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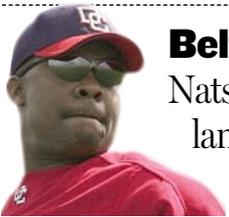
Weekend



Miner Randy McCloy waves as he heads home. JEFF GENTNER/AP

Miner Released: Sago's lone survivor leaves hospital | **4**

Lentz Convicted: Former naval officer guilty of murder | **11**



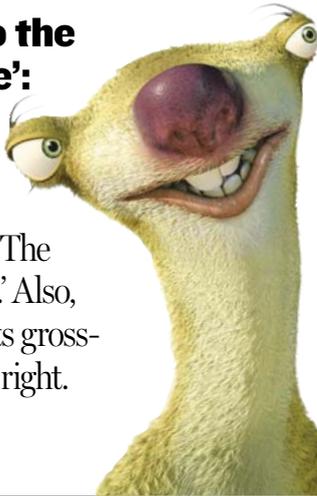
Beltway Battle: Nats-Orioles rivalry lands in D.C. area at long last | **15**

ENTERTAINMENT

Back to the 'Ice Age':

Sid and other gabby critters return for 'The Meltdown.' Also, 'Slither' gets gross-out horror right.

>> 24-32



Weather >> Partly Sunny



73 | 55

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 41



MASON MADNESS

Patriots head to Final Four confident, loose and ready to make history >> Page 13



Workers at Rome's City Hall remove a poster of reporter Jill Carroll after hearing news of her release. PIER PAOLO CITO/BETTYPAGES

Reporter: 'I Was Not Harmed'

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | American reporter Jill Carroll's three-month hostage ordeal ended Thursday when she was left on a Baghdad street in front of a Sunni political party office. She appeared composed and eager to talk about her 82 days held captive in a tiny room.

"It's important people know that I was not harmed," she said.

Carroll was dropped off at midday near an office of the Iraqi Islamic Party. She was then driven to party headquarters before being handed over to U.S. authorities.

The 28-year-old freelancer for The Christian Science Monitor said her kidnappers confined her to a small room with frosted windows but treated her well. Although her captors issued televised threats to kill Carroll if American forces did not release women prisoners, she said: "They never said they would hit me, never threatened me in any way."

The U.S. ambassador said there was no ransom paid by the American embassy, but his remarks left open the question of whether "arrangements" were made by others. (AP)

Steroids Inquiry Criticized

Former senator with ties to Red Sox to lead investigation

NEW YORK | Baseball began its investigation Thursday into alleged steroid use by Barry Bonds and others, and the head of the inquiry immediately came under attack because of his close ties to the sport.

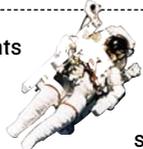
In the wake of a searing book about Bonds, commissioner Bud Selig appointed former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell — currently a director of the Boston Red Sox — to lead the investigation. The probe initially will be limited to events since September 2002, when the sport banned performance-enhancing drugs, but Mitchell has the authority to expand it.

Selig said Mitchell's report will be made public but didn't set a timetable. By then, Bonds may well have passed Babe Ruth's home-run mark on the way toward Hank Aaron's all-time record.

Mitchell said he will not resign his position with the Red Sox. He also is chairman of The Walt Disney Co., the parent of ESPN, a national broadcast partner of baseball.

"I don't think there's any conflict," he said. "I'm going to be independent, have complete independent authority and will act." (AP)

SIDE EFFECTS | Cosmo-nots Women with breast implants may be banned from Virgin Galactic space flights, the Sun reported. The company fears that breast implants could expand — and even burst — due to the cabin pressure that passengers could experience. "We've discovered there may well be issues with breast augmentation," Will Whitehorn said. "We're not sure whether they could stand the trip — they could well explode." Flights are slated to begin in 2008. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

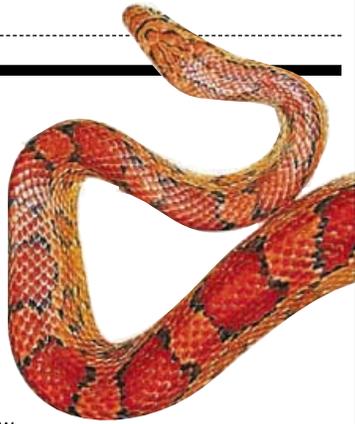


eyeOpeners

DISTRACTIONS

And People Worry About Cell Phones

An East Naples, Fla., man crashed his car Tuesday after driving with his pet snake wrapped around his neck, the Naples Daily News reported. Courtland Page Johnson was driving erratically on the highway when, witnesses said, he crashed into roadwork barriers. Onlookers then saw that he was holding the snake in his hands. Johnson was arrested on charges of leaving the scene of a crash, and later admitted to police that he panicked when his snake began biting him. (EXPRESS)



ANGLOPHILES

Next, We'll Be Using The Metric System

Engineers are planning a brazen design to ease congestion and reduce accidents in Kansas City that discards something sacred among American motorists—driving on the right side of

the road. Missouri transportation officials planning a street approach to an interstate have settled on an idea that appears to be a national first, costs the least and is expected to most effectively handle traffic—by crisscrossing lanes and putting drivers on the left, a position seldom experienced this side of the Atlantic. (AP)



CHRISTIAN LUTZ/AP

MEDICINE

Patched Up

It came in with hearing problems; diagnosis — they'd have to get the cotton out of its ears. A student of the Faculty of Medicine, left, at Strasbourg Faculty of Medicine in Strasbourg, France, simulated an ear operation on a rabbit toy brought by a young girl on Thursday. The institution opened a "Teddy Bear Clinic" for the day, where children could bring their teddy bears and toy animals, to gently introduce the children to medical professions. (EXPRESS)



Living in a tent on the roof—a sure way to restore intimacy with your wife.

DIRTY LAUNDRY

Hey World: My Wife Won't Sleep With Me

A Redford, Mich., man who says he can't get private time with his wife is going on strike from being a husband, KEYE-TV reported. James Wilson said his wife lets their kids sleep in their bed, so he can't get any alone time with her—and now he's moved up on the roof, where he spends his time with a sign reading "Hubby On Strike." "She refuses to remove the children from our bedroom," Wilson said. (EXPRESS)

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Weekend Sports

Nationals hope their summer isn't like spring

NATIONALS | When the Washington Nationals take the field at RFK Stadium for tonight's exhibition game, the grass will be green and the weather will be warm and baseball will be back.

The Nationals, presumably, will just be happy to be out of Florida and wrapping up a tumultuous spring training, plagued by discontented players, injuries and the extended absences of those participating in the World Baseball Classic.

"This has been the oddest spring training I've ever been associated with," said manager Frank Robinson, who has four decades worth of spring trainings to choose from.

The story of the spring, of course, was Alfonso Soriano. The Nationals traded for the slugging second baseman in the off-season, only to learn that he was adamantly opposed to the Nationals' plan to move him to left field. Soriano returned from the WBC and after some tense moments – including his outright refusal to play the outfield in one game – he reluctantly relented.

Around that time, the Nationals were coming to grips with the loss of reliever Luis Ayala to ligament-replacement surgery. The steady right-hander injured himself pitching



Ryan Zimmerman: Rookie of the Year?



Brandon Watson: Fast man



Jose Guillen: He's back!

Catching up with the Nats: Alfonso Soriano isn't going to win any fans with his glove, based on the reports out of spring training. But his bat, coupled with the addition of Ryan Zimmerman as a full-time starter, should make for an improved offense that will also feature Brandon Watson's speed and Jose Guillen's power. Brian Schneider, Nick Johnson and Jose Vidro should provide consistency if they can stay healthy.



Nick Johnson: Has a big contract to live up to



Brian Schneider: A rock behind the plate



Jose Vidro: Can he stay healthy?

for Mexico in the Classic. Nationals officials contend that, coming off a previous injury, he should have been brought along more slowly.

He'll be joined on the disabled list by starting shortstop Cristian Guzman (shoulder), first baseman/catcher Robert Fick (elbow), and pitchers Ryan Drese (shoulder) and Brian Lawrence (elbow). Lawrence, penciled in as the No. 3 starter after arriving in a trade, injured himself on the first day of spring training.

Throw in a nagging wrist injury to power-hitting right fielder Jose Guillen, an epidemic of errors in the field and the surprise demotion of

"This has been the oddest spring training I've ever been associated with."

center fielder Ryan Church and the Nationals appear in desperate need of a silver lining.

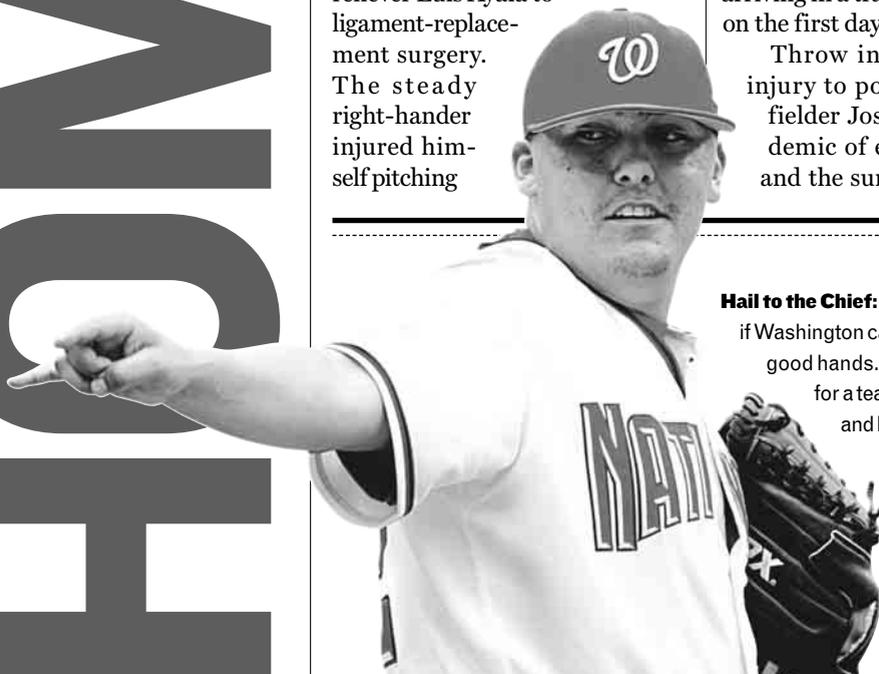
They can, however, point to solid performances by front-of-the-rotation starters Livan Hernandez and John Patterson. Or

the offensive emergence of third baseman Ryan Zimmerman and center fielder Brandon Watson, both rookies.

It has been an exhausting time for general manager Jim Bowden, but he knows that spring training is rarely an accurate indicator of regular-season success.

"To me, it has been one nightmare after another," he said. "It's like I am working for the fire department and putting out fires every day. But I have been through springs like this before, and then the season starts and you are in a pennant race all year. We are hoping that will happen here." DEREK TURNER

TEAM TIME



Hail to the Chief: If last year taught us anything, it's that if Washington can get to closer Chad Cordero, it is in good hands. Getting there might be the problem for a team that lost pitchers Esteban Loaiza and Hector Carrasco to free agency. John Patterson and Livan Hernandez are a strong start to a rotation, but who will step behind them is anyone's guess. Look for Gary Majewski to play a bigger role with set-up man Luis Ayala out for the season.



Livan Hernandez: Staff ace



Gary Majewski: Good in relief



John Patterson: A star in the making?



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Weekend Sports

Escape From New York

Benson eager to focus on baseball, not the media in Baltimore

ORIOLES | Kris Benson believes the trade that sent him from the New York Mets to the Baltimore Orioles stemmed from false information and the betrayal of people he once regarded as friends. But as far as he's concerned, the Mets did him a favor.

"I was a little upset because I enjoyed my time in New York," Benson said. "But now that I realize the opportunity I have, it's going to be a good career move for me."

In 2005, his first full season with the Mets, Benson allowed three runs or fewer in 19 starts. He was 10-8 with a 4.31 ERA, but New York won 17 of the 28 games in which he pitched.

Despite those numbers, he was traded to the Orioles in January for pitchers Jorge Julio and John Maine. Mets GM Omar Minaya contended that Anna Benson, who wore a provocative dress to the team's



Anna Benson, right, gets more media attention than husband/O's pitcher, Kris.

Christmas party and discussed posing for Playboy, was not a factor in the trade.

Either way, Benson is now focused on using the advice of esteemed pitching coach Leo Mazzone to raise his game.

"It's over with. The media in New York kind of took it too far. Anna is happy with my career here in Baltimore, and she's excited about me working with Leo," Benson said. "She continues to do her thing in

New York City. It's probably a better situation with her being in New York and me being in Baltimore, kind of relaxing and playing and not having to worry about the tabloid media." (AP)

LOPEZ TO DH: Orioles slugger Javy Lopez will start the year at DH after struggling trying to learn first base this spring and hitting only .139 through Wednesday. (AP)

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Madness Comes to Mason

Patriots deal with the media crush resulting from Final Four run

MASON HOOPS | For Gabe Norwood, the strangest part of George Mason's Final Four run has been the rumors.

"People on our floor are saying Sean Connery is going to play [coach Jim Larranaga in the movie about Mason]," the 6 foot 5 sophomore said after practice Tuesday.

Movie? At this point, it wouldn't be surprising.

The cameras turned out en masse Tuesday afternoon for another glimpse into the Patriots' improbable run. Larranaga—who had an audience of two reporters the day before Mason (27-7) left to play Michigan State two weeks ago—met a semi-circle of scribes packed six deep in anticipation of his team's national semifinal matchup with Florida.

Larranaga has been the star of the Patriots' odyssey. His stories circulated through the Patriot Center again on Tuesday. Only this time, it was the players telling them.

"We released butterflies my sophomore year outside the Patriot Center," senior Lamar Butler said. "We actually had a ceremony. We were laughing and he was trying to



George Mason students send the Patriots off to Indianapolis at a pep rally this week.

get us to be serious. I just couldn't be serious releasing a butterfly. We actually waved goodbye to the butterflies as they flew off."

And the message that day? "I can't remember."

Well, the week has been a blur.

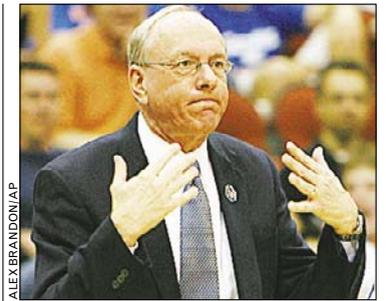
Larranaga said he'd had just eight hours of sleep in the two days since beating Connecticut.

Forward Will Thomas hasn't gotten much rest either, thanks to some of his fellow students. "People keep pulling the fire alarms where we live," said the forward, who resides with his sophomore teammates. "There was one Sunday night, and when the firemen left, 10 minutes later they pulled it again."

Apparently the Mason kids haven't mastered couch burning yet. But they sure are excited about one of the most unlikely Final Four berths in NCAA history.

"A lot of people have come up to me and congratulated me on everything we've done and saying how we've brought George Mason alive now," Folarin Campbell said. "This campus, people said it was dead. Now, a lot of people are just walking around happy." **ERIC BRANDNER**

High profile: George Mason will use this Final Four run to enhance its athletic program | *Today's Post*, Al



Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim cites Mason as a reason to expand the field.

Boeheim: Add More Teams to The Big Dance

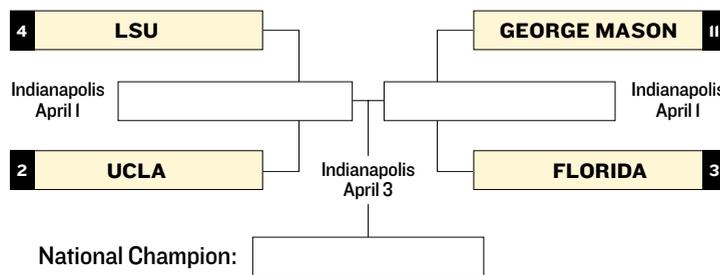
COLLEGE HOOPS | Jim Boeheim wants more schools playing in the NCAA tournament, and his coaching colleagues appear to agree.

The Syracuse coach believes the tournament field should expand from its current 65 teams and hopes to start lobbying for an increase Friday during a meeting with the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

"I have a number in mind, I think it should probably be about four to six, somewhere in there," Boeheim said. "The problem really is that it shouldn't come down to logistics."

Boeheim believes the rapid increase in Division I schools, to more than 300, and increased parity, as demonstrated by George Mason reaching the Final Four, indicates its time to include more teams. (AP)

NCAA 2006 | THE FINAL FOUR



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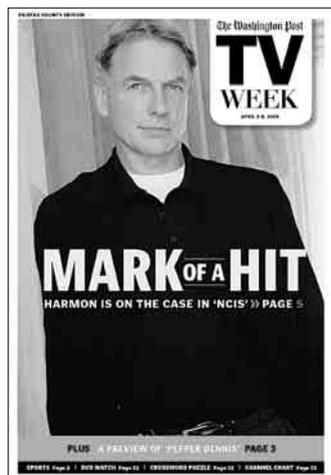
Entertainment Weekend

Now Playing

Continued from page 27

esting), she wages war on the high lords of society. It's navel warfare. (SH)
V FOR VENETTA (R, 132 minutes) Hugo Weaving is a revolutionary dedicated to tearing down the state, but he looks like a guy in a comic book. (Wait, he was.) That ruins the audience's ability to connect with his lonely mission, so the film

Sunday in The Washington Post



Divine Harmon-y: Mark Harmon is a hit on "NCIS," and the show is a much-needed hit for CBS. He talks about fame and TV longevity. | *TV Week*

Coffee, Unplugged: Six of the best WiFi-enabled spots in the city; also, how to fix a grooming emergency; Easter egg kits; flirting in traffic. | *Sunday Source*

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front-loads the regime he despises to make up in hatred what it can't create in empathy. The film is pulp claptrap; it has no insights into totalitarian psychology and always settles for the cheesiest kinds of demagoguery and harangue as its emblems of evil. (SH)

WALK THE LINE (PG-13, 136 minutes) This movie gets off to a promising start, sure to raise goose bumps, at the gates of Folsom Prison in 1968. Unfortunately, for all its good music and admirable vocal impersonations (by Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon), the movie slides — very, very slowly — downhill from there. (AH)

WHY WE FIGHT (PG-13, 98 minutes) Of



"Joyeux Noel" tells of the World War I "Christmas Truce" with fitting absurdity.

all the incendiary, left-wing, anti-Bush screeds that seem to have become the flavor of the decade in the American documentary community, Eugene Jarecki's is probably the best. Jarecki isn't just a polemicist, he's also a filmmaker. The argument is that America is foolish and knavish in that it depends on a war economy and that the secret purpose of its foreign policy is to find enemies to justify huge military spending. (SH)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN AND DESSON THOMSON. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS SEE THE WASHINGTON POST WEEKEND SECTION

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Sitting Pretty



Benches are the eligible bachelors of the furniture world: If they're good-looking, you can put them just about anywhere. "They're versatile and mobile," says Jason Claire of Logan Circle decor den Vastu. "Store one under the flat-panel TV, then move it to the living room or pull it up to the dining table." And relax, current designs look way hipper than that ratty piano stool you had to sit on during holiday dinners as a kid. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



SEXY AND SINUOUS in a blocky way, 3Square Design's low-slung S Bench could store books, shoes or your Nats' baseball cap collection. It's sold in walnut, cherry or Swede-sweet pale maple. (\$1,600, VELOCITYARTANDESIGN.COM)



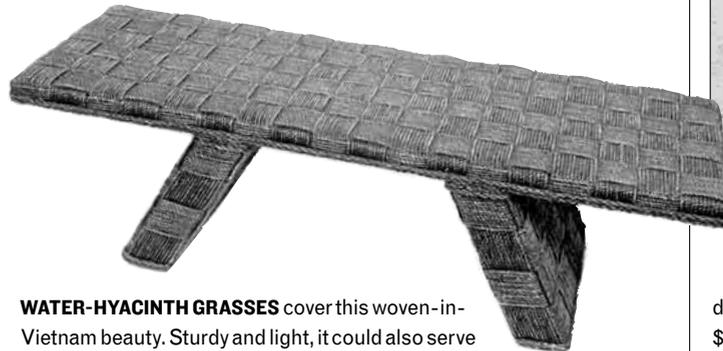
WITH ITS STEELY GOAL-POST legs and lean cushion, Desiron's bench screams boutique hotel. It can be whipped up in any of 1,000 fabrics and leathers. (AS SHOWN, \$1,977, VASTU, 1829 14TH ST. NW; 202-234-8344)



WEST ELM'S SLATTED WOOD-TOP seat could pass for a similar model by modernist demigod Herman Miller. Except it's roughly \$300 cheaper, which'd save you enough money to throw a heck of a bench-warming party. (\$299, WESTELM.COM)



PICTURE A COUPLE OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS characters swilling mint juleps and lounging on a veranda. That's the vibe this retro, wrought-iron baby summons. It comes with khaki linen pillows to cushion tushes or, perhaps, to soak up pesky cocktail spills. (\$899, WISTERIA.COM)



WATER-HYACINTH GRASSES cover this woven-in-Vietnam beauty. Sturdy and light, it could also serve as a coffee table. (\$298, ARISE, 5114 ROANOKE PL., COLLEGE PARK; 301-486-1230; ARISEDC.COM)

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