

Metro & Iowa

CRIME

Dems develop plan for juveniles

Lesley Kennedy
Daily Iowan

In an effort to break the cycle of juvenile crime, Iowa Sen. Richard Varn, D-Solon, and other Democrats announced a Senate Democratic plan last week to reduce the incidence of such crimes.

Varn is part of an ad hoc task force formed to develop a long-range plan for Iowa juveniles. The plan was built from recommendations of an interim study committee on Youth and Gang Violence that met last summer.

"We studied the problems that juveniles face every day and developed long-term solutions to meet the problems head-on," Varn said in a release. "The plan outlines the need to preserve the family, intervene early in crisis situations, get tough with juveniles who commit crimes and evaluate current programs so that taxpayers know that they are getting their money's worth."

The plan focuses on preventing the incidence of juvenile crime.

"We believe that it is important that communities utilize early assessment techniques as well as crisis intervention with families to ensure that children at risk of delinquent behavior get the services necessary, before they commit crimes," Varn said. "It's more cost-effective to intervene early

with these kids and work with the families, as an alternative to placement in the foster-care system."

Varn said that when prevention and intervention fail and a juvenile commits a crime, clear and effective punishment must be implemented to change the juvenile's behavior.

"Juveniles need to know that there are consequences to their actions," he said.

Paul Nelson, chief Juvenile Court Officer for the sixth judicial district, which includes Johnson and Linn counties, said that there is a need for "fine tuning the system."

"We support proposals to help deal with juvenile crime situations," Nelson said.

According to Nelson, juvenile crimes have gone up considerably in the past few years. He said this type of plan holds admirable and realistic goals, but that the problem lies in funding.

"These things take money to implement and the state of Iowa is in dire straits when it comes to funding. The state will have to find a balance to find the funds to pay for such a plan," Nelson said.

Highlights of the plan include:

- Expanding the current Department of Human Service's family preservation program.

- Additional emergency shelter beds for juveniles with problems, but who have not yet committed a

crime. Getting runaways, victims of abuse and neglect, and homeless juveniles off the street and into a safe, secure environment.

- Raising the foster-care cap so that residential care facilities can take tougher juveniles, instead of sending them to more costly out-of-state programs.

- Establishing an aggressive "after-care" program or continuum services to support juveniles who have successfully completed substance abuse treatment.

- Housing the 16- to 21-year-old juvenile offenders at Eldora and developing a pilot project there modeled after a successful "boot camp" model which emphasizes intensive responsibility training, education, and intensive vocational job training.

- Tougher penalties for adults who engage juveniles in criminal activity.

- Establishing an Iowa RICO, Racketeering Influenced by Corrupt Organizations, statute to attack problem gangs in the inner city.

- Establishing a multi-agency data base that tracks the progress of juveniles through the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Justice, educational institutions, substance abuse treatment and other appropriate agencies.

- Evaluating current treatment



Richard Varn

programs and mandating that quantifiable goals be developed so that taxpayers can see where their tax dollars can be used most effectively.

Varn is serving his first term in the Iowa Senate after serving two terms in the Iowa House. He is Majority Whip and chairman of the Education Appropriations subcommittee. He also serves on the Appropriations, Commerce, Education, Environment and Energy Utilities and Judiciary committees. He represents Senate District 27, which includes northern and western Johnson County and all of Iowa and Poweshiek counties.

CAMPUS

Caterpillar aids engineers with employment, grants

Betty Lin
Daily Iowan

Many recent college graduates are joining the millions of frustrated job seekers discovering that jobs are becoming harder and harder to find.

The UI College of Engineering has teamed up with the Caterpillar Foundation of Peoria, Ill., to help build a link for students between college and the real world.

Caterpillar is a partner with the college in a cooperative research effort partly sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Several UI faculty members take part in ongoing research projects with Caterpillar staff at the company's facilities. Caterpillar has also hired 36 UI engineering graduates since 1985.

Recently, Caterpillar awarded a \$28,000 grant to the college through the Caterpillar Excellence Fund. The grant will provide four scholarships and will aid student and faculty development in the College of Engineering.

The scholarships will help pay a year's in-state tuition for two underrepresented minority freshmen majoring in electrical, industrial or mechanical engineering. Two additional scholarships will be awarded to undergraduates above the freshman level in those majors.

The grants from the fund will also be used to support a series of seminars which will bring six

prominent engineers to the UI to speak with students and faculty.

The funds will also provide for computer equipment to help undergraduates learn about and conduct on-line searches of engineering patent literature.

Associate Dean of the College of Engineering Paul Scholz said that there has been a past history of interaction between the UI College of Engineering and Caterpillar. However, this is the first year the UI has been included in the Caterpillar Excellence Fund. He hopes that the grants will be awarded on an annual basis.

Edward Siebert, vice president and manager of the Caterpillar Foundation, said that the grants are in the enlightened self-interest of the corporation in addition to the interest of the college. The UI provides many technical and business needs for Caterpillar, according to Siebert.

He said that the ties the corporation has with the UI are very important. "We are willing to make the financial commitments to strengthen the institution in terms of faculty and curriculum," he said.

Scholz feels that the funding from Caterpillar will be very helpful for the college.

"I'm very pleased and excited about the funding," he said. "I hope that we can continue to earn the continued support so we can build upon this in the future."

UI to study, accommodate street extensions

Estela Villanueva
Daily Iowan

The City of Coralville is planning road extensions north of Interstate 80 that will cross into UI property at Oakdale. The office of UI Planning and Administrative Services is currently looking at locations to accommodate the extensions.

Larry Wilson, associate director of UI Planning and Administrative Services, discussed the situation with the UI Campus Planning Committee on Wednesday. Although the plans are still at the conceptual stage, two existing

roads, Oakdale Boulevard and Holiday Road, are being reviewed as possible locations to cross the property.

Wilson noted that the UI will have to determine where it should be agreeable with the city to revise existing road patterns and how the changes will affect the UI's future plans for the property. The UI has no current plans for development of the land.

Wilson added that the UI will have to negotiate with Coralville to devise a route around the poor development existing on Holiday Road.

"People at Oakdale already realize that the existing roads have problems. This is timely because we have to name the roads for the 911 system. It came at a good time to help us out," Wilson said.

The office of Planning and Administration has been working with consultants from Crose-Gardner Associates of Des Moines to review the situation and have come up with sketches that would improve access to university-owned property at Oakdale.

"The need to plan Oakdale has come up before. We haven't done it because there has been no problem

drive to do it. What role it will play in the broad university picture isn't clear," said Richard Gibson, director of UI Planning and Administrative Services.

The sketches will be compiled into one plan and proposed to the city of Coralville at a later date.

In other committee business, Gibson announced that the proposal for street closings in the North Capitol Street Pathway Project was approved last week by a 6-0 vote by the Iowa City Planning and Zoning Commission.

The proposal will be sent to the Iowa City City Council.

Iowa colleges may be required to create policies on sex abuse

Mike Glover
Associated Press

DES MOINES — Colleges and universities in Iowa would have to develop formal policies to combat campus sex abuse and report the extent of the problem under legislation approved Wednesday by the House.

"We know that date rape exists," said Rep. Joyce Nielsen, D-Cedar

Rapids, the bill's main supporter. "We know for a fact that college students are being raped."

After quibbling over the details, the House voted 90-0 to approve, sending it to the Senate.

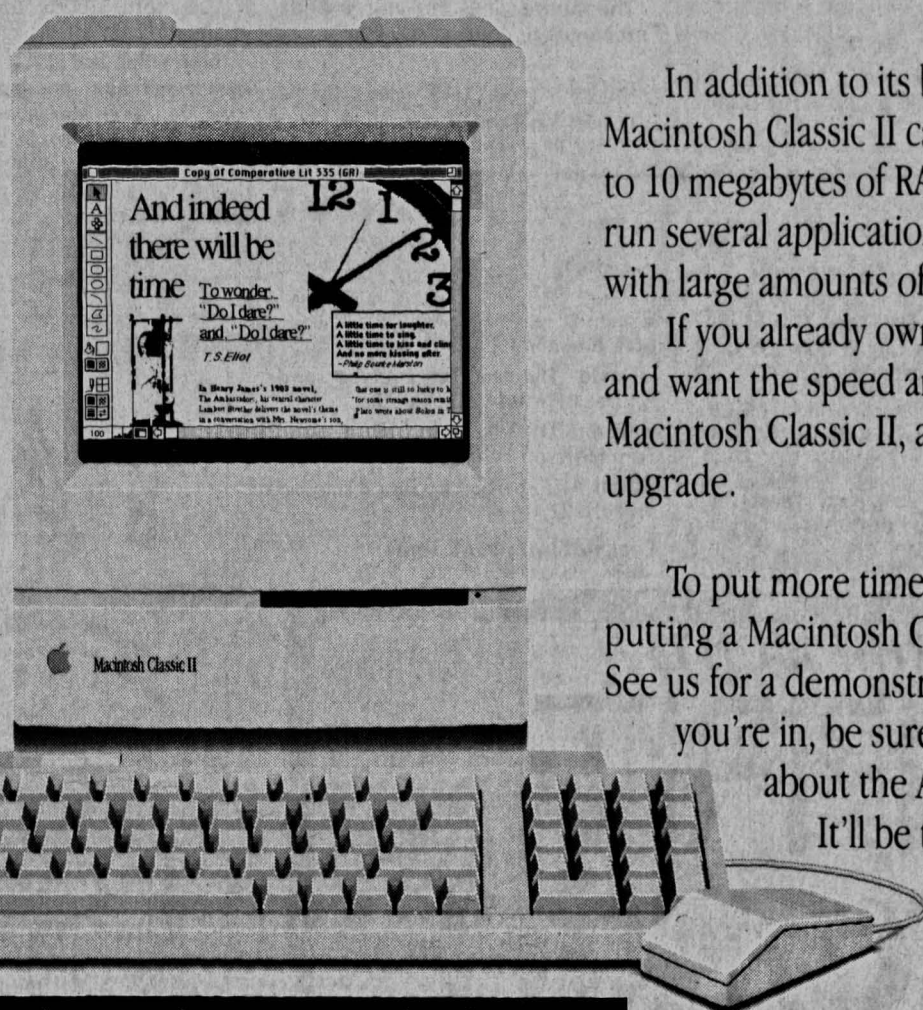
Under such a law, each institution would have to develop a formal policy on how they would combat campus sex abuse.

Supporters said it would heighten awareness of campus sex abuse.

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ECONOMY

Analysts: Report points to recovery

John D. McClain
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Factory orders for durable goods rose 1.5 percent in January, the government said Wednesday in a report seen as a fresh evidence the once-stalled economic recovery is starting to pick up.

Analysts also pointed to the recent increase in retail sales, including automobiles, and growing housing activity among other signs of a slowly improving economy.

"We're now starting to see the resumption of the recovery, which may have started in the spring a year ago and stalled out in the fall," said economist Lynn Reaser of First Interstate Bancorp in Los Angeles.

"We're seeing the first glimmers of a revival in January," concurred Stephen Roach, an economist with Morgan Stanley & Co. in New York. "It's another tentative sign of an improved economic outlook in 1992."

The Bush administration also hailed the January increase as one of several indicators pointing to an economic rebound.

"I see robins on the lawn in the economy now," said Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady in a speech to the National Association of

Business Economists.

Brady cited increased purchases of tires and light bulbs as signs that discretionary spending was picking up.

"I went out last weekend and bought two new tires," he said, adding that many Americans likely would do the same thing because they have put off such purchases and, now, "this country's tires are bald."

But many analysts caution that economic growth will be below average and will not result in any substantive improvement in employment for months.

Orders for durable goods — usually expensive items such as cars and computers expected to last more than three years — totaled a seasonally adjusted \$119.6 billion in January, according to the Commerce Department report.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress last week the Fed also had seen signs that orders continued to rise in early February.

They had stalled in December, plunging 5.1 percent to \$117.8 billion, after posting gains of 0.6 percent in November and 2.7 percent in October.

Reaser said the new gains in orders should "prompt a bit of a turnaround on the production front

in the next several months. It's the kind of ammunition we need for a recovery in the spring."

Manufacturing production had declined for three straight months through January, costing thousands of jobs.

Analysts said the job losses contributed to the plunge in consumer confidence reported Tuesday by the Conference Board, a New York business research group.

But Roach said he places "a lot more credence" in automobile and other retail sales because they measure what consumers are doing rather than what they are saying.

Consumer spending represents two-thirds of the nation's economic activity and is necessary to sustain any recovery.

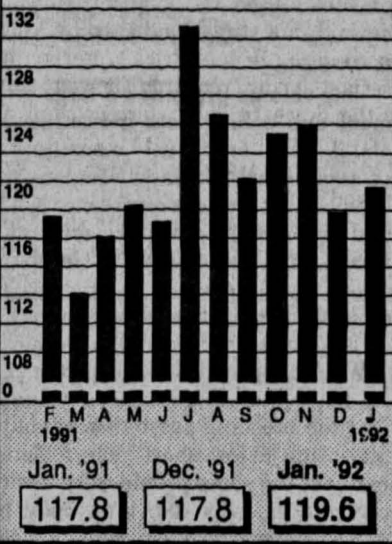
The January orders advance was led by gains of 6.3 percent for industrial machinery and equipment and 1.2 percent for transportation equipment. Excluding the transportation sector, orders were up 1.6 percent.

Orders for electronic and other electrical machinery fell 4.9 percent after four straight increases. Primary metals orders were down 1.4 percent.

Analysts were particularly impressed by the 4.3 percent gain in non-defense capital goods orders

Durable Goods

New orders
Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce

excluding aircraft.

"This indicates an emerging recovery in equipment investment," contended Gordon Richards, an economist with the National Association of Manufacturers.

CAMPAIGN '92

Economy tops voters' concerns

Jill Lawrence
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Regional concerns ranging from crime to the environment will color the crush of presidential primaries over the next three weeks, all of them laying out against a backdrop of economic anxiety.

Industries are collapsing, companies downsizing and factories laying off workers across much of America. And where the economy has not stumbled badly, voters are insecure anyway. Their incomes are stagnant and the cost of living is continually on the rise.

"People are asking two fundamental questions — which candidate is really on my side and who has real solutions to these problems," said Democratic strategist Mark Mellman, who has conducted three national polls and focus groups across the country in the past two months.

The economy tops the list of voter concerns in every poll. In a recent Gallup survey, it was considered a very important presidential campaign issue by more than nine of 10 voters in each region of the country — East, West, South and Midwest.

Only unemployment and education approached that level, followed by health care and poverty. In the South, crime and drugs were also at the top.

The primary season's upcoming battlegrounds include several with jobless levels well above the national 7.1 percent rate — among them Michigan, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts and Texas. They suffer from such ills as defense contract cutbacks, the oil bust, weakened computer, auto and airline industries as well as eroding manufacturing and service sectors.

Washington state, with Democratic caucuses on Tuesday, has a fairly healthy economy — yet there's an underlying unease. Boeing plans to cut 6,500 jobs this year, and loggers are fighting spotted-owl protection plans that would cost thousands of jobs.

Half the respondents in the Gallup poll, region by region, said they were worried they would be unable to meet medical costs and maintain their standard of living in the next year. More than a third worried that they or their spouse would lose a job in the months ahead.

Democrats and Republicans alike are responding to the fretful climate with talk of fresh opportunities and eased burdens for the

squeezed middle class.

But other issues are already surfacing, particularly in the South where there are two contests March 3 and six more a week later on Super Tuesday.

Democrat Bill Clinton, campaigning in Georgia, has pointedly brought up his support for the death penalty, a potent pitch in the crime-conscious South. He has also started a television ad with an "old-fashioned values," welfare-to-workplace theme — a subject Republicans can be expected to raise as well.

Indeed, the Bush-Quayle campaign already is airing an ad in Georgia that touches on the theme of changing welfare to "make the able-bodied work."

The Democrats are likely to stress education in the South, the environment in Florida, Colorado, Idaho and Washington and health care wherever retirees are numerous.

On the Republican side, pollster Bill McInturf said GOP primary voters nationwide "continue to be most concerned about reducing the role of government, cutting spending and cutting taxes."

But Buchanan, who knocked Bush relentlessly for breaking his no-new-taxes pledge in New Hampshire, has shifted gears in the South. He now attacks the president for signing a civil rights bill he says will lead to racial hiring quotas. He also blames Bush for federal grants for obscene art.

Southern voters are slightly more concerned about taxes than those in other regions, Gallup found. But one Republican predicted Bush's reversal would not hurt him in Texas.

Houston pollster David Hill said Texas voters are cynical enough to expect broken promises and dependent enough on presidential pork barrel to stick with Bush, who calls Texas home.

"There is a middle-class squeeze problem," he said, "but that's offset because President Bush's presence in the White House has been very good for Texas."

For example, Bush is negotiating a Mexican free-trade agreement that will require hiring new administrators. According to Hill, he is weighing Houston and San Antonio as sites for their office.

"They might lose that if some other president opposes the agreement or decides to put the office in Albuquerque," Hill said.

In the end, even presidential politics turns out to be local.



Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton checks his watch as he leaves the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock on Wednesday. Clinton was leaving to catch a plane for a campaign appearance in Colorado Wednesday night.

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Viewpoints

PRIMARIES

Wasting opportunities

Remember, you read it here first: George Bush will win the 1992 presidential election in November in a landslide. Despite the fact that the "America first" campaign of Pat Buchanan has done some early damage to Bush's chances at re-election, ultimately Bush will prevail. Interestingly, Bush's biggest challenge will probably come from within his own party. One thing is for sure, the Democrats don't pose much of a threat to Bush.

Much has been said in the media recently about the supposed vulnerability of George Bush in his re-election bid. In the New Hampshire primary, Bush garnered two-thirds of the Republican vote and Pat Buchanan got only around 30 percent. Despite having gained a clear majority, the political pundits proclaimed that Bush was in trouble. As often happens, the pundits missed the boat. While it may be possible to draw the conclusion that there is a "protest vote" in the electorate, to suggest that Bush is in trouble based upon the results of primaries in New Hampshire and South Dakota is extremely premature and works to undermine the democratic process.

Underlying this notion of a "protest vote" is the assumption that just because Bush is the incumbent that he should not have any challengers in his own party. The idea seems to be that since Bush, the incumbent, is a Republican, that there should be unanimous support for him, regardless of the job that he has done. This is ridiculous, and should trouble anyone interested in having the best people possible heading government. It is in fact a good thing, for those interested in democracy, that there be healthy debate of the issues and the candidates themselves, regardless of which party it is.

On the Democratic side not much has changed over most of the last two decades: The Democrats nominate mostly bland characters who get trounced by the Republicans. None of the announced candidates pose a real threat to Bush. Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, the once-proclaimed front-runner by the media, will probably win the Democratic nomination, but will be dogged by his past in the general election. Tom Harkin and Paul Tsongas will both soon bow out leaving Bob Kerrey and the insurgent campaign of Jerry Brown as the only challengers to Clinton's nomination.

With Clinton the Democrats did have a formidable challenger to Bush, as far as "electability" is concerned. They had a Southern moderate who had broad-based support. For a short while, it seemed that the Democrats had answered the 28-year question. But of course, this is no more. It has long been widely believed that Clinton had skeletons in his closet, but again showing their ineptitude, the Democratic Party did nothing to pre-empt the charges of adultery and possible draft-dodging.

The disclosure of these issues stalled the Clinton campaign, and while the campaign has recovered some with respectable showings in New Hampshire, Maine and South Dakota, it will never recapture that early energy which fueled it.

Unless Bill Clinton can convince his wife Hillary Clinton to run, the Democrats will have another sad November.

Greg Kelley
Editorial Writer

PC-SPORTS

A name by any other name

Media watchers knew it would be only a matter of time before the asinine political correctness debate found its way from the editorial pages to the sports pages. It was only a matter of a vocal minority getting all worked up before sports writers began referring to the Washington Redskins as the Washington Native Americans.

Last week, the Portland *Oregonian* began the practice of not publishing the nicknames of sports teams that are construed by some hypersensitive readers to be ethnic stereotypes or racial slurs. No longer will its readers be able to follow such colorful teams as the Atlanta Braves or Cleveland Indians. Instead the sports pages will be filled with only the confusing references to the city or state from which the team hails.

The editor of the paper explained the rationale behind the decision: "The *Oregonian* is sensitive to the feelings of those in our society who are rightly offended today by nicknames that came into being when a majority in this country was insensitive to minority concerns." The editor believes that such stereotypical nicknames as the Braves or Redskins "damage the dignity and self-respect of many in our society."

A black man once told me that I could never understand how it feels to be discriminated against because I was white. And I agreed with him. Neither can I understand how a nickname of an athletic team discriminates against anyone, except perhaps the opponent.

Most intelligent fans realize that the nickname of their favorite sports team is simply that: a nickname. It does not represent a race of people or a certain ethnic class. The name is something to cheer for, not to label a fellow human.

The bleeding hearts who stand behind such simple solutions to the elaborate problem of racism argue that the first change ought to be in language and then people's attitudes will transform into some love-your-brother-and-sister-hippie-thing.

It doesn't work that way, though. One cannot change someone's racist beliefs by changing the references on a sports page or language in general. However, that doesn't mean that we should give up the battle for equality. Instead, we ought to strive for it by demonstrating to the lunkheads who hold such archaic beliefs that they are wrong. And we do not do that on the sports pages. We do it in the courtroom, the legislature and in their hearts.

Tom Hudson
Editorial Writer

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JIM ROGERS

America needs a refurbished church



Five years or so ago, Richard John Neuhaus, head of the Center of Religion and Society and editor of the journal *First Things*, began a series of conferences on the subject of religion in American public life. The second conference in this series (which now numbers over 15), was reported in a volume titled, "Unsecular America."

This volume presented a large array of argument and polling data indicating that by just about any empirical measure, Americans remain an unrelentingly religious people.

Several years later conference No. 10 was held and reported in a volume entitled "American Apostasy." The lead article in the book is an essay by the eminent Boston University sociologist Peter Berger on the social sources of apostasy in America.

What happened? How could the extraordinarily triumphalist message of volume two turn into the brooding pessimism of volume 10, and all within a few short years? Moreover, since many of the same people were involved in both conferences, why didn't anybody notice what must be a spectacularly dramatic social shift?

In fact, the data have not changed at all: Religion in the U.S. remains more popular than in any other Western European country save Ireland. As Neuhaus is fond of pointing out, more Americans attend church in one week than attend professional sports games in one year.

Still, for all its continuing popularity — or perhaps in spite of it — America also leads the Western world in levels of criminal victimization, divorce and abortion, among many other indications of social pathology.

So how can a church that appears so popular also be so patently sterile?

Sort of like George Bush's popularity, the popularity of religion in American culture is immensely broad but very shallow.

Take, for example, the response to a question asked by a recent Gallup poll on religious belief

in the United States. Over 90 percent of those polled expressed agreement with the proposition that those who lead a good life get into heaven.

Yet for all the apparent piety of the sentiment, the proposition approximates no Christian doctrine. In fact, the sentiment represents a notion that has been consistently condemned by Christian churches throughout history — and condemned equally by churches whether they be Roman, Orthodox or Protestant.

The heresy goes by the name of Pelagianism, and is named after the fourth-century heretic opposed by St. Augustine. There are several aspects of the heresy, but all claims follow essentially from the denial of original sin or the effects of original sin. Thus the Council of Orange in 529 A.D. held that "if anyone denies that is the whole man, that is, both body and soul, that was changed for the worse through the offense of Adam's sin, but believes that the freedom of the soul remains unimpaired and that only the body is subject to corruption, he is deceived by the error of Pelagius and contradicts the scripture..."

The notion that humans can do enough good things to merit in themselves eternal life denies that God's grace is necessary for redemption. It says that the cross is unnecessary for salvation.

Now, all of this may appear to be a rather obscure theological quibble. But it's not.

For all the secularist prattle about religion being a "private affair" — not unlike the personal choice of how much mustard to put on a hot dog — we all know that what we think affects how we act. As Richard Weaver's truism has it, "ideas have consequences." And religious ideas are no exception to this dictum.

The Pelagian error is the central postulate of every modern ideology, from Marxism and fascism to liberalism (in the older sense of the word). It denies the existence of a more or less fixed human nature and instead postulates that human nature is subject to human manipulation: manipulation by the agent himself or by agents without. This is the presupposition of the autonomy of the human soul. That is, that the self is prior to the ends it

chooses.

This, then, is the link to the both / and answer to the question of the church's amazing popularity and its patent sterility: The church has imported an alien belief hostile to the fundamental message of grace manifested through Jesus. The Pelagian notion of human autonomy has gutted the power of the message of the church. The church adapted itself to liberal culture, and so lost its soul.

As Neuhaus writes: "Modernity, in a way, is Christianity by surprise. Over the last two or three centuries, the church has had several phases, in which ecclesiastical authoritarianism prevailed. And the church has had modern phases, in which modernity's ideal of human autonomy won the day. Now the church is finally feeling its way, as if in the dark, toward a postmodernity, (one which) recognizes the utter impossibility of living autonomously of trying to find universalistic answers which are unconditioned by history, value-neutral, value-free, and rationally justifiable all."

The church has not challenged culture because it has not challenged itself. Capitulation to dominant Enlightenment culture has produced a popular but insipid church.

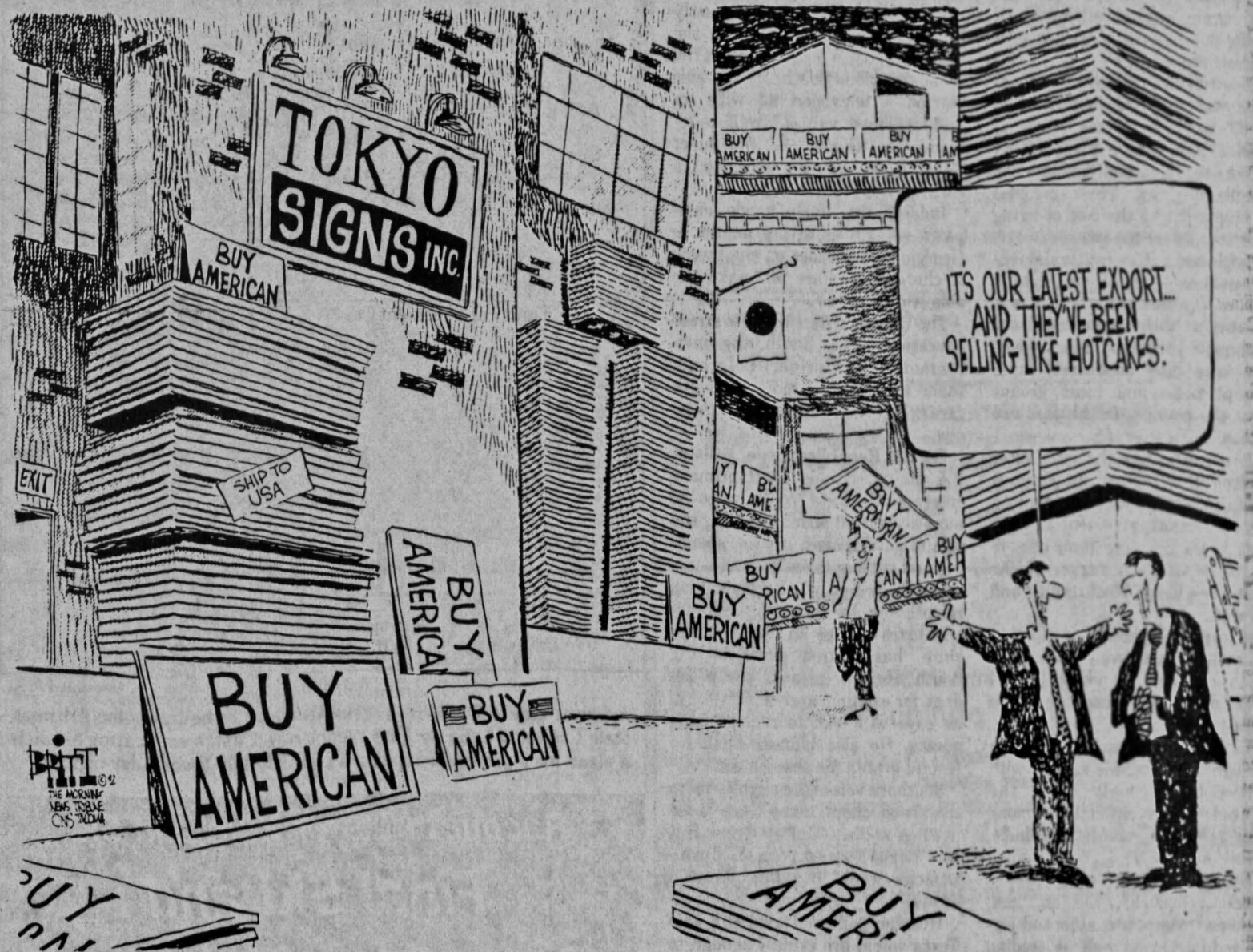
If the church finds its Augustinian voice again it will be, to be sure, much smaller, but it will also be much more effective.

A theological attack on the Pelagian/liberal axis in Christian culture would cause the church not only to revise its current practices but would also impel it to rethink radically deep therapeutic ideology currently infecting American culture. And in doing this, it would require rethinking approaches to education, child-raising, penal institutions, and concepts of self, family and community.

The church is the nursery of culture. If church is true to its founder, then culture will flourish. But it requires more than popularity: it requires strength of mind and character, a willingness to buck stupid pseudo-modern prejudices. America needs such a church too.

Jim Rogers' column appears Thursdays on Viewpoints page.

CHRIS BRITT



GUEST OPINION

Whose side is Washington on anyway?

Some of the top business executives in the U.S. have been getting bad press lately about receiving multimillion-dollar compensation packages while their highly successful Japanese counterparts are earning only a fraction of that amount and U.S. plants are closing one after another, putting workers out on the streets with little or no hope of finding similar jobs. It is time to explain the reasons for this Japanese/American inequity and why the high salaries are justified and to shed some light on the real problem.

First, the United States has the largest "free-market" in the world. The economic power of Japan was built on their ability to exploit every opportunity in our market. Many of Japan's opportunities are created by former U.S. trade representatives (U.S. citizens should call them "traders") now working on behalf of Japanese industry and government to effect U.S. trade policies in their favor. Many "traders" are now

making more money in the United States than top electronics industry executives do in Japan.

Second, Japan does not have a free market. Since Japan lacks competition in many industries, the Japanese conglomerates practicing monopoly and oligopolistic pricing; set prices artificially high for all the goods and services sold at home and they pay Japanese workers less than they would in a relatively free market. Why do you think the Japanese, while visiting Hawaii, are able to buy Japanese-labeled products at bargain basement prices in comparison to Japan? Japanese companies are exploiting the people of Japan while at the same time taking jobs away from American workers. If Japan were a free market, prices would be set by competitive forces, not by conspiracy or collusion, and the work force there would receive their fair share of the billions of dollars in ill-gotten profits, which are now used by the conglomerates to defeat or buy out entire American industries.

Third, any U.S. executive who can successfully keep an American-based company afloat today, given the restrictive web of U.S. anti-trust laws, while competing against the comparatively unregulated Japanese firms that, with the financial assistance of their government, use

a militaristic approach to strategically target established and infant industries for extermination, deserves every dollar the shareholders of a company can afford. U.S. firms that stay in the United States and produce jobs here at home should be commended for their efforts.

What we need now in America is jobs for those who have been hurt by unfair competition, not lower salaries for top U.S. executives who manage to keep job opportunities in America in the face of this unfair competitive playing field which is tilted in favor of the Japanese.

Why don't our government leaders take charge of the U.S. trade and industrial policies and stop bowing down to the Japanese? They should forge policies or pass laws that convince the Japanese to open their markets to imports to the extent we have, or as a consequence implement similarly restrictive policies on Japanese firms and cut off the lifeline which has allowed them to become so economically powerful and arrogant on this issue. It is unfair to all American citizens to allow the Japanese to siphon tens of billions of dollars from the American people and the economy by deliberately running huge trade surpluses year after year after year. . . . I am not a protectionist. I am for

Americans and fair competition.

America has needed real leadership on this and other major economic issues for the past decade, and haven't seen it. What we have seen has been: a shift from the world's largest lender nation to the world's largest debtor nation, with a record budget (or rather so-called budget) deficits year after year that will require decades of higher taxes to repay, "voodoo economics" (a window dressing for real U.S. economic problems), rampant spending on the military, reducing the unemployment statistics and dumping billions of dollars into the pockets of the wealthy as financial institutions (to name a few) \$2,000 plastic toilet seats and \$7 hammers?), "supply side" economics (tax breaks for the rich), and "Reaganomics" (resulting in the highest taxes in history on the middle class and less money for the states). These economic policies clearly have missed their target, but that's the whole other article. Time for action is here, NOW. Let's level out the competitive playing field so Americans have a chance to work, earn a decent wage and live the American dream. Steven D. Miller, M.B.A., is a former instructor of International Business Marketing and Finance at Wartburg College and the UI.

IRELAND

Supreme Court overturns ruling; girl will be allowed legal abortion

Tom McPhail
Associated Press
DUBLIN, Ireland — The Supreme Court cleared the way Wednesday for a 14-year-old girl to leave Ireland for an abortion, leaving divisive legal and political issues for another day.

The court overturned the first attempt to prevent an Irish woman from seeking a legal abortion in another country. The case attracted international attention and reopened the debate over abortion, which is banned in Ireland by a constitutional amendment that won overwhelming support in a 1983 referendum.

"From a humanitarian point of view I welcome the decision. It has been a sad and distressful case and I am glad that everything is over," Prime Minister Albert Reynolds told reporters.

The Supreme Court's five justices overturned a High Court order that had prevented the girl, who says she was raped and has threatened to kill herself, from having an abortion or leaving the country.

Opposition leaders, pro-choice groups and even the Roman Catholic Church welcomed the decision. But supporters of the right to an abortion stressed the court's written decision would indi-



Ireland's Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, right, gestures as he greets British Prime Minister John Major outside No. 10 Downing Street in London Wednesday.

cate whether they would seek a new constitutional referendum or legislation.

Chief Justice Thomas Finlay said the written judgment would be issued in a few days.

"No girl or woman who is the victim of rape should ever again find herself and her family put on trial in such circumstances and

suffer such barbaric treatment at the hands of the state," said Alan Shatter, justice spokesman for the main opposition party, Fine Gael.

Reynolds, who was in London, England, for a meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, said he wanted to see the written decision before commenting on implications for future cases.

WAR ON DRUGS

Bush meets with Latin leaders, promises to 'redouble our efforts'

Rita Beamish
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — President Bush joined Latin leaders here Wednesday for a second drug summit on the hemisphere's drug crisis, promising to "redouble our efforts" to choke off both narcotics supplies and the big U.S. demand for drugs.

"We're going to get maximum cooperation," Bush said as he met with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

But even as the leaders gathered, Bush is facing criticism at home that his multibillion-dollar drug-fighting strategy has been ineffective, with U.S. cities still flooded with ample, cheap supplies.

"We're going to build on . . . the Cartagena meeting," said Bush. "We're going to get maximum cooperation. We're going to redouble our efforts on the demand side and on the supply side."

Fujimori said the problem cannot be fought by merely cutting off supplies. Asked if Peru needed more U.S. aid, Fujimori said, "Oh, sure."

Bush pitched in, "Everybody does — including us."

The meeting expands on the summit two years ago in Cartagena, Colombia, where Bush met with the leaders of the Andean nations of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, the principal drug-producing countries.

Joining in the two-day Texas summit are the presidents of Mexico

and Ecuador and the foreign minister of Venezuela — leaders from countries that have seen increasing involvement in illegal drug trafficking as the Andean nations crack down.

Bush was welcoming the Latin leaders to his home state after a day of politicking in California.

His itinerary Wednesday afternoon included separate meetings with Fujimori, Colombia's Cesar Gaviria, Bolivia's Jaime Paz Zamora and Ecuador's Rodrigo Borja.

Bush and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will confer over breakfast Thursday before all the leaders gather for the formal summit sessions in the McNay Art Museum.

REPUBLICS

Soldiers riot in Kazakhstan; 3 dead

Larry Ryckman
Associated Press

MOSCOW, Russia — Hundreds of construction troops rioted at Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan after complaining of "inhuman treatment" by their superiors, news services said Wednesday. Three soldiers were reported burned to death.

The rioters commandeered 17 trucks, set fire to four barracks and stole 35,000 rubles from a cashier's office, the Interfax news agency and commonwealth television reported. The victims were found inside one barracks.

Police forces and regular army troops were called in to try to stop the mutineers from marching on the nearby city of Leninsk, where space center officials live. But the "hungry and unwashed soldiers"

reached the city to present their grievances, the television reported. They dispersed after authorities gave them food and their allowances and met some of their demands.

A special government commission was set up. It agreed to let ill soldiers resign, discharged six months early all soldiers who had already served 1½ years, and promised a 10-day leave for all the soldiers. The commission also promised to improve supplies of food and cigarettes, Interfax said.

The 35,000 stolen rubles would represent more than three years' average wages.

Army officials said they would prosecute the soldiers responsible for starting the riot, according to commonwealth television.

Baikonur was the main space launch site in the former Soviet

Union. The television said operations there were not affected by the uprising Monday and Tuesday.

Increasing signs of discontent have surfaced in the armed services over pay, working conditions and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Military officials say desertions are increasing.

In addition, Russian military authorities have been discussing a possible deep cut in the ranks of construction troops. The construction corps is considered the lowest rung in the military service.

Construction troops were among 17,000 soldiers assigned to construction tasks at the space center, Interfax said.

According to the ITAR-Tass agency, the "unrest was caused by humiliation to which soldiers were subjected by their officers, substandard living conditions and food."

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Van Allen Lecture Room II

Tom Dent received a BA in Political Science from Morehouse College and an MA in poetry from Goddard College. Mr. Dent is co-founder of New York's Umbra Workshop and co-founder of Callaloo magazine. He has been involved in the NAACP, was Associate Director of the Free Southern Theater in New Orleans, and has been Executive Director of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation. His publications include Magnolia Street, and "The Ghetto of Desire."

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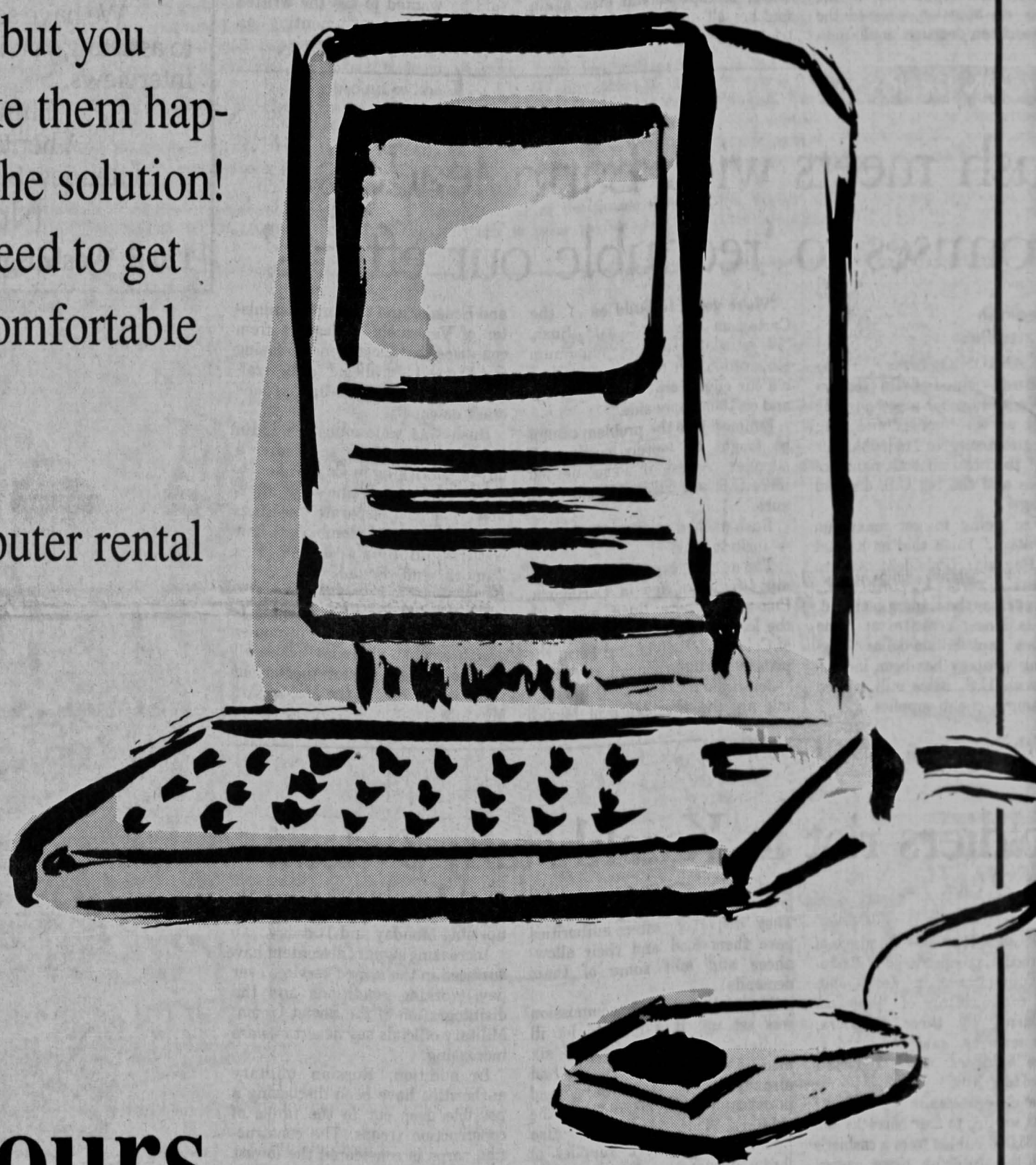
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Ellison finally adjusts to NBA competition

David Ginsburg
Associated Press
LANESBORO, Md. — Standing on the side of the road next to his disabled car, Pervis Ellison learned just how little he meant to the Sacramento Kings.

Ellison, the top pick in the 1989 NBA draft, was in the midst of a miserable, injury-riddled rookie year in which he would play only 34 games. And there he was, late for a home game, with car problems.

Just then, he thought he saw a Kings official drive by. It even seemed as if the guy had looked him in the eye. When Ellison finally got to the arena, he asked the fellow about it.

"He just said, 'I don't stop for rookies. Maybe next year,'" Ellison recalled.

There never was a next year for Ellison in Sacramento, as the Kings traded him to the Washington Bullets in a three-way deal. Ellison has since developed into a solid center, leading the Bullets in points (21 per game), rebounds (12) and blocked shots (three).

Compare those to last year's numbers — 10 points, eight rebounds and two blocks — and it's easy to see why Ellison is one of the favorites to win the NBA's most

improved player award.

"I think he's starting to realize that people can't guard him, that he's much too quick for them," said Bullets backup center Charles Jones. "His defense has really picked up, too, because now he's not afraid to mix it up under the boards."

Playing against one of the league's best rebounders, Atlanta forward Kevin Willis, Ellison had 25 points, 13 rebounds, seven assists and six blocks in a recent game.

"The difference between his play of last year and this year is like night and day," Willis said. "He's playing with so much more confidence, and he has great timing. If he hits the weights during the offseason, watch out."

At Louisville, Ellison was the MVP in the 1986 Final Four, getting 25 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks in a victory over Duke. He went on to become the only Louisville player to get both 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

Surgery on his right foot and ankle ruined his rookie season, and the Kings soon grew to doubt their previous conviction that Ellison could turn around the ailing franchise.

"I think they gave up on him too early," said Bullets general manager John Nash, who engineered the



Associated Press

Washington Bullets forward Pervis Ellison, right, guards Seattle Supersonics center Benoit Benjamin during a game earlier this season.

deal. "In our business, the pressure to win frequently causes you to become impatient. He had an injury, tried to return too soon and was ineffective. Then, I guess, Sacramento just figured he would never make an impact in this league."

Ellison apparently just needed some time to adjust to the physical, high-paced style of the NBA. He saw limited time in his first half-season with the Bullets, partially because he was always getting himself in foul trouble.

"In the beginning, the only thing I

was doing was fouling," he said. "It took me some time to learn what you can do and what you can't do on defense. Once I was able to get an understanding of that, my time started to increase."

The tutelage of Bullets coach Wes Unseld, who played center at Louisville two decades earlier, was instrumental in Ellison's development.

"He's definitely a player's coach," Ellison said. "He's a motivator, and you tend to respect the advice he gives you because he's definitely been through it all."

Next games key for Nets' playoff chances

Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New Jersey Nets haven't been to the NBA playoffs for five years. How they fare in their next 10 games may determine whether they'll have to sit out another postseason.

OK. The Nets (24-31) still have 27 games left, but it looks like the next three weeks will decide if the Nets are good enough to stay around after the regular-season.

The Nets' next 10 games are against teams with over .500 records. Making the lineup even tougher is that seven games are on the road, where New Jersey is 7-20.

While the Nets have won 13 of their last 15 at Brendan Byrne Arena, the next three home games are against the Portland Trail Blazers, New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls — three of the league's top six teams.

The Nets are 8-19 against teams over .500.

"This is make or break for us as far as the playoffs go," center Chris Dudley said Tuesday after the Nets' 109-95 victory over Boston.

"If we have a good stretch, we'll be pretty much right there," he said. "If we have a bad stretch, we'll be out of the picture."

Right now, the Nets have the 11th best record in the 14-team Eastern Conference. But they are just two games out of the eighth and final playoff spot. Miami and Philadelphia share the 7-8 spot with 26-29

marks heading into Wednesday night's games. Milwaukee is just a half game behind them. Indiana is 1½ back and a half game ahead of New Jersey.

"In this league, you have to win at home and then try to play .500 on the road," Nets' guard Tate George said.

"We're getting it done at home lately. Now we have to concentrate on getting some wins on the road. If we can reel off five of the next seven or eight, we should be OK."

TRACK

L.A. Raiders' standout Gault comes out of the closet

Bert Rosenthal
Associated Press

NEW YORK — At last Willie Gault is running under his own name.

For three years, starting in 1989, Gault, one of the world's top hurdlers, used the names Ricky Williams and Jeffrey Ector — two high school friends — when competing

in all-comers' meets in California.

Last fall, the International Amateur Athletic Federation cleared professionals in other sports to compete in track and field. That opened the way for such former track and field stars as Gault, Bo Jackson, Herschel Walker and Michael Carter to return to the sport and possibly earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

So far, only Gault has taken advantage of the ruling.

Gault plans to compete in the 110-meter high hurdles at the U.S. Olympic trials at New Orleans in June.

"But I don't have aspirations to make the Olympic team and win a gold," Gault said. "I'm just running to have a good time."

In three competitive races this

season, he's had a relatively good time.

Gault opened with a surprising third-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles at the Millrose Games on Feb. 7. He followed that with a fifth at the Mobil I Invitational at Fairfax, Va., two days later, then was second in the 50-meter hurdles at the Sunkist Invitational at Los Angeles Feb. 15.

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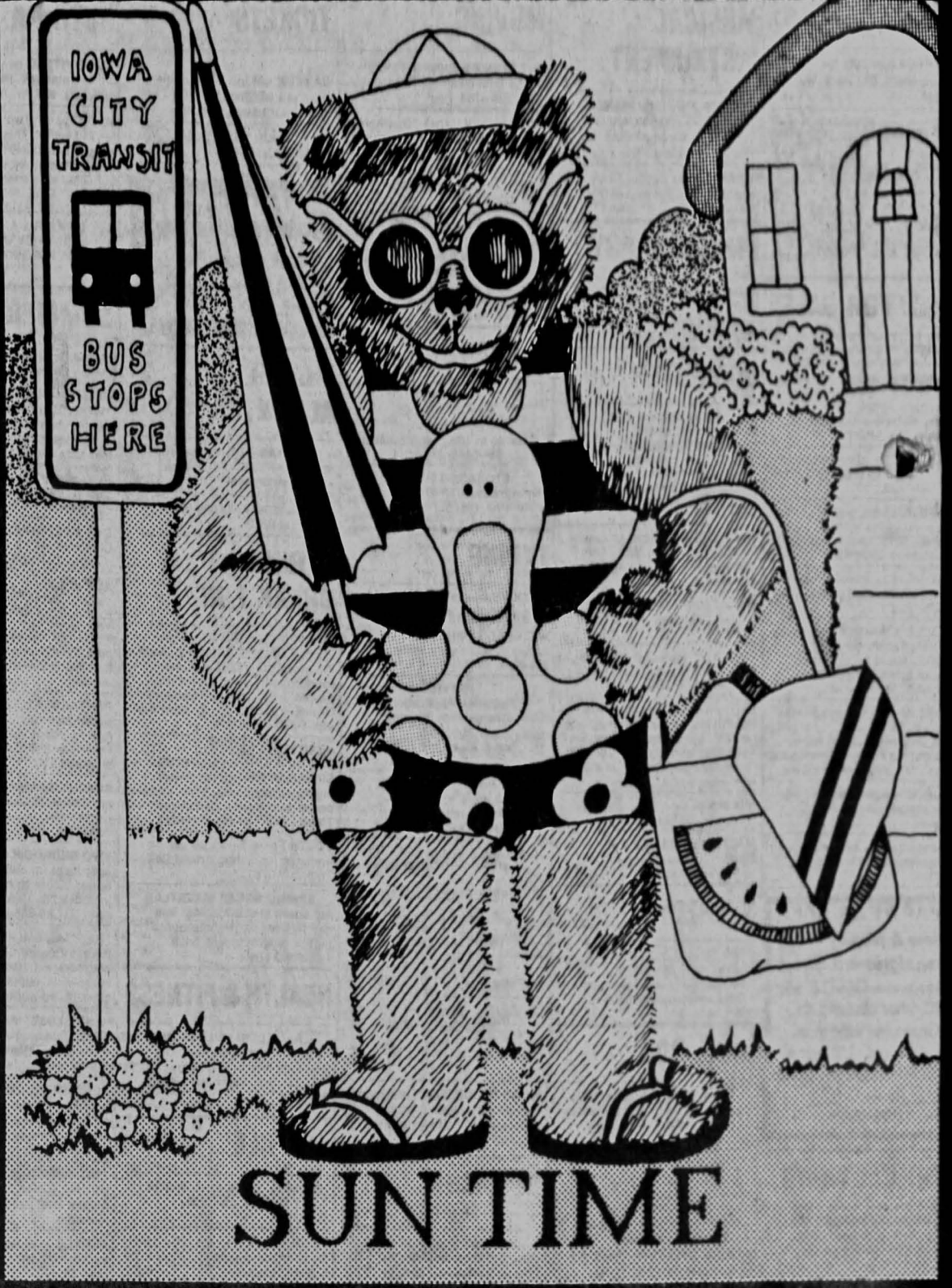
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