RAMIREZ TAKES MORE HEAT AT ASI MEETING

By Michael Kincheloe
The Collegian

Wednesday’s Associated Students, Inc. meeting picked up where it left off two weeks ago, with ASI President Pedro Ramirez as the topic of discussion. Ramirez was absent from the meeting due to an “academic commitment,” but the controversy that has surrounded him lately was unmistakably present.

Fresno State senior Neil O’Brien was the only one to speak during the initial public comment segment. O’Brien displayed a large photo of Ramirez’s blood-soaked Fresno State parking pass lying on the ground near the truck Ramirez was driving in last month’s highly-publicized crash.

“Fresno State sold parking passes to illegal aliens who could not drive legal,” O’Brien said.

The meeting was relocated from the University Student Union to the third floor of the Henry Madden Library. Though previously posted, many were not aware of the change, and this resulted in some members of the public arriving after the public comment session had ended.

The student senate approved $2,000 in funding to Club Verge for publication of their magazine “On the Verge.” The magazine revolves around art and design, and is said to reflect both the Fresno State student body and the community of Fresno.

California State Student Association Executive Director Miles Nevin addressed the senate. He was in attendance “to explain to us exactly what CSSA is, what it does, and what their opinion of us is...” ASI Executive Vice President Selena Farnesi said.

Nevin spoke for a few minutes, and then stated that he would be happy to answer any questions concerning CSSA.

Kristal Oliver, who introduced herself as Fresno State alumni, asked Nevin if CSSA “had paid for Pedro [Ramirez] to go to Washington, D.C. according to Chapman, “President [John] Welty asked Earl and Mariel Smittcamp and their family donated $1 million, which is what funded The Smittcamp Family Honors College in 1997.”

According to Chapman, “President [John] Welty asked Earl and Mariel Smittcamp, ‘Can you help me create an honors college, so that we can invite those students? ‘And that’s what President Welty was trying to do, was to keep kids from going elsewhere. And by doing that, you then hopefully have stronger teachers, stronger business people,” Chapman added.

Because Smittcamp students receive many benefits to increase their chances of success, some students have questioned if they can represent the average student, and know about the difficulties that Fresno State students encounter.

“Just because I don’t pay my tuition doesn’t mean that I don’t understand the value of a dollar, or that I have never suffered a hardship, or that I don’t work for my own money, or that I don’t struggle to be here to make ends meet and to do a good job,” ASI Executive Vice President and Smittcamp recipient Selena Farnesi said. “I am still a student here. I understand the struggles of students here. And I think I can accurately represent those students.”

Farnesi added, “Being a representative is not about your own personal experience. Being a good representative is about talking to the people you represent and finding out what their experience is.”
What is Valentine’s Day?

Philosophy: ‘I waiting for the part where you tell the whisperers to “get off your lawn.” To call this “cudgelmongery” seems appropriate; also, I like having an excuse to use the word “cudgelmongery.”’

Response: ‘Philosophy’: ‘I was not referring to the whisperers but to the functional equivalent of the traditional rural正版当你叫他们“滚出你的草坪”时，我觉得这样已经很恰当；而且，我喜欢用这个字眼来表达那样的意思。’

Letter to the Editor

“An inaccurate accusation”

From one immigrant to another

Perhaps in a feat of desperation Ramirez is pushing this publicity stunt to gain people’s pity so “he doesn’t have to go back to his dinner party”, but he is only gaining disappointment and disdain.

An immigrant myself, we all come from places where the system has been broken in a way that upstairs is a wreck,” said one of my uncles. Yes, it is a big milestone for immigrants everywhere that one of their own has made it to the top, but the truth is that he bypassed legal and ethically appropriate hurdles and many have to get through to anywhere. To go behind everybodys back and run for president of ASI was unethical and unfair.

It has long been revered since its 20th century reinvention, people have been known to speak it over to die in it and die in the name of it. But today’s ignorant-minded have too casually altered the meaning of the now, homophbic slur — “that’s so gay.”

Whether you support or are a lesbian, gay, transgender and bi-sexual community or not — have respect.

In 2008, the Think Before You Speak advertising campaign premiered. Comedian Wanda Sykes and self proclaimed threat Hillary Duff made light of their common homophbic phrase as the campaign’s spokeswomen. Its aim was to stray teens away from using such defamatory slang so carelessly.

Statewide legislation has been advocating an anti-gay bullying bill for years. However, more so than ever, attention is being drawn on a worldwide scale.

Since the national conversation aired, more kids in the United States are disclosing their homosexuality with unprecedented regularity and doing so much younger, according to TIME Magazine. And the average person comes out just before or after graduating high school.

If these statistics are anything compared to those in Uganda then countless Ugandans who classify as HIV positive or homosexual could face the death penalty pending passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill by Uganda’s Parliament. Being homosexual in Uganda is illegal. And if the LGBT community has not been deprived of their human rights enough, the new bill could mean life in prison or death for homosexuals and supporters alike.

The worst of two evils shall prevail if the unconstitutional legislation comes to pass, as it is expected. Perhaps, what is as unjust is that a two-day conference held by American Evangelical Christians inspired the Anti-Homosexuality Bill.

Think before you speak

By Danielle Gilbert

The Collegian

Letters to the Editor (collegian@csufresno.edu)

All letters submitted to The Collegian must not exceed 250 words in length, must be accompanied by a full name and phone number to verify content. The Collegian reserves the right to edit all material for length, content, spelling and grammar, as well as the right to refuse publication of any material submitted. All material submitted to The Collegian becomes property of The Collegian.

Each member of the campus community is permitted one copy of The Collegian. Subscriptions are available for $25.00, or a semester basis. Staff positions at The Collegian are open to students of all ages, except the Editor-in-Chief of the Staff.

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Web-site@K

Culled each week from discussions on The Collegian’s website.

Response: ‘The right of way’

‘joshua4234’: “Sorry to say, but nobody cares about your case. Park across the street, south of shaw, and walk 20 minutes to class because you can’t afford a ridiculous parking pass then complain that you’re in a hurry.”

Response: ‘Philosophy’: “I was not referring to the whisperers but to the functional equivalent of the traditional rural正版当你叫他们“滚出你的草坪”时，我觉得这样已经很恰当；而且，我喜欢用这个字眼来表达那样的意思。’

Response: ‘Hungry students disagree about new library food rules’

‘AleX’: “As an employee of the library, I disagree with this article completely. Based on what I have seen. Starbucks’ cups, fast food restaurant wrappers/bags laid across tables and left in the stacks, it is completely necessary to have visitors to the library contain their food to specific areas.”

Response: ‘Hungry students disagree about new library food rules’

‘elpmas: “You’ve got to be kidding me, no one likes being restricted to one place to enjoy their meal, nonetheless, 2nd floor is always filled with students and noise of all sort.”

Think before you speak

By Danielle Gilbert

The Collegian

It was quite disappoin the lack of intelligence in one of the Letters to the Editor in the Feb. 4, 2011 issue. It was concerning www.TheRealPedro.com. The letter indicated that it is racist to call Pedro Ramirez a criminal. First off, it is not racist; it is true. If you truly believe that one of their own has made it to the top, but the fact is that he bypassed legal and ethically appropriate hurdles and many have to get through to anywhere. To go behind everyone’s backs and run for president of ASI was unethical and unfair.

In my family, there are many people who are illegal immigrants to these United States, so I asked them their views are on Ramirez and his current position atPresno State. With mixed emotions of pride and disillusionment, the general consensus was that Ramirez violated the ethical courtesy being an uninvited guest in this country.

“One doesn’t show up to a dinner party uninvited and then to bring anything. This is exactly what is happening. For me, it is just that everything is alright just because the dinner party they previously was at was a wreck,” said one of my uncles. Yes, it is a big milestone for immigrants everywhere that one of their own has made it to the top, but the truth is that he bypassed legal and ethically appropriate hurdles and many have to get through to anywhere. To go behind everybodys back and run for president of ASI was unethical and unfair.
Pedro Ramirez was absent from Wednesday’s ASI meeting. Miles Nevin of CSSA addressed the senate.

CONTINUED from page 1

[in support of the DRAM Act during the fall semester]"

Farnesi asked the senate if they would like “for the CSSA representative to answer the question.” A determination filled the room after her question.

"I need a yes or no, senate," Farnesi said. More silence. "The public deserves to know," Oliver said.

Farnesi asked for a show of hands from the senate as to whether they would like Nevin to answer the question, but there was no immediate response.

Farnesi told Nevin that he did not have to answer the question.

"I’m happy to answer it," Nevin said. "The California State Student Association did pay for Pedro to go to Washington D.C. fail. We were happy to do so.

Nevin said that CSSA sent Ramirez, so he could advocate on part of the DRAM Act. He went on to say that CSSA also supported AB 540, which allows California residents who are in the United States illegally to pay in-state tuition at UC and CSU if they meet certain criteria.

Mary Lou Bonneau, Rodriguez asked Nevin if CSSA had "paid for Pedro’s attorney and Nevin replied that they had not.

O’Brien asked why ASI needed to be part of CSSA, citing Fresno State President John Welty’s increases this year, to cut expenditures.

The Senate approved adding a regular meeting to its calendar of meetings.

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The new University High School isn’t the only eye-catching building on campus that captures the attention of guests, students, faculty and staff. Along Matoian Way sits a two-story white house that draws in visitors to the Fresno State campus for more than one reason.

“The main purpose of the Smittcamp Alumni House is to have some place where alumni can have a building, an image to associate with the alumni,” Jennifer Burgess, Alumni House manager, said. “We have the Alumni Association that is housed here.”

Burgess said the Alumni House is a landmark for visitors. Visitors can stop by the Alumni House for maps, directions and endless information about the campus.

“This is kind of like their home base before they venture out on the campus,” Burgess said.

Weddings, receptions, banquets, company interviews, graduation parties, bridal and baby showers and retirement parties are just a few events that can take place at the Alumni House. Beside the multiple events, Fresno State is the only California State University with an alumni house on campus.

The $2.2 million Alumni House opened its doors on March 21, 2000, after three years of construction and preparation. Earl and Muriel Smittcamp and their family donated $1 million to start the construction of the Alumni House in 1997.

The Smittcamp’s and their four children are Fresno State alumni and have been dedicated supporters for multiple years.

“The Smittcamp family were the original donors who helped build the house,” Burgess said.

Executive Director of the Fresno State Alumni Association Jacquie Glasener said the vision to start an alumni house was created by Bill Forbes, a 1948 Fresno State graduate and the building committee chair.

“He was absolutely passionate about having an alumni house,” Glasener said.

Glasener said Forbes was a good friend and tennis partner with Earl, and the pair would discuss the future of an alumni house on the tennis court.

Burgess has been the house manager for 15 months and hears a great deal of misconceptions about the Alumni House. She said the two biggest misconceptions are that President John Welty lives there and that it’s a “gymnastics” house.

“We actually don’t have any bedrooms upstairs,” Burgess said. “People think it’s the president’s house,” Burgess said.

Executive Director of the Fresno State Alumni Association Jacquie Glasener said the vision to start an alumni house was created by Bill Forbes, a 1948 Fresno State graduate and the building committee chair.

“My sense was that Earl and Muriel Smittcamp had a vision of an alumni house,” Glasener said.

“Dr. Welty has rented out the room and he’s hosted [opera singer] Andrea Bocelli,” Burgess said. “He hosted a dinner in there when he came to the Save Mart Center.”

The McMurtry Conference Room is the smallest room in the Alumni House, providing an intimate space for 10 guests. The Board of Directors Conference Room and the Whitten Family Conference Room can be combined to provide space for more than 100 guests.

“The Thorburn Faculty Lounge accommodates approximately 20 guests and is 346 square feet. A large staircase on the left of the Markarian Grand Foyer peers over a black baby grand player piano, leading to the offices for the staff of the Fresno State Alumni Association.”

“People think it’s the health center,” Barajas said. “People think it’s the president’s house,” President Welty.”

The Alumni House has four rooms, but no bedrooms. It includes an alumni library, a small conference room, a large conference room that can be divided into two smaller rooms and a faculty lounge that composes most of downstairs.

Downstairs also includes a culinary room, a long hallway directing guests to the conference rooms and the alumni library, an elevator and several bathrooms that makes up the first floor of the Alumni House.

The Jensen Library has more than just books. A marble fireplace, game tables, televisions, and pictures of well-known alumni decorate the library. Guests have a choice of staying inside or walking outside to a small courtyard and fountain.

“We’re only open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. overnight visitors,” Burgess said.

The Smittcamp Alumni House is 10,000 square feet with a foyer, three conference rooms, library, faculty lounge, kitchen and two courtyards.
Weekend of Movies

Comedies will pack local theaters this weekend

By Maddie Shannon

Moviegoers this weekend can expect local theaters to be packed with audience members looking for a laugh.

Whether your type of comedy is of "The Office" variety, slapstick or playground humor, three comedies debuting this weekend will have local audiences laughing through Sunday.

Here is this weekend’s lineup of movies.

Just Go With It (PG-13)

What it’s about: Plastic surgeon Danny prides himself on his unconventional pickup trick: He wears a wedding band to get women to sleep with him, capitalizing on their sympathy by pretending to be stuck in an unhappy marriage. But when the girl he actually wants to marry finds the wedding band, a little white lie turns into a giant web of lies. Danny’s assistant, Katherine, and her kids eventually become part of his plan to reel his girl back in.

Why you should see it: Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston, who play the lead characters, carry the story very well compared to their performances in past films. Critics of both will find this film to be not much different from films they’ve done before, but fans of either actor won’t be disappointed in this comedy.

Starring: Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston, Nicole Kidman, Nick Swardson and Brooklyn Decker.

Gnomeo and Juliet (G)

What it’s about: This quirky retelling of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet features the most unexpected of characters — garden gnomes. The blue gnomes and the red gnomes have been enemies for as long as either side can remember. When Gnomeo, one of the blue gnomes, and Juliet, one of the red gnomes, meet one night and fall in love, they’re told that their love is doomed. But despite the odds, they find ways to get together.

Why you should see it: "Gnomeos and Juliet" has an all-star cast, a must for an animated film (if the characters have any emotional depth). This version of Romeo and Juliet, intended for younger audiences, doesn’t feature anyone killing themselves in the end (did I give too much away?).

Starring: James McAvoy, Emily Blunt, Michael Caine, Maggie Smith, Ozzy Osbourne, Hulk Hogan, Sally Parton and Patrick Stewart.

Cedar Rapids (R)

What it’s about: Tim Lippe, a failure-to-launch insurance salesman, goes to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to represent his company at an insurance convention. In the few days he’s there, he befriends three seasoned insurance industry veterans who show him the ropes. Wild nights, multiple shots and a prostitute make his experience in Cedar Rapids a weekend to remember.

Why you should see it: Audience members who enjoy the comedy of "The Office" will enjoy the humor Ed Helms delivers in this film. Filmmgoers with more intelligent senses of humor will find this movie to be nothing but cheap laughs.

Starring: Ed Helms, John C. Reilly, Anne Heche, Alia Shawkat and Sigourney Weaver.

News Briefs

Brief news for the brief attention span

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge has granted Kelsey Grammer a divorce, clearing the way for the actor to remarried later this month.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Maren Nelson agreed Thursday to grant Kelsey and Camille Grammer a divorce and settle financial issues at a later date.

Camille Grammer has estimated in court filings that the former couple’s shared property may be worth $30 million. Kelsey and Camille Grammer were married in 1997 and have two young children together.

Attorneys for the former “Frasier” star and Camille Grammer, who appears on “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills,” told Nelson they will set aside $2.3 million while financial arrangements are handled.

The 55-year-old actor has told David Letterman last month that he plans to marry Kayte Walsh sometime in February.

NEW YORK (AP) — It’s only 2011 but Lady Gaga wants her next album “Born This Way” to be the best of the decade.

The performer tells the March issue of Vogue her fans deserve “nothing less” than that. She also does not want to record “something trendy.”

The album’s first single of the same name is described as a gay-pride anthem, which the singer tells the magazine she wrote in 10 minutes.
The daily crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS
1 Soft ground 4 Wash with elbow grease 9 Complain ad nauseam 14 Weather vane dir. 15 Part of many action flicks 16 Singer Neville 17 Thread for needlework 20 Card deck for divining 21 ___ the run (grab something to go) 22 Revise text 23 Some whiskey bottle sizes 26 Gymnast Mary ___ Retton 29 They precede mis, on a music scale 30 Lets (up) 31 Stepladder step 32 Napoleon’s sentence 33 Ab exercise 35 Sheltered span 38 Joan of Arc’s crime 39 Group of chicks 40 Purim’s month 41 Use a roller and brush 42 Floor-washing aid 45 Boeing offering 46 “Scooby-Doo” character 48 Chewable stimulant 49 Wayne Gretzky, once 51 “Plan 9 From ___ Space” 52 Hole-making device 57 Word after “share and share”

Puzzle by Judith Hanes

C

The word after “share and share”

58 Expressed wonderment, in a way 59 Contender for your title 60 Harold of silent film 61 Injects with Novocain 62 Where supper is slop DOWN 1 One holding a sign at the airport, e.g. 2 Like a messy bed 3 Racing remains 4 Loch Lomond local 5 Ha ___ Minh City 6 Unit of absorbed energy 7 Employ 8 Tete toppers 9 Floats, as an aroma 10 Something about Mary? 11 Breathing aid 12 Rejections 13 Three out of nineteen? 18 Go to waste 19 Yes, in “Fargo” 23 Kind of tale 24 Tahiti, e.g. 25 What a horse eats from 27 “___ Upon a Time in America” 28 Disgusted reply 30 They’re no longer hitched 31 Racer Ricky 32 At any time 33 Sidekick 34 Warden’s fear 35 Surrender, as territory 36 Collection of same Handel bars 37 Windjammer slammer 38 Lean Urs book “The ___” 41 Local clergyman 42 Themes 43 Yellow and black cat 44 Negotiation between enemies 46 Swing around, as on a pivot 47 Drakes and roosters, e.g. 48 Mongrel 50 Stomach-turning 51 Two-to-one, e.g. 52 Trusted friend 53 Wing of a building, perhaps 54 Written debt acknowledgment 55 Resistance unit that sounds like a meditation word 56 Bird’s bill

Birthday Eloping

The act of going on a trip to avoid the dramas of celebrating a birthday at home.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

Word of the Day

Birthday Eloping

The act of going on a trip to avoid the dramas of celebrating a birthday at home.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

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SCANLIFE
CONTINUED from page 8

family man and I’m excited. This is great. This is great for the game of basketball. You know why? We’re just sitting here and talking about shooting.”

The record-breaker came on a transition basket from the top of the key. And then Miller raised one finger in the air. “That’s how I wanted to patent this moment,” Miller said. “I had the ball in my hands. I knew I was going to make this basket and then I was like, ‘I’m going to pass it to Ray Allen. I’m going to let him pass it to Ray Allen. I’m going to pass it to Ray Allen. I’m going to pass it to Ray Allen.”

Allen entered the season needing 117 to pass Miller, and he entered the night needing one to tie and two for the record. With the crowd cheering in anticipation every time he got the ball beyond the arc, he missed his first attempt and then made his second, from the top of the key.

Allen gave a fist pump while teammate Nate Robinson raised one finger in the air. “I think it’s a remarkable thing he’s achieving tonight,” Lakers coach Phil Jackson said before the game. “It is something to watch for and I hope he gets rid of it right away.”

Millions of dollars in guaranteed money are at stake. Veteran players are bigger and stronger than ever. Injuries are piling up as fast as Steven Strasburg’s 100 mph fastball. In the Super Bowl alone, seven players missed time because of injuries and many others were left shaken up after ferocious hits. Star players Donald Driver and Charles Woodson spent most of the game in street clothes.

But dealing with injuries during a player’s career isn’t the main factor here. It’s when they’re a franchise player. And then there comes the question: Has the game of baseball changed? It’s faster, more violent, more dangerous and more expensive than ever. Injuries are piling up as fast as Steven Strasburg’s 100 mph fastball. In the Super Bowl alone, seven players missed time because of injuries and many others were left shaken up after ferocious hits. Star players Donald Driver and Charles Woodson spent most of the game in street clothes.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

SPORTS
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SPORTS EDITOR, BEN INGERSOLL • COLLEGIAN SPORTS@CSUFRESNO.EDU

THE COLLEGIAN

SPORTS

BASEBALL, SOFTBALL BACK ON THE DIAMOND

Softball opens the season with a home game against Sacramento State, while baseball hosts the annual alumni game

By Brandy Flores
The Collegian

When the Fresno State baseball team hits the diamond this Saturday for its annual alumni game, fans will get a chance to see several of their favorite players, past and present.

Current Bulldog stars like Garrett Weber, Jordan Ribera and Nick Winemiller will face off against past legends like 2008 College World Series Most Outstanding Player Tommy Mendonca, Steve Susdorf and Eric Wetzel.

The alumni game kicks off the Bulldogs’ 2011 season and expectations are high in anticipation of another successful season. Conference coaches predicted Fresno State to finish first in the Western Athletic Conference this season.

“It’s always nice to be ranked and picked to finish first,” intern and former Bulldog Ryan Overland said, “but it comes down to you want to be there in the end.”

The exhibition match will give spectators their first look at this season’s squad, which includes many returning core players and a few new faces that are expected to make solid contributions.

“Fans will see a lot of returners that will be famil”


dary last year’s team like,” Overland said. “Jordan Ribera, Danny Munro, guys that have been here for a while, experienced college players get back on the field again.

There will be some freshmen that are expected to be called upon, Tyler Linehan, left-handed pitcher; Aaron Judge will seem some time in the outfield. There’s a very talented fresh-


manship group.”


After taking on the alumni this Saturday, the State will take on its first game at home against Gonzaga followed by Oregon State.

Another year with a stiff schedule will pit the Bulldogs against many talented teams including Nebraska and San Diego.

“The schedule is definitely hard,” Overland said. “The non-conference games will be a good test for the team heading into the WAC. They’ll take one game, one weekend at a time.”

As the Big West stands out in the preseason ranks, polls and early accolades, the Bulldogs maintain the will be well prepared to take on any team and make another run at a championship.

“For these guys they’re going to go out of doing things right and shouldn’t really matter who’s in the other dugout,” Overland said. “As far as fans are concerned, there are a lot of quality teams coming to Fresno this year, so it should be exciting.”

The Fresno State softball team will open its season with a double-header against rival Sacramento State this weekend, and it couldn’t come soon enough for the anxious players.

“My mentality is just come in there and kick butt,” pitcher Michelle Moses said. “I’m excited to play. I think everyone’s ready, and I think we have a great team and I’m looking forward to the things we’re going to do this year.”

The Bulldogs will be returning most of their players from last year’s squad, but have picked up a few freshman who they believe will not only make a consider-


ables contributions. But enite the fans as well with their play. “Girls like Brooke Ortiz — she’s very fast and I think that fans are going to love and enjoy watching her cause she’s a great addition to our team.”

shortstop Hayley Gilliland said. “Vonnie [Martin] can hit the ball very well, so I don’t think it just relies on the upperclassman, we have underclassman that are going to step up as well.”

The Bulldogs will hit the road for their first month of the season before returning home on March 10. The team will finish their second half of the season in WAC competition before hosting the WAC Tournament at Bulldog Diamond May 11-14.

Head coach Margie Wright, who is entering her 26th season heading the ‘Dogs, said fans attending Saturday’s home opener should expect to see a lot of exciting plays and great hitting from the team and that they have returned to their highly com-

petitive level of play.

“I want them to walk away thinking Fresno state softball is back to where they were before,” Wright said. “And I think this group is a really good group to try to do that.

Ray Allen is new three king in NBA

Associated Press

Ray Allen broke the NBA record for 3-pointers on Thursday night, sinking two in the first quarter against the Los Angeles Lakers as the man he passed, Reggie Miller, sat courtside working the TV broadcast.

It hit his second 3 of the game with 1:46 left in the first quarter to reach 2,561 in his career — a number that flashed on the scoreboard in green and white while the TD Garden erupted in applause.

The 38-year-old Celtic celebrated little as he got back on defense, but at the next whistle went over to Miller for a hug and a handshake, then bumped fists with Lakers star Kobe Bryant.

“I’m just so happy for him because this is one of the best guys,” Miller said on the TNT broadcast. “He’s so humble, he’s so giving, he’s a great person.”

See ALLEN, Page 7
See YANG, Page 7

NFL, NFLPA need to agree

Followign Super Bowl XLV, the thought of the NFL owners locking out the players for next season dawned on many.

What if there is no 2011 season? No preseason games? No regular season? No playoffs? Not even a meaningful pre-game show? No Super Bowl? If all 32 owners and the NFL Players Association will not come to terms on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement by March 1, expect a lockout. That former NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue and then-executive director of the NFLPA Gene Upshaw extended in 2006 expires on that same day.

It will be a shame if the CBA isn’t extended before the deadline, especially for fans. This could have been avoided from the very beginning, but representatives from both sides could not agree.

The players want more money and better health care benefits after their careers are over, while the owners want to save money by cutting the players’ salaries.

In 2008, owners voted unanimously to opt out of the CBA that was extended in 2006. By opting out, the 2008 and 2009 seasons were played under a salary cap, as it has been the past two decades and short-

ened the agreement by one year. Last season, the NFL played out without a salary cap for the first time since 1993.

So with three years to work out an agreement from both sides, many expected that the multi-billion dollar industry would be able to come to terms quickly. But it hasn’t, and fans have been left in the dark.

Now, the NFL’s lifeline rests in the hands of NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, players owners and the NFLPA with less than a month to settle their disputes.

This week representatives from both sides met for what was supposed to be a two-day event to negotiate a new CBA, but still, not much progress was made. The meetings didn’t even last to the second day.

Owners want to extend the season to 18 games by cutting two pre-season games and add-


ing them to the regular season, while also setting up a wage scale for Rooke drafted in the first round. It’s a fair, the pay scale at least. Rookies are paid

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NFL, NFLPA need to agree