

3-21-2002

Arbiter, March 21

Students of Boise State University

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Dude, you're getting a Dell

By Mary Margaret Rice
The Arbiter

The Office of Information Technology's new laptop loaner program means students may now check out laptops like they're library books.

Four high performance Dell c800 laptop computer systems are currently available for loan in the MP-121 computer lab.

"These state of the art laptops are checked out just about all the time. They're super laptops," BSU Student Laptop Program Coordinator Stephen Henderson said.

To check out a "loaner laptop," a student must fill out a form for each semester they want to use a laptop.

The form is called the Borrower's Responsibility Form, which says the student is financially responsible for any loss or damage to the \$3000 computer.

Also, if the student knows they will need a laptop in a future month, it may be reserved in advance.

The systems may be checked out for seven days.

Any student wishing to check out a system must be at least a part-time student and must have their University fees paid.

According to Henderson, overdue laptops carry a \$50 fine for each day after the due date.

If only hours late, \$20 is charged per hour until the amount reaches the \$50 per day maximum charge.

Laptops not returned 24 hours after the due date, however, are considered stolen.

"We won't hesitate to call the police if a computer is late. I would hate to have to call the police," Henderson said.

The four laptops have wireless network adapters that make it possible for Internet access from almost anywhere on campus without any hook-ups or plug-ins.

The computers use Microsoft Office 2000, containing Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access programs.

Any student who has laptop checkout questions should go to MP-121, where the laptops are sta-

tioned, and ask the lab technician.

Originally, Henderson said the program started when the construction management department requested three laptops for use at an annual conference they were attending in Reno, Nevada.

The CGC liked the idea, but wanted the laptops to benefit all students rather than just one department in the college of engineering.

He said they added one more laptop to the originally requested three and gave \$10,000 to start the program.

Susanne Winkleman assistant in the office of information technology said the program will influence the community in a positive way because students who previously did not have access to a laptop will now be able to borrow one.

She also said the computers are also useful for students who are ill; a student in the hospital is currently using one of them.

"It's a resource most students can't afford," Winkleman said.

Graphic pro-life display coming to campus

By Andy Benson
The Arbiter

A coalition of campus Christian organizations and a local pro-life group will bring a controversial anti-abortion display to the quad the week of April 8 in order to spark dialogue on abortion.

The display will consist of large panels measuring 6 feet by 13 feet depicting graphic images of aborted fetuses, lynching of blacks, and mass graves from Nazi Germany's interment camps, among others. The purpose of the images is to equate abortion with genocide. The display was created by the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, a California based pro-life group, and the images have displayed by religious organizations on campuses across the U.S and Canada.

The display is being brought to campus by local pro-life group Generation Life and four campus Christian organizations; Campus Crusade for Life, Saint Paul's Catholic Student Group, Intersociety Christian Fellowship and Baptist Campus Ministries.

Generation Life recently disrupted an abortion documentary "Jane: An Abortion Service" presented by the Student Programs Board in the Special Events Center. The organization's director, Brandi Swindell, was forcibly removed by an Ada County sheriff's deputy.

Rick Schell, director for Campus Crusade for Christ was instrumental in bringing the display to campus. Schell said he wanted to force a campus discussion

on abortion.

"We decided to do something that people couldn't pretend didn't exist," Schell said. "People are going to have to discuss this and have dialogue."

Schell also said the media has ignored abortion and that it is necessary to spark dialogue on the issue.

"We want to appeal to the consciences of college students," Schell said. "In history books they show pictures of black lynching and open graves from the Jewish holocaust, but there is a complete washout in the media about aborted babies."

Schell conceded that the display will be controversial and may generate a negative reaction by students, but said the goal is to move people who are ambivalent about abortion.

"The initial response of those who are pro-choice will be anger," Schell said. "But there will be a lot of discussion and we will handle it in a gracious and humble way. Those who are on

the fence will be moved off the fence."

Schell said that Generation Life will be providing religion-based counselors for students who are disturbed by the images.

However, the display is already generating opposition on campus. ASBSU Vice President Kara Janney said the display wouldn't move people on the fence to support the pro-life movement.

"If you don't know how you feel on the issue and you see something like that, you are going to be turned off," Janney said. "You won't want to approach them."

ASBSU President Nate Peterson added that he supported the right to free speech but warned that backlash from the display would only hurt the organizations involved.

"I support their right to make their argument, but I feel it is unfortunate because it will set those organizations back," Peterson said.

Gregory Blaesing, Auxiliary Services Executive

Director, is heading up a committee tasked with determining Boise State's response to the display. Blaesing said it is important to protect free speech, but the display will elicit strong emotions from viewers and campus leaders need to be prepared.

"While it creates excitement of campus, it is not without controversy and it can invoke or provoke strong reactions from minorities and women's groups," Blaesing said. "There are significant religious and political overtones to it."

Blaesing is meeting with the Women's Center, ethnic student groups and student leaders to prepare the campus community for the display.

Blaesing said that no BSU or state appropriated funds are supporting the event and that counselors from the counseling center, as well as staff from Student Affairs, will be available the entire week of the display.

Illegal Parking could cost more

By Amy Wegner
The Arbiter

Students who park illegally could soon face much bigger tickets.

ASBSU senators received a proposal from the university parking advisory committee recently suggesting the increases.

A student parking in a General parking lot without a permit could face paying a \$25 fine instead of the current \$10. A student parking in a reserved lot without a permit could face a \$40 fine.

Aaron Granden, ASBSU senator from the college of applied technology, said the overall goal of these increases is to try to keep the cost to the students down so they don't have to pay for the new parking garage.

"Instead of the construction fees being taken from student fees, an increase in fines will provide more money. In a sense, the people parking illegally on campus will be forced to pay the brunt of the construction fees," he said.

After the recommendation passes the Parking Committee it moves on to the President's Cabinet, and from there, final authorization by President Charles Ruch.

The next meeting of the Parking Committee is April 5 at 9 a.m. in the Senate Forum.

The committee is made up of officials from around campus and at

least one ASBSU student senator.

Granden said the proposal includes increases in parking meter fines as well.

He said the committee wants to install more parking meters set to give students twelve minutes free.

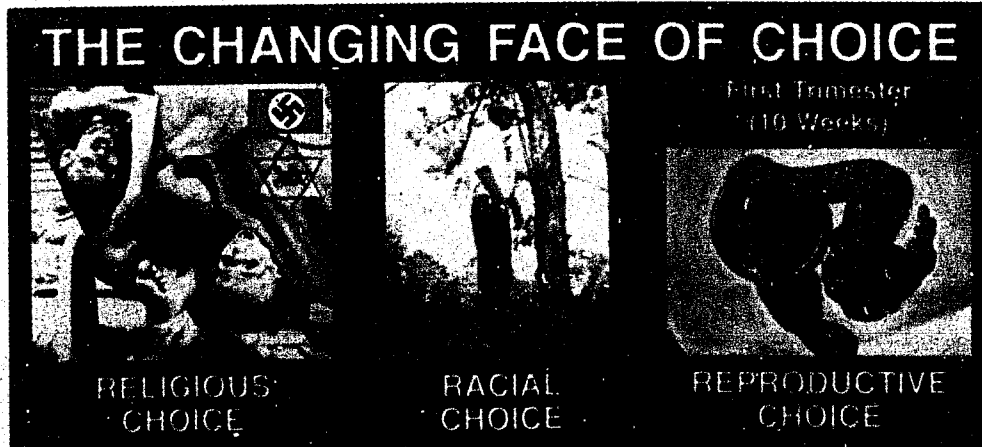
"The students could park, press the button, then run in to the SUB to buy a ticket or something. That will be a positive change," Granden said.

Another area that could be affected is the venue parking for events. Compared to other areas, BSU parking for an event at the Morrison Center or Pavilion is really cheap. The Parking Committee will be looking at the venue parking and possible raise fees there as well.

Junior Linda Cook said, "Provided the spaces are clearly marked, I think the parking fees should be increased, especially for people parking in handicapped spaces."

Lee O'Brien, technical writing major said, "The fee increases are consistent with the general parking policy and its lack of concern for students."

Granden said he is in support of the free 12 minute meters. "Who wouldn't be? But I haven't heard enough debate on either side to comment on the other recommendations for parking fee increases," he said.



An example of the type of ad activists want to display on the Quad



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News

News Bucket

Boise State announces Selland Humanitarian Awards

A Boise State University honor student and a music professor have been named the 2002 recipients of the Larry Selland Humanitarian Award.

Selland, who died of cancer in 1996, was a former dean, executive vice president and interim president of Boise State. He is remembered as a tireless advocate for diversity and as an early supporter of the Women's Center.

Two Selland Awards are given annually, one for a student and one for a faculty or staff member. This year's awards were presented at a breakfast on Monday in the Student Union.

Nominated by fellow music professor Jeanne Belfy, Marcellus Brown, of Detroit, has taught at Boise State for 13 years. His nomination was based on his efforts to give back to his community and promote diversity and tolerance in southwestern Idaho.

"Marcellus made a choice to relocate and raise his family in an area with a dubious reputation regarding racial acceptance and very limited opportunities for exposure to a larger black community," Belfy wrote in her nomination letter. "His stay here has not been without hostile racial incidents, but he does not dwell on these and he serves as a powerful role model for minority students."

Brown has promoted opportunities for minority students at Boise State all across the country. He volunteers his time as a guest teacher/lecturer for the Mariachi Music Workshops in Caldwell, serves as vice chairman of the Boise City Arts Commission and has presented the opening and closing music for the state observance of the Martin Luther King Jr./ Idaho Human Rights Celebration since 1992.

Jilliana Sloum, a senior from Bois was recognized for advocating for social justice for all people.

"She is courageous enough to walk her talk, whether she be in the numerical majority or minority, or in any given setting. Jilliana is also very giving of her time, talents and deep reservoir of compassion for others," said nominator Jill Gill, a BSU history professor.

Sloum is an advocate for farmworkers' rights, served as coordinator and director for the Volunteer Services Board, was a distinguished member of the Society of Collegiate Scholars and is a member of the Women's Center Advisory Board. She currently works for the Service-Learning program community outreach coordinator.

Yates verdict highlights mentally ill criminal defense in Idaho

Idaho's mental health budget ranks 47th in U.S.

By Erin Willis
The Arbiter

On Monday, March 18, a Texas judge formally sentenced Andrea Yates to a life term for the murders of three of her five children.

The month-long trial for the woman with a history of schizophrenia and postpartum psychosis touched off a heated debate of how mental illness is treated in the judicial system.

Political groups such as the National Organization for Women criticized the handling of the case and spoke out in favor of additional measures designed to assist women and defendants with mental illness.

Idaho statute 19-1715 prohibits the use of a not guilty by reason of insanity plea in the state's criminal procedure.

Peter Wollheim, BSU professor and director of the Idaho Suicide Prevention and Hotline Service, said the lack of an insanity defense in Idaho reflects the terrible prejudice, fear, stigmas and ignorance that surround the issue of mental illness.

Wollheim said one of the problems of understanding mental illness is the difficulty believing that a person can recognize that his actions are illegal, while he might still be incapable of restraining his aggressive or violent impulses, or comprehending the emotional or physical consequences of his actions.

"Our legal system is predicated upon the concept of each person assuming final responsibility for their deeds, and of individuals as morally competent agents," he said. "One of society's legitimate concerns is that if people are allowed to use insanity as a defense on a regular basis, the moral model would give way to a medical model which then absolves people of their accountability."

Craig Hemmens, BSU professor of criminal justice administration, said that in reality, however, the insanity defense is used in less than 2 percent of all criminal cases.

He said that Idaho's omission of an insanity defense makes a mockery of the principles of the criminal law, which assumes lia-

bility should be imposed only if the defendant is aware of his conduct.

"Idaho's approach to dealing with criminal defendants who suffer from a mental disease is wrongheaded, barbaric and asinine," Hemmens said.

In Idaho's current system, mental illness can only be introduced in mitigation of the penalty as in the Darrell Payne case; otherwise, mentally ill criminals are sent to prison instead of a mental hospital, he said.

"Personally, I think there is a tremendous problem [with the current system]. People misunderstand what mental illness is and wrongly think those found not guilty because of insanity somehow go free, which does not happen," Hemmens said. "The public and legislature are more concerned about the symbolism of a not guilty by reason of insanity verdict than they are with the reality of what happens when a person is civilly committed after such a verdict."

According to statistics published by the Center for Mental Health Services, Idaho ranked 47th in the nation in 1997 for actual per capita expenditures on mental health. Idaho spent \$29.20 per capita compared to highest-

ranking Washington D.C. expenditures of \$336.50 per capita.

As an advocate for full civil rights for the mentally ill, Wollheim said the State of Idaho could probably prevent a number of criminal offenses, including homicide and suicide if the state was more willing to provide adequate diagnostics, treatment and follow-up services for the mentally ill.

According to Wollheim, if the state offered more support including insurance coverage, as well as relied more on research-based medication and psychotherapy plans, the mentally ill would enjoy a far greater hope of improving and not re-offending once they are released from prison.

He added that the State of Mississippi mandates insurance parity for mental illnesses for all employees in the public and private sector.

Efforts to pass such legislation in Idaho have repeatedly died in committee, he said.

"Until people can get equal insurance coverage for physical and mental illnesses, I'm afraid that we are going to see many more tragic cases of this type," Wollheim said.

ASBSU Roundup

By Andy Benson
The Arbiter

ASBSU swore in new Senator-at-Large Anna Merkley, a debate team member and dorm resident, at Thursday's Senate meeting.

Merkley said she wants to work on improving privacy rights for dorm residents and educate students on their rights under the student code of conduct.

In other actions:

- A resolution was introduced opposing the mandatory health insurance policy being considered by the State Board of Education. The new policy would force students to carry health insurance through the university if unable to provide proof of other coverage. The expected cost of tuition, including the 12 percent increase and insurance for next semester would be \$1,780 if the Board approves the policy.

- A bill revising ASBSU financial code to better define club service projects was introduced. The bill would place the burden of project justification on the club by requiring all projects be documented thoroughly on service project reports. The bill is expected to provide a clear definition of service projects and provide clarification to student organizations.

- A resolution passed third reading which will ask the administration to consider applying the current grade replacement policy to the period of 1995 to spring 2001. The grade replacement policy was implemented last semester but doesn't apply to classes retaken during that period. The resolution seeks to apply consistency to the university's grade replacement policy.

- Kim Brandt, associate controller, and Jennifer Martindale, operations manager for the student's financial area, informed ASBSU that as of July the university would no longer mail monthly statements to students. Instead, students will be directed to BroncoWeb to check their balances. The move is expected to reduce costs by switching from mass mailings to electronic communication. The university plans to inform students about the switch via email, bulletin boards, table tents, and ads in the Arbiter.

MARCH 21
Student Dio Piano Recital,
Morrison Center Recital Hall.
Presented by Boise State music
department. Free. Call 426-
3980

MARCH 21-22
State Board of Education
meeting, Boise.

Bronco gymnastics, WGC
conference championships at
Utah State.

MARCH 22-APRIL 26
"Entropy" graphic design
exhibition, Student Union

Gallery. 7 a.m. -11p.m. daily.
Presented by Student Union
and Activities. Free. Call 426-
4636.

MARCH 22-23
Boise Master Chorale concert,
St. John's Cathedral, 804
N. 9th St. 7:30 p.m. Admission:
\$10. Call 426-3980.

Boise State Guitar Society
guest artist David Rogers,
Morrison Center Main Hall.
7:30 p.m. March 22. Boise State
Guitar Society and Idaho
Guitar Society. Tickets: \$5-10.
Free master class at 11 a.m.
March 23. Call 426-3980.

MARCH 23
Micronesian Dinner and
Dance Festival, Student Union
Jordan Ballroom. Cultural
booths open at 5 p.m. Doors
open for dinner at 6 p.m.
Presented by Boise State Island
Rhythms Club. Tickets at
Select-a-Seat, 426-1494 or
www.idahotickets.com.

Boise Philharmonic,
Morrison Center Main Hall.
8:15 p.m. Guest artist: Matt
Haimovitz. Also, dress
rehearsal concert, 10 a.m.; pre-
concert lecture, 7:30 p.m.
Presented by Boise

Philharmonic. Tickets: Call
344-7849.

New Beginnings Rescue
Mission Clean-up, Boise
Rescue Mission. 9 a.m.
Sponsored by Boise State
Volunteer Services Board. Call
426-4240.

MARCH 23/25
NCAA west regional
women's sweet 16 round, The
Pavilion. 7 and 9:30 p.m.
March 23, 7:30 p.m. March 25.
Tickets: \$30 adults, \$15 juniors
for all-session pass. Call 426-
4737.

Vertical list of concert advertisements including: ST. RITZ, LAKE TROUT, JOHN SCOFIELD BAND, RATDOG, DROWNING POOL, PRESSURE 45, SUPER DIAMOND, DARK STAIR ORCHESTRA, LUCINDA WILLIAMS, GREAT BIG SEA, CRACKER.

THE FIXX

On Sale Tomorrow! @ 10 AM
April 15th

long beach shortbus

Featuring: Eric Wilson of Sublime and RAS of Long Beach Dub Allstars

On Sale Tomorrow! @ 10 AM
Saturday April 27th

FLOGGING MOLLY

The Casualties Avoid One Thing

On Sale Tomorrow! @ 10 AM
May 7th

STEVEN WRIGHT

On Sale Tomorrow! @ 10 AM
For Tickets Call 1-800-965-4827

Tickets available at all ticketweb outlets

Saturday May 11th Egyptian Theater

PHIL LESH AND FRIENDS

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JIMMY HERRING/JOHN MOLO

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2002 TOUR

April 1st

The Big Easy Concert House

★ Less Than 300 Tickets Left ★
See Phil Lesh In The Most Intimate Venue In The Country!

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"Songs I Heard" Tour

Tickets On Sale Now!

Friday April 26th

Bank of America Centre

Tickets available at all Ticketweb and Select-a-Seat outlets. Including Albertsons or phone 1-866-468-7624, 426-1494 or 331-TIXS and online at www.ticketweb.com

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Harry Connick, Jr.'s Latest Albums "Songs I Heard" and "30" In Stores Now

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10:45 a.m.
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Join us this Easter as we commemorate another day that changed "life as we know it" for eternity, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Bring your family and experience a living faith with us as we celebrate Easter. Come find out why at Broadway ...

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Easter Sunday, March 31 ~ 8:30 am & 11 am



Easter Service Guide

The Cathedral of the Rockies

Watch a New Day Dawn!

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 31 6:00 am
Idaho Shakespeare Festival
Amphitheater
5645 Warm Springs Avenue
(toward Lucky Peak)

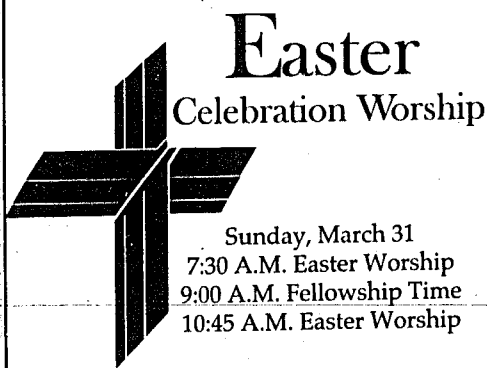
Lively worship in a friendly setting!
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Bring blankets to sit on.

All are welcome!

For more information call at 343-7511.

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Sunday, March 31
7:30 A.M. Easter Worship
9:00 A.M. Fellowship Time
10:45 A.M. Easter Worship

Rev. Robert E. Culter
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at 9:15 & 10:45 (free donuts!)
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5:00 PM **ONE VOICE**
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Each other and the World"

Palm Sunday Services
8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

**Palm Sunday Evening
Readings, Music and Art
Following Christ's Journey**
4:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Maunder Thursday
Service 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil
6:00 PM-Midnight

Easter Sunday Services
8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

Easter Sunday

Sunday March 31 at 10a.m.

PAVILION
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

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There will be a special children's program
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Nursery will also be provided.

*This age group should use Entrance 4

letters
to the
editor

I'll tell you what the deal is with core courses, Taylor Newbold

I am writing in response to the article, "What's the deal with all these core courses," by Taylor Newbold. To answer his question, I must say that the overall "point" of these core classes is to keep away the ignorance. I believe it is so important to walk away from college knowing a little bit of everything, even if it might have nothing to do with your major. I believe that there is no such thing as "[shoving] money down the throats of faculty members to teach us garbage," as education doesn't equal garbage.

The value of education itself is priceless, because no one can take it away from you.

Another mistake Newbold makes is a common one among college students. That is placing the responsibility of one's education first upon the professors of an institution, and secondly upon that institution itself, rather than taking ownership of one's academic experience. If Newbold cannot find ways to apply the information he is given in his core classes to either his major field of study or more importantly, his life, I think it would be fair to say that he has a limited understanding of the complexity of the world he lives in.

What Newbold forgets, is that we are not only preparing for the pursuits that our major(s) will lead us into, but that we are also preparing to become knowledgeable participants in a complex and diverse world that includes much more than that which some of our narrow minds wish to comprehend.

Robert Green & Jamie McGinnis

Arbiter again resorts to communism

I just wanted to respond to the recent editorial, "Money to hire new basketball coach be better spent." Please don't tell me that you idiots at the Arbiter don't understand the principle of capitalism. I would like to invite you to do some

research and really find out how much money the athletic department brings into the university. It is crucial to find a good coach that will produce a better team which in turn will increase ticket sales. If you guys at the Arbiter would like a school that focuses more on academics rather than athletics, move to Caldwell and attend Albertson.

David Aric

Women's basketball coach treated unfairly

After reading Mandy Welch's (soph guard) father's letter-to-the-editor calling for Trish's Stevens' reinstatement, I'm simply trying to echo his sentiments.

Have you, as a sports journalist, followed up on this story? Have you interviewed the players? I know what the BSU men had to say about the departure of Jensen. You won't hear the same sentiments from BSU women about Stevens. Here's the phone number for Camille Woodfield (soph point guard) 433-0424 or 841-3851.

She has phone numbers for all other team members. I wonder how Valerie Rainis (ex-player) at Fox 12 feels about this. Maybe college basketball is a business now, but there are still human beings involved. These women, who are critically impacted by their coach's forced resignation, have not been consulted nor has their story been told. It should be.

I am very unhappy with the forced resignation of Trish Stevens.

She simply got caught up in the Rod Jensen malaise. Anyone one who has observed her program closely knows that she gets the most out of her players. They play joyful basketball. I never liked June Daugherty's star-system basketball. When she had no Trish Baders in the stable, she left. Trish Stevens inherited nothing, but her teams were competitive and entertaining to watch.

Moving up to the WAC was a big jump in pure athleticism, but by the end of the season they were competitive again even though freshmen and sophs were carrying the load. She had another good class of recruits coming in this year. I'm just a fan, but I was ready to pitch in on the attendance problem. I'm sure that could have been solved. I think the

forced resignation of Trish Stevens was unjust - ask her players, you'll find out.

Bob Gregg

Arbiter is a liberal rag that publishes whiners

I think the biggest problem with your liberal rag called The Arbiter is the fact that the people who write your opinions column don't really know anything about anything at all, aside from how to run their whiny mouths and illustrate uneducated arguments that fail to stand up to even a preschooler's criticism. Mr. (Nate) Williams' recent peacenik rant on the supposed "alternatives" to war with Afghanistan is a shining example of the uneducated BS that plagues the pages of your paper.

Re #1—War is inevitable. In order to survive, one must be willing to fight and kill so long as others exist who are willing to do the same. Not to sound threatening, but as much as you run around denouncing the use of force, I can promise you that there's something you're personally willing to fight for. My bet is that if it came down to death, or unwavering support for your pacifist ideals, you'd put up a fight just like the rest of us. If you didn't, you'd either be killed or dominated like a little bitch. So much for pacifism! In truth, it's the lack of force which has permitted the terrorist to exist as he does in the first place. Ours is an example of what pacifism and reactivism get you.

As for your "police-style" mission: you suggest we should have just gone into Afghanistan to arrest the Al Qaeda/Taliban, as opposed to fighting them, and that it "might've eventually involved military action." This illustrates your striking lack of knowledge about anything military. So you think we should have sent "police" and not "troops?" Do ya think there's a difference? Oh I know, cops carry handguns and not rifles right? I think mace and a nightstick are effective counters to RPGs and AK-47's. Yeah, that sounds like a fair fight. Should they be regular "cops" from Boise or L.A., or just infantry in a different uniform? Do you really think they would have just surrendered and given up? If it were really that easy, do you really

think we would have chosen our current route? Would the US servicemen who've given their lives in combat have done so if all they had to do was "arrest" the bad guys instead of fighting them? Only an idiot could come to the conclusions you've reached without recognizing the holes I've just uncovered in your brilliant little plan. How a supposedly "educated" person could be so strikingly ignorant is rather amazing to me.

And "if" it did come to military action, which I know is a rather broad assumption to you, how on earth would it have been in any way "less severe?" Maybe the Taliban would have been less willing to fight if we'd nicely asked them to surrender first.

I know that if foreigners came into my country to arrest me, I'd be more willing to forget about my ideals and turn myself over to them if they were nice about it.

Re supporting the "internal uprising of Afghans against the Taliban regime:" what do you think the Northern Alliance was dummy?! Do ya really think what has happened in Afghanistan would be possible with air strikes and special forces alone?

Somebody's been watching too many Arnold Swarzenegger movies. NEWS FLASH! We didn't fight the war in Afghanistan, the Northern Alliance did it for us and we supported them. And somehow, I'm thinking that the Northern Alliance did a better job than some women's group could have done, as you were so smart to suggest.

Also, how does the US bombardment of enemy troop concentrations/fortifications translate in any way to putting 7.5 million at risk of starvation? We bomb bad guys, not farms, dummy. My guess is those 7.5 million were at risk of starvation before we ever set foot over there. But that's just a little too obvious for you to understand I'm sure.

Re your supposed "basic root causes" of terrorism: yet another subject you obviously know nothing about. The vast majority of terrorist organizations on this planet are driven by radical Islamic fundamentalism. They don't blow themselves up because they're unemployed, or hungry, etc. etc., or because the Nike sneaker factory isn't giving them good benefits. It has absolutely

nothing to do with that. If that were the case, you'd see more terrorist organizations coming out of Sub-Saharan Africa than the middle east.

As it currently stands, easily 95 percent of terrorist organizations are Islamic, and come from the middle east. Further, the terrorist usually comes from a somewhat middle class, educated background...neither of which are representative of the "crushing poverty that engulfs most of the world thanks to the US" as you suggest.

The rest of your arguments are really just too stupid to criticize. Keep in mind that any idiot knows how to run his mouth, but few are capable of doing so intelligently. My suggestion is that if you're gonna whine, stick to something you know about. If your goal is to prove to everybody that you're a complete idiot you're doing a great job, but I'd personally enjoy reading your pacifist liberal BS more if you did so in a more direct way.

Jason Shepherd

Affirmation for affirmative action

Although J. Tyler Balance's letter of 3/14 is directed toward Dr. Ruch, I thought I'd throw in my two cents. The Office of Affirmative Action is not the university's employment office. The employment office is the Office of Human Resources Services. Human Resources Services is part of the responsibility of Buster Neel, vice president of Budget & Finance. Affirmative Action is under the auspices of the Office of the President.

Although their web site does have job listings, Affirmative Action plays a much larger role on campus. I invite you to contact Betty Hecker, director of Affirmative Action. She would be more than happy to discuss the objectives and mission of Affirmative Action with you.

Regarding the rest of your letter, while I can understand your perspective, I cannot share it. I am particularly concerned with the part where you state that Affirmative Action is involved in, "placing the interests of a politically favored minority group ahead of members from other groups who are better qualified." This and similar ideas from opponents of affirmative action policies

are tinged with a disturbing sort of discrimination.

Your argument takes the form of what some scholars (such as Suzanne Pharr) have termed "the myth of scarcity," which states that extending any sort of rights to a minority group/person will necessarily remove such rights from a majority group/person. These types of statements prefer to blame the people who have been and are disadvantaged instead of addressing the endemic racism, classism, sexism, ableism, and homophobia on the Boise State campus and in our society.

You're right; many people did come to the United States with the idea and the hope that it was the land of opportunity. But I challenge you to ask a member of a minority group if merit alone, in the sense we are discussing it, will allow them to "get ahead." And if it does, then why is nearly the entire Idaho legislature white? Why don't we see more minorities on this campus, whether among faculty, staff, or students? This is not to say that merit is not involved in the success of members of minority groups, but I would submit that minority groups have to work harder to get ahead. When a person is a member of a group that is generally seen as "other," there are always going to be institutional barriers to that person's opportunities for success. I believe that is the fundamental reason that Affirmative Action exists.

I agree with you completely, Mr. Balance, that poverty is a horrible thing for anyone, regardless of his or her group identity. There is absolutely no excuse for a nation with such a wealth of resources like our to allow poverty to exist. But instead of turning on other disadvantaged groups, it would be far more just and effective for all of us to confront the political and economic systems wherein "the combined wealth of the top 1 percent of American families is nearly the same as that of the entire bottom 95 percent" (Sklar, Chaos or Community, 1995).

By doing this, we can show those people who came to the United States with such hope that we really are a land of opportunity.

Michael Crump

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Have your Pre-funk party with us!

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Thursday Night

Ladies Night!

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7pm - 2am



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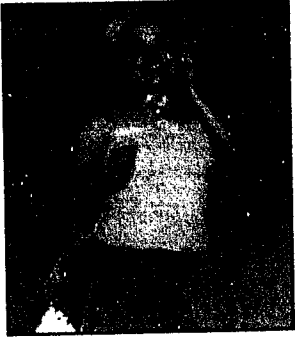


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Diversions

Micronesian Festival

2nd annual island celebration



Boise State's Island Rhythms Club is presenting a night of Micronesian fun and food this Saturday in the Jordan Ballroom.

The Island Rhythms Club is a group of students who hail from the Micronesian Islands. Micronesia is an archipelago in the South Pacific, south of Japan and east of the Philippines, which was influenced by Spanish explorers.

The 2nd annual Island Rhythms Festival is showcasing traditional dances such as the ceremonial "stick dance" and Spanish-influenced folk dances.

New to this year's program, club members are setting up a booth and selling handcrafted Micronesian artifacts such as coconut leaf baskets, woven bird decorations and hats. The booth opens at 6 p.m. outside the Jordan Ballroom.

The menu features a bevy of Micronesian culinary treasures including a 150-pound roast pig, bananas with coconut milk, pancit (a noodle and vegetable dish) red rice, bisteak (Spanish-style beef), sashimi and whitefish with coconut milk. Later, dessert lovers will be pleased with papaya turnovers, ahu, coconut meat soup, and apigigi, a coconut creation cooked in banana leaves. Dinner is served buffet style at 7 p.m. with the rest of the activities kicking off at 7:30. Hui-O-Aloha is also performing their style of Polynesian dance at the festival.

If you go ...

The 2nd annual Micronesian Island Rhythms Festival is Saturday night at 7 p.m. in the Jordan Ballroom. Tickets are available at all select-a-seat locations or online at www.idahotickets.com or by calling 426-1494. For more information about the festival call 426-4259.

Concrete Blonde rocks Big Easy



Photo by Kelly Day, The Arbiter.

Johnette Napolitano, lead singer of Concrete Blonde, soothes the crowd with her sultry vocals last Sunday night at the Big Easy.

AE bonus



IPTV examines Kurosawa...

Channel Four's "Great Performances" is featuring a documentary about the late Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa Thursday night at 9 p.m.

This PBS special examines the life and work of Kurosawa. His two children helped make the project possible by giving much insight into the legendary filmmaker. The documentary features interviews with actors and some rare film footage. Kurosawa directed the classics "The Seventh Samurai" and "Ran, Runaway Train."

Boise Philharmonic...

The Boise Philharmonic is presenting a spring concerto Saturday night in The Morrison Center.

Featured are Antonin Dvorak's Cello Concerto and Franz Schubert's No. 8, "The Unfinished." The concert will open with the most popular of Schubert's 800-plus works. Schubert only wrote two movements of this symphony before he abandoned the work, yet it has become one of his most recognizable pieces due to its depth of creative expression.

"Why then, did Schubert apparently lose interest in the work and simply never get around to finishing it? The answer remains a mystery, but the pleasure we derive from this two-movement symphony is undeniable," Boise Philharmonic's conductor Jim Ogle said.

Next on the program is Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B minor, which was reportedly inspired by a visit to Niagara Falls where he was enthralled by the power and magnitude of the sight. He declared, "My word, that's going to be a symphony in B minor!"

Performing Dvorak's work is cello soloist Matt Haimovitz, who has played with the Israel Philharmonic.

The concerto starts at 8:15 p.m. in The Morrison Center. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or by calling 344-7849.

BAM displays 'True Grit'

30 works by seven women artists

By J. Patrick Kelly
The Arbiter

The Boise Art Museum is currently exhibiting "True Grit: Seven Female Visionaries Before Feminism," which is a diverse collection of 30 paintings, drawings and assemblages made between 1949-76 by seven women artists.

Ironically, the title of the installation is playfully taken from a 1969 John Wayne film because the varied works of art parallels the strong nature of "The Duke."

"True Grit" was a film that essentialized the "tough-as-nails" (with a sentimental streak) persona that defined its star, John Wayne. As the words describe it, Wayne's character expressed authentic stubborn courage, an attribute that certainly is applicable to these seven mid-twentieth century women artists," art critic Terri Cohn wrote about the exhibit.

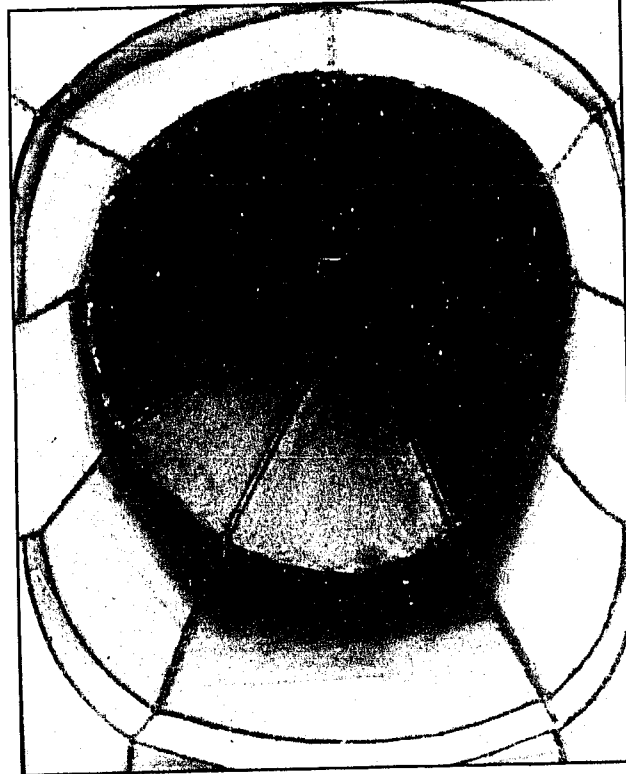
These seven artists were prolific between the '50s and early '70s, before the concept of feminism was a major part of America's collective psyche. Their work embodies a spirit of "undiluted purity and unvarnished toughness." In a male-dominated art realm, these women artists found strength and independence with their multimedia representation of modern culture.

"The defining character-

istics of this highly individualistic group of artists include a strong tendency toward abstraction, a focus on sculpture and three-dimensional approaches to the picture plane, underlying elements of rage, and both personal and political infrastructures that reflect the time in which they were working," Cohn wrote after seeing the exhibit at Mills College in Oakland.

Upon entering the exhibit, a giant orifice greets you with profound, gaping expressionism. Lee Bontecou's untitled welded metal assemblage is daring and encompasses a strong female essence. Louise Nevelson's works of painted wood construction are strong and confident, yet depict oppression. "Dream House XXXV" is a representation of a cubist organism trapped inside a coffin-like black box. Her work boasts industrial sensibilities, set off by sharp lines and rigid textures that scream of unconventionality.

Nancy Grossman's mixed-media collages and wooden assemblages deal with "fierce strife and anxiety of life between womb and the tomb." Her mixed-media collage assemblage, "Ali Stoker," clamps life's cycle together with a connection of leather coats and boots, radiator hoses and other commonly found items. The exhibit also fea-



"Untitled" by Lee Bontecou. Welded metal, canvas and assemblage.

tures Jay Defeo's bleak acrylic and mixed-media works on Masonite, Nancy Spero's gouache and ink on paper and oil on canvas creations, and the bold post-modernistic sculptures of Claire Falkenstein.

"True Grit" is running through May 19 along with "The Jeri L. Waxenberg Collection: Women Artists in the Modernist Tradition" exhibit, which is installed in the adjacent gallery.

If you go ...

If you go box... "True Grit" and "Women Artists in the Modernist Tradition" are running through May 19. BAM is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Boise State students get in for \$3 and can purchase an annual pass for \$15.

Sunday, April 7 6:00pm

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Music professor hasn't lost his marbles yet

By Lauren Consuelo Tussing
The Arbiter

Dr. Joseph Baldassarre, Boise State professor of music history and classical guitar, knows exactly where his marbles are. They are in a jar perched on the windowsill of his office overlooking the Boise River.

Baldassarre's marbles sit behind a small plaque reading "H'ain't lost 'em yet." And with the way things are progressing for Baldassarre, it will certainly be a long time before he misplaces his marbles.

Baldassarre was born and raised in a city that he named "the center of the universe," Cleveland, Ohio. It was Baldassarre's parents that first began to shape his musical future through tradition.

"Both of my parents are Italian and tradition has it that when you are four you start to learn how to read words and how to read music...then usually after first grade, when you're five or six, you choose your profession," Baldassarre said.

At six years old, Baldassarre realized he wanted to be a professional guitar player. From the beginning, Baldassarre showed promising talent as a guitarist. By the

time he was 11, Baldassarre was already a featured performer on a Cleveland television program for children.

After high school, Baldassarre became a successful college student, but it was then he realized the limitations of being a guitarist in a musical world dominated by orchestras and ensembles.

"Here I was a guitar player surrounded by opera singers, pianists and violinists...I looked around and every instrument that was around me was being used in some viable ensemble. The guitar didn't belong in any of them," Baldassarre said.

Baldassarre's discouragement was furthered by the words of a professor after he played a guitar concerto.

"He said, 'You are a very fine musician. It is too bad you don't play a real instrument.' And at first I thought he was joking and then after that I got kind of angry and after that I said, 'He's right.'"

Discouraged, Baldassarre decided that he would leave college. But his disenchantment quickly ended one morning, during a music history class, when his professor played a piece of late-medieval music. Baldassarre became enticed by the music and immediately knew it was his calling.

Baldassarre earned a master's degree in music history and literature from Kent State University in Ohio, and then a Ph.D. in classical guitar performance with an emphasis in early music performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University.

Baldassarre came to Boise State in 1975, and has since been an integral part of the Department of Music. Baldassarre keeps busy at Boise State as an advisor for music majors and is the faculty advisor for Boise State's Guitar Society. Baldassarre is as passionate about his teaching as he is about playing the guitar.

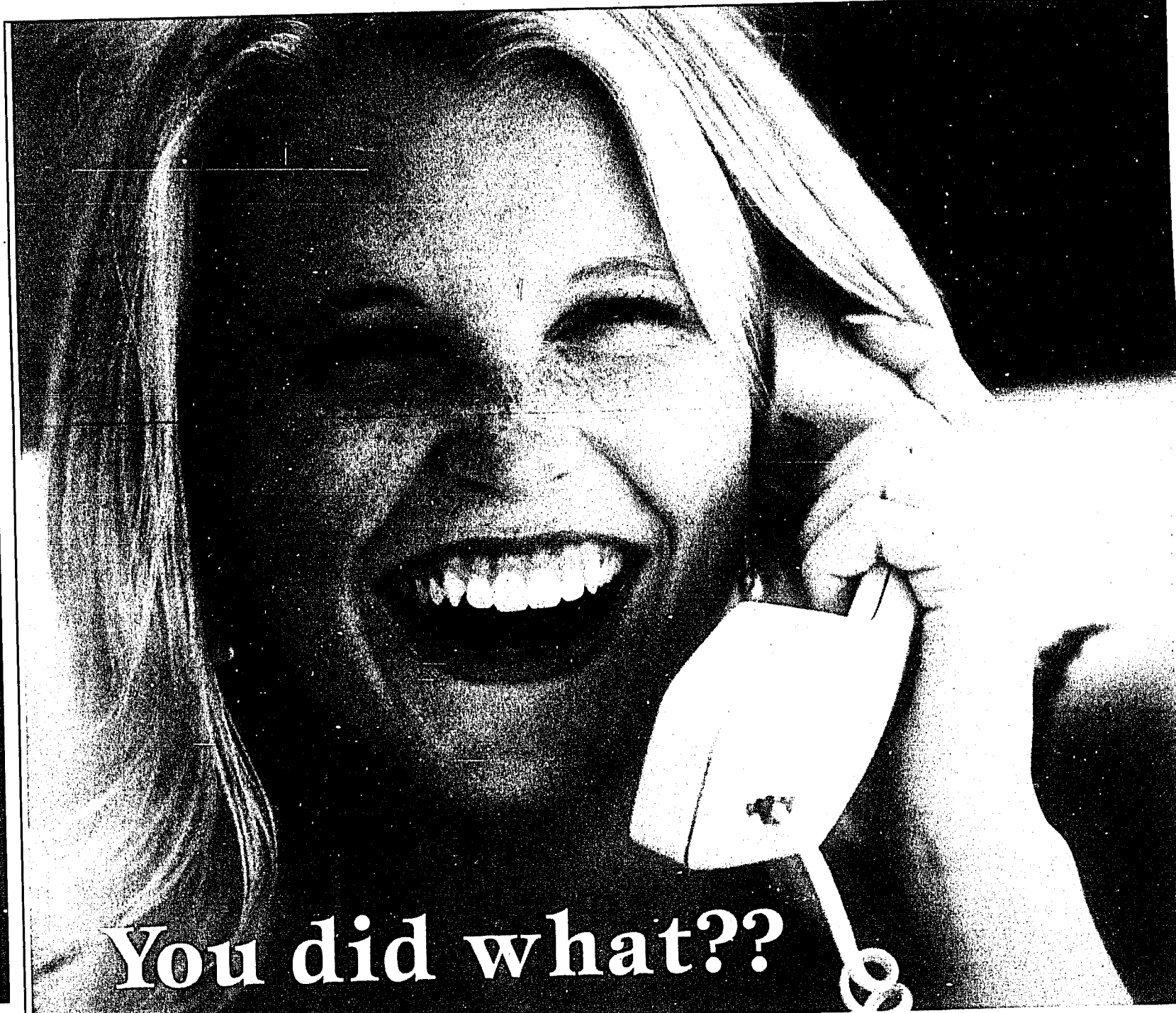
"Teaching is one of the few things that you can give and give and actually get richer," Baldassarre said.

"I get to do what I love everyday."

Outside of Boise State, Baldassarre performs in a rock band called the Fabulous Chancellors and performs solo classical guitar throughout the community. Baldassarre is currently working on an album of medieval music and a 17th century baroque-guitar album. Baldassarre also has released one folk-guitar album called "Young Jane."



Photo by Daniel Wolf, The Arbiter



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