

## Puppy love



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Junior business management major, **Anthony Kendt** plays with two of his pit bull puppies at his house Monday. The puppies are eight weeks old.

# Labor board votes to send conflict to speedy arbitration

By Jennifer Peter  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON - The contract dispute between the city and its police union is headed to immediate, expedited arbitration, raising the possibility that the conflict will be resolved before next week's Democratic National Convention.

The state's labor management board voted unanimously Monday to send the issue to arbitration, where a ruling would be binding and cannot be appealed. But while the step suggested a resolution to the two-year-old disagreement, it also hinted at larger protests at the convention.

The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association has been without a contract and has threatened to disrupt the convention festivities by setting up picket lines at events attended by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, including the 29 delegation parties scheduled for Sunday night.

The police association opposes allowing a third-party arbitrator to resolve the dispute, saying that would usurp the union members' ability to vote on a new contract.

Union president Thomas Nee called the labor board's vote "absolutely outrageous," pointing out that the Joint Labor Management Committee voted on the matter last week and opted not to send the matter to expedited arbitration. Nee said the union would escalate its protest for the convention and would reconsider its decision not to picket outside the convention site itself.

The police are asking for a pay increase of 17 percent over four years, while the city is offering 11.9 percent.

The labor board's 3-0 vote included members representing organized labor. The panel assigned independent arbitrator Lawrence T. Holden to report back with a contract Thursday. The convention is scheduled to be July 26, four days later, at the FleetCenter.

The four members of the labor board met privately Monday in the first meeting overseen by its new chairman, retired Judge Samuel Zoll. Republican Gov. Mitt Romney abruptly appointed Zoll last week after the board voted to send the conflict to arbitration but denied the city's request for an expedited schedule.

The union sent a letter to the nearly 5,000 delegates to the convention, asking them to honor picket lines and boycott Menino's address. Menino sent his own letter to delegates saying that the picket lines are only "informational" and should not deter anyone from attending picket line events.

Police picket lines led to a three-day shutdown of construction at the convention site last month, recently deterred by candidate John Kerry addressing the U.S. Labor Conference in Boston, which Menino hosted.

The prospect of picket lines facing a picket line convention events was a Democratic leaders' theme. The union said Monday they doubted delegates from their states would defy protesting union members. Others sidestepped the problem, saying they believe the dispute will be resolved before delegates arrive.

### 2004 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION Behind the podium in Boston

In addition to a long list of Democratic leaders and others, both wives of Sen. John Kerry and John Edwards will address the delegates along with Kerry's children and stepchildren.

#### Highlights of speakers, July 26-29

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
 Former President Bill Clinton	 Sen. Ted Kennedy, Mass.	 Sen. John Edwards, N.C.	 Sen. John Kerry, Mass.
 Former President Jimmy Carter	 Teresa Heinz Kerry	 Elizabeth Edwards	 Alex Vanessa Kerry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Vice President Al Gore</li> <li>Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Wis.</li> <li>Rep. Bob Menendez, N.J.</li> <li>Rep. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, Ohio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sen. Tom Daschle, S.D.</li> <li>Gov. Janet Napolitano, Ariz.</li> <li>Christie Vilsack, Iowa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gov. Bill Richardson, N.M.</li> <li>Retired Marine Lt. Col. Steve Brozak, N.J.</li> <li>Mayor Martin O'Malley, Baltimore</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andre Heinz</li> <li>Chris Heinz</li> <li>Sen. Max Baucus, Mont.</li> <li>Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Calif.</li> <li>Former Green Beret Jim Rasmussen</li> </ul>

SOURCE: Democratic National Committee

## Napster to offer music service deals to colleges

By Alex Veiga  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - The company behind the Napster 2.0 online music service said Monday it has signed agreements with several universities to offer students its digital song subscription program.

Beginning in the fall, students at Cornell University, The George Washington University, Middlebury College, the University of Miami, The University of Southern California and Wright State University will have access to the service through the schools, the company said.

The Napster deals are one of many steps colleges nationwide are taking to discourage illegal music file-sharing among students.

Like previous deals struck earlier this year by Napster with Penn State University and the University of Rochester in New York, the institutions will receive access to unlimited streaming and song downloads at a discount.

The universities are expected to set the price students must pay for the discounted access. Penn State and the University of Rochester provide Napster service to their students at an extra charge.

Students must still pay for Napster's regular 99-cent charge for a permanent download if they wish to burn the song onto a CD. Full album downloads outside the subscription service start at \$9.99.

A Napster spokeswoman declined to specify the details of the discounts given to universities.

The company estimates more than 150,000 university students will be able to obtain access to Napster through the schools in the fall.

Software maker RealNetworks Inc. launched Napster 2.0 in October. The San Clara, Calif.-based company acquired the Napster brand from the ashes of the pioneer file-swapping service, which was forced to shut down in 2001 after a protracted legal battle with recording companies.

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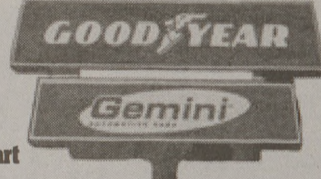
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