

Neal Travis



Venus, Serena & Wim

THE people who run Wimbledon are sitting down today to do the draw for the world's most prestigious tennis tournament and are facing a real dilemma. How should they rank **Venus** and **Serena Williams**?

The question is fraught with potential scandal because the Williams sisters are ranked — and clearly deserve to be — No. 1 and No. 2 in the world and should, if everything goes to form, face each other in the final of the Wimbledon tourney, which starts a week from Monday.

But there is a widespread conspir-

atorial notion that the sisters' autocratic father, **Richard**, decides which girl wins when they go head to head. Thus, Serena beat Venus in the French Open, so it's Venus' turn at Wimbledon, if you believe the conspiracy-mongers.

In all the other majors seeding goes by ranking, but Wimbledon reserves the royal privilege of deciding its own pecking order and could arrange things this year to insure the Williams-Williams clash doesn't happen.

This would cause an uproar, but it

would a dangerous club and be sued by any' loo the girl bet, leg the other

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That's Al, folks

IT looks like **Al Gore** is moving to seize the day and establish himself as the front-running Democratic presidential candidate for 2004. Al's hosting a weekend retreat in Memphis at the end of this month and is expected to tell the faithful that he is ready and eager to run again. Lord knows, the Dems better coalesce behind someone pretty soon because **Dubya Bush** is campaigning hard and smartly already, visiting state after key state to shore up his reelection. Gore, in another move that indicates his decision to run again, is also setting up a New York evening to thank his past supporters.

Jacko legal tracko

RECORD industry buzz has **Michael Jackson** teaming up with **Johnnie Cochran** to maybe sue **Tommy Motola**, Sony Music and entertainment lawyer **Allen Grub-**

man. The facts are pretty hairy to do with the vast advances son in deals that were handled by man. The Beatles songbook for Sony, apparently forced Jacko for the advances. Jackson **Paul McCartney** and man whereby the former Beatle mess in return for Jacko re turning it over to Paul.

Party headquarters

THE word is the Democrats ready somewhat embarrassed **Bill Clinton's** presidential bid to build a dazzling new HQ in the building next door to the combine the two, saving at least can better be used for getting

law firm that is supposed to be helping the poor. It tried to make Mr. Muschel promise to keep rooms at below-market rents even after tenants' deaths.

"I shared their desire to protect the current tenants," Mr. Muschel said, "but they wanted to keep each room at that rent for 25 years after the tenant died. Preserving low-income housing far into the future was their political agenda, but it wasn't what the tenants in the building wanted. They wanted their homes renovated right now, but the court fight delayed us for two years."

During the court fight, Mr. Muschel produced evidence that most tenants were on his side, and he eventually prevailed. He also succeeded, after long court fights, in evicting problem lodgers.

"Most of the troublemakers are gone now," said Elmer Creighton, a 77-year-old lodger. "You don't see drug dealing anymore. The place is looking better and better. Now there are young people coming to stay here." Pausing to contemplate a young British woman checking in, he said, "Young people — that's the only thing that keeps you going at my age."

The young people are tourists paying about \$28 per night for a renovated cubicle like mine. As a combination lodging house and youth hostel, the Whitehouse still isn't profitable — Mr. Muschel estimates he has lost \$200,000, chiefly because of the costs of the legal fights and the renovation — but he expects it to start making money.

"The revenue from the tourists in the summer helps carry us the rest of the year when we're not full," he said. "In some ways they're subsidizing the permanent residents paying \$10 a night, but I'm glad to have the \$10-a-night residents, too. It makes business sense to keep them as a good steady source of income. But I'm not going to give in to drug dealers and scam artists who stop paying and then demand a buyout because they know it will cost me a year and \$4,000 to evict them."

When that kind of lodger is protected by the legal system, it takes a tough lawyer to run a decent flophouse.

0,000-seat stadium that would be the home for a new minor-league baseball team in the Atlantic League and anchor redevelopment in this faded city on the lower Hudson. The \$42 million project would include sky boxes, concession stands and 100,000 square feet for restaurants, bars and stores.

But to make way for the stadium, the city would demolish two blocks of New Main Street off Getty Square, displacing 20 businesses including a Korean dress store, a Chinese gift shop and two Mexican restaurants, as well as an apartment building.



Building a minor-league ballpark along New Main Street displacing 20 businesses including a dress store, a gift shop.

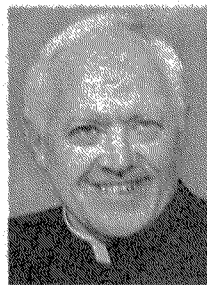
Priest's Defenders See Affection Where an Accuser Sees Abuse

By DANIEL J. WAKIN

Danny Donohue was captain of the basketball team, a top student and hard-praying seminarian on a fast path to the priesthood. Charlie Kavanagh was everybody's favorite priest, a stand-out athlete himself who inspired dozens of students as a teacher and later rector at Cathedral Preparatory Seminary.

A friendship and spiritual bond blossomed 25 years ago. But something went wrong. Mr. Donohue says the closeness became sexually twisted. He dropped out of seminary college, his faith shattered. Last month, amid a continuing nationwide scandal over sexual abuse by priests, Mr. Donohue accused Monsignor Kavanagh of sexual abuse. He was suspended May 24 as pastor of St. Raymond's Church in the Bronx and as the vicar for development, or fund-raiser in chief, for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York.

The Kavanagh case has emerged as just the sort of complicated, ambiguous situation



Msgr. Kavanagh

that does not fit into the proposed national policy on sexual abuse by priests that American bishops plan to discuss this week in Dallas. The draft guidelines call for any priest who has committed more than one act of sexual abuse of a minor to be removed from the priesthood, though a one-time offender can remain. But the guidelines do not explain what such an act might be. Nor do they address less explicitly sexual but nevertheless physical relationships between priests and minors.

In his accusation, Mr. Donohue said that during his junior and senior years at the seminary, starting when he was 16, Monsignor Kavanagh lay on top of him and rubbed against him in a sexual manner at least twice. He also hugged him at length, he said, and they held each other's hands in their laps during prayer. The monsignor has not commented publicly but has denied any improper behavior through a spokesman.

Beyond Mr. Donohue's statements, there is

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