PLEASE promoting the general notion of gion provides stability and the Fourteenth Amendment in religion lived on today. Vandercoy "Government promoting reli­ many different religious sects. al boosted the morale of the they saw fit. He said that free to establish religions as Constitution, the states were establishing religion by the Clause is all about protecting religion being symbolized feel who was not in the majority religion being symbolized feel like an outsider. "That is what the Establishment Clause is all about protecting against," he said.

VUSL professors debate use of religious symbols on public property

By Shane Cigel Editor-in-chief

Professors Bodensteiner and Vandercoy engaged in a compelling debate over religious symbols on public property last Wednesday. The event, sponsored by the Federalist Society, showed two very well prepared professors who advocated their positions before a crowded Tabor classroom.

Bodensteiner began the debate with his position. His theme was that any government display of religious symbols was bad. He felt government displaying those symbols suggested a preference for one reli­ nation over another. The govern­ ment displays interfered with religious freedom and made one who was not in the majority religion being symbolized feel like an outsider. "That is what is the Establishment Clause is all about protecting against," he said.

Vandercoy looked to his­ tory to determine the true mean­ ing of the Establishment Clause. He said that while federal gov­ ernment was precluded from establishing religion by the Constitution, the states were free to establish religions as they saw fit. He said that framers such as James Madison felt promoting religion in gener­ al boosted the morale of the people and fostered the vigor of many different religious sects.

Although the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868 precluded states from establishing religion, Vandercoy felt the spirit of government promoting time passed the general notion of religion lived on today. "Government promoting reli­ gion provides stability and security for people," he said.

For that reason, Vandercoy said government displaying their thoughts to us on these issues, which will be placed in our viewpoints section. It must be emphasized that The Forum will not advocate one ideology or viewpoint over another. While our staff members may con­ tribute to this section, they are doing so in their capacity as students and not as represen­ tatives of The Forum. We will accept any viewpoint on an issue, but we will reserve the right to edit articles for length and grammati­ cal accuracy. Our staff consists entirely of VU law

The Forum returns to VUSL

By Shane Cigel Editor-in-chief

It is with great pleasure to announce the return of The Forum to the halls of VUSL. This law school has been without a newspaper of its own for the past four years, a streak ending today.

Our goal with The Forum is to provide a student voice that may be heard by the entire school. It is important in an institution such as VUSL to have a well-informed and fairly represented student body, and we will strive to accomplish these goals.

The Forum staff members will work hard to cover the many events occurring at VUSL. A common complaint among students is that they do not know about events that have occurred or are about to occur around the law school. We hope to address this con­ cern by giving an informative report on the goings-on in and out of the school.

Another purpose of The Forum will be to host discussions on topics of public con­ cern. As members of the legal community, we are confronted daily with issues where reasonable minds may differ. We are encour­ aging students and faculty members to submit their contributions to this section, which will be placed in our viewpoints section. It must be emphasized that The Forum will not advocate one ideology or viewpoint over another. While our staff members may con­ tribute to this section, they are doing so in their capacity as students and not as represen­ tatives of The Forum. We will accept any viewpoint on an issue, but we will reserve the right to edit articles for length and grammati­ cal accuracy. Our staff consists entirely of VU law

Indiana Supreme Court hears oral arguments at VUSL

By Randy Fisher Managing Editor

As the Stride courtroom began to fill, it was evident this was no ordinary day at the Valparaiso University School of Law. On this day, the school would play host to oral argu­ ments before the Indiana Supreme Court.

Each year, the Court makes a limited number of appearances outside their Indianapolis base. And the Justices prefer making these appearances accessible to future advocates of the court. "As a regular component of this Court, we take every opportunity to hear arguments in front of law students," stated Justice Robert D. Rucker, a VUSL Alum. "We view this as part of the Court's educational responsibility to law students," added Justice Theodore Boehm.

The Stride courtroom, filled beyond capacity with students, staff, and media, provided those present a brief glimpse into the work of Indiana's highest court. "This opportunity gives VU law students a chance to view oral arguments live," stated Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard. The Court contacted Dean Conison, requesting this particular visit to VU. "The Court looks highly

Justice Thomas is a long­time friend to the university and taught in the Cambridge program with Dean Levinson several sum­mers ago. Justice Thomas has previously judged the competi­ tion as well as Justice Scalia. Dean Levinson has main­tained contact with Justice Thomas since teaching with him in the Cambridge program. Levinson and Vandercoy have been in contact with Justice Thomas on a monthly basis since last spring, but had to wait to determine whether his fall term would allow time for another visit to the university.

Hafferman's efforts have been recognized by fellow stu­ dents. "We couldn't have found a better person to do this," said Pete Lanksa, Chief Justice of the Moot Court Society. "He has certainly gone above and beyond the call of duty." During his visit, Justice Thomas will also be teaching the Constitutional Law Class and attending a Faculty Colloquium.

Justice Thomas was born in Georgia in 1948. He is married and has one son. Justice Thomas attended Conception Seminary and received an A.B. cum laude from Holy Cross and his J.D. from Yale University.

Justice Thomas has served as Assistant Attorney General of Missouri, Corporate Counsel for Monsanto Company, Legislative Assistant to Sen. John Danforth, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and as judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. He took his seat as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court in 1991 and was nominated by President Bush.

In addition to Justice Thomas, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the 7th Circuit Court, Michael S. Kanne; and U.S.

Members of the Forum staff (from left to right): Allen Timms, Kathy Kain, Alec Miller, Kathy Kwak, Michelle Ross, David Masse, Shane Cigel, and Randy Fisher.
News

Thursday, November 15, 2001

COURT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

University Alumni Association presented Justice Rucker with the Alumni Achievement Award. Commenting on Justice Rucker's achievements, Dean Conison stated, "Justice Rucker is a source of pride to the School of Law." "I think temporarily displays are likely to be construed as acknowledging the holiday season of various religions," he said. Bodensteiner questioned even a limited posting of religious symbols for holiday display. "What are we accomplishing by allowing religious messages on public property? It is insensitive, causes divisiveness, and costs taxpayers money," he said. While the two disagreed about the limited use of religious symbols, the two did agree that government should not promote a specific religion. "Government should not promote a viewpoint one way or another," Vandercoy said. "That would be dangerous." Overall, those involved with the event were pleased with the results. William Smith, President of the Federalist Society and planner of the event, said the debate was important for the students. "It is important that law students are exposed issues such as these, as they will be facing them in the future," Smith said. Vandercoy praised the students for their involvement in the event. "It's a tribute to them that they support events such as this," he said. "It says a lot about them."

SYMBOLS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THOMAS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

District Court Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Rebecca R. Pallmeyer will serve on the panel. The Competition began on October 15 and 17 when the entire Moot Court Society presented their oral arguments, on and off brief, in front of the Moot Court Executive Board. From that group of 30 students, 16 were chosen for the next level of competition on October 23. The fourth level of competition was judged by Dean Levinson, and Professors Bodensteiner and Gaffney selected the remaining four competitors. Mick Story, 3L, and Janelle Esposito, 2L, will argue for the respondents and Kate Halliday-Roberts and Mark Watson will argue for the petitioners. The competitors work as a team and will have a half-hour to present their arguments and during this time each team member must speak for at least ten minutes. During this presentation the teams will be questioned by the panel of judges regarding the issues in their respective cases. "I'm excited," said Esposito. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity." The issue for this year's competition involves the Children's Protection from Violent Video Programming Act which was enacted to channel all excessive and gratuitous violence to a safe-harbor period, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The case involves issues of the First Amendment's freedom of speech provision and the vagueness of the term, "violence." It is a fictitious case and is set at the Supreme Court level. Awards will be given for best oralist, $200, best brief writer, $200, and winning team, $300. The judging panel will determine the scoring after the arguments.

FORUM
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

students. These members include myself (Shane Cigel), Randy Fisher, Allen Timms, Michelle Ross, Kathy Kwak, Alec Miller, David Masse, and Kathy Kain. We hope this list will grow as time goes on, but we are confident that the eight of us are very capable of giving you a good paper. The Forum will be issued on a monthly basis, with the next issue coming out in January.

THOMAS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Valparaiso University
School of Law," said Doug Cressler, Indiana Supreme Court Administrator. "The Court has always had positive experiences here at Valpo." Following oral arguments, the Valparaiso religious symbols was fine, as long as it was only for a limited period of time. "I think temporary displays are likely to be construed as acknowledging the holiday season of various religions," he said. Bodensteiner questioned even a limited posting of religious symbols for holiday display. "What are we accomplishing by allowing religious messages on public property? It is insensitive, causes divisiveness, and costs taxpayers money," he said. While the two disagreed about the limited use of religious symbols, the two did agree that government should not promote a specific religion. "Government should not promote a viewpoint one way or another," Vandercoy said. "That would be dangerous." Overall, those involved with the event were pleased with the results. William Smith, President of the Federalist Society and planner of the event, said the debate was important for the students. "It is important that law students are exposed issues such as these, as they will be facing them in the future," Smith said. Vandercoy praised the students for their involvement in the event. "It's a tribute to them that they support events such as this," he said. "It says a lot about them."

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A letter from Dean Conison

One of the paradoxes of legal education is that people rarely choose a law school solely because they know they will get a good education there. Of course, no one would choose to attend a law school if he thought he couldn't get a good education there. Some think it is a fine job of ensuring that all law schools provide a solid legal education, so that students in choosing a school don't have to be concerned about that basic desideratum. This isn't the case in all postgraduate fields.

Because of this, law students are able to choose a law school on the basis of whether the school is right for them in other ways—more important but often less tangible. Correspondingly, law schools are able to stake out an identity in some deep and intangible ways. For as long as I can remember, the Valparaiso University School of Law has, as a fundamental part of its identity, a commitment to personalized education and to fostering close bonds between students and faculty, and between students and each other.

Much of the strength of community at Valpo results from the faculty and staff, but a very large part comes from the initiatives of students themselves. It has been gratifying this year to see students strengthen the law school and its community life in so many ways. In only a few short months, we have seen student activities such as landscaping projects, volunteers for orientation and Meet Valpo Law Days, efforts to create a better climate for minority students, initiatives to strengthen our career services, blood drives, fundraising to help victims of 9/11, and plans for much, much more.

Resuming publication of the Forum is another one of those important, community-building initiatives. True, we already have opportunities to communicate with each other—in classes, in student organizations, in the SBA, in Dean's lunches, in the halls—but without a regularly published newspaper we lack an important vehicle that is open to everyone and easily accessible. I hope that all of us—students, faculty, staff, and friends—take advantage of this important opportunity to tell each other what we are doing, what we are thinking, and what we believe is important in the life of the law school.

I plan to write a short column like this for future issues of the Forum. Until the next one, best wishes to you and your families over the holidays and the remainder of the semester.

Left out to the editor

Thursday, November 15, 2001

A letter from the Forum

As a part of the best Small Law School, our mission is to provide you with a personalized career strategy that is designed to fit your individual needs, time frame and budget. We offer easy-to-follow guidance and tips to identify prospective employers, a network of contacts, prepare resumes, and master interviews.

A message from the SBA president

By Michael Story

Welcome back to "The Forum." It's great to see the paper back in print and the SBA truly appreciates the efforts of those law students responsible for this reincarnation. The SBA is planning on continuing their support of The Forum both financially and in whatever other ways possible.

The Forum will again be the meeting place for the entire law school. Whether it's the students, faculty or administration, The Forum will be the conduit of communication between the two.

The SBA will be using the Forum to inform the students of upcoming events sponsored by the SBA and other student organizations as well as to report on past events and recent happenings. In particular I'd like to take this chance to let the students know that one of our top priorities right now is the lighting in front of the law school and in the student parking lots. The administration recently had the fading lights in the law school parking lot repaired, but is that enough? Please let your class reps know what you think.

Additionally, Law Week has been scheduled and it will take place February 2-9, 2002. The Musicales is making a comeback this year on Friday of Law Week and an all new event will be Trivia in Tabor on Monday night.

I'd also like to mention to the students that the SBA has currently allocated over $8,000 for community service projects and public events through the various student organizations at the law school. I am also pleased to announce that students raised over $1,200 to send to the New York University Disaster Relief Fund. Thank you to all, and in particular Professor Gaffney's Jurisprudence class that raised over $500 in one day.

Welcome back and let us know how you are doing.

The Forum, page 3

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To: All students;

From: Michael Story

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MOMENTS??
Halloween Torte-Ure 2001: A Night To Remember
By Kathy Kwak
Features Editor

WOW! That's the first thought that comes to mind when reflecting back at the Halloween party. It was an event that should not have been missed.

The SBA sponsored event was held on Friday, November 2, from 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight at the law school. The party was held at the Butterfield Pavilion located off of Evans and Calumet. Inside the building, traditional Halloween decorations including carved pumpkins, spider webs, and homemade ghosts filled the spaces on the ceiling and the walls.

There were tables that had a surplus of snacks and candy for the late night munchies along with a plentiful supply of kegs (the number of empty ones breaking last year’s record). The setting was very similar to previous years, except for the bathrooms, which were moved outside due to an early shut-off of the water system. The vibrant blue port-a-potties added to the eerie decor of the building.

The DJ played a wide variety of songs that accommodated everyone’s interests, which kept the dance floor crowded with not only students but also professors for most of the night. “Dancing with Professor Lind was THE highlight of the evening,” said David Boone, 1L.

The most surprising thing was the creativity that went into a series of costumes. There were many interesting sightings that no one will ever forget. There were two Britney Spears (represented by two anonymous males) fighting for attention, Miss America waiving her head, Elvis pumping his pelvis, and Kravitz looking hot as ever. On top of these famous faces, the most surprising sighting was the reunited Monica Lewinski and Bill Clinton.

Congratulations should go to the teenage mutant ninja turtles, for best group, Miss America, for best original costume, Lenny, for best overall, and Monica for best faculty costumes. However, although there were only four winners, everyone should give each other a pat on the back for the effort that was put into these costumes.

By Allen Timms
Features Editor

On September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center tumbled and the Pentagon was set aflame when suspected Middle Eastern terrorists drove hostage-filled planes into them, killing thousands of people. Out of the terrorist attacks have come the best and worst reactions from Americans. This hostile act has renewed sense of American patriotism and a call for retribution.

Unfortunately, some Americans have participated in racist attacks and have stirred fear in Islamic-American communities. The Forum took the opportunity to review some VUSL students with Islamic backgrounds to get their perspective on the Valparaiso community has reacted since September 11th.

Ketchup on the Window
White prejudicial comments were not directed towards her, Anum Fara, 3L, says that members of her family have been the targets of racism. Fara is of Palestinian descent. Her husband, also of Palestinian descent, is the owner of a shop in Chicago. The day after the terrorist attacks someone sprayed ketchup on the glass door of the store shouting, “This is the blood of that you guys have shed!”

In Oak Lawn, Illinois, where some of her family lives, an Islamic school was shut down for a week following the attacks. Fara said that the TBI has made a stronger presence there and that the Islamic women stay inside. Her sister-in-law put a Mexican flag in her car so that people would not think that she was Islamic. She added that her mother was afraid to fly down to the U.S.

As the night continued, final bids were taken for the efforts. Fara critical of how the media has covered the Islamic reaction. She is particularly critical of how the media showed footage of Palestinians celebrating in the streets and in front of the American embassies, and the attacks. “(The media) lent itself to perpetuating a lot of hate crimes that took place. It was a horrible choice on their part.” While she feels the mainstream American media has missed the mark on covering a lot of issues, she credits her family for bringing her back to reality. Family members in Pakistan say that Anti-American sentiment is not as strong as the media portrays. “Protest are not taking place twenty four hours a day and that most people, in fact, are behind the United States.”

Sophia Arshad, a 2L of Pakistani background, found out about the attacks while watching Good Morning America as she was getting ready for school. “I was in absolute, complete, and total shock,” said Arshad. “I didn’t know how to react.”

She burst into tears and comforted her mother who was crying, too.

She has encountered nothing more than generalized statements like “The Islamic religion is full of crazy people” and that “It lends itself to this (the attacks).” For the most part, though, she said the response has been positive. “Calls from family, friends, and people she used to work with have helped ease any fears.” She also thinks that most people do not realize her back-ground, confusing her with being Greek or Italian since she does not have a middle name. She said that she did a great job because it seemed like everyone had a great time, said David Wendlinger, 3L. “I wouldn’t have summed it up any better.

Features

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Thursday, November 15, 2001

VUSL: Islamic students react to terrorist attacks

By Kathy Kwak

Lenny, for best overall, and Monica for best faculty costumes. However, although there were only four winners, everyone...
MEET THE PROFS

PROFESSOR DERRICK CARTER

by Alec Miller

We have seen him at law school functions and social events reserved and mysterious, yet friendly. He wanders in the building late in the morning and also late in the evening. Often his office lights are on till 2:00 a.m. where he can be seen in the office light shadows working like the righteous Dr. Jekyll or the nefarious Mr. Hyde. He vanishes without notice. When I sat down to interview Prof. Carter for this faculty profile, he encouraged me to focus instead on other professors like Ivan Bodensteiner, Adam Myers, Ed Gaffney, Bruce Berner, or JoEllen Lind. I think Carter would have given me a promo for every faculty member if I did not stop him. But this is precisely why the Forum chose him for their first faculty profile. He doesn’t want attention.

Derrick Carter, or “DC,” as his students affectionately refer to him, grew up in Detroit, Michigan. He was voted “Student Athlete of the Year” at Detroit Catholic High School. He played baseball and received a speech and debate scholarship at Eastern Michigan University. Civil rights issues right away played an important role in shaping Carter’s early philosophies.

For one summer in college, Carter interned with the Urban League office in New York, and worked on hiring issues. During one particular meeting with the Union lawyers, Carter said he “saw the light.” Carter added, “These lawyers for the Union were our opponents. They didn’t want Blacks and Hispanics integrating the skilled trades. The lawyers looked like sharks like they were going to eat us up. They had this superior and knowing look about them. I then saw who ruled this meeting made it absolutely clear.”

LIFESTYLES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

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While attending Valparaiso University Law School, Carter became an assistant to Councilman Carl Levin, currently a United States Senator from Michigan. After graduating from Law School, Carter worked at the Michigan Appellate Defender Office, a division of the Michigan Supreme Court. That office handled Criminal Appeals for indigent clients throughout Michigan and into the United States Supreme Court.

Carter came to his teaching position here almost by accident. While he was an adjunct Professor at the University of Michigan teaching Appellate Advocacy, Professor Stith took a “leave.” Carter was asked to substitute. So Carter returned to his alma mater, Welcome Back Carter, in 1991. The rest, as they say, is history. Professor Carter teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Pretrial Skills, Trial Skills, Advanced Criminal Appellate Advocacy, and a new Death Penalty Seminar.

When asked what a typical “DC” weekend is like, Professor Carter responded that last weekend he went to Chicago to see “Burn the Floor,” ballroom dancing and rock. On another weekend, he took the family to see “Any Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum” at the Memorial Theatre in Valparaiso. “Life consists of plays, jazz, sports, ball room dancing, piano lessons, and tons of writing projects and cases,” Carter said. Because his wife works in Chicago and is gone from 4:30 a.m. till 7:00 p.m., Carter said “Mrs. Mom,” and does most of the cooking, cleaning, laundry, homework, and coaching. He works out every day at Southlake Nautlius after dropping his son to school.

Carter’s ten-year old son, Brandon, accompanies him to all activities even on cases and legal conferences through Myers, but because some people may remember Brandon playing in the Cardozo Cup baseball game this fall. “Brandon is near his Black Belt test in January,” Carter proudly says.

If one is invited to venture into the comfort and luxury of Carter’s Lexus SUV, one would hear on his six player CD, Shaggy, Nelly, Gorilla (Brandon’s choice of a reggae, hip-hop, rock group), The Temptations, and Jazz Organist Jimmy Smith.

I asked Professor Carter for a phrase of the day and he responded with “inner resources (c) that’s what you need to propel you through tough times.”

As VUSL’s editor, Professor Carter felt the title of Black Velvet (c) a Criminal law prop that he uses when discussing intoxication and his law review article, “Bifurcations of Consciousness…” He may share a modest drink with members of the class with his seemingly contradictory anti-intoxication message, but Black Velvet is a fitting symbol. For in the end, many students describe “DC” with one phrase: “Smooth with a bite.”

DAVE MATHEWS

(HE LAW STUDENT, NOT THE MUSICIAL)

Year: 1L
Born: January 21, 1970 in Cedar City, Utah
Hometown: Panaca, Nevada
Family: Wife, Kaylynn, daughters Rachel (7), Hailey (5), sons Nathan (3) and Jacob (1)
Pets: Two Flamepoint Siamese Cats
Undergraduate College: University of Utah, Class of 1995
Collegiate Area of Study: Exercise Physiology and Chemistry
Life After College: Work, and I became a licensed massage therapist.

Why Law School: It was always an option for me to go to law school, as I was encouraged to pursue this path by a high school counselor. However, after studying pre­
med in college, I decided that medical school was not for me, so I chose law school.

Why VUSL: My wife and I like the Valpo area, as it is family conducive. I also have family in the area.

Plans After Law School: I would like to work in a medium to large firm to gain initial experience. Later, I would consider having my own practice.

Biggest Fear About Law School: Affording it.

Has it Materialized: Through the assistance of loans and private help, we have successfully budgeted law school into our lives.

Best Part of Law School So Far: The interaction with other students, as well as learning new material.

Final You Are Dreading the Most: Civ Pro

DELICIOUS

DAVE

Why Life After College: Straight to law school

Political Science

Life After College: Straight to law school

Why Law School: My dad influenced me, so I decided to go to law school after my freshman year.

Why VUSL: The class sizes allow for hands-on learning. I also liked the writing program here.

Plans After Law School: To pass the bar exam

Best Part of Law School So Far: Learning by doing, figuring things out on my own.

Activities at VUSL: Law Review and I am a teaching assistant.

Final You Are Dreading the Most: Evidence

Best Advice You Have Been Given: My grandfather told me “Do whatever the hell you want to do as long as it makes you happy”.

Favorite Food: Franks and Beans

Life is Not Complete Without: My family

Favorite thing to do When Not Studying: Watching college football

Plans for the Summer: I am looking for a job in Indiana

Advice for 1Ls: “Aim for the flickering flame, day after day with the rigorous training, face the pain but with a determined brain, stay on point and you will see your little life change.”

WIFE

This year is: 31
Born: 1977 in Iowa City, Iowa
Hometown: St. Charles, Missouri
Family: Parents, one brother, one sister
Pets: Three dogs
Undergraduate College: South West Missouri State University, Class of 1999
Collegiate Area of Study: Socio-Political communications
Life After College: Worked for a division of Telephone Corporation

Why Law School: I want to do something to be proud of, as well as to help others.

Why VUSL: I got a full ride

Plans After Graduation in May: I will move to Los Angeles and find work there.

Best Part of Law School So Far: The friends I have made here.

Topic You Are Hoping is Not on the Bar Exam: UCC

Best Advice You Have Been Given: My dad always told me to never let other people tell me who I am.

Favorite Food: Pizza, especially from Imos in St. Louis

Life is Not Complete Without: Knowing that people care about me.

Favorite thing to do When Not Studying: Traveling to knew places with my friends.

Activities at VUSL: Moot Court, the Honors Program

Others to Take: Elder Law

What Teacher Should Have to "Kick the Pig": Professor Adam Myers, only because it would be funny to have to see him actually kiss a pig.

SARA VENITCHER

Year: 3L
Born: 1977 in Iowa City, Iowa
Hometown: St. Charles, Missouri
Family: Parents, one brother, one sister
Pets: Three dogs
Undergraduate College: South West Missouri State University, Class of 1999
Collegiate Area of Study: Socio-Political communications
Life After College: Straight to law school
Jordan's back, but not for long

By David Masse
Sports Editor

The Washington Wizards are a bad basketball team. But they won a couple of games. Yes, they almost beat the Knicks on the road. It's true that Michael Jordan does not have his legs back (yet) and he will not be really playing. And yes, the Wizards are still one of the worst teams in the league.

Larry Bird once said that Magic Johnson was the best he's ever seen, period. That was 1987. This is now. And Michael Jordan is the game's greatest player, ever. That is absolutely and without question. Never has one single player been so dominant in every aspect of the game. Witt Chamberlain and a few others come close, but Mr. Jordan is in a class by himself. And that is why he won't be around long.

Michael Jordan can still play the game at a high level, no doubt. That is not the question. It never was. The real issue is whether Mr. Jordan can stand to lose at least 45 and probably over 50 games this season. There are no leaders (other than Jordan) on that team. The Wizards have no inside presence and nobody but Jordan can create his own shot on a regular basis. Christian Laettner plays like he left his heart and soul in Duke. Maybe he's just not interested. Richard Hamilton is a decent shooter but he's not a ball-handler and he lacks quickness off the dribble.

Jordan will create shots for everyone and make everybody better, but it won't be enough. Mr. Jordan will be double and triple-teamed all season. He will be slapped, pokd, harrassed, and battered. He will compete against young superstars looking to cash in on the hype and make the highlight reel. And at 38, this spells one thing: INJURY.

But most importantly, and even if he stays in perfect health, Mr. Jordan will not have the patience to build this team up from the bottom like he did with the Bulls in the mid-80's. How long before Jordan starts ripping into his teammates to such a degree that they just cannot take it anymore (just ask Horace Grant about that)? His pride and competitive spirit are too great. Nothing to prove you say? That's not the point. Mr. Jordan cannot stand to lose. Not in pool, golfing, and especially not in basketball, not all the time, not without a good fight.

Don't get me wrong, the man can do a lot of things. But there will be peace in the Middle East before a Michael Jordan led Wizards team reaches the NBA Finals.