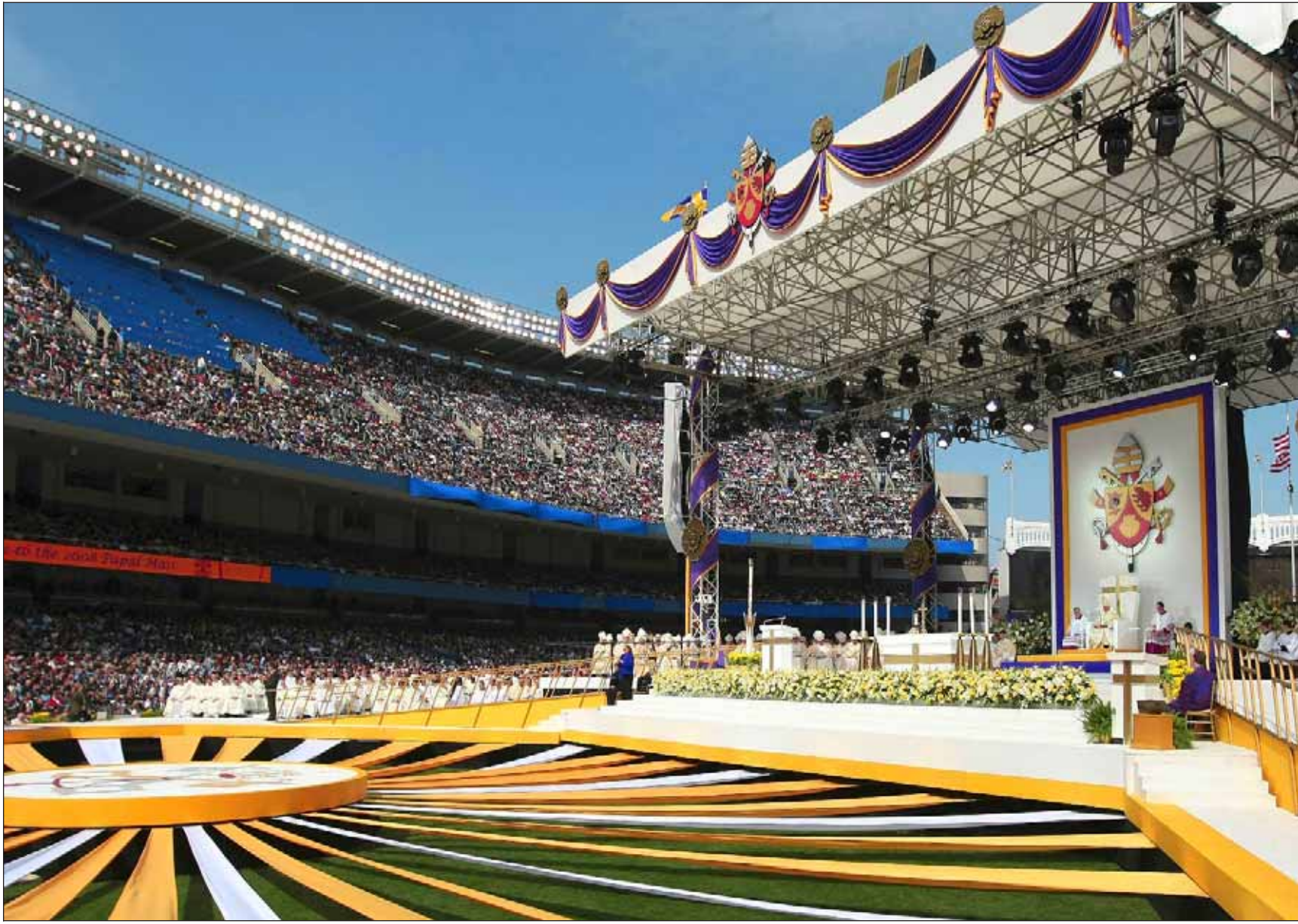


## POPE BENEDICT XVI IN AMERICA



AP / CHANG W. LEE

A platform festooned in yellow and white, two of the Vatican's colors, covers the infield at Yankee Stadium where Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass yesterday before a crowd of nearly 60,000, the largest public event of the pope's tour.

# A SOURCE *of* INSPIRATION

## Rhode Islanders are among those who view the pope at Yankee Stadium

BY RICHARD C. DUJARDIN  
JOURNAL RELIGION WRITER

NEW YORK — Pope Benedict XVI yesterday ventured into the Bronx to celebrate a festive Mass in the house that Ruth built, capping a remarkable week that saw him attempt to offer healing to the victims of clerical sexual abuse and pray at the scene of ground zero.

In Yankee Stadium, on the last day of a six-day visit, Benedict was greeted by the cheers of nearly 60,000 people who came from all areas of the country to see the third pontiff to visit American soil and to offer their good wishes with shouts of "Viva Papa" and "We Love the Pope."

Though the pastoral tone of Benedict's visit has surprised some Catholics who had expected more of a disciplinarian, the pontiff yesterday underlined the Catholic Church's key role of shepherd.

"Authority, obedience. To be frank, these



AP / KATHY WILLENS

Earlier in the day, the pope visits ground zero to offer prayers at the former site of the World Trade Center.

SEE **POPE, A6**

are not easy words to speak nowadays," he acknowledged, especially in a society which he said "rightly" places a high value on personal freedom.

But those words need not be stumbling blocks, he added, when they are seen in the light of faith. "The gospel teaches us that true freedom, the freedom of the children of God, is found only in the self-surrender which is part of the mystery of love," he said. "Only by losing ourselves, the Lord tells us, do we truly find ourselves."

About 200 Rhode Islanders were among those at the Mass in the stadium. Nearly all of them had set out for New York by bus early yesterday morning. Half of them — including 16 seminarians and two dozen students and faculty in the Diocese of Providence's six Catholic high schools — discovered their seats were out in the centerfield bleachers. The al-

# As vote nears, contest tightens

On the eve of the Pennsylvania primary, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama sharpen their attacks.

BY JEFF ZELENY and KATHARINE Q. SEELYE  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

READING, Pa. — Sen. Barack Obama sharpened his tone against Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday as the six-week Pennsylvania primary contest raced to a frenzied close, with the rivals marshaling extensive resources in a fierce battle for voters — and delegates — that could determine whether the Democratic nominating fight carries on.

In television commercials and in appearances before crowded rallies, Obama, of Illinois, cast his opponent in one of the most negative lights of the entire 16-month campaign, calling her a compromised Washington insider. Clinton, of New York, responded by suggesting that Obama's message of hope had given way to old-style politics and implored Democrats to take a second look at his candidacy.

## CAMPAIGN 2008

The fresh skirmishing unfolded across one of the most complicated battlegrounds in the fight for the Democratic nomination. Both campaigns deployed thousands of paid workers, volunteers and surrogates to strategic points across the state in a contest that could determine the fate of Clinton's candidacy.

Obama is seeking to lock up the nomination by outspending Clinton 2-to-1 here with a barrage of ads assailing her health-care plan and suggesting that she was captive to special interests.

Clinton fired back, assailing his health-care plan and saying that he was going negative against her to mask a poor performance in last week's debate.

Voters in Pennsylvania, who go to the polls tomorrow, are the first to cast ballots since those in Mississippi on March 11. The gap made for the longest campaign in a single state since the opening bell of the presidential contest in Iowa on Jan. 3.

"There's been a lot of discussion over the last

SEE **CAMPAIGN, A3**

# Rice looks for united front in Iraq

The U.S. secretary of state tries to draw a distinction between the political movement and the militias supporting Muqtada al-Sadr.

BY KAREN DEYOUNG and ERNESTO LONDONO  
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made an unannounced visit here yesterday to promote what she called the "coalescing center" of Iraqi politics around the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

The visit followed a night of intense fighting in the Sadr City neighborhood of Baghdad after radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Saturday threatened to wage a full-scale war against the U.S.-backed Iraqi government.

The fighting continued during Rice's visit. A ceremony at which she unveiled a plaque commemorating civilian deaths in the Green Zone was briefly delayed by a "duck and cover" alert, one of several during her six-hour visit to the fortified compound housing the U.S. Embassy and much of the Iraqi government.

The first of three rocket attacks occurred while she was meeting with al-Maliki at his office. In the second attack, as she returned to the Green Zone from a meeting with Iraqi

SEE **IRAQ, A3**

# It's will power that propels West Warwick marathoner

After a workout at Gold's Gym in Warwick, Jason Pisano does his running with assistance from his friend Avi Tzadok, who keeps his racing chair in line.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KATHY BORCHERS

Jason Pisano, who has cerebral palsy, has competed in a total of 41 marathons. Today he'll be racing to benefit Ronald McDonald House.

BY LISA VERNON-SPARKS  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

WEST WARWICK — When Jason Pisano entered his first marathon, 14 years ago, no one thought he would finish.

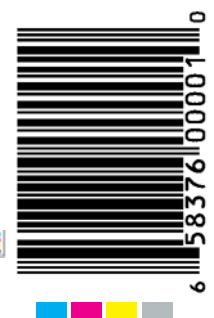
After all, he was competing in a wheelchair. And, he had to travel the entire course backwards, with only his left foot to propel him.

It was the Ocean State Marathon, from Narragansett to Warwick. It took 12 hours, from early morning until after dark, but Pisano made it.

He has never allowed cerebral palsy to keep him from going the distance.

Nor has the disorder stopped him from doing anything

SEE **RACER, A4**



## INSIDE TODAY

© 2008 Published daily since 1829  
6 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	D4	Lifebeat	D1
Bridge	D4	Lotteries	B6
Business	A8	Obituaries	C2
Classified	E1	People	D1
Comics	D5	Rhode Island	C1
Crossword	D4	Sports	B1
Editorial	C4	Television	D6
Kidsbeat	D3	What's Happening	D4
Legal ads	E4		

## BREAKING THE AUTO RACING BARRIER



Danica Patrick becomes the first American woman to win a major auto race by capturing the checkered flag at an IndyCar Series event in Motegi, Japan. **B2**

## TEST YOUR FINANCIAL LITERACY

Do you know how much money you should have saved or what to do first in case of identity theft? Take our financial literacy quiz to see how you stack up. **A8**

## FLEEING ZIMBABWE

Many in Zimbabwe are not waiting for the results of the recent presidential vote to be made public and are already fleeing the troubled country. **A2**



## CELTICS SCHOOL HAWKS, 104-81

With his 16 points, Paul Pierce is one of six Celtics to score in double figures as Boston easily beats the Atlanta Hawks in game one of the first round of the NBA playoffs. **B1**