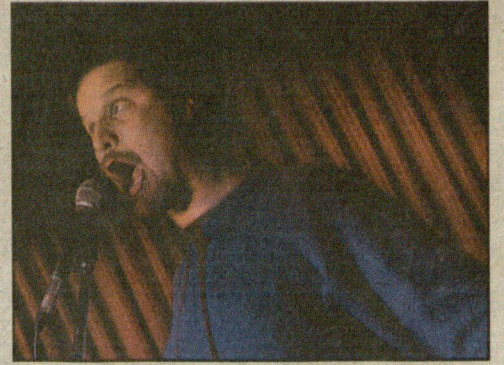


THE ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE

Stanza and deliver

Rowdy crowds, cutthroat competition and edgy performance: Poetry slams take verse to new realms.

Arts & Entertainment, Page C1



Luck o' the Irish

Notre Dame doesn't have all the leprechauns and four-leaf clovers in its corner, just ask Lobos coach Don Flanagan and his senior captain Molly McKinnon

By Brad Moore

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KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Sure and don't be assuming, me lads and lasses, that all the leprechauns will be pulling against the University of New Mexico women's basketball team tonight.

Even though it's just two days before St. Patrick's Day, that doesn't mean the little folk will be working their magic only in favor of the Notre Dame Fightin' Irish.

You see, Lobos coach Don Flana-

gan is a son of the old sod, and proud of it. And he'll have his Irish up when the Lobos meet Notre

Dame tonight in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

"They don't completely dominate the leprechauns," Flanagan said. "I've got some leprechauns, too. And I have some four-leaf clovers."

Flanagan also has senior guard

Molly McKinnon, who swells with green pride over her family's Irish heritage, as well.

So we'll have to wait to see whose Irish eyes are smiling the brightest after tonight's game — the Lobos, in the national tournament for the second time in their history, or the Irish, who won it all last year.

Game time is 4 p.m. MST from Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville, Tenn. KRQE News 13 will provide a live telecast.

Notre Dame's head coach, Muffet

McGraw, and her assistant Kevin McGuff are Irish. But none of the school's players is, said Chris Masters, Notre Dame's sports information director.

All season long, Flanagan has carried a small, stone-carved bear for "the power of the bear" that the American Indian charm is said to bestow. But he said he was recently given another lucky charm he has brought with him to Knoxville.

Please see IRISH/A4

UPSETS ABOUND

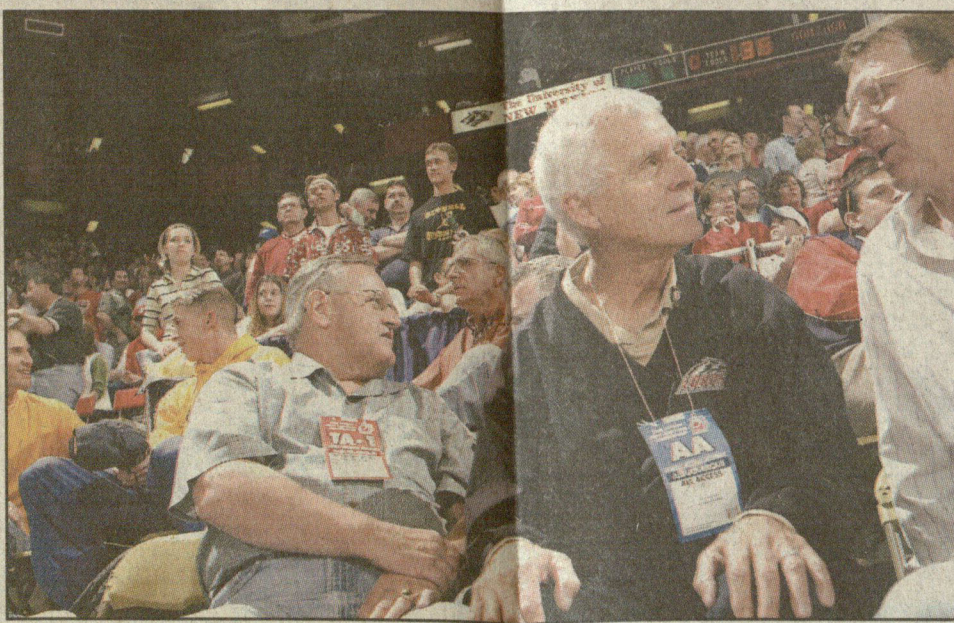


Davidson student Trenita Brookshire of Cincinnati reacts while watching the final minute of play between Davidson and Ohio State. The 13th-seeded Wildcats lost to the fourth-seeded Buckeyes 69-64 on Thursday in The Pit.

Toby Jorin/Tribune

Gonzaga's gone. Miami's a memory. Arizona and Ohio State almost followed. In a day of upsets throughout the men's NCAA Tournament, two higher seeded teams fell in the four games played in The Pit on Thursday. Eleventh-seeded Wyoming knocked off former Cinderella Gonzaga, the sixth seed, 73-66, and 12th-seeded Missouri ousted fifth-seeded Miami, 93-80. No. 3 seed Arizona escaped with an 86-81 win over UC-Santa Barbara, and No. 4 seed Ohio State edged No. 13 seed Davidson 69-64. Saturday's second round games are: Missouri vs. Ohio State and Arizona vs. Wyoming.

Coverage in Sports, Page B1



Former UNM men's basketball coach Gary Colson, now an associate athletics director at UC-Santa Barbara, visits with a well-wisher in The Pit. Colson, wearing a Lobos sweater, watched his new school fall 86-81 to Arizona on Thursday.

Michael J. Gallegos/Tribune

Returning guardsmen are greeted by music, family and a new baby

By Mary Perea

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mary Chavez couldn't wait another minute to see her twin sons, who had been deployed for five months as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

She quietly clenched her American flag until she saw Johnny and Leroy Maldonado come down the escalator at the Albuquerque Sunport on Thursday.

"I'm very excited to see my

boys coming home," Chavez said. "It's been forever, but I'm glad they're together, and I'm glad they came home safe."

Members of the 150th Air National Guard Security Forces returned this week from an assignment in Kuwait and Masirah Island, Oman.

They were greeted by cheers, hugs, kisses, tears and the music of the Del Norte High School pep rally band.

Leroy Maldonado enlisted af-

ter his brother Johnny got his orders, to ensure that they were together.

"They're together all the way," said Chavez, 47. "As brothers, they love each other and take care of each other."

Johnny Maldonado, 26, said coming home gave him an unbelievable feeling.

"After five months of being away from your family and your

Please see GUARD/A2

President honors N.M. author Anaya

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya will be awarded the National Medal of Arts, the White House announced.

Anaya, author of "Bless Me, Ultima," "The Farolitos of Christmas" and "Albuquerque," is the only New Mexico medalist for the year 2001, the president and first lady Laura Bush said.

Anaya is in a stellar crowd. Other 2001 medalists include singer Johnny Cash, actor Kirk Douglas, painter Helen Frankenthaler, choreographer Judith Jamison, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and producer-director Mike Nichols along with the

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation and the Modern Dance Company and School of New York.



Anaya

work and is a standard text in literature courses around the world.

Anaya is professor emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico.

The 64-year-old Anaya called the award "an honor."

"It's humbling," he said. "I don't know what to think. ... I don't know how one handles these big honors except you show up."

He quoted a government official who informed him about the award several weeks ago as saying, "It's like knighthood."

Anaya said he will receive the medal April 22 in Washington, D.C.

The Medal of Arts, established by Congress in 1984, honors individuals and organizations who, in the president's judgment, deserve special recognition.

Regents start hunt for interim UNM president

By Jennifer W. Sanchez

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The University of New Mexico Board of Regents is already tossing around the names of possible interim replacements for university president William Gordon.

The regents, however, aren't ready to say who might be considered for the important job.

"The university has an abundance of people who are very capable of filing the job," board member David Archuleta said.

On Thursday, Gordon, 55, announced he will leave UNM for a provost position at Wake Forest University. He will start at the private college in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Sept. 1.

Gordon, who came to UNM as an assistant professor of psychology in 1978, served as UNM president for the past four years.

Gordon said his last day at UNM will be sometime in August.

Board of Regents members said they've already started discussing candidates to fill Gordon's shoes.

"We've talked about some things, but we haven't decided on anyone," board member Richard Toliver said.

The interim appointee would assume the president's responsibilities until a permanent leader is found.

UNM officials have said it could take up to a year to

Rudolfo Anaya Please see UNM/A2

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