Bansal, Kessler Elected UAP/VP in Close Vote

By Reuven M. Lerner
ASSOCIATE ADVISER

Shalby Bansal '93 and David J. Kessler '94 narrowly beat three opposing teams to win this year's Undergraduate Association elections, according to unofficial results released last night by the UA election commission.

The results will be formally recognized at Wednesday night's UA Council meeting.

The Bansal-Kessler team captured just over 26 percent of the 1213 first-place votes, only 10 more than the second-place team of Kari-Teoh Hammer '95 and P.J. Vorvopoulos '94, who received 258 votes.

Stephen A. Rinehart '93 and Jeremy H. Brown '94, who campaigned on platforms of apathy, came in a close third with 304 first-place votes, or 25 percent. The fourth-place team of Emily R. Preuner '93 and Anne S. Tao '94 received 233 first-place votes, about 23 percent.

Only 50 percent of students eligible to vote did so, according to Rajashik A. Chaitley '91, UA election commissioner.

This year's election was one of the longest and most complicated in many years, in part due to the March 11 theft of a ballot box from Lobby 7. A group calling itself the "Student's Revolutionary Government" said the theft was only the beginning of a popular campaign to disrupt student life. "Students who had voted in Lobby 7 on March 11 were allowed to cast their ballots again two days later."

About 500 of the nearly 700 students who voted in the original election cast their ballots a second time on Friday.

Excited about possibilities

Bansal, interviewed in the UA president's office, said he is "very excited" about the upcoming year, but was not sure what she will do first when she becomes UAP in May.

Kessler, who was "absolutely shocked" when he first heard the election results, said there were a number of issues that he wanted to act on immediately, including the possibility of turning the Burton-Conner House dining room into a "language lab for people on campus."

"It was a really good race — in general, not a bittter race at all," Kessler said, adding that "I'm very impressed with the turnout — the race was won."

While Bansal would not speculate on why she won the election, Kessler attributed his win to the fact that they spent time with students, asking for ways in which the UA could improve their lives.

One of the most important issues among independent living group members, Kessler said, was the fact that sidewalks on the Harvard Bridge are rarely plowed when it snows.

Kessler also mentioned the possibility of unlocking women's bathrooms first on nights like Monday, when the UA President Susan K. Scroggs '93 said Sargent slop in her room. She said someone's sister became suspicious of Sargent when

Robbery, Page II

Impostor Robbed Aphi; Arrested Later at URI

By By Brian Rosenberg
COURIER EDITOR

A woman posing as an Alpha Phi alumna forged a check and used the credit cards of several members of MIT's Alpha Phi chapter.

The crimes took place before spring break, when the woman, using the name Tracy Lynn Ryder, stayed six nights at the Alpha Phi house in Kenmore Square.

Lisa Sargent, a Canadian woman, was arrested and charged with larceny last week by University of Rhode Island police, also after a similar activity there. Ann P. Glavin, chair of MIT Campus Police, said all the evidence available indicates that Sargent posed as Ryder at URI.

Campus Police received three complaints about Sargent from Alpha Phi members, the first on March 17. Sargent also spent a few nights at Phi Beta Epsilon, but Campus Police have received no reports of any thefts there, Glavin said.

Sargent obtained lodging in the houses by presenting a variety of stories describing her background and a recent misfortune. A bulletin released by Campus Police on March 20 says she has represented herself as a student at the University of Southern California and at

McGill University in Canada. She has also said her father is the U.S. Ambassador to Japan. At different times, she said she had just had her purse stolen and had no money or identification, or that she had been abused by her boyfriend.

Alpha Phi President Susan K. Scroggs '93 said Sargent slept in her room. She said one of her sisters became suspicious of Sargent when

Robbery, Page II

2090 Admitted to Class of 1996

By Eve May
ASSOCIATE ADVISER

The statistical profile of the newly admitted class of 1996 is similar to that of previous years, with academic scores and racial and gender distributions falling within normal fluctuations, according to Associate Director of Admissions Elizabeth S. Johnson.

More students were admitted this year — 2090 of 6671 applicants, compared to 2069 last year. This larger admitted class was made possible because of an apparent rise in housing vacancies, which leaves more room for freshmen. Another 579 applicants are on the wait list.

Between one and 130 students have been admitted from the wait list in the past five years.

Forty percent of the admitted students with high school class rankings are first in their class. Nearly 70 percent are ranked within the top five percent nationally, and 97 percent are within the top 10 percent. Seventy-seven percent of the applicant pool had class rankings.

The average Scholastic Aptitude Test math score of admitted students is 742 out of 800, and 54 percent scored above 750. The average SAT verbal score is 641 out of 800, and 54 percent scored above 750. These averages are based on 2050 admitted students. Scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) are not included, although they are considered in the admissions process.

For admissions who took the American College Test, the average for the math components is 33 out of 36; the average for the verbal components is 30 out of 36.

The average scores for the Math Level I and Math Level II Achievement tests are 730 out of 800. The average score for the science Achievement tests, including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, is 66. The average score for humanities Achievement tests, including English, American History, and European History, is 64.7.

Johnson said there are "minor fluctuations" from recent years' test averages. "They don't change enough for us to worry about them," she added.

Admissions, Page II

ASOSCAR GORITY OS GOES TO SILENCE OF THE LAMBS, PAGE 3

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

Page 4

Volume 112, Number 16
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, March 31, 1992

The Weather

Today: Sunny, 57°F (13°C)
Tomorow: Party cloudy, 49°F (9°C)
Details, Page 2

INSIDE

- MIT alumnus reaches the stars on Atlantis.
- Class Council election results.
- MIT Baseball returns from spring break at 500.

Oscar Glory Goes to Silence of the Lambs, Page 3
**WEATHER**

**A Brief Spell of Rain**

By Teh-Kai Tung

A small storm system will pass through Tuesday, bringing rain. The rain will end Tuesday night, but skies will remain partly cloudy and cool through the week. Temperatures will be slightly below normal.

Tuesday, Rain with a small chance of scattered precipitation in the afternoon.

Wednesday, Partly cloudy.

Thursday, Slightly cooler.

---

**Clintons Criticizes the News Media, Requests Further Debate with Brown**

By Thomas B. Edsall

Facing mounting criticism that questions about his character put him in danger in last Tuesday's crucial New York presidential primary, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton announced an internal critique of the news media for the way they have covered his campaign and said he would take his case directly to the people.

In an unusual step for a front-runner, Clinton called for a sharp increase in the number of debates with his remaining opponent for the Democratic nomination, Sen. Edward G. "-jerry" Brown Jr., because "all those voters have been had stuff dumped on them by the media." He charged that the media do not accurately report events, and that "at least the people who watch the debate will hear them."

Clinton's advisers are also considering buying a half-hour of television time every day to the candidate answers questions from voters, a tactic he used successfully during the recent New Hampshire primary campaign.

"There is a limit to how much time I have," Clinton said at his campaign headquarters in New York. "I have to campaign here before flying to New York. Scouring uncharted territories." He also sought to deflect media criticism by calling it a "new approach." Clinton has enough honesty and integrity, he said.

In a series of developments in a move to clear up questions about Clinton's marriage and claims that he tried to cover up a personal indiscretion, some newspapers have presented aspects of Clinton's private life that were not in the news media.

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In a series of developments in a move to clear up questions about Clinton's marriage and claims that he tried to cover up a personal indiscretion, some newspapers have presented aspects of Clinton's private life that were not in the news media.
By Terry Prittie

The Silence of the Lambs, the successful psychological thriller centering on an FBI trainee's battle of wits with a diabolical psychiatrist-turned-cannibal, swept the Oscars Monday night, winning the best picture for the biopic about the assassination of President Kennedy. "The Silence of the Lambs" was nominated twice before as best actor, and twice before as best supporting actor, in 1991 for "Sudden Fear" and the following year for "Shade.

In mocking reference to the way older actors have to prove themselves to directors, Palance, 72, surprised the audience by stepping away from the podium and performing a series of pushups on the stage.

"Baggy," a comedy about a diabetic who nurtures a burned-out radio talk show host, proved the character embodied anti-homosexual stereotypes. In accepting her award, Foster said, "I'd like to dedicate this to all the women who came before me who never had the chances I've had.

"JFK" was honored in the category of best picture. "JFK" was a first Oscar for Palance, who nominated twice before as best actor, but won an Oscar in 1988 for his role as a rape victim in "The Accused.

Anthony Hopkins became the third British actor in a row to win an Oscar for best performer as he portrayed the character of the controversial film about two women who take off on a weekend trip and wind running from the law. "For everybody who wanted to see a happy ending for "Thelma and Louise," to me this is it," said Hopkins.

The award for best screenplay went to Callie Khouri for "Thelma and Louise," another controversial film about two women who take off on a weekend trip and wind running from the law. For every body who wanted to see a happy ending for "Thelma and Louise," to me this is it," said Hopkins.

And the winners are . . .

Best Picture  
"The Silence of the Lambs"

Best Actor  
Anthony Hopkins — "The Silence of the Lambs"

Best Actress  
Jodie Foster — "The Silence of the Lambs"

Best Supporting Actor  
Jack Palance — "City Slickers"

Best Supporting Actress  
Mercedes Ruehl — "Thelma and Louise"

Best Director  
Jonathan Demme — "The Silence of the Lambs"

Best Original Screenplay  
Callie Khouri — "Thelma and Louise"

Best Adapted Screenplay  
Ted Tally — "The Silence of the Lambs"

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Los Angeles – Not Really That Angelic

Column by Jonathan Richmond

The cab driver grinned as he handed me the morning Herald with the crashed jet sprouted across the front page. Two minutes later we were at LAX.

Up all night, working like the graduate student I thought I no longer was. I'd missed my flight and was now en route to American Airlines for their 9 a.m. departure to Los Angeles.

You can generally go to the gate and hand the agent a ticket from any other airline, even possibly a piece of paper with a smirky face on it, and be allowed to fly, but I had a bag to check, so a trip to the front counter was in order. I got there at 8:30 to find a fifteen minute wait, a surly and misinformed employee, and ten minutes of bureaucratic delay.

Despite the airline's efforts, I got on the flight, which was promptly delayed for forty-five minutes. The passengers listened with stretched teeth to an entertaining description of the procedures for ensuring the wings were de-iced. My bag, left behind in Boston, was delayed longer.

Warily, I gazed at the buff envelope handed me upon arrival at the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration, where I stood ready to face the consequences of the article headlined "Sex and the Single Subway" the Los Angeles Times had written about me two days previously. "Execution of Richmond agreement," the envelope said. "Agreement for execution on Monday in your office."

I realized I needed to get new contract notarized...

And so to Interstate 5, a traffic-frozen freeway of late-afternoon misery.

I wonder whether getting locked out of the City of Commerce Travelodge Suites Motel deserves a place on my resume. The manager of this facility, whose matchbox rooms look way of late-aftemoon misery.

"A Pet Bakery and Boutique." I glanced at the Caviarteria — eschewing their pooch is admitted to the Wilshire with $25. Conscientious owners can ensure that theirFresno I-5 on one side and the almost equally noisy Slauson Avenue on the other, had argued over accepting a discount voucher his reservations staff had told me I could use, and suggested I check out.

Looking into dinner possibilities in Beverly Hills the following night, I ventured into the Wilshire hotel. The silent alarms went off as I walked into what I'd detected the presence of a grubby, unseemly, and thoroughly dressed Englishness. Not one in one room so much as batted an eyelash, the maine'd beckoned me toward the exit, and I complied.

Passed on the opportunity to dine on "Scarborough Tofu" or "Vegan Carottes " at the Veggie Gourmet, and hesitated only briefly at the Caviarteria — eschewing the chance to buy a kilo of the stuff for a mere $2.459 — before arriving at Cavitetta.

"A Pet Bakery and Boutique." Critter caters for the gourmet canine take-out market, supplying dog biscuits intricately crafted in the shapes of bagels and croissants and, for the social crowd, "party platters" for $25. Conscious owners can ensure that their pooch is admitted to the Wilshire with the purchase of a dog toasted for $45 or a Chanel collar and leash set for $102.

I considered dining at Critter Caters, but the prices were too high for human consumption. It's a dog's life.

My return trip began innocuously. The traffic was backed up on I-10, and I missed my flight back to Boston. I stood by for a last one. I was assigned seat 1F and was happy because it was in front first class, courtesy of a free upgrade Continental stuck out periodically to those masochistic enough to fly with them on a regular basis.

But I turned out to be the third person to have come to claim the seat, and the first arrival had firmly cemented himself in place to minimize the risk of displacement. The gate agent came to attend to the confusion, and I was reassigned to 20B — in coach. There were only two people who had been assigned this seat, but since even Continental won't strap two people in one seat, I was re-directed to the empty aisle seat in the last row, Continental's prison cell.

None of the seats in the back row would recline, but the ones in front certainly did, wedging into the cheeks of the hapless victims in the back. Across the aisle were two security agents with a prisoner placed between them, handcuffed some of the time. One of the guards got up at one point and was overheard discussing the merits of mask and handcuffs with one of the cabin crew.

Was the Continental ambience intended to make the prisoner ride "at home"? The indelible dinner appeared to be made of reconstituted plastic doggy doo, and would have triggered a riot in any self-respecting jail. And while ordinary fare-paying passengers have no chance to complain, shouldn't I Alan Dershowitz being argue that this is cruel and unusual punishment for prisoners?"
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April 3-5, 1992

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10-250

The JAZZ Singer

Al Jolson

Friday
7 & 10 in 26-100

MOBSTERS

Christian Slater

Saturday
3, 7 & 10 in 26-100

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Due to circumstances
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Sunday
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Sponsored by: Center for Coordination Science and Center for Educational Computing Initiatives
March 31, 1992

**38% of New Admits Are Female**

Admissions, from Page 1

Fewer minorities admitted

The percentage of underrepresented minorities in the admitted class fell to 13 percent, down from 15 percent last year. The Institute admitted 125 African Americans (6 percent), 86 Mexican Americans (4 percent), and 35 Puerto Ricans (2 percent).

In addition, 556 Asian Americans (27 percent) and 37 students of Hispanic origin (2 percent) were admitted.

Also among the admits are 128 international students. "We've always tried to admit as many underrepresented minorities as we can," Johnson said. She added that the number "varies somewhat from the applicant pool."

If an underrepresented minority is initially rejected, other members of the admissions staff review the application to make sure that these people "won't fall through the cracks," Johnson said. It is a "much more considerate process," she added.

"Minority numbers are slightly lower," said Joanne L. Cummings, an associate director of admissions.

"The minority pool was not as strong this year."

More women in class

The newly admitted class includes 789 females (38 percent), which is the highest percentage within the past five years. The percentage has fluctuated between 35 and 38 percent in recent years.

There is no affirmative action program for women, but MIT encourages admitted women to attend MIT by holding events like the Campus Preview weekend for women and minorities and a special telethon. Although a smaller proportion of admitted women than men choose to attend, data show that women do as well at MIT as men, Johnson said.

The admissions process

Applications for freshman admission are read by the professional admissions staff and by outside readers such as faculty members and administrators.

All applicants are assigned both a numerical and a non-numerical index. These range from one to five, with five being the highest rating.

The numerical index is a computer-generated academic rating, a weighted average of applicants' academic records as compared to applicants from the three previous years.

The non-numerical index is a combination of the applicant's academic style, personal style, and personal accomplishments, as compared to other students in the current applicant pool.

This year we have a "variability in reader ratings," Johnson said.

Applicants with a 5-5 index are usually admitted, and applicants with a 1-1 index usually are not. For the middle-range scores, applicants are compared against others with the same scores; there is a target percentage of acceptances from each index pair.

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2:00 PM
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Building 10, Room 250

Also visited PBE

Before she went to Alpha Phi, Sargent stayed at PBE for the first time. "She called at 3:30 a.m. and said she was stranded in Boston on her way to Jamaica," said Michael T. Tez '92, president of PBE. "A couple freshmen invited her to stay."

She too said it took two nights to "find any inconsistencies" in Sargent's story. "She said her mother was having a liver transplant and that she called because a friend of hers had a boyfriend who knew someone at the house."

"Later she said she was going to visit her little sister at Alpha Phi, then leave. She called to make airline reservations, but I called several airlines and none of them had reservations for her," he said.

"She had her birth certificate with her," Tez said. "The name (on the certificate) was Lisa Georgia Ryder. It was Canadian," he added. "She was a good liar — very intelligent and quick on her feet," he said.

Prosecution possible

Scruggs said Sargent is being brought to court for her URI charges on April 8. "If she shows up, she'll be arrested and prosecuted in Boston," she said.

Scruggs said the Boston police told her Sargent has a history of similar behavior. "She's 29 and has been doing this for 10 years. She spent a year and a half in jail in Canada for larceny. She's showed up at several schools — she even showed up at my house," she said.

"We're just really tired of talking about it. We've basically turned it over to the police and are letting them do the work," she added.
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**ACROSS**

1. Disagree with, in law
2. Baseball Hall-of-Famer, Baker
3. Reduce in rank
4. Stereobacter
5. Neighbor of Turkey
6. Wallach and Whitney
7. Lucifer
8. Allot
9. Baseball Hall-of-Famer

**DOWN**

1. Constructed with standardized units
2. To equal or surpass
3. Issue a new lease
4. Retirement account
5. Famous king
6. Forward
7. Flightless bird
8. Statistical measures
9. Put into service
10. Puts in a new floor
11. Stern
12. Nutty
13. Rascal
14. Musical group
15. Miss Williams
16. Former world leader, Purchase
17. Las Vegas hotel
18. Novelist Fran
19. Knocked down by punching
20. Abbreviation before a date
21. Delores Del...
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Election Turnout at Three-Year Low
Despite Large Number of Candidates

The Grants Program of the Council for the Arts at MIT announces its final deadline for the 1991-92 year for arts project funding: April 8, 1992

The Tech News Hotline
253-1541

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ARTS FUNDING

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MIT Alumnus Flies on Shuttle

By John Tycko

The space shuttle Atlantis launched into orbit last week with an MIT alumnus among its crew. Byron L. Lichtenberg ScD '79, the crew's payload specialist, will study the sun and the Earth's atmosphere from space.

The eight-day mission, which began last Tuesday, carries the Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Science, which contains 12 instruments that will study solar radiation, the chemistry of the atmosphere, space plasma physics, and ultraviolet astronomy.

Lichtenberg received his ScD in mechanical engineering in 1979 and an ScD in biomedical engineering in 1976. He first flew to space as a payload specialist aboard Space Shuttle in November 1983, logging 10 days of spaceflight.

Lichtenberg carried two items from the Institute aboard Atlantis — a small piece of the steps of Lobby 7 and a 10-foot long banner signed by faculty, students, and staff members.

THE DIET & HEALTH LECTURES

T. Colin Campbell

professor of nutritional biochemistry
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4 pm
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sponsored by MIT SETA, with co-sponsorship from the Harvard School of Public Health Nutrition Dept., the Central Mass. Dietetic Assoc., the Mass. Dietetic Assoc., NEAVS, BVS, Clark Univ., VARC, & the Boston Food Co-op

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Design a poster for Virgin Atlantic Airways and put your name here (no kits please!). Sorry, Class hooked to London Tickets are good for one year. Mail your poster submission to Kenney Key & Partners, 1107 Fifth Avenue, 8th floor, New York, NY 10019. Attn: Poster Contest. Be sure to include your name, your school and year address. Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 1992. Winners will be notified by mail on May 15, 1992. Please include a business card address if you wish address should be sent on a separate entry. Poster will be judged by a creative panel of Kenney Key & Partners and Virgin Atlantic Airways representatives on creativity and originality. One entry per person. Winner can win 1st place $100; 2nd place $50; 3rd place $25 in one year or 3rd place $250. Contest open to students only. Employees and immediate family members of Kenney Key and Virgin Atlantic Airways are ineligible. Other restrictions may apply.

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SPORTS

Baseball Team Emerges 2–2 from Spring Break Games

By Danny Su

The baseball team is 2-2 after
playing its first four games in
Florida during spring break. Pitcher
Peter Hinteregger ’93 earned both
victories. He gave up only one run
in nine and a third innings while
striking out ten. The offensive
attack was led by Mike Purucker
’92, Dan Sabanosh ’94, Ian
Somerville ’93, and Joe Gass ’94.

Miami, Fla., was all-pitching. MIT:
Dade Community College of
errors, and the pitching staff walked
times, and batted .2~2. However,

The team steals 10 bases, walked 19

Sabanosh had six hits; Somerville
’92, Dan Sabanosh ’94, Ian
Purucker had an on-base percentage

the first game, against Miami
Dade Community College of
Florida, was all-pitching. MIT
managed only three hits, while the
trio of Eric Hopkins ’92, Matt
Farrar ’93, and Jon Gass ’94
limited Miami Dade to only four
hits.

Giname suffered the loss when
Miami Dade scored the only run of
the game in the bottom of the sixth
inning. After a leadoff double, Miami
Dade moved the runner to third on a fly ball to right field. The runner then scored on a sacrifice fly
to right field.

Jeff Olsen ’94 had two hits for
MIT. He singled with two outs in
the seventh inning, then stole second base. MIT loaded the bases on the pitcher’s issued a walk to
Hinteregger and his pinch-hitter. But
the scoring threat ended when the
next batter struck out.

MIT came back strong the next
day, beating Upsala University in
Boca Raton, Fla. by a decisive 8-3.

hinteregger pitched six innings to
earn the victory. MIT managed a 3-3
hit attack against Upsala, with
Sabanosh collecting four and Gass
collecting three. Olsen also stole
three bases. Purucker received four
walks, stole two bases, and scored
three runs. MIT jumped to an early
four-run lead in the first inning.
After Purucker received a leadoff
walk, Brian Christensen ’94, Sabanosh, and Somerville all fol-
lowed with singles for a 2-0 lead.

With one out, Gass had an RBI sin-
gle, and Nate Ritter ’90 added a sac-
ifice fly. The lead was extended to
6-0 in the fifth inning when John
Mueller ’94 squeezed home Sabanosh, and Ritter drove in Gass
with a triple.

Against Wesleyan University of
New Jersey, MIT was outslugged
10-4. Wesleyan pounded out 11 hits
against Hopkins and Rob Lepard
’95. MIT also committed three
errors, which led to three unearned
runs. With the score tied at 3-3 in
the sixth inning, Wesleyan broke the
game wide open when they batted
around. They scored five runs on
four hits, a walk, two stolen bases,
and an error. MIT then closed the
gap to 8-6. But Hinteregger put the
game away with two more runs in
the seventh inning, then stole second base, a triple, and a wild pitch. The
Beavers’ offensive attack was led by
Sabanosh, who had two hits, and
Gass, who drove in two runs.

MIT scored its record with an 8-5
victory over Northwood Institute
in the eighth inning. Sabanosh led
off with a double, a triple, and a wild pitch. The
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Reds Will Capture NL West; Mets to Rise in East

By Danny Su

The western division winners have beaten the eastern division champions for the past four years. That's not going to change this year.

The western division has far superior pitching — the key in the National League. Despite my bias toward the Dodgers, I think the Reds will win the National League this year.

National League West

1. Cincinnati Reds

With off-season acquisitions of Tim Belcher and Greg Swindell, together with established starters Jose Rijo and Tom Browning, the Reds have one of the best starting rotations in the league. The bullpen is anchored by Bob Dibble, the most reliable reliever in baseball. Now that Randy Myers is gone, the bullpen is shaky for the Dodgers. Last year, this bullpen blew 17 saves. When the Dodgers traded for Eric Davis and Darnell Strawberry, the Braves moved it within one run of winning the World Series. But they lost in four games.

2. Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers traded for Eric Davis; they created the impossible, the dream outfield of Davis and Darnell Strawberry. Strawberry, whom the Dodgers traded for Eric Davis, was ready to win a batting title. The Reds were second in team bunting last year, and they can only improve. Furthermore, they have depth on their bench. With veterans like Delisio, Hunter, and Scioscia, the Dodgers will have plenty of pinch hitting power late in the game and in extra innings.

3. Atlanta Braves

With plenty of help from the Reds, Astros, Giants, and the perennial post-season storings Pirates, the Braves made it within one run of winning the World Series. The Braves have one pitcher in the West who will be greater than last year's rotation. The Braves will be good again.

4. San Diego Padres

Last year, this bullpen blew 17 saves. With the off-season acquisition of Randy Myers, the Padres now have a dominant closer. This should be the year that starter Andy Benes will blossom into a star, and Hunt will post his usual 15 to 20 victories. Unfortunately, there is no supporting cast for the team's superior pitching.

5. San Francisco Giants

The only bright spot for the Giants are the hitting tandem of Will Clark and Matt Williams. They combine for two Gold Gloves, 63 home runs, and 214 RBIs last year. Otherwise, forget it. Last year's team ERA of 4.01 was the worst in the league. Despite winning several tight games, they still lost many games. Like the Dodgers, they have plenty of pinch hitting power late in the game and in extra innings.

6. Houston Astros

The batting order is strong and improving. No one on the team is over 30. They led the majors in runs scored last year. They are next to last in ERA. They can only improve, but not this year.

National League East

The Mets made all the noises during the winter, but the Pirates will steal the headlines with their blockbuster trades once the season gets underway. This division is pathetic: any team from the West, with the exception of the Astros, could easily finish first here.

1. New York Mets

This year, the Mets are the one-eyed men in a kingdom of blind men. The outfield trio of Bobby Bonilla, Vince Coleman, and Howard Johnson will provide plenty of run production, but any fly ball to the outfield will become an adventure. Besides spending megabucks on Bonilla, the Mets also signed Eddie Murray and Willie Randolph to fat contracts. They also obtained Bret Saberhagen and Bill Pecota in a trade with the Royals. The starting rotation of Dwight Gooden, Sid Fernandez, and Doc Gooden is one of the best in baseball. Gooden is trying to recover from surgery, Fernandez is still recovering from surgery, and Gooden is an even year — bad news for Saberhagen, who always pitches better in odd years.

2. Pittsburgh Pirates

When the Pirates traded away Will Clark and Matt Williams, they were expecting good on paper. Gooden is trying to recover from surgery, Fernandez is still recovering from surgery, and Doc Gooden is an even year — bad news for Saberhagen, who always pitches better in odd years.

3. Chicago Cubs

Andre Dawson, Greg Bell, and Ron& homosexual. The Pirates were one of the best fielding teams last year with a fielding percentage of 98.5, and they were second in turning double plays. With Steve Buechele playing a full season as third base, the infield can only get better.

4. Montreal Expos

This is a young and talented team. The only regular over 30 is

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