

Voice of the Student Body

OBSERVATION POST

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232

UNDERGRADUATE NEWSPAPER OF CITY COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1953.

Open Letter

The following statement was submitted to us as a Letter to the Editor by the suspended Editorial Board of this newspaper. We are printing this statement in the form of an Open Letter to the students of the College because we feel that the members of the suspended Board have the right and the obligation to present their side of the story.

To the Student Body:

This letter is to call to your attention the facts concerning the suspension of the Observation Post's Editorial Board by the Student Faculty Committee on Student Affairs. We feel a gross injustice has been committed.

When the editorial of December 10th was written, the statements made represented our feelings. Perhaps the name-calling was unnecessary, but we had just learned that the existence of OP had been challenged for the sixth time in our six years of being. The referendum which posed this challenge was, we felt, impossibly padded against us and our proposals to add an alternative and to modify the motion had both been voted down. For some reason the normal procedure for adopting referenda which requires an absolute majority was circumvented in this case. We felt that our backs were to the wall and it was in this frame of mind that the disputed editorial was written.

That the referendum was not fairly worded is generally conceded. It was altered soon after by the SFCSA into the form which appeared on last Friday's ballot and subsequently was defeated.

Nevertheless that was the situation when we went to press with the editorial attacking some of the advocates of the first proposal. OP felt that these people did not truly represent the feelings of the students, a contention which was proven by the substantial majority in the elections last Friday calling for the continuance of two papers.

Two representatives of OP's Editorial Board were called before SFCSA on Monday, December 14th. At this meeting it was suggested that although no question of libel was involved, in the minds of a majority of the committee, the editorial was in "poor taste" and a modification of OP's stand would be in order. It was made clear at the time that this was a suggestion and not a demand. Nevertheless, OP went out of its way to comply, and in an editorial dated December 16th, stated that "we did not intend any suggestion at those SC members who voted for the referendum were not acting in good faith, or that they were on Council illegally. We merely maintained, and we still do, that they did not represent the feelings of the students who had elected them."

On Friday, December 18th, Andrew Meisels, Editor-in-Chief, was called before another meeting of SFCSA. OP was then informed that it had violated a suggestion to print a complete retraction of the objectionable wording in the December 10th editorial. While denying this assertion, Mr. Meisels stated that he felt further publicity on the matter would only be detrimental to the injured parties, but if the committee did demand a retraction he would be personally willing to print one, but under protest for the aforementioned reason. However, the Editorial Board, a quorum of which was assembled outside the meeting room, would first have to be consulted. Mr. Meisels was granted permission to speak to the Editorial Board and then report back to the committee.

When he returned to the meeting to notify the committee that the Board would be willing to comply, he was told that a decision to suspend the nine members of the Editorial Board had already been reached.

In fact, the resolution had been adopted on Wednesday, December 16th, with the stipulation that "it is not to be released for publication before 5 P.M., Friday, December 18th, in order not to influence the student election in any way."

In essence we have been suspended for allegedly failing to carry out a supposed suggestion concerning an editorial which was considered by some to be in "poor taste." This is an absurdly nebulous charge—in fact, it is no charge at all.

Of the editorial itself we feel no more need be said, except that every editorial is by definition an opinionated article and the charge of "poor taste" could always be leveled by those who disagree. On these grounds a newspaper could be suspended at any time.

While the committee may have wished to censure our editorial the result has rather been in the nature of censorship. We feel that our immediate reinstatement is necessary if the right of free opinion is to be preserved at City College.

It is on this basis that we intend to appeal to the General Faculty Committee on Student Affairs, before whom we would like to appear as soon as possible.

We hope to be able to serve you again very soon.

The Suspended Editorial Board Observation Post.

SFCSA Won't Reconsider Ouster of Editorial Board

The Student Faculty Committee on Student Affairs voted yesterday afternoon to reject the request of the Editorial Board of the Observation Post for reconsideration of their case.



Prof. Kenneth Clark SFCSA Chairman

Professor Kenneth Clark (Psychology), expressing the views of the committee, said: "No substantial new evidence has been presented to warrant a reconsideration."

Andrew Meisels, suspended Editor-in-Chief of OP, had brought up as grounds for reconsideration the fact that the Editorial Board had heard no formal charges, such as libel, placed against it.

The suspension, which took effect last Friday afternoon, was in

connection with Observation Post's refusal to retract part of an editorial which appeared on December 10 and which was deemed "objectionable" and in "poor taste" by SFCSA.

SFCSA member, Gerry Smetana, outgoing SC president, stated: "It seems to me a decision of this sort was one by which SFCSA tried to show its power. Their original intention was to rectify a wrong, OP willing. SFCSA 'suggestion' was no cause for suspension."

This is how it is...

OBSERVATION POST

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STEVE MARBURG Managing Editor

JERRY ROSEN Advisory Editor

JOAN SNYDER News Editor

BRUNO WASSERTHEIL Features Editor

PAUL BAERGER Business Manager

BERND LORGE Sports Editor

ASSOCIATE BOARD

JACK LEVINE Copy Editor

MELINDA FARBER Copy Editor

LEON LEVINE Circulation Manager

TED JONES Copy Editor

Editorial policy is determined by majority vote of the Managing and Editorial Boards

It should be...

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JEROME LUDWIG Managing Editor

IRVING COHEN Associate Editor

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STANLEY WECKER Business Manager

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JERRY STREAR Copy Editor

HANK STERN Copy Editor

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But the Show Goes On...



Opinion

Question: (Asked in Knittle Lounge and the Lunch Room) Do you belong to any extra curricular organizations? Why? Or Why not?

Albert Abrams, U.Jr. 5

Yes, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. It brings me into contact with what's going on in the field of Chem. Engineering I used to belong to outside organizations, but because of a heavy school program I had to leave them.

Paul Stein, U.Jr. 5

I am no Boy Scout, but the Pidookies will rise again!

Jack Tillem, L.Sr. 1

No, for I do not see what functions they may serve. I am here for an education, and that is what I intend to get. I may however join the Pidookies. I like their philosophy of life.

Arnold Zebron, L.Jr. 3

The only organizations I belong to are House Plan and their Freshman Advisory Committee. I have no time for any others, I work for a living.

Irwin Unger, L.Jr. 3

Only HP, I lack the time for any others. By the way what happened to the Stamp Club?

Nicholas Vertullo, L.Sr. 1

None, but I will join the Newman Club because it will provide for my social and intellectual activities, outside of the direct scope of the curriculum.

Candy...

Sis Briggs '57 sponsored a candy sale in Lincoln Corridor and in Knittle Lounge, on Thursday, Dec. 17.

The proceeds of this fund raising drive will go to the National Infantile Paralysis Fund.

Nichol's Book, 'Impact' Ready By February

You are there.

At a signal from the lead tank, a mass of metal monsters rumbled forward, and this rumbling is heard around the world.

Tanks go up in flame, and men die, but you cannot forget the heroism of these men. You travel through five countries of Europe to see the fall of the two thousand year old fortress at Metz; the capture of Trier, the epic Bastogne defense and many history-making battles.

The men responsible for these events are the members of the Tank Armored "Tiger" Division, and the man responsible for the book, "Impact," which takes you on this memorable trip is Lester M. Nichols, formerly press officer for the Tenth Armored Division, and now assistant to the President at the College.

After Major Nichols got out of the Army in 1946, he received a phone call from Lieutenant General William H. Morris, Jr., Wartime Commander of the Division, who asked him if he would be willing to write an account of the exploits of the "Tiger" Division. This call started Mr. Nichols on a seven-year search through his memory and numerous libraries. During the twenty-three hundred hours spent in writing the book, (which includes thirty maps, one hundred pictures, and fifteen charts), he wrote to 1,000 of the 37,000 men from the Division in the hope of supplementing the wealth of material that was steadily accumulating.

"Impact," which will be published March 1, 1954, has been read by many high ranking military men, by H. V. Kaltenborn, commentator for NBC, and has been acclaimed as "the story of a great armored division told in a superior manner . . . that we should never forget."

I SAW SOVIET RUSSIA

Since Malenkov replaced Stalin many changes have occurred in Soviet policy. But the Russians I talked to won't admit it.

"Economic situations dictate policy, not men," said the editor of Komsomolskaya

Pravda, official youth newspaper with circulation well above the million mark. He referred to agriculture, the hottest news in his paper. The current reforms include dropping grandiose ideological projects for a more workable county agent type of system designed to get the crop out. The usual explanation is that now industrial problems are solved and they can focus on the farmer and living conditions.

We made the same editor, Dmitri Gorunov by name, explain Beria's crimes. Most people we asked could only call him a traitor. Mr. Gorunov finally said Beria still held out for single men rule instead of "collegial" government. (This is a system where a group rules rather than one man.)

In the subway, on lavish Komsomolskaya station platform, she pointed at the ceiling. "There's your Beria," she said, shutting us up after we'd talked of wall hooks with pictures recently removed. Up above us was a mosaic of the Presidium atop the Mausoleum in Red Square, reviewing a May Day parade. Beria's face hadn't been taken out yet.

Russians also denied, of course, that there has been any "peace offensive," since they're sure the USSR has always worked for peace. They objected to our talk of Russian-dominated countries. Those are free people's democracies, they asserted.

One man tried to prove the US is the cause of world unrest. The Soviet Union has outlawed war-mongering. Since the US hasn't,

Ed. Note...

This article is the second in a series relating the observations of Dan Berger, an exchange student in Soviet Russia.

On last Friday's referendum, the students at the College voted to offer financial aid to such an exchange program.

Mr. Berger told this story to Melinda Farber, a member of the Observation Post News Department.

it must encourage war-mongering. We explained the American tradition of free speech wouldn't allow any such laws. He ridiculed this. He also thought the US ought to have book censorship like the Soviets do. Otherwise, he asked, how do you keep the children from reading pornography?

The Russians seem a bit divided on their opinions of the US. The peace offensive made them change gears a bit too quickly for all to do it at once.

Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery of Russian Art no longer has rooms full of anti-American cartoons, as it once did. But half a dozen still grace the room also devoted to anti-Nazi cartoons. Most effective is the skillful drawing of a US court with a fat judge holding out his hand and asking, "What can you do to explain your case is right?"

"One thousand dollars and not a cent more," answers the sinister and greasy defendant. "Our guide didn't get the joke."

Another cartoon showed Eisenhower, fingers twisted into dollar signs, pouring water into the cup of Greece and Turkey.

A series of drawings, illustrating a favorite Soviet poet, included one of a pipe-smoking intellectual being arrested by New York flat-feet. Another showed a broken tramp against the New York skyline. Another portrayed a starving artist selling canvasses on the sidewalk.

Since last winter, hate America is off. They (the Soviet people) want peace. They bear no hate for the American people. Some sympathize for us, convinced the government oppresses us. They blame the American government, but not the American people, for aggression in the cold war. They don't like our phrase, "iron curtain."

When people I met spoke of peace and friendship, they meant it. But I think some find it hard to get last year's opinions out of their heads.

They read American books. The student and the man in the street reads novels of social significance from Mark Twain to Howard Fast. Fast is probably their favorite above all. The Tass news wire fills their papers with American conditions, often as reported by New York Daily Worker correspondents.

Some admire our skyscrapers and super highways, and envy our technical accomplishments. But others think that our workers were exploited to build them.

Paul Robeson couldn't get a visa good for the USSR. Communists get arrested. So the Russians know no Americans are free, except rich capitalists. One was more favorable, however. He said he knew the popular Progressive Party, non-Communist was making great headway. This he said, speaks well for America.

ROTC Webb Patrol Serving College In Various Capacities This Semester

By PAUL BAERGER

This semester the Webb Patrol is outdoing itself in serving City College and its student body. Thus far it has taken charge of the blood drive, provided personnel for the cerebral palsy telethon, participated in the Used Book Exchange, assisted in the ceremonies when the Helsinki Chorus visited the college and contributed much time and effort to make Parent's Day a success.

For the first time since Bloodmobiles have been visiting the college, students were placed completely in charge of the blood campaign. At Drill Hall, arrangements were handled by Webb, which sent representatives to each section in the Military Science Department to get donors to pledge. That their advertising campaign and visits were successful is attested to by the fact that in many sections containing thirty students, the entire class would sign up for the drive. This year the Corps of Cadets gave over three hundred pints, and this despite the fact that most freshman classes were composed of seventeen-year-olds, who are ineligible to give blood because of age. As a whole, the College gave over six hundred pints, somewhat below previous marks. Arion Pittakos, Commanding Officer of Webb Patrol stated that "the turnout in the Corps was more than we expected. I think that the reason for the drop in donations throughout the college can be attributed to the end of the fighting in Korea, which is only natural."



Col. Paul Hamilton
ROTC Head

No sooner had the blood drive ended when the Helsinki Chorus paid its memorable visit to the college. Assistance was needed during the ceremonies, and Webb Patrol was requested to provide the personnel. A detachment was present at the Great Hall performance, and provided able help during the presentation.

More recently, a telethon was held for the purpose of gathering funds for the fight against cerebral palsy. This time it was the television station which required assistance, and twenty-four mem-

bers of Webb Patrol were dispatched to the telethon.

Earlier in the semester, the Webb banner hung alongside of other service organizations in The Used Book Exchange, and Webb personnel were always on hand to make the UBE the success that it was. In addition, Webb staffs various departmental offices, particularly the Department of Student Life, where patrol members are regularly on duty as assistants.

This month, Parent's Day was held on Sunday, the thirteenth, and Webb Patrol again spent much time and effort on the project. It took charge of contacting student assistants who were to act as ushers and panel members during talks with the parents, helped organize the entire affair, including the assignment of ushers and other aides to their posts, and in general contributed much to make this year's Parents Day the most successful one yet held at City.

As for the future, Webb is still planning ahead as far as possible. One thing is certain: whenever there is a function at City College, Webb Patrol will assist in whatever way possible.

City Sports

By Steve Marburg

The college athlete, by popular consensus, and motion pictures is pictured as a hulking brute in a sweater and crew cut with a big varsity letter plastered on his chest. This conception is supplemented by the idea that the athlete is necessarily a semi-moron who sleeps through such classes as Basketweaving 12, Surf-boarding 6A, and Social Dancing 3.

This idea, however, cannot be extended to the City College participant in intercollegiate sports. Engineers comprise over 43% of the Beaver athletes. Some of these engineers have won national recognition. Warren Neuberger, a civil engineer was the first CCNY baseball player to be selected on the All-American diamond team. Howie Schloemer, a mechanical engineer, is the 220 and 440 yd. Free-style titleholder in both the Eastern Intercollegiate Swimming League and the Metropolitan Swimming league. Another All-American, Lucien Daouphars,

star of the soccer team is also a tech man.

The rosters of the various teams are studded with engineers, pre-medical students and science majors. The track team can boast of Dave Nurok, who is the only male to win the highest second honor this semester.

The runners also have engineer, Tom O'Brien as their captain. Techmen comprise the majority of the swimming team. Beside Schloemer, men who are equally adept with the slide rule as they are in the water are, Bob Kellogg, Mike Epstein, Tony Sousa, Jim Johnson, Arnie Farber, Ben Trasen and Lou Ruffino. The dribblers have as their representatives Ronnie Kowalski, Jack McGuire and Herb Holstrom. The soccermen in addition to Daouphars had Henry Pinczower, Madegbuna Unabagha, Ed Trunk and Bill Saites. Other athletes who are vying for an engineering degree are fencers Ancile Malden, Lenny Sugin, wrestlers Steve Kaplan, Sid Schlanger and Jim Zoubandis.

★ Editorial Page of the Observation Post ★

itor-in-Chief of OP, met with members of SFCSA. At this meeting, it was suggested by SFCSA that OP retract its editorial of December 10. Mr. Meisels agreed to discuss this suggestion with the Editorial Board, which was waiting in an outer room. The members of SFCSA gave their consent to such a discussion and Mr. Meisels went into the outer room to meet with the Board. Forty-five minutes later, he returned to inform SFCSA that the Editorial Board had decided to adopt the suggestion to retract the December 10 editorial.

SFCSA had, however, made up its collective mind and, after having agreed to allow the Editorial Board to discuss a suggestion to retract the questionable editorial, the members of SFCSA, without even waiting to hear the Board's decision, handed Mr. Meisels a notice of suspension, dated two days earlier, but withheld so as "not to influence the student elections."

This is shabby treatment at its shabbiest. We will not defend the December 10 editorial, which SFCSA has branded as "objectionable" and in "poor taste," while at the same time admitting that it certainly is not libelous. What we will defend, however, is freedom of the press and that includes freedom to make a mistake. Certainly an editorial which is "objectionable" because it shows "poor taste" does not warrant the wholesale suspension of an entire Editorial Board. "Poor taste" is a rather vague charge, and almost any editorial can be called "objectionable" if you happen to disagree with it.

But the implications of SFCSA's action go deeper. There arises a very definite question of press freedom, and the fact that a body such as SFCSA has the authority to tell the student newspapers what is and is not fit to print is, in effect, censorship. This does not mean that the Editorial Board of a newspaper has the right to irresponsibility; but irresponsibility should be checked at the source, meaning by the staff of the newspaper itself. And certainly, if a group such as SFCSA has the power to oversee the newspapers, then the members of that group should at least show some responsibility themselves. Their behavior in requesting the OP Editorial Board to discuss a suggested retraction of an editorial when they had already voted to suspend the Board is curious conduct for a group which has used the words "objectionable" and "poor taste" in so sweeping and authoritative a manner.

It is not hard to conceive of the reaction which is sure to attend this suspension. Freedom of the press has been dealt a severe blow here and this does not figure to enhance the prestige of the College. People reading the news that an entire Editorial Board has been suspended are bound to be curious as to the crime. When they learn that the crime is one of running an editorial which is "objectionable" and in "poor taste" and is deemed to be "objectionable" and in "poor taste" by a ten-man Student Faculty Committee, they are apt to speculate as to whether the crime merits the punishment and to wonder if perhaps SFCSA wasn't a bit hasty in its action.

We call for the immediate reinstatement of the nine-man Editorial Board on the grounds that these individuals have received unfair treatment at the hands of SFCSA, and that the December 10 editorial which appeared in this newspaper certainly is no cause for suspension.

At the same time, we wish to formally chastize the members of SFCSA for so "objectionable" a ruling and for the "poor taste" shown in the way that ruling was delivered.

We do not, however, recommend suspension. Merely a little introspection.

Across the Country

The College Scene

By The Associated Collegiate Press

Louisiana Decision Reversed

A. P. Tureaud, Jr.—the first Negro to gain admission to a southern "white" undergraduate school—is no longer a student at Louisiana State University.

Tureaud, the son of a New Orleans attorney, was admitted in September, 1953 after a long series of court battles, during which LSU argued that Southern University, a negro school, has equal facilities. Tureaud, who wants to study law, said the facilities are not equal.

US District Judge J. Skelly Wright upheld Tureaud's charge and issued a temporary injunction against the University's refusal to enroll him.

In November, however, the Federal Court of Appeals reversed Judge Wright on the grounds that the case should have been heard by a special three-judge county court.

Following the second ruling, LSU cancelled Tureaud's registration. After being an LSU student for less than two months, the 17-year-old Negro left campus without stopping to pick up his registration fee refund.

The University said he had not been dropped or dismissed, but that his was a simple case of registration being cancelled.

Maryland Frat House Burned

Two fraternity houses were burned to the ground last week at the University of Maryland to get "factual information on how fire spreads through a building."

Fireman from throughout the state watched as the Delta Tau Delta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon houses went up in smoke. To make the experimental blazes as realistic as possible, the houses were filled with furniture furnished by the Salvation Army.

Scientific equipment was installed to record temperatures in different rooms, and firemen tried out a new type nozzle, emitting a fine spray that would turn to steam when it reached the heat.

The experiment was called a success by the director of the University's fire extension service, which started the fires.

Michigan Booters Oust Coach

Veteran football players at Albion College (Mich.) organized a revolt recently and, with two games remaining on their schedule, forced their coach to resign.

Junior and senior members of the team threatened to quit unless Delmar Anderson was replaced as coach. Their complaints centered around length and severity of Anderson's practice sessions, and about the use of a star quarterback despite an ankle injury.

Prior to Anderson's term as coach, Albion had not won a league game in five seasons. Under Anderson the team won twenty-nine and lost nineteen. Last year it won the league championship.

Law Students Seek Reds 'Part-Time'

New York's law students have been offered a chance to do "volunteer laboratory work" by hunting Communists in the government. Forty-eight students, including three women, are now working part-time without pay in the offices of US attorneys in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

The New Yorkers are the first to participate in a plan begun by Attorney General Herbert Brownell. The scheme eventually will be extended until college students are hunting Communists part-time in each of the nation's ninety US attorneys' offices.

Brownell said the students will do "volunteer laboratory work for us and help us dig out the evidence to prosecute the subversives and criminals."

Oregon Students Answer Education

A college education is a marvelous thing. Here are some of the errors that turned up when a general information test was given at the University of Oregon:

Fjord—a Swedish automobile; Iran—Bible of the Mohammedans; Nicotine—the man who discovered cigarettes; Scotland Yard—two feet, ten inches; Combustion—when several businesses combine.

Punchy Colorado Student Loses Case

Irrked by the ringing of carillon bells, a University of Colorado student sued the board of regents for \$1000 for "mental damages."

But despite testimony of friends who said he had become "ill tempered" since the bells began to ring and a university psychologist who said "prolonged stimulation could have such effects," student Glen Groenwold lost his case before the campus moot court.

Groenwold, Business Manager of the *Colorado Daily*, charged, "The noxious bells distract me while I work, disturb my work schedule and have caused great mental and emotional damage." One day, he said, upon hearing the bells he tore up a report which had taken him several hours to compile. Perhaps his most disagreeable experience, Groenwold said, was when the bells played "Hold that Tiger."

The jury termed Groenwold an extra-sensitive individual.

SFCSA Suspends

In one fell swoop during which they dropped a little bombshell which exploded all sorts of ramifications, the five faculty members and five students comprising the Student-Faculty Committee on Student Affairs have tightened the reins on press freedom at City College; blackened the record of the College in the eyes of a great many people; cast reflections on their own competence; caused doubt concerning the desirability of their maintaining the authority they currently hold; made themselves look ludicrous in the process.

They accomplished all this simply by chasing the nine-man Editorial Board of this newspaper into forced exile until February, 1954.

But let's start at the beginning, and, curiously, this story has two beginnings. The first took place on December 10 when OP ran an editorial in which it took to task various members of Student Council. Several of these students, according to SFCSA, brought "formal charges" against this newspaper, although the nine suspended members have yet to be informed as to just what those "formal charges" are. Prof. Kenneth Clark, chairman of SFCSA, suggested that OP modify its editorial stand—which it did—and then we come to our story's second beginning.

On December 18, Andrew Meisels, Ed-

RESERVED

Hunterettes Whip Women Hoopsters

Capsule Comments



Marguerite Wulfers

By Barry Weinberg

Trailing by ten points at half time, the City College hoopstrettes pulled up to within four points of Hunter College in a hectic second half, but could not sustain their drive, and were defeated, 51-44, at Manhattanville on Monday.

In the third period, the City cagers closed the gap to 40-33, with Barbara Delte scoring five of her eleven points to lead the attack. The Lavender moved to within two baskets of the winners in the final quarter. How-

ever, at this point Hunter got the big break of the game when a CCNY field goal was nullified by foul, and opened up a six-point margin, enabling them to coast to victory.

The visitors outsize the City players, placing them on the defensive throughout most of the game. Sylvia Schneider and Lorretta Eng, in particular, performed well in this capacity. Sandy Berman scored 11 points and Judy Levin hit for 21 tallies.

Coach Wulfers, commenting on the fray, said, "This is my first

City College team to outplay Hunter. If not for the tough breaks in the last half we might have won. These breaks cost us a chance for our first win over them, but in losing the girls played guts basketball."

The lady dribblers split the week's activity by whipping LIU, 49-41, on Friday. In this tussle, the team was never headed after taking the lead in the opening moments. Judy Levin led the squad with 18 points, all of them coming in the second half.

By EDWARD LUCIA

"The main difficulty about coaching at the College is that I have to teach in one week what the other colleges take months to teach because the time for practice is limited."

"The latter half of the season will be easier. We'll still have a tough schedule, but I think we can handle it. The team always hustles and you can be sure we'll be out there to win

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