

6-18-2003

Arbiter, June 18

Students of Boise State University

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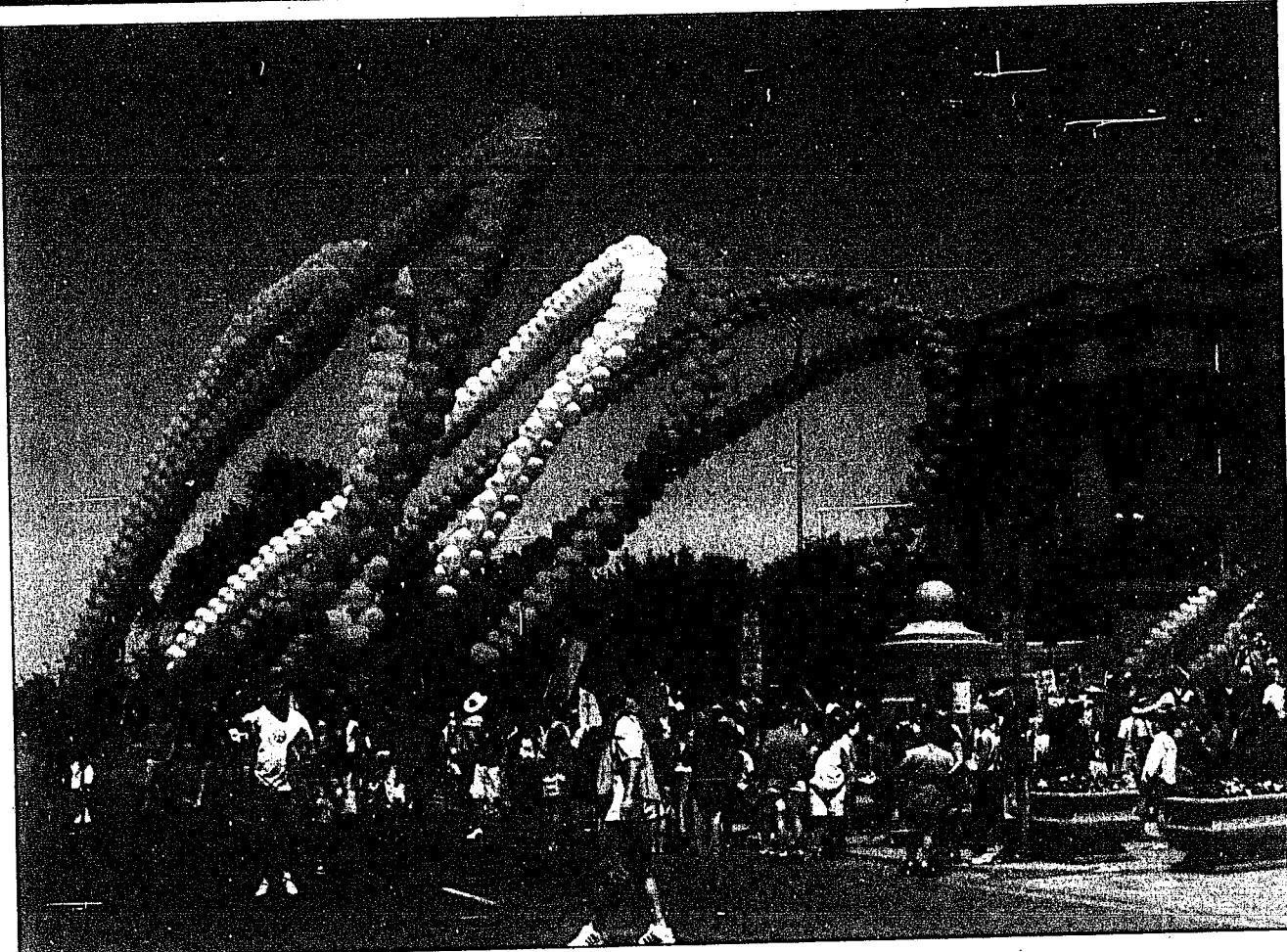
The Arbiter

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Boise State University



Kempthorne asks state agencies to surrender funds

Claims eleventh hour retraction does not constitute budget cut

By Jessica Adams
Managing Editor

Imagine you work at a job that pays \$10 per hour to start. Then, at the end of your first year of employment, your boss informs you that due to the company's financial woes, you'll be forced to take a 10 percent pay cut. Finding another job is not an option and you are forced to cut back on your living expenses. You tell your teenage kids they'll have to start working so they can contribute to household finances. They bitch and moan but do it anyway.

A few months later, your boss is up for review and needs your support; he promises over and over that he won't dock your pay next year—no matter what the circumstances. But after finding out that he gets to keep his position, your boss cautions you to set aside 3 percent of your income over the next year in case he has to retract your pay at the end of the year in order to balance the company's budget.

At the end of that year, you receive a letter from the boss asking you to return 3 percent of your income for that year. You go to the bank and take all that hard-earned money out to pay your boss's bills. It hurts, but you keep telling yourself that this is just business in the real world. Meanwhile, you have to put at least one of your children in a foster home until you can recover financially.

This is the state of affairs higher education in Idaho finds itself in.

On June 5, in the last month of fiscal year 2003, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne asked state agencies — including each of Idaho's state universities and Lewis and Clark State College — to return a portion of their 2003 budgets to help pay the state budget deficit.

Kempthorne's Press Secretary Mark Snider said the 2003 budget retraction is considered voluntary on the part of state agencies and universities because the governor forewarned of a possible retraction at the beginning of FY03.

"Because the universities planned to set aside a percentage of their 2003 budget, adjustments were made at the discretion of each individual university," Snider said.

Snider pointed out that cuts were not enacted by the legislature or by a board of examiners. And the governor could have enacted a cut, but he didn't have to.

In the last month of FY03, nearly all of Idaho state agencies returned some portion of their 2003 budget in order to make up for the shortfall of income tax revenue. Snider said the governor's office expects about \$20 million total will be collected by June 30. Another \$25 million from the federal government will be used to recover the 2003 budget deficit.

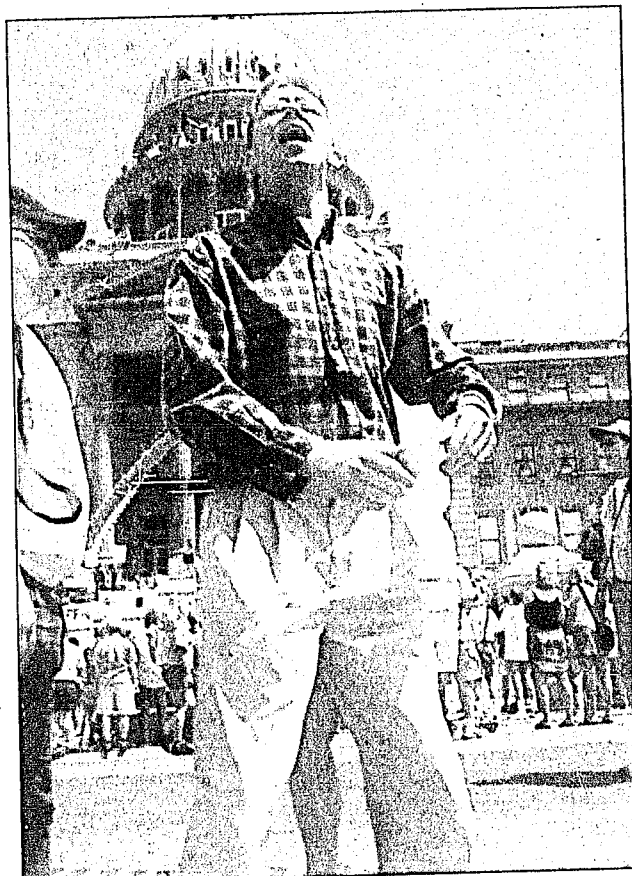
Collectively, the state universities are slated to return approximately \$8 million to the state — constituting the largest source of returned funds used to balance the budget.

Boise State Vice President of Finance and Administration Buster Neel was ambivalent about the notion that the budget reduction was voluntary.

"I'm not sure it's entirely voluntary, we didn't want to have to give back \$2 million from our budget, but we do recognize the situation the state is in."

Neel said the university is doing everything it can to minimize the impact on students in FY04. According to Neel, Boise State felt the effects of the recent budget retraction during the last academic year. In FY03, 41 jobs, including 22 faculty positions were eliminated; of those, 31 were vacant and 10 were laid off. Neel said there won't be any further job cuts and the university will maintain

See Funds page 2



Pride Week hits the capital

Hundreds of people gathered at the Capitol Building Saturday for the annual Pride Rally and march. The speakers at the rally included Frank Kameny, a founding figure in the gay rights movement and Theron McGriff, a Twin Falls gay father who fought a legal battle for the custody of his children.

The event drew three protestors. One protestor, Justin Becker (left), shouted repeatedly during the event that gays should 'repent and turn to God.' At one point during his speech, Kameny appeared to directly address Becker, stating, "I did not fight for second-class citizenship."

"An abundance of evidence shows that Iraq possesses large quantities of chemical and biological—also potentially nuclear—material to use in WMDs."

The Honorable Mike Crapo (R-ID),
Letter to the Author, dated April 7, 2003.

Crapo, Where's the WMD?

By Alex Neiwirth
News Commentary
The Arbiter

For this reporter this story began just after war returned to Iraq. On Friday, March 21 the Idaho Peace Coalition held a "walk-in" at the Idaho delegation's congressional offices, where they asked folks to write their representatives to voice their opposition to the war in Iraq. Fearing that this war would make the world worse off, this reporter went down to the post office on 8th and Bannock, stepped into our Senators' offices and faxed his opinions to Washington.

A few weeks later he opened his mailbox and was confused by the letter he received from Sen. Mike Crapo. In it, Idaho's junior senator declared his support of the war, writing: "Our President has made the difficult decision that our national security is on the line and I fully support his decision." The puzzling part for this peacenik was one of the reasons Crapo gave for supporting the war — "An abundance of evidence shows that Iraq possesses large quantities of chemical and biological — also potentially nuclear —

material to use in WMDs."

Where is that evidence now? There are those two mobile trailer labs allegedly capable of producing some WMD material, but it isn't conclusive. Leading the criticism of the Bush regime's latest effort at distraction is the London Observer, which on June 8 cited British intelligence sources that the trailers were probably used for hydrogen production, not anthrax.

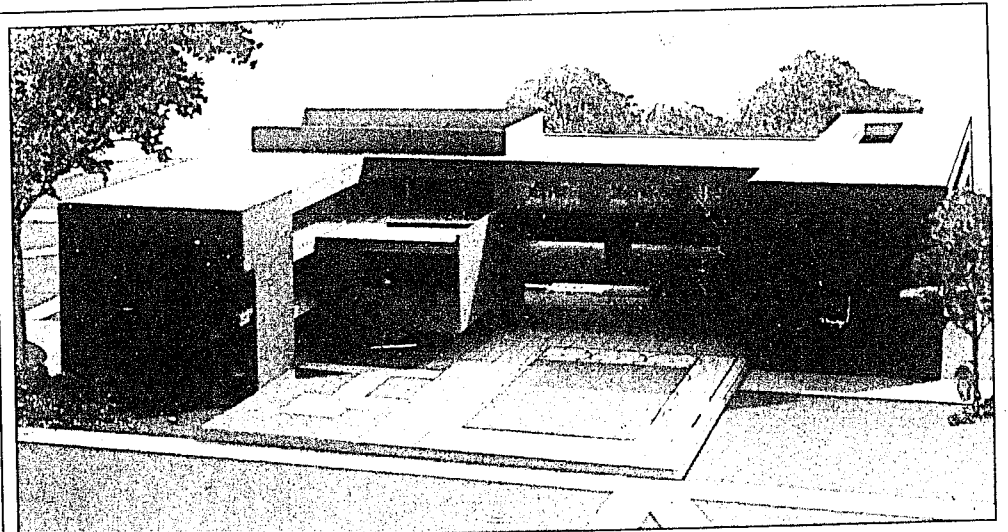
Speaking on behalf of the senator, Crapo's press secretary Lindsay Northern said he still believes WMDs will be found. When asked specifically about the "abundance of evidence" Crapo had claimed to have been privy to, Northern said senators "were briefed on a daily basis by the Department of Defense," that Crapo "had attended meetings with (Secretary of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld," and Deputy Secretary of Defense and member of the hawkish Project for a New American Century (www.newamericancentury.org) Paul Wolfowitz. Lindsay said these "intense" briefings helped lead the Senator to his decision.

This response doesn't address the point that evidence may have been exaggerated or

fabricated outright to provide a justification for Gulf War II, a war in which two Idahoans — two of Crapo's constituents — have so far been killed. Wolfowitz conceded in the July issue of Vanity Fair that WMDs were not his primary interest in advocating an invasion of Iraq. "For bureaucratic reasons we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction, because it was the one reason everyone could agree on," Wolfowitz was quoted as saying. He further noted that one of the best results of the war would be US Forces being able to leave Saudi Arabia — incidentally one of bin Laden's primary gripes with the US.

A recently leaked Defense Intelligence Agency report (which has reportedly existed since September) revealed "there is no reliable information on whether Iraq is producing and stockpiling chemical weapons, or whether Iraq has — or will — establish its chemical warfare agent production facilities." This seems to contradict Rumsfeld's March 30 remark that "We know where they (the WMDs) are."

So, in the face of no conclusive evidence to the contrary, See Crapo page 2



Plans proceed for full-service West Campus

State bonds to pay for building

By Jessica Adams
Managing Editor

Boise State's new West Campus, located north of the Idaho Center, will soon break ground on its second addition, a multipurpose building—the first on the Nampa campus to house academic classes. The first building, known as the TECenter, an incubator for new high-technology businesses, opened in Spring 2003. With the Idaho Legislature's approval of \$68 million in state bonds for campus construction statewide, expansion of the West Campus will begin in August.

Boise State is in the process of bonding for the new building, which will cost about \$10 million to complete. The Multipurpose Building is scheduled to open Jan 2003, in time for spring classes.

Kevin Satterlee, BSU associate vice president for planning, said construction of the building has been on hold since the state budget crunch materialized two years ago.

Three years ago, the Idaho Legislature appropriated \$2 million for the university to plan and begin construction on the campus infrastructure. The 2000 Legislative session appropriated an additional \$3 million to complete that infrastructure and another \$500,000 to design the Multipurpose Building.

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's Press Secretary Mark Snider

said although bonding for the second building was approved by the legislature in a previous session, the funds had to be retracted in order to balance the budget.

Snider said the state-bonded projects will help spur the economy by providing jobs in construction and creating additional staff positions to operate the new facilities.

The new multipurpose building at Boise State West will be the first academic installation with one large lecture hall, 14 classrooms, a small branch of Albertson's Library and a bookstore.

Additional buildings will consist of a mix of academic and service buildings organized around a central quadrangle,

See Campus page 2

New enrollment standards take effect for fall admissions

By Kim Ritz
News Reporter

In recent years Boise State University has experienced record growth in enrollment: from 16,459 in the fall of 2000 to 17,745 in the spring of 2003. The current growth, coupled with the problem economy and state funding cuts, prompted university administration to implement higher enrollment standards for traditional freshmen—those coming straight from high school and those under the age of 21.

Boise State Dean of Enrollment Mark Wheeler said, "When the economy is down, people flock back to higher education. For us, that's very hard, because when the

economy is down, our budgets are lower, but students come to us in record numbers—these are two very hard things to reconcile."

The new admission standards are based on a chart used by BSU since 1995. What is new is the addition of a grey area, which provides needed flexibility in the admission of students based on BSU's capacity and budget. The chart places the highest value on an applicant's high school GPA, and factors in their score on the SAT or ACT—the point where the two intersect on the chart determines a prospective student's eligibility for admission. A student who falls into the blue section of the chart is an excellent candidate for

admission.

"Statistically, we know that the farther down students place on this index, the less likely they are to succeed," Wheeler said... So we feel, when you're faced with limited resources, one of the most fair ways of deciding who gets admitted and who doesn't is who is most prepared and most likely to benefit—this chart tells us. We reserve the right to increase this as time goes on, and to be honest, that is probably likely."

Adding to the flexibility of the new standards is the Enrollment Management Committee's ability to adjust the bar for admission each term. "The Enrollment Management Committee meets and decides for any given term:

where in here do we want to admit students? For this upcoming semester, we played it pretty conservatively because it was our first semester with this," Wheeler said. "We might choose to change that for spring semester or next fall semester. We don't commit to any particular point—we need that flexibility."

So, where does that leave students who don't meet the admissions standards for a given term?

There are several options available to these applicants. The Applied Tech programs have different standards for admission, and offer Professional Technical Programs in fields from Accounting Technology to

Welding and Metals Fabrication. Such students are also encouraged to apply for part-time, non-degree seeking status. There is also a pilot program underway designed for just such applicants, which started June 9. The "Summer Bridge Program" offers remedial education in English and Math. If a student does well, he or she may continue in the fall and spring.

Wheeler said the goal is to admit students who have the highest likelihood of success.

The new standards will not effect the admission of transfer or non-traditional students, although that could change. The Enrollment Management Committee will look at how these students are performing,

and decide accordingly whether an increase in standards is in order.

Many students have faced the frustration of limited availability of core courses due to cramped resources and space. This new plan seeks to alleviate some of that, as well as provide the needed resources to the students who will use them most effectively and with the most benefit.

Campus from page 1

connected by a network of pedestrian paths. The 150-acre site allows for ample parking and additional buildings as the campus grows to meet the needs of local residents.

Academic classes now held at the Canyon County Center will be moved to the Multipurpose Building once it's built. The current Canyon County Campus, located at

2407 Caldwell Blvd. in Nampa, was established in 1986. From an original enrollment of 80 students, the campus has grown to serve more than 6,000 people each year and offers more than 70 academic courses, several applied technology courses and non-credit job training, adult basic education and English as a second language courses.

Idaho Energy Division Implements Renewable Energy Initiative

By Annie Berical
News Reporter

Idaho residents are interested in alternative and renewable energy resources for a number of reasons. Some are concerned about the rising cost of utilities; others hope that developing alternative sources of power will lessen our nation's dependency on foreign oil. Still others worry about the health of Idaho's famous salmon streams.

So what is Idaho doing to address the energy concerns of its citizens?

Renewable Energy Specialist John Crockett at the Idaho Energy Division addresses these issues everyday. Since 2001, Crockett has been working from two different grants to help expand renewable energy use in Idaho. One such grant, the

Anaerobic Digestion Livestock Industry Initiative seeks to fit five Idaho dairies with anaerobic digesters by 2005.

For anaerobic digestion to take place, waste from dairy cattle is placed in airtight containers with bacteria. The bacteria eat the waste creating methane gas, which in turn powers generators. The bodies of the dead bacteria can then be used as a high-grade fertilizer.

However, anaerobic digestion does release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as a byproduct of the process.

"You've got to understand that methane gas is already being released into the atmosphere in huge amounts by dairies. If we burn it, we can use it as a power source. If we can get a few anaerobic digesters in place, more dairies will be inter-

ested in using them too," said Crockett.

Anaerobic digestion is a process widely used by sewage treatment plants in Idaho.

While Crockett believes that the Idaho Energy Division is succeeding at implementing anaerobic digestion systems, in other areas the state is still lagging.

"Ethanol plants have been popping up all over the place since [foreign] oil prices first started rising. Idaho hasn't jumped on the bandwagon yet."

At present there are only two ethanol production plants in Idaho. However, bio-diesel, a product made from mustard seed or rape seed — which burns cleaner than fossil fuel diesel — is catching on in the state.

Idaho currently ranks third in

the nation in its use of renewable energy sources. For more information on alternative and renewable energy sources and what you can do to decrease your own non-renewable energy use, contact the Idaho Energy Division at 1-800-334-SAVE or check out the Idaho Department of Water Resources website at www.idwr.state.id.us/energy. Also, a Boise firm, Aurora Power and Design, offers residential-scale wind energy, hydroelectric and solar energy products as well as education and training services. If you're thinking about setting up a solar cell to run the hot plate in your dorm room, these are the folks to call.

The Arbiter

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current operations in FY04. However, Boise State will inevitably be forced to turn away some prospective students.

"Several hundred students won't be served in the way we want to serve them," Neel said. "There are individuals who will not be able to improve their education here."

Neel said higher education is an investment in the community and that limited access to higher education poses potential long-term impacts on Idaho communities and economies.

"Many will have to put their education on hold, the higher admission standards will cut off enrollment."

BSU Vice President of Student Affairs Peg Blake said the executive budget committee

drafted the FY03 budget with the possible retraction in mind. "The university had held back money as instructed, so we prepared by scraping from everywhere we could."

BSU President Charles Ruch said the university spends most of its money "down to the pennies every year."

"We were forced to reduce services and we weren't able to respond to requests for new ser-

vices and programs," Ruch said.

University of Idaho Spokesperson Kathy Barnard said U of I would comply with the governor's request for repayment; funds will be taken out of a cash management plan for additional deficit spending. Barnard said the university wouldn't suffer layoffs because of it.

Crapo from page 1

might one fairly conclude that Crapo mispoke when he wrote about the "abundance of evidence?" Or should the senator be given the benefit of the doubt, and should the blame for the apparent misinformation rest with the Defense Department neo-conservatives who fed it to him? If his honesty or judgment are in doubt, should Idaho voters question having him as their Senator? Did the Defense Department

fabricate evidence about WMDs when they were not the primary motivation for the war? What was the primary motivation for this war? The answers we have for these questions may well depend on what the senator decides to do next, and Northern's claim that "we're not going to turn it into a political thing," may be too little, far too late.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has been trying to get some answers (despite stiff G.O.P. resistance.) Will Crapo

use his power to make sure tough questions are asked? Not even his press secretary is clear about what, if anything, Crapo plans to do to get to the bottom of the WMD controversy. "He has supported looking into what happened... he's not on that committee, you're right... He certainly can talk about it and certainly can take action on it." As far as what actions Crapo will take, as opposed to what he can do, Lindsay said, "We have not taken a stand on where we're going to go next." He

also pointed out the difficulty anyone might have in getting quick answers from Department of Defense, "I don't know that we can get an answer from the military on that by five or six tonight (Arbiter deadline)."

With two Idaho servicemen who have made the ultimate sacrifice, is it presumptuous to ask our senator to find out exactly what that sacrifice was for? Northern said he would try to arrange an Arbiter interview with the Senator about his future moves next week.

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Wednesday, June 18, 2003

Where is all my Democrats at, Holla!

By Aubrey Salazar
Columnist

There has been an influx of political news currently. The economy needs Viagra, and the current administration has been willing us to say those passé pop phrases like, "Oh no they didn't!" and "Oh, snap!" What I've rushed through here is a sort of political potpourri of different headlines.

There's a lot going down on and off the hill these days. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton has a new book on the shelves; some have called the book 'disappointing' and may feel that A & E puts more dirt into their biographies. I suggest replacing every instance of the word "republican" with "nipple," it could make the book a bit racier and a more enjoyable pursuit. For instance, it could read, "The [nipples] were erecting a smear campaign against me and Bill," oh yeah... that's hot baby. I bought my copy, I'll let you know what I find, and I promise not to simply skip to the sex parts. Now, moving on to other dirty tales of Americana.

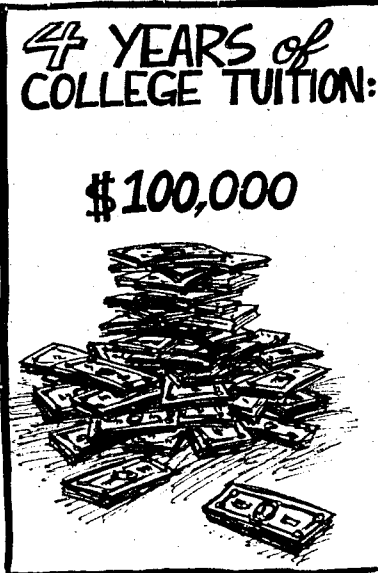
Martha Stewart is feeling the heat right now and it's not coming from her coral reef pan-seared salmon in saffron sauce. Her critics are hoping she breaks under the pressure, and perhaps fashion a noose from her own 300-count percale bed sheets. It looks all too much like a witch hunt to me. For one, we all secretly hate the Vermont woman for making billions from napkin holders and flower arrangements. Then, she has the nerve to trade on insider information and we all know insider trading is reserved for middle age white guys. For instance, Ken Lay is off sucking juleps at a lawn party somewhere, and well, does anyone remember the Harken Energy Corporation incident? Don't worry, that guy is only the leader of the free world now.

Speaking of malfeasances from the oval sex den, President Bush, or as I like to call him, "G-Dub," is like, "dude, where's my weapons of mass destruction?" Right about now, the whole world feels like his cheap one-night stand. He boozed us up, whispered sweet nothings like "human rights" and "chemical warfare" in

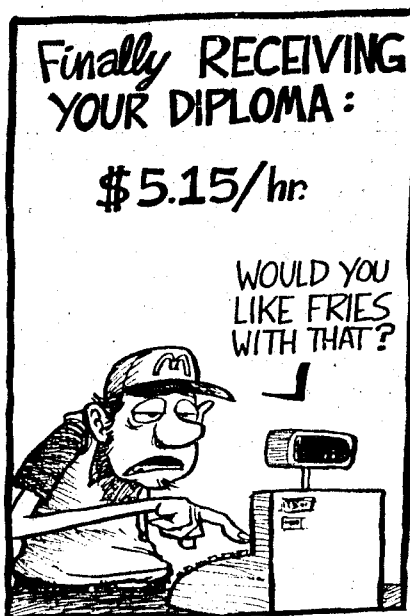
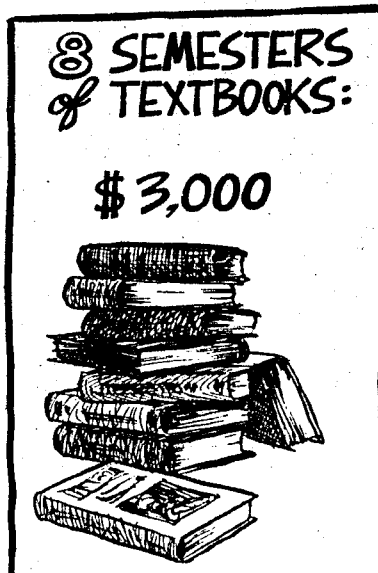
our ear, took us back to his place, and snuck away while we were asleep. Now, when you see him around with his friends Conde, Colin and Donald, he gives you the "Awe, c'mon baby, you know those weapons will turn up sometime" then smacks you on the tush. Don't fall for it though. Give him the hand and walk away. It wasn't even a good one-night stand. Right now, U.S. soldiers in Iraq are still being picked off one by one.

It's all good, maybe we should give him just as long as he gave Hans Blix and his team to find the weapons, five months that is. The clock is ticking G-Dub. In fact the clock is ticking a little closer to home as well.

Our own Senator Larry Craig has been in the mainstream media lately. Apparently he's taken a break from date-raping the environment, and delivering Idaho from the evil clutches of gun control. The senator has put a filibuster hold on 200-400 Air Force promotions in order to strike a deal for some cargo planes that were promised and never delivered to Idaho a while back. It was a gutsy move by the republican bloodhound that has drawn harsh criticism from many in his own party including Senator John McCain. Hasn't the rest of the country learned by now that Idaho won't back down when it comes to guns, booze, land and apparently C-130 transport planes? Senator Craig is sending an important message to all of D.C.—it goes like this: "Hey you... U.S. Air Force, you think you're better than us? You better give us them war planes, or nobody gets to be general... yee haw!" I don't know if the Senator's political minutia could get any more fractional and we all know what a political powerhouse the state of Idaho is. If America were a stage, Idaho would be the back-up singer among statchood, we're no diva; states like New York, California, Florida, and Texas are the divas. As a back-up singer, we can't demand our own dressing room with freshly cut tulips, imported caviar, and Evian bath water. You might want to check yourself Senator Craig. That's all from me this week, until next time... love, peace, and hair grease.



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Racism takes on a more-subtle form

By Robert Steinback
Knight Ridder Newspapers
(KRT)

A quiet new war against black Americans is under way.

If you've already concluded from my first sentence that I'm being divisive and racist by suggesting such a thing, congratulations. You're Exhibit 6. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The beleaguering that black Americans face is quite different from decades past. There is no hostile intent. You'll find no one whose conscious goal is to disempower black Americans.

Rather, the siege is one of effect, manifested by policies not aimed at black people but which disproportionately affect them. It's akin to the modern world's assault on the environment: No one wants to hurt it, but, in the absence of heightened awareness, many of us do.

Exhibit 1: The Jayson Blair affair is the case of a problem individual, period. Yet it quickly morphed into a broadside against affirmative action.

Blair's case is about as relevant to black America collectively as, say, Mike Tyson's or Darryl Strawberry's - which is to say, roughly, not at all.

It was about The New York Times believing it had a potential superstar, but badly misjudging his suicide-bomber maliciousness. The paper's efforts to help Blair were not unlike the baseball team that kept giving repeat drug offender Strawberry new chances - not because of his race but his perceived ability.

The racial aspect of the Blair case, if there is one, is that the prospect of having a budding black star was so enticing that The Times bent too far to accommodate him.

But that isn't affirmative action. Blair didn't appear to be underqualified at all; just the opposite. He seemed to be a skilled writer with an upbeat, charming newsroom presence. He looked to be just what affirmative-action critics say organizations should look for: a qualified candidate who happened to be black.

The Times brass didn't realize how bad Blair's dysfunctions were and got burned. A strange, unique story. But the fallout only smeared black America collectively because so many sledgehammer-wielding pundits made sure it did.

Exhibit 2: Exhibit 1 demonstrates that when a black individual slips up, critics often make it an issue of race. Yet when black Americans try to raise an issue of race, they are denounced as divisive and malignant.

Some prominent black Floridians recently called for a boycott of key state industries to protest the policy denying diplomas to high school seniors who fail the state's new, tougher assessment test, even if they meet every other graduation requirement.

The policy disproportionately impacts black, poor and immigrant students. But advocates of reform are told by critics to stop whining and go tutor some kids. Race issues, it seems, are only legitimate if black people aren't the ones raising them.

Exhibit 3: Florida has the nation's most difficult gauntlet that former felons must run to regain their voting rights. This is a problem for more than 600,000 ex-felons; again, a disproportionate number of them are black. It makes sense to offer the restoration of voting rights as a carrot, urging ex-offenders to stay straight after completing their sentences - unless one likes the idea of disenfranchising a population for life.

Gov. Jeb Bush staunchly opposes the automatic restoration of rights.

Exhibit 4, related to Exhibit 3: Investigative reporter Greg Palast has documented the devastating effect of Florida's computerized purge of 94,000 allegedly ineligible voters prior to the 2000 election.

The purge wrongly deleted thousands of qualified voters whose names resembled those of ex-felons ineligible to vote. The commonality of black names helped assure that the wrongly purged voters were disproportionately black.

And now Congress has fashioned a national law following the Florida model.

Exhibit 5: One other "attack" on black America bears mentioning - by Nike. By giving \$90 million to a high school kid who has yet to put a ball through an NBA hoop, the athletic shoe company has assured that countless thousands of black kids (and others) will figure dribbling a ball, not studying math or science, is the surest way to riches and glory.

It's still a challenge to be black in America, though now in subtle ways that threaten to limit our options and suppress our voices. But it's almost impossible to say so without drawing censored criticism from people who refuse to listen.

Which, by the way, is Exhibit 6.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Robert Steinback is a columnist for The Miami Herald. Readers may write to him at: One Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132, or via e-mail at rsteinback@herald.com.

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My Two Cents:

By Maurice Sapp
Columnist/Sports Reporter

Oh, to be a college football player. They have it so easy. All they have to worry about is going to class and going to practice. How nice for them.

Wouldn't it be wonderful not to have to go to work? Just exclude that boring, redundant job each and every day. You sit behind a desk and answer phones. Maybe you have a more active job where you walk from table to table taking the orders of those sometimes rude, always very hungry customers? But hey, you have to pay the bills right?

Well let me ask you this... When school winds down and that ever-present academic weight is lifted off of your shoulders, what do you do? Party, perhaps, maybe do a little camping. How about taking a vacation? Others enjoy the 100-degree weather, lying out in the sun by the pool until it's time to go to that oh so strenuous job, in an air-conditioned facility I might add.

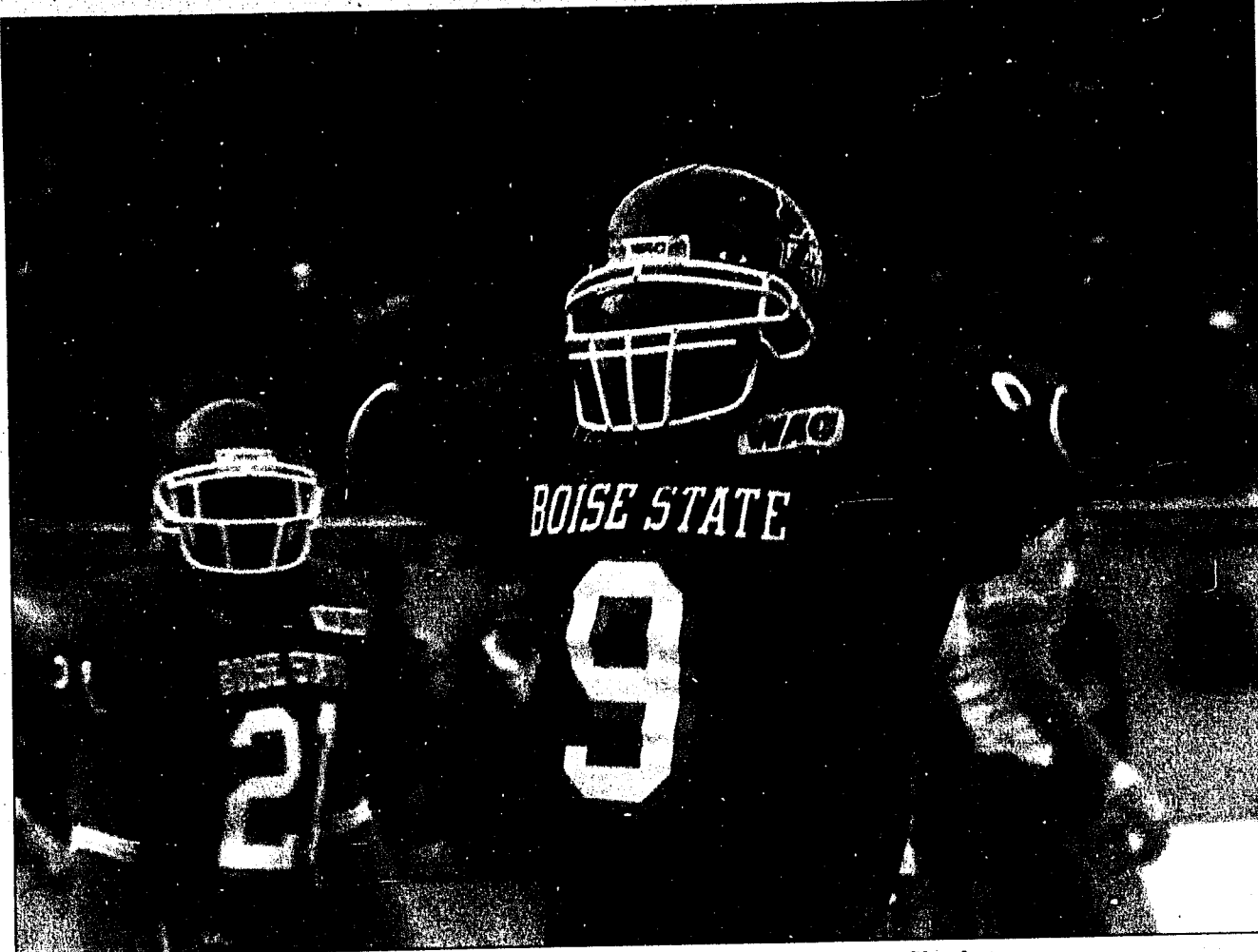
BSU football players are out in that same 100 degree sun four days a week, running like the Olympic track team. When we are done running we can breathe easier, because at least there is air conditioning

in the weight room, which is where we are headed. And guess what else? When we are finally done running and lifting, we get to go to our regular old boring job so that we can pay our bills too.

Okay, sure it does sound a little bit harsh that our coaches would make us spend our summer like this. But the truth is, the coaches have absolutely nothing to do with it.

They aren't even allowed to be out there with us. Summer training is completely optional, yet every single member of our team is participating. Most of the players on the team aren't from Boise or anywhere else in Idaho for that matter. So how easy is it to spend your summer running and lifting weights? How easy is it to be away from your family, working a summer job that you most likely don't like, so that you can stay here in Boise? It isn't as easy as it seems. We do it because we love it. Could you do it?

Maurice Sapp is a senior on the football team. He will provide commentary on Boise State football and report on other BSU athletic programs.



Quentin Mikell an outgoing Boise State player raises his arms in triumph. Arbiter file photo.

From Boise to Philly Mikell tackles the NFL

By Andrea Trujillo
Sports Editor

Quentin Mikell's quest for the NFL began in Eugene, Oregon, where he turned enough heads his senior year at Willamette High School to earn a full-ride scholarship to up and coming division-I Boise State University. As a member of the Broncos, Mikell finished his Boise State career ranked second all-time in career tackles—earning WAC conference defensive player of the year honors as a senior. Now just five short months after Mikell stepped off the field following Boise State's 34-16 victory over Iowa State in the Crucial.Com/Humanitarian Bowl, he finds himself in unknown territory. Mikell has left the familiarity of Boise for the Philadelphia Eagles. As Mikell embarks on the next leg of his journey, he said he welcomes the challenge of a new city, a new team, and a new start.

"It's exciting to be in a new

place. I just try to take in as much as I can about the city and myself; it's a learning experience. It's far from home, and it's challenging at times, but I just take it one day at a time," Mikell said.

Mikell leaves behind his role as a team captain, last season's 12-1 record, and his WAC championship Bronco teammates to join the 12-4 Philadelphia Eagles as a rookie trying to earn a roster spot. Mikell has taken his game from the collegiate ranks to the professional level, from monthly scholarship checks to signing bonuses. Everything has flipped in Mikell's world. The turf's not blue anymore, as it is in the cozy confines of Bronco Stadium. In fact, it's not turf at all. And Mikell's not a team captain anymore; he's an undrafted first-year player who signed a free agent contract. It shouldn't matter how he made it to Philly, he's there in training camp alongside the best of the best. But Mikell said there remains a clear distinction

between free agents and drafted players.

"I have to go out and prove I belong each and every day. I suppose it's like being a walk-on in college ball. It's a very humbling experience. I feel like I should have been drafted so that's tough. You're looked at like you can't play as well as other guys. But I know what I'm capable of, so I don't sweat it," Mikell said.

He might not sweat the change, but he can't escape it either. Every time Mikell ventures into the streets of Philly he is reminded that he's left the Northwest far behind. Every time he steps on the practice field and sees the likes of Brian Dawkins, one of the NFL's premier safeties, he knows he's taken his game to the next level. It is in these moments of reflection that Mikell stares his future square in the eyes. Philadelphia is where Mikell's path has taken him, and he's determined to make the most of it.

"There are times I've been down, just because of my situa-

tion as a free agent. It's tough, you get less of a chance to prove yourself. The first team's out on the practice field getting four to six reps. The second team's getting four to six reps. I get maybe two.

But I've opened up some eyes already. I've shown I can play, that I belong here.

It might be a different league, but these guys are definitely not out of his league. Mikell said if he doesn't end up staying with the Eagles, he's confident he will be somewhere in the NFL.

"I have a lot of football left to play, if not in Philly, somewhere else. I'm going to continue to grow as a player. I haven't peaked yet, I haven't nearly reached my potential," Mikell said.

For a player who has always been a big fish in a little pond, the transition to the NFL isn't an easy one. Mikell is just one of the many little fish, for now. Then again, he's growing. If all goes as planned, he'll be a big fish in no time.

2003 Broncos in the pros

Lou Fanucchi: signed as free agent with the New York Jets, later released
Brock Forsey: drafted by the Chicago Bears
Quentin Mikell: signed as free agent with the Philadelphia Eagles

Rob Vian: signed as free agent with the Detroit Lions
Billy Wingfield: signed as free agent with the Chicago Bears

Neuheisel fired effective immediately

The Seattle Times
(KRT)

University of Washington football coach Rick Neuheisel has been fired, and a new coach will be named later this week.

UW athletic director Barbara Hedges said Neuheisel has been placed on paid suspension, and that she has issued a letter of termination for cause. Hedges said Neuheisel has until June 26 to appeal her decision.

Hedges said she will speak with other UW assistant coaches the next two days, then announce a new coach. Keith Gilbertson, 55, the Huskies' offensive coordinator, is thought to be the top candidate.

"Rick's actions have left me little choice, and have seriously undermined his ability to continue as head football coach," Hedges said.

Hedges said Neuheisel was fired because he participated in high-stakes NCAA tournament basketball pools the past two years, and because he initially told NCAA investigators on June 4 that he did not participate in the pools.

Hedges said she was negotiating a possible settlement with Neuheisel the past "three or four days," as late as last night,

but was unable to strike a deal. If Neuheisel's firing with cause stands, he would not be entitled to a settlement, and would have to repay a \$1.5 million loan.

Hedges said an appeal process provided in Neuheisel's contract allows him to contact her in writing or in person, and to appeal to the special assistant to the university president, Norm Arkans.

Despite Neuheisel's claims that he does not believe participation in the pools was a violation of NCAA rules, Hedges said Neuheisel was responsible to know that gambling in any form is not allowed.

Neuheisel had been fighting to save his job since June 4, when two NCAA investigators and one from the Pac-10 Conference questioned him about his participation in the pools. Neuheisel admitted he was part of a four-man team that put up an amount reported to be \$5,000 and won \$20,000 in 2002. He also was part of a four-man team that won the same pool this year.

Such pools are against the rules of the NCAA, which prohibits gambling on college athletics by its players, coaches, and other personnel.

By-law 10.3 in the NCAA

manual covers gambling, and states, among other things, that coaches, players and other personnel shall not "knowingly solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value."

Sunday, four days after Neuheisel told The Times he had participated in the pools, he produced an e-mail written March 13 by UW compliance director Dana Richardson that said wagering in off-campus NCAA pools was not a violation.

Richardson's interpretation said, "the bottom line of these rules is that if you have friends outside of (intercollegiate athletics) that have pools on any of the basketball tournaments, you can participate."

Neuheisel said he couldn't "recall" if he had seen an e-mail in 2002, the first year he took part in the pool. Neuheisel, however, said the 2003 e-mail "confirmed" what he thought had always been the university's stance.

Bill Saum, the NCAA director of gambling activities, said the memo was wrong, and that Neuheisel should have known the rules.

Neuheisel became UW's

head coach Jan. 9, 1999, replacing Jim Lambright, who had been fired. Neuheisel had a 33-16 record at UW. Almost immediately after being hired, Neuheisel ran into trouble with the NCAA when five UW coaches were found to have made visits to recruits improperly.

But Neuheisel began to win over skeptical fans by leading UW to an 11-1 record in 2000 and a victory over Purdue in the Rose Bowl, finishing with a No. 3 national ranking. UW's play had slipped on the field the past two years, however, going 8-4 in 2001 and 7-6 last season, losing bowl games each year.

Neuheisel's off-field troubles escalated. He was found guilty of committing more than 50 violations during his time at Colorado in October 2002, and was punished by being kept off the road recruiting through May 31 of this year.

In February, he lied about interviewing with the San Francisco 49ers before admitting he had interviewed, a move that cost him much good will around UW.

The 42-year-old Neuheisel is married and the father of three young sons.

By Andrea Trujillo
Sports Editor

Broncos make strong showing at NCAA Championships

After a strong campaign at the NCAA West Regional championships, nine members of the Boise State track and field team competed at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Sacramento, Calif., last week.

Six men represented the Boise State team, which placed eighth in the West Regional Championships. Three members of the Bronco women's team made the trip to Nationals. Although this step into the national spotlight was a first for each of the athletes, you would have never known it by their individual performances. Head coach Mike Maynard said he knew what his team was capable of going into the meet, and now so does the rest of the nation.

"I was very happy with our overall performance as a team.

The men's team placed 24th, which is an improvement from last year. We also had two All-Americans on the men's side, Rob Minnitti and Kenny Johnson, and Trina Rogers on the women's team," Maynard said.

The performances of Minnitti, Johnson, and Rogers brought the number of Boise State's All-Americans to 26, earning a total of 41 NCAA All-American awards in the history of the Bronco track and field program.

Maynard said in addition to the strong finishes by Minnitti, Johnson, and Rogers, the four days of competition was a great learning experience for some of the younger Bronco athletes who made the trip to Nationals.

"Some of the younger athletes benefited from seeing this level of competition, they gained a lot by just being there. They're in a good developmental stage, and I look forward to them getting better in the future," Maynard said.

One of those younger athletes, junior Kenny-Johnson, was the Bronco's lone entry in the triple jump competition.

Johnson finished 11th in the preliminaries, with a jump of 52-11. In the final day of competition Johnson's best leap of 52-6 was enough to earn him

seventh place. Julien Kapek of USC won the event with a jump of 56-2.

Two seniors finished out their Bronco careers in Sacramento as well. Rogers shared the spotlight with her male counterpart Rob Minnitti, in the javelin finals. Rogers finished third in her flight on the first day of competition. Her score was good enough to move her into the final round of competition two days later, where she improved on her qualifying throw of 158 feet, posting a 162-05. This mark was strong for Rogers, but left her in the middle of the pack. Rogers was competing against arguably the 12 top women in nation. On any given day Rogers could have placed higher among this elite field of competitors, but in the end first place went to the favorite going into the meet. Indiana senior Irina Kharun blew away the rest of the field with a throw of 202 feet, 10 inches.

While Rogers proved to be one of the top six collegiate javelin throwers in the nation, Bronco teammate Rob Minnitti was busy making a name of his own at the NCAA Championships. In the preliminaries Minnitti was barely edged out of first place with a throw of 239-06, finishing second behind Pennsylvania's Brian Chaput, who posted a mark of 248-06. History proved to repeat itself the next time the two met head-to-head, as once again Chaput ousted Minnitti from first-place. Although Minnitti improved on his qualifying score, with a toss of 246-03, Chaput also improved on his first toss. The Penn junior notched an impressive 258-02, which was good enough to lock up the javelin championship.

Maynard said Boise State has become one of the places to be for collegiate athletes wanting to compete in an up-and-coming track and field program.

"Athletes and coaches are realizing that our program is strong. We have a great situation and great facilities. Once we get athletes in, the community really sells itself. Boise State is a great place to be," Maynard said.

Longhorn pitchers can't stop Rice

By Clint Hale
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) OMAHA, Neb. - It was uncertain heading into Monday's game against Rice if Texas' pitching staff could match up against the Owls' star-studded rotation — a question Rice answered with authority. Rice hitters, who have batted just .246 in the postseason, combined to record 10 hits and nine walks in a 12-2 win over the Longhorns in a winner's bracket game at Rosenblatt Stadium. Just days after receiving one of its pitching staff's best efforts of the season, Texas used seven hurlers in the loss, only one of which (Buck Cody) didn't allow a run.

"They played an outstanding game tonight," Texas head coach Augie Garrido said after his team's first loss in its last five games. "They are just a good team, and they deserved to win tonight."

The Owls scored three runs, notched three hits and sent three

batters to first base via walks before exiting starter Justin Simmons (5-6) after four innings. The former first team All-American faced just 19 batters and threw only 61 pitches before getting pulled in favor of freshman J. Brent Cox.

"You have to go with what the coaches say," Simmons said of his early exit. "You have to trust them, and you have to have confidence in your teammates to back you up."

The Owls put a run on the board in the top of the third, when Simmons threw the ball away to first on a Craig Stansberry bunt.

Chris Kolkhorst scored on the Texas miscue and Rice pulled to within one heading into the bottom of the inning. Texas lost the lead in the fourth when Simmons gave up a two-out double to number-nine hitter Justin Ruchti that gave Rice a 3-2 advantage.

While Simmons started off hot and faded down the stretch, Rice starter Wade Townsend got a wake up call early and

responded soon thereafter.

With two outs and two runners on in the first, Curtis Thigpen lined a shot to the right field wall that scored Omar Quintanilla and Eric Sultemeier for a quick 2-0 lead. For Thigpen, it was his seventh straight time to reach base safely since the start of this year's College World Series, a streak that ended when he grounded out in the third.

After that, Townsend (11-1) settled down, retiring seven straight at one point, striking out 10 Longhorns and not allowing a run after the first.

"I wasn't too worried after the first inning because I knew that if we scored some runs, then we would win the game," said Townsend, who went 8 2/3 innings in the win. "And as soon as we put a couple on the board, I settled down a little."

The Longhorns could have put a big dent in the Owls' spirit in the bottom half of the second, when Tim Moss and Quintanilla each singled and

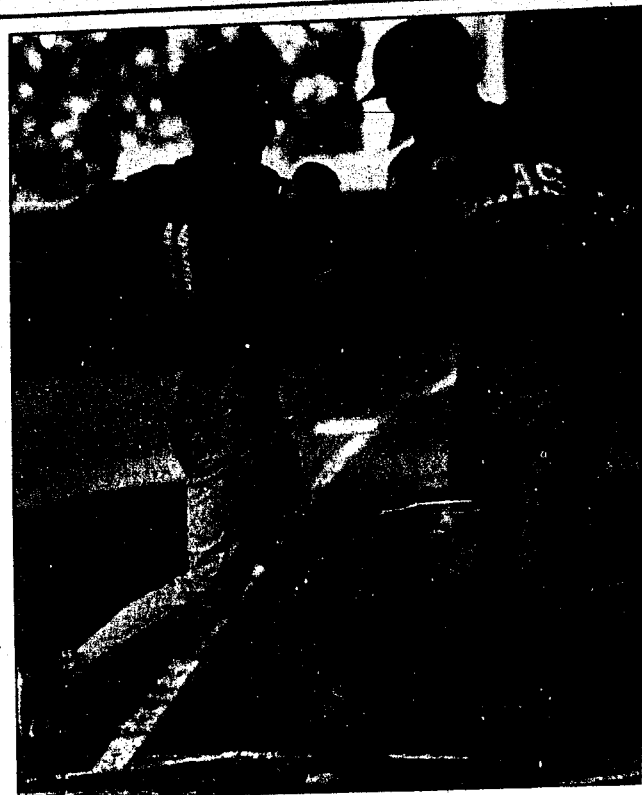
Townsend walked All-American Dustin Majewski on a full count. But cleanup hitter Sultemeier, who had been on a tear of late, grounded out to third to end the inning.

Sultemeier finished 0-for-3 on the night with a walk, and Texas (49-19) stranded eight runners in the loss. Rice also stranded its share of runners, leaving 11 total men on base in the win.

Texas returns to the field Tuesday night for a rematch with Miami.

The Hurricanes, who eliminated Southwest Missouri State Monday by a score of 7-5, were spanked by the Longhorns, 13-2, in Saturday's game, the opener for both ballclubs.

"Someone's going to have to have a championship-type performance," Garrido said of his club's title chances. "They're going to have to do something special that they wouldn't normally do for us to make a run."



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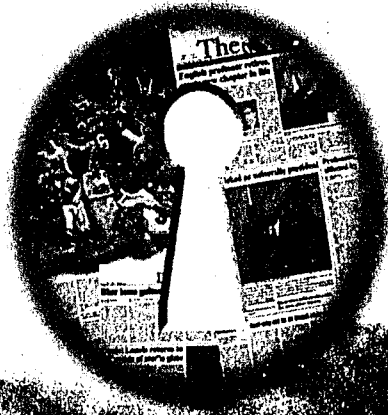
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The Rice Owls (below) and the Texas Longhorns (above left) both fight in the College World Series. Photos courtesy of KRT



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Warp Wrap (Part 1)

The summer of punk rock kicks off again in Idaho

By Brian Mayer
A&E Editor

Okay kiddies, it is time to get your first bit of outdoor extreme entertainment of the summer. Bust out your fake tattoos, dye your hair black, pound an energy drink and have your mom drive you to Nampa where you can be an individual like the rest of your friends. The Vans Warp tour is rolling into town tomorrow with its usual bag of extreme sports, music and products for the 16 - 25 year-old males.

This year's tour sounds heavier than ever and I am interested in the selection of good hardcore and punk, but is that enough? While I think that past Warp Tours have been a bit lopsided, this year will hopefully be different and provide you with a greater palette to choose from.

If the music doesn't do it for you, there are always the sports and the expensive food and drinks to be had. That leads me to the next point, is the festival worth the ticket price? Is it about music or, is it 'bout purchasing counter culture to

become "Hot Topic" punk overnight? I plan on going to see if it is.

We have been invited to have conversations with some of this years leading talent, Glass Jaw and Less Than Jake. I will also check out Andrew W.K. and the Alternative Press tent, the fanzine tent, the skateboarding and the "Kevin Says Take Action" tent, which will have bands that support charity efforts; and speakers from community action groups. Can commercialism have a conscious? In the next issue we will reveal our findings.

If you plan on attending, please take note of what you liked and what drove you home and we will compare, send your email to diversions@arbiteronline.com. But, enough of that stuff, just go have fun and forget for a moment that you're a demographic. - xobrianxo



Photo courtesy of Dreamworks Records

AFI (above) and Less than Jake (below) are set to rock the Warped Tour in Idaho.

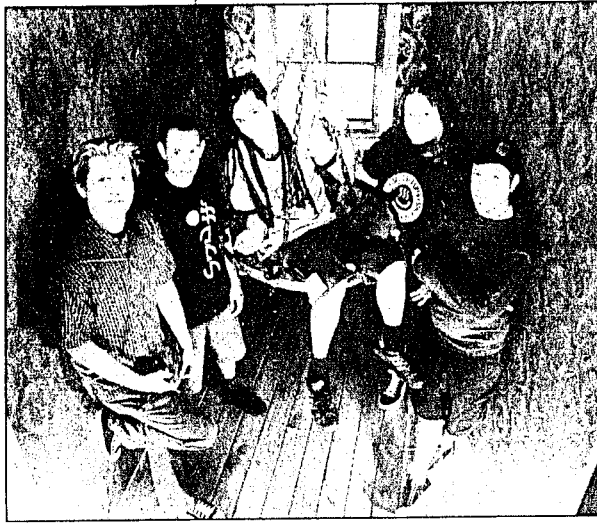


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Vans Warped Tour

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We are the Thermals

By Jake Hansen
A&E Reporter

This Friday night at 7 p.m., the Sotana is going to be rocked like it has never been rocked before. Well punk rocked at least, when Portland new comers The Thermals will take the stage on their latest national tour.

The Thermals released their first record, "More Parts per Million," last year on Sub Pop Records. More Parts per Million is a quick 30 minutes that leaves the listener begging for more. Hutch Harris, the pri-

mary songwriter and guitar player, creates fast three chord punk riffs, which are undeniably catchy, with emotionally-charged indie style vocal lines.

If the band were a Rob Reiner film it would be entitled, "When Punk Met Indie." The band's sound is reminiscent of the White Stripes, only much less produced, with much more distortion and fortunately doesn't suck. And I mean much more distortion. Drums, guitar, bass and even vocals are all noticeably distorted. The source of the omnidistortion is not effects ped-

als—but extreme lo-fi means of production. The entire record was done on a four-track recorder in Hutch's house. The band even labeled themselves "no-fi."

Opening for The Thermals will be the All Girl Summer Fun Band, and like the name would suggest, yes, they are all girls, all summer and all fun. Signed to the cult favorite K Records, the AGSFB offer the listener light hearted guitar oriented pop songs. The four females use perfectly structured dreamy harmonies that make the listener feel like they

are floating amongst the music, not simply listening to it.

Two Boise bands will also join in on the rocking of the Sotana. Me and My Ego and Central Boise Library are fortunate enough to get to play with two great bands.

The Sotana is a house located at 119 N 18th. So don't go searching for an overstuffed club, because you won't find one. You'll only find the meanest rock concert of the summer.

FILM REVIEW:

Low budget film impresses

By Abel Horwitz
Daily Lobo (U. New Mexico)

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - At \$6,000, the horror film "Soft For Digging" was the cheapest movie ever screened at the Sundance Film Festival, even cheaper than "El Mariachi" and "The Blair Witch Project."

Created by J.T. Petty while at New York University's film school, "Soft For Digging" tells the story of a lonely old man searching for his cat in the woods. While wandering around, he stumbles on the bizarre murder of a little girl and he attempts to unravel the mystery behind it.

The nearly silent film has only a few bursts of dialogue and relies much more on suspense than it does shock value or the cheap thrills associated with many of today's scary movies.

Sounds are integral to the story, filling in the emptiness

that the sporadic dialogue creates and forcing the audience to listen for clues about what is going on rather than looking for them. The main character crunches through the eerily quiet Maryland woods cloaked in his bathrobe for most of the film while the camera darts back and forth through the trees.

"Soft For Digging" has received much praise for the visual power and overall quality rendered on such a small budget. Most of the cast and crew are members of Petty's family and his friends, who have been regulars in Petty's numerous student films.

The story, though basic in plot, provided Petty with a lot of freedom visually.

In an interview with the British online magazine Jigsaw Lounge at www.jigsawlounge.co.uk, Petty spoke about the visual impact the woods had on the film.

"For one of the big scenes I

found this wood where it looked like all the trees had been killed about 10 years before, so there were no trees left thicker than an inch," Petty said. "Shooting through them was like looking through a crowd, and there was this green lichen all over the trees. Stuff like that influenced how I was going to represent the story visually, rather than influencing the actual story itself. This movie was pathologically planned out."

Petty, who after making "Soft For Digging" went on to write the script for the popular video game "Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell," was amazed with the positive reaction to the film.

"When we were doing 'Soft For Digging,' I really didn't think I'd have that much of an audience for it," he said. "It was just my final student film, I guess I couldn't imagine people would react as strongly as they have."

LOCAL MUSIC PROFILE:

The Magnetics

Jason Bright
A&E Reporter

On Thursday, June 12, The Big Easy Concert House was stuffed with people anticipating a night of local music. Motorflower tore up the crowd with heavy drums and killer vocals, followed by an aesthetically pleasing Humogod. Then Magnetics shuffled on stage.

As the band of four set up, sections of the audience abandoned their seats and left. Those who remained chatted with friends, leaned unneringly forward on their stools and ordered more alcohol. And then, with little more than a "here we go," the band tore off. The drummer relentlessly kicked the base, a sharp guitar stabbed at concertgoers. Those conversing fell silent, and those previously silent began to shout encouragement.

Initially Magnetics were tense and immobile. The lead singer, Troy Wright, has a deep and raspy voice, and kind of sounds like Tom Petty with a cold. Most of the lyrics were hard to follow.

Despite early tensions, Magnetics slipped into a niche of obvious rapture. The bassist, Dave Wall, joined the group only three weeks ago but seemed at home on stage. Ryan Davis, lead guitar, swayed like a Baptist on Sunday as he settled into the heavy tempo shifts drummer Glen threw his way. By the end of the set people were dancing and certain members of the audience, initially more concerned about their own

appearance than the music, were unknowingly tapping their feet.

Magnetics earned their musical adeptness through years of practice, and each member carries a suitcase full of past band affiliations. Troy was once with State of Confusion and alongside Dave in Psychic Knot. Dave also played for System and Station as well as King Corduroy, and first learned scales ten years ago. Ryan was with H is for Hector before joining Magnetics.

At the local level, the group simply wants to play and have fun. "It's nice if people show," Troy said. "None of us are looking for big time... Except Ryan." "Just take a shit on stage, Troy," a bystander who referred to himself as 'The Gangsta' of Love' remarked. "They could make it big."

Magnetics currently has a CD available at The Record Exchange and even promoted it halfway through their set as "dirt bucket cheap." The self-titled album is decent if you are in the mood for local punk, but after a couple of tracks, you may be driven to Jewel's newest release for variation. (It should be noted that Magnetics discovered the author's harsh criticism before it was printed and beat him about the face and chest, and threatened more if anything disagreeable showed in The Arbiter.)

Magnetics hopes to release a new album this summer and promises another energetic performance at the NeuroLux alongside Double Wide at 8 p.m. Thursday night, the 18th.

CD REVIEW:

Radiohead album OK

By Neal Obermeyer
Daily Nebraskan (U. Nebraska)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. - Ever since Radiohead released "Kid A," the emperor's had some brand new clothes and millions of hungry youngsters transfixed their gaze on five disgruntled British wieners.

Meanwhile, the band stopped swimming in the pool and went over to tread water in the pond, kicking up mud to keep the world guessing just how deep it was.

"Kid A" and "Amnesiac" emerged to cries of "Wow, this really isn't very good" countered with "But they are so experimental," to which was replied "Even so, I'd prefer for it to be good," silenced by "You just don't understand it."

Well, all right then, it's 2003 now and "Hail to the Thief" is upon us. The masses predictably cheered or yawned, with pre-conceptions being perhaps the best predictor of a purchase. But listen up, detractors — Thom Yorke has hailed this new album "OK Computer 2."

Oh, how happy that would make oh so many people. But he only wishes.

Radiohead's attempts at musical ambition have been unfairly rewarded, exemplified beautifully by the hullabaloo over the album's title. "Hail to the Thief" has been praised for

its spit-and-venom bravado, taunting George W. Bush and his "stolen" presidential victory in 2000.

It would be one thing if it were true, but Jonny Greenwood explained to New Music Express magazine, they chose the title from the lyrics of song "2+2=5" because of their amusement with its inherent contradiction, like the song title itself.

It's a classic example of how loyal fans of the last two Radiohead albums are all too eager to heap praise of defiant ambition and rebelliousness on the band and its music. And it betrays the desperation, too.

Picking on President Bush...how rock 'n' roll. Let's face it kids, picking on George W. Bush falls in the Rebel-o-Meter somewhere between crossing your velcros and only using one strap on your backpack.

The good thing with "Thief," though, is that for the most part, the electronic-experimentation-meets-bad-jazz-meets-magnetic-poetry has been swept away.

Unlike much of the previous two albums, rhythm guitarist Ed "You'd be known as the good-looking one too if you were surrounded by these mutants" O'Brien and drummer Phil "I transformed myself into a drum

See Radiohead page 7

Bill Maher back to TV in 'Real Time'

By Brad Weismann
Colorado Daily (U. Colorado)

(U-WIRE) BOULDER, Colo. - Bill Maher's back — and he's as funny and outspoken as ever.

The prominent comedian, whose ABC roundtable show "Politically Incorrect" was cancelled in June of last year in the wake of the controversial remarks Maher made concerning the U.S. response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has leaped back onto the airwaves. His new, hour-long HBO panel show "Real Time with Bill Maher" first aired in late February to positive reviews.

The show returns, after a break of a few months, on July 25. In the interim Maher has honed a new live show, "Victory Begins At Home," which debuted on Broadway in May, and which he brings to the stage of the Boulder Theater Saturday. In a recent telephone interview, Maher spoke about his new TV gig, media consolidation, and the prospect of returning to Boulder for another

live performance.

Of people's response to his new show, Maher says, "When they come up to me, they say, 'Hey, it's great to see you where you can say anything,' well, the truth is I used to say anything anyway — the difference is I got fired for it, eventually ... I just hope that here at HBO they appreciate it, instead of wanting to get rid of it."

A graduate of Cornell University, Maher began his standup career in 1979, and worked solely as a comedian and actor until 1993, when he conceived the "Politically Incorrect" format, debuting it on Comedy Central. The show moved to ABC, where it thrived until his comments on his September 17, 2001 show ("We have been the cowards lobbing cruise missiles from 2,000 miles away ... That's cowardly. Staying in the airplane when it hits the building, say what you want about it, it's not cowardly"), made national headlines and prompted a darkly phrased warning from White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer ("Americans ... need to watch

what they say").

Major advertisers pulled their support from the show, and ABC pulled the plug at the end of the season. Needless to say, Maher is happy in his new home.

"I do like the idea of doing it once a week for an hour," Maher says, "without interruption, with a more, shall we say, professional panel. And I think the audience has gotten that message that we are doing a different show that does not cast that wide net that 'Politically Incorrect' did and is not driven by celebrity factors or network factors or ... ratings, any of that kind of stuff, and we just want to give them the best show possible."

He is especially pleased that HBO has a measure of autonomy not generally present in the current age of media consolidation. Referring to the recent FCC ruling that gave the green light to an increased percentage of allowable ownership of media outlets by a small handful of corporations, Maher says, "I think that is a concern. It should be a concern for all Americans,

although I don't know if people are that — I don't know if it gets on their radar, or what the implications are when rulings like that come down. You see that even though we have 500 channels, they're owned by three people. And I was reading about how a lot of local news really comes out of one centralized place — the guy's really in Pittsburgh, but he's doing the editorial for Baltimore — ay-yi-yi! Luckily, HBO is a sort of a fiefdom in and of itself."

Maher's new show deals primarily with political topics, but goes beyond them as well, and includes what Maher describes as "my favorite part of the show," a question-and-answer session with the audience.

"I think everything is political. I certainly do a section that could be described as 'Men and Women' but I think there's a real political bent to it because ... I tie it into the last election, and it sort of is under the broad rubric of explaining what I mean when I say that this is a feminized nation," Maher says.

He looks forward to his Saturday performance in

Boulder, Colo., a place often characterized as an island of liberalism in a generally conservative state. "I feel for blue people in red states," he says, continuing, "It's more of a lovefest when you come to a place that's conservative, or where you're against the grain, and you can attract those people who are sort of more longing for someone to speak for them or speak with them or speak the kind of language they understand. My memory of Boulder was, like, so extraordinary — I just remember them being that perfect com-

bination of being very hip but without the political correctness that you sometimes get."

Well, we'll see — let's hope he doesn't get into the prairie dog topic. No matter what he speaks to, Maher's pungent wit is bound to provide his audience with a memorable experience.

Radiohead from page 7

machine so I could relate on an emotional level with my bandmates" Selway actually have a purpose once again — making big rock noise. And Yorke's soaring, angelic vocals have returned, replacing that horrid mummy-with-a-scarab-beetle-on-his-mantle moan we've been getting the past few years.

So charmingly, even if only temporarily, they've stopped pretending they're Aphex Twin with guitars and have gotten back to the rock 'n' roll.

But it's no sequel to "OK Computer." That's just not fair to the band or its work.

"OK Computer" managed to expand the boundaries of Radiohead's sound and the minds of a mainstream music world. It reached millions because it reached out to millions.

The lyrical content of this album is slightly beyond the previous two — a bit more coherent and less embarrassing, but still lacking the jaw dropping emotion of the two good albums.

Take lead single "There There," for example, with its chorus of "Just 'cause you feel it / Doesn't

mean it's there." Thom Yorke must buy his fortune cookies from the same place I do. In bulk.

"Hail to the Thief" is more appropriately "Pablo Honey 2"; there are some rocking songs and there are some touching songs, but it is inconsistent. Attribute some of that to its length; at 14 tracks, it's easy to pick out the clunkers that drag this down from being a reasonably impressive 10-song album.

Yorke says this return to the rock is a farewell of sorts to the familiar Radiohead sound, suggesting the next album will continue on the progression of the previous two records. It's a shame really, because "Thief," while not outstanding, is at best a promising step back on the right path, and at worst a pretty good rock album.

So the good news is, even if you didn't buy into the hype of "Kid A" and "Amnesiac," this could make you a fan of the band again. The bad news, though, is that this isn't just any indie band — this is Radiohead — and the bar is as high as it is for only one reason. Radiohead put it there.

And even if only slightly, this album is a reminder of how it got there.

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Horoscopes

by Linda Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (June 18). You're a natural scholar, always asking questions. The research you do on your own this year can lead to amazing new answers. Do the homework you assign to yourself, and achieve respect and status.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - The early bird will get all the best worms. The longer you delay, the more difficulties you'll face. If it already looks too difficult, you've already waited too long. Might as well put it off indefinitely.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 - Schedule your date for tomorrow. You'll have more time to relax. Make an important decision first; don't postpone it any longer.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - Contacts you're making and lessons you're learning will help you advance your career. Don't assume that'll be years from now. It's liable to happen soon.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - Money will have a tendency to slip right through your fingers. Count it in a safe place so that you don't lose any.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - A fascinating conversation leads to a transformation. This could lead to a great friendship, maybe even love. If you're starting out from either of those places, so much the better.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - You've taken on a lot more work and responsibility. So where's the fatter paycheck? Don't get your nose out of joint if it doesn't appear. You're appreciated, and sometimes that has to do.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 10 - You're on a roll! You're witty and charming and cute! You're lucky, too, so make a decisive move in the direction of your dreams. Miracles happen.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - Several options may be closed to you, but there's no need to be upset. A private understanding you

come to more than makes up for that.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - You can fix a household item. How hard can it be? But first, just to give yourself the edge, you'd better read the manual again.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - Before you blow your newfound wealth, remember to pay off an old debt. It won't make too big a dent in your wallet, and it will make you feel a lot better.

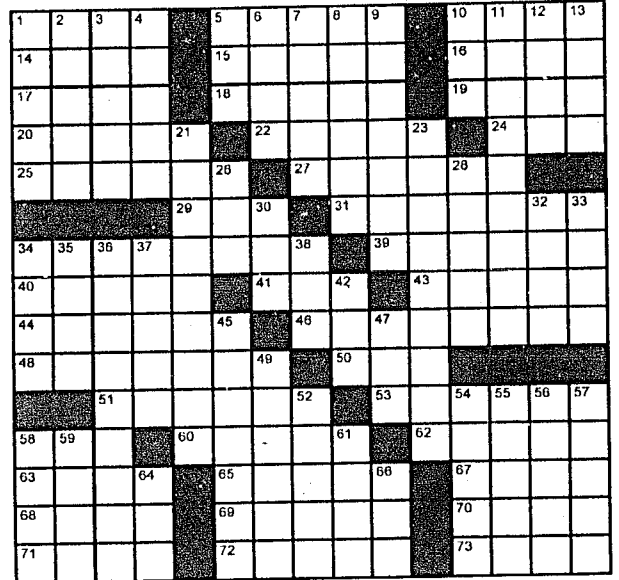
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - A friend can help you understand another's point of view. You never would have figured this out on your own. You lacked sufficient data.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - You're under a good deal of pressure, but sometimes that's exactly what you need to get yourself moving again.

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Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Throw in the towel
5 Clearly detailed
10 Retarding force
14 PC command
15 Kitchen implement
16 First name in architecture
17 Chills
18 Long, narrow ridge
19 Has-
20 Come in second
22 Awkward
24 Pester
25 Big Bird's street
27 Mien
29 Air rifle ammo
31 Like a secure professor
34 Erratic
39 Vitiate
40 Scorches
41 Thanksgiving tuber
43 Parsonage
44 Type of tax
46 Having ability
48 Stretches tight
50 Put on
51 Warns
53 Monument figure
58 Scottish topper
60 Like a chimney sweep
62 Aroma
63 Pub pints
65 Merger
67 "Music... charms..."
68 Daily Planet reporter
69 firma
70 HOMES part
71 Quote as a reference
72 German industrial city
73 Color changer
- DOWN**
1 Humorous remarks
2 I give up!
3 Conceptions
4 Puccini opera
5 Health resort
6 Mata
7 Contest site
8 Try again
9 Got ready
10 Cotillion gal
11 Pointing inward
12 Vicinity
13 Circular instrument
21 Ambassadors' offices
23 Urban abodes
26 Flow out
28 From Havana
30 Foxlike
32 Latin being
33 Feat
34 Takes advantage of
35 Teller's call
36 Baptism or the Eucharist
37 Kafka novel, with "The"
38 Have a little lamb
42 Irate
45 On the way
47 ___ Gatos, CA
49 Gems
52 Moves emotionally
54 Pined
55 Lachrymose
56 Loosen laces
57 Former
58 After-bath powder
59 Jai
61 Time long past
64 Comprehend
66 One of the Bobbsey Twins



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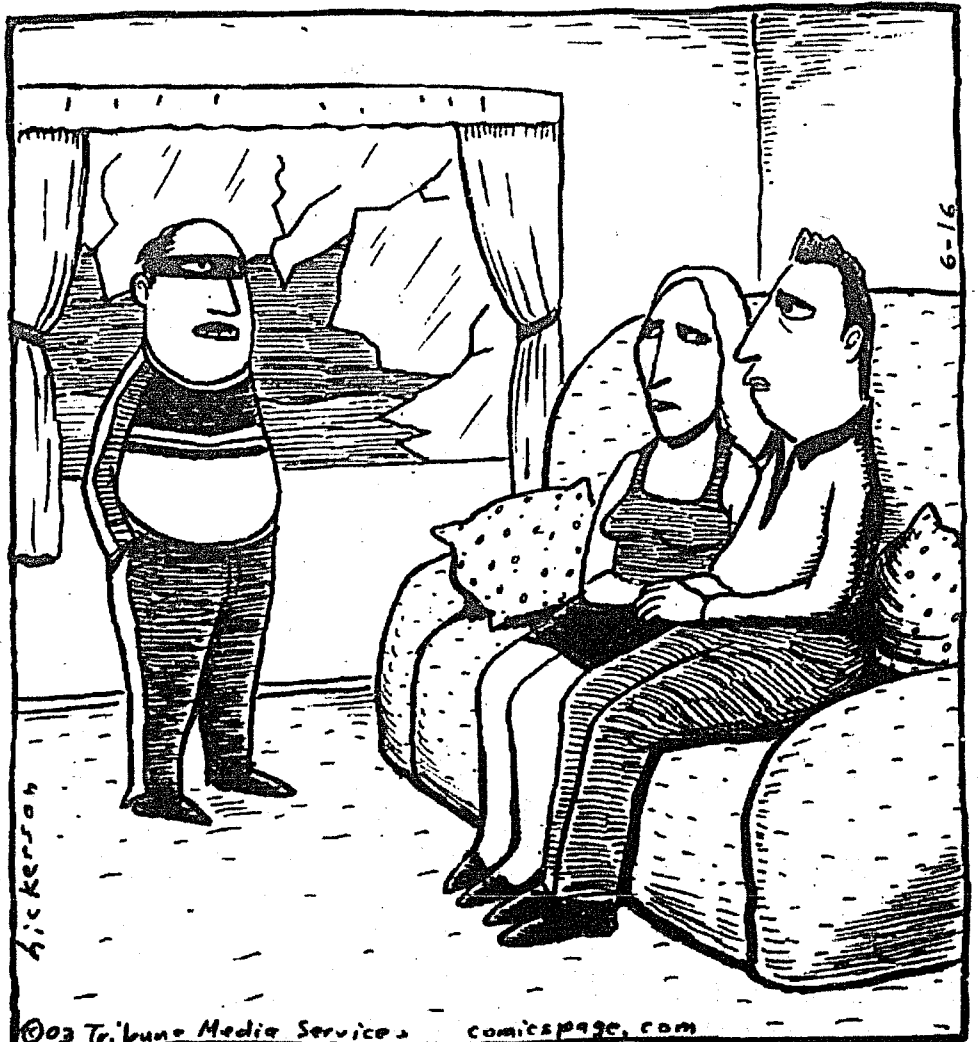
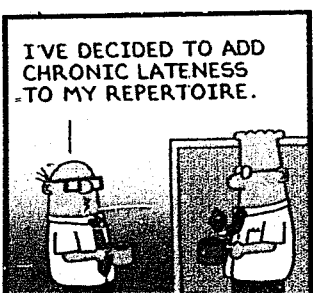
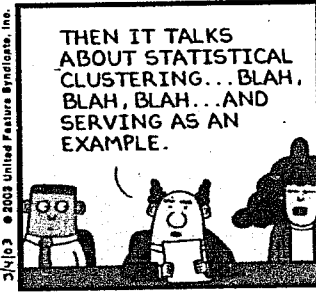
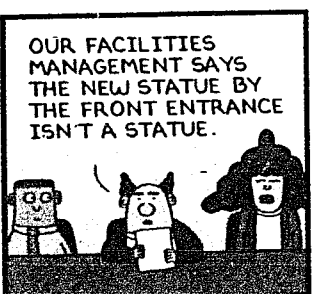
06/18/03

Solutions



DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



"I'm jealous of lovers like you, so I've broken in to steal a few of your intimate moments."