



Cupid Delivers pg. 2



U2 Music pg. 8



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Wagner Crowned First Miss Methodist

Dionne Drakes
Staff Writer

History was made on Wednesday Feb. 7 as Student Activities Committee crowned Tiffany Wagner as the first Miss Methodist University, sponsored by the cheerleading squad.

“An extraordinary first step towards a long standing tradition”, proclaimed Mr. William H. Walker, the associate dean of students.

Other pageant contestants included Ashley Elizabeth Young (SmallTalk), Casey Haigler (Friends and Family), Autumn Langston

(Criminal Justice Association), Keva Wilson (friends), Kimberley Soloman (Friends and Employees of Omni National Bank), Melanie Gibson (Parents’ Association), Sakun Gajurek (SAC), Emily Brown (PGM Program), Erin Yarborough (Friends), Michele Altomare (One Spirit), Rahila Muhibi (International Club), Brittany Rea (Friends).

“Miss Methodist was one of the best events MU had in a while,” stated senior resident assistant Chris Robinson.

Judges included Melissa Jameson, director of Public Relations and Events; Larry Wells, professor of



Tiffany Wagner smiles as the very first Miss Methodist.
Photo by Dionne Drakes

music; Sharron McNair, professor of music; Kevin Allington, assistant baseball coach, and Sara Drake, professor of mass communication.

“Miss Methodist was good, but a little long and I think the judges should have been from outside of the MU circle” said criminal justice major Norma Rae Bradshaw.

Hosting the event were Antonio Barteo of the Student Activity Committee and comedian Ronnie Jordan. Special performances included stand up comic by Ronnie Jordan, and the musical styling of Mr. Methodist, Todd Sackewitz.

“I will never forget his

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In Depth: Life on Campus

A series examining living conditions in residence halls



Byron Lowe
Staff Writer

Sanford is an all-male, freshman dorm. Two people are assigned per room. The room has the dimensions of 15 feet by 13 feet. Each room comes with wooden furniture including two single beds, two desks, two large dressers and two green hard-back chairs. Each floor has a community bathroom. It costs \$1,800 to stay in Sanford for a year.

According to the residents, conditions are adequate in most cases. However, there were a few areas where they said are in need of improvements. For one, the interior presence and design feels dull and unwelcoming, like with the concrete white washed walls, one almost feels like they are in a prison. If one were to compare Sanford with Pearce, one would feel that Pearce is more welcoming.

Also, the public bathrooms, and heating and cooling system in Sanford are topics of



Body hair and garbage in sink in Sanford Hall

All Photos by Byron Lowe

many complaints. Several disturbing sights are seen in the bathrooms, like body hair cut and left all around and urination on floors instead of urinals.

The problem with the heating and cooling system is simply the residents cannot pick their own settings, but has to go

Sanford Hall

with the same as the entire building.

Ben Hixon, a resident of Sanford, said, “Sanford feels like prison, filled with roaches, scummy (explicit) bathrooms, with public hair everywhere, broken humidifiers, stink hallways, mad bugs, dirty everything, and (it) needs to be knocked down and made a new.”

Devin Beck, also a resident of Sanford Hall, said, “The bathrooms suck, (there) needs to be private or better maintained showers. New and improved heating and cooling system is needed. Or simply build a new Sanford that doesn’t feel like a prison.”

Only one person out of ten stated Sanford was good in his view.

With activities, the resident assistants at Sanford have

been busy. The residents have had basketball and poker tournaments, and enjoyed the newly added “Underground”. The Underground is Sanford’s basement, which has been just last month renovated and turned into a game room, with two miniature basketball rims, a ping pong table, and a pool table, which is coming soon.

Ime Umo said, “It’s a nice addition, something for freshman to look forward to for years to come.”



Residue on bathroom floor

small TALK

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Check out our new website!

smalltalkmc.com

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B.E.T jokes on the MU stage,” said international student Kaisha Ahye.

The pageant consisted of several sections: the talent portion, the question and answer period, the announcement of the top five, and more questions written by the judges.

Lois DeVico, office man-

ager commented “It was funny. I was entertained, and it was well put together.”

The second runner-up was Rahlia Muhibi, an international student. The first runner-up was Erin Yarborough, president of SAC.

“The event went smoothly and Student Activities did an awesome job” said Shauna Bunn, a biology major.



All of the Miss Methodist contestants smile for the camera in their formal wear
Photo by Dionne Drakes



The contestants dance in their white tops and jeans to “Candyman”
by Christina Agulara
Photo by Dionne Drakes

Safley Leads Retention Committe

Byron Lowe
Staff Writer

A new Committee has recently been established here at Methodist. The new “Retention Committee”, has already set a serious goal for itself. The mission statement of the committee is exactly like the title; “To investigate, research, and develop strategies to retain students here at Methodist University.” Specifically freshman: the committee will research statistics on why freshman leave. They will look into other schools to learn of various methods. Also, this committee will hold various open meeting sessions, for students to attend, where they can voice their personal opinions or observations of what can be improved here at Methodist. Mr. Michael Safley, Vice President for Church and Community Relations and Minister to the University, is the Chairperson of the new committee. Safley would like all students to know that they are welcomed to come to meetings, the next meeting will be on Wednesday, from 130 to 230 in the Heritage Dining Room (located under the Bern’s behind the Alumni Dining Room). Also, that if a student does attend the meeting with suggestions, he/she is to have their thoughts on paper, so write it down on a hard copy before presenting it. This committee is for the students and he encourages anyone to get involved.



Dr. Reverend Michael W. Safley

To compliment this story, I took the liberty to ask a few students a simple question: “Methodist University has added a new Committee entitled the Retention Committee, with a goal to research and create ways to keep students here at Methodist. If you can give the Chairperson a word of advice or suggestion, what would you say?”

Well the first person to respond to this question was John Morton, a Sanford Hall Resident. He stated: “The biggest issue that needs to be addressed is getting students more involved in student activities at a more frequent basis.”

Will Watkins, and R.A. for Sanford stated: “Improve the Football program, for a lot of

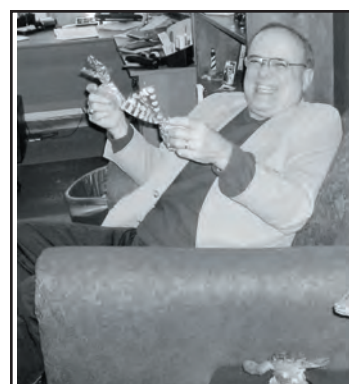
football players leave.” Nicole Gianni, a Weaver Resident stated: “I think all-coed dorms would improve retention, because there is little to do at night, and I feel the visitation hours are unfair.”

Blaine Nascimento said; “The Cafeteria food needs improvement, cant eat enjoyable food. And the campus needs to recruit more females.”

Alex Holroyde seemed to agree with this as well stating: “There is a lack of females, activities, and parties. People leave because there not having fun.”

Small Talk newspaper will work with the Retention Committee on this goal, and we welcome any student’s who wish to express their view to bring it in writing to a Small Talk writer, or to Mr. Safley himself. We at Small Talk will post your suggestions in our paper, and on our website.

On Valentine’s Day, Cupid delivered cookies to staff members and students. The cookie sales were a fundraiser for smallTALK.
Photos by Remille Shipman



smallTALK staff

Editor-in-Chief
Ashley Genova

Advertising Manager
Ferron Grant

News
Layout/ Copy Editor
Ashley Young

Web Editor
Cassandra Wells

Opinions
Layout Editor/Copy Editor
David Santiago

Staff Writers
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Entertainment
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Cara Hale
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Sports
Layout/ Copy Editor
Remille Shipman

Photo Editor
Pat Blalock

smallTALK is the student-run newspaper of Methodist College. It is published every other week throughout the school year. The newspaper is editorially independent of Methodist College, and any ideas and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the faculty, staff and administration of Methodist College. smallTALK welcomes Letters to the Editor. All letters should be delivered to the Student Media office on the first floor of Bern’s Student Center or sent via e-mail to ashgenova@yahoo.com. Story suggestions should be sent to the same address.

Students are free to join smallTALK at any point in the school year. Meetings are every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Dining Room.

“Bring Home the Bacon” Methodist University Loyalty Day

Ashley Genova
Editor-In-Chief

Methodist University celebrated 130 volunteers' fund-raising efforts on Loyalty Day during a special breakfast.

The breakfast was served on Feb. 12 in the Green and Gold Café to those who volunteered to ask over 700 business and people around Fayetteville for donations. The goal was to raise \$85,000 for scholarships.

Along with the volunteers, students attended the buffet-style breakfast to socialize with the volunteers.

Kevin Page, Student Government President, said, “They (the volunteers) are raising money for us, so they like to see what we do with it. When you make an investment, you want to see the results.”

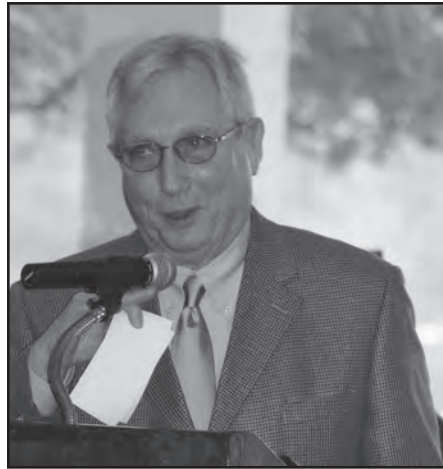
President Elton Hendricks expressed his feelings

about scholarships. He said “I could not go to college without the financial support of people I never met and never knew.”

After the president's speech, politician Rick Glazier talked about Methodist Univer-

sity as a contributor to the Fayetteville and Cumberland county building up the economy.

Towards the conclusion of the Loyalty Day Breakfast, Danny Highsmith received an award for giving time and money to better Methodist University.



Danny Highsmith receiving award
Photo by Tiffany Nabors

“I was surprised and excited, but also feeling not worthy,” said Highsmith about receiving his award.

Loyalty Day started as a fundraising effort the year the college was chartered, in 1956, four years before doors were opened for students.

World News Beat

David Santiago
Opinions Editor

Presidential Election

Barack Obama announces his run to be the first African-American President of the United States.

In response to critics of his lack of political experience, Obama said, “I know I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington. But I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change.”

He gave his address from the Illinois State Capital on Saturday Feb. 10. At age 45, he is the youngest candidate on the democratic primaries ticket.

Weapons in Iran

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad rejected U.S. allegations that Iran supplied weapons to Shiite Militants in Iraq. It has been reported that many of the armor piercing bombs used by Shiites can be traced back to Iran, and the Bush administration is confident that these reports are true.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said, “Such accusations cannot be relied upon or be presented as evidence. The United States has a long history in fabricating evidence. Such charges are unacceptable.”

Iran has made a stir in the world lately as it has come under fire by the U.S. for its nuclear programs, which the Iranians deny is for weapons. Many countries have sided with Iran on this matter.

Holy Polluted River

For Hindus, the Ganges River is a living goddess, or manifestation of that highest force they call “Brahma.” They believe it can wash away sins, purify their souls, and bring on blessings as they ritually wash themselves in its waters. But this may be doing more harm than good to these physical bodies as the garbage, chemicals, and quarter of a billion gallons of sewage dumped into it every year. Thus spreads disease among the people.

As one Holy Man who has lived in a Hindu monastery for most of his life said, “She is my mother. Even if she is dirty I love my mother. How can people do this to her?”

Many devout Hindu organizations are beginning to petition for the need of pollution and leaning of the river. They have filed lawsuits and press conferences criticizing

the Indian government for continually promising to take action and never doing so. Scientists say that the threat of disease is increasing to the millions of people living in proximity to the river.

Oil Prices

Oil prices are expected to drop again. \$59 a barrel was the price as of Monday Feb. 12. Experts believe OPEC is unlikely to cut production any further in the immediate future.

Pakistan and the Taliban

U.S. Secretary of defense, Robert Gates, is attempting to enlist the help of Pakistan in assaults against Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Gates felt this was of mutual interest to Pakistan as there have been charges of Taliban members crossing the border and staging attacks from secret locations in Pakistan.

Gates said, “I think there's a mutual interest in improving our effectiveness and improving our coordination.”

Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, said “the problems of extremism and terrorism were indigenous to Afghanistan,” and he is moving towards closing camps for Afghani refugees where Taliban have found safe heavens.

Pakistan is a close ally of the U.S. and has deployed some 80,000 troops to the border to help track down militants. U.S. troops have fired artillery over the border into Pakistan on what they think may be Taliban operation centers. They have done so with no official approval from President Musharraf, but still within coordination and participation with the Pakistani military.

Laborers suffer due to recent changes.

Daimler-Chrysler will be cutting over 13,000 jobs in the next three years. Some recent major changes in the corporation that may lead to a separation of Daimler and Chrysler are at the expense of the laborers and their families. “Today's action by DaimlerChrysler is devastating news for thousands of workers, their families and their communities,” United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger and Vice President General Holiefield said in a joint statement

Quotes courtesy of www.wtvr.com and <http://news.yahoo.com>.

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Opinions

A Voice From The Wilderness

David Santiago



People tend to treat the Bible as though it just floated down from heaven into the midst of the Judeo-Christian community one day.

While no one actually says that's how it happens, that is more or less how they treat the Bible. The Gospels themselves were not even begun on paper until 40 years after Jesus' ministry. (there are theories of earlier text containing Jesus' teachings but nothing is accounted for until 70 C.E.) Through the entire Bible, one finds parables, poetry, history, apocalyptic literature, philosophical discussion, and personal letters.

One cannot treat every part of the Bible the same. Part of the reason some of us have dedicated our lives to scholarly pursuit of religion is to distinguish what parts of the Bible need to be treated as history, myth, poetry, etc. For example, while I avoid doctrinal debate, I find myself tugged into it at times. One sure way not to win an argument with me is to take a verse or passage from Psalms. This is poetry, prayers and songs written to praise God. Now, take something from any of the letters of Paul. We'll pull out the historical context, the Greek, and so on and we'll see where we can get. Even then, history seems to tell us that the debate never gets fully settled.

Then there are texts that seem to be a bit of both history and parable, like the Genesis account. This is one of the most vicious battles raging today between old and young earth creationist, where historical context comes in.

One has to understand the context that many of this

was written under. Regardless, it can tell us all that we are imperfect and utopia as we see it is out of our reach. Some may see this as choosing which parts to believe and which parts not to, but it is much more

complex than that.

Brian McLaren described his reading of the Bible in his book, "Adventures in Missing the Point" (Co-Authored with Tony Campolo) like this:

"By taming the Bible- by fitting it into our (neat little) categories- we make the Bible safe but boring. The fact is there are parts of the Bible that scandalize me. Not that this causes me to elevate my taste and critique the text (like some theologically liberals readers), or to explain away the terrorist style slaughter of women and children in the name of 'God' (like a lot of theologically conservative readers). Instead I simply acknowledge that a passage bugs me. And I can live with that. Maybe someday it will be resolves for me. Maybe not. That's ok."

I follow this premise but I do not think a completely apathetic to bias reading of the Bible is one hundred percent possible, and I often myself have a tendency to follow the liberal readings, although I try not to take it to extremes.

I guess what I can say is this. The Bible accounts for thousands of people listening to Jesus speak. This is impossible. He was 2000 years too early for the megaphone and sound system needed to accomplish this.

Despite the unreliability of the numbers presented in the Bible, I find it no hindrance to my faith simply to say that yes, it was probably a hundred, but the words spoken that day by a poor working class Jew gave a message of hope that through the ages has reached and inspired MILLIONS upon MILLIONS transcending ethnicity, national identity, and ever changing social factors. That my friends, is a true miracle.

The over-all consensus is this, all genres of the Bible, fictional and historical alike, make

up the first chapter, or opening act, in an epic we are still writing today. So why do we still need it, because it's the set up, understood in context to put ourselves in context.

Take the movie "Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith." You can't just open up with Anakin becoming Darth Vader, nor can you just make that random switch from good to evil with no depiction of his confusion in the middle of the movie. This would make no sense. The whole story has to be understood so that one can make sense of the transition.

We need the setup of the Bible to help us in writing the great epic of the Creator and creation today. There will be twist and turns, things will change and thus change how we define certain things in the set up as that they are not what the originally appeared. But we can't just stay in chapter 1.

That is why I reject it when people are so sure they have the absolute correct interpretation of everything. They want to end the story in chapter 1 and live in that, but we can't do that, reality changes. You can never set your foot in the same river twice. But eventually all waters run together.

Please, try to understand the historical and context of it all, read a book about it. But ultimately it boils down to the sign I saw on the front of a church recently: "Never put a period where God has put a comma."

Corner Worker

Jameson Jones
Staff Writer

After a long four months since the Charge of the Headlight Brigade, I am here and ready to tell you about an exciting event that will be happening for the N.C. Region of the Sports Car Club of America.

For the first time in approximately 12 years, the club will be back at the North Carolina Motor Speedway in Rockingham on March 10 and 11 to not only revive this once-famous NASCAR track but to bring back some road racing to the facility. Instead of running the one-mile oval, the club will be running on a 1.5-mile road course configuration that incorporates Turns 1 and 2 along with the backstretch of the NASCAR oval with an infield section. This should prove to be an exciting weekend as club racers throughout the Southeast will come to practice and qualify on Saturday, March 10 with a 45-minute Carolina Cup Pro Series race to follow. The Carolina Cup Pro Series is a series that is promoted by the N.C. Region to have fun and hassle-free racing within a professional environ-

ment. The series will have two rounds of the series at Virginia International Raceway in August in conjunction with the Oak Tree National.

In addition, on Sunday, March 11, the Enduro Championship Racing Series, will have two 90-minute races for the nine classes that make up this series. Once the enduros are finished, there will be six 21-lap races for drivers competing in the 30 classes in the South Atlantic Road Racing Championship (SARRC). Both series are run within the rules and regulations set forth by the Southeast Division that stretches from North Carolina south and west to include South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

This sounds like an exciting weekend race schedule and hopefully I may be seeing some of you at Rockingham in three weeks' time. If there are any questions about the event or club, feel free to drop them by me at scaflagger08@yahoo.com and I will be glad to answer any questions that a person may have. Until next time, I will see you at the races.

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Remille's Rhetoric

Remille Shipman
Sports Editor



rect.

Baseball players seem to be the most successful in the dating game around here.

Football players can be ranked as 1B in that department, too—I've seen the lady friends of football players simply leave campus on some weekends because their boys had a road game.

Golfers have a shot because the money factor is always attractive. And there's that other group that plays on the same team, so to speak.

I NEED to point out the fact if you're a shy, quiet guy at Methodist that has trouble expressing their feelings, I wish you good luck. They are the only near-guaranteed losers of this race.

You see, I'm a part of that group. The girls here will see right through you if you don't have confidence.

If she's nice, she'll just be your friend; if she's snotty, she'll call for the next contestant. I've been in the former category A LOT.

Basically, since this is a jock school, if you're a non-athlete or non-golfer, you already have two strikes against you. I almost forgot...this place isn't a fertile ground for interracial dating, either.

I'm stating on the record that the dating situation for guys is terrible. I never really had or wanted a girlfriend until I came here.

I'm telling you, when I arrived on August 10, 2004, I thought I would have a girlfriend by the end of the semester, without trying. But every year my lack of persistence and aggressiveness caused me to sit on the sidelines.

If you don't make a move by the first week of school, you're already in a deep hole.

I think this is going to turn around for all Methodist men eventually.

The physician's assistant program and the university status will aid in balancing out the "ratio".

Methodist HAS tried to even our gender problem recently...but I'll be old, irrelevant, out of college, and employed when that day comes. Just my luck.

Love and Methodist-Part II-The Final Statement about "The Ratio"

Warning: This is not intended to stereotype or offend.

I feel that I made somewhat of a point in my last column about how overrated Valentine's Day. Well, here comes part two.

I've spent the past three years at Methodist University after transferring from Fayetteville State University in 2004, and I've seen a lot of things change and a lot of things stay the same.

But there's one thing that hasn't changed in my three years here at Methodist: the guy-girl ratio.

Everyone that has little to no life here at Methodist (or that has nothing better to do) has tried to figure out why Methodist men outnumber Methodist women.

The answer is so simple that I don't even have to address it in this column.

Methodist simply brings in more male athletes than female athletes. And the art of playing and/or teaching the game of golf is clearly predominated toward men.

Personally, I don't think that the Powers-That-Be thought about a "ratio" when they consummated either of these programs a while ago.

But like every business or sports team in America, we had to do what was best for the school. And single guys have been paying for the decision to have two male dominated programs for at least the last decade. I ACCEPT THIS!

But I want to tell it the way I see it. From what I have witnessed, the majority of the girls around here seem to take great advantage of the "ratio" here. They seem to be as finicky as I am at the buffet table at Golden Corral.

I won't go any further, and I would not blame them for their choosiness because I would do the exact same thing.

Certain groups of guys around here seem less vulnerable the Methodist girl's whims than others. I discussed this matter with my roommate one night, and he brought up the theory that I agreed was cor-

The Death Penalty: Why We Should Get Rid Of It

Jameson Jones
Staff Writer

With the recent discussions by Governor Mike Easley and his cabinet about whether a physician should be present at executions, the overall outlook remains that the death penalty will be in use throughout the country. I feel that this issue needs to be up for debate about the overall legality of the death penalty and why we should get rid of this punishment.

Throughout its usage in the United States, there have been many studies done about the death penalty to determine whether we are sentencing the right people to execution and if it is really considered "blind justice". Unfortunately, many of the statistics have shown that people who come through poor or minority backgrounds are the ones that are ending up on America's death rows. In addition, some of the individuals



The electric chair is an old-fashioned form of execution. Photo courtesy of <http://www.bodybagcatholic.com>.

sitting on death row were put there due to circumstantial evidence instead of concrete evidence such as DNA samples. I feel that as a society we need to look at this punishment as unjust

which can be clearly stated in the Eighth Amendment that forbids cruel and unusual punishment. Regardless of the method of execution whether it is lethal injection or electrocution, the death penalty is violating this key amendment. Now, this is the proper time that we, the members of society, should look at getting rid of this punishment since a high percentage of the world do not use the death penalty. I believe that we should call for a moratorium on the death penalty first to look at its flawed system and instead of trying to repair it, we need to take this punishment off of the books. Since it is highly costly to deal with capital cases, I think we are better off imprisoning inmates for the rest of their lives instead of trying to seek revenge by asking the state to commit murders in our names as means of revenge.

Cont. on page 6

Hang out in the outdoors!



Join the Outdoor Adventure Club

2006- 07 Schedule

September

Hot-air Ballooning

Sailing School- Annapolis, MD

October

White Water Rafting, Rock Climb & Rappelling

West Virginia, New York City, NY

November

Swimming with Manatees- Florida

Deep Sea Fishing- Carolina Beach

December

Cross-country Skiing, Snow Shoeing, & Dog Sledding

January

Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding, & Tubing

February

Horseback Riding School

Washington D.C.

March

Fishing, Snorkeling, & Scuba Diving Key West, Florida (Spring Break)

April

Sea Kayaking, Claming, Surf Fishing Outer Banks, NC

May

Backpacking, Hiking Grand Canyon

The Right to Bear Cubs

**Dave Barry
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT Campus)**

Every now and then, somebody thinks up a new idea that is so totally revolutionary that it just totally revolutionizes everything.

For example, in 1905, Albert Einstein stunned the scientific community when he announced that “e” is equal to “mc squared.” Until that point, scientists had no idea what “e” was

equal to. Oh, sure, they had known since the days of the ancient Egyptians that “e” came after “i,” except when both letters were preceded by a “c.” But nobody had ever even considered the possibility that “e” might have anything to do with “m.” We will never know what other amazing things would have been revealed about the alphabet if Einstein had lived longer. We do know that, just before he died, he told friends that he was working on “something really big involving ‘k.’”

Albert is gone, but fortunately for humanity in general there are still great minds at work, coming up with breakthrough ideas that a normal person could never even imagine without ingesting fantastic quantities of gin.

One such idea was brought to my attention recently by an alert reader named (really) Dwain Vanderhoof, who sent me a brochure for a new type of golf club, which I absolutely swear I am not making up, called the Ballistic Driver.

The Ballistic Driver is a “swing-less” golf club. You grip it as usual, and you position the head of the club next to the golf ball. But instead of swinging the club, you press an “Activator Button” on the grip. This detonates a small explosive charge inside the club head, which causes a metal plate to shoot out the side of the club a distance of 1.5 inches at a speed of 200 miles per hour. The plate hits the golf ball, which then, according to the brochure, goes “250 yards, every time ... down the middle, exactly where you aimed it, drive after drive.” Is that a great idea, or what? Now you can play golf WITHOUT HAVING TO MANUALLY HIT THE BALL! Talk about a breakthrough! I mean, for me, the worst part of playing golf, by far, has always been hitting the ball. I love standing around on the golf course; I love driving the golf cart; I love saying the word “bogey.” But I hate swinging the club at the stupid ball, and, on those rare occasions when I actually hit the ball, I hate watching it take off in some totally random direction and disappear, usually forever, into a lake, or the woods or the body of an innocent bystander.

So I called the company that makes the Ballistic Driver, GPower Inc., of Sunnyvale, Calif. I spoke with one of the partners, Elizabeth Poggi, a serious person who confirmed that the Ballistic Driver is a serious product aimed at people who, for various reasons, cannot swing golf clubs, as well as for people like me who would simply prefer not to.

Poggi stressed that the Ballistic Driver, which will sell for around \$800, has safety features that prevent it from going off accidentally, as well as (I am still not making this up) a silencer. These features are important: Just imagine what it would be like if golf clubs were randomly detonating with loud bangs on golf courses, not to mention in airports, hotel elevators, etc. It would be a lot of fun! But it would also be wrong, which is why I am urging everybody to remember this basic rule of golf: Always assume your club is loaded.

I think the Ballistic Driver could transform the game. Poggi told me that if the club were fitted with a titanium strike plate, “it could theoretically propel the ball 500 yards.” This means that a pathetic schlump like me could propel the ball farther than Tiger Woods Inc. hits it on those rare occasions when he is not filming commercials.

And who knows what lies down the road? I mean, if we can make a club that can hit the ball 500 yards, why not 1,000? Why not 1,500? Why not a mile? We have the technology, darn it! Maybe we will see the day, in our life-

times, when golfers using a descendant of the Ballistic Driver, perhaps powered by a small quantity of plutonium, are stepping up to the tee and driving the ball into another time zone. Of course, we’ll need to develop a technologically advanced golf ball that contains some kind of transmitter, so it can radio its position back to the golfer. (“YOUR TEE SHOT LANDED 18 YARDS FROM THE HOLE. IN PAKISTAN.”)

Wouldn’t that be great? Of course, as with any technology, there’s always the danger that it will fall into the wrong hands. You could have street gangs converting these clubs to Fully Automatic mode and driving in their low-rider carts to rival golf courses, where they would spray out hundreds of balls per minute in vicious “drive-by” tee-offs. Or you could turn on the TV news one morning to see Saddam Hussein wearing lime-green pants and standing next to a golf club the size of the Washington Monument, threatening to hit a massive chemical and/or biological Golf Ball Of Doom smack into the fairway of middle America.

So there will be those who will try to ban the Ballistic Driver. To them I say: Forget it. The U.S. Constitution guarantees us — not in so many words, but the intent is clear — the right to keep and bear golf clubs. This precious right was fought for in the Revolutionary War by our courageous foreparents, the Minutepersons, who stood up for it on the green at Lexington. Although they did bogey that particular hole.

(Dave Barry is a columnist for the Miami Herald. He is continuing a leave of absence from writing his weekly humor column. Write to him c/o The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132.)

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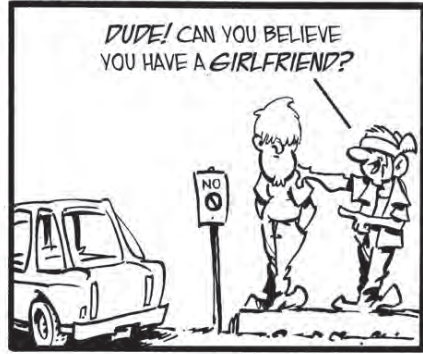
Dr. Francescon x7082 or

Dr. Davis x7688

Entertainment

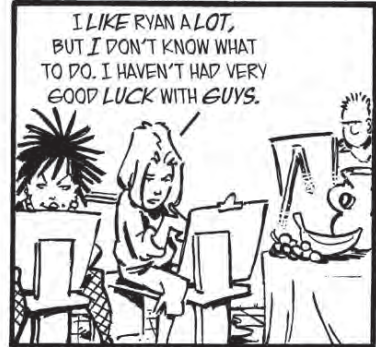
Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner



A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



Between the Numbers Craziness

Ashley Genova
Editor-in-Chief

Janet Evanovich's latest book, "Plum Lovin'" has all the usual craziness of a Stephanie Plum, even without appearances by the usual cast.

The book is called "between-the-numbers," meaning it is shorter than the typical novels in the series. "Plum Lovin'" takes place between "Twelve Sharp" and the unnamed thirteenth book.

Stephanie Plum, the bounty hunter, is down on her luck. The only lead she has on her wanted woman comes from the mysterious Diesel, who claims to have superpowers. The wanted woman says she will turn herself in to Stephanie... if Stephanie and Diesel will help her play cupid to unlucky couples.

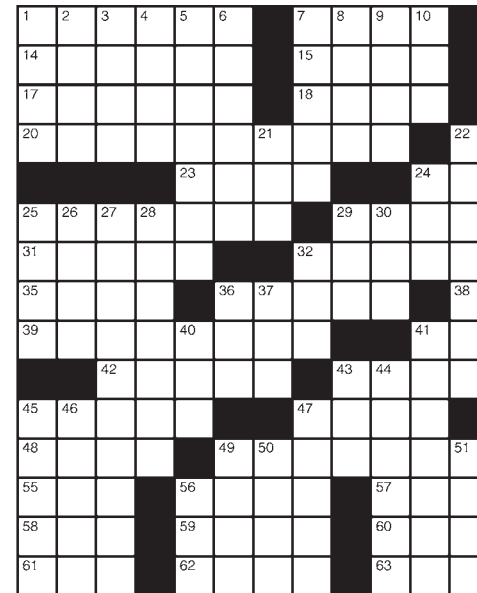
One man is a ve-

tranarian totally in love with a younger girl from a coffee shop. One woman has children, and Stephanie has to babysit them... and she's not good with kids.

With a Valentine's Day deadline to help three pathetic cases of hopeless romantics, Stephanie is on another crazy, wild, hilarious adventure.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Tongue-lash
 - 7 Now hear ___!
 - 11 Raven's cry
 - 14 Spiny sea creature
 - 15 ___ "Fatha" Hines
 - 16 Burrows or Fortas
 - 17 Artist/sculptor William
 - 18 Take part in a game
 - 19 Cycle starter?
 - 20 Going over and over again
 - 22 King toppers
 - 23 Caustic solution
 - 24 Rigging supports
 - 25 Fine plasters
 - 29 Trademark swabs
 - 31 Sots
 - 32 Topographies
 - 35 Press
 - 36 Squalid
 - 38 Fence piece
 - 39 Berg or Stein
 - 41 Actress Elfman
 - 42 Lines up precisely
 - 43 Carpenter's tool
 - 45 Nevada resort area
 - 47 Autograph
 - 48 Deity image
 - 49 Cavern-floor buildup
 - 55 Dis or Pan
 - 56 Type of lens
 - 57 Maudlin
 - 58 SHO rival
 - 59 Director Preminger
 - 60 Auctioneer
 - 61 Singer Ritter
 - 62 Greek peak
 - 63 One Mandrell



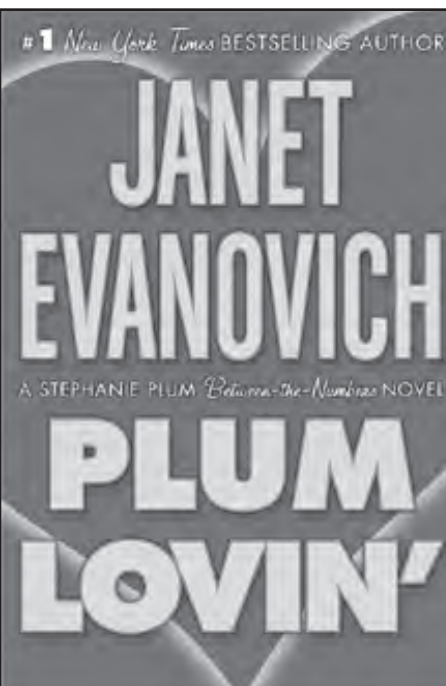
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- 7 Lukewarm
- 8 Saint's glow
- 9 Present Persia
- 10 Crafty
- 11 People living near Mount Elbrus
- 12 Mr. Doubleday
- 13 Shortstop Walt
- 21 "My country ___ of..."
- 22 Clothing
- 24 Knight's title
- 25 Deep draft of liquor
- 26 Become fatigued
- 27 Not by the book
- 28 Dominate

Solutions

E	N	E	T	H	I	V	A	S	S	O
R	E	L	L	E	S	O	T	L	O	
A	H	S	U	L	S	M	O	O	Z	
E	T	I	E	M	I	G	A	V	A	T
						N	I	G	N	E
T	E	S	T	I	V	N	S	E	N	
V	A	N	N	E	J					
L	I	R	A	V	A	D	Y	S	E	E
S	N	I	A	R	R	E	T	E	R	S
						S	P	A	T	O
S	H	A	P	S		S	I	D	I	C
S	E	S				A	C	A		
N	I	U	N	A	V	N	O	I	T	I
E	B	E				V	A	R	L	E
C	L	A	W			S	T	I	L	E

Crossword. By MCT Campus.



The new Stephanie Plum Novel by Janet Evanovich.

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U2's Atomic 18 Singles

Jameson Jones
Staff writer

After a very successful album in "How To Dismantle

an Atomic Bomb" in 2004, U2 has released a compilation of singles simply stated as "U2 18 Singles." The CD has many of the band's famous songs from recent albums such as "Beautiful Day," "Elevation," and "Vertigo" to their older albums such as "With or Without You" and "Sunday Bloody Sunday." In addition, the band released two new singles in

"Window In the Skies" and "The Saints Are Coming" with a guest band appearance from Green Day.
The CD can be found



U2. Photocourtesy of www.andywillsher.com

where music is sold including Wal-Mart and Best Buy.



Clive Owen in "Children of Men." Photocourtesy of www.murphsplace.com

Abraham Lincoln Trivia

MCT Campus

President's Day is Feb. 19. How much do you know about our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln?

1. Illinois is known as "The Land of Lincoln," but it's not the state of his birth. In which state was Lincoln born?

- a. Indiana
- b. Kentucky
- c. Tennessee
- d. Wisconsin

2. Lincoln emerged on the national political scene through his debates with Stephen A. Douglas. What position were they competing for?

- a. President of the United States
- b. Governor of Illinois
- c. The Republican Party's presidential candidate
- d. U.S. Senator from Illinois

3. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was a document that inspired anti-slavery sentiment, but it only freed slaves in rebellious areas. Which of these cities was exempt?

- a. Atlanta
- b. Houston
- c. Birmingham
- d. New Orleans

4. Lincoln's famous address at Gettysburg was given as part of what ceremony?

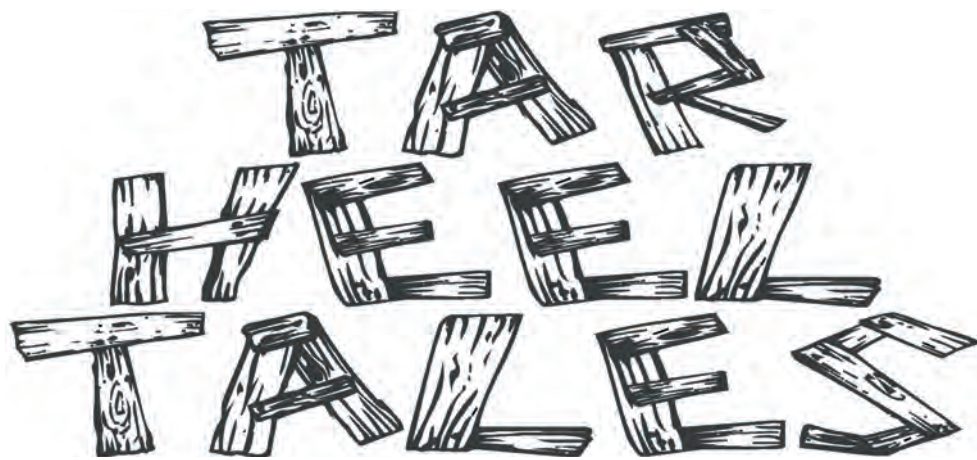
- a. Political rally for the Republican party
- b. Dedication of a cemetery
- c. Rally to encourage enlistment
- d. Dinner honoring victorious Union generals

5. On Good Friday of 1865, John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln in Ford's Theatre. Which state's motto did Booth yell during his escape?

- a. South Carolina
- b. Illinois
- c. Georgia
- d. Virginia

Answers: 1. b. Kentucky; 2. d. U.S. Senator from Illinois; 3. d. New Orleans. Occupied by the Union, it no longer was considered rebellious; 4. b. Dedication of a cemetery; 5. d. Virginia. The motto is Sic Semper Tyrannis (Thus with all tyrants)

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Our Future?

David Santiago
Opinions Editor

Children of men was an excellent movie, however it did not deliver the drama that the advertising anticipated.

The story takes place in the year 2027, when women suddenly cannot have children anymore, and no one knows why. The youngest people on earth are eighteen years old. Suddenly the protagonist, played by Clive Owen discovers a pregnant girl. With all the violence and warlords in England at the time, he and his ex-wife, played by Julliane Moore, are determined to get her and the baby to "The Human Project" A sanctuary on an island where the greatest minds on earth are meeting to solve the infertility problem and create a new society.

The movie is well made, has good drama, and the acting is decent. However it fails to climax in key spots where one would expect a little more emotional input from the characters. The end is rather abrupt and does not move the viewer in a way one expects. Still, the movie moves one to think and has its moments. Also with appearances in this file were Michael Cain and Clair-Hope Ashitey.

Sports

Keith Criscoe: Old Face but New Coach of the Monarch Men's Tennis Team

*Jameson Jones
Staff Writer*

It seemed if it was only yesterday when Keith Criscoe graduated from Methodist University in May 2006. After just a short time as the Assistant Tennis Professional at the Millbrook Club in Greenwich, CT, he is filling some big shoes as the new men's tennis coach.

Criscoe hopes that he can "bring excitement and hard work ethic to the team." In addition to the excitement and work ethic, Criscoe stated that "I believe that I will bring character to our men's tennis team, so that not only are we going to work hard and have high standards, but also enjoy what we are doing."

After a very successful career playing on the men's tennis team, Criscoe hopes to bring some of the same knowledge that he learned from predecessor Eddie Luck along with some new things of his own. Some of these things will include having match play during practices and even while working on stroke and strategy; he believes that the experience from match play is the key to all the success.

As far as an outlook for the 2007 season, he believes that through the hard work that the

team will be very successful. In regards to who will be the toughest opponents on the schedule, there would be some rising teams but the biggest threat for the team will be Christopher Newport University. Criscoe believes that the Captains will be the toughest opponent for the Monarchs not only in the regular season but the USA South Conference tournament. He hopes that there will be a great turnout for their home match on April 7 against the Captains.



Keith Criscoe, photo courtesy of Monarchs Online.

Sports trivia quiz

*McClatchy-Tribune
News
(MCT)*

QUESTIONS:

1.) When did the Indiana Pacers win a championship as members of the American Basketball Association?

2.) Who was the coach of the Pacers' title teams in the old ABA?

3.) George McGinnis was the Pacers' biggest star during their 1972 and '73 title seasons. Where did McGinnis attend college?

4.) In which arena did the Pacers play their home games initially during their ABA days?

5.) Who was "The Rajah" for the Pacers?

ANSWERS:

1.) The Indiana Pacers won ABA championships in 1970, 1972 and 1973.

2.) Bobby "Slick" Leonard coached the Pacers during their title years.

3.) George McGinnis went to Indiana University.

4.) The Pacers played at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum.

5.) "The Rajah" was 6-5 guard-forward Roger Brown, the first player signed by the franchise.

MAIN SOURCES:

Author Jack Kreisler, publisher of Red-Letter Press Inc., Saddle River, N.J., Indiana Pacers, NBA.com and the Indianapolis Star.

HOT TOPICS

World's most valuable sporting event brand (in millions), according to Forbes.com:

1. Super Bowl: \$379
2. Olympic Summer Games: \$176
3. FIFA World Cup: \$103
4. NASCAR Daytona 500: \$91
5. Rose Bowl: \$88
6. NCAA Men's Final Four: \$82
6. Olympic Winter Games: \$82
8. Kentucky Derby: \$69
9. World Series: \$56
10. NBA Finals: \$47

Women's LAX Preview



Wylie Crisanti, photo courtesy of Wylie Crisanti.

Jameson Jones
Staff Writer

After a very successful 2006 season, the Methodist University women's lacrosse team has a new coach at the helm. Wylie Crisanti hopes to continue the success the team had last year when they finished with the best record in school history at 11-4.

Crisanti, who has coached at both the Division I and II levels, believes that his experiences shaped him for the coach that he is today. In regards to whether he would have to change his style of coaching to adjust to Division III, he feels that "you have to change your philosophy for in order to succeed in division III." He also says that "ultimately, that the goal is the same at any level,

and that is to win games." With this goal in mind, Crisanti expects for the team to be USA South Conference champions and knows that his team will focus on it. Even with a young and inexperienced team (only four players from last year's squad are returning this year), he believes that "[the] total commitment and hard work can sometimes be more important than experience, and I have confidence in all of my girls."

The Monarch women's lacrosse team will go on the road for their second match of the season with a conference showdown against Greensboro on Feb. 24.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!!

Career Fair Workshop @ Methodist University
February 20, 2007

From 4:00p.m. - 6:30p.m. In the
Alumni Dining Room.



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University

In Raleigh, North Carolina

February 28, 2007

From 9 a.m. - 12 noon : Information Exchange

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Interviews

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Miami Heat head coach Pat Riley makes a call in the first half against the Seattle SuperSonics. The Heat defeated the Sonics, 90-87, at the American Airlines Arena in Miami, Florida, Tuesday, November 7, 2006. (Al Diaz/Miami Herald/MCT)

Pat Riley Has the Heat

Dan Le Batard
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

We extend Pat Riley benefit of the doubt because he's Pat Riley. Anybody else with less aura and less jewelry would be getting savaged for how selfish and convenient his timing has appeared lately in deciding when to coach and not coach the champion Miami Heat.

Riley doesn't coach when the team is in last place or laboring or even bored. But Riley returns triumphantly whenever Shaquille O'Neal does. Riley suspends James Posey and Antoine Walker for fatness, and then leaves poor Ron Rothstein to take the beatings. Shaq is healthy? So is Riley.

The surprise isn't that Riley resumes coaching now that Miami is coming off its single most impressive regular-season victory in two years — Sunday's blowout of San Antonio. The surprise is that he didn't hobble down the arena stairs in the fourth quarter and poke Ron Rothstein out of the way with one of his crutches.

Packaging buys you plenty in sports. Riley practically invented the coach as runway model, wrapped in Armani and discipline. He looked more presidential than Stan Van Gundy, whatever that means, and fans love believing in the authority figure as instiller of toughness.

Doesn't matter that, in crucial moments, Riley succeeded last season because he gave the ball to Wade and got the heck out of the way. When his choices at those moments for 18 years were Clarence Weatherspoon or John Starks, Riley lost.

How much does perception matter? Consider this: Let's say it wasn't Riley coming and going based on whether the Heat was winning or losing. Let's make it Nick Saban instead. How would you feel about it then?

Riley can do what he wants, of course. It's his team, his power, and he earned it forever in these parts with a ring. Or Wade earned it for him, anyway. But it isn't terribly becoming from the outside when the health issues don't keep you from an offseason safari but do make you limp away when your veterans are fat, satiated, losing and yelling back at you because of all your pushing. In fact, it isn't a lot different than Saban demanding toughness and accountability and overcoming from only his players and not himself when things get difficult. Riley admits he wouldn't have had his hip replaced if his team had been 25-2.

Riley once famously said there are only two states of existence — winning and misery. But now there's an addendum. There's winning, and there's sabbatical.

We have this bad habit of siding with the authority figures

in sports, especially those with rings. It helps us ignore that grumpy Bill Parcells didn't win a playoff game in eight years. Win several times, even with Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Shaq and Wade, and we're hesitant to even point out that, um, why has Jason Kapon been shackled to the bench for so long when this team needed pure shooting to complement Shaq and Wade?

Look at what just happened with Marty Schottenheimer in San Diego. Something has to be very wrong with his relationship with management, and his ability to get along with his bosses, when he's fired after a 14-2 season. But most of the nationsided with Schottenheimer in an ESPN.com poll, even though all the nation has is partial information on his behavior. Same thing happened with Joe Girardi here. We extended him benefit of doubt for doing his job well, even though part of his job is to get along with his bosses. But if a player was fired by Schottenheimer or Girardi, we wouldn't ever assume the player is right and the boss is wrong.

Riley matters to the Heat. He matters if for no other reason than Shaq respects him, and Shaq stays in shape for him. But it is an interesting double standard in play here. We (the little guy) get mad at the athletes for holding out or being selfish — putting his needs ahead of the team, the workplace and, by extension, us.

NASCAR Season Gets Underway With the Daytona 500

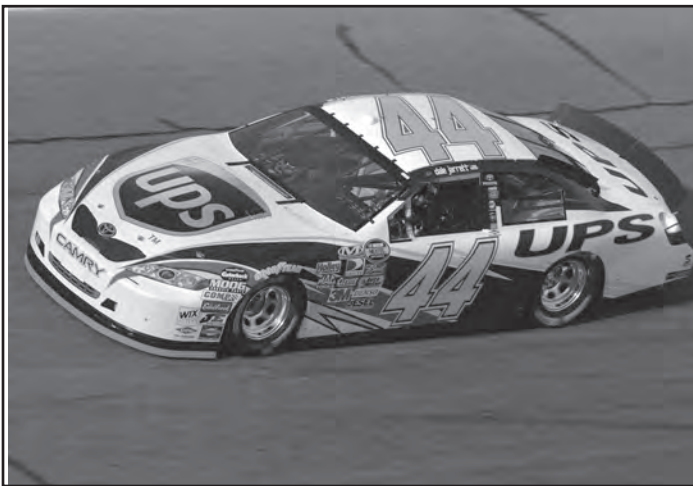


Photo courtesy of Steven M. Dowell (MCT)
Dale Jarrett drives the #44 UPS Toyota in 2007.

Kim Genova
Contributing Writer

Now for the most famous words in NASCAR, "Gentlemen, start your engines!" With the NASCAR season gearing up for the 2007-08 season, it will be difficult for fans to know who is driving what number and for whom.

Toyota has joined the "race for the chase" which will make for a transformed season of speed. Dale Jarrett left Robert Yates and is driving the 44 Toyota for Michael Waltrip, while Ricky Rudd takes over the 88. Mark Martin will return

from a short-lived retirement to act as a mentor and drive the Army 01 car in a limited number of races. David Ragan, newcomer to the circuit, will take over the 6 car and Ward Burton returns in the number 4. Bobby Labonte jumps to Petty racing in the seat of the 43 and Sterling Marlin returns in the number 14.

The Daytona 500 on Feb. 18 will be the official start of the season. Speed, crashes, and multi-colored sponsorship stickers will have screaming fans anticipating the checkered flag. As Darrell Waltrip starts each race, "Boggidity, Boggidity, Boggidity, boys! Let's go racin'!"

Schottenheimer Gets Axed

Jason Whitlock
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

Marty Schottenheimer isn't likely to shed any tears over the unfairness of his dismissal as head coach of the San Diego Chargers.

Marty knows, better than most, that professional football is rarely fair.

So he'll take his 200 regular-season record, and look for his next coaching opportunity without making much of a stink about Chargers general manager A.J. Smith dictating coaching decisions.

Nope. What will bring Marty to tears for the foreseeable future is the realization that he left another coach a Super Bowl-ready team. At age 63, Marty, in all likelihood, sabotaged his last and best chance to win a Super

Bowl by attempting to hire his brother, Kurt, as defensive coordinator of the Chargers.

According to published reports in San Diego, Marty's insistence on interviewing his brother to replace Wade Phillips pushed team president Dean Spanos to grant Smith's wish of canning Marty.

Given Marty's 2007 lame-duck status, it sort of made sense for Marty to want to fill his five-coaches-raided staff with people he could trust, people willing to walk the plank with Marty after the 2007 season. Going into the final year of his contract, who could Marty trust more than his brother, a man who owes his entire coaching career to Marty?

And given Marty's hostile relationship with Smith, who beyond Kurt would be willing to join Marty in San Diego's dysfunction?

This is going to haunt Marty Schottenheimer more than The Drive, The Fumble, Lin Elliott and Rich Gannon.

Marty coached very good teams in Cleveland and Kansas City, teams that could've won Super Bowls with the right breaks. In San Diego, continued on page 12

Marty coached the league's best team, a squad that should've won the Super Bowl.

Now someone else will get to direct LaDainian Tomlinson and Shawne cont. on page 12

Merriman, the league's most dominating offensive and defensive players. Now someone else will finish what Marty started.

The Chargers are sitting in the same spot as the Tampa Bay

continued on page 12.

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Buccaneers five years ago after dismissing Tony Dungy. The Bucs had a veteran, ascending team ready to win a championship. They couldn't afford to hire an unproven head coach. They needed a coach who could win now. They gave up a fortune to get Jon Gruden. He immediately took Tampa to the Super Bowl.

Who is that coach for the Chargers?

It's complicated now because of the late date of Marty's firing. Will the new coach have time to assemble a high-quality staff? The Chargers lost their offensive and defensive coordinators (Cam Cameron and Wade Phillips) earlier in the offseason.

The Chargers should think outside the box. I'd try to lure Dick Vermeil out of retirement for one year and pair him with Mike Singletary or Ron Rivera or Jim Caldwell or some other ascending assistant coach.

It would be a mistake to turn this team over to an inexperienced head coach. The goal in San Diego is to win Super Bowl XLII. A rookie or a

well-traveled retread (Norv Turner) is unlikely to get the Chargers where they need to go in the AFC, which is home to the Colts, Patriots, Ravens, Steelers, Bengals and Jaguars, teams with enough talent to win it all.

The Colts, Patriots and Ravens are all led by previous Super Bowl winners.

What is next for Marty?

He won't experience the same fate as Dungy, who quickly landed a dream gig with Peyton Manning, the league's best quarterback, and Bill Polian, the league's best general manager.

Dungy's ego allows him to work for a control-freak GM. Dungy is content coaching and letting Polian handle personnel. Marty doesn't work that way. Marty wants ultimate authority. He and Carl Peterson tangled over personnel.

Marty will land another coaching job. But he'll never coach another team as talented as the one he leaves behind in San Diego. Monday's events all but ensure that Marty Schottenheimer will never win a Super Bowl.



Miami Heat's head coach Pat Riley hugs Dwyane Wade after the second half of Game 6 of the NBA Finals between the Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, on Tuesday, June 21, 2006. Miami won 95-92 to win the NBA Championship 4-2 over the Mavericks. (Smiley N. Pool/Dallas Morning News/KRT)

METHODIST UNIVERSITY

MARIA SIKORYAK-ROBINS
DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

MU ANNOUNCES 19th BIENNIAL SOUTHERN WRITERS SYMPOSIUM

FAYETTEVILLE, NC— The 19th Biennial Southern Writers Symposium will return to Methodist University Feb. 23-24, 2007. The event, themed *Neglected Southern Writers*, will feature scholars from around the country who will present papers on southern writers and explore their relationships to the southern literary canon.

The keynote speaker is Trudier Harris, professor of English at UNC-Chapel Hill, whose works include *Saints, Sinners, Saviors: Strong Black Women in African-American Literature* (2001) and *The South of Tradition: Essays on African American Literature* (2002). Other attending scholars include Freda Beaty, Jesse Freeman, and Gary Richards.

A special focus of the symposium will be Georgia author Raymond Andrews (1934-1991). Readings, talks, scholarly papers, and a film in progress will address Andrews's life, his work, and the nature of his contribution to southern literature.

Methodist University is Fayetteville's only independent, four-year institution of higher education. The University enrolls 2,147 students from 41 states and 30 countries. To learn more about the symposium and its history visit www.methodist.edu/sws. The fee is \$65 to register for the two-day event, with additional costs for meals. To register for the symposium please contact Dr. Emily Wright at (910) 630-7551 or send an e-mail to ewright@methodist.edu.