Basketball Legion to wear black

Switch from green in student section inspired by Brey, meant to drive up shirt sales

By CHRIS KHOREY
News Writer

Notre Dame men’s basketball fans will wear black this season.

That was the color of the official Leprechaun Legion T-shirt handed out to students at the Legion’s season-opening event Tuesday night at the Joyce Center.

Legion president Tom Ceravolo said the idea for black came from head basketball coach Mike Brey. The Irish have worn black jerseys on the road at times over the past two seasons, and Brey encouraged fans to wear black at a home game against Alabama last December.

Ceravolo said the new color has another purpose. The Legion sells its shirts — which are traditionally bright green — to non-students to benefit the Coaches Versus Cancer foundation, and sales have slipped in recent years.

“The same color T-shirt three years in a row doesn’t sell very well,” Ceravolo said.

The event, which featured a highlight video, the team’s walk-on tryouts and an appearance by former Irish star LaPhonso Ellis, drew hundreds of basketball fans.

“I love interacting with our sixth man — the students,” Ceravolo said.

Students cheer during a basketball game at the Joyce Center last season. The Leprechaun Legion section will wear black this year.

Students anticipate trick-or-treating, ghosts

Tour features haunted spots; Keenan hosts children’s event

By MEG MIRSHAK
Assistant News Editor

Students seeking thrills and an encounter with a Notre Dame ghost may get their wish today as the Student Activities Office (SAO) leads a tour to the haunted spots on campus, one activity available to trick-or-treaters this Halloween.

The SAO’s “Haunted Campus Tour” will leave from the Dooley Room in the LaFortune Student Center at 10 p.m. and make stops at Main Building, which University founder Father Edward Sorin is rumored to haunt; and Washington Hall, where Notre Dame’s first All-American football player, George Gipp, is said to visit.

Gipp contracted fatal pneumonia at Washington Hall in November of 1920, according to The Observer in October that he would support a cabstand at Notre Dame, NDSP Director Phil Johnson was skeptical and said the layout of campus would prevent such a measure.

At Tuesday’s COR meeting, student body president Liz Brown addressed NDSP’s concerns, suggesting a cabstand be placed outside McKenna Hall, a location that she said would help minimize the traffic flowing to Main Circle and also provide a place to hand out trespass notices to repeat offenders.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Unlucky Kentucky

Kentucky. Home to KFC, the Kentucky Derby, and coal.

Instead of flying home for fall break to my beloved Golden State of California, which is currently up in flames, I ventured into the Kentucky landscape, where I continued to be bombarded by greedy coal mining companies. I am one of a few environmentally conscious Notre Dame students, participated in the Appalachia Seminar there. We picked up later, fanned, cremated a wheat field, and, most importantly, witnessed the devastating effects of mountaintop removal (MTR).

MTR is a cheaper, more efficient form of mining compared to underground mining. The process involves blasting away the tops of mountains to obtain coal for energy consumption. Unfortunately, MTR results in the destruction of the Appalachian Mountains and the burial and contamination of thousands of streams, making life a living hell for the Appalachian community. As one Kentuckian student claimed, "Kentucky is being scarred like acne does to the face of a teen."

Furthermore, the federal government has recently proposed legalizing the continuance of the coal companies' evil mining ways. What it comes down to is money and greed over health and our environment. Enough is enough. What could we possibly do as campuses to help not just the people of Kentucky but all of Appalachia as well? Plenty.

Turn off your lights when not in use. Use daylight as a source of light. Unplug your chargers when not in use. Take quick showers. Set your computer to sleep and hibernation modes. Reduce the brightness of your computer screen.

Less TV and video games. More studying, praying and sports. (I think we got this one down already.)

Recycle. Make it easy when I see endless beer bottles in the garbage bin every Saturday and Sunday morning from a night of partying.

Notre Dame has just moved to single stream recycling, making it possible for us to put all recyclables in one container. Use it.

You may be wondering how this will benefit the people of Kentucky. It may not do it directly but it will decrease our energy consumption, resulting in a reduction of Notre Dame's reliance on coal.

Yes, it's true. Notre Dame uses coal. If you really cared about the environment, you would go to www.700mout tains.org. Educate yourself on the coal mining issue and write to oppose destructive coal mining practices.

To my Appalachia group, VI, Deb, Father Breen Phillips and, most importantly, witnessed the devastation of the Appalachian Mountains and the burial and contamination of thousands of streams, making life a living hell for the Appalachian community.

To the students of Notre Dame: Please contact Eric Sales at esales@nd.edu.

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CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 28 edition of The Observer, the article titled "Forks shine in Big East wins" said Ragur did not have a shot in the three minutes of the last six minutes. Haley Ford has scored 14 games, not eight, and Amanda Cardini has remained to play and is still side-lined with an injury.

The Observer regrets the errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What are you dressing up as for Halloween?

John Minser, sophomore, Siegfried. "A rubik's cube."


Rachael Curtin, freshman, Cavanaugh. "A sailor. It's cute."

Taylor Montgomery, junior, Dillon. "A banana because it's my favorite fruit."

John Walsh, sophomore, Keough. "A disgruntled student because I have a statistics test Thursday morning."

OFFBEAT

Boy, 7, takes car out for spin, crashes

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — He could barely reach the pedal, but one 7-year-old boy managed to take the family car out for a spin in his Lehigh Acres neighborhood.

A Florida Highway Patrol spokesman says John Vega took the keys to the car, drove it out of his driveway and crashed into several trees and a mailbox along the way.

Vega is being treated at Lee Memorial Hospital for minor injuries.

In all, authorities say the boy drove about 200 feet from start to finish.

Lab tech accused of abusing elderly corpse

TEANECK, N.J. — A Teaneck hospital lab technician has been jailed after being accused of sexually abusing the corpse of a 92-year-old woman, authorities say.

Authorities said a security guard allegedly saw Anthony Merino, 24, of Manhattan, engaging in sexual activity with the body in the Holy Name Hospital morgue on Sunday.

Bergen County officials charged Merino with desecrating human remains, which is punishable by up to 10 years in state prison.

A judge set bail at $400,000 and required Merino to undergo a psychological exam.

Merino, who had only worked at Holy Name as a per diem employee for 14 days, was immediately fired, the hospital said in a statement. The woman's next of kin also were informed after his arrest.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A collection of Douglas Kinsey paintings is on display in the Great Hall of O'Shaughnessy Hall through Nov. 29.

The Notre Dame women's basketball team will have an exhibition game against Southern Indiana Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

The hockey team will play Lake Superior State Thursday at 7:35 p.m. at the Joyce Center Ice Rink.

As part of the Boardroom Insights lecture series, Brenda Barnes, CEO of the Sara Lee Corporation will speak Friday at 10:40 a.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

The Black Cultural Arts Council is holding its annual talent show, "Black Images: Through the Seasons," Saturday at 8 p.m. in Washington Hall. Student tickets are $5.

As part of the Military History speaker series, author David Bell will offer a presentation on his new book, "The First Total War," which focuses on the Napoleonic Wars, next Monday at 4:30 p.m. in room 116, DeBellard Hall.

Gillian Sorensen, senior advisor to the United Nations Foundation, will deliver the lecture titled "The State of Women Internationally: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?" next Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the resign Hall auditorium.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observer@nd.edu.
Test date set for alert system

Campus comprehensive ND Alert notification will activate Friday

Special to The Observer

On Friday, Notre Dame will test ND Alert, the campus comprehensive emergency notification system. ND Alert includes a new component, the Web site emergency.nd.edu, that will provide ongoing information during a time of crisis.

On Friday afternoon, the Offices of News and Information and Information Technology will activate two ND Alert notification systems that will complement information at emergency.nd.edu.

A mass notification system will distribute a test message to student, faculty and employee personal and registered cell phones, University e-mail accounts and any additional personal e-mail accounts previously provided.

The University’s Comcast cable system will broadcast a test message to any live television in residence hall rooms, common areas such as the LaFortune Student Center and offices. All messages to personal communication devices and on the campus cable system will clearly indicate that a test is under way.

The ND alert notification system will be used only in the event of an extreme emergency. Emergency.nd.edu is expected to provide communications on a broader range of emergencies such as responses to severe winter weather or isolated utility issues that affect few but create a visible emergency response.

Members of the campus community who have not registered personal cell phone numbers and additional e-mail information are encouraged to do so.

At the beginning of each semester, students have the opportunity to update emergency contact information during enrollment. In addition, throughout the semester students may contact the Registrar’s Office to provide updates. Faculty and staff may provide emergency contact information through the Resources tab on InsideND.

Cabs

continued from page 1

safe place for students to catch a taxi.

“Students and cab drivers need to know where they can go to safely meet,’ Brown said.

She also said too many students have been walking through unsafe neighborhoods in order to go off campus, most likely because they are tired of being overcharged by taxi drivers.

“We need to make it easier for students to pay for cabs so that they do not have to walk late at night,” Brown said.

In other COR news:

COR members discussed the best method to involve students in the selection of the commencement speaker.

Several COR members said they felt the student body was unhappy with past speakers and that students, especially seniors, should have some say in the process.

“What we want is some student presence in the decision-making process,” said Chris Doughty, vice president of the senior class council.

Will Kearney, student government director of communications, suggested that the University allow senior class members to vote for a commencement speaker from a list of four or five possible candidates.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmahan@nd.edu

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■ All-Wheel Drive standard  
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■ 6-directional disc brakes with ABS

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still, she said, Notre Dame is a number of University employees school or law school," Putt said. young alumni who are planning turnover. are special cases, since the University's employment process, she said, and opportunities available to them, Putt said, depends on the University's employment turnover.

Paid internships that last 10 or 12 months tend to attract young alumni who are planning to "go to other areas where they can learn, or go on to grad school or law school," Putt said.

Recent graduates can sometimes land new positions at the University, but Putt said those are special cases, since the number of University employees is not growing considerably. Still, she said, Notre Dame is a good place to start a professional career. "There is a lot of opportunity for career development here, she said.

Human Resources will be represented at the career fair job fair at the Joyce Center and applications for openings are available online. Putt said.

Jim Furlong, who graduated in May, has a one-year internship at the Monogram Club. After being a student manager of the football team his junior and senior years, Furlong "wanted to stay involved in athletics," he said.

"I was somewhat familiar with the department, and I wanted to stay involved in any capacity. It sounded like a position that interested me," Furlong said.

As part of his internship, Furlong is responsible for organizing Monogram Club events, like the 30th reunion of the 1977 National Championship football team that was honored on the field during the USC game Oct. 20. But he, like Batteast, is unsure of what lies in his future. Furlong is considering going back to school or finding another internship.

The benefits of coming back to work at the University are "fantastic," Putt said. "It's exciting being a part of the University community again ... and then the total employment experience." Some of the perks include tickets to sporting events (like football and basketball games), discounts at the bookstore and golf course, and medical, dental and retirement benefits.

"It's really a great total package," she said. "Even people that aren't familiar with the University are welcomed with open arms. It's a great community."

Contact Jenn Metz at jm26@s. nd.edu

Pumpkin continued from page 1

and Keenan residents a chance to work with South Bend kids," Toner said.

About 50 children from the second to seventh grades will be led through an elaborate haunted house. Toner said. The Keenan resident assistants will supervise a different section of the haunted house, including the zombie and graveyard areas.

Eighteen other residence halls will also participate in Keenan's Great Pumpkin event. Each dorm will host trick-or-treating and set up stations where the children will be able to tell ghost stories and bob for apples, among other activities.

And this year, student government will also join the festivities, hosting a Halloween picnic on North Quad. Picnic attendees will then be guided through Keenan's haunted house.

"Great Pumpkin is bigger than it has ever been, for another five years," Reineccius said. "We are trying to give South Bend kids a chance to have a fun trick-or-treating experience, but also give college students and Keenan residents a chance to work with South Bend kids," Toner said.

"We are trying to give South Bend kids a chance to have a fun trick-or-treating experience, but also give college students..."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel conducts Gaza airstrike; 4 dead
GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli forces hit a Hamas-run police station in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis late Tuesday, killing at least seven people, Palestinian security and hospital officials said.

The Israeli military confirmed it carried out an airstrike, saying the target was a Hamas position in southern Gaza. It said the attack followed the firing of mortar shells by Hamas at an Israeli village near Gaza.

"We will continue to hit terrorist targets in Gaza," the military statement said.

Islam Shahwan, a Hamas security spokesman, said the target was the other Hamas riot police. Witnesses said the dead were in uniform.

Tropical Storm Noel strikes Caribbean

Tropical Storm Noel lashed the Dominican Republic with heavy rains Monday, causing flooding and landslides that killed at least 19 people and left another 20 missing, officials said.

Noel was expected to dump up to 20 inches of rain in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which share the island of Hispaniola, as it heads northwest toward the Bahamas.

Forecasters said a tropical storm watch, which means that tropical storm conditions are possible within 24 hours, would be issued for southeastern Florida early Tuesday.

The spinning tropical storm had been forecast to hit Haiti hardest but veered toward the Dominican Republic, apparently catching residents off guard.

National News

Tasered student will not be charged

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The University of Florida prosecution said Tuesday.

Andrew Meyer's shout of "Don't Tase me, bro!" after he was Tasered by police last month will not result in any charges, University of Florida spokesman Dan Lang said Tuesday.

"Mr. Meyer's shouts were in no way a call for police violence," said the statement from the university's statement.

"Mr. Meyer has not been charged because the college police department determined the incident was not criminal," the statement said.

Daniel R. Rouse, 52, was charged with killing his partner and co-workers last month in a Cass County farm field on a northern Indiana restaurant.

Rouse's plea agreement with prosecutors calls for a sentence of 20 years in prison, although he believes he will be able to avoid time behind bars due to his age.

It's possible to avoid prison time if Rouse, who said he was a "true believer," completes a rehabilitation program and is released on parole.

U.S. forces aid in anti-piracy efforts

As pirate attacks rise, multiple American warships involved in conflicts off the African Coast

Associated Press

NAIROBI — A U.S. Navy destroyer helped sailors who retook control of their vessel Tuesday in a deadly battle with pirates after the North Korean-flagged ship was hijacked in the piracy-plagued region off the coast of Somalia.

The Navy also confirmed that other American warships sank two pirate skiffs late Sunday and said U.S. ships were still monitoring that western Somali region.

In Tuesday's incident, a helicopter flew from the destroyer USS James E. Williams to investigate a phone call on the North Korea-owned ship and demanded by radio that the pirates give up their weapons, the military said in a statement.

The crew of the Dae Han Dan then overwhelmed the hijackers, leaving two pirates dead, according to a preliminary report, and five captured, the military said.

Three seriously injured crew members were taken aboard the Williams, the statement said. The captured pirates remained on the Dae Han Dan, which the crew was returning to the port of Mogadishu, Somalia's capital.

"When we get a distress call, we help," said Cmdr. Lydia Robertson, spokeswoman for the Williams.

The Navy said it sent the crew 22 crew members were taken aboard the Williams, the statement said. The captured pirates remained on the Dae Han Dan, which the crew was returning to the port of Mogadishu, Somalia's capital.

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Karsten Hjalmarsson had been sentenced to two years in prison after being convicted of sexual assault.

But he is grateful now.

"I'm a true believer," Hjalmarsson said.

He says he has embraced restrictions designed to be so tough that people can't stay in their homes if they have nothing to do. He says he is now a "true believer" in "shelter-in-place," designed by the government.

"People are ready to accept it when they're talking about an ancient city in the Middle East," he says. "But they're talking about people in this country who have nothing to do."
closed tunnels that Saint Mary's students once used to travel between buildings. The tunnels closed in summer of 2005. Like Holy Cross, other residence halls are also hosting Halloween-themed events throughout the week. Regina Hall sponsored a scarecrow-making contest Tuesday night. Stuffing was provided, but participants had to bring clothing and decorations. Today, LeMans Hall will throw a Murder Mystery Party. But campus-wide scheduled events are not the only way Saint Mary's students will celebrate Halloween. Junior Allison Buddie plans to read the book "Quiet Hours," a collection of ghost stories about the Saint Mary's campus, to seek out what ghosts she can find throughout the day. "I'm reading it because I want to know what is lurking around in LeMans while I sleep," Buddie said. She said she's interested in learning about the Queen's Court section of LeMans, a predominantly freshman section that has a haunted history. "I've heard the stories about the nun who goes to the chapel and extinguishes the candles," Buddie said. "There's also a ghost of a student who is said to wander Queen's Court taking things from residents and hiding them. It's only two floors below me, and that's pretty cool." Other Halloween events on campus: • The Anime Club is hosting a Halloween Dance in Haugger Parlor at 9 p.m. Tickets are $2 at the door; refreshments will be provided. • Dalloway's Coffee House is hosting its annual Haunted Tours event at 8 p.m. Hot cider will be provided.

Contact Liz Harper at chartl01@stmarys.edu

Tickets continued from page 1
Brey said before the event Tuesday. "That's important to me. I want to make it very clear how important our sixth man is." Tuesday night was the first opportunity for students to purchase season tickets to men's basketball games, but the tickets will be on sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the Joyce Center. Season tickets will also be available for purchase online. Notre Dame is riding a 20-game home court-winning streak and was undefeated at home last season. The Irish also made the NCAA tournament last year for the first time since 2003. Despite all that, however, crowd support was inconsistent. While students and fans packed the stands for important Big East contests, and the game with Alabama, other games saw a half-empty arena. Ellis emphasized the importance of crowd support. "If you guys are into the game, it pays huge dividends for the guys on the floor," he said in his speech to the crowd.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS
DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION

Artist Ramiro Rodriguez will discuss his installation Cuentos y Memoria

Prizes will be awarded for the "Queen's Aloha" Frida and the "Spirit of Frida" costumes to honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of the iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo

Performances by Notre Dame's Ballet Folklorico Azul y Oro and the Mariachi ND.

The evening ends with traditional Mexican refreshments in the O'Shaughnessy Great Hall.

7:00 pm Thursday, November 1, 2007
Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art
University of Notre Dame

The Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame and the Institute for Latino Studies present the sixth annual observance of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a Mexican tradition that honors the dead and celebrates the links of those who have gone before us. The event is co-sponsored by Campus Ministry, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and Multicultural Student Programs and Services.

Día de los Muertos T-shirts free to the first 50 people.
This event is free and open to the public. For further information please contact Jackie Welsh, curator of education at the Snite Museum of Art; 574.631.4435.

Please recycle The Observer.
THE OBSERVER

BUSINESS

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

MARKET Recap

IN BRIEF

Merrill Lynch CEO steps down

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The unfolding credit crisis has claimed its biggest corporate casualty so far: the CEO of Merrill Lynch & Co. Stan O’Neal.

The announcement of his departure Tuesday came after the world’s largest broker had lost $16.5 billion in quarterly losses, its biggest since being founded 93 years ago. Merrill Lynch did not name a replacement number of other corporate leaders had been expected, and who leaves the company with liabilities worth $16.5 billion.

Laurence Fink, the chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer, said the decision was made to better position the company to weather the “unfolding credit crisis.” Fink said he was impressed with the way O’Neal had turned around Merrill Lynch.

"These losses, coupled with rumors that O’Neal had proposed a merger with Wachovia with which he was later passed over by the board’s approval, essentially doom O’Neal’s career,“ said Morningstar analyst Ryan Lentell. "The new CEO’s first priority must be to ensure proper risk-management procedures are in place to prevent a recurrence of the quarter’s loss." O’Neal, 56, accepted blame for the losses, which immediately led to calls for his ouster. The mistake would prove to be his last, ending a career that spanned more than two decades at Merrill Lynch.

He was one of the highest-ranking blocks on Wall Street — a stunning climb from his impoverished roots in Alabama as the grandson of a former slave. O’Neal emphasized riskier bets than past Merrill CEOs, rather than the safety of just selling stocks. That strategy — which handed Merrill Lynch record results during the market’s peak — came with a heavy cost during the tumultuous third quarter.

Merrill Lynch still has sizable portfolio of complex financial instruments called collateralized debt obligations, which combine slices of different kinds of risk. It was Merrill’s bet on CDOs, and the subprime mortgages underpinning many of them, that proved to be O’Neal’s downfall.

Dealing with that portfolio will be the priority for co-presidents and chief operating officers Alphonse Fakahany and Gregory Fleming. Merrill Lynch said its directors will be split — with Fleming in charge of Merrill’s front-line businesses, such as its brokerage.

Do Not Call list may become permanent

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress took the first step Tuesday toward an agreement to ensure that people who registered for the national Do Not Call list won’t be inundated next year with telemarketing calls at dinnertime.

At a hearing before the Commerce Committee, Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Pa., cleared the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Tuesday and will be sent to the full House for a vote. Doyle said his legislation would give millions of Americans “a little much-needed peace and quiet.”

The House committee also approved a bill, sponsored by Rep. Claire Starkins, R-Fla., that extends the authority of the FTC to collect fees from telemarketers. That authority expired last month.

In the Senate, a measure similar to the Doyle bill cleared the Commerce Committee. Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., who sponsored the bill, said it would prevent phones from starting to ring again at supper time.

The bill heads to the full Senate for a vote. Last month, the FTC had said the expiration date was needed to account for changes, such as people who move and switch their phone numbers. Critics complained, pointing out that the list is already scrubbed each month of numbers that have been disconnected and reassigned to new customers. Doyle’s bill would require purges by the FTC twice a month.

David Cottner, legal policy director at AARP, says many people don’t know about the need to re-register every five years. So the legislation, he says, is important.

"People don’t want these unwanted calls,” Cottner said. “For an older person, sometimes it’s more than just a bother. It can be a great inconvenience to try to get to a phone only to find out it’s simply a call you don’t want to receive in the first place.”

Linda Stevenson of West Chester, Pa., placed her phone number on the Do Not Call list in the early days of the program. She thinks the legislation is a good idea.

Merrill Lynch posts largest quarterly loss as credit crisis fallout continues

Brooked Press

NEW YORK — Pancake house chain IHOP moves to purchase Applebee’s Restaurants Inc. when shareholders approved a $25.5 million share deal, a 4.6 percent premium over its closing price on the day before the offer was announced.

Nearly all votes cast by Midwest shareholders approved the sale, worth $450 million in annual sales and more than 3,200 restaurants.

Midwest Air approves sale to TPG

Midwest Airline shareholders agree in August to be bought out for $1.9 billion by TPG for $17 a share in cash. It has about $18.30.

Under terms of the deal, shareholders of Overland Park-based Midwest will be paid $25.50 per share, a 4.6 percent premium over its closing price on the day before the offer was announced.

Stanley O’Neal, pictured in New York in November 2006, will retire as CEO and chairman of Merrill Lynch amid company turmoil.

"These losses, coupled with rumors that O’Neal had proposed a merger with Wachovia with which he was later passed over by the board’s approval, essentially doom O’Neal’s career,“ said Morningstar analyst Ryan Lentell. "The new CEO’s first priority must be to ensure proper risk-management procedures are in place to prevent a recurrence of the quarter’s loss.” O’Neal, 56, accepted blame for the losses, which immediately led to calls for his ouster. The mistake would prove to be his last, ending a career that spanned more than two decades at Merrill Lynch.

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Dealing with that portfolio will be the priority for co-presidents and chief operating officers Alphonse Fakahany and Gregory Fleming. Merrill Lynch said its directors will be split — with Fleming in charge of Merrill’s front-line businesses, such as its brokerage.

The announcement of his ouster had been expected, according to a person with direct knowledge of the offer who was not authorized to speak publicly. With the presumed front-runner out of the contest, filling the top spot at Merrill Lynch is not expected to be easy given the remaining unknowns from the global credit crisis.

Any replacement will face the daunting task of cleaning up subprime mortgages and other risky types of debt, and rebuilding an investment bank badly bruised by the downturn.

There is speculation by a number of analysts that Merrill Lynch faces a $4 billion writedown during the fourth quarter, a stunning amount since Merrill originally said it would lose $4.5 billion because of credit market turmoil.

"These losses, coupled with rumors that O’Neal had proposed a merger with Wachovia with which he was later passed over by the board’s approval, essentially doom O’Neal’s career,“ said Morningstar analyst Ryan Lentell. "The new CEO’s first priority must be to ensure proper risk-management procedures are in place to prevent a recurrence of the quarter’s loss.” O’Neal, 56, accepted blame for the losses, which immediately led to calls for his ouster. The mistake would prove to be his last, ending a career that spanned more than two decades at Merrill Lynch.

He was one of the highest-ranking blocks on Wall Street — a stunning climb from his impoverished roots in Alabama as the grandson of a former slave. O’Neal emphasized riskier bets than past Merrill CEOs, rather than the safety of just selling stocks. That strategy — which handed Merrill Lynch record results during the market’s peak — came with a heavy cost during the tumultuous third quarter.

Merrill Lynch still has sizable portfolio of complex financial instruments called collateralized debt obligations, which combine slices of different kinds of risk. It was Merrill’s bet on CDOs, and the subprime mortgages underpinning many of them, that proved to be O’Neal’s downfall.

"Congress," notes Professor Schrag, "significantly reduced the period (10 years rather than 25 years) under which public servants' educational loans were partly forgiven. It also reduced monthly payments for all high debt/low income borrowers, with a new "income-based repayment (IBR) program." Borrowers with eligible Federal Direct Loans will have the unpaid balance of principal and interest forgiven after they have made 120 monthly payments after Oct. 1, 2007. That is, all of these payments were made while the borrower was employed in a "public service job." Employment in such a job does not have to be for 10 consecutive years nor does it have to be with the same employer. But the borrower has to be so employed at the time the loan is forgiven. A public service job is defined as:

- A "full-time job in emergency management, government, military service, public safety, law enforcement, public health, public education (including early childhood education), social work in a public child or family service agency, public interest law services, public defense or legal advocacy in low-income communities at a nonprofit organization, public child care, public service for individuals with disabilities, public service for the elderly, public library sciences, school-based library sciences and other school-based services or at an organization that is described in section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501 (c) of that Code; or
- Teaching as a full-time faculty member at a Tribal College or University as defined in section 316 (b) and other faculty teaching in high-needs areas, as determined by the Secretary."

The Act defines an "eligible Federal Direct Loan" as "[a] Federal Direct Stafford Loan, Federal Direct PLUS Loan, or Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan."

A borrower with government-guaranteed loans that are not federal direct loans may consolidate such loans into a Federal Direct Consolidation Loan that qualifies for the loan forgiveness program. A federal "direct" loan is made by the U.S. Department of Education as the lender. Loans that are not already guaranteed by the federal government are not eligible for consolidation and eligibility for loan forgiveness.

Effective in July 2009, borrowers of most government-guaranteed loans, including Stafford and Grad PLUS loans, can reduce their monthly payments of principal and interest if they qualify, by reason of "partial financial hardship," for the new "income-based repayment" option. Professor Schrag recommends that borrowers consolidate non-qualifying government-guaranteed loans into federal direct loans and then reduce their monthly payments by using the current income-contingent repayment plan and, when it becomes available in July 2009, the income-based repayment plan if they qualify for it. According to Schrag, a borrower who has $100,000 in college loans and is employed in a "public service job" with a starting salary of $40,000 and annual salary increases of 3 percent could have more than $125,000 in principal and interest forgiven under the combined programs at the end of 10 years of public service.

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Loyal sons and daughters

Thank you to Cathy Schneeman and her mom, Erin, for recalling the fact that we have loyal sons AND daughters here at Notre Dame. I graduated in 1981 and recall singing the fight song with the immortal words: "Oh, here her loyal sons and daughters march-on to victory." As the husband of one Domer (1979) and the father of two Domers (son AND daughter) — that is how I sing it. Let's change the ending to reflect all of Our Lady's children. It is fitting that Sister Jean Lentz is being honored Thursday for her long service to the University. Her book title, "Loyal Sons and Daughters," says it all.

Nick Mutich
Class of 1981
Oct. 30

Gender-Exclusive' song appropriate

In response to Cathy and Erin Burns Schneeman, who wrote an Oct. 30 viewpoint entitled "Reconsidering the Victory March," I must agree raising one's hand triumphantly at reference to Notre Dame, our Mother — the Holy Mother of God, the Mother of Christ our Savior, Mother of Peace, Mother of Mercy, Mother most pure, Mother most chaste. Mother of good counsel, Mother of Christ our Creator. Mother of eternal glory, Mother most prudent, Mother most venerable. Mother most faithful, the mirror of justice, the seat of wisdom, joy of all who sorrow, the life-giving spring, the Holy Grail, Tower of David, Ark of the Covenant, Throne of the eternal King, Sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. Ladder of Heaven, Virgin of the rod of Jesse and the morning star — suffice to be "gender-inclusive"? Would that I be proud, not ashamed, to claim unity with Mary and find in her the image of perfect femininity.

Dan Amitt
Junior
Kenen Hall
Oct. 30

Obscenity unacceptable

A moment came in the 38-0 loss to USC Oct. 20 in which I was embarrassed to be part of the Notre Dame community. But it wasn't because of yet another blowout loss to USC, bringing us to 1-7 for the season. It was because of the chant that arose from the student section in the fourth quarter when USC challenged a call. The chant was not only audible to the 80,000 people in the stadium, but also on the NBC broadcast of the game. That chant was, "F*** Pete Carroll.

To whoever started this chant or participated in it: This is not acceptable. Notre Dame does not do things like that. Such conduct reflects poorly on the team, students, alumni and the entire Notre Dame community. One need not even have the clearest of vocabularies to realize that. No individual student, no section of students, and not even a majority of the student body has the right to do such a dishonorable thing that brings shame to Our Lady's university. I can understand the motivations behind such conduct, but there simply is no justification for it. Not a 1-7 season. Not by a long shot. Not the sixth loss in a row to USC. Not even Pete Carroll. Current students are not owed anything more than any other generation of fans or alumni. We have not been given the right to bring such dishonor to the University of Notre Dame. My roommate attended the 38-0 loss to Michigan in 2003 in Ann Arbor, Mich. and characterized it as one of the worst experiences of his life. Not only was the less pretty darn bad, but also the chant of "F*** Michigan" which arose. Nearly the entire Michigan student body near the end of the game was pretty inappropriate and insulting. Perhaps that kind of behavior is just fine at the University of Michigan, but please, not here. There are a lot of things that set Notre Dame apart from other universities. I'd like to think that the character of the student body is still one of those. Such character might include things like respecting the other team, respecting opposing fans and respecting the reputation of one's own university. As a bare minimum, can we at least refrain from chanting "F*** you" at the opposing coach?

Benjamin Ellison
Class of 2003
current graduate student
Oct. 29

Fitting the words with the music

Following up on the letter from Cathy and Erin Burns Schneeman concerning the gender issue in the Victory March ("Reconsidering the Victory March," Oct. 30), I must agree that some change is in order, but substituting "sons and daughters" for "sons" just does not fit musically. I have two daughters who are alumni (a gender neutral term), of the classes of 1997 and 2001, and I have given this some thought over the years. To remain loyal to the original music, I substitue "ones" for "sons" so that regardless of gender, Our Lady's loyal ones may march on together.

Mike Keane
Class of 1980
Oct. 30

Obscenity unacceptable

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Mike Keane
Class of 1980
Oct. 30

Football game behavior assessed

Obscenity unacceptable

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Mike Keane
Class of 1980
Oct. 30

Fans must 'uplift' team for Navy game

If you haven't noticed by now, the Notre Dame football team has made the wrong kind of history this season by starting 0-5 and currently holding a 1-7 record. Although this experience is heartbreaking for both fans and players, this does not preclude the student body and fans base from its duties during home football games.

There has been a marked decline in the loudness and the charisma shown by the student body and fans. This was apparent during the match-up against USC. It is only natural to feel beaten up and weary after consistently losing, but we must not remain complacent. It is our job, as students and as fans, to uplift our team in those trying moments of a game, instead of feeding the momentum shift in the opposition's favor — allowing the opponent's band to be heard from afar. Furthermore, to have left the game early prior to the singing of the Alma Mater is much like turning your back on your fellow classmates, and denouncing what we are supposed to stand for. This will not suffice, and must be stopped, for Notre Dame faces a great challenge this Saturday. The Naval Academy will be in town to play the Irish, and it will not be as easy as in previous years. Although they are 4-4, Navy has posted high scores against opponents such as Pittsburgh and Duke. Coming off a 59-53 loss against Delaware, Navy is ranked 35th in punt scoring according to ESPN.com. Navy will certainly be ready to battle the Irish come Saturday. In such a game there will be mistakes made, and this should not dis-

You don't have to wait up all night long in a pumpkin in the holiday classic "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!"

Prove that you ain't afraid of no ghosts and watch Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray and Rick Moranis kick some undead butt in "Ghostbusters."

Jason Voorhees and his signature mask became a staple in the 1980 horror blockbuster "Friday the 13th."

Descend into "The Nightmare Before Christmas" Burton's twisted take on a trans-holiday takeover.

The only thing scarier than Notre Dame football this year is the cult classic "Legenchaun," a terrifying tale of a leprechaun gone wrong.

Who's that driving, Patrick Swayze?

Werewolves of London by Warren Zevon
Just youtube it.

The only thing scarier than Notre Dame football this year is the cult classic "Legenchaun," a terrifying tale of a leprechaun gone wrong.
Freddy Krueger and his dermatological problems terrify audiences in "A Nightmare on Elm Street," Wes Craven's horror masterpiece.

Whether they exist on campus remains to be seen, but "Gremlins" serves up a half-comedy, half-scary taste of the critters.

**NHL Malkin scores twice to aid Penguins in victory**

Higgins ties game for Montreal with only minutes left; Atlanta's Kovalchuk nets decisive goal in shootout

Associated Press

ST. PAUL — Sidney Crosby has waited three years for a chance to play professionally in the "State of Hockey." The hockey-crazed fans here have been just as eager to see No. 87 in person, and the NHL's newest superstar and his brilliant young sidekick didn't disappoint.

Playing in Minnesota for the first time in their young careers, Crosby had a goal and three assists, and Evgeni Malkin scored twice and had an assist in Pittsburgh's 4-2 victory over the wounded Minnesota Wild on Tuesday night.

"It's fun to be able to come here and play," said Crosby, who starred as a 15-year-old player at prep powerhouse Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault. "No matter how the night ended up, it's just nice because I was here before, watching games and dreamed of one day playing in the NHL and playing here. It's really a bonus to come out of here with a win." 

Pittsburgh's power play goal — on a beautiful feed from Crosby in the slot — broke a 2-2 tie with 9:52 to play, and Crosby broke free on a line change by Minnesota and sealed the win with his fifth goal of the season just over four minutes later.

"Crosby's line was on fire," Penguins coach Michel Therrien said.

Stephanie Weillex and Brian Rolston scored for the hard-handed Wild, who lost at home for the first time this season and fell to 0-3-1 in their last four games after starting the season on NHL-best 7-0-1.

Pittsburgh caught the Wild at an opportune time, after a rash of groin injuries shelved Minnesota's top three players, Dynamic forwards Marian Gaborik and Pavel Demitra and No. 1 goalie Niklas Backstrom all missed the game.

"It's a huge hole, there's no question, but we have enough guys in here to get the job done," Rolston said. "We were in the game tonight, all the way through it. We just need to be a little bit better." 

Josh Harding made 23 saves for Minnesota, but a couple of costly bounces went against his team in a Pittsburgh-dominated first period.

Malkin scored the first goal of the game when Crosby lost the puck behind the net, and it trickled off the red pretty poor effort. I tried to be patient and only knocked it on the Russian's stick. Malkin slipped the puck in on Harding's left side for an easy wraparound goal, his fourth tally this season.

**Thrashers 3, Canadiens 2**

MONTREAL — The Atlanta Thrashers have good reason to smile on their longest road trip of the season.

Ilya Kovalchuk scored the decisive goal in the shootout to give Atlanta a win over the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday night. The Thrashers have consecutive victories for the first time this season and improved to 3-2 in their seven-game trip.

"It's always great when you're winning," Kovalchuk said. "(Wednesday) is a new game. We're going to Ottawa and it's a long marathon of a trip. We need to stick together and play for each other, that's the most important thing."

Kovalchuk put a shot past Montreal rookie Carey Price on Atlanta's third attempt, and Thrashers goalie Johan Hedberg forced Alex Kovalev to shoot off the post after Thrashers rookie Bryan Little and Canadians captain Saku Koivu both scored in the second round.

Chris Higgins scored Montreal's second power-play goal of the game with 1:58 remaining in regulation to tie it at 2.

Todd White took Atlanta's third straight penalty at 17:50 when he was sent off for hooking. The Canadians quickly took advantage as Koivu put a centering pass from the right corner to Higgins, who beat goalie Hedberg for his fourth goal.

Kovalov, who assisted on the goal, also scored in the second.

"We stole a point," Higgins said. "We didn't deserve it at all, it was a pretty poor effort. I mean, we played decently in the third but still our power play wasn't working and the rest of our game, the first two periods, was pretty awful." 

The first three goals were all scored unassisted, including both tallied by Atlanta. Eric Perrin and Yvanchev Kozlov scored 57 seconds apart late in the second period to give the Thrashers a 2-1 lead.

Hedberg stopped 31 shots for Atlanta (4-8).

The Thrashers improved to 1-2-0 under GM Don Waddell, who took over behind the bench on an interim basis after he fired coach Bob Hartley following an 0-6-0 start.

"I think the biggest difference right now is we're getting a good effort from everyone," Waddell said. "Kovalev wasn't scoring, Kovacev wasn't scoring the way he's scoring right now, and it's our big guys who are coming through for us. Marian Hossa's still a little bit snakebitten. He had some good chances again. The two games we didn't get the benefit of the back, but our voters are doing a great job for us."

Kovalov also scored unassisted for Montreal, which ended a season-high, four-game-winning streak. Producer, who won for the second time in three road starts in Saturday's 4-3 shootout victory at Pittsburgh, made consecutive starts for the first time.

"I think the biggest difference with his sixth goal of the season was we played 8-10 into the second. He held the puck on the right side as Thrashers defensemen Ken Klee kept his distance before putting a shot off the post and into the left side of the net.

Perrin tied it at 16:16 with his second of the season.

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**The Observer - CLASSIFIEDS**

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

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The Observer accepts classified every business day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Notre Dame Office, 2nd South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 2 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content or using refunds.

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**Canadian's right wing Tim Kostopoulos checks Thrashers defensemen Tobias Enstrom during Atlanta's 3-2 win Tuesday.**
A R O U N D  T H E  N A T I O N

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

College Football
AP Poll

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College Football
USA Today Poll

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College Football
BCS Standings

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around the dial

NBA
Dallas at Cleveland
8 p.m., ESPN

Seattle at Denver
10:30 p.m., ESPN

MLB

Los Angeles manager Grady Little resigned from the Dodgers Tuesday. The Dodgers are rumored to be speaking with former Yankees manager Joe Torre.

Little resigns from Los Angeles Dodgers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Grady Little resigned as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday, paving the way for Joe Torre to take the job.

Little said it was a move he considered for some time, and he told general manager Ned Colletti of his decision Tuesday. First, Little called it "a mutual resignation." Later, he said it was his choice to leave with a year remaining on his contract.

"I've got my own personal reasons," Little said on a conference call. When asked if reports that the Dodgers were speaking with Torre influenced his decision, Little replied firmly: "No."

Torre and his former bench coach with the New York Yankees, Don Mattingly, have discussed the possibility of joining the Dodgers together, according to a person with knowledge of those talks. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the manager's job was still open in Los Angeles.

"We haven't hired anybody," Colletti said. "We're talking to some people, that's all I'm going to tell you. We'll talk about where we go from here at a later date."

The 67-year-old Torre managed the Yankees to four World Series championships and 12 playoff appearances in as many seasons before turning down a one-year, $5 million offer for next season with an additional $3 million in incentives on Oct. 18.

Torre, who completed a three-year, $19.2 million contract this year, ranks eighth on baseball's career list with 2,067 victories and has won a record 76 postseason games.

Colletti said he had an idea the 57-year-old Little was leaning toward resigning, so he recently discussed the job with potential replacements. The GM said he didn't want to get caught empty-handed.

One of those candidates, Colletti acknowledged, was Joe Girardi, hired by the Yankees as Torre's successor earlier Tuesday.

"I wanted Grady Little back. I encouraged him a handful of times to think it through," Colletti said. Team owner Frank McCourt said on the season's final day that Little would return next year, but recently several news outlets reported the Dodgers were speaking with Torre about their managerial job.

In Brief

Duncan signs with Spurs until 2011-12 season

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan has agreed to a two-year, $40 million contract extension with the San Antonio Spurs, an official familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday.

The agreement will add to Duncan's existing three-year deal and keep him in San Antonio at least through the 2011-12 season, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the source was not authorized to discuss negotiations.

The 31-year-old Duncan has led the Spurs to four NBA titles in the past nine seasons, and he was the final MVP for the first three. He also won back-to-back league MVP titles in 2002-03.

Duncan, entering his 11th season, was the No. 1 pick in 1997, two years before the Spurs won their first title.

The nine-time All-Star has career averages of 21.8 points and 11.9 rebounds.

Brazil to host World Cup in 2014

ZURICH, Switzerland — Brazil was chosen host of the 2014 World Cup on Tuesday, returning the showcase event to the soccer-mad country that held the tournament in 1950 and has captured it three times in record five times.

Brazil was the only candidate and won in a unanimous vote by the executive committee of the sport's governing body.

"Soccer is not only a sport for us," Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said. "It's more than that: Soccer is not only a sport, it's a passion, a national passion."

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said Brazil now has "not only the right, but the responsibility" to organize the 2014 tournament.

Lula, who flew in for the announcement, promised that Brazil "will now with great pride do its homework." And, he added, "if everything works out well, we will win once again a World Cup."

Final defendant pleads guilty in Duquesne shooting case

PITTSBURGH — A former Duquesne student pleaded guilty Tuesday to helping two friends armed with guns get into a school dance the night five basketball players were shot and wounded.

Brittany Jones, 20, was sentenced Tuesday to two years of probation. A judge also ordered Jones to stay off the university's campus and away from anyone with a gun.

Jones' attorney, James Ecker, said his client could have been sentenced to years in prison if she had not reached a plea agreement.

"She's very happy, she's continuing going to church and she has a job," Ecker told The Associated Press. "She's very happy and her family's very happy."

Jones was the last of four defendants to plead guilty in the September 2006 shooting.
Clemens to start at QB for NY Jets

Associated Press

HEMPESTAD — There were no awkward moments or uncomfortable conversations. Chad Pennington and Kellen Clemens had already prepared for this situation.

When Jets coach Eric Mangini announced Monday that he was turning to Clemens as his starting quarterback, Pennington recalled the discussions he and the 2006 second-round draft pick had recently.

"Our promise to each other was that no matter what happened, we would give our full support and do whatever we needed to do to help the other one be successful," Pennington said.

"It's Clemens' turn to see if he can turn around the Jets' season from a 1-7 start, starting Sunday against Washington. It's also time for Pennington to turn into a mentor, much in the same way Vinny Testaverde helped him along at the beginning of his career. The fact Pennington has handled his benching with grace has made the transition from backup to starter a bit smoother for Clemens.

"Ten times easier," Clemens said. "It's all just a credit to the man that Chad Pennington is, to the teammate he is. He wants to win as much as anybody and I know Chad's thought has always been the team first, and I'm sure that won't change."

Mangini's announcement wasn't a huge surprise. It's a move fans and media have been suggesting for weeks as the Jets have struggled to a 1-7 start.

"I made this decision not based on singling out Chad for where we are, but based on the fact that I think Kellen has earned this opportunity," Mangini said. "I want to give him this opportunity. It's in no way an indication that Chad is solely responsible. We all are."

The 31-year-old Pennington, in his eighth season, has failed to move the offense effectively as the Jets have lost five straight and rank 30th in total offense; only Buffalo and San Francisco are worse.

"Coach made it clear that I'm not the villain here," Pennington said. "And I'm not the only one to blame for the lack of our success or our problems, but he did feel like Kellen deserved a chance."

Clemens, in his second season out of Oregon, replaced Pennington late Sunday in the Jets' 13-3 loss to Buffalo. He was just 5-of-12 for 67 yards and two interceptions, but one of those came on a desperation toss as time expired.

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Girardi hired as Yankees manager

NEW YORK — Joe Girardi is back in pinstripes, taking over as New York Yankees manager from his mentor, Tony Pena, who had the most managerial experience of all the candidates.

Girardi was hired Tuesday, agreeing to a three-year contract to replace Joe Torre in New York's dugout.

"I think any of us would be somewhat surprised to get the job because it's such an honor," Girardi said. "I'm extremely excited and thrilled."

"I can't be Joe Torre, because I'm made up different. I'm a different character. I'm just worried about being myself and getting the most out of the guys."

The deal is worth an average salary of at least $2 million annually, a baseball official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the details.

Girardi was the 2006 NL Manager of the Year with Florida, plus he has a pinstriped pedigree. The hard-nosed catcher played on three Yankees teams that won the World Series, served as their bench coach under Torre and was a TV announcer this year.

"Joe Girardi is a good man," Torre said Monday on "Late Show with David Letterman." "He's got a feel for this organization."

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman was impressed by three attributes he saw in Girardi: hard work, accountability and discipline.

"He likes to compete all the time," Cashman said. "We believe he's mentally tough."

Girardi caught for the Yankees from 1996-99, served as a bench coach in 2005, then managed the Marlins the following year. He kept a young team in contention until September and then was fired, apparently for clashing with owner Jeffrey Loria and others above him.

The 43-year-old Girardi often told many in the Marlins about how the Yankees did things, reinforcing the winning ways he learned in New York. Now, he'll get a chance to try them out himself.

Girardi was the first person to interview to replace Torre, who managed the team to the play-offs in each of his 12 seasons. Girardi turned down the Baltimore Orioles' managing job last summer, saying he preferred to spend time with his ailing father.

Mattingly also interviewed for the Yankees spot last week, telling team management how much he wanted it. Earlier this month, he said replacing Torre would be quite a challenge.

"It's like following John Wooden or something," Mattingly said then.

Girardi gets the unenviable task of following Torre, who led the Yankees to four World Series titles in his first five years — but none since — and was one of the most celebrated sports figures in the city.

"We believe he's mentally tough," Brian Cashman Yankees general manager.

Girardi inherits a team in transition and one without Alex Rodriguez. He also is not assured of getting back pitchers Andy Pettitte and Mariano Rivera or catcher Jorge Posada.

"Obviously they are important Yankees, and they have meant so much to the organization," Girardi said.

Rivera and his agent, Fernando Cuza, were at Legends Field in Tampa on Tuesday, to talk with Yankees officials. The ace reliever, who has filed for free agency, said the Yankees have a "very good shot" to keep him.

"If they want me bad enough, I'll sign," Rivera said.

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"If they want me bad enough, I'll sign," Rivera said. "It's up to them."

Afterward, Cuza said they had a good meeting but wouldn't speculate whether Rivera would be a Yankee next season.

"I don't know," Caça said. "It's up to them."

Rodriguez informed the Yankees on Sunday that he was motivated wanting his contract and becoming a free agent. The Yankees have repeatedly said they wouldn't negotiate with A Rod if he hit the open market.

"You are going to miss those 54 home runs and 150-plus RBIs, but to me you can't look backwards, you have to look forwards," Girardi said.

Recycle The Observer.
Romo signs $67.5 million contract

Associated Press

IRVING — Wearing jeans and an untucked Dallas Cowboys golf shirt, Tony Romo treated Tuesday as if it was any other day of work.

Well, there were a few differences. Such as the fact he brought mum and dad to team headquarters.

And the $67.5 million contract he showed up to sign.

On one of the biggest days of his life, Romo remained the average guy he’s been since joining the Cowboys as an undrafted free agent five years ago. He said he was humbled by the $11.5 million signing bonus and by cementing a spot in the lineage of Don Meredith-to-Roger Staubach-to-Troy Aikman, but he also insisted the only thing that’s going to change is his tax bracket.

Want proof? He’s even planning to keep his apartment — and his roommate — despite having the third-highest annual salary among NFL quarterbacks ahead of Tom Brady and Brett Favre.

“I never really thought this was a goal along the way. I still don’t necessarily perceive it as a goal, but it’s something really neat that I get to experience,” Romo said, flashing the dimpled air-sharks grin that’s helped him land dates with gorgeous actresses and singers.

“It’s special just to be a part of this. The best feeling by far is that the organization, the Jones family, our coaches and everyone else, they’re your guy. You’re the guy they want to go to in the next level with. We want to get back to the Super Bowl around here and win those things. That means everything, more than the money ever could.”

If Romo’s attitude seems too good to be true, there’s a good reason for it. The story of how he got to this point fits the same description.

Undrafted out of college, he turned down $25,000 signing bonuses elsewhere and took $10,000 from the Cowboys because he liked his chances of beating out the competition. Before last season, his fourth, he still hadn’t thrown a pass, but asked for a multimillion-dollar contract as a challenge to his bosses, telling them the more they paid him, the more likely they were to play him.

He got the deal and, eventually, the playing time. The contract numbers show he’s made the most of it.

“You can either do this or you can’t,” he said. “I didn’t know if I was, but I put myself in position to succeed.”

Romo thought about what the big contract means while sitting in bed Monday night. It was still on his mind when he woke up Tuesday morning. By the time he met the media in the afternoon, he had it sorted out.

“It almost feels like we accomplished something here today, but it doesn’t,” he said. “This sets you up financially and does all the things that you somewhat hoped for in life, but you don’t set it out as a goal when you start out as a football player. This is something that more or less comes along the way.”

Team owner Jerry Jones called Romo “the man for the 2000s,” adding, “I wouldn’t have done this if I didn’t think he gives us a chance to win Super Bowls.”

It took a while for him to come to that conclusion.

Jones’ hesitations started during the 2003 draft, when then-offensive coordinator Sean Payton lobbied hard for Romo. Jones figured it was because they went to the same school, Eastern Illinois.

Once Romo arrived, the Cowboys went through Quincy Carter, Chad Hutchinson, Vinny TestaVerde and Drew Bledsoe before turning to him last October.

Romo started 5-1, setting records and turning heads. He got Dallas into the playoffs, then knocked the team out by flubbing the hold of a short field goal in Seattle. He revealed more of his character with how he responded, crying and apologizing to teammates that night, then weeks later asking to be the holder at the Pro Bowl.

By then, Jones believed in Romo enough not to draft Brady Quinn when he had the chance in April — but not enough to offer a big contract without seeing him play more.

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INFORMATION MEETING

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6:30 pm 201 De Bartolo


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Write sports. E-mail Chris at sports@nd.edu
Scoring continued from page 20

"He's taken a lot of set pieces up into the box. He's been on the delivering end rather than the scoring end."

While the rest of the Irish have certainly picked up the scoring slack so far this year, the team's scoring average of 1.96 goals per game is down from last season's average of 2.33. But Clark doesn't think the trend has anything to do with the team's new scoring balance.

"We've played an excessive number of defensive battles, but I still think we've been having a good share of the games," Clark said. "In soccer, there's such a fine line between scoring and not scoring. From the point of view of opportunities created, we're at the same stage."

The stats certainly back Clark's point.

In its 17 games this season, Notre Dame has averaged more shots per game (17.1 to 16.7) and corner kicks per game (6.18 to 5.6) than in 2006.

Notre Dame's lack of finishes can be partly attributed to bad luck. In a 1-0 loss to Michigan State Oct. 10, for example, the Irish had three balls cleared from the goal line.

But with the Big East and NCAA tournaments drawing closer, it couldn't hurt Clark and the Irish if Lapira rediscovers last year's scoring touch.

And it appears that Lapira is back to full fitness. "I wouldn't be surprised if he starts getting back to scoring more regularly," Clark said. "I have a funny feeling November could be a great month for [Lapira]."

Contact Greg Argogast at garbagose@nd.edu

Stanford continued from page 20

Costanzo said, "Matt ran a good route and got open." Stanford missed the two-point conversion to keep the score 6-6. Keenan responded two drives later after freshman Jamie Koepsel made an interception.

Castello called an audible at the line of scrimmage, and junior Jim Zender streaked across the middle to catch a 70-yard touchdown pass. Junior Alex Gonzalez converted the two-point conversion to take the lead 8-6.

Junior Andres Villalba ended Stanford's next drive with another interception, and the Knights took the lead into halftime.

The second half began as a defensive battle with both teams going three-and-out. Then Stanford junior quarterback Brian Salvi took over the game.

Salvi completed four passes to freshman Kevin Ritt to drive the ball halfway to the Keenan three-yard line.

"They could not guard our wide receivers," Salvi said. "They had a linebacker on one of our receivers every play and he could not keep up."

"The offensive line kept off the pressure," and Salvi got me the ball," Rit said.

Senior running back Treng Daniel punched the ball in to give the Knights a 12-8 lead.

And the Knights could not find the end zone again.

Sophomore Alex Devak said it all for the Irish: "We're giving the Knights one last chance to drive the ball down the field, but a sack on Castello allowed time to run out and let Stanford capture the No. 1 seed going into the playoffs."

"The offensive line really protected me," Salvi said. "I only got hit once.

"Losing to their biggest rival left an impression on the Knights."

"That makes me sick to my stomach," Villalba said.

Keenan coach Matt Gibson saw many deficiencies he wants his team to work on in preparation for the playoffs. "We need to eliminate the mental mistakes. We got out-played, out-hustled, and out-everything," Gibson said. "We needed the wake-up call. Now come the playoffs and it is gut-check time. Look for a different Keenan team in the playoffs."

Dillon 12, Alumni 0

Dillon came out firing in the second half of its game Tuesday to beat rival Alumni.

The game was called after the first half on Oct. 18 due to a thunderstorm, with the score tied at zero and the teams at just 32 combined yards. Dillon sophomore quarterback Joe Gariglio threw two interceptions and neither team could sustain a drive.

The Big Red, who had already clinched a playoff berth, knew that to improve their seed from eight to seven, they needed to win by 14 or more points.

"Our offense was struggling at the start of the season for the Irish."

Junior Andres Villalba

"Our offense was struggling at the start of the season for the Irish."

...Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic Sept. 30.

Irish senior Greg Rodgers follows through on a shot during the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic Sept. 30.

USCG continued from page 20

The tournament's individual medalist was Louisville's Derek Fathauer, who shot a total of 10-under over three rounds. Fathauer defeated his nearest competitor, Kent State's Brett Cairns, by five strokes.

Irish junior Josh Sandman entered the final round tied for second at four-under, but fell far out of contention with a final round of 77. Sandman finished tied for 15th with a total of one-over.

The final round score was uncharacteristic for Sandman, who was the top Notre Dame scorer in the fall season. The five-over score was just the third time in 13 rounds that Sandman posted a score over 73, and just the second time Sandman's score did not contribute to the team's round.

The second-lowest scorer for Notre Dame was senior captain Greg Rodgers, who tied for 25th place at four-over. Finishing one stroke behind Rodgers was sophomore Doug Forrier, who tied for 29th.

Forrier was the most consistent Irish starter in the

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

How Accepting New Club Proposals

Students interested in starting a new club must submit a proposal by November 2, 2007. Details on proposal contents may be found on the SAO website:

http://sao.nd.edu/studentgroups/listing

Questions? Contact Mary Kate Havlik at mhablik@nd.edu, or by calling 631-7308.

Contact Jared Jedick at jedickc@nd.edu and Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu
Saint Mary's senior setter Amanda David jumps to set the ball during the Belles' 3-0 loss to Hope Oct. 4.

Belles beat Thunder, will face Calvin in MIAA semifinals

By SAMANTHA LEONARD Sports Writer

Saint Mary's, the fifth seed in the MIAA tournament, shocked fourth-seed Tri-State in round one Tuesday with a 3-0 sweep.

The Belles improved in 13-17 with the 30-19, 30-20, 31-29 win while Tri-State ended its season with a 13-15 mark. The Thunder swept the Belles twice during the regular season.

Saint Mary's jumped out to a 9-2 lead in the opening game and cruised to an early 1-0 edge in the match. The Belles did not start game two as well, quickly falling behind 7-2. But Saint Mary's put together a 17-7 scoring spree and never let the Thunder back into the game.

Tri-State opened game three with another 7-2 advantage, but Saint Mary's again persevered. The Belles worked to cut the deficit to 20-19. But the Thunder struck back, taking a 28-25 lead. The Belles were able to come back with six of the game's final seven points to finish the match.

Three Belles posted double-doubles in the evening, freshman outside hitter Andrea Saxsgeen had a team-high 15 kills and 13 digs to lead the squad. Sophomore middle blocker Lorna Slupczynski contributed 13 kills and 14 digs while senior setter Amanda David lead a strong offensive effort of 45 assists and produced 10 digs on defense.

Junior middle blocker Kaela Hellmann and freshman middle blocker Jacee Watson each chipped in 11 kills for the Belles offense.

Saint Mary's advanced to the semifinals of the MIAA tournament for the second year in a row. On Friday, the Belles will take on top-seeded and nationally ranked Calvin for the semifinals.

Weis said the information from the coaching staff makes the recruits feel like they're already part of the team — and helps them better understand the reasons for Notre Dame's struggles.

"They obviously have to withstand the ribbing from the people in the towns they're living in or the kids they're going to school with," Weis said. "But I think they view themselves as part of the future."

Notre Dame currently has 21 committed recruits who constitute a class that is ranked No. 1 in the nation by Scout.com.

Wide receiver shakeup

Sophomore Robby Parris and freshman Duval Kamara moved ahead of junior David Grimes and sophomore George West on the official depth chart this week. Parris and Kamara have been Notre Dame's most productive wide receivers this season, catching 22 and 19 passes, respectively.

West has caught 15 passes this season, but has seen less balls thrown his way in recent weeks. Grimes has been hampered by a leg injury since the Purdue game.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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Irish to put lengthy win streak against Navy on the line

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sport Editor

Notre Dame has beaten Navy 43 straight times, but that's not the streak that matters this weekend, Irish coach Charlie Weis said Tuesday at his weekly press conference.

"I think that when you're 1-7, you're trying to beat whoever you're playing, and I think that the streak isn't nearly as important as winning a game at home," he said.

Notre Dame has lost its last four home games, with its last home win coming against Army, 41-9, in the final contest at Notre Dame Stadium last season.

"I think that's the streak that they're most concerned with, winning a game at home," Weis said.

The coach said that the 4-4 Midshipmen, who lost to Delaware 59-52 last week, should not be seen as an easy win for the struggling Irish.

"I think that if you — anyone who takes Navy lightly, especially with the firepower they show on offense — could find themselves on the short end of the stick very easily," Weis said.

Navy has run up big numbers just one year.

Irish senior tight end John Carlson runs past a Navy defender during Notre Dame's 38-14 win over the Midshipmen last season in Baltimore. The Irish have beaten Navy 43 straight times.

Irish finish ninth at UNCG

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sport Writer

The Irish will enter the off season on a disappointing note after sliding from a tie for first into a ninth-place finish at the UNCG Bridgestone Collegiate Championship Tuesday.

Notre Dame concluded its fall season with a final-round score of 291 at Forest Oaks Country Club in Greensboro, N.C.

Toeing off later than originally scheduled after an overnight frost advisory, the Irish continued their fall down the leaderboard in the third round.

Notre Dame started Tuesday tied for sixth, but dropped behind LSU, Central Florida and Wake Forest in the final 18 holes.

The Irish, who were tied for first after the opening round, finished 26 strokes back of Duke's 54-hole total.

Early in the season, and the third round.

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"I think that's the streak that they're most concerned with, winning a game at home," Weis said.

The coach said that the 4-4 Midshipmen, who lost to Delaware 59-52 last week, should not be seen as an easy win for the struggling Irish.

"I think that if you — anyone who takes Navy lightly, especially with the firepower they show on offense — could find themselves on the short end of the stick very easily," Weis said.

Navy has run up big numbers just one year.

Irish senior tight end John Carlson runs past a Navy defender during Notre Dame's 38-14 win over the Midshipmen last season in Baltimore. The Irish have beaten Navy 43 straight times.

Irish finish ninth at UNCG

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sport Writer

The Irish will enter the off season on a disappointing note after sliding from a tie for first into a ninth-place finish at the UNCG Bridgestone Collegiate Championship Tuesday.

Notre Dame concluded its fall season with a final-round score of 291 at Forest Oaks Country Club in Greensboro, N.C.

Toeing off later than originally scheduled after an overnight frost advisory, the Irish continued their fall down the leaderboard in the third round.

Notre Dame started Tuesday tied for sixth, but dropped behind LSU, Central Florida and Wake Forest in the final 18 holes.

The Irish, who were tied for first after the opening round, finished 26 strokes back of Duke's 54-hole total.

Early in the season, and the third round.

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