

The Harsity News

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Purse thieves, mugger nabbed

By MICHAEL CHAPP
Staff Writer

Three men involved in two incidents, an assault and the theft of a purse, have been arrested within five days near the University of Detroit, Public Safety Director Isaiah McKinnon said.

The first incident occurred the morning of Jan. 19 outside the National Bank of Detroit at the corner of Livernois and Puritan. A U-D student leaving the bank was assaulted when he refused to hand over money. No weapons were involved, McKinnon said.

The student ran to the Livernois Guard Booth where Public Safety was called. McKinnon and Lt. William Porter apprehended the assailant on Prairie, south of Puritan, and turned him over to the Detroit Police Department. The student received stitches at Mt. Carmel Hospital and was released, McKinnon said.

"There are few precautions you can take in a situation like this," said McKinnon. "We have to realize that there are people who watch the bank and will try to take advantage of students." Because of this, McKinnon advises students to have someone accompany them off campus whenever possible.

The second incident happened Jan. 21 at about 11:45 a.m. Two men walked into the Quad Commons and took a purse from the office of Vilma Morales, assistant director of residence life. Morales said she saw them enter North Quad through a door that had been propped open with a piece of cardboard.

Security was notified immediately and the purse was recovered on the first floor of North Quad. The thieves were apprehended minutes later at Florence and Stoepel by Porter, Lt. Tamara Decker, and Officer Gregory Paduch, McKinnon said.

"This was one of those rare occasions where one of the two (suspects) was somewhat hostile and had to be restrained," McKinnon said. He said the men were arrested for larceny and turned over to the 12th precinct for prosecution.

CHARACTERS



Smirnoff Interview: page 7

We salute back: page 4

Drum thief caught in Union

By SCOTT ANDERSON
News Editor

The man who stole hundreds of dollars worth of band equipment last term was arrested when he went to ARA Food Service seeking employment.

The Public Safety Office said the man was apprehended after Student Life Director John Daniels tipped them off that he was on campus.

Daniels learned of the thief's reappearance when an ARA employee, who asked not to be identified, noticed him on the

second floor of the University Center. The employee recognized him as a former employee of ARA.

"He used to work here five, six years ago," the employee said. "He was back here trying to get a job. I wasn't sure who John (Daniels) was looking for but he's the only 'Andre' I know of."

Public Safety Director, Dr. Isaiah McKinnon said the man gave a typical response when apprehended and asked about the drums and amplifier that



AGONY OF DE FEET — Sophomore student trainer Cathrin Zammit treats a cut on Junior Mark Parenti's foot. Parenti was injured this past Saturday when he continued to run after losing his shoe.

Library work under way; inconvenience minimized

By SUSAN COOPER
Special Writer

As a result of the Pew Memorial Trust of Philadelphia, the University of Detroit's Main Library is undergoing various types of renovations and will continue to do so until July of this year.

The \$435,000 designated by the Pew Trust for the refurbishing of the Library is being used in the installation of air conditioning, heating and humidification systems, and the reconstruction of the library's Technical Services Room. After this is completed, work will be done on the roof and the library interior will be repainted.

Work began on December 15th, 1986, and most of the improvements were done during Christmas break so as not to disturb U-D students. Explained Margaret Auer, director of libraries for U-D, "Most of the

inconveniences from the renovations have been placed on the staff, instead of the students, since most of the work done has been in staff areas."

Work such as the removal of four walls in the Technical Services Room has forced some library staff to relocate to third floor projection rooms temporarily, and Auer herself has been forced to move from her administrative office. Although much of the renovations are not visible to the public eye, there are several open and exposed spaces in the ceiling in various parts of the Library.

In charge of the repairs is U-D's own Physical Plant, which has sub-contracted Arctic Air Inc. to install the air-

conditioning systems. According to Physical Plant's Bob Kania, "All of the work will definitely be finished by July 1 of this year."

A.F.C. Roofing and Insulation has been hired to perform renovations on the library's roof, "all of which," assured Kania, "will stay within budget."

Another noticeable change has been the usage of extra space in the basement for the purpose of a student lounge. Auer was able to acquire chairs and couches for the students, all of which were provided from private donations. Plans are being made to add more chairs and wall paintings, and also to redo the floor.

Students victimized by off-campus crime

By ANNA O'BRIEN
Campus Editor

Several University of Detroit students have been the victims of a crime spree that has overwhelmed the area surrounding the campus in the past few weeks.

Five of these incidents have occurred in the vicinity of Grove and Fairfield, located directly across from Calihan Hall, and in the area of the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity house.

The Phi Kappa Theta house was robbed of a microwave oven and a clock radio, according to Public Safety officials. In addition, the home next door, occupied by U-D students, was robbed of a television, clock radio, and \$1,400 worth of personal items. Both incidents occurred the week before classes started.

Dennis Dreyer, a sophomore and resident of the home, said, "I am convinced that the criminal is a U-D student, considering the time, location, and frequency of the recent thefts."

In addition, Ted Krevis, a senior Phi Kappa Theta, discovered his 1980 Oldsmobile had been broken into and that the intruders had attempted to "hot wire" his car, smashing the entire steering column. However, nothing was discovered missing.

See CRIME, page 5

WTWR: tired of 'playing' radio station

To the editor:

In last week's *Varsity News*, WTWR was accused of being a glorified stereo system. That it is — mechanically. Administratively, it is something completely different.

We have structure, we have rules, and we have organization. Just like a broadcasting station, WTWR has scheduled announcements, promotional items, and public service spots. The staff follow strict rules, behave professionally, and put in weekend hours to improve the acoustical structure of the studio. The DJs are creative and are forced to use this creativity daily. I am a strict general manager. I demand a professional attitude from the staff, because I know it's necessary for effective hands-on education, especially in such a stifling environment.

WTWR's staff work very very hard. Nevertheless, we are often judged too harshly, too quickly by the faculty and students.

Over half of our programming is *not* progressive. It ranges from Showtunes to heavy metal to jazz. If you're not hearing what you want, you're not listening



STUDENT VOICES

at the right time. (WTWR schedules DJs according to their availability). Obviously, then, the popular belief that WTWR disc jockeys are irresponsible punker malcontents is not true.

The disc jockeys are students. Unfortunately, they are not learning as much as they should be learning. They deserve to be rewarded for their efforts: they're good jocks. But WTWR DJ's aren't even recognized as such by members of the student body. How can they expect to be respected as professionals?

Most people are aware of what the basis of the problem is: lack of money, or equipment, and support.

Yes, we are trying desperately to earn our own money. But with no capital and virtually no support, it's impossible to raise enough money to make a difference.

WTWR doesn't want a hand-out. We work for what we have, and we're willing to work harder. The picture is brightening. We've expanded our hours to accommodate student DJ's. Several organizations have voiced their support. The Smith Media Center is starting to remember us. And Student Life finally helped us to complete some necessary construction. Unfortunately, it doesn't change the fact that we are still playing radio station.

I'm sorry that the *Varsity News* had to ridicule WTWR, but what was said in last week's *Watchtower* is essentially correct. What's more, it needed to be said. Myself and my staff are struggling to better our educational community. Why doesn't someone—anyone—help us before it's too late?

Susan Kowalski
General Manager, WTWR

WATCH TOWER



School vs. Co-op: both have pluses, minuses

Well, here we are. Twelve days of term II are history. Only 27 class days until spring break and 57 class days until final exams start. Time for our annual mid-winter pep talk. Chin up. Chest out. Stomach in.

Cheer up. It's not that bad, really. Look at it this way. Every class you make it through is a class closer to graduation. Every test you pass is a test closer to your degree. Every all-nighter you pull is an all-nighter closer to that handshake with Fr. Mitchell.

And also a release from our mutual prison. This prison of academia.

I was given parole last term. I did a cooperative education assignment at one of Detroit's biggest corporations. It was wonderful to be released from the constraints of school. No more 8 a.m. classes. No more demanding professors. No more pressure to perform academically. And no more strict deadlines for getting term papers in.

Oh sure, I had to be in to work at 8:15 a.m. sharp. Getting stuck in traffic or telling my boss that I had misplaced my car were not considered valid excuses for being late. I was either at work—on time—or I was docked pay. 8:15 every day.

But...at least I didn't have any 8 a.m. classes.

And I was free of the burden of demanding professors. Yes, I had a demanding boss. A very demanding boss. She actually expected me to work all day and not take breaks for naps or bull sessions with friends. It's not enough that I showed up every morning at 8:15. I was also expected to actively participate in the work process and to get something done. Boy, was she demanding.

But...at least I was away from those pesky professors.

Pressure to perform academically? There was none. My boss didn't care diddley about academics. My rote rattling of the definition of a work of art and my understanding of the rationale behind the economic theory of Marginal Propensities to Save meant nothing to her. However, I was expected to be knowledgeable about several complex aspects of the company before I interviewed other employees. Talk about pressure. Geeze!

But...at least I didn't have to worry about performing academically.

Perhaps best of all, I didn't have to deal with strict deadlines for getting term papers turned in. I did, however, have to deal with strict deadlines for getting work projects finished. Seriously, my boss told me it was imperative to meet the deadlines. She said that if I didn't do my share, the rest of the department would be thrown out of whack. Mister, those were some strict deadlines.

But...at least I didn't have to worry about getting term papers turned in.

So you see, cooperative education is indeed a parole. It's a cakewalk. It's a taste of the real world.

The real world. I love it. Great place. Nothing academic to worry about...

You know what else? It's really kind of nice to be back at school.

—Michael Chapp
Entertainment Editor

U of D Man

by Joe Gathman



Salute to the saluter

Word of the day is "Fred"

By BRIAN ANSE PATRICK
Special Writer

It's eight degrees Farenheit with a wind chill factor of minus 25 and Wilfredo "Fred" Rodriguez, parking attendant extraordinaire, is outside dispensing his highly personalized brand of warmth to yet another visitor to the University of Detroit campus.

"Heat!" say Rodriguez, "The word for the day is 'heat'." The visitor returns the salute which Rodriguez has given and drives onto campus, smiling. With variations, this scene is repeated for the rest of the day.

Rodriguez, 30, now in his sixth month as parking attendant (P.A.), has made a vivid impression upon the campus community. "You would be surprised at all the people who salute on campus now," said Rodriguez. "When I first started out, nobody knew what to think. Now, all the other P.A.s, they get saluted all the time."

The word for the day is another Rodriguez institution.

"I use the best word I can think of in the morning," he says. "If I'm in a bad mood I just say something like, 'Have a good day.' I've had a lot people give me ideas for words."

Rodriguez came to work for U-D after being laid off from a factory job. "I like this 100 percent better," he said. "The students, the people who work here, they give me an awful lot. That means a lot to me. For Christmas, one of the ladies brought me a pair of socks, and those folks over at Fisher (The Fisher Administrative Center) bought me a 'fifth' of Southern Comfort."

"I like working with people. I like dealing with the students. As of yet, I've had no hard time. The people are great."

"Jesus! I can't think of anything bad that's happened around here. One guy got beat up, but that didn't have anything to do with over here (U-D). He just came over here to complain."

"The meanest person I've dealt with since I

worked here is my wife; we drive into work together."

Linda Rodriguez, Wilfredo's wife, is employed as an assistant in the U-D International Student Office. Linda says it was she who suggested that Wilfredo apply for the P.A. position.

"Ever since Freddy started here," said Linda, "I've gotten a lot of compliments from faculty and students."

"People, when they find out we're married, always ask me, 'Is he full of energy like that all the time?' and I tell them that's how he really is. He's like that: all the time."

Wilfredo and Linda will celebrate their ninth anniversary in April. They have two children, Wilfredo, 7, and Manuel, 6, of which Rodriguez said, "My kids are my energy."

Rodriguez has become a well-known (and well-liked) campus personality because of his unique approach to his job.

Barbara Cooper, a junior majoring in English, said, "Fred gives everybody a pleasant smile and a salute when they come to the University. You're not just another car with a person in it. He's an example of the type of person you want to do business with in the University. It's nice to be recognized each day, and I miss him when he's not there."

Said another student, "He makes people happy; you walk away smiling."

Director of Public Safety, Dr. Isiah McKinnon had nothing but praise for Rodriguez.

Said McKinnon, "I don't think there's any greater feeling when coming to work or visit, than to be met by a very happy, cheery, person who will greet you and give you the word of the day."

"He's an incredible asset to the University because of the image he presents. It's encouraging to stand and watch as he salutes and they return the salute."

Rodriguez succinctly describes his job by saying, "I'm the P.R. in the P.A. position."

Incidentally, the word for today is "Fred."



VN Photo/Dave McPhail

Wilfredo "Fred" Rodriguez, parking attendant extraordinaire, greets yet another car as it enters U-D.

Bonfire gets city OK

By SCOTT ANDERSON
News Editor

Winning season or not, students will be fired up for Homecoming this Feb. 21 because the Titan game against St. Louis will be preceded by the first bonfire at the University in over 20 years.

Last week *The Varsity News* received approval from the Detroit City Council to allow U-D to skirt a city ordinance banning open fires that has been in effect since 1970.

The Student Life Office will set up the event, which probably will take place at 3:30 p.m. the day of the game in the commuter parking lot, near the corner of McNichols and Fairfield.

A Detroit Fire Department truck and Public Safety officers will be on hand for the hour and a half the fire will be lit.

The early start to the fire will allow for its extinguishing as the Lady Titans take on Evansville's Lady Aces in the first game of the doubleheader, starting at 5 p.m.

Homecoming this year coincides with the second Insignis weekend, when out-of-town scholars compete for full academic scholarships. In addition to the bonfire, other activities are planned for the annual celebration, to culminate with the crowning of the 1987 King and Queen and, hopefully, a homecoming victory.

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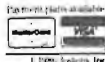
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The Varsity News

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Santa Bear would like to take this opportunity to tell his baby that he loves her.

International Breakfast Club— Happy late 22nd! Anyone have the blues? How about another pitcher in the dark? Don't forget — Buddy's this Thursday!

—Ugly

Snoopy licks toes and likes it.

—W

Breath Molester— Your behavior in Church is socially unacceptable.

—The victim

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Man shot to death in argument near campus

By SCOTT ANDERSON
News Editor

A 21-year-old man was killed during an argument after what police called a minor traffic accident near campus early Saturday afternoon.

A Detroit Police Department spokeswoman said the man,

whose identity is being withheld pending notification of relatives, was involved in a "minor two-car collision" in the 16500 block of Prairie, four blocks west of the McNichols campus. An argument ensued, during which one of the men pulled a handgun and fired several shots at the victim. The

assailants then fled.

The man was pronounced dead from gun shot wounds to the chest upon arrival at Mt. Carmel Hospital at 1:30 p.m.

Detroit Police are looking for three men in connection with the murder. The first is described as black, 19-20 years old, 5' 7", slim build, light com-

plexion. He was wearing a red skullcap, black and red plaid jacket, designer sunglasses, and is armed.

The second man is black, 19-20, 5' 6", heavy, with a light complexion. He was wearing a dark leather jacket and hiking boots, and carrying a gun. The third man is black, 20-21, light

complexioned and was armed and wearing a red skullcap and plaid black and red jacket.

The three men were in a silver Dodge Omni.

Anyone with information about these men is asked to call the Homicide Section at 224-4280.

CRIME, from page 1

Krevis was upset not only about his car, but also about Public Safety's handling of the situation. "I had to contact them four times, twice in person, before anyone came to take the report. The crime has become a definite concern to the Phi Kaps and our neighbors. The protection Public Safety provides the students with is pathetic."

Dreyer, however, felt differently, saying, "Public Safety does an adequate job patrolling this area. We cannot expect them to be everywhere all the time."

Two incidents took place on Saturday, Jan. 17, in the same area. Two female students were harrassed as they parked their car and entered the Phi Kappa Theta party taking place. Later, they discovered that their 1985 Buick had been broken into and that their purses had been taken. The purses were discovered the next day, on Dexter near Florence.

Another U-D student at the party discovered the passenger side window of her 1985 Chevette had been smashed and over \$400 worth personal items, including all her books, were missing. None of the items have been recovered.

According to the Public Safety Director Dr. Isiah McKinnon, "The area where the crimes took place is particularly vulnerable because it is located on the fringes of territorial boundaries. (Between U-D and the Detroit Police Department 12th precinct.)"

McKinnon has contacted Commander Billie Willis of the 12th precinct to help with the situation. "Willis is more than willing to help and has assigned plain-clothes police officers to the problem area to help deter the crimes."


In addition, McKinnon said, "Some of these victims were just asking for a crime to take place, by leaving personal belongings in their cars."

Students are uncertain where the responsibilities of Public Safety surveillance begin and end.

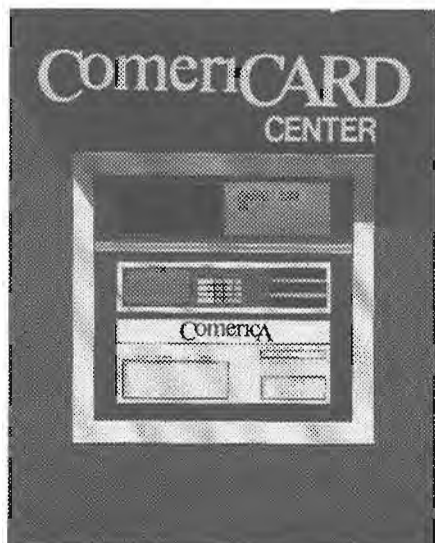
According to McKinnon, "If we are notified a function is taking place, Public Safety will give special attention to that area."



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Letters

Age discrimination at U-D?

To The Editor:

The Jan. 21 edition of *The Varsity News* ran an article spotlighting some of the dissatisfactions of "non-traditional" students attending the University of Detroit.

As individuals quoted in the article, Carolyn Anderson and I feel obligated to say that although the remarks attributed to us convey the overall tone and content of our conversations with the reporter, they do not adequately reflect the philosophy and outlook of the Phoenix Club.

While it is true that many of us in the Phoenix Club have experienced frustration at U-D, and have felt the need to turn to one another for support and validation, the group does not exist solely as a response to "discrimination" on campus. We are also committed to helping students deal with the problems inherent in starting or returning to school which come from our "outside" lives, from spouses, children, jobs.

We do try to function in an advocacy capacity as the need arises, but we do not see ourselves as an antagonistic, negative force on campus. The Phoenix club tries very hard to work with those members of the administration and faculty which have been supportive, and to look for constructive answers to problems. The Phoenix Club wants to contribute to the betterment of U-D, not merely take what it has to offer.

Even though many of us have heavy responsibilities outside school which complicate our educational experience, we are eager to be here. When we have often had to battle just for the chance to go to school, it sharpens our enthusiasm and the commitment to succeed.

In closing, I would like to say that the ultimate goal of the Phoenix Club is to promote a sense of community among students, faculty and administration so that we can benefit from one another's experience and share in the adventure of learning and self-discovery, which is what a university education is all about.

—Mary Anna Wolf
Phoenix Club

To The Editor:

The members of the Phoenix Club allege that they are discriminated against on campus. I totally disagree. I feel that members of the Phoenix Club are suffering from a severe case of disillusionment regarding how things "get done" around here. I was particularly offended by the comments of Mary Anna Wolf regarding the Phoenix Club not receiving funds at the last summer's leadership conference. I participated in that conference and would like to share a few carefully omitted facts.

First, the Phoenix Club received "start-up money" from Student Life last year, something no other group present had ever received.

Second, the Phoenix Club has no money of its own because its members will neither raise funds nor pay dues, again, unlike all other organizations present.

Third, the requested funding was to be used for club letterhead, mailings, and personalized business cards. Every other group (that requested funding, did so for) educational seminars, charity and social events, or equipment which would benefit a large portion of the student body.

Finally, I, a "traditional" student, offered Ms. Wolf my assistance in dealing with campus red tape, improving organizational skills, and implementing cost-effective practices.

All other organizations present have taken part in and will continue to support events such as blood drives, the Mall opening, Homecoming, Insignis weekend, Sibling Weekend, and countless charity events. The Phoenix Club does not. Non-Traditional students need to support student life if they want to be supported by the student life.

—Liza Parkinson
Kappa Beta Gamma



VN Photo/Michael Dobbins

THROUGH RAIN, SNOW OR DARK OF NIGHT — Mail is finally being picked up from this box at the Florence guard booth. No collection times posted, but University Mail Supervisor Dennis Laycock promised to "yell at the Post Office."

Volunteers call upon prospective students

By VALERIE FINN
Asst. News Editor

The Admissions Office at the University of Detroit is sponsoring the fourth annual Phone-a-thon.

"The purpose of the Phone-a-thon is to make prospective students comfortable with U-D," said Admissions Counselor Ami Robinson.

The U-D students who volunteer to make calls are matched up with high schoolers from their hometown and/or those interested in the same major when possible. They encourage prospective students to visit and apply to U-D.

"It really works," said Robinson. "They know they'll get an honest impression of the University from the students."

The three dates remaining this term for the phone-a-thon are Tues., Feb. 10 and Thurs., Feb. 12 from 5-8 p.m. and Wed., Feb. 11 from 5-7 p.m. Pizza and other refreshments are provided for the callers.

Anyone interested in participating can sign up at the Student Life Office or Quad Commons, or call the Admissions Office at 927-1245.

Robinson concluded, "It pays off for the University in the end."

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Lively conversation with funnyman Yakov Smirnoff

By **BOB SADLER**
Ass't Entertainment Editor

Yakov Smirnoff is a man who has beaten the odds—in two countries. In his native Soviet Union, Smirnoff, 35, was a successful comic—somewhat of a rarity under governmental circumstances there. It was while performing on a cruise ship, which he affectionately refers to as the "Love Barge," that he first encountered Westerners and became interested in emigrating to America.

In 1978, he finally realized his dream of making it to the U.S. Now, Smirnoff is an established comedy star and actor, having appeared in the movies "Heartburn," "The Money Pit," and "Moscow on the Hudson," not to mention television appearances in the Miller Lite commercials, "Night Court," and his own syndicated series "What A Country!" (seen locally at 7:30 p.m. Saturday on WKBD-TV 50).

VN: What did you do initially when you came to America? I understand you were a waiter? Smirnoff: First busboy, then bartender. In the bar, I was already trying to do my comedy, which gave me the opportunity to try out some material.

After I tried some stuff, I realized that I wanted to do it full time, but nobody really cared at that point. So I started out at some small clubs in New York and moved to Los Angeles where I started at The Comedy Store.

VN: What would you consider to be your "big break," in terms of making it on a national scale?

YS: I think The Comedy Store was the beginning of a big break...and I still go there. Paul Mazursky found me and hired me for "Moscow on the Hudson," which I felt was the biggest break because suddenly everybody realized I could act. They didn't realize that in Russia, I had to act for 26 years...I used to act happy.

VN: You were also in a Lite Beer commercial.

YS: Yes, that was a big break also.

VN: What was the most difficult thing about leaving your homeland?

YS: The most difficult part was leaving friends behind, because my parents came with me. They make it as hard as possible. They fire you at work, they turn people against you. It's just like 60 Minutes. Then there was the fear of what's going to happen to me here. Will I

succeed at anything? Will I struggle? It was very challenging.

VN: Do you still have family in the Soviet Union?

YS: I have a cousin...twice removed from his apartment.

VN: Would you have trouble contacting them?

YS: For their sake, it's not good. My parents write to my aunts and uncles, but they have to watch what they're writing because it might hurt them.

"I didn't have a TV, just the remote control. I wouldn't have a garage, just a garage door opener."

VN: Describe the basic differences between Russian and American life.

YS: The biggest one is the freedom. It's hard to describe the feeling. You can say things; you don't have to look behind your shoulder. The rest of the differences are financial, and they are incredible.

VN: What were the first things you bought in America?

YS: There are still a lot of things I am experimenting

with. I enjoy buying remote control. I didn't have a TV, just the remote control. I wouldn't have a garage, just a garage door opener. I was saying "One day, I'll have a garage."

VN: What are your favorite American foods?

YS: Chinese.

VN: Do you enjoy fast food?

YS: Yes, but we had a lot of experience with it in Russia...you ask for food and they tell you to fast.

VN: Describe humor in Russia. Are there stand-up comics there?

YS: Oh yes, I was a successful stand-up comedian there. People don't picture Russian comedians in America... sounds to them like Mormon whino.

VN: Is there censorship?

YS: Sure. There is a Department of Jokes in every state...this is true! You submit your material once a year, and they censor it and send it back to you. You can't improvise if someone heckles you, you can't say "Your mother wears army boots" because she probably does!

VN: What would you say Russian perceptions of Americans are like?

YS: Very limited. They would show us the New York Stock Ex-

change and say "This is how Americans relax."

VN: Do you think there's a chance for peace between the two cultures?

YS: I have a plan for peace. Nobody's listening. I would suggest Gorbachev and Reagan go to Las Vegas and bet all the missiles on black jack. We know who would win...the house...and Wayne Newton would rule the world.

VN: How is "What A Country!" doing?

YS: Very well. Ratings are going up.

VN: What exactly is your role?

YS: I'm playing a Russian. Surprise, huh?

VN: What does the future hold for Yakov Smirnoff?

YS: I still want to marry Brooke Shields.

VN: Why?

YS: She has thick eyebrows... reminds me of Brezhnev.

VN: Finally, describe your feelings for your adopted country.

YS: I feel good. It's a wonderful place.

Yakov Smirnoff will be appearing at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Saturday, January 31 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15.25 and are available at the Royal Oak Box Office, Ticket World outlets, Hudson's stores, or charge at 423-6666.

Calendar

THURSDAY, January 29

- Intramural Table Tennis entries due today, Calihan 113.
- Continuing Ed. Registration, 5-7 p.m., UC Ballroom

FRIDAY, January 30

- Insignis Weekend begins.

SATURDAY, January 31

- Lady Titans at Northern Illinois, 1 p.m.
- Titans vs. Oral Roberts, 7:35 p.m., Calihan Hall.

SUNDAY, February 1

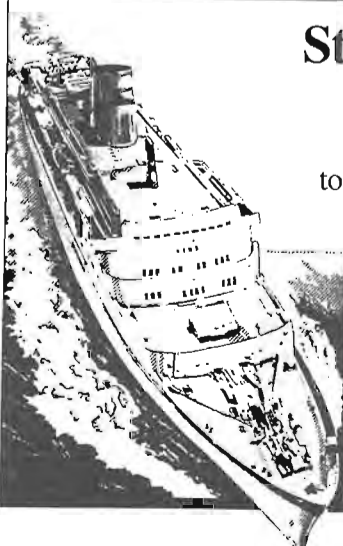
- Black History Month begins.
- Alpha Phi Alpha meeting, 3 p.m., UC 101B.

MONDAY, February 2

- Black History Month: Opening Reception and address, 1-3 p.m., Centennial Lounge.
- Lady Titans vs. Oral Roberts, 7:30 p.m., Calihan Hall.

TUESDAY, February 3

- Marketing Club meeting, 12:30, Centennial Lounge.
- PRSSA and CST Council meetings, 12:30 and 1 p.m., UC 27
- Black History Month: "Blacks in America: Past, Present and Future," 12-2 p.m., LS 115.
- Cinerat, 2, 4, 7, & 9 p.m., Rathskeller.



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FROM RUSSIA WITH LAUGHS — Yakov Smirnoff will bring his humor to Royal Oak Music Theatre Saturday.



RAD — The film would more accurately be titled by putting a "B" where the "R" is.

Yech! The 10 worst films of 1986 leave a bad taste

By **MICHAEL CHAPP**
Entertainment Editor

Given the state of modern cinema, it's not very difficult to choose the ten worst films of 1986. Much of what is released and shown on neighborhood movie screens is meaningless, thoughtless junk that quickly and obtrusively makes a place for itself in viewer's memories. Not because anyone wants to remember such trash, but because one can't help but be upset when a \$4.50 movie ticket buys nothing but disappointment. Here, then, is an alphabetical listing of ten of the worst movies of last year.

And here's hoping the bitter taste they left will soon be washed out.

"A Fine Mess"— Oh boy, was it ever. It's likely that director Blake and stars Howie Mandell

and Ted Danson won't want to put copies of this one in their portfolios. This comedy about illegal hijinks at a horse track was aw-filly bad.

"The Check is in the Mail"— This picture about bucking the system, starring the normally talented Brian Benehey, lasted in movie theatres for seven days, give or take a day. Enough said.

"Half Moon Street"— Somewhere near the middle of this piece of incomprehensible drivel, Sigourney Weaver, its star, waxes perplexed and says, "I don't understand." She wasn't the only one. The story, supposedly a romance with international intrigue, was given less prominence in the picture than Ms. Weaver's breasts. "Half Moon Street" was a dead end.

"Head Office"— Despite an

Blue-collar geniuses

Housemartins' *London O Hull 4* Combines style and substance

By **SUSAN KOWALSKI**
Staff Writer

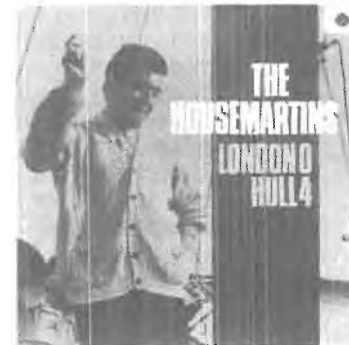
The Housemartins are as English as an English band can be: they look English, sound English, and write undeniably English pop songs. Consequently, since their first release in 1985, Great Britain has heralded the coming of the thinking man's fun group. With such pro-working class statements as "Don't try to crash a party full of bankers; burn the house down!" printed on their record sleeves, the Housemartins are credited with being the new, young, blue-collar geniuses.

The Housemartins write quirky, upbeat music, akin to that of the (English) Beat or early Squeeze. Every song on *London O Hull 4* has a right-on-target hook, mixing horns and piano for a sound very similar to that of the ska revival of the early 1980s. Ska mixed certain elements of reggae, jazz, punk, and swing into danceable social commentary, focusing on racism.

The Housemartins are too far removed from Jamaican rhythms to be considered the forefront of yet another ska revival, and they write about different problems for a different generation of record buyers. But the spirit is the

same: they try to move political and social consciousness out of the theatre of gloomy modern message bands and into an accessible pop groove.

London O Hull 4 opens with "Happy Hour," an absolutely rollicking debut domestic



single. The song is about pretensions in the work place, and the after-hours relationships between superior and subordinate. The theme masks itself in an irresistible beat and vocals that can truly be called jovial. It's only after several listenings that the message takes hold, but since the song is so infectious, that doesn't make it ineffectual.

Most of the rest of the album follows suit—one "let's change our world" song after another. Fortunately, the music's spirit is endearing, so the preaching doesn't become tiresome.

A standout is "Anxious," which could very well have been recorded by the pop/ska group Madness. It's a doubletime lament about the starving multitudes—but the lyrics are the most realistic on the album, concentrating on the pointlessness of writing songs about such an overwhelming problem. "Anxious" has a clever pendulum-swing chorus that will hang onto the edge of your brain all day.

"Flag Day," the album's ballad, is a political anthem attacking a society based on the class system and apathy in the government. It's a beautiful, rolling song with far-reaching vocals and an arrangement that makes four men sound like an orchestra.

"Lean On Me" is the most unusual song on *London O Hull 4*. It's a very impressive attempt at gospel. P.d. Heaton displays an amazing vocal range. While "Lean On Me" doesn't really fit into the album's "feel," it's interesting enough to justify its inclusion.

Even if the Housemartins don't make you think, they'll make you dance. Buy *London O Hull 4*. It's a great album by a young band that won't be the next Beatles, but that does make high-quality, well-planned pop music. And that's a rarity in this decade.

occasional insight like "When the going gets tough, the weak get screwed," this picture, a so-called comedy, wasn't funny and it made no sense whatsoever. Rick Moranis, who saved face later in the year with "Little Shop of Horrors," was the only marginally bright spot in an "Office" of losers.

"The Long Shot" Another "comedy" about mishaps at a horsetrack. This film was so bad even Tim Conway and Harvey Korman couldn't save it.



HALF MOON STREET — The Sigourney Weaver picture was definitely a dead end.

"Maximum Overdrive"— Probably the worst adaptation of a Stephen King work yet. What makes that an even harder pill to swallow is that King himself wrote the screenplay and directed. He'd better stick to novels.

"Rad"— The first part of this film about BMX bicycle racing was wonderful. Then the credits ended. A more fitting title would have come from inserting a "B" where the "R" goes.

"Shanghai Surprise"— One sincerely hopes that Sean Penn and Madonna make a better team in marriage than they do on the movie screen, because if "Surprise" is any indication of the chemistry between them, their state of wedlock will last

about as long as a piece of lint in the little lady's belly button.

"Streets of Gold"— Klaus Maria Brandauer alienated more than a few loyal fans when he appeared in this cheap ripoff of "Rocky IV." The lesson here: If you're going to steal the plot of a film, at least steal the plot of a good one!

"Wisdom"— Brat-packer Emilio Estevez showed none when he chose this as his first project as writer-director. At the time of its release, someone said, "Estevez may have destroyed his entire directorial career with this one movie." That may be a bit harsh. But it's a sure bet that studio executives will raise their eyebrows a tad next time Estevez says, "Hey, I've got an idea."



WISDOM — Emilio Estevez showed none by making this his first project as writer-director.

Dubois, Lloyd Break Records

By CHRIS NIXON
Staff Writer

Juniors Ken Dubois and Earl Lloyd broke U-D records in the three mile run and the 60 yard high hurdles at the University of Michigan last Saturday afternoon. At the same time Senior Dan O'Brien produced a very solid time, his personal best, and a second place finish in the two mile walk at Macomb Community College. No score was kept at either of the meets.

Coach Clark split his team up as some members competed at Michigan while the rest of the team competed at Macomb.

Dubois placed third overall in the three mile run, running the event in 14:27 and beating his own record, set last year, by

twelve seconds. Lloyd, the fastest man on the team, ran the 60 yard high hurdles in 7.97, smasing the old record of 8:16 set by Roy Simms in 1984. "It's always a good meet if we can have two school records broken on one day," stated Coach Clark.

O'Brien came in second place in the two mile walk with a time of 14:22.4, earning a medal at Macomb. The top three finishers in the fastest heat at Macomb received medals. "It's a good time for this early in the year, but I hope to go much faster later in the season," commented O'Brien.

Junior Michael Youngblood earned a medal in the shot put, tossing the put 41 feet and four and a half inches for second place.

Senior George Panourgias leaped 18 feet eight inches in the long jump for a third place finish and a medal. In the distance medley, sophomore Hugh Kelker, Junior Tom Gibson, Senior Dave McPhail, and Sophomore Jay Hunt came in third place, setting a mark of 11:25 and also earning medals.

Senior Scott Morell chopped seven seconds off his time at Eastern Michigan in the mile run by coming across the finish line in 4:35.05, placing him fourth. Also running hard in the mile run was senior Tom Zakrzewski who finished sixth with a time of 4:43.

"We like to run there because it gives the runners an opportunity to run a variety of events," said Clark.



VN Photo/Jim McDonald
I.M. HOOP RETURNS — Earl Lloyd goes up for two points in the intramural basketball season opener Monday night.

Intramural leagues get underway to high interest

By CHRIS CZARNIK
Sports Editor

New Intramural Director Mike Polito said this week that interest in the winter leagues is "the highest in a long time."

Polito said that 22 teams have signed up for the five-man basketball league, which plays Monday through Thursday nights at Calihan Hall. No further applications are being taken by the office because of the scheduling requirements. Season play begins this week.

Floor Hockey is also scheduled to get under-

way soon, and though there are enough teams to begin play, the deadline for submitting teams has been extended, said Polito. Games are played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Anybody wishing to enter a team in the league should contact Polito or his assistant Tom Murar at 927-1743.

Polito has high hopes for the intramural department. "Mr. Kinsman has really been helpful, and has supported us 100 percent. We are very encouraged by the interest of the students this term, and are looking forward to starting volleyball in late February," said Polito.

Late Monday hoop news

The Titans dropped their seventh game in a row Monday, losing an away game to Evansville, 66-45. Playing without Brian Humes, their only hope was in junior guard Archie Tullos, who had 20 points. Evansville's Marty Simmons had a run of eight early in the second half. The Titans are now 4-14 (0-5 MCC) and will have a run of at least a calendar year without a road victory.

Meanwhile in St. Louis, Cassandra Pack's 22 points led the Lady Titans to a 90-47 laughter over the Billikens. Every Lady Titan played and scored, with freshman Jayne VanOpynen netting a career-high 12 points. The women set a school record for field goal percentage, hitting 39 of 65 for a 60 percent night.

* * *

Freshman Titans Brian Elve and Pat Brennan were suspended for the remainder of the season by Coach Don Sicko, Assistant Sports Information Director Dan Zacharias confirmed Monday.

When contacted Monday, Elve confirmed that curfew violations caused the suspension but did not comment further. Sicko, on the road with the team, was unavailable for comment.

* * *

Freshman Lady Titan Gina Menta underwent reconstructive knee surgery Friday. According to Zacharias, the operation went well and Menta is now resting at home.

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VN Photo/Jim McDonald

SENIOR DAPHNE SMITH puts up yet another 3 point attempt in the Lady Titans' win over Butler.

Ladies lose to Aces; end 5-game win streak

By CHUCK BATCHELLER
Staff Writer

After winning five consecutive games, the University of Detroit Lady Titan basketball team lost to Evansville 74-66 Saturday afternoon.

The Lady Aces 24-0 spurt in the last 10 minutes of the first half put them in the lead to stay after the Lady Titans came out gunning and grabbed a 23-20 edge, to start the game.

The loss dropped U-D's record to 10-5 overall and 3-1 in conference play.

U-D had recorded its fifth straight win with a 75-72 road victory at Loyola the previous Saturday.

The Lady Ramblers fell behind 39-32 at halftime but came out in the second half and went on a 16-6 spurt, taking a 48-45 lead. They upped that advantage to five points with just under 12 minutes left in the game. Things looked glum for the Lady Titans, but U-D fought back to tie the score at 64 with 5:44 to play. Senior guard Brenda Hawkins then stole the ball and fed Terri Ford for the layup, giving the Lady Titans a 66-64 lead which they never gave up.

Cassandra Pack led all scorers with 25 points and 11 rebounds. Mary Kay Whalen had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Daphne Smith helped out with 13 points.

Loyola was led by Amy Nelson and Kim Rivd who each had 17 points. Mary Just also helped with 16 points in a losing cause.

Following the Loyola game, Cassandra Pack was named Midwestern Collegiate Conference Player of the Week, the second U-D player in as many weeks to be named to that honor. Daphne Smith earned the award for the previous week.

Titans extend losing streak Sicko considers resignation

By TOM MURRIN
Staff Writer

The Titans' woeful ways continued this week as the Titans dropped games to Loyola, Dayton, and St. Louis amidst rumors that Head Coach Don Sicko is considering resigning after this season.

U-D now stands at 4-14 on the season and 0-5 in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference. Following this week's losses — all on the road — the men's squad now stands at 0-9 away from Calihan Hall and have lost twelve straight road contest dating back to last year's Oral Roberts game on February 1, 1986.

Wednesday's rematch against Dayton, who beat the Titans 84-63 last week in Detroit, came on the same day a Detroit News article revealed Sicko, who is in his fifth year at U-D, is dejected that the rebuilding program he initiated is still not producing victories.

"It's real tough," said Sicko in last week's interview with Corky Meinecke. "There is not a day lately that when I don't think of packing it in. The answer varies sometimes from hour to hour in my mind. You get to a point where it affects your health. I say to myself, 'This is not good. I don't feel well.'"

Dayton provided Sicko and the Titans with no anxiety relief as they handed U-D a 74-69 loss. Senior Forward Ed Young took a feed from Dan Christie at 2:44 of the first half and converted a layup and Brian Humes foul in to 28-26 lead that the Flyers never relinquished.

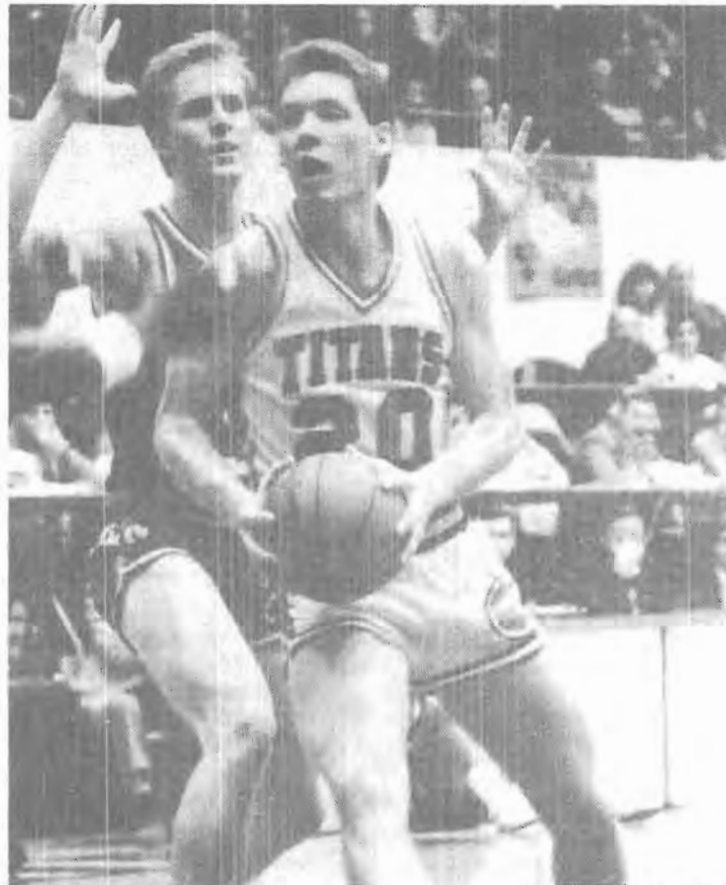
Archie Tullos had 25 points and Brian Humes had 24 points and nine rebounds. The flyers converted 29-46 shots from the charity stripe, while the Titans were perfect in all eight of their free throws.

Detroit outshot Dayton from the floor 60 percent to 52 percent and outrebounded the Flyers, a rarity this season, 26-25. However, the Titans turned the ball over 13 times against

only 4 for the Flyers.

Things didn't get any better on Saturday night in St. Louis as the Billikens, the pre-season MCC favorites, rode a 13-1 streak early in the second half to a 70-52 win.

St. Louis's sophomore tandem of guard Monroe Douglas and forward Roland Gray paced the Billikens with 19 and 17 points respectively while Humes had 19 and Tullos 13 for U-D.



VN Photo/Dave McPhail

JUNIOR GUARD MIKE BROWN uses his tremendous speed to blow by his defender, who can only watch as Brown drives for two.

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Women's track does well at Macomb

By **CHUCK DIAMOND**
Staff Writer

The Women's indoor track team traveled to Macomb Community College (MCC) for a non-scoring meet last Saturday to help prepare for an important upcoming meet.

Nancy Mandiara, junior, returned to MCC where she ran her first two collegiate seasons before transferring to the University of Detroit. Mandiara's sort of homecoming may have had something to do with her first place finish in the two-mile run with a time of 11 minutes, 26 seconds. Most of it, however, was due solely to her talent.

U-D showed its dominance over the lower division schools in this non-scoring open meet, especially in the two-mile run.

"We've used these first few meets for conditioning and to see who can run where, effectively," stated women's indoor track Coach Kevin Donner.

Another top performance turned in by the Lady Titans was Senior Kim McCartha's second place finish in the 60-yard dash with a time of 7.4 seconds. McCartha also turned in a third place finish in the 300-yard dash with a time of 40.1 seconds. Donner said he felt McCartha's time in the 60 was "outstanding."

The Lady Titans' third second place finish came courtesy of Terry Salami's second place performance in the 440.

Junior Michelle Vogt continues to run well, taking third place in the one-mile run with a time of five minutes and 24.1 seconds.

"I'm very happy with the way we've been progressing in the early going of this season," announced Donner.



VN Photo/Dave McPhail

FOLLOW THE LEADER? — No, not really. Titans Kim Moffat and Jean Wyckoff lead this pack, but trail the race leaders at Macomb Saturday.

Hopefully U-D has progressed enough to be ready for the stiff competition they will be facing at the Canadian-American meet (CAN-AM) this Saturday at the University of Windsor. U-D will be running against many of the Big 10 schools as well as Canada's top schools.

Fencers upset Ohio State; Drop match to Wayne

By **KAREN ABRUZZI**
and **KATY JAMES**
Copy Editors

Top-ten ranked Ohio State University suffered defeat at the hands of Titan fencers last Saturday at Calihan Hall. The men bested O.S.U., 15-2, the first time this has happened since 1973. Senior Dave Burdett and

juniors Steve Witte and Jason Hill all went 3-0 in the contest.

The women, led by senior Rosemary Gara with a record of 3-1, edged by Ohio fencers, 9-7. This is the first time ever that Lady Titan fencers have defeated O.S.U.

Unfortunately, U-D fencers could not maintain their winning streak, and both teams



VN Photo/Jim McDonald

GETTING TO THE POINT — Senior fencer Rosemary Gara suffered a loss in this match, but the Titans still overcame Ohio State.

sustained their first losses of the season against Wayne State University. The men lost 16-11, and the women by a score of 9-5.

"We didn't do that badly," said Head Coach, Yuri Rabinovich "We could have beaten Wayne - they're not stronger than us. If we fence them a second time, we'll beat them."

He added, "I'm very happy with [our victory against] O.S.U."

The men then met undefeated Illinois University, which does not have a women's team. Illinois outfenced U-D 21-6, gaining its 11th straight victory.

Assistant Coach Richard Perry remarked on Saturday's performance, stating, "Our rather young men's team proved strong against three of the nation's top teams. The seasoned veterans kept both (ours and the opposing) teams competitive all day."

Despite these losses, U-D has a very strong team, as evidenced by the men's record of 7-2 and the women's record of 6-1. Also impressive are the top five fencer's records: Gara, 19-3; Witte, 19-5; Sophomore Gerry Surowiec, 21-6; Hill, 19-6; And Burdett, 18-7.

Titan fencers will be on the road this weekend, tackling Tri-State University and NCAA champions Notre Dame at Angola, Indiana.

RIM SHOTS



Coach struggles with future

Can Sicko find answer?

"Is Don Sicko the best person for the University of Detroit program today? That's the question I am asking myself." —Don Sicko, U-D Head Basketball Coach

That's not the kind of question you like to hear from your head basketball coach, especially during the middle of a season. But Sicko is in a state of doubt as to whether he should return as coach of the Titans, and right now the answer is eluding him.

Detroit News reporter Corky Meinecke came to see Sicko about two weeks back asking how frustrating it is to be struggling through a losing season. Sicko told him and in the process departed into the exciting world of speculation.

Don Sicko is my friend, and when I talked with him Friday, two days after Meinecke's article appeared, he was smiling. It is good to see him smile amid all the rumors that surround him now. It must be a very hard thing to do with his team floundering as it is.

When I met Sicko in the summer of 1985, things were looking up for the program — the Titans were coming off a 16-12 season and had high hopes for the upcoming campaign. Sicko smiled a lot that summer, but things did not quite work out for last year's squad, and a blank stare became more apparent on his face as this year's young team began to struggle. Being around him, you can't help but notice that the losing is tearing Sicko up inside. Like I said, he doesn't smile so much anymore.

"U-D is going to reach that apex (of 1985) again," Sicko says, "Am I ready to spend X number of days to get to that point again? Right now, I am in doubt as to the answer."

What will it take to eradicate the doubt? Sicko says he doesn't know, and that is the thing that scares him the most.

"We played well last night (in a 74-69 loss to Dayton), but it means more to the players — they're younger, more resilient. They haven't been here every moment of the past five years, the moments, the thoughts, the tastes, the sounds. I've always said basketball takes a lot of hard work, good talent, and some luck. I think we missed out on some of the luck, because we sure have worked hard."

Anybody who has ever talked with Sicko knows he is an incredibly intelligent man, and that though a losing streak may intensify his frustration, it singularly would not be cause for him to question his position as coach and representative of the U-D program. The cause for doubt in Sicko's mind arises from all those moments, thoughts, words, and sounds of the past five years. The bottom line is that five years of hard work and dedication have produced some fine moments, but not the steady rise Sicko desired. It has been hard on Sicko the coach, and Sicko the man.

"After the Butler game is when I really started to notice," he says. "Some of the things I was saying to the players were very underserved. They need to be treated harshly when they aren't competing at 100%, but I was punishing them more than they deserved."

As hard as it is to remember, a won-loss record is not the sole representation of the success or failure of a program. There are things like integrity, and academics, and the kind of person that the program turns out after four years that should count as well. Unfortunately W's and L's are the most visible criteria for success, and Sicko has acknowledged that they are the easiest way to judge a coach.

It doesn't appear, to their credit, that Athletic Director Brad Kinsman or the U-D administration will succumb to the temptation to judge the program solely on the virtue of its winning percentage. However, in a city that knows very little about basketball, and demonstrates that at every game it attends, there will always be those who will judge the U-D basketball program on court performance alone.

I cannot say that I agree, or even like, the style of basketball that Sicko chooses to play, because I don't; but I can say that overall, the program is in very good hands. Sicko will resolve his doubt, choosing to rid himself of the frustration one way or another.

For the time being, the U-D Titans need to regain some of the confidence they have allowed to escape them these past few weeks, because whether Sicko is at the helm or not, the success of future teams depends on the Billy Woods and the Paul Williams that are struggling through this ordeal.

Is Don Sicko the best man for the U-D basketball program? Perhaps only he knows.

By Chris Czarnik

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Robert L. Nugent

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