Indeed, the University of Arizona Wildcat basketball team this year suffered a lot of punches, many thrown in their direction. Toughest of all, head coach Lute Olson suffered a blow on New Year's Day, losing his beloved wife Bobbi to ovarian cancer. Known affectionately by players and coaches and students at the U of A alike as Mrs. O, Bobbi Olson was a special person. In fact, many considered her to be the Wildcats' sixth player. Famous for her efforts on behalf of the team and the university, her efforts in recruiting and her famous apple pancakes, Bobbi Olson provided encouragement to the players and perspective to her husband. She will be dearly missed by the Olson family and by all fans of U of A basketball. I would like to express my personal condolences to Coach Olson.

Cancer is a terrible disease that affects thousands of families each year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, cancer has reared its ugly head in my family. It took the life of my mother, and my oldest sister is today thankfully a breast cancer survivor. I share Coach Olson's grief and greatly admire his strength to overcome this tragedy as he did this year and lead his team to such a wonderful and stunning season.

The individual members of the Wildcats basketball team also deserve mention. Arizona arrived in Minneapolis this past weekend with a star-studded line-up that boasted five preseason nominees for the John Wooden Award which goes to the sport's top individual collegian. Led by junior forwards Richard Jefferson and Michael Wright, center Loren Woods and a back court of Jason Gardner and Gilbert Arenas, the Cats overcame a disappointing 8–5 start to finish the season with a 20–2 run into the final game this past Monday night. Individually, these men are exceptional athletes but, more importantly, under the coaching of Lute Olson, when they played together, they formed an exceptional team. It was this unselfish teamwork that led this talented squad to the Final Four and indeed to the final game.

In an era where the best prospects see college basketball as a 1- or 2-year stopover on their way to the next level, the NBA, I would be remiss if I did not mention a rare exception, an athlete that recognizes that an education and a contribution to society are noble pursuits. The University of Arizona had such an individual in the person of Eugene Edgerson. As a freshman reserve, he played on Arizona's 1997 national championship team. However, he was also a member of this year's gifted Wildcat team because he took a break last year to complete the student teaching requirement in a kindergarten for his degree in elementary education. Then he stayed to take graduate courses when he finished his fourth year of eligibility. Eugene says he came to school both for the books and for the hoops and could not see leaving without getting the most out of both of them. Mr. Edgerson serves as a model on and off the court.

Unfortunately on Monday night, the Wildcats came up short in their quest for a second national championship. But even in defeat, they displayed the talent and grace of a championship team.

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I want to congratulate Lute Olson. I want to congratulate all of the assistant coaches. I want to congratulate the team for its great season, for its unselfish play. You have made University of Arizona alumni like me, the student body of the U of A, the State of Arizona and fans of basketball, particularly college basketball, all across the country extremely proud. Thank you very much for a great year. I commend you all.

Our hearts and sympathies go with you, Lute. And to the team, bear down.

ARIZONA WILDCATS 2000 BASKETBALL ROSTER

No—Name, Position, Ht., Wt., Class, Hometown:

0—Gilbert Arenas, G, 6–3, 188, So, North Hollywood, CA.

2—Michael Wright, F, 6–7, 238, Jr, Chicago, IL.

3—Loren Woods, C, 7–1, 244, Sr, St. Louis, MO.

4—Luke Walton, F, 6–8, 233, So, San Diego, CA.

5—Travis Hanour, G, 6–6, 189, Fr, Laguna Beach, CA.

11—Jason Ranne, G, 6–4, 200, Fr, Tulsa, OK.

13—Andrew Zahn, F, 6–9, 254, Fr, Redondo Beach, CA.

14—Mike Schwertley, F, 6–5, 224, Fr, Phoenix, AZ.

15—John Ash, G, 5–11, 179, Sr, Tucson, AZ.

22—Jason Gardner, G, 5–10, 181, So, Indianapolis, IN.

23—Lamont Frazier, G, 6–3, 182, Sr, Los Angeles, CA.

24—Russell Harris, G, 5–11, 165, So, Mundelein, IL.

30—Justin Wessel, F, 6–8, 240, Sr, Cedar Rapids, IA.

33—Eugene Edgerson, F, 6–6, 237, Sr, New Orleans, LA.

35—Rich Anderson, F, 6–9, 213, Jr, Long Beach, CA.

44—Richard Jefferson, F, 6–7, 222, Jr, Phoneix, AZ.

Head Coach: Lute Olson.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106–554, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) to the Board of Trustees for the Center for Russian Leadership Development.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100–458, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, reappoints William F. Winter, of Mississippi, to the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development, effective October 11, 2000.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 194(a) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Coast Guard Academy—

the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and

the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD), Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the United States Merchant Marine Academy—

the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and

the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106–310, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Indian and Native Alaskan Health Care:

Sara DeCoteau, of South Dakota.

Carole Anne Heart, of South Dakota.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106–533, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Awards Board:

The Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA).

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

OVERALL TAX RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to express my tremendous support for providing America's working families with much needed, reasonable and equitable tax relief. This legislative body needed to act comprehensively and quickly to implement a reasonable and fair tax relief package that will benefit our middle-class families, small businesses, and farmers.

In New York's First Congressional District, where the cost of living is higher than in many regions of our Nation, the tax relief package we have approved will help jump start our local economy and put the money back where it belongs, in the pockets of the hard-working families.

We have helped our families through the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act, and the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act, and our small family businesses and farmers will benefit from our efforts here today to repeal the death tax. Through all of the components of this tax relief package, we are providing the reasonable and meaningful tax relief that our farmers, our small businesses, and our families have been calling for.

For far too long, hard-working married couples have been unfairly taxed by an average of $1,400 a year simply for the privilege of living inside the institution of marriage. In New York's First District alone, an estimated 56,134 families will receive significant tax relief under this measure. These 56,134 families could potentially put their savings towards their children's education, home improvements, a new computer, investments in their future, or a down payment on their first car.

According to the CBO, most marriage penalties occur when the higher-earning spouse makes between $20,000 to $75,000. The current Tax Code punishes working married couples by placing them in a higher tax bracket. The marriage penalty taxes the income of the second wage earner at a higher rate than if the wage earner were taxed as a single individual. This is just simply unfair.

The death tax currently taxes up to 60 percent of a family's farm or business, killing the small family-owned businesses and the stores that line the Main Streets of our downtown communities throughout this great land. These families who own farms on the east end of Long Island and the small businesses that compromise the very fabric of Long Island's economy have worked hard all of their lives. Working together with their families, they reached for the American dream, paying their taxes all the way along the way and made positive contributions to our society. They should not be penalized by being taxed again in death. That is just simply immoral, unfair, and wrong.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act will give hard-working middle-class families more of their hard-earned money to be used better to offset rising costs for each and every family, costs like a college education for our young people, a mortgage payment, or they will support our small businesses and local economy. These middle-class working families earning $50,000 will see a $1,600 reduction in their taxes. That is a 50 percent cut. A family of four earning $35,000 would see a 100 percent cut. That is fair and that is reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, that is real tax relief for our middle-class working families. This package of reasonable tax relief incentives will leave more money in New York State. New York already contributes about $17 billion more in taxes to Washington than it gets back.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 alone will cut that deficit by $9.7 billion.

Now, as a former town supervisor, Mr. Speaker, I know firsthand how reasonable tax relief can help families and our local economy create thousands of new jobs and create millions of dollars of surplus. The hard-working middle-class families of the First District of New York and throughout our Nation should have their tax dollars back. We have accomplished this while we protected and locked away Social Security and Medicare funds and reduced our national debt at historic rates and set aside a trillion dollar contingency fund.

Last of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together on these critical initiatives, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take swift action.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for the remainder of the majority leader's hour, approximately 30 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GANSKE. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

THE U.S. ECONOMY

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) for yielding to me to continue a Special Order that I began last night during this 5-minute segment on the condition of the U.S. economy. I am very grateful for these few minutes just to continue, as I will every evening where I have a chance.

Mr. Speaker, this relates to America's great need for a new declaration of economic independence and my great disappointment at the debate that occurred in the Congress here in the House last week concerning the tax measures that were before us and then again today, where if we count up the cumulative total of all of these measures we are talking about $3 trillion over the so-called 10-year window. This is an enormous amount of money for a country that currently has over $5.6 trillion worth of debt that we have to pay back, and every year we are paying more and more in the way of interest on that debt.

This year alone we are projected to spend well over $450 billion just on the debt alone.

In addition to that, the United States has the worst-ever current account trade deficit amounting to over $500 billion last year, that essentially requires that we sell our assets or borrow $1.5 billion a day net from foreign interests. Now, the trade deficit is basically about more goods coming into our country than our goods going out. This essentially results from flawed trade agreements that have enabled countries like the People's Republic of China, that is now holding 24 of our military personnel, to gain perhaps a $100 billion advantageous this year from their net exports to this country versus our ability to export into that economy.

So what is wrong with the Bush tax and budget plan? First, the President's tax and budget plan does not pay down the overall debt. In fact, his budget is based on what I would call wildly optimistic, 10-year projections that, in fact, cause the debt to spiral, particularly when over $3 trillion is being returned in that period to a country that still owes $5.6 trillion.

Now, it is interesting that the 10-year window is used for projections when, in fact, the President is only elected for 4 years and we here in Congress only budget one year at a time. So we cannot use a 10-year window. If experience is a good teacher, as it surely should be, we know that projections in the past have been off by vast magnitudes, sometimes as much as 75 percent in one year.

Now major revenue hemorrhages are going to occur after the year 2005 because Social Security and medical care bills will rise as more people from the baby boom generation begin retiring. The administration budget risks ratcheting up what is already a spiraling debt burden, particularly after 2005. So his proposals threaten long-term economic growth and the long-term solvency of both Social Security and Medicare.

Moreover, the administration's budget is inherently unfair, because nearly half of the tax benefits go to people earning over $900,000 a year, only the top 1 percent of earners in this country. It is no question in my mind that the President's powerful allies are setting their own table for slashing corporate income tax rates from 35 percent to 25 percent, as most corporations, many of them, do not pay taxes even now; none at all. I will be reading into the RECORD, when we return later in the month, the names of many of the corporations in our country that pay absolutely no taxes at all.

Many of these same interests want to cut the corporate capital gains tax, repeal the corporate alternative minimum tax and other technical changes like faster depreciation for faster write-offs. These corporate titans, the ones that are pushing us to make these changes here, saw their pay increases at over 535 percent over the last 10 years. Imagine that. Imagine your salary quintupling over the last 10 years. And now they want that to double again in the next decade.