to benefit the St. Baldrick's foundation and Pantene Great Lengths, a program similar to Locks of Love.

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Observer File Photo

Tiffany Robak gets her head shaved in 2008 to help raise money for St. Baldrick's Foundation.

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Inside Column

Green beans are evil

Ryan Raffin

Scene Writer

I'm writing to bring light to a serious issue — perhaps the most important of our time. I realize there has been loads of bad news lately, but this one overshadows it all. It's one that affects at least half of the students living on this wonderful campus. For too long, the menace has been ignored. The time has come to out the greatest threat that many of us will ever encounter. I'm speaking, of course, about the green beans at South Dining Hall.

Their legume-y evil cannot be contained. With their rubbery texture, awful flavor and haunting aftertaste, they are beans of pure malice. It is clear upon tasting them that the beans were grown somewhere in the Sixth Circle of Hell, and then boiled using the tears of Army widows (though the salt was removed, lest the beans have some element of appetizing flavor). They are then transferred to a chafing dish, where they are kept at a temperature best described as somewhere between "tepid" and "lukewarm." No less than Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi described them as "the cause of 47 of the last 65 wars [worldwide]" in his recent speech to the United Nations General Assembly. Can we really allow such a threat to exist, nay — to flourish, on this campus?

We need to be proactive — we need to go to the source. The green beans need to be removed completely from this campus, if not the world. And if you still have objections, let me confront you with some cold hard facts:

Green beans voted against your candidate in the 2008 presidential election.

Green beans killed Michael Jackson.

Green beans saw "The Hangover" and didn't laugh once.

Green beans think O.J. Simpson has never committed a crime.

Does this sound like the kind of plant we want in our dining hall? After all, this is a Catholic institution. If those facts aren't enough for you, this should be the final nail in the coffin: In a recent survey, historians nationwide ranked green beans at No. 27 on the list of Worst Things Ever, above Pol Pot (29), but narrowly below the bubonic plague (26) and Josef Stalin (25). I can only speculate as to the long term effects of eating those wretched beans, but I wouldn't be surprised if they caused lung cancer. Certainly they won't stop you from getting cancer.

Let's not waste another second, lest another naïve freshman dump a portion of that horrid legume on their plate. We cannot stand idly by and allow stomachs to be taken advantage of. The proliferation of those beans across the fruited plain is one of the great tragedies of our era. Students of Notre Dame, I implore you to take a stand against the green beans. Only by uniting can we succeed against the tyranny of their foul taste. We the people are more powerful than any plant can, or ever will, be. It is time for change to come to this campus. Make yourselves heard.

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

Contact Ryan Raffin at rraffin@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.

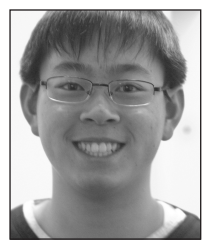
Question of the Day: *Who do you think is replacing Charlie Weis?*



Karla Garcia-Huerta

junior
Pasquerilla East

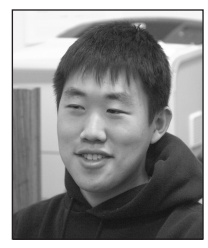
"Santa Claus."



York Chuang

freshman
St. Edward's

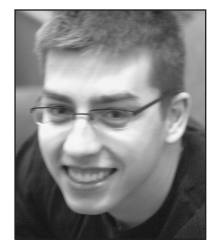
"Brady Quinn."



Jason Sim

sophomore
St. Edward's

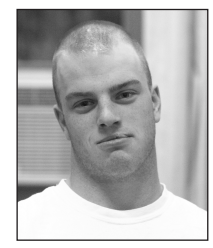
"Hire back Bob Davie, He had a better record."



Tom McKee

sophomore
St. Edward's

"Ted Bundy."



Jay Mathes

sophomore
St. Edward's

"Keep Charlie, hire Ralph Friedgen and Mark Mangino to compile the most imposing sideline."



Jon Vamadeva

sophomore
St. Edward's

"Jesus."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

The Notre Dame men's basketball team's starting lineup is introduced at the beginning of the game versus Kennesaw State on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Offbeat

77-year-old woman feels pressured to buy new car

DES MOINES, Iowa — A woman filed a lawsuit claiming a Clive auto dealership pressured her to buy a new car while she was waiting for an oil change. The Polk County lawsuit said a Holmes Hyundai saleswoman pressured 77-year-old Audrey McKnight to buy the car while she waited for the service on her 2006 car. McKnight claims she was adamant she couldn't afford a new car but finally gave up after being pressured for hours.

Dealership owner Max Holmes disputes those claims and says his lawyers will respond in court. He said his lawyers are trying to resolve the situation.

McKnight made her claim under a new state consumer fraud law that makes such suits easier to file.

Deer crashes through patio window, charges at Ohio man

LIMA, Ohio — A man in Ohio said he had to do some running of his own while watching football on TV when a deer came crashing in through a window. Jeff Berger said he managed to get out of the way when the animal charged at him Sunday evening inside his fiancee's house in Lima in northwest Ohio. The deer jumped on the living room sofa Berger had been lying on.

The deer, which authorities said appeared to be a doe, had smashed through a patio window making a noise that Berger said led him to fear someone was trying to break in to kill him and fiancee Marianne Tate. Neither was injured.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

There will be a **blood drive** held in the **Student Center Lounge** at **Saint Mary's College today.** The drive begins at **10:30 a.m.**

The Monthly Luncheon Series **"Telling HerStory: Highlighting Women as Role Models in the Life of the Mind, Body and Soul"** will be held in the **Coleman-Morse Study Lounge today.** The series will begin at **12 p.m.**

"Framing Programmatic Competition in Latin America: Neoliberal Reforms and Strategic Party Behavior" will be held at **12:30 p.m. today**. The lecture will be held in **C-103** in the **Hesburgh Center**.

A seminar titled **"Filtered Density Function: Basic Theory and Modern Developments"** will be held at **3:30 p.m. today** in **138 DeBartolo Hall.**

"The Great African War" will be held at **4:15 p.m**. in **C-103** in the **Hesburgh Center today.**

Bible study will be offered in the **Campus Ministry Resource Room** in the Student Center at **Saint Mary's College today.** It will begin at **6 p.m.**

"Indigenous Human Rights: The Case for Hawaiian Sovereignty" will be held at **7 p.m. today.** The lecture will be held in the **Annenberg Auditorium** in the **Snite Museum of Art.**

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

Local Weather

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH	48	41	44	33	32	36
LOW	35	35	32	25	25	26

Atlanta 60 / 44 **Boston** 44 / 32 **Chicago** 52 / 37 **Denver** 50 / 26 **Houston** 54 / 45 **Los Angeles** 68 / 46 **Minneapolis** 45 / 29
New York 49 / 36 **Philadelphia** 51 / 36 **Phoenix** 70 / 46 **Seattle** 49 / 36 **St. Louis** 59 / 38 **Tampa** 77 / 65 **Washington** 56 / 40

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Club presents convention overview

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

The Communicative Disorders Club gave a presentation to the Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) about the National American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention they attended in New Orleans with sponsorship money from SGA during the meeting Monday night.

Communicative Disorders Club president Kendra Fallet and member Christine Dits spoke about what they learned at the national conference. The members who attended had the opportunity to see cutting-edge technology in their field, Fallet said.

For example, they learned about a new technology that tracks how much a child talks and how much they are prompted by their parent. This new invention will provide effective screening for autism, Fallet said.

The club members also attended a luncheon for students where Fallet was randomly selected and won a $500 scholarship for graduate school.

Dits was able to meet up with a group she was interested in at a career fair called Friends, who work with stuttering, an area that she is particularly interested in, having battled stuttering herself.

Thanks to her attendance at this and other conferences Dits was offered a position to help man the booth for Friends at next year's convention.

"The conference was fabulous and we learned a ton," Fallet said. "One girl met a speech pathologist from Indianapolis who she is going to shadow."

The Communicative Disorders Club was grateful for their sponsorship as it helped them attend a conference that will help further them in their career paths.

In other SGA news, as a board SGA has decorated the six trees outside the Student Center to spread holiday cheer, Jenny Hoffman, student body president, said.

SGA had a short meeting Monday night but are getting ready to undertake some bigger goals such as writing new by-laws and creating an SGA handbook which they will begin work on at their meeting next Monday night, Hoffman said.

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Christmas

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opportunity to decorate cookies and make ornaments for "opportunities for fellowship and holiday-related activities," according to the project sheet.

Call said students could also offer to ring bells for the Salvation Army or participate in reflection time for students with vespers services and discussion sessions.

Students and staff can be as involved as they want.

"Students, faculty and staff are involved in a wide variety of ways. This is a campus-wide event and people can be involved as little or as much as they would like," according to the sheet.

To get involved, Call said students can volunteer to join committees for the group.

The idea for the 12 Days of Christmas has grown since Call began at Saint Mary's.

"The project kind of grew on its own over the years. I started the family/individual adoptions when I came into this office in 2004 and it has expanded over the years," Call said.

There are several events planned for every day through Dec. 12.

Today, there will be a blood drive, stocking decorating and photos will be taken next to the Christmas tree in Reignbeaux Lounge in Le Mans Hall.

The rest of the week's activities will include fudge decorating, card making, a St. Nicholas festival, breakfast with Santa at the homeless center, gingerbread house making and several more.

The complete list of activities can be found at the Saint Mary's Web site.

Anyone interested in participating can visit the booth set up in the Student Center atrium from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the remainder of the week.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Hair

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The freshman class council held a similar event last year, but Soler hopes to expand the event to raise more even more money than last year's event did.

"Last year the freshman class council put on a two-day event for the St. Baldrick's foundation. We had about 140 people shave their heads," Soler said. "It was a big success and everyone loved it. This year we're doing the same thing but expanding the event."

Soler said a fundamental part of broadening the event's scope was to get more women involved, which is why she wants to get out the message that girls should put off cutting their hair until the event.

"If we're going to do the Pantene Great Lengths program, you need [to donate] eight inches of hair, so we can't have people cutting their hair and not having enough," Soler said.

Soler said she hopes if enough women listen to this advice, the event will be able to pull in substantially more money than last year.

"We're really hoping that by getting girls involved we'll raise a lot more funds," Soler said.

Last year, the event raised $25,000 and Soler said this year's goal is to double that amount.

Among the other goals for the event are to get more campus groups involved. Soler said she already has organizations such as the Army ROTC and football team who want to participate, as well as individual residence halls such as Duncan and Lyons.

"This year, we want to make it more interactive and get more Notre Dame students involved," Soler said.

Tiffany Robak, a senior who shaved her head for the event last year and raised almost $4,000, said she thinks students who participate in the hair-donation event will benefit not only cancer patients but also themselves.

"I actually thought shaving my head was the best thing I've ever done. I raised a lot of money and it brought a lot of awareness to service work in general," Robak said. "Also it was really good for myself. I realized what cancer patients had to go through when they lose their hair."

To publicize the event, Soler hopes to contact local news outlets to get media coverage, as well as attempt to set a Guinness World Record for most hair donated, if enough students participate.

Soler's goal in raising publicity is to open the event to members of the South Bend community as well, and invite people who live in the city but are not necessarily associated with Notre Dame to shave their heads.

Soler said she hopes students who see the event in progress will also be inspired to participate, even if they were not originally planning on doing so.

"I think that one of the big things that made it successful last year was that it's a really fun event and you feel a lot of camaraderie," Soler said. "It's contagious and you want to be a part of it. I think that makes it unique because you see that you're doing a good thing, you see that you're helping."

"[St. Baldrick's Day] was a big success and everyone loved it. This year we're doing the same thing but expanding the event."

Catherine Soler
president
sophomore class council

"I actually thought shaving my head was the best thing I've ever done. I raised a lot of money and it brought a lot of awareness to service work in general."

Tiffany Robak
senior

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

Poorman

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Center, health and counseling services and Notre Dame Security Police.

During his tenure, Poorman worked on ongoing initiatives to maintain a diverse student body and oversaw construction on Duncan and Ryan Halls, the newest campus residence halls.

"Fr. Poorman has provided outstanding service to the students, faculty and staff of Notre Dame as our vice president for Student Affairs," University President Fr. John Jenkins said in the release. "On behalf of the University community, I thank him for his organizational leadership, his generous contributions as a Holy Cross priest-administrator, and, most importantly, his wholehearted dedication to our students."

Fr. Doyle graduated from Notre Dame in 1989 and was ordained in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in 1998. He has served as a rector in Keough Hall and an adjunct professor of business ethics in the Mendoza College of Business.

"Notre Dame has been a physical and spiritual home to me and returning again is a privilege," Doyle said in the release. "Fr. Poorman is not only a friend, but he has also been a mentor during my early years as a priest and rector. The Student Affairs Division is the integrating heart of a Holy Cross education that touches the intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimensions of students, faculty and staff."

Poorman graduated from the University of Illinois in 1976, earned a master of divinity degree from Notre Dame in 1980 and received a doctorate in Christian ethics in 1990 from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

"I look forward to continued collaboration with him in our efforts to reach our academic aspirations and to deepen Notre Dame's Catholic identity," Jenkins said of Poorman. "I am grateful that Fr. Doyle has accepted the challenge of following in some big footsteps. I know he will be up to it, and I enthusiastically welcome him back to his alma mater."

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AIDS

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national issue and a local issue, both in St. Joseph County and on campus," Hebbeler said. "We want to juxtapose divergent voices on matters of sexual ethics, church teaching and the stigma endured by AIDS patients and their friends and family."

Although the survey results have not been released, the survey clearly elicited a wide variety of student responses. The last survey question was open ended, which allowed students to express opinions regarding abstinence, contraception and factors in the spread and prevention of AIDS.

While some students shared their personal stories and experiences with the issue, others expressed a lack of knowledge about the effects of AIDS on campus.

"The main purpose of the survey was to elicit student responses to see where they stand in terms of awareness and education," Hebbeler said. "We also want to put a face on the global issue, discuss its social and medical effects and find methods of intervention and prevention."

Hebbeler said making the issue real for students is another function of the survey because the 15-24 year old age group has one of the fastest growing rates of contraction of the HIV virus.

The CSC is overseeing the day's events, but the ND-8 club and a student task force are the primary student groups getting the word out on the issue. The task force, which includes students who participated in summer service learning programs in AIDS clinics, created the survey and came up with on-campus events.

"The main goal for the project is to get students engaged on an intellectual level about this serious issue that is clearly affecting the Notre Dame community," Hebbeler said. "We want to get the word out, prompt students to think about the issue critically and gather and discuss the varying viewpoints and possible preventive measures."

According to Hebbeler, World AIDS Day is just one day to spread the word about the issues surrounding AIDS, and he hopes the conversation will continue.

In order to facilitate this continued conversation and put a face on the issue, Deb Stanley, a community-based learning coordinator who focuses on AIDS, will show a 25-minute film on people affected by the issue in St. Joseph County at the CSC coffeehouse in Geddes Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Stanley will be accompanied by some of the people featured in the film, and they will speak about the experiences and challenges of living with AIDS.

"Real learning comes with personal encounters, and this presentation will show that AIDS is not just an issue in sub-Saharan Africa," Hebbeler said.

In addition to posting the survey results and some student responses, a piece of the National AIDS Quilt will be displayed in the lounge area of LaFortune.

Students are encouraged to wear red on Tuesday and to stop by the information table in LaFortune, run by ND-8 and Student Government, which will provide information on the effects of AIDS on the community and on college-age people.

Free, anonymous testing will also be available in the University Health Center from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday.

"This is definitely a global issue on a massive scale, a national issue and a local issue, both in St. Joseph County and on campus."

Michael Hebbeler
director
student leadership and senior transitions

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Game

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appropriate, given the season.

"The Stanford game seemed to sum up the season — start strong and then lose it at the end," he said.

Students speculated widely about the futures of quarterback Jimmy Clausen and receiver Golden Tate after the loss. Clausen told reporters after Saturday's game that Weis was "the reason [he] came to Notre Dame." That statement and other rumors led some to believe Clausen would leave Notre Dame for the NFL next year.

Senior Tracey Chuckas said she wouldn't blame Clausen or Tate for leaving the team.

"They'd be smart to move on next year. They have a world of possibilities," she said.

Czech disagreed, saying both would have better chances of winning the Heisman if they stay, and Clausen could have a stronger position in the NFL draft were he to stick it out another year.

At the conclusion of Charlie Weis' fifth and final season at Notre Dame, students and Irish fans were left disappointed with a program that failed to meet expectations.

But Czech pointed out the team's record could have easily turned out much better — or much worse.

"This season could have been very extreme, one way or the other. We could have very easily ended up 2-10 or 12-0," he said, seeing as Notre Dame's losses came in games with a less than seven point spread, and the victories — Nevada and Washington State excluded — came with only seven point margins or less.

Senior Tracey Chuckas — among plenty of other analysts — pointed to the Irish defense as the cause of most of the season's woes.

"Football is all about the defense. Notre Dame lacked it, and therefore we aren't going to a good bowl game, again," she said.

Chuckas said Notre Dame needs a new start after the Weis era.

"A synonym for Notre Dame is champions and we have not had a championship in a long time," she said.

She said the program needs a new coach and new start to "turn this team around and bring back the championships."

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Lab opportunities open for undergrads

Special to The Observer

Undergraduate research, a longstanding natural element of a College of Science education at the University of Notre Dame, has accelerated in recent years with an increased commitment to make such opportunities available in a systematic way.

New and expanded programs, both during the academic year and during the summer, are bringing more students into research, with the goal that any science student who wants them can have access to research opportunities.

The University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center (UNDERC), which straddles the state line between Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula in Vilas County, Wis., and Gogebic County, Mich., has long offered research opportunities for undergraduates, says Dominic Chaloner, who came to Notre Dame in 2000 and was appointed coordinator of undergraduate research in the College of Science in 2007.

Students have always been able to do research for academic credit, he says.

"The question was providing opportunities over and above that."

In his 2005 inaugural address, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Notre Dame's president, signaled a strong University commitment to undergraduate research.

"(Fr. Jenkins) wanted the institution as a whole to be encouraging students to be doing scholarly engagement beyond just going to lectures," Chaloner said. "At that point, I think it became more widely accepted that we had to do more than we were already doing."

Chaloner's strategy involves three components: providing information about opportunities; engaging students in opportunities, such as courses in which research is a central component; and supporting research with, for example, travel grants and fellowships.

Specific programs that provide summer opportunities include:

◆ Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships that started with a handful of students a few years ago and supported some 45 this year. "This summer, the program blossomed," said Marissa Runkle, marketing communications specialist for the College of Science. "They were funded by a number of sources," including Clare Boothe Luce and Balfour programs and the Indiana University School of Medicine.

◆ The Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), a longstanding program supported by the National Science Foundation. The summer program brings students from other schools to campus, but some Notre Dame undergraduates can participate here as well as going to other laboratories.

REU in biological sciences is the successor to a program started in 1993 with support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and organized by Michelle Whaley of biological sciences, who teaches research-based genetics and cell biology courses.

The departments of chemistry and biochemistry, physics and mathematics also offer REU programs:

◆ An alumni mentoring program organized by Whaley that connects undergraduates with alumni for research. Four students participated in the first such this year.

◆ Other research opportunities that Chaloner, Whaley and Laura Flynn of the Career Center help students identify. Four of Whaley's cell biology students this year continued their spring semester research during the summer.

"It's a challenge to find opportunities, but we have a lot of ways we can work with students," says Flynn, who networks with university medical centers, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, among others, and shows students how to look for research opportunities.

Chaloner says the variety of options is important for increasing undergraduate research.

"I think what we're going to get to is a multitude of different ways of providing opportunities," he says. "The research is appropriate to the student's career aspirations. A medical school isn't going to look for the same level of depth of undergraduate research," as, say, a doctoral program. "Undergraduate research cannot be a monolithic thing—research is not one thing," he says.

"A Notre Dame student has a diverse experience. We want research to be a common part of that experience."

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New book gives advice to students

Special to The Observer

College-bound students know they have to be book-smart in order to get in to a top school. But when it comes to impressing professors and standing out in the crowd, good grades are only one part of the equation.

A new book by a University of Notre Dame psychologist emphasizes the importance of "practical intelligence" and offers advice to new college students on how to give their teachers what they really want and get the most out of their hard-earned — and often expensive — college education.

"The Clever Student: A Guide to Getting the Most from your Professors" by Anita E. Kelly, professor of psychology at Notre Dame, aims to give students a leg up by offering strategies for top performance in the college classroom.

In the book, newly released by Corby Books, Kelly offers strategies to college students on such topics as social intelligence and classroom participation, as well as an insider's perspective on how professors think. The book also provides practical tips for how to handle missed classes or exams, write a great paper for a demanding professor, and get top-notch faculty letters of recommendation. It also contains a test of social intelligence in the classroom so students can see how savvy they are compared to their peers.

In conjunction with the book's release, Kelly also has launched a new Clever Student blog, which can be found on the Web at http://thecleverstudent.com.

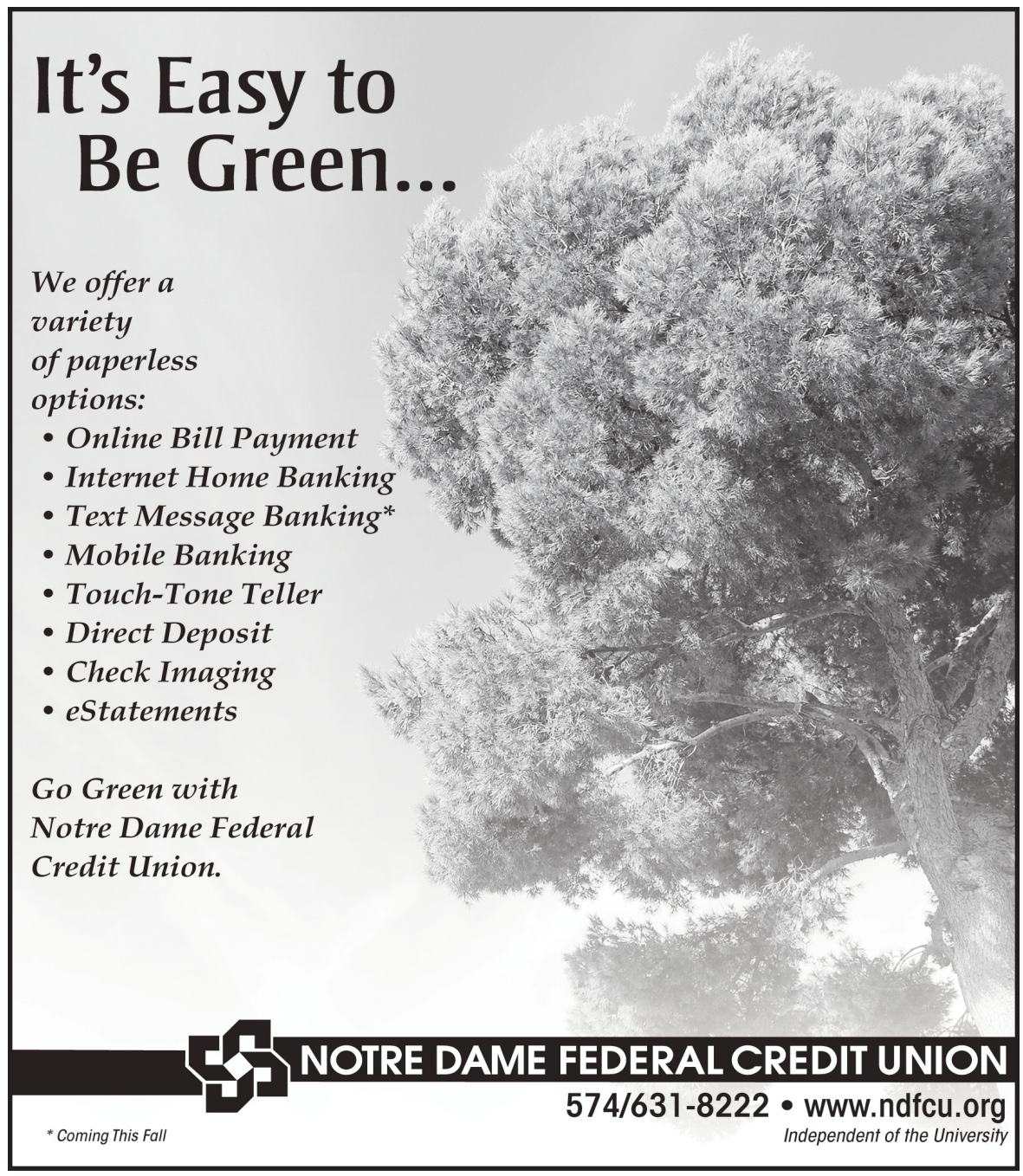
"It is my hope that through the book and the blog, I can help students use their social intelligence to get the most out of their professors, including getting very good grades and amazing letters of recommendation," Kelly said. "At the very least, I hope these tools will help students feel better about confusing or upsetting interactions with their professors."

"It is my hope that through the book and the blog, I can help students use their social intelligence to get the most out of their professors, including getting very good grades and amazing letters of recommendation"

Anita E. Kelly
professor of psychology

Kelly also is the author of "The Psychology of Secrets" and numerous scientific articles on secrecy, self-presentation and self-concept change. Her work on secrecy has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and has been featured in the Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Newsday, Glamour and Health.

A 1986 graduate of Northwestern University, Kelly earned her doctoral degree in psychology from the University of Florida in 1991. She became a licensed psychotherapist in 1993 while serving as an assistant professor at Iowa State University, where she was awarded Outstanding Faculty Member for teaching. She has been at Notre Dame since 1994 and became a Kaneb Teaching Fellow in 2008.



International News

Guantanamo detainees reach Italy

ROME — Two Tunisians who had been detained at Guantanamo arrived in Italy late Monday and will be tried on international terrorism charges for having allegedly recruited fighters for Afghanistan, officials said.

Adel Ben Mabrouk, 39, and Mohamed Ben Riadh Nasri, 43, are suspected of being members of a terror group with ties to al-Qaida. They were immediately taken into custody upon arrival in Milan and were being interrogated, a prosecutor told The Associated Press.

In addition to the Tunisians, an Algerian detainee, Saber Lahmar, was heading to "rebuild his life in France," his lawyer Robert Kirsch said in a statement Monday. Lahmar was arrested along with five other Algerians in Bosnia in 2001 on suspicion of plotting to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo. A judge ordered him and four others released for lack of evidence.

First gay marriage in region blocked

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — An Argentine judge put a hold Monday on another court's decision to permit the first gay marriage in Latin America, but supporters of the couple said they would try to go ahead with the ceremony anyway.

The official court Web site said national judge Marta Gomez Alsina ordered the wedding blocked until the issue can be considered by the Supreme Court.

Jose Maria Di Bello and his partner, Alex Freyre, set plans to wed Tuesday based on an earlier ruling by a city judge in Buenos Aires.

National News

Ex-soldier challenges ruling

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A former U.S. Army soldier who raped a girl and killed her and three family members in Iraq challenged his convictions Monday, saying he was wrongly tried in a civilian court and should have faced a military trial.

In a 71-page appeal filed with the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, attorneys for Steven Dale Green are seeking to have the law used to prosecute him — the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act — overturned.

The law, passed in 2000, allows the federal government to try former soldiers, their spouses and contractors in civilian courts for crimes that happened overseas.

"That's the overarching issue," said Green's defense attorney, Darren Wolff of Louisville.

Green is also contesting whether the military validly discharged him before he was charged in civilian court.

Doc. sentenced for groping patients

SACRAMENTO — A former California plastic surgeon was sentenced Monday to three years and eight months in state prison for groping female patients.

Dr. Scott Takasugi was convicted of sexually exploiting two of his patients by touching their genitals before he operated on them.

His sentencing had been delayed twice, the first time because of the Nov. 19 death of his father, former state Assemblyman Nao Takasugi. Sentencing was delayed again while the 56-year-old former Kaiser surgeon underwent a 72-hour psychiatric evaluation in Ventura.

Local News

Couple wins lottery jackpot

INDIANAPOLIS — A Daleville woman who discovered she had won a $14 million Hoosier Lotto jackpot while preparing her Thanksgiving dinner has collected the prize with her husband.

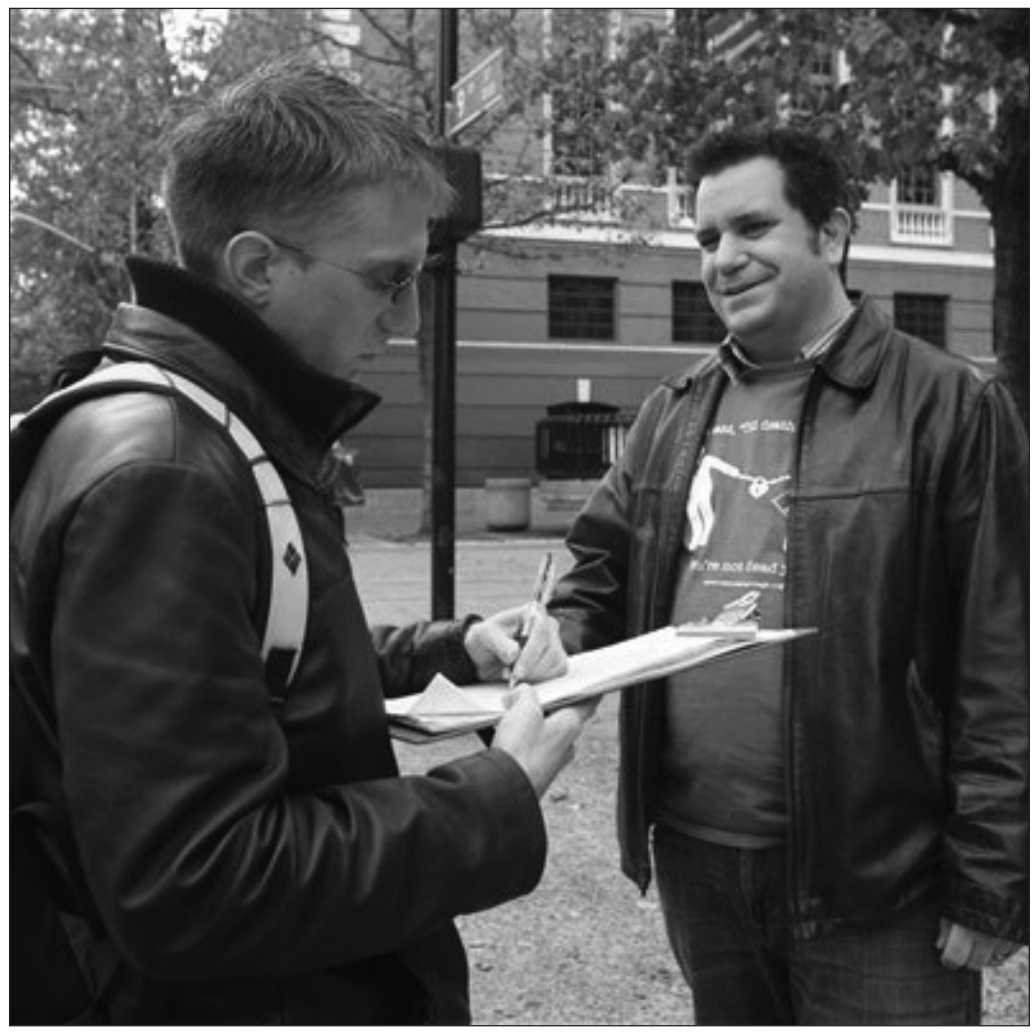
The Hoosier Lottery says Drena and Albert George chose the jackpot's cash option and received $6.1 million before taxes Monday.

Drena George discovered they had hit the jackpot when she awoke at 3 a.m. on Thanksgiving to start cooking and checked their numbers against those that had been drawn the night before.

Measure proposed to ban divorce

California Web designer pushes satirical law to 'protect sanctity of marriage'

Associated Press



AP

John Marcotte looks on as Ryan Platt, left, signs the petition to put the divorce ban on the ballot, in Sacramento Nov. 21. Platt said he signed in support of his lesbian sister.

SACRAMENTO — Til death do us part? The vow would really hold true in California if a Sacramento Web designer gets his way.

In a movement that seems ripped from the pages of Comedy Channel writers, John Marcotte wants to put a measure on the ballot next year to ban divorce in California.

The effort is meant to be a satirical statement after California voters outlawed gay marriage in 2008, largely on the argument that a ban is needed to protect the sanctity of traditional marriage. If that's the case, then Marcotte reasons voters should have no problem banning divorce.

"Since California has decided to protect traditional marriage, I think it would be hypocritical of us not to sacrifice some of our own rights to protect traditional marriage even more," the 38-year-old married father of two said.

Marcotte said he has collected dozens of signatures, including one from his wife of seven years. The initiative's Facebook fans have swelled to more than 11,000. Volunteers that include gay activists and members of a local comedy troupe have signed on to help.

Marcotte is looking into whether he can gather signatures online, as proponents are doing for another proposed 2010 initiative to repeal the gay marriage ban. But the odds are stacked against a campaign funded primarily by the sale of $12 T-shirts featuring bride and groom stick figures chained at the wrists.

Marcotte needs 694,354 valid signatures by March 22, a high hurdle in a state where the typical petition drive costs millions of dollars. Even if his proposed constitutional amendment made next year's ballot, it's not clear how voters would react.

Nationwide, about half of all marriages end in divorce.

Not surprisingly, Marcotte's campaign to make divorce in California illegal has divided those involved in last year's campaign for and against Proposition 8.

As much as everyone would like to see fewer divorces, making it illegal would be "impractical," said Ron Prentice, the executive director of the California Family Council who led a coalition of religious and conservative groups to qualify Proposition 8.

No other state bans divorce, and only a few countries, including the Philippines and Malta, do. The Roman Catholic Church also prohibits divorce but allows annulments. The California proposal would amend the state constitution to eliminate the ability of married couples to get divorced while allowing married couples to seek an annulment.

Prentice said proponents of traditional marriage only seek to strengthen the one man-one woman union.

"That's where our intention begins and ends," he said.

Jeffrey Taylor, a spokesman for Restore Equality 2010, a coalition of same-sex marriage activists seeking to repeal Proposition 8, said the coalition supports Marcotte's message but has no plans to join forces with him.

"We find it quite hilarious," Taylor said of the initiative.

Marcotte, who runs the comedy site BadMouth.net in his spare time, said he has received support from across the political spectrum. In addition to encouragement from gay marriage advocates, he has been interviewed by American Family Association, a Mississippi-based organization that contributed to last year's Yes on 8 campaign.

He was mentioned by Keith Olbermann on MSNBC's "Countdown" during his "World's Best Persons" segment for giving supporters of Proposition 8 their "comeuppance in California."

Marcotte, who is Catholic and voted against Proposition 8, views himself as an accidental activist. A registered Democrat, he led a "ban divorce" rally recently at the state Capitol in Sacramento to launch his effort and was pleasantly surprised at the turnout. About 50 people showed up, some holding signs that read, "You too can vote to take away civil rights from someone."

Switzerland

Unpopular ban on minarets may not last

Associated Press

GENEVA — A Swiss ban on minarets could violate fundamental liberties, Europe's top human-rights watchdog said Monday in an indication that the heavily criticized vote could be overturned.

The Council of Europe said banning "new minarets in Switzerland raises concerns as to whether fundamental rights of individuals, protected by international treaties, should be subject to popular votes."

The statement by the 47-nation council's secretary-general, Thorbjorn Jagland, suggests a case may be made to seek a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights condemning Switzerland for violating freedom of expression, freedom of religion and prohibition of discrimination.

Swiss Justice Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf said the ban would come into force immediately, but also indicated that the court could strike down the Sunday vote, which incurred swift condemnation at home and abroad for banning the towers used to put out the Islamic call to prayer.

"The ban contradicts the European Convention on Human Rights," Zurich daily Blick cited Widmer-Schlumpf as saying, referring to the 1950 treaty laying out basic rights that the court in Strasbourg, France, was created to ensure member states abide by.

The referendum backed by nationalist parties was approved by 57.5 percent of the population Sunday, forcing the government to declare illegal the building of any new minarets in Switzerland. It doesn't affect the country's four existing minarets.

France's Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said he was "a bit scandalized" by the vote, which amounts to "oppressing a religion."

"I hope that the Swiss will go back on this decision rather quickly," Kouchner said on France's RTL radio. "It is an expression of intolerance, and I detest intolerance."

City official charged with murder

Man on trial for shooting of wife, two daughters, aggravated burglary

Associated Press

LYNDON, Kan. — A former Missouri city official previously accused of assaulting his wife was charged Monday with capital murder in the shootings of her and their two teenage daughters in eastern Kansas.

James Kraig Kahler, 46, also was charged with one count of attempted first-degree murder in the shooting of his estranged wife's 89-year-old grandmother and one count of aggravated burglary. Authorities suspect he broke into the grandmother's home near Topeka, where the shootings occurred.

During Kahler's first appearance in Osage County District Court, Judge Phillip Fromme set bail at $10 million and scheduled another hearing for Dec. 10.

Kahler, who often went by his middle name Kraig, declined to comment as sheriff's deputies escorted him in handcuffs from jail to the courthouse. He had been scheduled to appear in court in Columbia, Mo., on Wednesday on a domestic assault charge stemming from an altercation with his wife in March that led to the loss of his job as director of Columbia's Water & Light Department.

A divorce trial for Kahler and his 44-year-old wife, Karen, was scheduled to start Dec. 21, but a settlement hearing was planned for Friday. Court records showed that he complained of financial pressures and the couple had been sparring over their children.

The Kahlers' daughters, Emily, 18, and Lauren, 16, were killed Saturday, along with their mother. His wife's grandmother, Dorothy Wight, 89, was wounded. The couple's 10-year-old son, Sean, was at Wight's house south of Burlingame on Saturday but was uninjured.

Wight remained in critical condition at a Topeka hospital, said Ashley Anstaett, spokeswoman for the attorney general's office. She declined to say where the boy was staying.

Dan Pingelton, a Columbia attorney representing Karen Kahler in the divorce, described her husband as "controlling."

"From the facts I heard, I think he was a misogynist," Pingelton said.

He said Kahler refused to see his daughters. Emily attended the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Lauren was an honors student at a Columbia high school.



AP

James Kraig Kahler appears in court Monday for his trial. Kahler was charged with killing his wife and two teen daughters Saturday.

Pingelton said Kahler set up a visit with his son over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"He never was interested in his daughters — only his son," Pingelton said. "And I think that is the reason that little boy is alive today."

A single capital murder count covers the three killings; Kansas law allows the death penalty for multiple murders arising from a single "scheme or course of conduct."

But the Kansas attorney general's office also filed three alternative charges of premeditated first-degree murder in what Deputy Attorney General Barry Disney called a "fallback position" should jurors fail to convict Kahler of the capital charge.

Kahler and his family had moved to Missouri from Parker County, Texas, in July 2008, after he'd been utilities director for the city of Weatherford for nine years. In Columbia, Mo., his $150,000 annual salary made him the city's highest paid employee.

But he was asked to resign in September and was paid two months' salary and one month of severance. In an Oct. 9 court filing, he asked for relief from the temporary monthly payments of $2,030 in child support and $1,500 in maintenance he was required to provide his family.

Kahler said he expected to remain unemployed "for a substantial period of time," adding that he was prevented by court order from withdrawing money from his retirement account pending the divorce.

In court on Monday, Fromme asked Kahler whether he could afford an attorney and Kahler responded that he had "some funds." Nevertheless, the judge appointed the state's death penalty defense unit in Topeka to represent him.

Kahler lived in Columbia until several weeks ago, according to neighbors. On Nov. 25, he notified the Missouri court of his new address in Meriden, Kan., northeast of Topeka.

In her court petition, Kahler's wife described a "history of controlling force" throughout the couple's 23-year marriage. She recounted a New Year's Eve 2008 fight in Weatherford, Texas, during which Kahler pushed her hard enough that she banged her head on the street.

"I'm afraid it will escalate so far that someone is going to be seriously hurt," she wrote.

Pingelton said Karen Kahler believed her husband was hacking into her e-mail and committing minor acts of vandalism around her home.

"Karen was fearful of him, but really she was honestly more afraid he was going to kill himself," he said. "Nobody had any idea he would consider doing this."

Longtime boyfriend proposes to Clinton

Chelsea Clinton announces the celebration of her engagement to Marc Mezvinsky Fri.

NEW YORK — Turns out those discredited rumors of a possible Chelsea Clinton wedding last summer were mostly just premature: The 29-year old daughter of former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has become engaged to her longtime boyfriend, 31-year old investment banker Marc Mezvinsky.

The couple sent an e-mail to friends Friday announcing the news, saying they were looking at a possible wedding next summer. Matt McKenna, a spokesman for the former president, confirmed the engagement Monday.

Mezvinsky is a son of former Pennsylvania Rep. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky and former Iowa Rep. Ed Mezvinsky, longtime friends of the Clintons. Ed Mezvinsky was released from federal prison last year after serving a nearly five-year sentence for wire and bank fraud.

Margolies-Mezvinsky served just one term in Congress before losing her seat in 1994 after voting in favor of President Clinton's 1993 budget, which was controversial at the time.

The former first daughter and her fiance became friends as teenagers in Washington and both attended Stanford University. They now live in New York, where Mezvinsky works at G3 Capital, a Manhattan hedge fund, and Clinton is pursuing a graduate degree at Columbia University's School of Public Health.

Before returning to graduate school, Clinton worked at Avenue Capital, a hedge fund run by prominent Democratic donor Marc Lasry. She also worked at McKinsey and Company, a management consulting firm.

Since her debut on the public stage as a curly haired 12-year old during her father's 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton has maintained a fairly low public profile. That changed in 2008, when the press-shy Clinton stepped out on the campaign trail to help her mother's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Before beginning a relationship with Mezvinsky, Clinton dated Ian Klaus, a Rhodes Scholar she met while studying international relations at Oxford in 2002. Klaus dedicated his first book, "Elvis is Titanic," about his experience teaching in the Kurdistan province of Iraq, to Clinton.

Infant found inside car along with stolen items

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma City police have discovered an infant in the back seat of a car buried beneath items they believe were stolen in home burglaries.

Police arrested the baby girl's mother and another man early Monday after finding the infant.

Police Sgt. Jennifer Wardlow says an officer first spotted the car parked illegally. Two people were inside the vehicle, but the officer saw the woman walk away from the car toward a house.

Wardlow says a 7-month-old girl was later discovered in the back seat of the car, covered by two strollers and a large toy.

Police say the pair was arrested on complaints of receiving and concealing stolen property. The mother also faces an additional complaint of child abandonment.

Smart abductor portrayed as controlling in testimony

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Witness testimony during a federal court hearing for the man charged in the 2002 abduction of Elizabeth Smart on Monday began to paint a picture of a self-absorbed, intelligent and controlling person.

Brian David Mitchell was also concerned about his public image, wanted to be recognized as a Mormon prophet and was obsessive about his personal habits — eating on a rigid schedule and exercising for hours at a time — and his religion, said stepdaughter LouRee Gaylor.

"Religion was everything," said Gaylor, whose mother, Wanda Eileen Barzee, has already pleaded guilty to kidnapping and other charges in the case.

Gaylor, 34, was the last of four prosecution witnesses who testified.

Mitchell, 56, was indicted on charges of kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor across state lines in 2008 — five years after he was arrested. He faces a lifetime prison sentence if convicted.

Religion was at the center of daily life, said Gaylor, who lived with the couple for two years beginning in 1988. But the kind image Mitchell projected to outsiders was a ruse, she said.

"It was a cover-up," said Gaylor, who moved out after learning the couple had cooked and served her a pet rabbit for dinner one night. "It was so they could get people to do things for them."

At home, Mitchell was dominating, used abusive language and displayed inappropriate sexual behavior, including showing her pornographic pictures during a family prayer session, Gaylor said.

Mitchell's federal public defenders did not challenge Gaylor's statements on Monday.

Federal prosecutors contend Mitchell is competent and faking or exaggerating psychiatric symptoms to avoid prosecution.

But defense attorneys dispute that conclusion and say the former street preacher is unable to participate in his defense. In state court, Mitchell was diagnosed with a rare delusional disorder and twice deemed incompetent for trial, stalling a criminal case there.

On Monday, Mitchell repeated a pattern of disruptive court appearances, singing Christmas carols — including "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" — for 12 minutes before being removed to a holding cell where he could hear and watch the hearing.

After the hearing, U.S. District Judge Dale Kimball's will determine how the case proceeds — either to a trial or toward treatment that could restore Mitchell's competency.

Also Monday, two psychiatric technicians who worked at the Utah State Hospital when Mitchell was held there testified. Tye Jensen and David Talley both said Mitchell was smart and formed relationships with other patients.

He often walked the hospital halls for hours and prayed while standing at a window with a towel over his head, sometimes bouncing up and down on his feet, Jensen said.

Daniel Peterson, a Brigham Young University professor of Islamic studies and Arabic, gave the court an analysis of Mitchell's religious writings, including the 27-page manifesto known as the "The Book of Emmanuel David Isaiah."

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones **10,344.84** +0.34

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,182	113	1,591	701,202,359

AMEX	1,762.46	+1.68
NASDAQ	2,144.60	+6.16
NYSE	7,092.36	+22.27
S&P 500	1,095.63	+4.14
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	9,281.38	-60.46
FTSE 100 (London)	5,190.68	-55.05

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+1.23	+0.05	4.11
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.34	+0.37	109.94
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	+2.46	+0.38	15.85
ISHARES MSCI EMIF (EEM)	+0.97	+0.39	40.52
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.34	-0.0110	3.20
13-WEEK BILL	+150.00	+0.03	0.05
30-YEAR BOND	-0.40	-0.0170	4.19
5-YEAR NOTE	-1.33	-0.0270	2.01
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)		-0.25	75.80
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)		+7.50	1,183.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		-0.70	86.05
Exchange Rates			
YEN			86.4450
EURO			1.5016
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.0560
BRITISH POUND			1.6440

IN BRIEF

Neb. meat business settles lawsuit

LINCOLN — A western Nebraska meat business has settled a 2-month-old lawsuit after agreeing to following federal inspection laws governing businesses that sell to commercial customers.

Federal prosecutors had said Marky's Meat Market in Gering violated meat inspection rules since 2006 because the business sold meat to commercial customers without having USDA inspectors present during preparation.

Owner Mark Gies said in September that he'd been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture since he became aware of the issue in 2007. The lawsuit helped resolve the issue and publicity about the case even helped attract some new customers, Gies said Monday.

"Everything worked out good," he said.

USDA officials did not immediately respond to a message left Monday.

The settlement agreement was filed in court Nov. 10. U.S. Attorney Deborah Gilg said Gies promised to comply with the federal meat inspection act — either by making sure his business is inspected or by reducing his commercial sales.

"It has been resolved because he is agreeing to comply with those requirements," Gilg said.

Inphi sues Netlist for patent infringement

NEW YORK — High-speed analog chipmaker Inphi Corp. said Monday it is suing server and storage systems maker Netlist Inc. for patent infringement.

The news sent Netlist shares tumbling in aftermarket trading.

Inphi, of Westlake Village, Calif., said Netlist's DDR3 memory modules infringe on two Inphi patents. It said the U.S. patents relate to memory interface technologies used in business server and storage applications. The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Irvine, Calif.-based Netlist said it had not yet reviewed the lawsuit. The company filed a patent lawsuit against Inphi in September, saying Inphi's iMB isolation memory buffer integrated circuits infringed on a patent held by Netlist.

Netlist stock dropped $1.54, or 26.7 percent, to $4.22 in aftermarket trading. During the day, shares fell 8 percent to close at $5.76.

Pilots unions clash over deal

U.S. Airways' pilots decry proposed transaction; Delta's support it

Associated Press

ATLANTA — US Airways' pilots union said Monday it is concerned a deal with Delta Air Lines to swap takeoff and landing slots could lead to higher fares and a reduction in service to smaller communities.

The US Airline Pilots Association said it sent a letter to the Justice Department seeking a full investigation on the impact of the proposed transaction between US Airways and Delta at New York's LaGuardia and Washington's Reagan National airports.

The dispute pits the US Airways pilots union against its counterpart at Delta, which supports the slot swap deal. The Delta pilots union encouraged members in a memo Nov. 6 to help in the effort to get government approval.

In August, US Airways said it had agreed to transfer 125 operating slot pairs to Delta at LaGuardia. In exchange, Delta agreed to transfer 42 operating slot pairs to US Airways at Reagan National.

Slots, especially at peak times of day and in busy corridors like the Northeast, are valuable to airlines.

A slot is an interval of time during which an airline can take off or land its aircraft at an airport. A pair refers to cities airlines fly between.

The same week as the Delta-US Airways deal was announced, it was disclosed that AirTran Airways planned to stop flying to and from Newark, N.J., effective Oct. 25 and would give its takeoff and landing slots there to Continental Airlines Inc. in exchange for Continental slots at LaGuardia and National airports.

Continental has a hub at Newark Liberty International Airport, which is used by many travelers heading to or from New York City.

US Airways' pilots union said it believes the Delta deal may raise antitrust implications.



AP

A U.S. Airways plane takes off from the Tampa International Airport. The U.S. Airways' pilots union is concerned about the consequences of a deal with Delta Air Lines.

"We are extremely concerned about the market concentration that this transaction would create if it is allowed to be consummated," union President Mike Cleary said in a statement. "Those conditions raise the prospect of much higher fares and, if history repeats itself, a reduction in service to smaller communities."

A spokesman for Delta Air Lines Inc., based in Atlanta, said nearly 10,000 of Delta's customers and employees have voiced their support for the proposed transaction directly to the Transportation and Justice departments. US Airways Group Inc. spokeswoman Michelle Mohr said her airline, based in Tempe, Ariz., believes the transaction will pass government review.

It's not clear when government regulators will reach a decision.

The transaction would add 11 gates to Delta's LaGuardia operations. The world's biggest airline operator has said the deal would allow it to create a domestic hub at LaGuardia, even as Delta maintains a strong presence at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. At the Washington airport, Delta said previously it expected to cut its daily departures from 89 to 55.

If its deal is approved, Delta has projected it would operate nearly 30 percent of the total available seat miles from the three main airports serving New York City. Available seat miles measure an airline's capacity for carrying passengers. It equals the number of seats available multiplied by miles flown.

US Airways, meanwhile, has said it would expand its service at the Washington airport and reduce its Express flights at LaGuardia, while mainline and Shuttle flight levels would not be affected.

The airline's regional carrier Piedmont has been expected to be hit hard by US Airways' plans to discontinue service to 26 destinations served by US Airways Express. The airline has said that would result in the elimination of roughly 300 Piedmont positions at LaGuardia when the reduced flight schedule is implemented in early 2010.

Iconic Las Vegas hotel to close; casino stays

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The owner of an iconic downtown Las Vegas hotel that hosted the World Series of Poker for 34 years will close the property's hotel rooms, coffee shop and keno operations as a cost-cutting move, a spokeswoman said Monday.

"It's the downturn," said Lisa Robinson, spokeswoman for TLC Casino Enterprises Inc., owner of the 58-year-old Binion's Gambling Hall & Hotel. "We had to make some difficult decisions in order to keep the rest of the property operational."

The casino facing downtown's Fremont Street Experience pedestrian mall will remain open, along with the poker room, sports book and the Binion's Ranch Steakhouse. All 99 rooms in Binion's hotel and 266 rooms in the property's former Mint tower will close Dec. 14, Robinson said.

About 100 of Binion's 800 workers will be laid off.

"This economy has severely affected our operations," Robinson said, citing decreasing occupancy and hotel room rates. "The hotel rooms were just not competitive."

Binion's, also known as Binion's Horseshoe, opened in 1951 after colorful owner Benny Binion moved to Las Vegas from Texas and bought the Apache Hotel and Eldorado Club.

Over the years, the casino became famous for its carpeting and velvet walls, no-limit wagering, a glass display of $1 million in cash, and for the World Series of Poker. Binion's son, Jack Binion, began hosting the tournament in 1970 with 38 invited players.

The champion, Johnny Moss, was elected by his competitors. He was awarded a silver cup.

The aging hotel-casino ran into financial trouble after Benny Binion's daughter, Becky Behnen, acquired it in 1998. It closed in January 2004 after U.S. marshals seized cash from the casino to pay outstanding employee benefits.

Casino giant Harrah's Entertainment Inc. bought the property, kept the Horseshoe and World Series of Poker brands, and sold the casino-hotel to MTR Gaming Group Inc. of Chester, W.Va.

MTR reopened it in April 2004 as Binion's Gambling Hall and Hotel.

Huckabee helps to pardon prisoners

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — As governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee had a hand pardoning or commuting many more prisoners than his three immediate predecessors combined. Maurice Clemmons, the suspect in Sunday's slaying of four Seattle-area police officers, was among them.

For a politician considering another run for the White House, Clemmons could become Huckabee's Willie Horton.

"In a primary between a law-and-order Republican and him, I think it could definitely be a vulnerability," said Art English, a political scientist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. "It is very damaging when you have someone like that whose sentence was commuted. That's pretty high profile and very devastating and very tragic."

English said it's hard to avoid comparing the case to Horton, a convicted killer who raped a woman and assaulted her fiance while on release as part of a prison furlough program supported by Michael Dukakis when he was governor of Massachusetts.

Allies of former President George H.W. Bush ran ads criticizing Dukakis for his support of the program, undermining the Democrat's presidential campaign.

As recently as Sunday, hours before the shooting suspect was linked to him, Huckabee said he was leaning against running again for president, telling "Fox News Sunday" he was "less likely rather than more likely" to run.

On Monday, Huckabee offered little explanation for why he made Clemmons eligible for parole in 2000, and called the case a failure of the justice systems in Arkansas and Washington.

"If I could have known nine years ago and could have looked into the future, would I have acted favorably upon the Parole Board's recommendation? Of course not," Huckabee told Fox News Radio on Monday.

Huckabee was expected to discuss the Clemmons case Monday night during an interview with Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly.

Clemmons was among 1,033 people who were pardoned or had their sentences reduced during Huckabee's 10½ years as governor, a number that far surpasses that of his three predecessors combined. Bill Clinton, Frank White and Jim Guy Tucker granted 507 clemencies in the 17½ years they served. Beebe, Huckabee's Democratic successor, has issued 273 commutations and pardons since taking office in January 2007 — all but one of them were pardons after the completion of the inmates' prison terms.

Kennedy gains support with his faith

U.S. Rep. advocates healthcare reform to students at Brown University

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Rep. Patrick Kennedy used the language of faith Monday to rally support for expanding the nation's health insurance system in his first public appearance since escalating a public feud with Rhode Island's Roman Catholic bishop over health care and publicly financed abortion.

Kennedy, a Catholic, refused to address head-on his weeks-long war of words with Bishop Thomas Tobin, the spiritual leader of the nation's most heavily Catholic state. The fracas escalated just over a week ago when it was revealed that Tobin asked Kennedy in early 2007 not to receive Holy Communion because of his support for abortion rights.

"In the final analysis, all of us are children of God, all of us have the spark of divinity," Kennedy told a Brown University audience during a panel discussion of the politics of health care reform. "And if any one of us is denied health care, it really is a threat to who we call ourselves as human beings."

He borrowed from the Old Testament story of Cain and Abel to further his point.

"I hope we agree with the notion that we ought to be there and be our brother's keeper because all of us needs each other in the final analysis," Kennedy said.

Kennedy, a Democrat, ignited a sharp exchange of words with the outspoken bishop when he criticized church leaders in an October interview for threatening to oppose a plan to overhaul the nation's health insurance system unless it included tighter restrictions on abortion.



AP

U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy speaks to reporters after a forum about healthcare reform at Brown University Monday.

Kennedy voted against the abortion restrictions sought by the bishops, but he ultimately supported a version of the bill that included the restrictions he opposed.

Tobin accused Kennedy of making an unprovoked attack on the church, publicly questioned his faith and requested a meeting that ultimately fell apart. Tobin said the meeting was canceled by mutual agreement and issued a scathing public letter to Kennedy.

"Your position is unacceptable to the Church and scandalous to many of our members," Tobin wrote. "It absolutely diminishes your communion with the Church."

The Congressman accused the bishop of breaking an agreement to stop discussing his faith publicly.

Their dispute appeared to simmer down after Kennedy said he was done discussing the issue. But in a story published just over a week ago, Kennedy told The Providence Journal that Tobin had banned him from receiving Holy Communion because of his support for abortion rights. Kennedy also said Tobin had instructed priests in Rhode Island not to give him the sacrament.

Kennedy did not explain when Tobin issued those instructions.

The bishop fired back, saying he wrote a letter in early 2007 asking that Kennedy abstain from receiving Communion. Tobin denied ever telling priests to withhold it from Kennedy or any other elected official. Tobin said Kennedy, who has struggled with mental illness and drug abuse, was acting erratically.

Sharpton's daughter arrested, faces charges

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Rev. Al Sharpton's daughter told a police officer in a profanity-laden rant that she cut him off in traffic because she was in a rush to get to a theater, prosecutors said Monday.

"You were driving too slow. I have a play to go to," Dominique Sharpton told an officer who pulled her over Oct. 30, prosecutors told a Manhattan judge.

Dominique Sharpton and the civil rights activist's ex-wife, Kathy, face charges including resisting arrest after the Harlem traffic stop.

Defense lawyer Michael Hardy denied the allegations, but also said they amounted only to complaining, not crimes.

Police said Dominique Sharpton veered out of her lane, ran a red light and forced another car to swerve out of her way. After being ticketed, she and her mother cursed at the officers, ignored orders to return to their cars and resisted being handcuffed, according to a criminal complaint. Kathy Sharpton pushed an officer with her hands, police said in the complaint.

Hardy said he would ask the court to dismiss the charges, all misdemeanors or violations, calling them "frivolous" and saying there were no grounds for the arrest.

"Since when did a verbal objection become criminal in America?" Hardy said.

The top charges are punishable by up to a year in jail.

Dominique Sharpton, 23, and her 53-year-old mother didn't enter a plea Monday. They declined to comment afterward, as did a spokeswoman for Al Sharpton. He didn't attend.

He railed about the arrest on Twitter on Nov. 1, questioning "how two unarmed women with no record could be taken in cuffs from a traffic dispute with NO personal or property damage involved," nor any allegations of drug use or drinking.

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Police search for suspect

Hunt continues for the man wanted in the murder of four officers

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Using search dogs and going door to door, hundreds of police intensified the hunt Monday for the man wanted in the coffeehouse killings of four officers after a SWAT team came up empty-handed in a raid on a house where he was thought to be holed up.

The realization that the suspect had not been cornered after all further rattled people in the Seattle area, many of them unnerved by the thought of a mentally unstable killer in their midst.

Police canvassed the neighborhood around the Seattle house and fanned out across the city, looking for any sign of Maurice Clemmons, 37. Authorities posted a $125,000 reward for information leading to his arrest in the Sunday morning shooting rampage.

The manhunt came as authorities in two states took heat for the fact that Clemmons was allowed to walk the streets despite a teenage crime spree in Arkansas that landed him a 95-year prison sentence. He was released in 2000 after then-Gov. Mike Huckabee commuted his sentence.

"This guy should have never been on the street," said Brian D. Wurts, president of the police union in Lakewood, where all four slain officers worked. "Our elected officials need to find out why these people are out."

Police said they are not sure what prompted Clemmons to assassinate the officers as they worked on their laptop computers at the beginning of their shifts. He was described as increasingly erratic in the past few months and had been arrested earlier this year on charges that he punched a sheriff's deputy in the face.



AP

Police in Seattle return to their cars after searching for a suspect who allegedly killed four officers Monday.

Sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer told the Tacoma News-Tribune that Clemmons indicated the night before the shooting "that he was going to shoot police and watch the news."

Authorities said the gunman singled out the officers and spared employees and other customers at the coffee shop in a suburb about 35 miles south of Seattle. He then fled, but not before he was apparently shot in the torso by one of the dying officers.

Police later learned he may have been holed up at the house in Seattle. After an all-night siege in which they tried to get him out using loudspeakers, explosions and a robot sent into the house, a SWAT team stormed the place and discovered he was not there. Police would not say who lived at the house or whether it was someone Clemmons knew.

It was not clear whether he slipped past police, left before they arrived, or was never in the house at all, but Seattle police spokesman Jeff Kappel said there was evidence Clemmons at one point was on the property. He would not elaborate.

Police spent the day frantically chasing leads, visiting hundreds of locations as they followed up on tips, at one point cordoning off a park where people thought they saw Clemmons. They also alerted hospitals to be on the lookout for a man seeking treatment for gunshot wounds.

University of Washington officials alerted students by e-mail and text messages to an unconfirmed report that Clemmons might have gotten off a bus on or near the campus about three miles from the home.

Forest Service discusses night attacks on fires

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Forest Service is considering allowing its helicopters to attack wildfires at night, a practice the agency has long discouraged because of risks to pilots, a senior official said Monday.

The change would be a major shift for the agency that manages 200 million acres of public land.

Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management Director Tom Harbour said the current policy was being reviewed.

"We are in the process ... of one more time taking a look at night-flying operations. But we will have to make sure that those operations, before we change our policy, are worth the benefits," Harbour told The Associated Press.

"Night flying is a risky operation," he added.

Last week, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors pushed for broader use of night flying after a wildfire in Angeles National Forest last summer burned more than 250 square miles, destroyed 89 homes and led to the deaths of two firefighters.

Harbour said the Forest Service experimented with night flying against wildfires in the 1970s and early 1980s but abandoned it after a helicopter collision.

The Forest Service has been criticized by local officials for the way it managed the blaze in Angeles National Forest, which became the largest fire in Los Angeles County history.

The county Fire Department concluded in a report that experienced county helicopter pilots could have made water drops on the first night of the fire — although it conceded that it was not known if that would have made a difference.

In addition, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich has said the Forest Service erred by not calling in more aircraft to drop water and fire retardant in the early hours of the blaze.

The Forest Service can allow pilots from local agencies to fly on its land at night in some cases, Harbour said. But a federal review this month found the Angeles Forest wildfire raged out of control because it jumped into inaccessible terrain, not because the Forest Service failed to deploy enough firefighters and aircraft.

Harbour said there were scant cases where aircraft alone extinguish fires, since embers, brush and grasses on the forest floor can continue to burn even after a water or retardant drop.

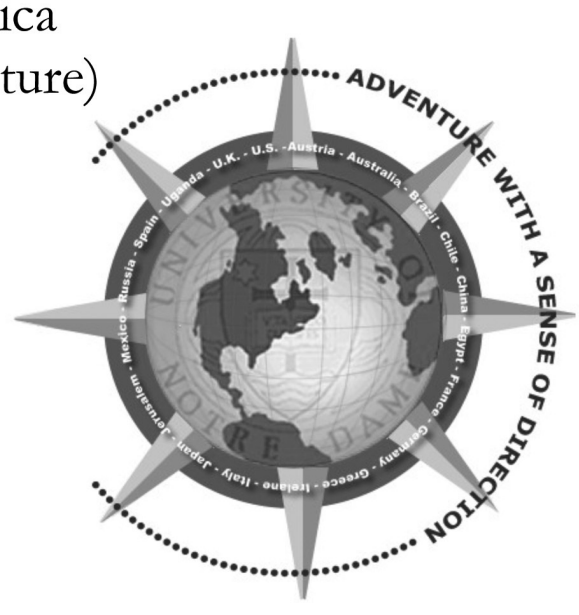
"We've got to get boots on the ground to be effective. And there were places on that (Los Angeles County) fire ... where we simply couldn't get boots on the ground" because of the steep slopes, he said.

"It's a red herring to keep talking about helicopters and air tankers," Harbour said, referring to the same blaze.

"Aircraft serve a useful purpose in assisting the folks on the ground. ... Firefighters on the ground put out fire," he said.

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Evidence found in missing teen's home

Associated Press

HEMET, Calif. — Police who found charred human remains at the Riverside County home of one of two missing Southern California teens also found a machete, butcher knives and burned and bloodied clothing there, according to documents made public Monday.

The search warrant shows Hemet police recovered those items and a shovel, a .22-caliber spent shell casing and an empty gas canister on Nov. 18 at Jose Campos' home. Among the human remains was a charred human foot, the documents state.

Campos, Adrian Rios and Felicia Sharp, all 17, were reported missing earlier this month.

Investigators are trying to determine if the burned and fragmented remains belong to Campos or Rios. Sharp was initially reported missing, but was brought to the police station Wednesday by her parents.

Authorities have not released any information from her two-hour interview and said they have no suspects. Calls to the Hemet police were not returned Monday.

The warrant filed in Riverside County Superior Court outlines the investigation, which began Nov. 17 when Rios' mother, Elodia Lopez, called to report her son missing. She told police she had not seen him for two days and went to the Campos home, where her son was last seen by his friends.

Lopez found no one home but saw a bloody sneaker in the backyard and found drag marks in the dirt. She told police the sneaker looked like her son's shoe.

Police recovered what was later identified as a charred right human foot in the backyard and documented a fire pit with drag marks leading to it. They also noted a number of flies clustered on a saturated area of the ground, according to the warrant, which was first obtained by The Press-Enterprise newspaper. The human foot was found near a shovel.

Neighbors told the AP last week that they smelled a powerful and unidentifiable smell coming from the area of Campos' house the night of Nov. 15.

Matt Miller, who lives two houses behind the Campos address, said he spoke with two teenagers matching Campos and Rios' description after they ran onto his lawn in a panic that night.

THE OBSERVER

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True justice

James Napier
Demarcating Democracy

Today, John Demjanjuk stands trial in Germany as an accessory to 27,900 murders. This is not the first time Demjanjuk has been tried for war crimes. In 1988, after the United States stripped him of his citizenship, an Israeli court convicted him of being a particularly brutal Nazi called Ivan the Terrible. The Israeli Supreme Court overturned the verdict after new evidence indicated Demjanjuk, though an SS guard, was not Ivan the Terrible. Israel did not pursue further charges against him and he was allowed to return to the United States.

Now, he once again faces charges as a war criminal. This new case has been developed by the Office of Special Investigations since 1999 with the cooperation of German officials and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Evidence indicates Demjanjuk worked as a guard from 1943 to 1944. The evidence in the current case against him seems to be very strong and is likely he will be convicted. What is interesting is when the Israeli Supreme Court freed Demjanjuk, it acknowledged he was probably a SS guard but had already served his time.

Before going on, I would like to take a moment to clarify a few things. The Holocaust was one of the largest human tragedies to unfold in the history of the world. The crimes committed by Nazi Germany were unspeakably horrific. To this day, Nazi atrocities still cause emotional responses. Anyone who has ever seen a Concentration Camp knows the sadness and horror that still hangs in the air. Holocaust survivors and their relatives are right to be angry; I am angry.

Even so, I have to ask if Demjanjuk's trial is truly justice. I do not question the evidence against him. My question is whether it is worth prosecution. Anyone who played a significant role in the Holocaust has already been tried or has died. In fact, Demjanjuk is the lowest ranking Nazi to be charged for war crimes without being accused of a specific incident. It is true the Holocaust could not have happened without guards or the consent of the general populace. However, does that mean the courts should go after every German citizen who knew what was happening in the camps? Granted, Demjanjuk is more culpable than the average citizen but what is gained by prosecuting an 89-year-old man clearly on his last leg? His deportation was stayed twice because his ill health would have made it tantamount to torture under U.S. law.

From a broader perspective, is it really worth it to continue hunting Nazis over 60 years after the fact? At this point, Nazi hunting has transformed from a desire for justice to a thirst for revenge. How can one thrive in the present while focusing on revenge for the wrongs of the past? Throwing these old men who played minor roles in this disaster does not help correct wrong doings or serve the interest of justice. Many will disagree with this last statement because the Nazis are evil and therefore must pay for their sins. To this let me say, why are the Nazis so special? Why should every last Nazi be hunted while Japan's and Russia's war crimes go essentially unnoticed and unpunished? Why is Hitler considered so evil when Stalin was more ruthless and Pol Pot nearly as bad? Why should we think of every Nazi as less than human?

When speaking of the Holocaust people say never again will we let genocide happen. I too desire justice but not at any cost. Let men like Demjanjuk die in peace. True, many of the innocent men, women and children whom he guarded did not have that choice. But we are not Nazis; if we truly want to prevent another holocaust we must remember every single person on this planet deserves respect even if respect is not shown by that person. We must also remember justice not tempered by mercy or prudence is no virtue. In short we need to be better than the Nazis.

We have failed in another respect as well — genocides have happened since the Holocaust and have only drawn international attention after much of the damage had been done. Resources are finite and it is illogical to spend millions of dollars and thousands of hours bringing men like Demjanjuk to "justice" when millions around the world suffer and are in great need of resources.

If we truly want to fight injustice, prevent genocides and improve our world then we need to fight the evils of the present and stop focusing on those of the past. Fight for justice in North Korea, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, the DRC, just to name a few of the places where millions suffer daily. Above all, remember to act out of love and respect, not hate and revenge.

James Napier is a senior history major. He can be contacted at jnapier@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When a deep injury is done to us, we never recover until we forgive."

Alan Paton
South African author

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Better shun the bait, than struggle in the snare."

John Dryden
English dramatist & poet

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

World AIDS Day

Today, Dec. 1, is World AIDS Day. While 33.4 million people around the world, including 1.1 million Americans, are currently living with HIV/AIDS, this is not an issue most Notre Dame students feel they have to worry about. A recent HIV/AIDS campus survey revealed that 90 percent of the 2,000 Domers who replied do not personally know anyone with the disease, though nearly 200 students responded with stories of their family members, friends and even themselves being affected by HIV/AIDS. They shared experiences of encountering HIV/AIDS while doing service work across the world, of family members suffering from the disease, of classmates being mocked and of the challenges of being HIV positive themselves. Clearly, this is an issue that affects Notre Dame.

The issue of HIV/AIDS is not without controversy, and this was also revealed in the survey. Several respondents cited the Catholic Church's position on the immorality of contraception, while many others flatly called for an end to abstinence-only education and advocated condom use in preventing HIV/AIDS.

One thing that we can hopefully agree on as Catholics is that each of us is called to recognize the dignity of our brothers and sisters infected with HIV/AIDS. Locally we are called to help overcome the stigma and isolation from community that HIV/AIDS often brings (six percent of survey respondents said that they would not hug or shake hands with a person who was HIV positive). Globally we are called to aid in efforts to prevent the spread of the disease through education and to increase access to the expensive anti-retroviral drugs that are widely available in wealthy countries but are scarce in areas such as sub-saharan Africa.

You can help Notre Dame commemorate World Aids Day by wearing red today, stopping by LaFortune to get a red ribbon and see a piece of the AIDS quilt along with results from the survey, and attending the 6:30 p.m. discussion and soup supper in the Geddes Hall coffeehouse. In addition, free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing will be available at St. Liam's from 6-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

In addition, the Center for Social Concerns has a created a space online to respectfully discuss the issues of HIV/AIDS, Catholicism and Notre Dame. Please visit http://tiny.cc/NDAIDS to voice your opinion.

Claire Brosnihan
junior
Pasquerilla East Hall
Nov. 30

Retaining Weis

In light of the near universal enthusiasm for the notion that Notre Dame should buy out the remaining term of Coach Weis's contract and spend whatever it takes to improve the football team, here is a thought in this season of Advent and in praise of folly: In these times of continuing economic difficulty, when so many faculty but especially staff who love and have dedicated their lives to the Catholic education we aim to promote, continue to experience hardship amongst themselves, and are either falling behind or by the wayside, it strikes us as not only unjust but frankly obscene to pay an employee millions of dollars to do nothing.

So we expect the coach to remain and honor his contract, as we intend to honor it by retaining him. And if that means we lose more football games, so be it, for the Lord did not ask us to be successful, he asked us to be faithful. If that means the football program will not earn as much as it normally does and contribute to the University as much as it usually does, well so be it. For we will all suffer together as once Christians were proud to do, rather than bow reverently before the gods of this world. If you want to know what someone thinks is sacred, look to what he treats as sacred.

Through this decision we hope to help all of our fans and supporters to know what Notre Dame stands for as a Catholic institution. What we really fight for. We don't merely play like champions here. We act like them.

John O'Callaghan
faculty
Dept. of Philosophy
Nov. 30

A letter to Charlie

Dear Coach Weis:

I wanted to thank you for the five years of service that you have given to our alma mater. Regardless of what happens next week, I wanted you to know that there are a lot of Notre Dame alumni who really do appreciate your efforts, who still support you and who are very hurt and offended by the way that some of our fellow alumni and other members of the Notre Dame community have treated you. It may be that you were not meant to be the coach that leads our football team to its next national championship, but regardless of your final record, you and your family have made our school a better place by your presence. Thank you for being our coach. May God protect and bless you in your future endeavors, be they in South Bend or elsewhere, and may He forgive those who have acted towards your family in un-Christian ways.

Lars Knudson
Law School alumnus
Class of 2002
Nov. 24

Thank you, Coach Weis

Charlie Weis was easily the most scrutinized coach in the country over the last five years. That's what comes with the territory as head football coach at Notre Dame. And while it's easy to focus on the negatives of his dynasty, especially over the last three years, I think we should thank Weis for some of the positives he provided for our football program and our University:

Weis has shown us that Notre Dame can still recruit the top high school students in the country, students who live up to all aspects of the term student-athlete. He has kept Notre Dame's graduation rate up in our football program, which is something we should be proud of at this University. He nurtured a number of walk-on players into downright nasty athletes. He guided us to two straight BCS Bowl appearances, and this improvement in our football program put our school back on the map and attracted many more top students to our University (to see this, all you have to do is look at the jump in admission statistics over this period of time). And I don't know the exact numbers here, but I think the revenue our first two BCS appearances brought in more than enough to cover the price of his contract, and helped to provide needed funding for academic improvement such as portions of Jordan Science Hall. In fact, Weis has helped carry out an important and recently-lost ideal in college athletics: that your strong academic standing can attract top athletes, and your strong athletic standing can improve your academics. Academics and athletics were working for each other under Weis, and that's how it should be.

Additionally, Weis has brought a lot of pride to our program with his philanthropy through Hannah and Friends. Weis got our football players, whether in victory or defeat, to sing the Alma Mater with the student section and the band after the games, something lost under Willingham. It was Weis' own expectations that raised the bar on our expectations of what is required out of the Notre Dame football coach and a football team, and he simply hasn't been able to keep up with these expectations.

We all agree that it's time to move on to the next coach, but as we search for the next person to undertake the extremely difficult task of meeting the expectations Weis set up for us, let's not forget this important lessons Weis has taught us regarding football at Notre Dame. It's not worth it to become a top football program if it compromises the academic standards we expect from our athletes, if we have to graduate fewer of our athletes, or if we have to see the athletes run up the tunnel without sharing the words "Love thee Notre Dame" with us. But we also don't have to trade one thing for the other. Our sports teams can be top performers on and off the field.

Thank you Coach Weis for all of your accomplishments over the last five years, and I wish you all the best with whatever you end up doing next.

Jonathan Toups
alumnus
Class of 2009
Nov. 30

Marching with the band a wish come true

As a Notre Dame alum and Make A Wish volunteer assigned to Jacob's wish; I could never be more proud of Notre Dame, especially the Marching Band, Jennifer Laiber, the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Dept and everyone who had a chance to meet Jacob. When I talked with Jacob's mom Nov. 24 upon their return to Colorado she could not thank you all enough. It was a dream come true for Jacob and her and they will never ever forget your kindness.

As Jacob said in his own words: "I want to play with the best. Band, you are the best! Thank you."

Below is what Jacob's mom posted on the NBC Sports College Sports Inside The Irish story on Friday, Nov 20.

"I have never been more proud of my son. This opportunity is definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am very proud of his decision for this wish. I did not influence him one bit on how to utilize such an opportunity in his life. I am very grateful to all involved in making this happen for my son. He struggles with cystic fibrosis every day and to be able to give him this makes me truly speechless! My brother and best friend passed away just over a year ago in a car crash and I truly have not been able to smile with such intensity since than, as I have these past few days! I am truly forever greatful for this opportunity for my son! God bless all of you!"

Mike Williams
alumnus
Class of 1972
Nov. 24

The BCS Winnebago

I'm heading into my senior year and have yet to experience BCS glory. I'm not asking for a national title. I'm just asking for a BCS bowl and an excuse to drive my soon-to-be Winnebago across the country to watch our team. We need nine wins and I think we can get there if you make the right hire.

We need someone who knows college football and all that it entails — recruiting, player management, press relations, etc. We need a guy who is up and coming. We need Brian Kelly.

Matt Cheston
junior
O'Neill Hall
Nov. 28

All the letters concerning your Thanksgiving shenanigans?

Yeah, this isn't one of them.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

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Observer Graphic I MARY CECILIA MITSCH

Christmas Tunes
That Strike the Right Note



By JOEY KUHN
Assistant Scene Editor

While I was shopping in the mall over break, I was saddened and sickened to see every store boasting a full Christmas display and blasting Yuletide tunes, a sign of how commercialized and ungodly Christmas has become. But now that Thanksgiving, the official starting flag for the holiday season, is in the rearview mirror, everybody should be ready to bust out the tidings of comfort and joy.

As such, here are a few Christmas music recommendations so that you're not stuck listening to those same three Bing Crosby songs over and over again for the next month. Take your pick of genre; there's something here for everybody (that's the generosity of the Christmas spirit breaking through my hard exterior shell).

An Indie-Folk Christmas

For scenesters and hipsters of all kinds, and also for those who simply enjoy mellow acoustic music with unconventional instrumentation, Sufjan Stevens's "Songs for Christmas" is the place to start. This is actually a five-disc collection of 42 songs, so there's no shortage of listening material here. About half the songs are originals, and half are Christmas classics lovingly rearranged in typical Sufjan fashion. That means acoustic guitar, sugary-soft singing, exotic wind instruments whose names I can't pronounce, and banjo. Lots of banjo. But it's not annoying banjo; it's just enough to give the songs a slight, folky twang. This collection is perfect for some chill background music while decorating a tree or snuggling with a special someone. Standout track: "That Was the Worst Christmas Ever!"

An Arena Rock Christmas

If you think you haven't heard the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, you're probably wrong: Their song "Wizards in Winter" features in that Youtube video of the house whose Christmas lights are perfectly synchronized to music. If you're still grasping for what they sound like, imagine that Queen and Metallica collaborated to produce a Christmas album. Crunching guitars and blazing solos are mixed in with some softer moments for good variety. They have come out with five full-length albums, three of which are Christmas albums. Trans-Siberian Orchestra's epic take on holiday favorites can make any trip to the store for more eggnog seem like a wild Christmas adventure. Listen to "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)" and you'll see what I mean.

A Swingin' Christmas

If you're more of a flapper than a hipster or a headbanger, then you might enjoy Harry Connick, Jr.'s three Christmas albums. Although he is not exclusively a Christmas artist, Connick has become known for covering holiday favorites with a swinging rhythm section and a smooth, sultry voice. Like the others, his albums consist of both originals and classics, and his music ranges from bouncy to ballad. Listen to "(It Must Have Been Ol') Santa Claus" and "Sleigh Ride." Also on the jazz side, check out "Cool Yule" by Louis Armstrong and the Commanders, "Sugar Rum Cherry" by Duke Ellington and "Jingle Bells" by Diana Krall.

A Barenaked Christmas (and Hanukkah)

For those feeling a little bit racy this holiday season, try the Barenaked Ladies' "Barenaked for the Holidays." This album contains some of the most fun Christmas songs ever created, and if you like diversity, it has a few Hanukkah songs, too. Here you'll find zany synthesizer renditions of some classics, more respectful and heartfelt renditions of others and some originals, too. Standout tracks are "Elf's Lament" (feat. Michael Bublé) and "Auld Lang Syne."

A Traditional Christmas

Of course, part of the charm of Christmas music is the comfort of hearing the same old songs year after year. Some of the biggies you definitely can't afford to have missing from your collection: "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" by Andy Williams, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee, "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" by Bruce Springsteen and Bobby Helms' "Jingle Bell Rock," which is enshrined in our memories from the movie "Mean Girls." Most of these can be obtained easily in one fell swoop by simply purchasing "Now That's What I Call Christmas!"

Contact Joey Kuhn at jkuhn1@nd.edu



White Elephant

A Nasty Christmas Gift Exchange



By EMILY DORE
Scene Writer

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ... an oven mitt? So goes the infamous "Office" episode in which Phyllis gives Michael an oven mitt as part of their annual Secret Santa Christmas exchange. He despises the present and decides to "salvage" his Christmas pile through a new game called White Elephant — a gift exchange ritual in which presents are passed around in often humiliating fashion. But don't be fooled by the name; Pam was right when she called it by its other alias, Nasty Christmas.

The rules are as follows. With exchange gifts in tow, all eager participants sit in a circle, playground style. Not only does the sitting seem like the old days of duck-duck-goose, but friends may even turn into children with the grabbing and screaming that is to follow. Setting the gifts in the middle of the circle, everyone awaits their designated turn to pick a present. They are given the option to either pick a new wrapped gift or steal an unwrapped one from another person. If a gift is stolen, the victim can either choose to steal another gift (not the one taken from him) or a new gift. Gifts may only be stolen three times, before they are safely in someone's hands. Tears and shouting ensue, as it becomes ever clearer who has good taste in gift-giving.



In a game of such high stakes, it seems difficult to leave with a beautiful necklace instead of grandma's traditional fruit cake. A prized gift already in hand can be snatched in no time and traded for everyone's favorite Christmas sweater. But there are ways to guarantee success in this game.



First, ensure the gift bought for White Elephant is completely ridiculous. Drop the sentimentality, and remember the other name for this game: Nasty Christmas. SkyMall is highly suggested, as well as the always lovely Miley Cyrus blonde wig-Dora the Explorer sparkly gloves combination.

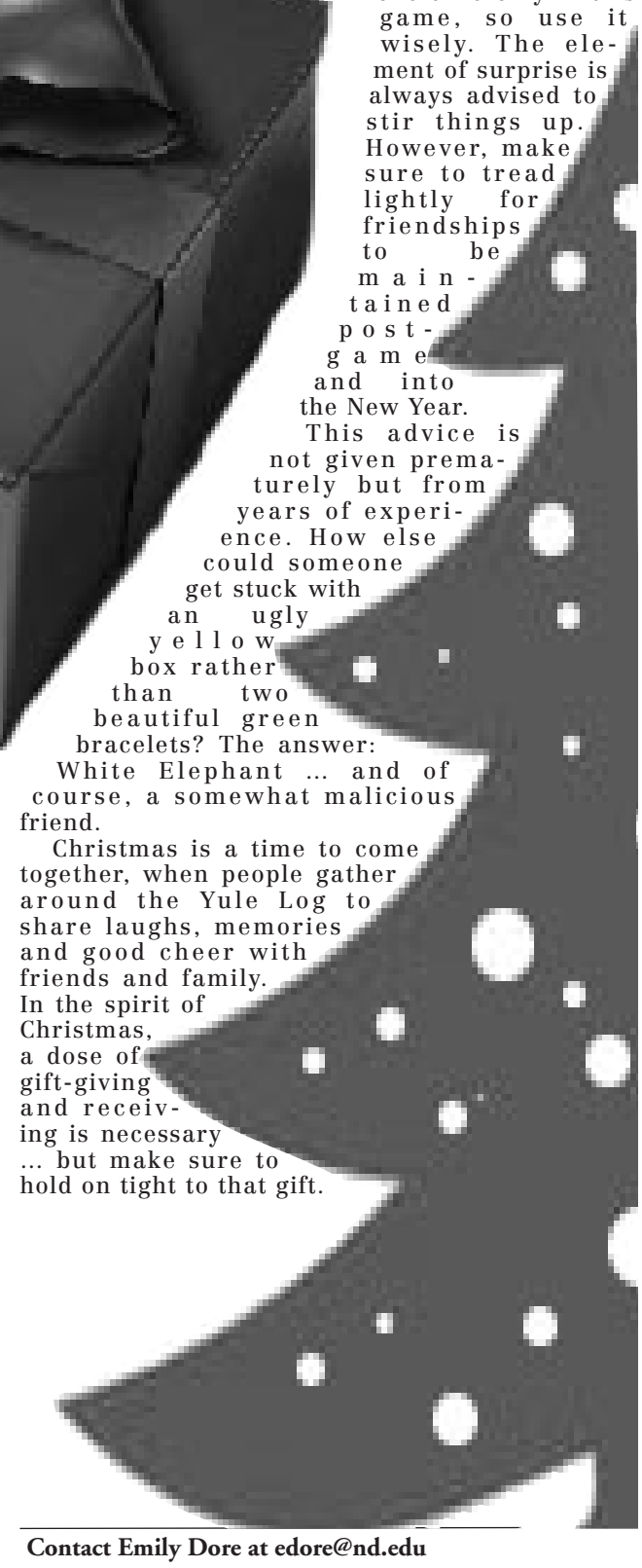
Next, mark out the good gifts. This can be tricky with the wrapping paper, but usually it is easy to tell who has brought a classy gift by the facial expression. Small packages bring great rewards, and large cushy packages might mean a sweet new Snuggie.

Then, assume poker face. As stated before, this is a high stakes game, and if another person recognizes someone else's desperate desire for a gift, there might be some spite, instead of good cheer, spreading around the circle.

Finally, "thou shalt not steal" applies for one time only in this game, so use it wisely. The element of surprise is always advised to stir things up. However, make sure to tread lightly for friendships to be maintained post-game and into the New Year.

This advice is not given prematurely but from years of experience. How else could someone get stuck with an ugly yellow box rather than two beautiful green bracelets? The answer: White Elephant ... and of course, a somewhat malicious friend.

Christmas is a time to come together, when people gather around the Yule Log to share laughs, memories and good cheer with friends and family. In the spirit of Christmas, a dose of gift-giving and receiving is necessary ... but make sure to hold on tight to that gift.



Contact Emily Dore at edore@nd.edu

MARY CECILIA MITSCH I Observer Graphic

NFL

Rams look to improve run defense

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Rams' run defense has been horrible lately, even though the personnel's pretty much the same. It's becoming a weekly sore spot for rookie coach Steve Spagnuolo, who built his reputation on stopping opponents.

On Sunday, the Seattle Seahawks more than doubled their NFL-low average with a season-best 170 yards in beating the Rams 27-17. Before that, the Rams (1-10) gave up a season-high 183 yards to Arizona, and 203 yards to the Saints.

To defensive end Leonard Little, the numbers are disgraceful.

"I've been doing this since I was 5 years old," Little said. "If you don't know how to tackle, then you might not need to be in this business."

Justin Forsett, a seventh-round pick last year, had a career high 130 yards and two touchdowns on Sunday while the Seahawks averaged 5.5 yards per carry overall. Tim Hightower has 480 yards for the Cardinals this season, 110 of them with a 7.9-yard average two weeks ago against St. Louis.

"There were situations where we had them at the line of scrimmage and whatnot and they broke tackles," defensive end Chris Long said after losing to the Seahawks. "I don't think they outschemed us, I think we should have tackled better."

Just like last week and the week before that, Spagnuolo cites a combination of poor tackling and mistakes across the board in gap responsibility. Regarding the mistakes, he said it's not something that can be pinpointed, except for the fact it's not a case of getting physically manhandled.

"It's a little bit of everything," Spagnuolo said. "I keep saying that, but I'm not lying to you. If I thought it was one person every time, that person would be out. That's not the case."

Rams coaches revise tackle counts from the Sunday statistical sheet after reviewing game tape, and credit rookie linebacker James Laurinaitis and safety O.J. Atogwe with 10 tackles apiece along with Laurinaitis' first career sack. Laurinaitis, a second-round pick, leads the team with 106 tackles, 25 more than any other player.

Revised totals do not include missed tackles, and Spagnuolo declined to reveal the count from the Seahawks setback.

"I'm not going there," Spagnuolo said. "We had enough that caused us to not play good defense. Too many."

Players are not shirking responsibility after losing their 11th in a row at home and 10th straight against the Seahawks. St. Louis is 6-37 the last three seasons.

"All that matters is the next snap, and we've got to have that mentality," Long said. "Nobody is going to dig us out of a hole except ourselves."

Running back Steven Jackson, who had a full load against the Seahawks after missing three days of practice with lower back spasms, is likely to get light duty this week before Sunday's game at Chicago. Jackson fell short of a fifth straight 100-yard game but had 89 yards rushing and totaled 116 yards from scrimmage.

"He's not looking to take any time off, but we're going to be careful," Spagnuolo said.

Jackson said after the game the back bothered him throughout the game.

"A lot of people questioned why did I play," Jackson said. "Well, I play because I love to play."

NFL

Stars reluctant to hide concussions

Associated Press

Kurt Warner headed to a meeting with Arizona Cardinals medical staff and coaches before Sunday's game wrestling with the question of whether to be honest about the post-concussion symptoms he was experiencing.

"Do I want to stretch the truth a little bit? Do I want to not tell them everything so I could play?" he wondered.

"I know I could dictate it," he said Monday. "But then I had to go, 'What are you thinking?' Because I know this is bigger than that."

The issue of concussions is front and center in the NFL, illustrated starkly Sunday when the two quarterbacks from last season's Super Bowl sat out — after saying during the week they planned to play despite sustaining head injuries the previous game.

Warner didn't play against the Tennessee Titans, and the Cardinals lost. Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger didn't play against the Baltimore Ravens, and the Steelers lost.

Their absences came against the backdrop of increased attention to the issue, from studies highlighting the dangers of repeated head injuries to several statements issued by the NFL on how teams should handle concussions.

"We weren't involved in the decisions (regarding Warner and Roethlisberger). ... But there's no question there's been a culture change in sports regarding concussions," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. "Everybody is much more aware and more conservative in the way they're managing them. And that's a good thing."

Aiello said league officials wouldn't hesitate to question a team if they saw indications that concussions guidelines were possibly not being followed, even without a complaint from somebody within the club.

But as Warner's comments emphasize, all the harrowing stories and the policy changes won't completely solve the problem if players aren't honest about their symptoms. Thirty of 160 NFL players surveyed by The Associated Press from Nov. 2-15 replied that they have hidden or played down the effects of a concussion.

"The players have to raise their hand and say, 'You know what? I got hit and I don't feel 100 percent,'" commissioner Roger Goodell said recently.

That seems to be happening.

"I'm sure all the reports that are out there about concussions and the long-term effect, that those things weigh in your mind heavier than maybe they did five or six years ago," Warner said.

In Philadelphia, Eagles coach Andy Reid acknowledged that the increased attention to the issue is on his mind, too, as dynamic receiver DeSean Jackson recovers from his own concussion.

"I know a lot is being said about concussions," Reid said Monday. "We are as conscious as they come with concussions. We are going to do everything within our power to get (Jackson) the proper treatment and diagnosis."

U.S. Open Tennis

Williams receives record-setting fine

Associated Press

Serena Williams was fined a record $82,500 for her tirade at a U.S. Open line judge and could be suspended from that tournament if she has another "major offense" at any Grand Slam in the next two years.

Grand Slam administrator Bill Babcock's ruling was released Monday, and he said Williams faces a "probationary period" at tennis' four major championships in 2010 and 2011. If she has another "major offense" at a Grand Slam tournament in that time, the fine would increase to $175,000 and she would be barred from the following U.S. Open.

"But if she does not have another offense in the next two years, the suspension is lifted," Babcock said in a telephone interview from London.

He said Williams is handing over $82,500 right now to the Grand Slam committee, already far more than the previous highest fine for a Grand Slam offense. In 1995, Jeff Tarango stormed off the court at Wimbledon and accused the chair umpire of showing favoritism to certain players in exchange for their friendship. Tarango was fined a total of $43,756, which was reduced to $28,256 on appeal, and barred from Wimbledon the next year.

Williams lashed out at a lineswoman after a foot-fault call at the end of her semifinal loss to eventual champion Kim Clijsters at the U.S. Open in September. It was a profanity-laced, finger-pointing, racket-brandishing display in which Williams approached the official with what U.S. Open tournament director Jim Curley called at the time "a threatening manner."

"I am thankful that we now have closure on the incident and we can all move forward," Williams said in a statement released Monday by her publicist. "I am back in training in preparation for next season and I continue to be grateful for all of the support from my fans and the tennis community."

She earned $350,000 by reaching the U.S. Open singles semifinals, part of her more than $6.5 million in prize money in 2009, a single-season record for women's tennis. Her career prize money tops $28 million.

The American is an 11-time Grand Slam singles champion and ended the 2009 season at No. 1 in the WTA rankings.

Williams' outburst drew a $10,000 fine from the U.S. Tennis Association in September — the maximum onsite penalty a tennis player can face. But because it happened at a Grand Slam tournament, Babcock was charged with investigating whether further punishment was merited.

He concluded that Williams violated the "major offense" rule for "aggravated behavior." The Grand Slam committee — with one representative from each of the sport's four major championships, including USTA president Lucy Garvin — approved his decision Saturday.

"As a voting member of the Grand Slam committee, the USTA agrees with the additional penalties levied against Serena Williams for her on-court behavior during her semifinal match at the 2009 U.S. Open," the USTA said in a statement released to the AP. "The USTA looks forward to Ms. Williams competing in the 2010 US Open."

Babcock said a "major offense" under Grand Slam rules is "any conduct that is determined to be the 'major offense' of 'aggravated behavior' or 'conduct detrimental to the game.'" There is no specific definition of what sort of actions constitute a "major offense."

He said the highest possible fine that Williams could face — $175,000, if she violates her Grand Slam probation — was chosen because it is the difference in winnings between reaching the quarterfinals and semifinals at the U.S. Open. The $10,000 Williams already was docked by the USTA will be counted toward that total; that's why she is paying half of $165,000 now.

During the Sept. 12 match at Flushing Meadows, the foot fault — a call rarely, if ever, made at that stage of such a significant match — resulted in a double-fault for Williams, moving Clijsters one point from victory.

Williams paused, retrieved a ball to serve again and then stopped. She stepped toward the official, screaming, cursing and shaking the ball at her. Williams was penalized a point. It happened to come on match point, ending the semifinal with Clijsters ahead 6-4, 7-5.

Classifieds

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

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Hey, I know a joke!
A squirrel walks up to a tree and says, "I forgot to store acorns for the winter and now I am dead." Ha!

It is funny because the squirrel gets dead.

NCAA Division I Football BCS Rankings

	team	previous
1	Florida	1
2	Alabama	2
3	Texas	3
4	TCU	4
5	Cincinnati	5
6	Boise State	6
7	Oregon	8
8	Ohio State	10
9	Iowa	11
10	Georgia Tech	7
11	Penn State	13
12	Virginia Tech	14
13	LSU	15
14	BYU	19
15	Pittsburgh	9
16	Oregon State	16
17	Miami (Fla.)	17
18	Southern California	20
19	California	22
20	Oklahoma State	12
21	Houston	23
22	Nebraska	NR
23	West Virginia	NR
24	Stanford	NR
25	Utah	21

NCAA Division I Football AP Rankings

	team	previous
1	Florida	1
2	Alabama	2
3	Texas	3
4	TCU	4
5	Cincinnati	5
6	Boise State	6
7	Georgia Tech	7
8	Pittsburgh	8
9	Ohio State	9
10	Oregon	11
11	Oklahoma State	12
12	Penn State	13
13	Iowa	15
14	Virginia Tech	16
15	Clemson	18
16	Oregon State	20
17	LSU	10
18	BYU	19
19	Miami (Fla.)	21
20	Mississippi	NR
21	Calfornia	NR
22	Utah	23
23	North Carolina	NR
24	Southern California	22
25	Houston	24

NCAA Division I Basketball AP Poll Top 10

	team	W-L
1	Kansas	5-0
2	Texas	5-0
3	Villanova	6-0
4	Purdue	5-0
5	Kentucky	6-0
6	Duke	6-0
7	West Virginia	5-0
8	Syracuse	6-0
9	Michigan State	5-1
10	North Carolina	6-1

around the dial

College Basketball
Michigan State at North Carolina
9 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Blue Jackets at Blackhawks
8 p.m., Versus

NBA



AP

Allen Iverson met with the Philadelphia 76ers a few short days following his retirement announcement. The former NBA MVP believes he can still perform at the highest level and would like to prove that by returning to the league.

Allen Iverson meets with former team

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers have met to discuss a possible return to the team.

Team president Ed Stefanski said in a statement that both parties remain noncommittal about a final decision after a nearly two-hour meeting Monday in Dallas. The 76ers are in town to play the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night.

Iverson, his agent and business manager met with Stefanski, coach Eddie Jordan and two other members of the organization during the first formal meeting between the Sixers and their former MVP.

Stefanski said the Sixers "will continue to discuss internally whether or not to pursue this course."

The 10-time All-Star, who retired last week, is among the free-agent candidates the Sixers are considering to replace injured point guard Lou Williams, who's expected to miss eight weeks after jaw surgery.

Iverson announced his intention to retire last week after no other team expressed an interest is signing the four-time scoring champion. The 6-foot Iverson played three games this season with Memphis before taking a leave of absence to attend to personal matters. He was waived after the two sides agreed to part ways.

The New York Knicks considered signing Iverson after he cleared waivers, before deciding he would take too much playing time from younger players they are trying to develop.

Iverson, the No. 1 overall pick in the 1996 draft, played 10-plus seasons with the 76ers. He was traded to Denver in December 2006, and was then dealt to Detroit early last season.

The 34-year-old Iverson, who has never won an NBA championship, wouldn't be returning to a winner in Philadelphia. The Sixers have lost six straight games and are 13th in the Eastern Conference under first-year coach Eddie Jordan.

Williams' injury has paved the way for rookie Jrue Holiday, the 17th pick in the draft, to start.

Iverson had a bitter parting with the Sixers in 2006, making this a truly surprising reconciliation. But both parties are in various states of desperation. The Sixers need a guard on the roster and an electrifying personality such as Iverson to jolt sagging ticket sales. Iverson wants to prove he's not finished yet and can still play at his All-Star level.

In Brief

Michael Vick visits his old middle school

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Michael Vick tells students at his old middle school in Virginia that they should avoid the kind of bad decisions that landed him in federal prison for dogfighting.

The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback spoke Monday to about 400 students at Huntington Middle School in Newport News. The event was closed and Vick did not speak to reporters outside.

Vick has been speaking to school and community groups to aid the Humane Society of the United States. Society spokesman Dale Bartlett says Vick acknowledged his wrongdoing and told students he believed he could get away with it because he was wealthy.

Vick was released in July after serving 20 months of a 23-month sentence for running a dogfighting ring.

Mets sign Alex Cora to one-year, $2M deal

NEW YORK — Alex Cora is staying with the New York Mets, agreeing to a $2 million, one-year contract.

Details of the infielder's deal were revealed Monday by two people familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because the Mets had not yet formally announced it.

Cora can earn an additional $1 million in performance bonuses: $250,000 each for 80, 90, 100 and 110 starts. There is a $2 million option for 2011 that becomes guaranteed if he has about 80 starts next season.

The 34-year-old played 82 games this year, batting .251 with 18 RBIs and eight steals. He made 54 starts at shortstop, becoming the regular after Jose Reyes got hurt. Cora didn't play after Aug. 12 because of torn ligaments in both thumbs that required surgery.

Cardinals sign catcher Jason LaRue to deal

ST. LOUIS — Catcher Jason LaRue has agreed to a $950,000, one-year contract to remain with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Yadier Molina's backup for two seasons, LaRue hit .240 with two homers and six RBIs in 104 at-bats last season. He started 26 games and appeared in 51 overall.

"Jason is a great fit for our ballclub in his current role," Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said Monday. "His veteran leadership both on and off the field is something we value highly."

LaRue's deal, the same as his 2009 contract, includes a $50,000 performance bonus if he has 60 starts.

St. Louis also agreed to a minor league contract with infielder Ruben Gotay, who hit .272 with 29 doubles, 11 homers and 57 RBIs last season for Reno, Arizona's Triple-A farm team.

NFL

Manning downplays injury's effect

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Despite the New York Giants' recent slump and his own mediocre performances, quarterback Eli Manning says a stress reaction in his right foot is not affecting his play.

Manning developed the injury while dealing with another problem on the bottom of his foot during a win Oct. 4 at Kansas City. The Giants were 4-0 after that victory, but are now 6-5 as Manning has struggled in recent weeks, even though his inflamed arch has healed.

> *"It's one of those things that time and rest is probably the biggest thing."*
>
> **Eli Manning**
> **Giants quarterback**

On Monday, he said his latest health issue has not been a factor on the field.

"In the games it doesn't bother me and I don't think about it. This is not something I am overly concerned with," Manning said. "It has been the same for probably the last three to four weeks, it's nothing new. I can go out and practice and do all I need to do."

Manning doesn't believe he would eventually need surgery on his foot.

"It's one of those things that time and rest is probably the biggest thing," he said. "Having the weekend and the bye week and off week helped some. Time to rest it is helpful. It is not something I think will linger or bother me."

Manning also said he has no pain when walking and there are no concerns that the stress reaction can lead to him being sidelined for any of the remaining five games.

"It is frustrating, kind of one thing leading to another. When you have to go to the training room and get treatment, it throws your schedule out of whack. It kind of pushes things back. I am a guy who doesn't like to be in a training room. That's been probably the biggest annoyance trying to deal with it."

The Giants play Dallas (8-3), Philadelphia (7-4) and Washington (3-7) in the next three weeks and pretty much need a sweep of those games for any chance to the win the NFC East. They beat the Cowboys in Week 2, their most impressive victory of the year, and also won the season opener against Washington. New York lost to Philadelphia 40-17 a month ago in perhaps its worst game of the season.

Right now, the Eagles and Packers lead the wild-card race by one game over the Giants and Falcons. Atlanta has lost to New York, so the Giants have the edge there.

"There's got to be a sense of urgency," Manning said. "We don't have time to kind of figure out and slowly become a better team and make strides. We've got to make a jump, a jump back to playing good football.

"Sometimes you will falter, and we have a lot. But we are still capable of beating teams and playing at a high level."

Manning and defensive end Justin Tuck said the players have held a few meetings during the season, but not since they lost at Denver 26-6 on Thanksgiving night. Tuck noted such meetings are "valuable when it works. Obviously we didn't (get results) because we lost a few games here."

Manning recognizes that the message among teammates needs to be the same, meetings or not.

"Stick with each other," he said. "We know we have lot of people doubting us now and there are probably reasons for them to. If we want to pull this out and make a run ... it's about the players coming together and trusting each other and going out there and doing it."

NFL

Sanchez shouldn't miss game at Bills

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — New York Jets rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez was limited during the team's light practice Monday with a sore left knee, but should play against the Buffalo Bills in Toronto on Thursday.

Coach Rex Ryan said Sanchez had some soreness in the knee after he tweaked it in the Jets' 17-6 win over Carolina on Sunday. Sanchez downplayed it, saying he woke up Monday and the knee was fine, showing no concern that it might hamper him.

"It felt really good," Sanchez said. "The training staff looked at it this morning, stretched me out and we went through the walkthrough, pretty seamless. It feels fine. We'll see how it goes as the week goes on and make sure we take it slow and be smart about it."

Ryan said he thought Sanchez would be able to play against the Bills without any major limitations, despite the quick turnaround.

"I know he's sore, so we'll see how that goes," he said. "It is a short week ... but he finished the game. I thought he was still moving around pretty good, so hopefully he'll be 100 percent when we play."

Sanchez said he missed no snaps in Monday's practice, but Ryan listed him as limited anyway.

"I think it's appropriate to put him there because he did miss some time during the game," Ryan said. "And, he does have some soreness there."

Ryan also characterized the injury as a tweak without going into details.

"The tweak is good because nobody knows what that is, so tweak," he said. "I think he tweaked his knee. There's obviously no major damage, so that's the first thing."

With the Jets leading 14-3 Sunday, Sanchez scrambled to the sideline on first-and-10 from New York's 46 when he was tackled by Richard Marshall after an 8-yard gain. He went down, grabbing at the leg and giving the Jets a scare. He missed the next four offensive plays before returning and finishing the victory.

"I thought it almost looked like it scared him and that's why I was like, 'Just breathe. You'll be all right,'" Ryan said. "We're fortunate that that's probably what it was more than anything."

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PGA TOUR

Host Woods to miss tournament this weekend

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods still isn't talking. Now he's not playing, either. Woods withdrew Monday from his own golf tournament, citing injuries from a car crash near his Florida home. His decision comes as questions continue to mount regarding what exactly happened in the wee hours of the morning last Friday — questions that most certainly would have been asked of him had he played.

The world's No. 1 golfer posted a statement on his Web site saying that unspecified injuries prevented him from playing in the Chevron World Challenge. He had been scheduled to hold a press conference Tuesday for the tournament, which he hosts annually for a small, invited, field.

"I am extremely disappointed that I will not be at my tournament this week," Woods said. "I am certain it will be an outstanding event and I'm very sorry that I can't be there."

Tournament officials said fans who bought advance tickets with the hope of seeing Woods could get refunds beginning next week. Those who keep their tickets will get a 20 percent discount when they buy them next year.

> *"I am extremely disappointed that I will not be at my tournament this week."*
>
> **Tiger Woods**
> **PGA Tour golfer**

Woods sustained cuts and bruises when he crashed his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree at 2:25 a.m., outside his home in an exclusive, gated community near Orlando. He was treated and released from a hospital, and has not been seen in public since.

By skipping the tournament, Woods will escape having to face TV cameras and a horde of media seeking more details about the smashup. The tournament was to be the last of the year for Woods anyway, and he did not say when or where he would make his return next year.

The first tournament of the 2010 PGA Tour is the SBS Championship in Hawaii, an event for winners from the previous year, beginning Jan. 7, but Woods wasn't expected to be there. He's more likely to play at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Calif., the week of Jan. 25.

Woods released a statement Sunday saying the accident was his fault and asked that it remain "a private matter." But with the Florida Highway Patrol still investigating and the media in full pursuit, Woods may not get his way.

Woods even faced questions from fans who left comments on his Web site. Most voiced support for him, but some said he should address the questions about his own actions and those of his wife, Elin Nordegren, before and after the accident.

Woods hasn't answered questions from Florida troopers, either, turning them down three days in a row when they came to his house.

Four cars were parked in Woods' driveway Monday, but no lights appeared to be on inside. A new fire hydrant had already replaced the one that Woods plowed into. A dirt hole and an orange barricade remained in the old hydrant's place.

A woman at the address listed on a FHP news release as the scene of the crash, told the Orlando Sentinel that her husband didn't call emergency responders, but that someone else in the house did. The tape of the call was released Sunday.

The Associated Press called the home of Linda and Jerome Adams on Monday morning and asked to speak with the Adams' son. The woman who answered the telephone told a reporter to call back later in the day. When the AP called back Monday evening, attorney Bill Sharpe answered and said he was representing the family. He said there was no comment at this time, but said a statement might be made Tuesday.

Woods, who both hosts and plays in the Chevron World Challenge, was there last year even though he couldn't play because he was recovering from knee surgery. His absence this year will be the first since the tournament — which has only an 18-player field — began in 1999. He was replaced by Graeme McDowell.

Though he cited injuries from the accident in withdrawing, Woods didn't specifically say what those injuries included. The neighbor, who called 911 after Woods ran over the hydrant and hit a tree, said he was unconscious and laying outside his SUV. His wife told Windermere police she used a golf club to smash the back windows to help him out.

"This is a private matter and I want to keep it that way," Woods said in a statement Sunday, his first since the crash. "Although I understand there is curiosity, the many false, unfounded and malicious rumors that are currently circulating about my family and me are irresponsible. ...

"I appreciate all the concern and well wishes that we have received," he said. "But, I would also ask for some understanding that my family and I deserve some privacy no matter how intrusive some people can be."

The reference to "false, unfounded and malicious rumors" may have involved a story published last week in the National Enquirer alleging that Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, and that they recently were together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters.

The woman, Rachel Uchitel, denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by The Associated Press. On Sunday, she flew to Los Angeles and was met by high-profile attorney Gloria Allred at the airport.

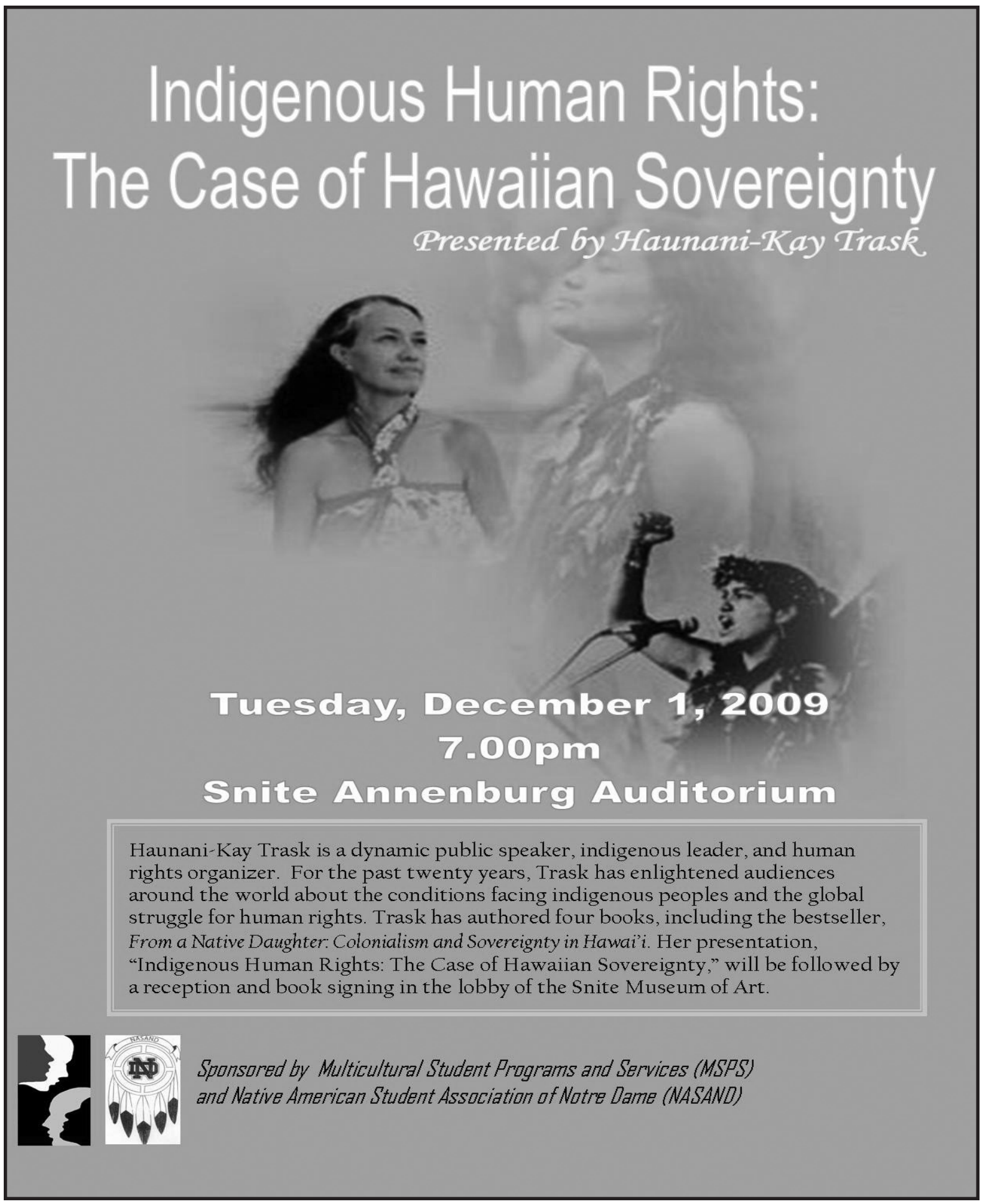
Still, even the release of the 911 tape and Woods' statement failed to answer several basic questions about the accident:

◆ Where he was going at that time of the night?

◆ How did he lose control of his SUV when it wasn't going fast enough to deploy airbags?

◆ Why were both rear windows of the Cadillac Escalade smashed?

◆ If it was a careless mistake, why not speak to state troopers trying to wrap the investigation?



MLB

Yankees' Jeter named SI's Sportsman of the Year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Derek Jeter posed in his crisp pinstripe uniform, resting a shiny black bat on his shoulder, while a photographer lying on the ground near the entrance to a Bronx subway station snapped pictures of the New York Yankees shortstop from a low angle.

Photographing the Yankees captain from below to make him look more regal seemed beside the point. Jeter already has an image that is larger than life.

Jeter was back at Yankee Stadium a couple of weeks after winning his fifth World Series title, capping a stellar season with a photo shoot for his latest achievement: Sports Illustrated's sportsman of the year.

The magazine made the announcement Monday.

"It's unbelievable. It was completely unexpected. It came out of the blue," Jeter told The Associated Press during a break in the photo shoot. "When I heard it, what can you say? It's one of the greatest honors you can achieve in sports."

The 35-year-old Jeter is the first Bronx Bomber to be tapped for the award that has been given out since 1954. Swimmer Michael Phelps was last year's recipient.

"That's even harder considering all the great Yankee players that have played for this organization," said Jeter, standing under the banners depicting Yankees greats that hang in the Great Hall of the new stadium. "So I hope I've done them proud."

Sports Illustrated Group editor Terry McDonell certainly thinks he has.

"This verifies my idea that he is on the level of Ruth and Gehrig," McDonell said. "He's the greatest shortstop in the history of the game."

Some other baseball players to win the award are Sandy Koufax (1965), Tom Seaver (1969), Cal Ripken Jr. (1995); and the recent nemeses of Jeter's teams, Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling (2001), and the Boston Red Sox (2004).

All business between the lines, Jeter has become one of the untarnished ambassadors in the steroids era of baseball through steady play and quiet leadership on and off the field.

"He's so classy," McDonell said. "He brings a dignity and elegance to the game."

Jeter's 2009 season was remarkable.

He batted .334 with 18 homers and 66 RBIs with 30 steals to help lead the Yankees to their first World Series title in nine years — a frustrating drought for the player who won four championships in his first five seasons.

And as calls swelled for Jeter to switch positions after his contract expires in 2010, the 10-time All-Star went out and had one of his best defensive seasons: He made a career-low eight errors in winning his fourth Gold Glove.

He also passed Yankees icon Lou Gehrig's club record for hits, won the Hank Aaron Award as the AL's top hitter, and was given the Roberto Clemente Award for excellence on and off the field.

The World Series victory might have been Jeter's most cherished accomplishment this year, but what clinched the sportsman award for him was his philanthropic work. Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation has doled out over $10 million in grants since 1996 to organizations that help keep young people away from alcohol and drugs.

"It's about the manner of the striving and the quality of the effort, too," McDonell said. "Off the field he has grown so much as a member of the community."

Coming 15 seasons into a career full of honors, the award could be seen as a lifetime achievement, but both McDonell and Jeter dismissed the idea.

McDonell was impressed by Jeter's leadership, how he "stepped in and molded a team" this spring with the arrival of three expensive free agents, and Alex Rodriguez's admission to using steroids from 2001-03 and then having hip surgery that kept him out until May.

> *"It's one of the greatest honors you can achieve in sports."*
>
> **Derek Jeter**
> **Yankees shortstop**

For Jeter, who only looks as far ahead as the next game, he's nowhere near the end of an illustrious career that could culminate with 4,000 hits.

"I'll take it one hit at a time. That's a long way in the future," said Jeter, who has 2,747 hits. "I'm going to play as long as I'm having fun. Right now I'm having a blast."



Please recycle The Observer.

GOLF

China to crack down on illegal golf courses

Associated Press

BEIJING — China plans a major crack down on illegal golf course construction. First, though, it needs to figure out how many of the illicit links are in the country.

Construction of new courses has been so rapid, widespread and unregulated that Beijing officials can only estimate how many have been built. One guess, appearing in the China Daily newspaper Tuesday, put the number at 2,700 by 2015 — up from none before 1984 and more than 500 today.

"We still don't know the exact figure, but we're working on it and will have the information by 2010," the head of land planning at the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, Dong Zuoji, was quoted as saying. "The culprits will face harsh punishment."

Alarmed at the loss of arable land in this crowded nation of 1.3 billion people, China began restricting golf course construction in the earlier part of the decade, with Premier Wen Jiabao vowing in 2007 to enforce a total ban.

Construction has plowed ahead, however, with developers apparently counting on presenting a fait accompli to regulators as has been the case with housing developments built on farmland surrounding Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities.

An estimated 3 million Chinese play golf and industry revenues from courses and equipment rose as high as 60 billion yuan ($8.8 billion) last year, China Daily reported. The sport's backers forecast as many as 20 million potential Chinese golfers taking up the sport.

Golf is very much an elite sport in China, where a round can cost $150— about the average monthly wage for many factory workers.

Memberships at elite clubs such as Shanghai's Sheshan, home to the HSBC Masters, have risen to about 1.5 million yuan ($220,000). A growing number of international and domestic events have attracted droves of fans and players, while golf's reintroduction into the Olympic program for 2016 is bound to raise its profile still further among sports officials obsessed with topping the gold medal tally.

How officials will reconcile that popularity with the need to rein in course construction isn't clear.

WNBA

Track star to try basketball

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Disgraced track star Marion Jones is training for a comeback in the WNBA.

San Antonio Silver Stars coach Dan Hughes confirmed Monday night that Jones has been training with his assistants to possibly play in the WNBA, more than a year after the 34-year-old was released from federal prison for lying about her doping use.

The New York Times first reported that Jones has been working on her skills and conditioning in San Antonio since October. Jones told the newspaper she received a call in May from someone in the NBA asking if she might play in the WNBA.

"I thought it would be an interesting journey if I decided to do this," Jones said. "It would give me an opportunity to share my message to young people on a bigger platform; it would give me an opportunity to get a second chance."

Jones played college basketball at North Carolina, where she was the starting point guard on the Tar Heels' national championship team in 1994. She told the Times that she hopes to play in Europe this winter and in the WNBA next season.



AP

Marion Jones celebrates after winning the 100-meter race on Sept. 23 at the Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

WNBA spokesman Ron Howard did not immediately return a phone message late Monday.

Jones was released in September 2008 from a Texas federal prison after completing most of her six-month sentence for lying about doping and her role in a check-fraud scam.

After long denying she had ever used performance-enhancing drugs, Jones admitted in federal court that she used a designer steroid from September 2000 to July 2001. She was stripped of three gold medals and two bronzes she won at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Hughes told The Associated Press that his assistants haven't briefed him on Jones' skill level or whether she has shown the ability to play in the WNBA. But he applauded Jones for trying, and said her prison time or admission of steroids use wouldn't factor into his decision about signing her.

"I deal with people where they are right now," Hughes said. "If she's interested in playing, great for her. The past is the past."

Jones said she thinks she can be an asset to a WNBA team.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles win easily over Cardinals

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's traveled to Naperville, Ill. Saturday and defeated North Central on the road.

The Belles (3-1) broke away from the Cardinals (2-2) midway through the first half and never looked back, winning by a final score of 91-57.

The Belles were locked with North Central with eight minutes remaining in the half when sophomore guard Maggie Ronan sank a jump shot to give Saint Mary's a lead it would not relinquish for the rest of the contest.

At halftime, the Cardinals trailed but remained within striking distance at 38-28. In the second half, however, the Belles used a 12-2 run to put away any thoughts of a North Central comeback.

Sophomore forward Kelley Murphy led the team with 18 points, while four other players scored in the double digits. Junior guard Liz Wade fell one assist short of a single-game school record, racking up 11 over the course of the game.

Saint Mary's benefited not only from good ball distribution but from razor-sharp shooting — the Belles shot over 59 percent from the floor, one of the most accurate showings in recent history. In addition, Saint Mary's scored more than 90 points for the first time since a 91-84 win against Hope on Jan. 3.

Belles coach Jenn Henley said she was happy with the shooting performance, especially the high shooting percentage.

"We did shoot well against North Central," she said. "We were able to get inside and get a lot of looks in the paint."

In addition, Henley said she was happy with the offensive rebounding and ability of the Belles to create "easy transition layups" with defensive pressure, especially in the second half.

The depth of the team and wide scoring distribution were also cause for the coach to be optimistic looking forward this season.

"Anytime we can go deep in our bench, [we] get stronger as a team," Henley said. "That type of depth will be needed in order to be successful down the stretch."

The Belles face their next test at home against Ohio Northern Wednesday night, followed by an MIAA home game against Trine Saturday afternoon.

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

NBA

Kiki Vandeweghe takes over Nets

Associated Press

New Jersey Nets general manager Kiki Vandeweghe will coach the team for the rest of the season, multiple sources told Yahoo! Sports.

After convincing veteran coach Del Harris to join his staff, Vandeweghe met with Nets president Rod Thorn late Monday afternoon and accepted the job replacing Lawrence Frank on the team's bench.

Frank was fired as the Nets coach on Sunday, before the team matched the NBA's worst start ever at 0-17.

Yahoo! Sports first reported Vandeweghe was leaning toward accepting the job with Harris on his staff.

Vandeweghe's coaching experience has been limited to serving as an assistant for the Dallas Mavericks. Harris has previously served similar associate head coaching roles in Chicago and Dallas.

Vandeweghe's contract is expected to be finalized in the next couple days. Harris will arrive in New Jersey on Wednesday.

Vandeweghe won't make his debut until Friday against the Charlotte Bobcats, a move that will allow two things for the new coach: First, he will have a day to practice on Thursday with the Nets. And second, he could avoid having the record-setting 18th straight loss on his résumé. Assistant coach Tom Barrise will coach the Nets against Dallas on Wednesday.

Vandeweghe's only coaching experience came with two years as an assistant coach with the Dallas Mavericks.

There had been a great deal of tension between Frank and Vandeweghe over the past two years, with sources saying Frank resented the GM's intrusions into his practices and locker room. Sources say Vandeweghe wanted to replace Frank last season, but team president Rod Thorn resisted the change.

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Recycle.

Bench

continued from page 24

good things when they enter the game."

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player after scoring 49 points over the course of the weekend.

"Skylar had an outstanding tournament, and she shot the ball extremely well," McGraw said. "For a freshman to step up for us like that, it is superb."

"Skylar [Diggins] had an outstanding tournament, and she shot the ball extremely well. For a freshman to step up for us like that, it is superb."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Diggins was on the Big East weekly honor roll as well for her play this past week.

"Whether she was coming off the bench or starting, she came in and played extremely well, it made no difference," McGraw said.

The Irish have defeated three ranked teams in their first six games. It is only the second time the Irish have achieved that feat, the first being in the 1998-99 season. The Irish hope this success bodes well for the rest of the season.

"I think it is a good confidence builder, but it is also too early in the season," McGraw said. "We are exactly where we need to be at this time of the year, but we still have a lot to work on. I am especially concerned about our defense."

First up was a No. 23 San Diego State squad that McGraw characterized before the game as the best team they have played to date. The Irish were able to come away with the 84-79 victory, behind the strong scoring performance of 21 points from Diggins and 15 points from junior guard Brittany Mallory.

The Irish got off to a quick start against the Aztecs, earning a 21-point advantage in the first half, only to see that lead reduced to two with 29 seconds left in the game.

"It is a game of runs," McGraw said. "I was a little concerned with four minutes to go against San Diego State. They scored 17 points in the last four minutes. We need to play steadier. The good thing is that we answered all the runs."

The Irish were able to pull out the win, however, as Mallory made three out of four free throws to seal the win.

Mallory has been an unsung hero for McGraw and the Irish this year, helping Diggins to make a difference offensively.

"Brittany Mallory played extremely well," McGraw said. "She really had a great tournament. She added so much to our team. She is big reason, along with Skylar, why our team is doing very well."

The Irish next took on South Carolina and dominated for most of the game en route to a 78-55 blowout.

Senior guard Melissa Lechlitner led the way for the Irish with 15 points, and senior guard Ashley Barlow (14), Diggins (12) and junior forward Becca Bruszewski (11) all scored in double digits.

"I loved the second half defense," McGraw said. "I thought we did an outstanding job in the zone."

The Irish finished off the tournament with a game against another ranked team, No. 20 Oklahoma, to see who would come home with the tournament hardware. The Irish used a 20-0 run in the second half to outlast Oklahoma and claim the 81-71 victory and overall tournament crown.

"Everybody wants to win, everyone is playing together and there is a great kind of chemistry when everything is going your way," McGraw said.

Diggins chipped in 16 points to lead the Irish in scoring for the second time in the tournament.

The win against San Diego State marked the 500th career win for McGraw as the head coach at Notre Dame, an experience she says has been a blessing.

"It means I have been here for a long time," McGraw said. "I am just so thankful for the opportunity to coach here at Notre Dame. This is such a magical place and it has been such a blessing."

The Irish will next take the court Wednesday against Eastern Michigan at home in the Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

SEC

continued from page 24

proven to be the Achilles' heel for the Irish thus far, Brown is confident her team can break the trend in the event of a matchup in the NCAA Tournament. Four teams from the conference, including the three previous Irish opponents, will host the first and second rounds of the tournament.

"They're very good, they're all in the top 25, but I don't think it's necessarily the conference as much as we went up against three very strong teams," Brown said. "If you look at the NCAA Tournament, the PAC-10 has eight teams in the tournament. The Big Ten, the Big 12, they're all pretty competitive. We just happened to play three very strong SEC teams this year."

"It's a brand new season, it's the NCAA Tournament. It's very easy to be motivated, to be up for this whole tournament and to play well."

Debbie Brown
Irish coach

If the Irish are to right the ship, they will need to get back to one of their greatest strengths on offense — balance. Highlighted by the exceptional performances of sophomore Kristen Dealy and seniors Christina Kaelin and Serinity Phillips, the Irish have maintained a .259 attacking percentage throughout the season.

"We have had pretty good balance," Brown said. "There's no question that our outsides, Kristen, Kaelin and Serinity Phillips, have done a great job all throughout the year as our starting outside hitters. But I do think that our middles are very offensive as well. They don't get the ball as much as the outsides, but that's pretty much the case on any team. If you didn't have the balance then they wouldn't be as successful as they are."

With the regular season officially wrapped up, the Irish will turn their full attention to their first-round matchup against Ohio in the championships. Although the squad finds itself in a rut, motivation should not be an issue Friday.

"It's a brand new season, it's the NCAA Tournament," Brown said. "It's very easy to be motivated, to be up for this whole tournament and to play well. I think we'll be absolutely fine. We're just going to get back in the gym and work on the fundamentals, that's serving and passing, and try out a few other things, and we'll be good to go."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

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FSU

continued from page 24

defender, which is what you want," Waldrum said. "Henderson was following up the play and was right there to knock it in."

Just 51 seconds later, junior forward Rose Augustin sent a corner kick across the middle that found senior forward Haley Ford's head and then the back of the net.

"As soon as we started taking things over a bit we got our two goals quick," Waldrum said. "It had to be really deflating for [Florida State] to go into the half knowing they had played a pretty good half but were still down two goals."

Both teams took 14 shots, but Notre Dame was much more efficient with its shots on goal; the Irish took three shots on goal, and only one was saved, whereas the Seminoles put five shots on the net, all saved by junior goalkeeper Nikki Weiss in her seventh solo shutout of the season.

"[Weiss] was fantastic," Waldrum said. "As good as she has been for us throughout the playoffs and the regular season, she probably had one of her best games against Florida State. She didn't really have to stop many shots because they didn't have any real clear cut shots on goal ... but she was really good for us as she handled all those long throw-ins and crosses really well."

"[Weiss] probably had one of her best games against Florida State."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

The berth in the College Cup is Notre Dame's fourth in a row, and fifth in six seasons. Overall, the Irish have made it to the last weekend of college soccer 11 times.

North Carolina awaits the Irish in College Station, Texas. The Tar Heels beat Wake Forest 5-2 on Nov. 27. Notre Dame and North Carolina met on Sept. 4 in the first game at newly-constructed Alumni Stadium. The Tar Heels won in a 6-0 rout.

The Irish will look for their revenge against North Carolina in the NCAA Semifinals Friday.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Billikens

continued from page 24

coach Rick Majerus said according to the Web site. "He was posting up our guy and driving our guards."

Brey said he told Hansbrough to attempt to get to the basket — and to calm down.

"I told him today just relax. Shooters in our program, I don't ever talk to them when they have a tough night," Brey said. "I thought he was able to drive it to get him started. He is a driver first and when he can drive, I think it gets him a better rhythm."

Harangody had 18 points and nine rebounds. Junior forward Tyrone Nash scored six points but pulled down 10 rebounds in the game. Abromaitis made all five of his free throws and scored 12 points.

Notre Dame begins a seven-game home stand tonight when Idaho State visits the Purcell Pavilion. The Bengals (2-4) started 0-3 but have won two of their last three games. They trailed the University of Missouri-Kansas City by nine in the second half Saturday but came back to win 68-65. They took their first lead with 30 seconds left and converted a one-and-one to seal the win.

Senior guard Amorrow Morgan leads the team with 17.7 points per game and junior guard Broderick Gilchrest is behind him with 12.7 per game. The Bengals shoot 43.4 percent from field goal range but less than 30 percent of their 3-pointers hit home.

The game begins at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu



GRACE KENNESEY/The Observer

Irish senior guard Jonathan Peoples dribbles during Notre Dame's 80-62 win over Kennesaw State on Nov. 24.

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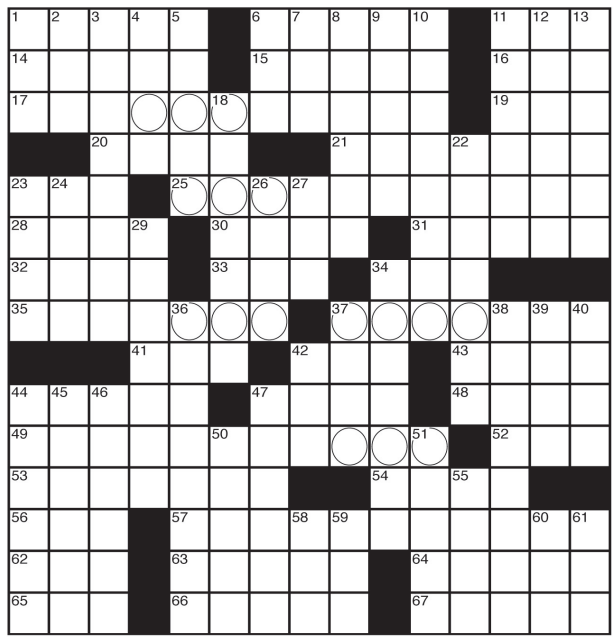
WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Mountains
6 "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" has five of these
11 "Spare" thing at a barbecue
14 Eskimo
15 Instrument played with a bow
16 Gate guess: Abbr.
17 Solid with four triangular faces
19 Scoundrel
20 Lone Star Stater's northern neighbor
21 Unnamed person
23 Part of a word: Abbr.
25 Chief of staff in the Obama White House
28 Alternative to an iron, in golf
30 Sword fight, e.g.
31 Midway between sober and drunk
32 "Dies ___" (hymn)
33 Seat where people may sing 32-Across
34 Knee's place
35 Start of the Bible
37 Post-W.W. II demographic, informally
41 Bit of wordplay
42 Boar's mate
43 x, y and z, in math
44 Commercial writers
47 1958 sci-fi classic, with "The"
48 Population fig., e.g.
49 High muck-a-muck
52 Lifesaving team, for short
53 Most difficult
54 Loretta who sang "Don't Come Home A' Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)"
56 Cobbler's tool
57 Shouter of this puzzle's circled sounds
62 "Didn't I tell you?"
63 John Lennon's "Instant ___!"
64 Explosive
65 Word repeated after "If at first you don't succeed"
66 Bird of prey's dip
67 Previously, in poetry

Down

1 Quarry
2 Suffix with propyl
3 Help in buying a car
4 Captain for Spock and McCoy
5 Series of steps between floors
6 "___ been there"
7 Reinforcements
8 Tiny bit to eat
9 Flower
10 Redwood City's county
11 Win back, as losses
12 Online music mart
13 By a hair
18 First thing usually hit by a bowling ball
22 Riddles
23 Big swallow
24 Days of ___
26 Colors
27 Kitten's plaint
29 Part of a pool for diving
34 Like an offer that's under actual value
36 Places for tanning
37 Idiot
38 Reach as far as
39 500 sheets
40 Old trans-Atlantic speedsters
42 Driver's caution to reduce speed
44 Shocked
45 Bureau part
46 Jacob whose ghost appears to Scrooge
47 Fernando ___, painter of plump figures
50 "Nonsense!"
51 Carrion consumer
55 Innocent
58 Popular music style
59 Popular music style
60 Go wrong
61 ___ v. Wade



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	O	L	F	E	■	A	S	S	N	■	S	A	C	K
O	P	E	R	A	■	S	H	O	O	■	A	U	R	A
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■	■	U	B	O	L	T	■	H	A	S	B	E	E	N
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A	C	H	E	■	F	A	L	L	■	E	X	T	R	A
P	R	O	■	X	F	A	C	T	O	R	■	E	E	L
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S	E	N	D	■	P	O	K	E	■	H	O	R	D	E

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kaley Cuoco, 24; Clay Aiken, 31; Ben Stiller, 44; Billy Idol, 54

Happy Birthday: Set your goals within reason and prioritize so you can get ahead and stay there. Good deals will be offered but, if you hesitate, you will miss out. Erratic behavior will be your downfall. Lower your overhead by doing necessary work yourself, instead of hiring others to do it. Your numbers are 2, 8, 14, 22, 26, 31, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take on a new attitude when it comes to money and what you are going to do with it. Get involved in something you can turn into a profit. Don't let someone who doesn't agree with your plans to hold you back. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone isn't telling you the truth. Dig deep to find out all the facts before you make a decision that will change your future. Letting your emotions get the better of you may cost you financially and personally. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You should consider making some improvements that will help ease your stress. You need a change and it's about time you considered moving or altering your surroundings to accommodate your needs. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be inspired to try things you have been afraid to do in the past. Unexpected information will help you make a vital decision. A firm answer when dealing with people you don't agree with will bring the best results. ★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Observation will be your best bet when looking for insight and the answers to a decision that must be made. Impulsive spending or being too generous will lead to worry and anxiety you can do without. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's up to you to make the first move to clear up a misunderstanding that has left someone feeling uncomfortable. Change can be good if you make it for the right reason. Don't let someone misguide you for his or her own selfish motives. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make money if you are productive and proactive. A new job, an interview or investing in a project of your own will all lead to something prosperous. Love is looking good. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Just because your plate is full and you are being torn between your personal and professional responsibilities doesn't mean that you should fall short. Pick up the pace -- you will accomplish your goals and impress someone important. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Ferret out information that will help you raise your level of competence and add new skills to your resume. Keep things to yourself and surprise the competition when you are well prepared to take action. Impulsiveness will be your downfall. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It is vital that you get moving in a direction that will improve your future. Consider making a change or doing something to make your personal life more comfortable emotionally and physically. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Making irrational choices will lead to a series of poor decisions that will be costly. Mishaps are likely to stop you in your tracks, making it impossible for you to achieve something important. Think of others before you make a move. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't run in circles when it's important to focus on how you can make more money or turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative endeavor. It's up to you to take the initiative and make things happen. ★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are an achiever, a doer and a competitor. You are inquisitive, imaginative and can change your mind quickly. You are passionate and aggressive.

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

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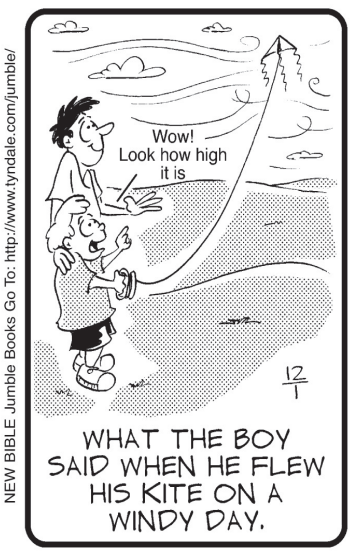
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



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

Ans: IT ( ) A " ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POUND ENEMY SHERRY MOSQUE
Answer: A popular gossip columnist has a good — SENSE OF RUMOR

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Team takes two of three over Thanksgiving holiday

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame went 2-1 over the Thanksgiving holiday, securing a win over Kennesaw State and beating Saint Louis but losing to Northwestern in the Chicago Invitational Challenge.

The Irish (6-2) lost to the Wildcats on the first day of the Challenge but beat Saint Louis the next afternoon.

In the 80-62 win over Kennesaw State on Nov. 24, forward Luke Harangody had 29 points and 15 rebounds — no surprise to Irish coach Mike Brey.

"Sometimes even I go, 'Yeah, 29 and 15. He did it again,'" Brey said after the game according to Notre Dame's athletic Web site.

Harangody grabbed his 1,000th career rebound in the second half of the game. Notre Dame out-rebounded the Owls 53-31 in the game. Junior forward Carleton Scott scored a career-high 11 points and junior forward Tim Abromaitis had 14.

Notre Dame was ranked No. 23 but dropped out of the Top 25 over the weekend.

Notre Dame shot just 32 percent from field goal range in its 72-58 loss to Northwestern on Thanksgiving in the first game of the challenge. Senior guard Ben Hansbrough was 1-for-10 from the floor and 0-for-7 from 3-point range. Harangody scored 21 points but shot 7-for-19 on the night.

"It was just one of those nights where things didn't go right for me," Harangody told the athletic Web site.

Northwestern led by 12 in the second half, thanks to a 12-0 scoring run, but the Irish fought back. They worked their way to within two points twice, but both times Wildcats freshman Alex Marcotulli hit a 3-pointer to pull away.

The team shot much better the next day against the Billikens in a 64-52 win. Hansbrough shot 6-of-9 from field goal range and finished with 14 points.

"The backbreaker for us was Hansbrough," Saint Louis

see BILLIKENS/page 22

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

And again

Women to play in fourth straight NCAA semis

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

In front of a sold-out crowd, Notre Dame won its fourth-consecutive NCAA Quarterfinal Friday by beating top-seeded Florida State 2-0 in Tallahassee.

"I really wasn't expecting much of a crowd on a Friday night on Thanksgiving weekend, but credit to them the place was packed," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "There was a parking garage behind the stadium and it was full for three levels with people tailgating and standing there to watch the game."

Notre Dame's previous three quarterfinal appearances were at Alumni Field, so the road experience was a new one, but Waldrum said the team adapted well.

"This one was a little different being on the road, but the team handled all of it very well," he said. "It was a great environment, and it made it much nicer when we scored to quiet all of them."



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior goalkeeper Nikki Weiss makes a save during Notre Dame's 1-0 win over Oregon State in the third round of the NCAA Tournament. The No. 2-seeded Irish defeated No. 1-seed Florida State and will face North Carolina in the semifinal round.

The Irish (21-3-1) scored two goals in less than a minute in the first half to provide the difference in the game. Sophomore forward Melissa Henderson corralled a loose ball near the goal with seven minutes left in the first half and quickly put it into the corner of the goal before Florida State goalkeeper Erin McNulty could dive over.

"[Junior forward] Erica Iantorno sent in a really dangerous ball, and [senior forward] Michele Weissenhofer put a lot of pressure on the

see FSU/page 22

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish win at Paradise Jam

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame notched two more victories against ranked teams this weekend and three victories overall as it won the Island Division of the Paradise Jam in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

The No. 5 Irish (6-0) rolled passed No. 23 San Diego State, South Carolina and No. 20 Oklahoma at the tournament.

"We are playing with great confidence right now," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "The whole team is playing well. It seems as though whoever comes off the bench is ready to go, they are doing



TOM LA/The Observer

Freshman guard Skylar Diggins continued her stellar start to the season in the Paradise Jam over Thanksgiving.

see BENCH/page 21

ND VOLLEYBALL

Losing streak unusual occurrence for squad

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

After rattling off 15 straight victories in the regular season, the winning streak has become a defining theme for the Irish this year. But since falling to No. 15 Florida this weekend, the team's second straight loss, the Irish find themselves in unfamiliar territory.

"We just really didn't play very well," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "I think the main thing was just the fundamentals of serving and passing. We didn't serve very well at all, so we didn't put pressure on them to take them out of their offense, and we didn't receive serves well, so our passing was kind of erratic. It was the two basic fundamentals of volleyball that we didn't execute well."

Florida joins Tennessee and LSU as the third team from the Southeastern Conference to knock off the Irish (21-6, 14-0 Big East) in the regular season. The Gators (22-5, 16-4) combined for a .365 attacking percentage en route to a decisive 3-1 (25-13, 27-29, 25-15, 25-9) victory over Notre Dame.

Although the SEC has

see SEC/page 21