

7-23-2003

Arbiter, July 23

Students of Boise State University

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AL proves there's no place like home

In Sports
Page 6

On July 30th, Bishop Allen will play their
first show in Boise
In A & E
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The Arbiter

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Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Boise State University

Dialing down costs: 7 ways to save on your phone bills

By Phyllis Stone
Knight Ridder Newspapers

If you've studied your phone bill lately, you've probably noticed that service is getting more expensive each month.

In May, the Big Three phone carriers delivered yet another increase in fees and per-minute rates on some of their calling plans. AT&T's 7 Cents offer is now 10 cents a minute, a 43 percent increase; MCI's operator-assistance per-call surcharge is up \$1 to \$5.99; and Sprint's Casual Caller per-minute rates are up 22 percent to 89 cents.

The good news: There are legitimate ways to cut your costs besides calling friends and family when you know they won't be home, leaving them no choice but to return your call on their time.

Here are seven ways to save:

1. Come up with a plan. If you don't already have a long-distance calling plan, get one. Those who don't have one spend as much as 72 percent more using the basic rates offered by local carriers, according to Consumer Action's 2002-03 Long Distance Survey.

2. Switch to a low-cost provider. Such providers buy time in bulk from the big carriers and resell it under a generic name at much lower rates. Generally speaking, the sound quality of these providers should be on par with that of the major carriers because they use the same network. Search engines on Web sites including ABTolls.com and SaveOnPhone.com can help consumers find the cheapest service based on where they live and their monthly in-state and long-distance usage.

3. Dial around. Ever wondered whether those "dial around" services like 10-10-220 or 10-16-789 are really worth it? For some callers, the answer is a resounding "yes." These services let users make a long-distance call through their main carrier by first dialing the service's number, usually seven digits. By using 10-10-220, for example, consumers pay 99 cents for calls up to 20 minutes and 7 cents per minute after that.

4. Try unlimited long-distance plans. People whose phones are practically attached to their ears can save big by going with unlimited long-distance calls for a set monthly fee. Many providers will throw in services such as call waiting, three-way calling or even a high-speed Internet connection or wireless plan.

5. When away from home, use a prepaid card. Look for per-minute rates less than 5 cents, no per-call connection or maintenance fees and pay-phone surcharges of 50 cents or less. Consumer Action's Prepaid Phone Card Industry Survey lists a number of reputable names.

6. Slap it on plastic. Some carriers will waive their monthly fees or cut per-minute rates if you pay your bill online. But if you don't pay off your credit cards each month, you are better off finding other ways to cut costs.

7. Keep it simple. Don't pay for things you don't need. Do you really need three-way calling? And is it really so hard to dig out the phone book rather than calling information?

Source: www.smartmoney.com

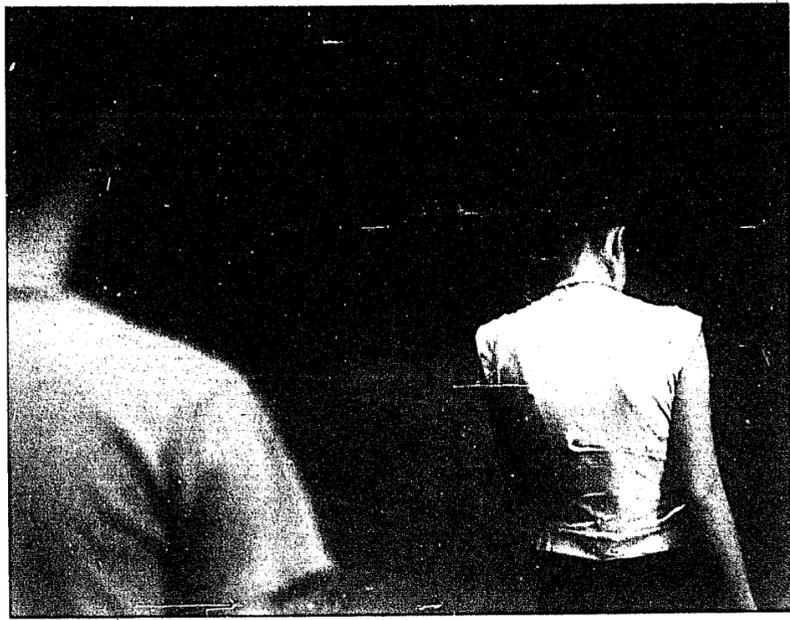


Photo by Krista Adams / The Arbiter

Seventy-five cent surcharge could save your life

But only if your cell phone is 911-compatible

By Monica Price
News Reporter

Starting this month, cell phone users in ADA County will pay a \$.75 surcharge for Enhanced 911 service—a system used by emergency dispatchers to pinpoint the location of a cell phone signal on a map. But will it help you in case of an emergency? Yes—but only if you have the right phone.

ADA County will use the \$.75 surcharge to install the Enhanced 911 system; but in order for the system to work, a cell phone must be equipped with location-based services. According to ADA County Sheriff Vaughn Killeen, "Most people don't have the technology."

Killeen estimates that there are over 40,000 cell phone users in ADA County. Last year dispatchers took 127,804 911 calls, or an average of 350 calls per day. An increasing number of those calls are being made by cell phone users who, unlike landline users aren't able to be located the instant they dial 911.

"You're paying for the fee, you might as well have the service," Killeen said. Cell phone customers can check with their vendor to see if their phone has location-based services.

The Federal Communications Commission is requiring that Enhanced 911 or E911 be able to pinpoint a cell phone signal within 50 to 300 meters by December 2005. ADA County plans to have its system up and running

by the end of this year—two years ahead of the FCC deadline.

Without the enhanced service, dispatchers can determine the general area of where a cell phone call is coming from by locating the tower the signal bounces from, says Killeen. The level of accuracy depends on the location you're calling from and where the nearest cell tower is located.

Wireless E911 has had trouble getting off the ground. Critics attack state governments, the FCC and the wireless community for the delays.

In a statement to Congress, John Melcher, president of the National Emergency Number Association presented some of the holdbacks in E911 deployment. Namely that emergency dispatch is unable to accept E911 calls because they lack the equipment needed.

State governments are diverting funds intended to update emergency dispatch equipment to ensure E911 compatibility. According to a National Emergency Number Association audit, California, Oregon, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Washington collectively diverted \$83 million last year from E911 funds to other miscellaneous projects.

"911 funding has become an easy target," said Melcher. "This results in missed deadlines, under-funded systems or no deployments at all."

Washington Post reporter Petula Dvorak highlighted three cases in a March 31 article where 911 calls from cell phones were not received where a life could have been saved. In Chillum, MD a woman dialed 911 from her cell phone when a house

after a neighboring house went up in flames. Her call went to the wrong fire department and the fire department couldn't find the address because it wasn't in their district, thus delaying emergency response. A woman and two children were killed in the fire.

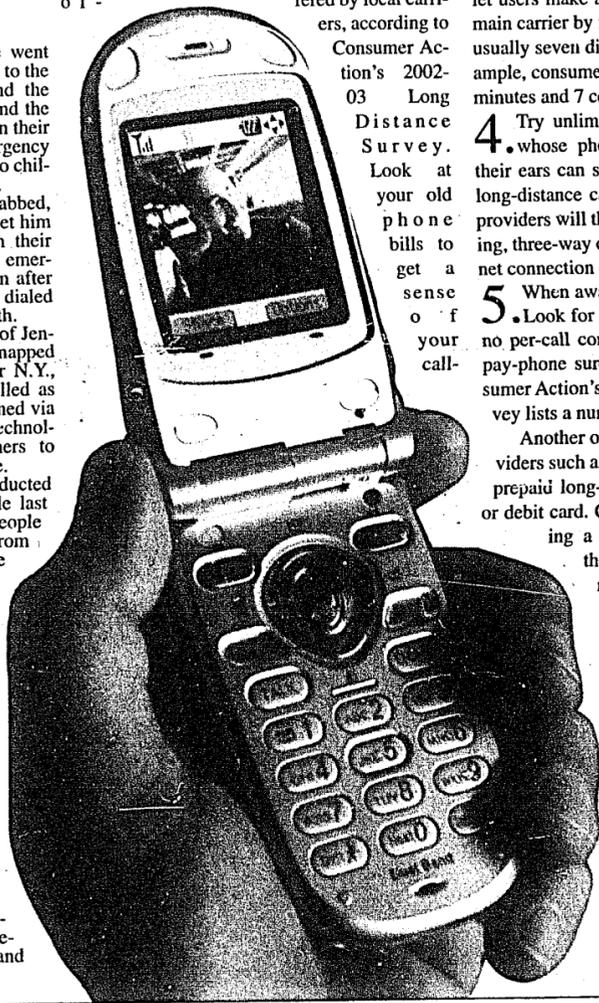
After Yong Chen was stabbed, his family was unable to get him help by dialing 911 from their cell phones. By the time emergency workers found Chen after neighbors using a landline dialed 911, Chen had bled to death.

Then there is the story of Jennifer Koon, who was kidnapped from a mall in Rochester N.Y., sexually assaulted and killed as emergency operators listened via Koon's cell phone. The technology needed by dispatchers to locate her wasn't available.

Consumer Reports conducted a survey of 11,500 people last fall. In that survey 1,880 people attempted to call 911 from their cell phone within the previous year. Fifteen percent said they had trouble connecting and 4 percent of those calls were unable to reach 911 at all.

Consumer Reports attributed most of the problems to the phone system.

Consumer Reports recommends cell phone users purchase a phone with digital and analog ability. Analog provides a safety net when the phone is out of digital range. Major national carriers that provide analog backup are AT&T Wireless, Cingular, Sprit PCS and Verizon Wireless.



Tips for cell phone users

Do not dial 911 to test the system. It's unethical and, in many areas, illegal. Avoid digital-only phones or carriers if you want a cell phone for emergencies. Some phones that use the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) digital format can be forced into analog by the user. Check the user's manual. If you have trouble connecting to 911 from inside a car, get out, if possible, and call from the side of the road; that may help you get a better signal. If you don't use your cell phone every day, make sure that its battery stays charged. While driving, leave the phone on and its antenna extended. That may shorten the time needed to reach 911. In an emergency, ignore a "no service" message on the phone's display. Try the call anyway. Tell the FCC what you think of the present wireless 911 system. To register a complaint or voice your opinion, contact the agency toll-free at 888-225-5322.

Amped Against Apathy



Photo by Dan Wolf / The Arbiter

From left to right members of Uncontrolled Substance Rachel Prin, Stephanie May, and James Rhoads. The band is one of the organizers of Amped against Apathy.

On Friday July 25th at the Julia Davis Band shell, The Snake River Alliance, and the Idaho Peace Coalition will be sponsoring an event called "Amped Against Apathy". This event, will feature thirteen bands from around Idaho and the Northwest, and will feature many community organizations, in an effort to help the youth get involved in civic participation. The Bands include Fallen Skyline, Trashing Andy, The Obvious, Blood Party, Mystery Date, and many more.

Relationship violence common on campuses across the nation

Recent murder-suicide brings issue home

By Jessica Adams
Managing Editor

Domestic violence—the euphemism for physical and sexual battery of women by their husbands and boyfriends—a recurring problem in our community has been brought to our attention again, with the recent murder of 17-year-old Trishten Potts, by her boyfriend, Matt Delveccio, 19.

The apparent murder-suicide happened July 7 at the Tennis Bubbles parking lot, a property of "Boise State located off Oakland Avenue. According to Ada County Sheriff Vaughn Killeen, those who knew the couple said there was a history of violence in the relationship.

Summarizing many studies, the average prevalence rate for nonsexual dating violence is 22 percent among male and female high school students and 32 percent among college students.

Ada County Law Enforcement Support Technician Cindy Neibaur said according to Boise State Department of University Security records dating back to Jan. 1, 56 calls for police officers to respond to reports of domestic disputes on BSU campus, including adjacent areas.

Twenty-seven of the calls received by dispatch were classified as "domestic physical" which indicates that the calling party knew or believed there was a physical fight in progress. Twenty-nine of them were "domestic verbal", yelling, screaming, etc.

Only one of these calls was from campus housing. The others occurred in the southeast Boise area—rough boundaries would be south of the Boise River, west of the Park Center area, south to approximately Boise Avenue and east of Ann Morrison Park.

"If in this relatively small area, officers were called to 56 family fights, you can well imagine the magnitude of the problem county-wide," Neibaur said. "It is also important

to remember that at least a couple of these may have been unfounded—once in a while a loud party is reported as a family fight. Equally important, not all of these resulted in an arrest of any of the involved parties."

Violent behavior that takes place in a context of dating or courtship is not a rare event. Dating violence may be defined as the perpetration or threat of an act of violence by at least one member of an unmarried couple on the other member within the context of dating or courtship. This violence encompasses any form of sexual assault, physical violence and verbal or emotional abuse.

Estimates of dating violence vary because studies and surveys use different methods and definitions of the problem.

BSU Women's Center Coordinator Melissa Wintrow said the numbers recorded by University Security are low compared to traditional campuses where a far greater percentage of students live on campus or in surrounding areas. But because many Boise State students commute to campus—

many from outside Ada County—University Security records represent "the tip of an iceberg," Wintrow said.

"These records do not give us a clear picture of crime in the [BSU community]," Wintrow said. "There is no way to track attacks happening to students off campus property."

Furthermore, it's nearly impossible to determine the number of violent incidents that go unreported.

Wintrow emphasizes that the problem of violence against women is not particular to our campus, it's nationwide. "This is a complex problem that we need to get our brains around."

"This overarching view of women as less taints how we intervene."

Wintrow said witnesses of relationship violence often fail to intervene by reporting to police, believing it's none of their business.

"People have traditionally seen what happens in the home, or behind closed doors, as none of their business," Wintrow said. "People aren't seeing it as a crime."

See Violence page 2



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News

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

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Earning their degrees in debt

By Kathleen Lynn
The Record
(Bergen County, N.J.)
KRT

HACKENSACK, N.J. — Alex Agramonte recently graduated from William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., with a degree in accounting and \$10,000 in student debt.

"My parents helped, but without student loans, I wouldn't have gotten through," said Agramonte, 23, who works in the William Paterson bursar's office. "It was pretty crucial. I needed my degree for what I wanted to do."

Luckily for Agramonte, interest rates on federal student loans dropped to record lows on July 1—as low as 2.82 percent for new grads who are in the six-month period after graduation before they have to start repaying. Other borrowers will pay 3.42 percent for loans taken out after 1998, down from 4.06 percent, and 4.22 percent for loans before 1998, down from 4.86 percent.

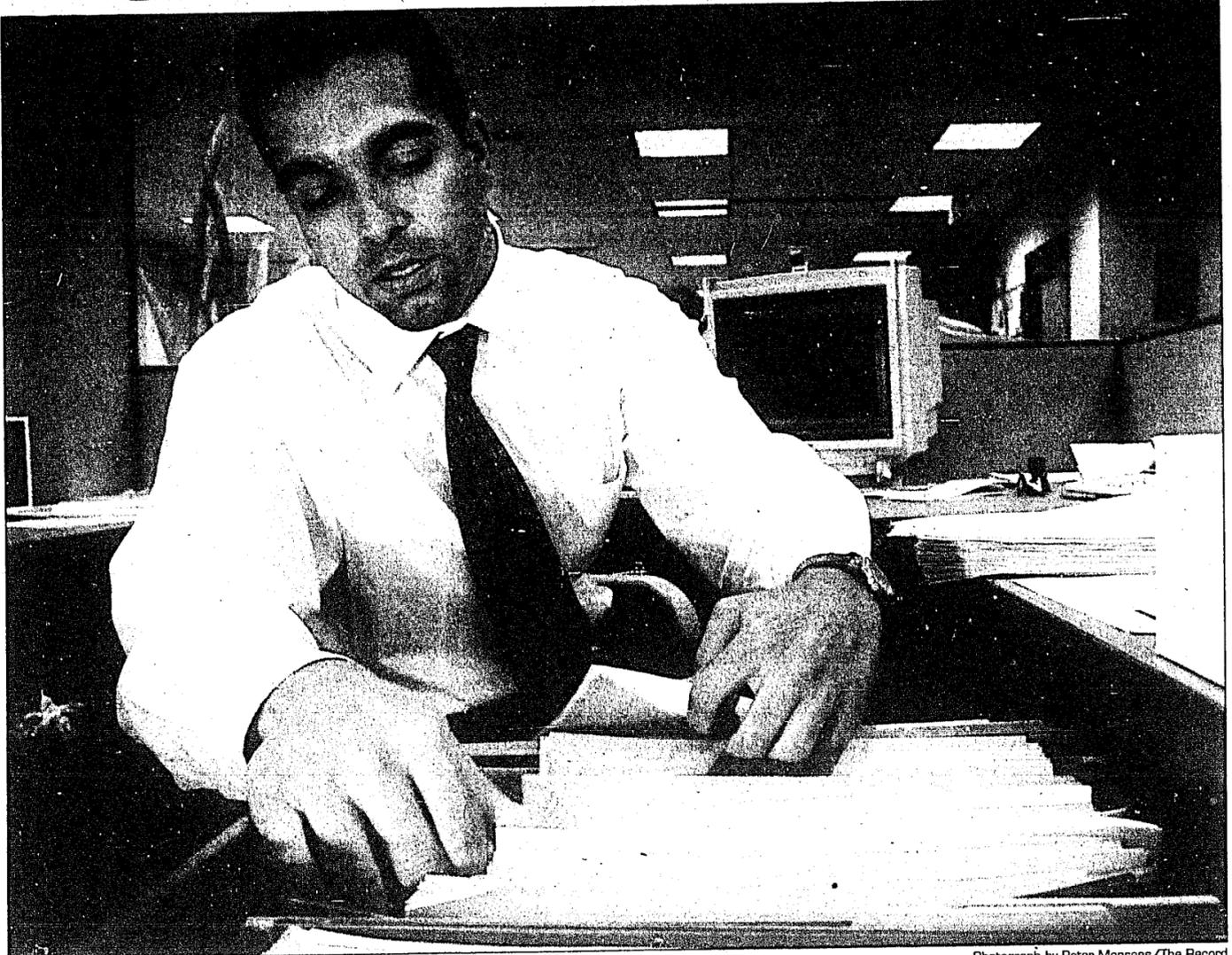
The lower rates mean that borrowers with a \$10,000, 10-year federal Stafford loan can save about \$362 in interest over the life of the loan, according to the federal Department of Education.

Those rates are in force until July 1, 2004, because the rates are adjustable and change every year. But borrowers can lock in low rates by consolidating their loans now, according to SLM Corp., the giant student loan provider commonly known as Sallie Mae. Consolidating is paying off all the old loans and creating a new, fixed-rate loan. The rate on consolidated loans is the weighted average of all previous loans, rounded up to the nearest eighth of a point.

"They would never have to worry about a future rate increase," said Patricia Scherschel, consolidation executive at Sallie Mae.

"With interest rates being where they are, it's foolhardy not to take a good, hard look at a fixed-rate loan," said Rob Baumel, director of financial aid at William Paterson.

Recent graduates like Agramonte can get the best deals. During the first six months after graduation, loans will carry a rate of only 2.82 percent; con-



Photograph by Peter Monsees/The Record

Alex Agramonte works in the bursar's office at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. He is a recent college graduate and has thousands of dollars of student loans to repay.

solidating now locks in a rate of 2.875 percent, according to Scherschel.

"I'm definitely going to look into that," Agramonte said. "I can't stand paying money I don't have to."

By the time they get their diplomas, graduates of public colleges have racked up average debt of \$17,900; private colleges, \$21,200.

While consolidating may be worthwhile for new grads, it is less of a slam-dunk for those who are five years or more out of school, especially if they have qualified for other discounts offered by lenders.

For example, Sallie Mae offers borrowers with a balance of at least \$10,000 a rate discount of one percentage point after they make their first 48 monthly

payments on time. In addition, borrowers can get an immediate one-quarter percent reduction in the interest rate if they agree to have monthly payments directly debited from a checking or savings account.

"We have a number of borrowers who say 'no thanks' to consolidation because they have a better deal without consolidation," Scherschel said.

Also, borrowers with Perkins loans might think twice before consolidating those loans. Perkins loans carry benefits, including the possibility that the loan will be forgiven if the borrower goes into certain teaching or public service jobs. Consolidating into another loan risks the loss of those benefits, Scherschel said.

Another downside of con-

solidating is that it can mean graduates will take longer to repay their debt, adding to the total interest they pay. Borrowers can get around this by paying extra on their loans every month. But Scherschel said borrowers might want to pay off credit card debt and car loans first, because they have much higher interest rates than college loans.

The Arbiter

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College-age drinking is hard to stop

By David Giffels
Knight Ridder Newspapers

This is really an argument for the barroom.

So order a couple of pints, arrange yourself in the padded booth and toss it onto the table: Is it really possible for researchers to change the drinking habits of college students?

Along with fliriting and Cliff's Notes, the guzzling of grain-based beverages has always been a part of youth culture.

There was beer in the days of raccoon coats and goldfish-eating contests.

There was mead back when Chaucer was on the reading list for Contemporary Fiction 101. The students listening at the feet of Aristotle probably cut class on Friday afternoons to attend toga parties.

And there is beer now, in the stands at football games, where young men teeter shirtless and whooping while their fellow fans huddle around cups of hot chocolate.

Regardless of these odds, however, two groups—one national and one local—are on a mission to curb the habit. And they're getting a lot of tax dollars to do it.

The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine is about to release a report on underage drinking, but it's mired in politics, under attack from the powerful alcohol-industry lobby. Its release, expected last month, has been

delayed until late summer while it undergoes review.

The study, supported by a \$500,000 congressional grant, is likely to result in traditional recommendations: "Just Say No"-style campaigns, anti-drinking billboards, restrictions on advertising. Maybe a tax increase to make alcohol less affordable to the Pell Grant demographic.

Meanwhile, a group of Kent State University researchers led by Dennis Thombs is approaching the problem from a completely different angle: Accept the fact that college students drink, and try to change the culture of their drinking.

Thombs' recently published study showed that KSU students tested with breath analyzers were not as drunk as they thought they were. His theory is that if students discover they and their peers are not as schnockered as they perceive, there will be less pressure to keep up with the crowd and therefore more moderation.

That's actually kind of brilliant. The fact that underage drinking continues to be a problem suggests that the old slogans and scare tactics are not sinking in. So why not try to slow it with a new kind of psychology?

This works along the same lines as those recent studies that show drinking in moderation is good for one's health. The notion: that two glasses of wine or beer is healthy might keep

regular drinkers from pushing the limits.

Thombs' research is compelling enough to have secured him a \$153,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue his study when classes resume in the fall.

But he and the others are also engaged in a battle of sliding scales. "Underage drinking" is really an artificial term. Twenty years ago, it meant drinking under the age of 18. Then it moved to 19. Now it means drinking under 21. If we were in a country where it's normal for younger people to have a glass of wine at dinner, "underage drinking" might apply only to toddlers.

And just a month ago, to be drunk as defined by law meant to have a blood-alcohol content of 0.10 percent or more. Now, it's 0.08 percent. Nothing has changed except the laws.

Anyhow, their hearts are in the right place. Alcohol is associated with the leading causes of death among young people: accidents, homicides and suicides. Young people tend to be rash and reckless; recent reports show that millions of people under 21 drink regularly, adding volatility to already volatile lives.

But young people will continue to drink regardless of what well-meaning adults try to do to stop them.

So wish Thombs well as his study continues. In fact, raise a glass to him—but just one.

Violence from page 1

Ada County Deputy Prosecutor Jan Bennetts is heading up a new unit within the prosecutors office to handle domestic violence cases. Bennetts said Ada County prosecutors have handled domestic violence charges case by case in the past and will continue to do so in the future. "The new unit will bring us closer together on these issues and help us look broader and deeper into it," Bennetts said.

Did You Know?

Every 15 seconds a woman is beaten in the United States (FBI statistics).

Beatings are the single major cause of injury to women, more common than auto accidents, rapes, and muggings combined.

Each year in the U.S., 1,400 women die because of domestic violence.

Approximately 22 percent of college women have experienced physical violence in dating relationships.

10-30% of women have been involved in abusive relationships.

Campus Crime

July 7, 10:15 a.m. A suspicious letter was turned over to the Sheriff's Office by an employee of the BSU Mail Center. The letter made reference to animals, but contained no powder. It was turned over to the FBI and apparently was one of several received throughout the city.

July 8, 9 a.m. A parking meter in the Manor Apartment complex was vandalized.

July 10, 3 p.m. A fire alarm reported in the BSU Tennis Bubbles.

July 11, 12 p.m. A parking meter in the Manor Apartment complex was vandalized.

July 11, 7 a.m. Two vehicles were burglarized in the Student Hall parking lot. This occurred sometime overnight.

July 11, 3 p.m. A fire alarm reported in the BSU Business Building.

July 12, 7 p.m. A fire alarm reported in the BSU Business Building.

July 13, 7 p.m. A fire alarm reported in the BSU Business Building.

July 13, 7 p.m. A fire alarm reported in the BSU Business Building.

by the Tennis Bubbles. The victim's purse and cell phone were stolen.

July 14, 11:30 a.m. An unlicensed bicycle was stolen from the Liberal Arts Building.

July 15, 11:30 a.m. An unlicensed bicycle was stolen from the Liberal Arts Building.

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Viewpoint

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Living in interesting times:

Piercing his ego

By Aubrey Salazar
Columnist

Boise Police Chief Don Pierce is no Daryl Gates or Frank Rizzo. There's no Rodney King, Amadou Diallo or ill-fitting glove in this circumstance. No planted evidence, no bribery, no police brutality. I'm sure the Boise City Council and mayor acknowledged this when they decided against firing the chief recently. So why are the media, some officers and the citizens of Boise concerning themselves with this matter?

I'll tell you why. There's not a city in all the nation that has not had a police scandal attributed to dirty cop behavior or obstructions within the ranks of police officers. However, what separates these cities is how they deal with misconduct, however deliberate, in the most important and trusted department of all municipal departments.

Everyone knows it's not the actual malfeasance which should be assessed, contrived or not, it should always be public perception. After all, they serve the public.

The "informal administrative review" of former mayor Coles conducted by Pierce was nothing more than an attempt to shield his bedfellow from further investigation. Pierce admitted to the substandard review, but pathetically defended it by the assertion that it was informal. I don't buy it though. Pierce, acting as Superman to Coles' Lois Lane, blatantly proves his delusions of grandeur as police chief. Thwarting the attorney general's office, the City Council and the ombudsman in their inquiries points to a distrust of the system from within which he operates. Thirty years of law enforcement has made it's mark on Pierce in the form of self importance, unapologetic bias and a defiantly rogue attitude.

The decision not to sanction Pierce was made by both the City Council and the Mayor and disclosed in a televised press conference Thursday. Let me set up the scene.

Watching Mayor Terteling-Payne walk into a press conference room reminds me of my Aunt Clara getting ready for an apple pie bake-off with her bridge buddies. All kindly smiles and a right neighborly disposition. You don't know whether to ask her hard-line questions about city budget issues or for her tuna casserole recipe and how much starch to use on your shirts. After fumbling about where to stand, tapping a few microphones, and locating herself at the head of the table, Mayor Terteling-Payne announced that Pierce would continue on as chief of the Boise Police Department. It was no surprise that she could not bring herself to fire Chief Pierce, I mean Aunt Bee of Mayberry could hardly say a stern word to Sheriff Andy Taylor. After

reaffirming this, she let the City Council members speak to news reporters about their decision.

The first and longest to speak was Councilman Vernon Bisterfeldt. Bisterfeldt looks like a jolly old St. Nick with old military tattoos. His statement to the press stretched beyond my attention span and probably those of most others watching. The only minutia he left out in recapping his complaint review for the cameras, was that he studied the case documents at Starbucks, and had an argument with the barista when they mistakenly made his Caramel Macchiato with whole milk instead of skim.

City Council member Maryanne Jordan was the only one who imparted that she wanted Pierce out. Although, her rational wisdom seemed to be lost on the part of the other six members.

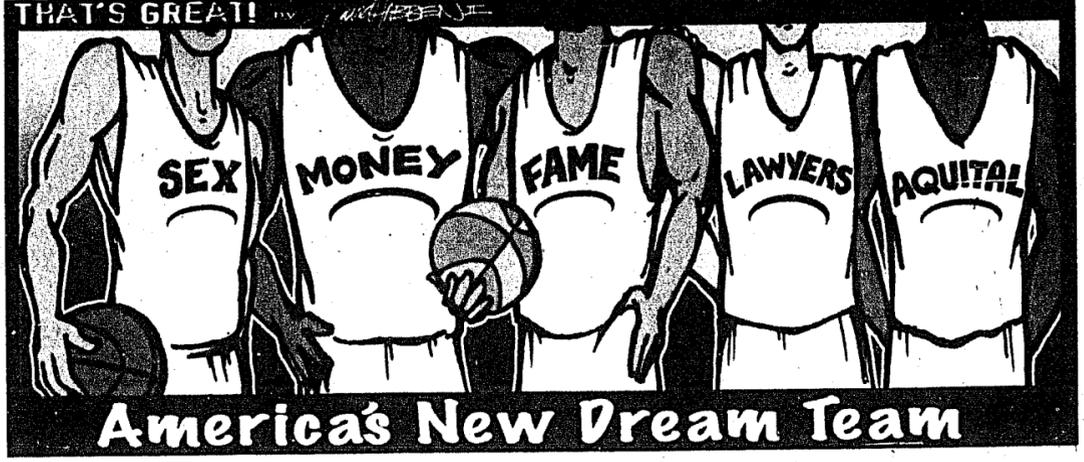
At one point I thought Councilman Alan Shealy had it right when he spoke of an "ivory tower" in reference to Pierce's actions, but in the end he decided to go with "the dog peed on the carpet" reprimand of Pierce, altogether in line with the rest of the members.

The City Council made a mistake in not firing Pierce. My message to them in language they might understand: If you are not going to take a dump, get off the toilet. The Council's decision not only casts doubts about their competence in office, but it spikes the Ombudsman's gun as well.

Contrary to the implications in his title, Ombudsman Pierce Murphy was not smoking "bud" when he released his findings on the allegations of wrongdoing by Chief Pierce. In fact he was fully alert and like a true watchdog, did not sex up the situation placed before him. His report found Chief Pierce guilty of 14 of the 24 complaints, drilling home the fact that Pierce is not the sacred cow he thinks he is. But after the ringing exoneration of Pierce by the City Council, the Ombudsman's professional reviews take on all the importance of a United Nations resolution prior to a U.S. invasion, none that is. The question still remains: Where do we go from here?

Actually, I'm not sure we should go anywhere from here. In my opinion, Chief Pierce has sailed too close to the wind. He has proved himself fallible to good ol' boy politics and elbow rubbing more commonly reserved for smaller, sleepier backwater towns than this. In Pierce's statements to the public Thursday, he made an analogy between the public's trust and a bank account, saying his balance was in effect, zero. Not at my bank though, unfortunately his account was closed due to insufficient funds.

Isn't great we live in interesting times?



A White House smear

By David Corn
The Nation

Did senior Bush officials blow the cover of a US intelligence officer working covertly in a field of vital importance to national security—and break the law—in order to strike at a Bush administration critic and intimidate others?

It sure looks that way, if conservative journalist Bob Novak can be trusted.

In a recent column on Nigergate, Novak examined the role of former Ambassador Joseph Wilson IV in the affair. Two weeks ago, Wilson went public, writing in The New York Times and telling The Washington Post about the trip he took to Niger in February 2002—at the request of the CIA—to check out allegations that Saddam Hussein had tried to purchase uranium for a nuclear weapons program from Niger. Wilson was a good pick for the job. He had been a State Department officer there in the mid-1970s. He was ambassador to Gabon in the early 1990s. And in 1997 and 1998, he was the senior director for Africa at the National Security Council and in that capacity spent a lot of time dealing with the Niger government. Wilson was also the last acting US ambassador in Iraq before the Gulf War, a military action he supported. In that post, he helped evacuate thousands of foreigners from Kuwait, worked to get over 120 American hostages out Iraq, and sheltered about 800 Americans in the embassy compound.

At the time, Novak's then-partner, Rowland Evans, wrote that Wilson displayed "the stuff of heroism." And President George H. W. Bush commended Wilson: "Your courageous leadership during this period of great danger for American interests and American citizens has my admiration and respect. I salute, too, your skillful conduct of our tense dealings with the government of Iraq....The courage and tenacity you have exhibited throughout this ordeal prove that you are the right person for the job."

The current Bush administration has not been so appreciative of Wilson's more recent efforts. In Niger, he met with past and present government officials and persons involved in the uranium business and concluded that it was "highly doubtful" that Hussein had been able to purchase uranium from that nation. On June 12, The Washington Post revealed that an unnamed ambassador had traveled to Niger and had reported back that the Niger caper probably never happened. This article revved up the controversy over Bush's claim—which he made in the state of the union speech—that Iraq had attempted to buy uranium

in Africa for a nuclear weapons program.

Critics were charging that this allegation had been part of a Bush effort to mislead the country to war, and the administration was maintaining that at the time of the speech the White House had no reason to suspect this particular sentence was based on faulty intelligence. "Maybe someone knew down in the bowels of the agency," national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said days before the Post article ran. "But no one in our circles knew that there were doubts and suspicions." Wilson's mission to Niger provided more reason to wonder if the administration's denials were on the level. And once Wilson went public, he prompted a new round of inconvenient and troubling questions for the White House. (Wilson, who opposed the latest war in Iraq, had not revealed his trip to Niger during the prewar months, when he was a key participant in the media debate over whether the country should go to war.)

Soon after Wilson disclosed his trip in the media and made the White House look bad, the payback came. Novak's July 14, 2003, column presented the back-story on Wilson's mission and contained the following sentences: "Wilson never worked for the CIA, but his wife, Valerie Plame, is an Agency operative on weapons of mass destruction. Two senior administration officials told me Wilson's wife suggested sending him to Niger to investigate" the allegation.

Wilson caused problems for the White House, and his wife was outed as an undercover CIA officer. Wilson says, "I will not answer questions about my wife. This is not about me and less so about my wife. It has always been about the facts underpinning the President's statement in the state of the union speech."

So he will neither confirm nor deny that his wife—who is the mother of three-year-old twins—works for the CIA. But let's assume she does. That would seem to mean that the Bush administration has screwed one of its own top-secret operatives in order to punish Wilson or to send a message to others who might challenge it.

The sources for Novak's assertion about Wilson's wife appear to be "two senior administration officials." If so, a pair of top Bush officials told a reporter the name of a CIA operative who apparently has worked under what's known as "nonofficial cover" and who has had the dicey and difficult mission of tracking parties trying to buy or sell weapons of mass destruction or WMD material. If Wilson's wife is such a person—and the CIA is unlikely to have many

employees like her—her career has been destroyed by the Bush administration. (Assuming she did not tell friends and family about her real job, these Bush officials have also damaged her personal life.) Without acknowledging whether she is a deep-cover CIA employee, Wilson says, "Naming her this way would have compromised every operation, every relationship, every network with which she had been associated in her entire career. This is the stuff of Kim Philby and Aldrich Ames." If she is not a CIA employee and Novak is reporting accurately, then the White House has wrongly branded a woman known to friends as an energy analyst for a private firm as a CIA officer. That would not likely do her much good.

This is not only a possible breach of national security; it is a potential violation of law. Under the Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1982, it is a crime for anyone who has access to classified information to disclose intentionally information identifying a covert agent. The punishment for such an offense is a fine of up to \$50,000 and/or up to ten years in prison. Journalists are protected from prosecution, unless they engage in a "pattern of activities" to name agents in order to impair US intelligence activities. So Novak need not worry.

Novak tells me that he was indeed tipped off by government officials about Wilson's wife and had no reluctance about naming her. "I figured if they gave it to me," he says. "They'd give it to others....I'm a reporter. Somebody gives me information and it's accurate. I generally use it." And Wilson says Novak told him that his sources were administration officials.

So where's the investigation? Remember Filegate—and the Republican charge that the Clinton White House was using privileged information against its political foes? In this instance, it appears possible—perhaps likely—that Bush administration officials gathered material on Wilson and his family and then revealed classified information to lash out at him, and in doing so compromised national security.

Was Wilson's wife involved in sending him off to Niger? Wilson won't talk about her. But in response to this query, he says, "I was invited out to meet with a group of people at the CIA who were interested in this subject. None I knew more than casually. They asked me about my understanding of the uranium business and my familiarity with the people in the Niger government at the time. And they asked, 'what would you do?' We gamed it out—what I would be looking

for. Nothing was concluded at that time. I told them if they wanted me to go to Niger I would clear my schedule. Then they got back to me and said, 'yes, we want you to go.'"

It's relevant that Wilson's wife might have suggested him for the unpaid gig. Not really. And Wilson notes, with a laugh, that at that point their twins were two years old, and it would not have been much in his wife's interest to encourage him to head off to Africa. What matters is that Wilson returned with the right answer and dutifully reported his conclusions. (In March 2003, the International Atomic Energy Agency concluded that the documents upon which the Niger allegation was based were amateurish forgeries.) His wife's role—if she had one—has nothing but anecdotal value. And Novak's sources could have mentioned it without providing her name. Instead, they were quite generous.

"Stories like this," Wilson says, "are not intended to intimidate me, since I've already told my story. But it's pretty clear it is intended to intimidate others who might come forward. You need only look at the stories of intelligence analysts who say they have been pressured. They may have kids in college, they may be vulnerable to these types of smears."

Will there be any inquiry? Journalists who write about national security matters (as I often do) tend not to be big fans of pursuing government officials who leak classified information. But since Bush administration officials are so devoted to protecting government secrets—such as the identity of the energy lobbyists with whom the vice president meets—one might (theoretically) expect them to be appalled by the prospect that classified information was disclosed and national security harmed for the purposes of mounting a political hit job. Yet two days after the Novak column's appearance, there has not been any public comment from the White House or any other public reverberation.

The Wilson smear was a thugish act. Bush and his crew abused and misused intelligence to make their case for war. Now there is evidence Bushies used classified information and put the nation's counter-proliferation efforts at risk merely to settle a score. It is a sign that with this gang politics trumps national security.

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JUST A COUPLE OF BLOCKS FROM BSU!

I went to Guster, and all I got was this lousy interview

By Jake Hansen
A&E Writer

On July 15, acoustic-pop gods Guster played a sold out show at the Big Easy. After their sound check I sat down with guitarist/vocalist Ryan Miller, to talk about labels, Ratt, and their new record, *Keep it Together*.

Jake: How's the tour been?

Ryan: We've been out for, well the first show was the 25th [of June], and we did *Carson Daily* before that, and we filmed our video before that. We've been out for about a month.

Jake: How do you like doing shows like *Daily*? And you're playing *Leno* in a week right?

Ryan: Less than a week.

Jake: How's it?

Ryan: It should be cool. We've never played *Leno* before. We've done *Letterman* and *Conan* a couple of times, *Kilborn* and *Carson*. It's one of the last things, that and *SNL*.

Jake: You've been doing this for 11 years now right?

Ryan: Yeah, a long time.

Jake: So, when you do shows like the *Record Exchange*, in store promos, do you get tired of them?

Ryan: Well, there are not many places like the *Record Exchange*. It's cool because we don't hardly ever come here. I like doing in stores and stuff. You get to talk to people longer. I think it's really fun.

Jake: The *Record Exchange* is a great place.

Ryan: It's awesome. It's got the coffee shop over there, and the listening stations. It's a kiddie play land.

Jake: It's awesome, I can spend hours in there.

Ryan: Just when you finish looking through all of your records you can go look at movies, and go over to that little shop. It's great.

Jake: You bought *Koyano...* (I struggled with the title. I meant *Koyaanisqatsi*)

Ryan: Yeah. (Laughs) *Kinomotsutsu* or whatever.

Jake: I watched it once in high school.

Ryan: (Surprised) In class?

Jake: I took this music class.

Ryan: Oh because of Philip Glass. That's awesome.

Jake: You guys just switched your labels for this record, why?

Ryan: Sire went out of business. There wasn't really any bands keeping it alive. We're one of the biggest bands on the label, and we weren't making the label any money. So they kinda went out of business. It's like a label that never really got off the ground. So when they went out of business, they asked if any body else in the AOL Time Warner family, would pick up us. Enter Reprise.

Jake: Have you ever re-

ceived pressure from labels to write more commercially accepted music?

Ryan: Yeah, we always have battles with the label, about how we manage the band and stuff. But, it's just a learning process. Their goal, more than any other label, is to make us a career artist. And that's our goal too. Sometimes they focus more on the short term then we would, and that's where the battles happen.

Jake: Want to talk about *Keep it Together* for a moment?

Ryan: Sure.

Jake: It's been out for three weeks now. How's the initial response been?

Ryan: It's been great. It's different than all of our other records. It takes some getting used to. I think it's also a much deeper record. I don't think it's as immediate as any of the other records we made. I think all of our other records are much more accessible initially. Because there's a lot more to this. The songs require you to come to them a little bit more. Like, *Lost and Gone Forever*, the songs all kinda came at you. I think they're a little more interesting. So it's interesting to have it out for three weeks, because it's like how long does it take for you to get inside our record.

Jake: The first time I listened to it, I was like, this is definitely not *Goldfly*. But the more I listened the more I liked it.

Ryan: Yeah, so it's been really interesting to see the response. The thing is we never doubted for a second that we made a better record than we have ever made before. It was just good. It's nice having that confidence of knowing you did a much better record than you ever had. You go out and play it and you're playing better than you ever have and you're just a better band than you've have ever been before. So it's really cool.

Jake: Was the evolution from the older records natural?

Ryan: Yeah.

Jake: Did you ever listen to a record and say, I wanna sound like that?

Ryan: Oh, we listen to records all the time. I listen to new music every day. A lot of my friends in New York book a lot of the new clubs and stuff, so I'm always trying to hear new music. And it all influences us. Cool records we hear, we'll say, oh that's really cool, and I'll take part of that. All the records we listen to affect us as a band.

Jake: *Keep it Together* came out four years after *Lost and Gone Forever*. On your website you call it entering your cave. What did you do in the cave?

Ryan: We toured for a

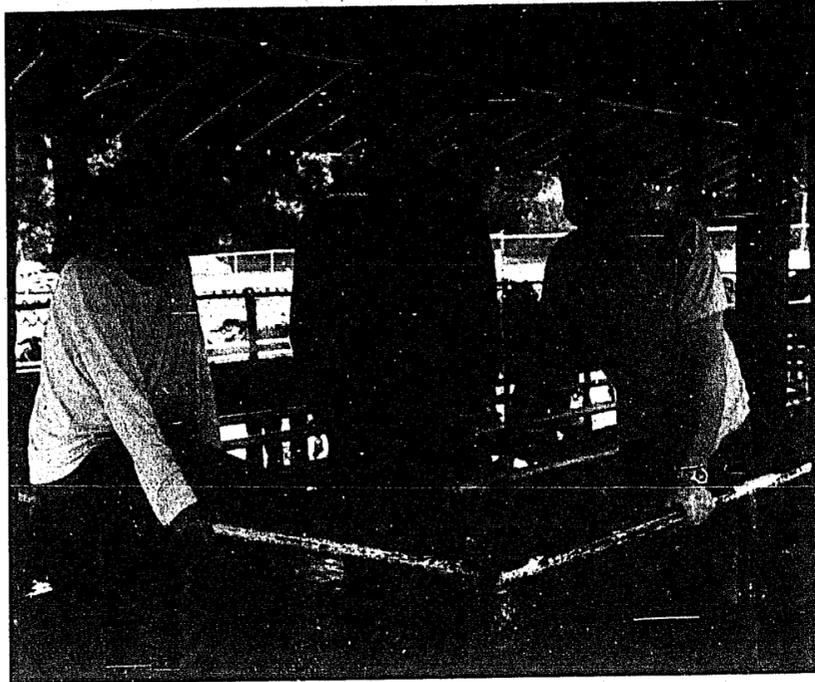


Photo courtesy of Reprise Records

"It's nice having that confidence of knowing you did a much better record than you ever had."

—Ryan Miller of Guster

couple of years, and we wrote for a couple of years. It was a long process, learning how to play new instruments. It's very collaborative and it's a very time consuming process. It's not like I write a song, and it's finished. I write a song and we spend three weeks figuring out how to make everything work. It's pretty intricate.

Jake: What new instruments did you learn?

Ryan: Brian can kinda play bass. Adam is playing keyboard and guitar and he was playing bass for a while. In the rehearsal room we would just pick up different instruments and stuff. Now it's basically, Adam is doing more of the keyboard and guitar stuff. I'm doing more of the bass and the guitar stuff. Brian is playing drums and percussion, and Joe (Pisapia) is playing a lot of keyboards and some banjo, singing and guitar.

Jake: Is Joe a permanent member now?

Ryan: We are trying to hold onto him as long as we can. He's a song writer and he makes records.

Jake: How did Ben Kweller end up on the record?

Ryan: We met him because we live really close to him in New York. Kind of neighbors, and just got to be friends. We do this thing every Wednesday were everyone can jam. The four of us just ended up there one night (Guster and Kweller), and wrote that song. In the morning it sounded okay so we recorded it.

Jake: You call New York home now? You're out of Boston.

Ryan: Yeah, we were in Boston for eight years. None of us were from there (Boston). We were all living together in Boston we wanted somewhere new. It's a little easier to get lost in New York, and keep experiencing new stuff.

Jake: What is your favorite

track on *Keep it Together*?

Ryan: Probably, *Come Down Stairs and Say Hello*.

Jake: Did you guys have any ties with the movie *Life as a House*?

Ryan: No, the guy that wrote it was just a fan of *Lost and Gone Forever*, I think. From what I heard he had just spent a lot of time listening to *Lost and Gone Forever* when he was writing the movie. So he used the opening lyrics for the opening scene, and used two songs. It was very flattering.

Jake: The dog's name was Guster also.

Ryan: The kids were named Adam and Ryan.

Jake: They were weren't they? I never realized that. When you were younger were you surrounded by music?

Ryan: Not really. I was always really into music though, and my parents weren't. They were, really supportive though. They'd take me to go see Ratt

and stuff. Take me to go see Ratt or Twisted Sister, Dokken, old shitty bands.

Jake: You were into hair metal? I loathe it.

Ryan: I was so into it. It's horrible music, but I was really into it.

Jake: Capricious youth.

Ryan: That's what growing up in Dallas, Texas will do to you.

Jake: You weren't a Dallas fan?

Ryan: Well, I left, and I'll never live there again. It was fun. It was suburbia. Probably just like any other suburban existence.

Jake: So what was your first performance?

Ryan: I was in high school, my senior year. We all stated playing in bands in high school.

Jake: Did you sound like Dokken?

Ryan: No, at that point I was more into R.E.M., The Cure, and The Smiths. So we sounded much more like them.

Jake: What's your favorite tour memory?

Ryan: Today was really cool actually, we had a good time. We met some guy at the in store performance and (he asked) "what are you guys doing today," we said nothing, so he took the four of us up on a couple of rafts and we drank beer and floated down the river.

Jake: That's a good day right there.

Ryan: That's a great day. It was gorgeous outside. It got us out of the bus. I didn't really want to wander around Boise, it was too hot. It was really fun.

Jake: If you could pick one record that defines...Ryan, what is it?

Ryan: (Laughs) Brian, the drummer enters the bus.

Jake: How's the interview going?

Ryan: Were right in the middle of it. He's asking me what record defines me.

Brian: George Harrison, All things must pass. That defines me in my musically abilities. I am that record.

Ryan: I would say (long pause), well, there is sound tracks to my life like *Love and Rockets*, *Earth Sun Moon*, that was like the first record that I really fell in love with. That really moved me and inspired me. There's Records like *Van Morrison*, *Astral Weeks* that just slams me every time I hear them. It's like that question, the desert island discs. Which five records would you take with if you were stranded on an island?

Jake: Do you have any idea of your other four?

Ryan: It all depends on what's going on. *Astral Weeks* would be on there.

Charmed, I'm sure Music Happens: Brooklyn Popsters, Portland experimentalist and Amped Against Apathy

By Brian Mayer
A&E Editor

This summer has too much to offer in too little time. All over the country the musical pulse has doubled in unlikely ways. We are witnessing yet another transitional phase of pop/rock music—people are leaving the overfilled clubs and pseudo counter culture bars to seek out music.

Bishop Allen

Okay, I have spent all summer focused on music. I can't get it out of my head. Not just the tunes or the variety, but the actual lack of interesting or challenging music of any kind. It's not that everything sucks, it's just that I haven't been able to find an act to carry me through the dog days of summer and mark the days with pieces I will never forget—until now. Brooklyn-based Bishop Allen saved me.

After hearing an interview with the band on NPR, I went to their website and downloaded some song files. On first note of the anthem "Busted Heart" I knew mine—broken heart, that is—was no more. My summer crush had begun, with a simple

pop song with all the joy and sorrow of a summer fling. Bishop Allen's self-produced and released debut *Charm School*, is a nearly perfect blend of loose rock and tight pop, that

"A tireless band that has put tons of work into a website, shameless self promotion, and (most importantly) an album full of well crafted songs, that aren't perfect but feel that way."

marks the beginning of a band that, against all odds, could have wide spread success without the usual label and marketing vehicles. They have done so by creating their own vehicle themselves. A tireless band that has put tons of work into a website, shameless self-promotion, and (most importantly) an album full of well-crafted songs that aren't perfect but feel that way.

On July 30th, Bishop Allen will play their first show in Boise. The show will be held at the Warm Springs House and will be opened by Moon Turns the Tide, and Boise favorites Draw. Call

208-342-8804 for more details. You can find out more about Bishop Allen on their website www.bishopallen.com

Vrssnn
Vrssnn (pronounced version) is the brainchild of experimental music guru Adam Forkner (Yume Bitsu, Surface of Eecon). This album is the real deal, not just another white guy nerd

album, but an epic adventure, combining elements strange and familiar Vrssnn is like the first day of a vacation, and the latest album on K records, features guest appearances from Little Wings, Modest Mouse, Calvin Johnson and many others. Perhaps the greatest part of all is that Vrssnn will be paying a visit to our fair city on August 9. Vrssnn will be sharing the bill with the Canadian group, Frog Eyes, at Sotano.

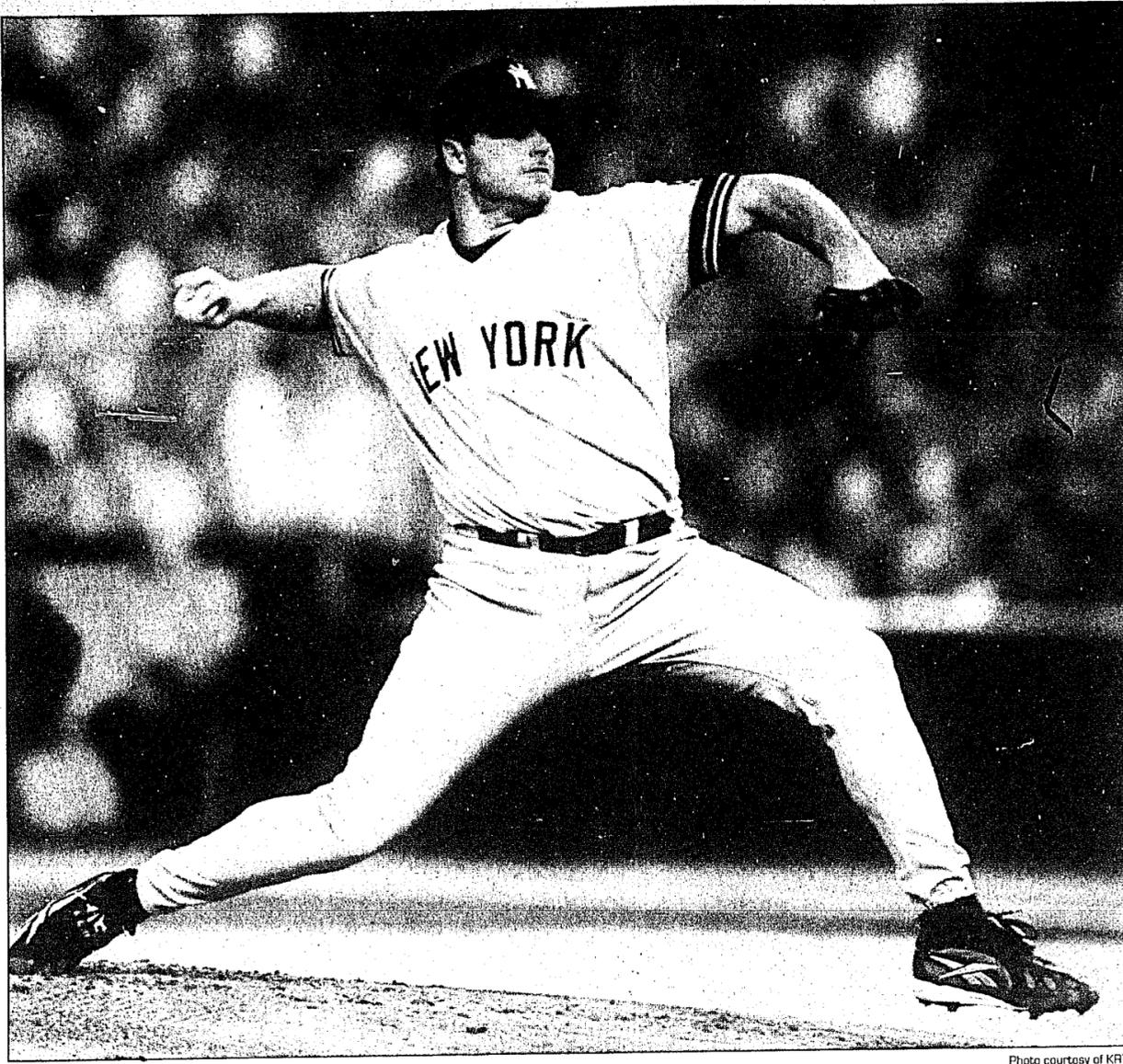
Amped Against Apathy
On Friday July 25th at the Julia Davis Band shell, The Snake River Alliance, and the Idaho Peace Coalition will be sponsoring an event called "Amped Against Apathy". This event, will feature thirteen bands from around Idaho and the Northwest, and will feature many community organizations, in an effort to help the youth get involved in civic participation. The Bands include Fallen Skyline, Trashing Andy, The Obvious, Blood Party, Mystery Date, and many more.

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Roger Clemens' record-breaking performance in this year's season earned him a last-minute berth in the All-Star Game.

Photo courtesy of KRT

NC State aims high in ACC, targets FSU

By Josh Robbins
The Orlando Sentinel
KRT

GREENSBORO, Ga. — Picking a preseason favorite to win the Atlantic Coast Conference football title used to be a tedious exercise. Since 1992, its first year in the league, Florida State almost always seemed like the logical and obvious choice as the team to beat.

But the monotony may end this afternoon, when media members gathered at Reynolds Plantation for the annual ACC Football Kickoff fill out their preseason ballots.

To many, Florida State no longer seems as invincible as it once did, even though the Seminoles won the ACC championship last season. Just as important, three other teams North Carolina State, Maryland and Virginia have improved and appear poised to challenge the Seminoles for league supremacy.

And while preseason predictions mean little, if anything, in the long run, they certainly illustrate how competitive a league is expected to be.

"Each year, to me, from 2000 has gotten more and more competitive," NC State quarterback Philip Rivers said on Sunday. "And every year it's gotten a little bit more evened out. And this year, just looking at it, may be the most evened-out one yet."

Florida State, NC State, Maryland and Virginia all figure to start the season ranked in the AP's top 25. The ACC hasn't placed four teams in the preseason top 25 since 1993.

"It's tougher," Clemson linebacker John Leake said of the league. "The competition's harder. Each year you can see it."

Rivers and his Wolfpack teammates have reason to consider themselves legitimate contenders. They finished the 2002 season ranked 12th in the Associated Press poll — highest among all ACC teams and have defeated FSU in each of the past two seasons.

A starter since the first game of his freshman season, Rivers needs only 846 yards passing to become the conference's all-time leader in career passing yardage. His mere presence gives his teammates additional confidence.

The Terrapins and Cavaliers also return their starting quarterbacks from a year ago. Scott McBrien became more familiar with the Maryland offense throughout the 2002 season, his first playing with the Terps after he transferred from West Virginia. McBrien also should benefit from having running back Bruce Perry back in the lineup. Perry, the 2001 ACC Offensive Player of the Year, missed most of last season with an assortment of injuries.

"It's improved drastically," Perry said of the league. "I remember the days when Peter Warrick and (Chris) Weinke just ran through people. But now you've got other teams that are rising and at least are trying to compete with Florida State."

Virginia quarterback Matt Schaub, a fifth-year senior and the ACC's reigning player of the year, said he sees parody within the league.

"Since I've been here in the past four years, all the teams have seemed to become equal," Schaub said. "At any time, any one team can beat the other guys. In the past years there was somewhat of a tiering system in the league; there were three teams that were at the top, in the middle and then the lower. But now it's all seemed to balance out. I think that's great for the conference. It makes everything more interesting."

Florida State brought running back Greg Jones and outside linebacker Michael Boulware to the ACC media days. While Jones acknowledged that the league is improving, he said he and his teammates do not feel parody has reached the ACC.

"I know the players don't feel like it's wide-open," Jones said, grinning. "People might say it. Reporters might say it. It's extra motivation for us."

"People say Duke can beat us now. Wake Forest can beat us now. It's not like that."

The ACC only figures to become more competitive at the top in 2004, when perennial football powers Miami and Virginia Tech join the conference.

But Boulware does not envision either the Hurricanes or the Hokies dominating ACC opponents like Florida State once did.

"They're going to find it harder than they think," Boulware said.

AL clinches home-field advantage in World Series

By Andrea Trujillo
Sports Commentary
Sport's Editor

"This time it counts." Those are the words that lined the outfield fences at U.S. Cellular Field July 15 for the 2003 Major League All-Star Game. The not so hitter-friendly ballpark that usually plays home to the Chicago White Sox played host to baseball's midsummer classic.

For the first time since the inception of the All-Star Game in 1933, fans witnessed a game that yielded meaningful ramifications. The American League pulled out a come-from-behind 7-6 victory to walk away with not only bragging rights, but something much more significant. By winning the 74th MLB All-Star game, the American League effectively stole home-field advantage in this year's World Series right out from under the National League.

Previously, the two leagues alternated the right to home-field advantage, and you guessed it—this year was scheduled to be the National League's turn. Think home-field advantage is not significant? Consider the 2001 World Series. The New York Yankees fell victim to the Arizona Diamondbacks in game seven loss in Phoenix. You don't think playing in Yankee Stadium might have swayed history? Tell that to the fans in the Bronx.

The National League All-Stars have not clinched a victory since 1996, although they did manage to tie the American League in 2002 game hosted by Milwaukee. If this trend continues, the NL champs will be hard pressed to gain home-field advantage anytime soon. Granted, the NL has only won the World Series two times in the last seven years, but this certainly doesn't up their odds.

Teams will continue to battle from April through September for home-field advantage in the early

rounds of the playoffs. Yet the home-field advantage for the World Series, the stage of all stages, will be decided mid-July-benefiting a team that has yet to be determined.

The first-year change did not come without controversy. While the transition will ultimately affect only two teams annually, it challenges baseball's built-in history. This in itself can be unsettling to a league that values records, statistic and, above all else—tradition.

The consensus? It's really too early to say. Hindsight is not a luxury that MLB and Commissioner Bud Selig had when implementing the change. Years from now, MLB will either be given a pat on the back or chastised. But for now, numerous players and coaches voiced their concerns and displeasure with the change. Still, MLB achieved its short-term goal of upping the importance of the game.

Year after year the game has been a fan-favorite, but it lacked a level of intensity. This year, Fox network promos for the game said, "The intensity is back." They nailed this one on the head. For once, managers, for a lack of a better word, "managed." Their task was no longer to get every player in the game. Each pitcher was not guaranteed innings, and likewise each position player was not necessarily going to get their hacks at the plate. No promises were made. The teams were playing to win.

Yet, one question remains: If the game means so much, why are fans still helping to select the teams and their respective lineups? Are the players at this or at any All-Star Game for that matter, really representative of the best players in baseball?

Fans vote for their favorite players with a loyal heart, but an untrained eye. They stuff ballot boxes in favor of name recognition versus performance. They cast vote after vote for their hometown heroes, neglecting those often more-deserving players. Does the American League truly field the best they've got from the league-leading Yankees and Mariners to the cellar-dweller Tigers? Doubtful. Does the National League really furnish the year's top performers, regardless of whether or not the players have endorsement deals and shoe contracts? Unlikely.

Why did perhaps baseball's best pitcher, Pedro Martinez, not participate? Why wasn't Sammy Sosa on the NL's roster? Cork aside, 15 homers accompanied by 45 RBI's at midpoint in the season certainly qualified him. Why was Roger Clemens only added to the American League roster after Athletics management pulled Barry Zito from the rotation? A guy that's a shoe-in for the Hall of Fame and has 300 career wins left off the team? Give me a break.

MLB took the least typical game of the season and elevated it to a game that directly affects the most important game of the playoffs, Game 7 of the World Series. The change in status no doubt demands a change in voting. If the game's results are going to diminish tradition in favor of enhancing history, MLB has an increasing obligation.

MLB must make certain that the players of future All-Star Games are the most-worthy of their highly coveted roster spots. Fans must be taken out of the voting, in an effort to ensure that both the American and National Leagues field their strongest teams, the best of the best. Then and only then will the annual event be truly worthy of its title that carries such implications. "All-Star Game" in 2004? Let's hope so.

Boise State finishes 63rd in NACDA Standings

By Max Corbet
Bronco Athletics

BOISE, Idaho — Winning three conference championship and having two teams finish its seasons ranked 12th nationally, Boise State University produced its highest finish ever in the 10-year history of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Director's Cup program.

Scoring a total of 281 points, the Bronco men and women placed 63rd among the nation's NCAA Division I schools for the academic year 2002-03. Boise State's 63rd place ranking was second among WAC schools with Southern Methodist University (SMU) finishing 41st with 461.5 points. Fresno State and Rice University followed the Broncos among the WAC schools with Fresno State placing 70th with 239.5 points, and Rice 71st with 231 points.

Among the schools in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Washington and Oregon), Boise State had the fourth highest total. The University of Washington was 17th with 732 points, the University of Oregon 52nd with 373.5 points and Washington State University

The scoring for Boise State



Football:	12th - 54	points
Women's Gymnastics:	24th - 47.5	points
Wrestling:	12th - 64.5	points
Men's Tennis:	17th - 50	points
Women's Track and Field:	55th - 16	points
Men's Track and Field:	24th - 49	points

with 351.5 points. Oregon State University was two places behind the Broncos in 65th place with 269.25 points.

The three conference titles Boise State won during this past season came from football (WAC), men's tennis (WAC) and women's gymnastics (Western Gymnastics Conference). The football and wrestling teams each finished their season ranked 12th in their respective sports. The football team was ranked 12th in the final USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll, while the wrestling team placed 12th at the NCAA National Championships.

The NACDA Director's Cup

is a program which honors institutions maintaining abroad-based programs, achieving success in many sports, both men's and women's. Each institution is awarded points in a predetermined number of sports for men and women. The overall champion, which was Stanford University with 1,420.5 points for the 2002-03 season, receives a Waterford crystal trophy.

The previous best finish for Boise State came during the 1996-97 season with a 65th place finish. In the 10-year history of the program, Boise State has never finished worse than 114th, and has been ranked among the top 100 schools eight of those 10 years.

NBA says Bryant can join Lakers for training camp

By Maggie Haberman and Tracy Connor
New York Daily News
(KRT)

NEW YORK — L.A. Lakers star Kobe Bryant can continue driving the lane while he prepares to defend himself in the legal arena.

A day after Bryant was charged with sexually assaulting a 19-year-old hotel worker in Colorado, the NBA said he can remain on the Lakers' roster when camp opens in early October.

"He will be allowed to play while proceedings are going on," said Brian McIntyre, NBA senior vice president.

That's in step with the league's stated policy of not taking action against a player before a criminal case is resolved.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson hasn't commented on Bryant's legal troubles, but the team appears to be solidly behind him.

Team officials were present at the Staples Center on Friday night when Bryant, 24, went before a sea of television cameras to say he'd cheated on his 21-year-old wife, Vanessa, who sat beside him, but to insist he did not rape his accuser.

Bryant will also keep his spot on the U.S. Olympic team, although he won't play in qualifying tournaments because of shoulder and knee surgery.

Still, it's unclear whether the demands of preparing for a trial, which might not start until January, will disrupt his season.

"There is some uncertainty here as to whether Kobe will be able to play or not," said the president of one Western Conference team. "There are a lot of unknowns there."

Bryant has made it clear his defense will be that he had consensual sex with his accuser, who says she was raped June 30 at Lodge & Spa at Cordillera in Eagle, Colo.

That strategy has turned the case against him into a he-said/she-said wrangle that could be harder to prove, experts said.

"This changes the case enormously," said Larry Pozner, a Colorado lawyer and the former head of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

"If she said there was sex and he said there was sex, then all the lab tests (will show that)," said Pozner, adding that the case will then boil down to bruises, cuts or other signs of force.

In addition, Colorado deputies have interviewed witnesses and examined physical evidence at the lodge, officials said.

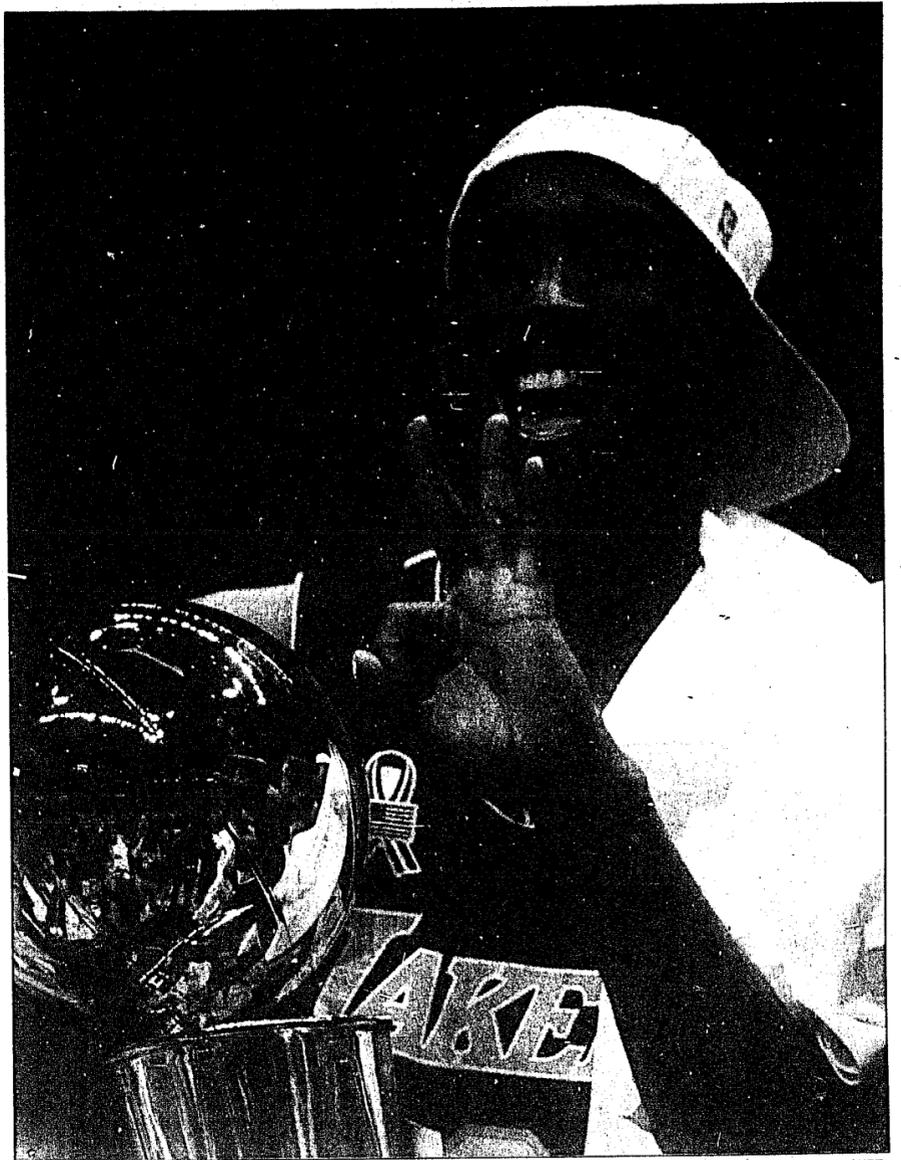
The he-said/she-said strategy has been used in other high-profile cases with mixed success.

In the 1991 William Kennedy Smith rape trial in Florida, defense lawyer Roy Black won an acquittal after showing inconsistencies in the accuser's testimony. Other cases, such as Mike Tyson's, have ended in conviction.

Longtime Denver defense lawyer Jeralyn Merritt said the case against Bryant might turn into a case of "withdrawal of consent."

"If the act started out consensual, what happened in her mind that made it non-consensual, (and) did she communicate that to Kobe Bryant?" Merritt said.

Mitch Lawrence contributed to this report.



Kobe Bryant celebrates his NBA championship last spring.

Photo courtesy of KRT

With Malone and Payton, Lakers are the team to beat in 2004

By Sam Smith
Chicago Tribune
KRT

CHICAGO — The Los Angeles Lakers, returning to their past glory Wednesday, won the 2004 NBA championship.

What? Not yet?

Well, it sure seems like it.

The general consensus of those who follow the NBA is that the Lakers, on the first day of free-agent signings for the 2003-04 season, wrapped up the next league championship, and perhaps two or three more, with the official announcement of the signings of perennial All-Stars Karl Malone and Gary Payton.

They were merely two of 18 players who agreed to terms Wednesday, but they were two of the biggest and most influential players. Hey, even Tim Duncan's family will pick the Lakers to win next season.

With a starting lineup including Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, assuming sexual assault charges are resolved in his favor, Payton and Malone, the Lakers will boast one of the most impressive lineups in NBA history.

"When Karl said what he was going to do, I figured I couldn't miss that chance, playing with the Lakers," said Payton, who signed a reported two-year, \$10.4 million deal while Malone signed a two-year, \$6 million pact. "With four great players like us playing with each other, we're going to have a great chance to win a championship."

Duncan's San Antonio Spurs, as expected, didn't let their star leave via free agency, whapping him up for seven years and about \$122 million. But the defending champions' reign may be short because they struck out on their main free agent targets: Jason Kidd, who re-signed with the New Jersey Nets; and Jermaine O'Neal, who re-signed with the Indiana Pacers.

The Spurs recovered sort of by signing Minnesota center Rasha Nesterovic to an estimated six-year \$42 million contract to replace the retiring David Robinson. But they hardly seem to have the kind of talent to challenge the Lakers' four bosses.

Under NBA rules, teams were able to talk to players starting July 1 but they could not sign anyone before July 16. The checkbooks opened Wednesday with the Los Angeles Clippers possibly losing four players.

Utah signed Fenwick's Corey Maggette to an offer sheet for \$45 million over six years, and Denver signed Andre Miller to an offer sheet of \$50 million over six years. Both players are restricted free agents, giving the Clippers 15 days to match the offers to retain the players. They might match for Maggette.

Also, the Miami Heat signed

fellow restricted free-agent forward Elton Brand to an offer sheet of \$82.2 million over six years and center Michael Olowokandi could go to the Timberwolves for three years and \$16 million.

In other moves, Juwan Howard left Denver for Orlando for five years and about \$32 million, P.J. Brown remained with the Hornets for about four years and \$40 million, Kenny Thomas stayed with the 76ers for about \$45 million over seven years and Alonzo Mourning left Miami for New Jersey for about \$22 million over four years.

Other signings included Amal McCaskill to the 76ers, Brian Skinner and Erick Strickland to the Bucks, Jerome Moiso and Milt Palacio to the Raptors and Kevin Ollie to the Cavaliers.

That left still unsigned such big-name free agents as Scottie Pippen, whom the Bulls are courting, but who talked Wednesday with Memphis and San Antonio. Also Brad Miller, Elton Campbell, Gilbert Arenas and James Posey, the latter a small forward who could be a good possibility for the Bulls.

The NBA also announced the salary cap for next season is \$43.8 million. Thus the midlevel exception the Bulls are looking to use starts with a salary of about \$4.9 million with 10 percent annual raises. The key figure for all clubs is the luxury tax, which will be collected on all teams with payrolls last season above \$52.9 million.

Here's a look at the free agency winners and losers:

Winners
Lakers: This is the Jordan-Pippen-Rodman-Jackson road show of the 2000s. Fnas will be talking 70 victories and greatest-team ever stuff. With both Payton and Malone passing on a chance for bigger contracts elsewhere, there should be no question of their lesser roles. Payton still has defensive abilities to team with Bryant and Malone can fill in for O'Neal in the middle on occasion.

Nets: They retained Jason Kidd. It's costing them a fortune because they already are above the luxury tax threshold and it clearly came with the proviso they add Mourning, who remains questionable because of kidney disease. The Nets hope to get two seasons out of Mourning, in effect, making it about a \$10 million annual deal.

Timberwolves: Michael Olowokandi for Rasha Nesterovic? You would make that trade. Nesterovic is solid and skilled, but somewhat passive. Olowokandi is no Kevin Garnett but he has great ability, and Garnett just might be able to goad him into the greatness once projected for him.

Pacers: They retained their star, Jermaine O'Neal, who was courted by the Spurs and Mavericks. Brad Miller and Reggie Miller remain unsigned,

and they'll certainly bring back Reggie. It's questionable where Brad Miller will get a significant offer, so he is likely to return as well.

Hornets: They were supposed to be stingy. They always are. Everyone assumed they would lose Brown, but they came up with a big package for a hardworking, though aging, role player who won't live up to the \$10 million salary, but will provide returns.

Cavaliers: They actually may be trying to win some games, even though they don't have to with LeBron James. Five years seems a lot for Kevin Ollie, but he's a solid mentor for James. They also are trying to add a hardworking veteran like Ira Newble or Eric Piatkowski.

Losers
Spurs: The Bulls can tell them: Just because you have money, it doesn't mean they will come. With Duncan, a championship and \$16 million in salary cap room, they could have been the next dynasty. Now they have Nesterovic. That has to be a disappointment after seeking Kidd, O'Neal, Malone, Brown and Mourning.

Mavericks: It turns out video games in the lockers and soft bathrobes don't mean that much to NBA players. Dallas chased Mourning, Brown and Malone and was rejected. The Mavs couldn't talk Kidd into going for a sign and trade. They didn't spend their exception last year and may not again as they fall further back in the West. Adding Robert Horry, which is under discussion, only may make things worse.

Kings: They tried to get into the Malone sweepstakes once the Lakers showed interest, but failed. It appears their window of opportunity is closing, although they're supposedly trying to make a big deal with Mike Bibby as bait.

Magic: It failed to get the injury exception for Grant Hill and got Howard, a combination forward, when they needed a center. Howard's heading toward the downside of his career and they will wonder about paying him \$7 million in three years.

Nuggets: Lots of money and a bad team equal Bulls 2000. Who's left as they will just wait to see if the Clippers will match on Andre Miller. They won't. But he's hardly worth bottoming out for.

Heat: The Clippers already offered Brand \$78 million. They certainly will match the \$82 million offer for their best player. Is Brand a stalking horse for Lamar Odom? Perhaps. But how much could they offer. Odom that the Clippers won't match that as well?

Jazz: It seemed all set for Andre Miller, the point guard to begin the post-John Stockton era. Maggette is a nice piece, but they have wing players. When you have salary cap room after losing Stockton and

Malone, you better get a point guard or a big man.

Grizzlies: Hello, Jerry West. It turns out it's harder to lure people to Memphis than it was to Los Angeles. Not to take anything away from West, who has been one of the NBA's great innovators and legends, but

NBA players and agents aren't scheming to get to Memphis to play with Pau Gasol and Jason Williams. Even at the midlevel exception, West couldn't get Olowokandi, and neither could the centerless Knicks.

There are plenty of incompletes who could be winners.

Washington would be if it lures Gilbert Arenas and Golden State would be if it keeps him. The rumors are Pippen is stringing along the Bulls to get a better deal elsewhere, but if he is shut out he could return to Chicago.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (July 23)

You're fascinated, and fascinating, this year. You can provide stability, but a free spirit wants more. You'll be most successful if you're not too stuck in your ways.

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 - You'll soon find it much easier to express your heartfelt emotions. You may not have to do it with words, but think your actions through. Don't want to give the wrong impression.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is a 7 - You're about to feel a compelling desire to rearrange all your furniture. Shampoo all the rugs while you're at it. You'll feel so refreshed when it's done.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is a 7 - The next few weeks will be interesting, you can definitely count on that. Do a little more research before you commit to acquiring a profitable skill.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is a 6 - If you're feeling a little exhausted, take it easy for a while. It won't hurt you to move more slowly. You have lots of options to ponder.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is a 7 - You may feel a little confused as you take on more authority. It's natural, and you'll do well in a new role. Relax and get used to it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is a 7 - You're entering a pensive phase, with big decisions to be made. You'll live with these choices for a long time, so there's no

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is a 6 - Your popularity is on the rise, and it should be a lot of fun. Schedule a celebration before this weekend, because you may have obligations then.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is a 8 - For you, the coming phase is all about increasing your authority. You'll do that, in part, by getting proficient at taking orders. But the money should be good.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 7 - This coming phase should be lots of fun. The emphasis is on school and travel. If you have anything you want published, the odds are now more in your favor. This only lasts till mid-August, so don't procrastinate!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is a 7 - You're going into a four-week phase of studying economics. Stocks, bonds, credit cards and insurance could all get your scrutiny. Do it now, and be well rewarded.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is a 6 - You have lots of friends, but you're actually pretty independent. For the next few weeks you'll get to learn how to rely on others to achieve your goals. Think about what you can delegate.

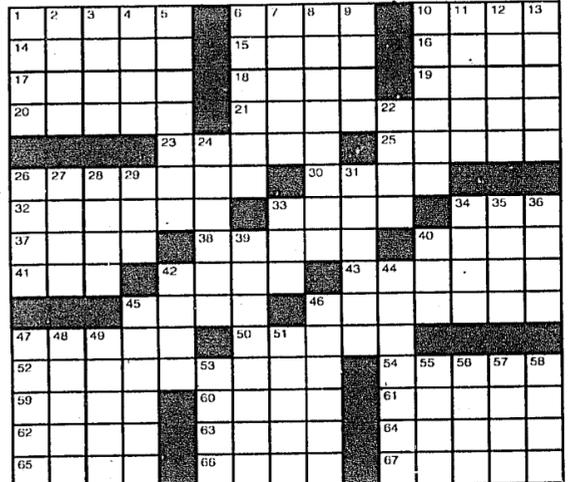
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is a 7 - Keep studying, and you'll figure out what you've been doing the hard way. Don't worry about extra effort you've spent; just learn not to waste any more.

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Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Tolerated
6 Actor Julia
10 Culture medium
14 Expansive
15 Arm bone
16 Designate
17 Frighten
18 Went off
19 Poetic peepers
20 Free-for-all
21 Easily angered
23 Income from properties
25 Beginning
26 Preparing to stop
30 Easy gait
32 Body suits
33 Jalopy
34 Collar
37 Confederate
38 Overturn
40 First-rate
41 Automatic advance in a tournament
42 Gools up
43 Attribute to a cause
45 Run off
46 Locks holder
47 Unit of wisdom?
50 Goes yachting
52 Long-tongued mammals
54 Coke and Pepsi
59 Slices
60 Seth's son
61 Cherish
62 go brag!
63 Summit
64 Philosopher Kierkegaard
65 Art
66 Enjoy a book
67 Stair element



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0723/03

Solutions

DOWN
1 Criticize harshly
2 Fireside yarn
3 Spoken
4 Beastly character
5 Bad mark
6 Judgment
7 On guard
8 Disconnect

- 9 Iron pumper's pride
10 Consecrate
11 Dresses
12 Mosey along
13 Correct a clock
22 Henhouse
24 Guarantee
26 Wild guess
27 Bell-shaped flower
28 Gawk at
29 With what motive?
31 Type of tire
33 "For... a jolly good..."
34 Sentence subject
35 Pot starter
36 Sugar source
39 Dignified bearing
40 4 of dates
42 Scat singer Fitzgerald
44 Select unsuitable actors

- 45 Central California city
46 Spoke snake
47 Evidenced anxiety
48 Harden
49 Top room
51 Bakery byproduct
53 Rend
55 Skunk's defense
56 Folk tales
57 Environs
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