

7-17-2004

Arbiter, July 17

Students of Boise State University

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WEDNESDAY
JULY 17, 2004

The Arbiter

MLB's star shines
bright in Texas
SPORTS - 5
WARPED WORLD
 ★★★★★
INTERVIEWS WITH:
Bad Religion, NOFX, and Flogging Molly ARE - 6

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VOLUME 17 ISSUE 1

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BSU sells naming rights, 4 million

BY MONICA PRICE
News Editor

Boise State sold naming rights to the local Taco Bell franchisee earlier this month. The deal will total 4 million between cash and other contributions. The money will be distributed over 15 years and will go to scholarships, athletics, and building maintenance.

The annual payment will exceed \$208,000. Taco Bell will pay over \$52,000 annually for marketing, and contribute \$6,300 a year towards the "Taco Bell Scholarship." The terms for the scholarship are still being hammered out. Gene Bleymaier, director of athletics, says the scholarship will be available to all students. "Taco Bell Scholarship (fund) will not be designated for a student athlete."

"It's a tremendous benefit for the Arena, it will benefit the students and the university," said Bleymaier. The 4 million dollar deal will indirectly benefit students and the university as a whole.

According to Chris Rosenbaum, BSU budget director, the multimillion-dollar deal isn't likely to affect the matriculation fee; it may affect the athletics fee. There is no guarantee that the deal will effect student fees next year.

The real pressure, says Rosenbaum, should be put on the State Legislature. BSU hasn't seen an increase since the economy went bust. "It's grim... no increases of any kind."

According to Bleymaier benefits for BSU athletics will be postponed, the expense of changing names will be the first priority. Whatever is left over will trickle down to Athletics. Some of the money set aside for Athletics will go back to the Taco Bell Arena.

The building formerly known as The Pavilion has doubled its asking price. Last year Athletics paid about \$75,000 for use of the facilities, this year the department expects to pay twice that, said Bleymaier. Along with financial changes are the physical changes.

The transition from Pavilion to Taco Bell Arena should be completed in the next 2-3 months according to Audrey Eldridge, Pavilion public relations manager. The Taco Bell logo will be on each entrance and on the sidelines of the basketball court. The logo is under construction and won't be revealed until later in the year, but the website is up: www.tacobellarena.com.

The Pavilion is excited to have a community sponsor. "I think it will bring more attention to the arena by having a corporate sponsor," said Eldridge.

Taco Bell has been a sponsor of BSU athletics for the past 5 years. Last winter Taco Bell approached BSU with the idea of buying the naming rights to The Pavilion. "We have enjoyed a very positive relationship with the Athletic department at Boise State since 2000, and we are confident this agreement will only strengthen it. We believe in the vision of higher education in the state of Idaho. We also believe this is a way we can give back to the community, and provide wonderful exposure for our company," said Carl Nicolaysen, president of the local Taco Bell franchisee.

The Pavilion has been an icon at BSU since 1982.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE ROOHE AND KRISTA ADAMS



Taken from Taco Bell Net
Available: <http://www.csb.rut.edu/~gentry/TBNet/tbnet.html>

TACO BELL: Taco Bell Corp., a subsidiary of TriCon Global Restaurants, Inc. Inc. is the largest quick-service Mexican-style restaurant chain in the world, with approximately 4,600 locations in 50 states and a growing international market.

HISTORY: Originated by Glen Bell, Taco Bell became a reality on March 21, 1962. The first Taco Bell restaurant was built in Downey, California. The first franchise was sold in 1964. Taco Bell went public in 1969 and was acquired by PepsiCo in 1978. Then, in 1997, PepsiCo created TriCon Global Restaurants, Inc. which now owns Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Pizza Hut.

MARKETING STATISTICS: The company serves more than 55 million people weekly in restaurants across the country. Nearly 123 million people see a Taco Bell commercial once a week -- about half of the US population. Over 4.5 million tacos are served in Taco Bell restaurants each day.

RAW MATERIALS: Taco Bell is the largest restaurant consumer of whole iceberg lettuce in the world. In one year, franchise and company restaurants consume:

- 5.2 billion corn and flour tortillas
- 60 million pounds of fresh tomatoes
- 152 million pounds of lettuce
- 56 million pounds of pinto beans
- 366 million pounds of ground beef
- 92 million pounds of cheddar cheese

CAMPUS OPINIONS

ON THE NEW TACO BELL ARENA:



"I think it's a terrible name... but if it brings more money to BSU, then it's cool."

- Ian Percy, Environmental health



"I don't really give a shit... I don't even eat Taco Bell, and it won't make me start."

- Amanda Costello, English major



"It's embarrassing."

- Kiely Prouty, English major



"No quiero Taco Bell."

- Heather Jasper, French major

- Compiled by Gregory Rutty

Leaked salary list shows Bush's highest-paid staff is mostly male

BY DANA MILBANK
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON--The president's men are doing very well. The president's women are doing slightly less well, but still not bad.

With new White House salary figures leaked to The Washington Post and an Excel spreadsheet, crack Washington Post researcher Margot Williams determined that men in the Bush White House earn an average of \$76,624 a year. Women earn \$59,917 on average. That means Bush-women earn about 78 percent of what Bush men

earn.

As it happens, that's almost exactly the national average for the gap in pay between the sexes, although it's a good bit below the 88 percent for the nearly 1 million professional and administrative employees in the federal workforce. Also, the White House has the advantage of making all its hires from scratch after the 2000 election.

At the White House, the gap has nothing to do with wage discrimination: Women and men with similar titles receive similar pay. Rather, it comes from the dominance of men in high-end jobs; of the 17 White House

staffers earning \$157,000--the top of the pay scale this year--12 are men. That's roughly comparable to the 26 percent representation of women in the federal government's 7,000-person Senior Executive Service, according to the Partnership for Public Service.

Overall, working in the White House is quite a good living. The average salary, \$67,075, is well above the latest available metropolitan Washington average of \$48,420, and nearly double the national average of \$36,764. But don't fret about the overpaid presidential adviser: Most of them could be earning

far more as lawyers, lobbyists and corporate executives.

The list, as of June 12, has its share of surprises. The lowest paid of the 431 in the non-career "White House Office" (a collection of mostly political appointees and staff on loan from other agencies) is James Baker, who as President Bush's envoy in search of Iraqi debt relief, has declined a salary. At the other extreme is Stephen Friedman, Bush's top economic adviser who, despite a net worth in the tens of millions, collects a government salary of \$157,000.

The top salary increased from \$151,000 last year, but the ranks

of the highest-paid decreased by one. The new head of Bush's USA Freedom Corps service initiative was given a lesser title and salary than her predecessor.

As in many workplaces, a good relationship with the boss seems to pay off. Israel Hernandez, who served as Bush's "body" man in Texas, attending to the governor's corporeal needs, now earns \$141,000 as senior adviser Karl Rove's deputy. Gordon Johndroe, who served in a similar capacity during the campaign, now is earning \$87,700 as press secretary to first lady Laura Bush. Blake

Gottesman, the president's current personal aide, gets \$54,400 for such tasks as guarding colleagues' access to Bush, accepting knickknacks handed to Bush and placing the president's speeches on lecterns.

Two of the 431 employees are unnamed because they come from intelligence agencies. The spooks get \$125,972 and \$118,384, respectively.

Though most job titles have narrow pay ranges, there are exceptions. One "ethics adviser," for example, earns \$124,166 and another earns \$31,277.

OPINION

BSU: In Bed with the Bell

BY DR. PETER WOLHEIM
Special to the Arbiter

With the current renaming of the BSU Pavilion as "Taco Bell Arena," top BSU administrators tout the \$4 million extra they will now have to help maintain the building and provide an undisclosed number of athletic scholarships. But no officials have discussed what exactly Taco Bell gets out of this new association with an up-and-coming collegiate sports program.

Far from pure corporate generosity, Taco Bell's motivations might be more readily traced to the need to window-wash an image tarnished by a series of boycotts, lawsuits, citations and a nation-wide "Boot the Bell" campaign waged on campuses across America. As Idahoans file into the rechristened facility for both basketball games and graduation ceremonies, they might consider the following:

*In 1999 the American Medical Association's study of rising obesity trends among Americans of all ages singled out high-fat foods and specifically "fast food chains like Taco Bell and Pizza Hut" that have made their way into school lunchrooms. The study noted that weight-related problems such as heart disease, diabetes, gall bladder disease, high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol levels are "sec-

ond only to tobacco-related deaths" as preventable forms of mortality. To be sure, the AMA report cited lack of sufficient exercise "as the main cause in weight gain," but also attributed poor dietary habits among younger people to the ready availability of fast food on school campuses.

"Taco Bell's motivations might be more readily traced to the need to window-wash an image tarnished by a series of boycotts, lawsuits, citations and a nation-wide 'Boot the Bell' campaign waged on campuses across America."

*In 2000 Kraft Foods recalled over 636,000 cases of Taco Bell taco shells because they were partially made from allergenic GMO-contaminated corn meal. According to the Reuters press agency, the recall cost Kraft over \$10 million in lost revenues. The incident is credited with first raising public outcry and concern about the migration of genetically modified foods into the mainstream grain crop supply.

*When the Minnesota Attorney General's office recently analyzed the nutritional value of the most popular meals at leading fast food restaurants, they determined that Taco Bell Taco Salad and 16 oz. Soda provides 1057 calories, approximately half the recommended daily adult intake. It also supplies 55 grams

sponse to Taco Bell's refusal to enter into negotiations over wages and labor conditions. The farmworkers who pick tomatoes for Taco Bell were earning a maximum of \$7500 per year, a figure which has not increased over the past twenty years.

Taco Bell's refusal to even come to the table with the workers has precipitated the "Boot the Bell" protest actions on at least sixteen campuses from the University of California State University.

*Numerous environmental groups have cited Taco Bell, among other fast-food industry giants, for use of polyvinyl chloride packaging materials in containers for dips, sauces and condiments. Like plastic cutlery and Styrofoam coffee cups, these materials contain toxic substances that contaminate land fill sites, ground water and even air if they are incinerated.

Finally, sources close to BSU student groups report that they are investigating the legality of the BSU-Taco Bell contract, given that the construction of the Pavilion was apparently financed out of student fees.

Fun on the Boise River

BY CAROLYN MICHAUD
Assistant News Editor

Boise State students searching for a good way to have fun and stay cool at the same time do not have to look far. We are fortunate to have campus located right next to the refreshing waters of the Boise River. For many students during the summer, the river provides a great place to cool off and relax as well as being cheap entertainment. According to student Nathan Nichols, who floats down the river a couple of times every summer, it's "a good way to pass the time with out spending too much money." These warm months turn the river next to campus into a hot spot for floating. People come in swarms with rafts, inner tubes, kayaks, and many other devices to enjoy the cool waters.

Most floaters begin their trek down the river starting at Barber Park and ending at Ann Morrison Park. This jaunt between parks is around five miles and usually takes between one and a half to two and a half hours depending on the current.

Not only is floating the river a cool and relaxing way to spend an afternoon, it is also inexpensive. Parking at the newly remodeled Barber Park launching site costs only \$4 per vehicle. Rafts and inner tubes are available for rent at the park. Tubes are \$5 a piece while a four-man raft rents for \$30 and a six-man is available for \$42. Every raft rental includes an appropriate number of life vests and paddles. All flotation devices are rented for three hour time blocks and can be returned to a check-in point at Ann Morrison Park. However,



At Barber Park Sunday swarms of people wait to air up their rafts and other floatation devices. The river is a source of affordable fun for Boise State students.

it is important to remember to bring an in-state driver's license or to be prepared to leave a deposit when renting equipment. The rental shop is open between 11am-5pm Wednesday to Friday and 11am-6pm on weekends and holidays. They are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

More avid floaters are always welcome to bring their own equipment. Many sporting goods shops around town sell all types of rafts, kayaks, and other floatation equipment. Inner tubes can be purchased from many tire dealers (such as Big O Tires on Broadway which sells tubes for \$8 a piece).

During the week a shuttle bus runs between Ann Morrison and Barber Park to pick up floaters at the end of the run and take them back to their vehicles at the launching point. It arrives at Barber Park every hour on the half hour and departs from Ann Morrison every hour on the hour. The bus runs from 1-3pm on weekdays and 1-9pm on weekends with a charge of \$2 per person.

Each summer over 250,000 people hit the waters a Barber Park according to the Idaho Chamber of Commerce's Official State Travel Planner. People are drawn to the river for many reasons. "It's the best

bar in Boise," said one student. He, like many others, likes to bring along a cooler on his rafting trips. Although being on the river is a great form of recreation, it is important to remember to always be cautious when around the water. This goes for following the laws (such as not bringing along any glass beverage containers) as well as using common sense. For instance, "No matter what the weather is like, always wear sun block," cautions student Christie Nichols who recently received a bad sunburn while floating the river.

Report on pre-war intelligence assails CIA

BY KNUT ROYCE
Newsday

WASHINGTON - The Senate Intelligence Committee blasted the CIA Friday for its pre-war conclusion that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and the panel's leaders said that last year's invasion probably would have been avoided had the intelligence been accurate.

The document was especially critical of an October 2002 classified report to Congress and to the White House that asserted Iraq possessed both chemical and biological weapons and was "reconstituting its nuclear program." That report, called a National Intelligence Estimate, served as the Bush administration's stated underpinning for the invasion.

The 521-page Senate document concluded that the report overstated the evidence or drew conclusions not supported by that evidence.

At a news conference, Sen. John D. Rockefeller, D-W.Va., the committee's ranking Democrat, declared, "We went to war in Iraq based on false claims." He said that Congress "would not have authorized that war ... if we knew what we know now."

The panel's chairman, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said that had he known Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction "the battle plan would be different." He said it probably would have been modeled after the conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo, where pressure from allied bombings, rather than land invasions, changed conditions on the ground.

The Senate committee assailed both the operational and analytical failings of the intelligence community, especially the CIA. It said the community was virtually blind to Iraq's weapons program after the 1991 Gulf War. The problem was compounded after UN weapons inspectors departed in 1998. The CIA had none of its own agents on the ground.

As a consequence, the report



WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director George Tenet gestures following a speech to students at Georgetown University in Washington, February 5, 2004. Tenet denied Thursday that his agency tailored information on weapons of mass destruction to build a case for war on Iraq.

noted, the U.S. relied more on questionable information from defectors or from foreign intelligence services.

In at least one instance the resulting bad intelligence became one of the most compelling administration claims to support the war. The key source for the often-repeated claim that Iraq had mobile biological weapons labs was an informant who supplied the intelligence to an unnamed foreign intelligence service. Other accounts have identified the country as Germany. The information was later determined to be bogus.

The Senate document accuses the intelligence analysts, officers and managers of "group think," which it describes as a "collective presumption that Iraq had an active and growing WMD program."

John McLaughlin, deputy director of central intelligence, acknowledged Friday that the intelligence community "could have done better." But, he said, it was "wrong to exaggerate the flaws or leap to the judgment that our challenges with pre-war weapons intelligence are evidence of sweeping problems."

He said that a major problem with the estimate was that key judgments were published

in a condensed version without the "caveats and disclaimers" that appeared in the full text. Unfortunately, he said, the full text "apparently was not reviewed by all our readers" -- White House officials and members of Congress.

McLaughlin, who will become acting director of intelligence when the current director, George Tenet, steps down this weekend, may become one of the first victims of the report.

Both Roberts and Rockefeller said the intelligence community needs sweeping changes and they might come sooner rather than later.

Roberts indicated that the White House has been laboring to "find an extraordinary candidate" to become the new director.

An intelligence source said that the White House has been having trouble finding someone willing to take on the task with no guarantee that he or she would still be around after the November presidential elections.

President Bush, on a campaign stop in Pennsylvania, defended his decision to go to war and his assertions about Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction. "We haven't found the stockpiles, but we knew he

could make them," Bush said. "The world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power."

Sen. John Kerry, Democratic presidential candidate, said, "The fact is when it comes to national security, the buck stops at the White House, not anywhere else."

Though the final report was described by both Roberts and Rockefeller as a bipartisan product, it was clear that partisanship played a role. The report, for instance, focused only on the quality of the intelligence provided to the administration -- not on how the administration then cast the intelligence to support the invasion. The panel's report on that will be issued after the elections as per an agreement struck by Rockefeller and Roberts.

An "Additional Views" document submitted by Rockefeller, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., asserts that officials at the "highest levels of government repeatedly overstated" what the intelligence community was reporting.

The three Democrats cited an internal CIA study of its pre-war intelligence prepared by a team of analysts led by Richard Kerr, the agency's former deputy director, asserting that the administration, by repetitively questioning analysts, had created "significant pressure on the intelligence community to find evidence that supported a connection" between Iraq and al-Qaida.

In a telephone interview Friday, Kerr said, "There was pressure, certainly there was." But, he said, the pressure did not "paralyze the effort" of the analysts.

But he was highly critical of the Senate report and said that "a lot of people at the CIA who have read it, talked about it, are not at all pleased with it."

"They're unhappy because they think it was poorly done. ... I personally wouldn't have a lot of confidence in the (committee) staff. I've a lot more confidence in the CIA," he said.

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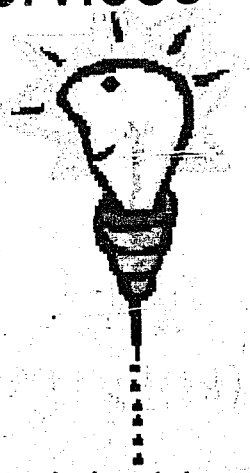
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BOISE STATE

In China, college degree no longer ticket to success

BY SHASHANK BENGALI
Knight Ridder Newspapers

BEIJING—Not too long ago, Dong Qiang's degree in information-technology management would have assured him a comfortable job in China's high-tech sector.

But this spring, the college senior interviewed with 12 computer companies and got 12 rejections. Each time, he said, the employer told him that he didn't have the skills the company was looking for.

After investing in an expensive private university education, that's not what Dong wanted to hear. But in a nation that's pumping out more college graduates than ever, a degree—once an instant passport to China's professional elite—isn't worth what it used to be.

In the coming weeks, 2.8 million Chinese will graduate from college, a 32 percent increase from last year. But as fast as China's economy is growing, the job market can't keep up with that kind of increase, and this year's class of graduates is bracing for less pay and record levels of unemployment.

As many as 800,000 will still be jobless in September, the government predicts. Those who do take jobs will accept salaries 25 percent to 30 percent lower than last year, according to Taihe Consulting, a human resources research firm.

These are historic changes in a country where the government used to assign all college graduates to jobs, virtually guaranteeing them a lifetime of stability. Today, as China moves from a planned economy to a market-based one, there's no more automatic placement.

Competition for jobs is fierce.

Employers say there are jobs available—but not necessarily white-collar jobs in the government, finance or high tech, the sort of positions that college graduates are accustomed to accepting. Some employers say students who are rejected for their first-choice jobs turn up their noses at lesser positions that also require college degrees.

Their expectations don't match the real situation," said Gayle Gao, human resources director for China Asset Management Co., a mutual fund firm.

A university survey found that more than half of last year's graduates who were still unemployed at the end of the summer had been offered jobs, but turned them down.

Gao said students' traditional expectations can't be met because there are so many more graduates now and because China's changing economy has different needs. Universities, especially newly established ones, don't adequately equip students with skills prized in today's job market, such as oral communication and memo writing, she said.

It wasn't long ago that a college degree in China was as rare and valuable as jade. As recently as 1995, only 7 percent of 18- to 22-year-olds attended universities.

In 1999, China implemented a policy to double the number of college students—both to make higher education more accessible and to help fight off the Asian economic crisis by keeping young people out of the job market temporarily.

The policy worked: 4 million

Chinese entered college last year, compared with about 1 million in 1998. The proportion of 18- to 22-year-olds enrolled in college has grown to 15 percent. Dozens of for-profit universities have popped up around the country to meet the growing demand.

"But the demand for employment has not grown at the same rate," said Yang Changjiang, an economist at Fudan University in Shanghai.

The disparity produced dramatic results for the class of 2003, the first to enter college under the new policy. Out of 2.1 million graduates, 630,000 of them were still unemployed in September, according to government statistics.

The average starting salary dropped by 40 percent, and one-fifth of students receiving government loans defaulted on their payments.

The situation only figures to get worse next year, as China takes measures to slow its runaway economic growth and the number of college graduates climbs to 3.4 million. Yang predicts that unemployment of college graduates will be a problem for 10 to 20 years.

If that's the case, he said, the government must step in with some form of training or other assistance to help graduates. Students, especially those in college, are revered in China for symbolizing the bedrock value of education, and if they are upset, broader unrest can follow.

"It can be a threat to China's stability," Yang said. "The government has to watch carefully."

Some members of the class of 2004 are getting restless. At a university in rural Chongqing,

a group of seniors recently proposed that students band together and refuse to accept any job offering a salary lower than 2,500 yuan (\$302) per month—a flight of fancy that was ridiculed in the Chinese media, which noted that the average monthly starting salary last year was 1,550 yuan, or \$187.

Some private firms are seeing an opportunity. Now, alongside notices of job fairs, China's newspapers run advertisements by companies offering training in professional skills for "hot" industries such as high tech. The fees are the equivalent of a year's tuition at a private university or higher.

Dong Qiang asked his parents to plunk down \$850—one-third the cost of his university education—for a three-month course.

Now he spends his weekdays, along with two dozen other 20-somethings, in a cramped, windowless room on the fourth floor of an office tower in Beijing, learning to write computer programs.

Asked if this is how he pictured his last weeks as a college student, Dong smiled wryly.

"Things have changed a lot," he said. "But the program is worth it. I have to do it if I want a good job."

Semester at Sea program uses the world as teacher

BY CHRISTINA MEDINA
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.) (KRT)

For some, traveling abroad into a world brimming with hostility against the United States is out of the question.

For Tom Kalajian, 21, of Kinnelon, N.J., it was the perfect educational opportunity.

Kalajian, a senior at the University of Pittsburgh, traveled to Cuba, Brazil, South Africa, Kenya, Vietnam, Singapore, India and other countries during 100 days on the S.S. Explorer earlier this year. The idea of traveling around the world in a few months lured Kalajian into joining the Semester at Sea program. "A lot of these places I wouldn't be able to get to otherwise," he said. "I wanted the most experience in the shortest amount of time."

One such experience Kalajian recalls is sailing on a riverboat down the Amazon River in Brazil for three days and interacting with natives.

"I did everything that I wanted to do," he said. "I went to all the sites that I wanted to see. The only thing I wish I had done would have been to prepare with the languages a little more and get a base to talk to the locals."

The language barrier was a problem for Kalajian in South Korea, where few spoke English and those who did weren't willing to assist students in need un-

less they tried to speak Korean. "After we made an attempt, they would make an attempt to help us in English," he said.

Kalajian observed that the younger Korean generation is increasingly anti-American as a result of U.S. activity in the country.

"People would comment about how they didn't like the government, but they drew a distinction between our government and us being there," Kalajian said.

Despite the hostile political climate in some of the countries he visited, Kalajian said he never feared for his safety.

"We had a briefing before we arrived in port to know how to stay safe and what we should avoid," Kalajian said. The students who always slept on their ship were warned to keep their eyes open, travel in groups and watch out for pickpockets. They were also kept out of unfriendly territories in each country and were constantly chaperoned by faculty and staff members.

The Semester at Sea program accepts about 640 undergraduate students and 28 faculty members from across the country and overseas, along with senior citizens interested in travel. With the introduction of a new ship this summer, the program will be able to accommodate at least 50 more travelers.

Dr. Don Gogniat, director of international programs for Semester at Sea, got to know

each of his students, attention most students wouldn't normally get on a larger college campus.

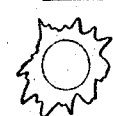
"These are a select bunch of kids that are motivated," Gogniat said. "They all share a sense of adventure and know this is the most unique experience they have done in their lives so far."

Kalajian found he had easy access to his professors in the smaller, more intense classes—some of them in his major, political science. At his university, 150 to 200 students were enrolled in one of the larger classes, but on the ship, classes did not exceed 20 students.

The Semester at Sea program is different from many college study-abroad programs because it gives students an eclectic view of the world rather than focusing on just one country, said Max Brandt, chief academic officer for the program.

"Students are out in the field rather than watching videotapes," Brandt said. "They're often out involved in festivals and ceremonies where they can see and hear live performances of music and participate."

"Over the course of months (the ship) really began to feel like home," Kalajian said. "Being able to experience as many countries as I have, (other students) will be exposed to a variety of cultures, something they can't do by just visiting one country."



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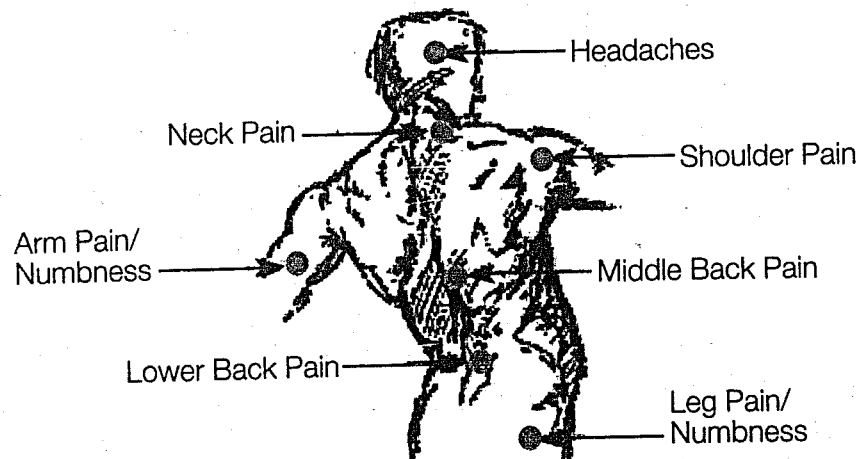
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ANYONE HUNGRY?

BSU Satisfies hunger with Taco Bell Deal

BY LEE VANDER BOEGH
Special to the Arbiter

The way I see it, good ideas are usually few and far between. They are so rare that when we actually have one, we bask in its ideological glory by regular means of gloating to our friends, family, and Internet sex pals. Sometimes a good idea will come about slowly and deliberately, but they usually manifest themselves like an abrupt sneeze at a fancy restaurant: loudly and without the common courtesy of foreshadowing. I've had many great ideas in my time, and have been witness to even more; but nothing compares to the recent conception of "TACO BELL ARENA."

For those of you who aren't up on recent events, Taco Bell recently bought the naming rights to the Boise State Pavilion

for a whopping 4 million bucks! That's more than 2,515,723 Nacho Cheese Chalupas. Even if you break the payments down to an annual basis, we're still talking over 83,594 Grilled Stuffed Burritos per year!

So in lieu of The Pavilion, we now have Taco Bell Arena. Personally I like tacos and indigestion, so I headed down to the local Taco Bell on Broadway Avenue for a little glimpse of what Boise State can expect for the next 15 years.

As luck would have it, there was a fender bender in the intersection in front of the restaurant, so some good Samaritan had taken it upon himself to direct traffic away from the horrendous scene of twisted metal and human carnage—well as much human carnage as you can get for a quarter inch ding on an SUV bumper—until the

police could come and politely tell both parties (and the self-appointed traffic flagger) not to bother them unless an accident actually happened. Needless to say, I asked our good Samaritan for the best route to Taco Bell, and in his excited state two things happened: 1) He

told me to perform a rather impossible sexual act on myself, and 2.) I ended up about a quarter of a mile away from Taco Bell. In all, I'd rate this driving experience at least five points higher than any encounter I've had with the Boise State traffic crew on account of personal safety and efficiency. Hopefully the Taco Bell Arena talent scouts were in the area.

Exhilarated after a seven minute detour, I finally stepped foot into our beloved Taco Bell. One

thing I've noticed about fast food chains is that each of them has their own personal scent; Subway, for instance, always smells like bread dough and gym socks. Taco Bell is no exception to this rule. As I opened

the glass door, I was overcome by an aroma—avocado-lanche of refried beans and cat food (Imagine the movie "Backdraft", but with the odor instead of flames). Wind burned, I took my place behind a windy line of a dozen people—including six kids who changed their orders no less than five times each. Eventually, I ordered some kind of taco pizza (in actuality it looked more like a regular burrito that someone forgot to roll up), I tossed back a couple of Tums, and basked in the relaxing glow of a partially

wiped off table.

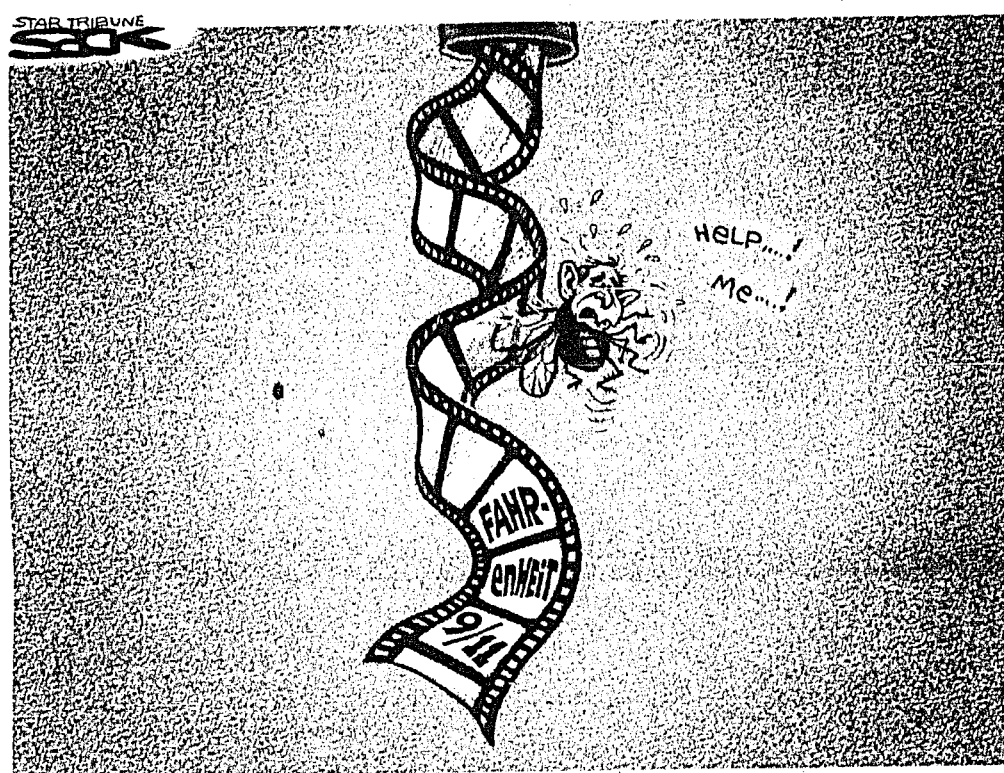
The way I look at it the Taco Bell Arena is going to be a hit. In fact, I'm honestly looking forward to it. Imagine the possibilities of combining such a lucrative fast food chain with our beloved Pavilion. Upon entering the parking lot—after being directed to Nampa and back by orangutans with orange directional lights—you'd pull up to the drive through intercom and order your concessions, get a number (for instance: 783), park your car, then wait by the side of the ticket office while they call out "...number 137...". Instead of having a young boy push the courtside brooms during timeouts at basketball games, there will be an unshaven high school junior who's trying to make the payments on his Dodge Daytona.

I played the drums during the

basketball games for years, and am deeply disappointed that I'll miss the opportunity to replace the cymbals with tortillas. Even the names "Balcony" and "Mezzanine" will be changed to "Burrito" and "Burrito" that somebody forgot to roll up.

What excites me the most, though, is the wall of taco smell that will greet visitors as they enter. After all, if Disneyland can make the Pirates of the Caribbean ride smell like a bunch of sweaty buccaneers, surely somebody can make the Taco Bell Arena smell like stale bagels and filthy pigeon coupes.

In the meantime, all of this typing has made me hungry. If anybody needs me I'll be down at Taco Bell trying to roll up a taco pizza.



Media-fueled hubbub degrades '9/11' debate

BY TONYA JAMESON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Before we in the news media began covering "Fahrenheit 9/11" as if it was the second coming of Christ—or should I say "The Passion of the Christ"—I was excited about seeing the documentary.

I liked Moore's previous one, "Bowling for Columbine," but now I'm disgusted at how easily TV, newspapers and magazines have willingly become unpaid marketers for the film.

The combined results of a controversy-obsessed media, missteps by some conservative groups, the political climate and Moore's strategic marketing prevents most people from seeing "Fahrenheit" with an open mind. It also helped the movie take in \$23.9 million during the opening weekend.

It reminds me of the brouhaha that overshadowed Mel Gibson's "Passion."

The two-sided debate surrounding both movies tapped into the insecurity of a country immersed in a war on terror that has no foreseeable end. Our soldiers and civilians are being killed by an enemy that fights with as much religious conviction

as President Bush claims to possess. The us-versus-them debate between Christians and Jews over "Passion," and between conservatives and liberals over "Fahrenheit," kills thoughtful dialogue.

"You kind of invite them in to create a controversy," said Philip Rosen, professor of modern culture and media at Brown University.

For "Passion," the media manipulation was transparent. Gibson let only select people see early screenings of the film, but in TV and newspaper interviews he spoke out against forces trying to silence the film. The news media couldn't get enough.

The road to success for "Fahrenheit" has taken a similar path.

In early May, Moore announced Disney's decision not to distribute "Fahrenheit" weeks before the Cannes Film Festival, where he won a top award. The announcement created a flurry of news coverage, with Moore complaining about big corporations controlling the flow of information. The search for a new distributor became another news item until

Lions Gate Films agreed to distribute it.

In June, the conservative group Move America Forward urged theaters not to show the documentary. Two weeks ago, another group, Citizens United, filed a formal complaint against Moore's movie with the Federal Election Commission. It claimed "Fahrenheit" violates campaign rules.

Bad moves. "Any attempt at suppressing a movie always inevitably backfires," said Norman Ornstein, a political expert at the American Enterprise Institute.

To counter, the left-leaning MoveOn PAC launched a national campaign to get at least 100,000 members to see the film. More than 115,000 people pledged to see "Fahrenheit" when it opened nationwide June 25.

"When the right-wing groups came out and tried to censor the film, we decided we really needed to defend the film," said Adam Ruben, MoveOn's national field director.

When Lions Gate requested a rating, the Motion Picture Association of America gave "Fahrenheit" an R for violence

and language. Moore launched an unsuccessful legal battle to get it changed to PG-13.

But the company isn't a member of the association and therefore isn't required to submit "Fahrenheit" for a rating, said an association spokesman. For example, another politically charged documentary, "Super Size Me," is unrated.

The question is, why did Lions Gate request a rating in the first place?

The company declined to comment, but I'm guessing it wasn't concerned about helping parents gauge whether "Fahrenheit" was appropriate for kids. The ratings battle was another news story.

"All of this really lifted this film to a different level in terms of coverage," said Ornstein. "Those things create the notion that you have a huge controversy."

It's another media-stoked uproar that exploits our fear in a time when fear seems to be all we have.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Tonya Jameson is a columnist for the Charlotte Observer. Readers may write to her at: Charlotte Observer, 600 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28202-1880.

LIGHTEN UP: A dose of humor could help politicians inspire the nation

BY JOHN HIEGER
The Seattle Times/NEXT

If inspiration were a marketable commodity, our presidential candidates would be broke. The only thing both men have in common other than the fact they are both boring white guys is that neither of them is capable of rallying more than half of anything. If John Kerry and George W. Bush were cowboys, they'd never get the herd across the river.

Much has been made about Reagan's legacy as the president who could unite the American people. In the wake of his massive funeral bonanza, we've heard line after line about how he rallied the American spirit, and for a while achieved unparalleled approval ratings across the board. He was the "great communicator," but more importantly, people trusted him, liked his personality and, in a sense, he almost seemed human. At the time, he was a good model for the American spirit, at least on the outside.

To put it in my dad's words, "They'll be more people lining up to urinate on Clinton's grave than Reagan's grave."

In recent decades, politicians have seemingly degenerated back into the scope of sleaze that was associated with notorious power freaks like Nixon and his ilk. Folks from both sides of the political spectrum extend their faith too far if they truly believe their man is morally consistent across the board. Words like Lewinsky and phrases like WMD do little instill faith in the purity of our most prominent leaders.

So why is it politicians today aren't capable of inspiring the masses collectively? I think the gap between liberals and conservatives remains constant because there is no definitive answer to our needs. Both parties tout liars and prudes and both parties know it. Kerry is a stick and Bush is a liar and nobody with half an operable brain is really that inspired by either.

They need to rekindle Reagan's personable touch, master his acting craft and sell America a speech and personality we can rally behind.

Neither candidate is capable of altering the oil-and-water formula that comprise our region's political landscape. What's the answer? What unites the closely divided? For me, it's humor. A friendly pulse with an idea can bridge any gap.

That's the only way I can justify and tolerate my two conservative friends—humor. If my two Republican buddies, or "Nazi youth," as I call them, weren't able to laugh at themselves and at me, we wouldn't be able to kick the ball of debate around without coming to blows.

Humor lightens the air and makes vicious rivals seem a little more human: Ronald Reagan used to hang out with his Democratic rival in the House, Speaker Tip O'Neill, after the day was done. Both men saw eye to eye and were capable of putting their differences to rest for the sake of conversation and a good laugh.

Humor can transform a politician into a leader. It sounds simple but it isn't. Humor isn't easy to come by, especially in Seattle, where many people seem to be collectively uptight. Try sneezing loudly on a Metro bus and you'll see what I mean.

Locally, we could lighten up a little, and on a broader scale, America would do well to start seeing our adversaries as humans. As it exists today, only Republicans like Bush and only liberals like Kerry. That isn't cutting it on the scale of great leaders. Today, all the punch lines are about the candidate's message. We need believable leaders who can speak to the common threads in all of us, not cheerleaders banking on that undecided 1 percent.

John Hieger is a writer for NEXT, a Sunday opinion page in The Seattle Times, and a 2001 graduate of Central Washington University. E-mail: NEXT@seattletimes.com

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Gilligan gets on board in Montreal

BY AMBER FUGER
Sports Reporter

The Chicago Bears have Brock Forsey, Bryan Johnson, and Ryan Dinwiddie. The Philadelphia Eagles have Quintin Mikell. The Denver Broncos have Jeb Putzier. The Seattle Seahawks have Matt Hill. Kansas City has Shaunard Hartz, and the Pittsburgh Steelers have Kimo von Oelhoffen. These former Boise State football stars impacted Bronco football forever and continue to make their presence known in professional football. Now Canada is catching Bronco fever as former Boise State receiver Tim Gilligan signed a contract to play with the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League in June. Gilligan joins former teammate Bart Hendricks in

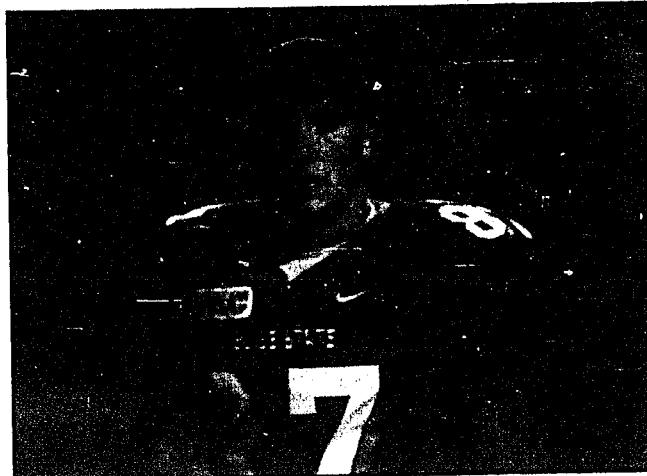
the CFL. Gilligan, a native out of Elko, Nevada went from a walk-on hope to be kicker his freshman year to team captain and a record setting receiver his senior year. Gilligan was initially invited to Boise State as a walk-on receiver. He contacted the coaching staff several weeks before reporting and requested that he start out kicking. When Gilligan arrived at practice he began running routes and catching passes. His kicking career at Boise State ended before it started.

Despite standing only 5 foot 9 Gilligan became an intricate part of the Bronco line up. In 2002 Gilligan was an honorable mention selection on special teams. His senior season, the amazing year that will be hard to forget is the season that showcases Gilligan's ambi-

tious talent. Gilligan finished the 2003 season second in the WAC and 12th in the nation in yards receiving per game with a 97.0 average. He finished third in the WAC in receptions per game with 5.5. Gilligan was also ranked 20th in the country in punt returns and second in the WAC. He finished third in the WAC in all-purpose yardage.

During the Broncos loss to Oregon State last season Gilligan returned four punts for 91 yards including a 61-yard touchdown. Following a 24-10 win over Idaho, Gilligan returned three punts for 66 yards to average 22.0 per return. Gilligan moved up to the number two spot in the nation with his performance and was also awarded WAC special teams player of the week.

Gilligan shined during 2003 being named first All-WAC re-



Tim Gilligan receiver and second team All-WAC punt-returner. He also set a Boise State record of 1,192 receiving yards on a career-high

67 catches. He caught a team-best 66 passes and scored six touchdowns while averaging his 97.0 yards per game receiving.

Gilligan became the first Bronco receiver to ever have 200-yard receiving games. He even broke the school record with 16 catches in one game against BYU.

As the Broncos look to 2004 with fresh talent, the former Broncos reflect on their college careers to establish their place in professional football. Gilligan may not be playing for his first choice (the Bears, go figure) but Canada is prepared to let this record setting Bronco express his talent on the field. Gilligan will forever be remembered in Bronco football and Bronco fans can anticipate an ever-impressive professional career from Gilligan in the years to come.

MLB's star shines bright in Texas

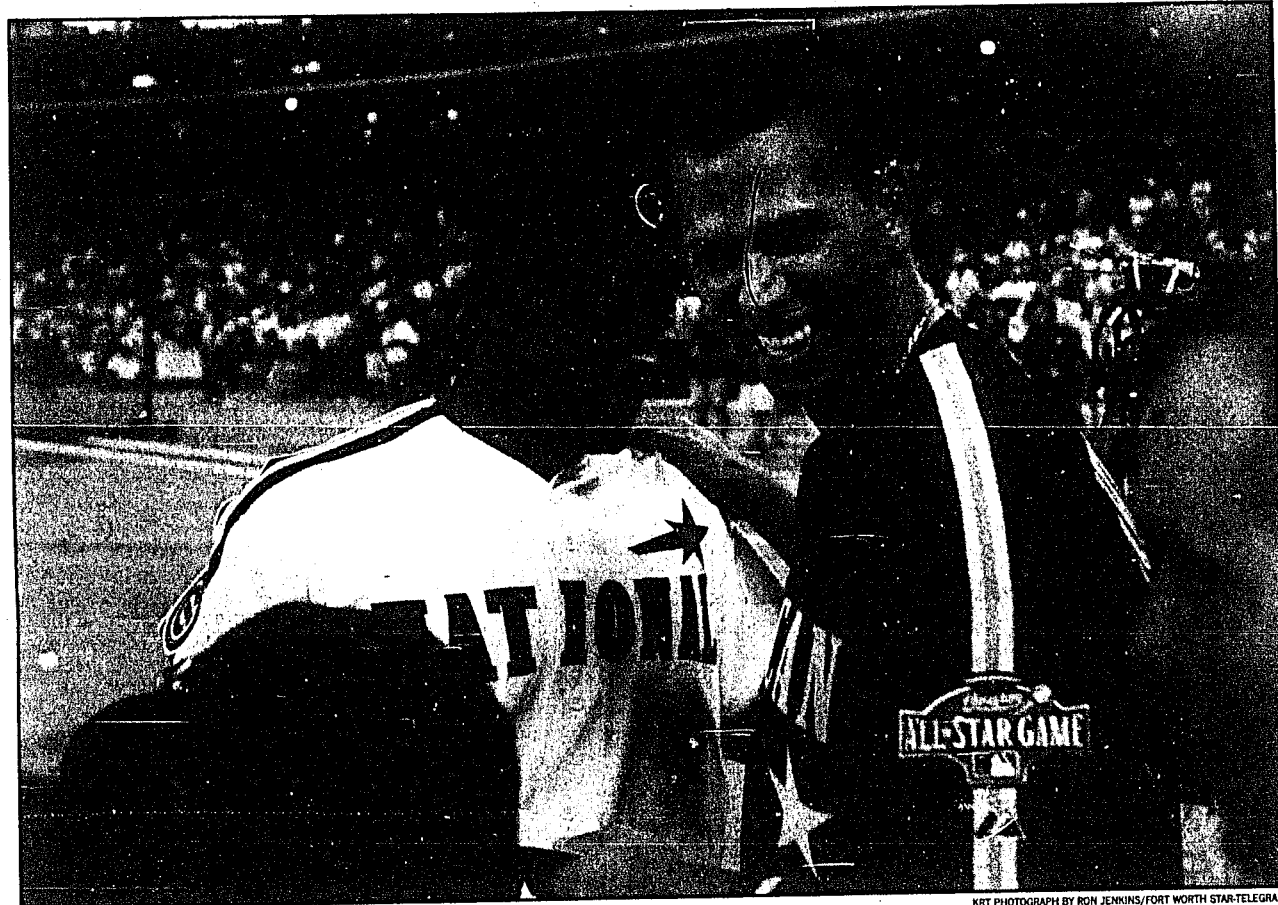
BY JAMES BAKER
Sports Reporter
The Arbiter

Is it the sweet sound of the crack of a wooden bat demolishing a baseball 500 feet into oblivion? Perhaps it's the gathering of the home run gods of baseball, coming together to see who can out drive each other in one of the most showcased events in sports. Whatever the reason, with the arrival of the annual Major League Baseball All-Star Game, comes the Home Run Derby, a chance for 12 power hitters to show off their talent, and give the fans something to remember for years to come.

Monday's Derby held the potential to be the most stunning display of power since the derby of 2000, in which slugger Sammy Sosa blasted a total of 26 homeruns in one night, including several that surpassed 500 feet, and setting the home run distance record at Turner Field in Atlanta. The event was scheduled to pit a record four active players in baseball with 500 home runs or more; Cincinnati's Ken Griffey Jr., San Francisco's Barry Bonds, Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro, and Chicago's Sosa. Griffey, a former Derby Champion, unfortunately aggravated a hamstring injury Saturday and did not attend. He was placed on the 15-day disabled list and was also unable to play in the All-Star Game.

Philadelphia's Jim Thome is included on the list of participants, who just so happens to be on the 400-career home run list. Also scheduled to compete were newcomers David Ortiz, of Boston, and Texas' Hank Blalock.

With the combination of Bonds, Sosa, and Griffey in the outfield for the National League, many are hailing it to be one of the greatest outfields of all-time for an All-Star Game



HOUSTON, TX - Former Texas Rangers' Sammy Sosa and Alex Rodriguez share a laugh during a workout at Minute Maid Park in Houston, Texas, on Monday. Baltimore's Miguel Tejada won the Home Run Derby and set the single round record with 15 slams.

event. ESPN picked the 1957 outfield of Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, and Jackie Robinson to top the list of great All-Star outfields, but a case can be made for this year's players voted in. Sosa and Bonds are shoe-ins for the Hall of Fame, and Griffey, often compared to baseball great Roberto Clemente, is notorious for his power and skill at the plate along with his speed and agility in the outfield. The only thing that holds him back from entering the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, Ohio, is the unfortunate string of injuries he's faced in the past few years,

which started in 2002 with a torn tendon in his knee.

As every baseball fan remembers, Sammy Sosa competed with Mark McGwire in 1998 to beat Roger Maris' single-season home run record of 61, a record that stood for over 30 years. McGwire eventually hit number 62 first, but Sosa soon followed suit, and ended the season with 66. Since that year, Sosa has hit a total of 292 homers, helping to put him 9th on the all-time list.

And of course, let's not forget Bonds, who has been devastating these past few seasons, including 2001, when he beat

McGwire's HR record with hit 73 jacks, topping McGwire's mark of 70 in 1998. Bonds' skills include more than just power-hitting however. He has maintained at least a .320 batting average since '01, won six NL MVP awards, 8 Gold Glove Awards, and was named Player of the Decade in the 90s by The Sporting News.

Tuesday night following the Home Run Derby the night before, the All-Star game was held, with Jack McKeon of the World Series-winning Florida Marlins heading the NL squad, and Joe Torre of the New York Yankees

managing the AL. Starting pitchers had yet to be named by Saturday, but possibilities include Texas' Kenny Rogers and Oakland's Mark Mulder for the AL, and Houston's Roger Clemens or Arizona's Randy Johnson for the NL. Either would be a fine choice for the National League, due to the fact that this year's events are in Houston. The game was played in Clemens' hometown, and Johnson pitched his way to a perfect game earlier in the season, arguably the highest pinnacle of achievement in baseball.

U of I joins the WAC

Vandals will spend one more year in the Sun-Belt before the upgrade

BY JEREMY RASMUSSEN
Sports Editor

The University of Idaho, BSU's perennial archrival since the school's conception, has accepted an invitation to join the WAC. The Western Athletic Conference Board of Directors made the decision official in Half Moon Bay, California last month. The conference change will be effective July 1st, 2005, meaning the Vandals will endure a final season in the Sunbelt Conference before upgrading to the WAC. Next year's rivalry game will mark the first time in four years the Broncos faced the Vandals in a Conference match-up.

Last year the Vandals had troubles getting by in the Sunbelt, but U of I director of athletics Rob Spear was thrilled at the opportunity to step up to the WAC. "This is an historic day for Vandal athletics," Spear said on the U of I athletics website.

The 2004 pre-season rankings have U of I ranked dead last at 117th among Division-I schools. New head Coach Nick Holt is hoping to turn things around. Holt is coming from a 12-win season and a share of the National Title as the Linebackers Coach at USC last year. The Vandals have won only eleven games in the last four seasons combined. The good news for U of I is their starting quarterback this year, Junior Michael Harrington, the younger brother of Detroit Lion's QB Joey Harrington, is going to run the show with most of his top receivers returning from last year, including Orlando Winston, who was granted a sixth year of eligibility.

Holt aims to change the losing attitude in Moscow with his new offense and defensive schemes. One large problem will be their defense. Only two defensive starters will return from last year's 2-8 team, senior defensive end Brandon Kania and junior linebacker Mike Anderson. Also, the Broncos' five game winning streak over Idaho and the fact that BSU hasn't lost at home in two years, doesn't make a good start look promising for the Vandals in 2004.

Who's got the best running backs for fall?

BY MIKE HUGUENIN
The Orlando Sentinel
(KRT)

We're about a month away from the opening of fall football camp, and with the season approaching, we'll once again trot out our weekly overview.

Today we look at running backs. Next week, it'll be wide receivers, followed in order by offensive line, defensive line, linebackers and secondary. Finally, we'll rank the quarter-

backs at each of the 117 Division I-A schools.

BEST IN THE NATION: Minnesota. The Golden Gophers were third in the nation in rushing offense last season (289.2 ypg, a nation's best 46 rushing TDs), when TBs Marion Barber III and Laurence Maroney combined to average 178.2 ypg. Both are speedy and can turn the corner; each also is tough enough to run between the tackles.

SEC: Auburn. Carnell

"Cadillac" Williams may be the nation's best. He is ably backed up by Ronnie Brown. If Tigers Coach Tommy Tuberville is smart, he'll make sure Williams gets at least 20 carries a game and Brown gets at least 10.

ACC: Florida State. There are better backs in the league than TBs Leon Washington and Lorenzo Booker, but no team has as good a duo.

BIG EAST: Syracuse. Walter Reyes has a legitimate chance to lead the nation in rush-

ing (he had 1,347 yards and 20 TDs last season), and backup Damien Rhodes is solid.

CONFERENCE USA: Louisville. The Cards have a nice 1-2 punch in Eric Shelton, an FSU transfer, and Lionel Gates, a former all-state player at Jacksonville Parker. Shelton is a bruiser (6-3/245), and Gates is a nice change-of-pace guy.

MID-AMERICAN: Bowling Green. The Falcons figure to count on their running game

a bit more this season with the loss of star QB Josh Harris. That will be fine with TBs P.J. Pope and B.J. Lane, who combined for 1,503 yards and 11 TDs last season. Plus, those guys will be running behind the best line in the MAC.

BEST BACKS IN OTHER LEAGUES: Texas in the Big 12; Minnesota in the Big Ten; New Mexico in the Mountain West; USC in the Pac-10; North Texas in the Sun Belt; and Fresno State in the WAC.

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WARPED WORLD



BY DAN MCNEESE
A&E Writer

INTERVIEW: Jay Bentley of Bad Religion

The two biggest events this past month, entertainment-wise, were probably Michael Moore's highly controversial and overwhelmingly successful "Fahrenheit 911," and the Vans Warped Tour.

The latter, now in its tenth year of touring punk rockers and skateboarders, storms its way into the Idaho Center with mixed political views. Ranging from social and global politics to the state of the nation and the state of punk rock, everyone had an opinion that somehow worked around Moore's film.

With a heightened awareness of current events, the underlying theme for this summer's Warped Tour was anything from what it was once dubbed by the Statesman: Today's Totally Warped Youth. The masses had a voice, however independent or equally represented. Most views leaned toward the left, but the message was clear: Get Aware, Get Involved, and Go Vote.

On their down time, I sat with some of the performers at this year's Warped Tour to get their opinion on things. I owe a special shout-out to Atmosphere, The Casualties and Taking Back Sunday, whose interviews didn't make the cut.



Like the Vandals and NOFX, Bad Religion have been punk rock icons long before the Warped Tour even started ten years ago. Always with a social or political topic, Bad Religion has had an underground voice and mind frame that few can compete with. Going on their 24th year as a band, I caught up with Bassist Jay Bentley for his take on ever-growing issues.

DM: What did you think of "Fahrenheit 911?"

JB: We've been touring so much I haven't had a chance to see it. [Greg Graffin saw it though the other day.]

DM: What did he think of it?

JB: He says what everyone else says, that it will change your opinion of Bush. I laughed and said, "No, it won't change my opinion of Bush because my opinion of him is already pretty bad." He said, "Well it will put him in a new light." I said, "I don't think so, because on one hand you have him as a clowny character being controlled by Cheney, Wolfowitz and Ashcroft and all these old hogs. On the other hand I think of him as an actual evil human being who couldn't give a flying fuck about anyone who doesn't give him money."

DM: Bad Religion has always been on some political level whether it be government or social. How does your new album emulate your past records?

JB: We haven't been as political in the sense of national politics. More so on being socially political, like what does it feel like to be a human on the planet in 1982? 1994? 1981? 2000? 2004? We always talk about what it's like to be a person. This new record we talk about America and what it's like to be thought of as a bully, do we really want to be an empire that goes around and beats up small countries?

DM: So you think other countries think of us as Bullies?

JB: As a person who tours around the world? Absolutely, I don't think they

think that I know they think that. They tell me that to my face.

DM: How does that make you feel?

JB: Fine. The first time we went to Europe in '88 a German came up to me and said that he loved my band but hated me. I asked him why and he said because I was American. I can understand that. I live there, I get his meaning.

DM: So are you proud to be an American or shameful?

JB: I'm not proud or ashamed. That's a view that gets you into a nationalistic bubble. We have a lot of things we can offer the world and I think most Americans are compassionate people, I really do believe that. I don't think the American people are a bunch of neo-conservative fascists that think that any one who doesn't agree with them is some atheist liberal kook that wants to destroy the fabric of this country. Everyone needs to remember how this country was founded. It was because a bunch of liberal atheist kooks were persecuted for their religious beliefs. Now you have George Bush saying, "I'm doing God's work" with Christian fundamentalists. Where are we right now?

DM: So do think questioning the Government is unpatriotic?

JB: No! I think it's the most patriotic thing you can do. But if you do that, all the sudden you're labeled as a terrorist, which is just great. They say there is a war on terrorism, but until I see battle ships pulling into Northern Ireland, there is only a war with the Middle East. Every one thinks they are the only terrorists. Terrorism has been around a long time. Look at Timothy McVeigh, what was he?

DM: A terrorist.

JB: A Fucking Terrorist! Like when the news yesterday said they weren't raising the terror alert but there was an "imminent terrorist strike based on unsubstantiated information." I can do that. They say shit like it could be a terrorist or



Jay Bentley and Greg Graffin of Bad Religion.

it could be a kid on a tricycle, we don't know. Then when nothing happens they take credit for doing their jobs. It's like they're duct taping plastic wrap over our mouths and telling us to breathe.

DM: So do think terrorism has a lot to do with media bias creating fear?

JB: That's what our new song "Los Angeles Is Burning" is about. Yeah. It's about the media making a bigger deal over lame issues than they should. They're trying to get people to tune in by scaring the shit out of them. It's all about ratings. Like the O.J. trial. No one gives a shit about that now. TV isn't here and now. TV is 12 hours ago. They make it seem like you have to tune in now by making a big deal to tell you it's "live." Big deal.

DM: So what would be their lowest common denominator?

JB: I think their lowest common denominator is power. TV stations pick what kind of shows and editorials they're going to run and that's scary.

DM: So do think the media is liberal or conservative?

JB: I used to think the media was entertainment. It didn't matter. Unless it was a Stanley Cup Final it wasn't real. If you think about it, the only thing that is real is sports events.

Every show has some hidden agenda. When you hear Big Mac-eating people say Saddam Hussein really did fly those planes into the World Trade Center you realize how powerful that agenda is.

DM: What can you - Jay Bentley - do about terrorism?

JB: Nothing.

The crowd at Warped tour was hard to contain as they surged toward the stage and their favorite bands.

PHOTO BY MARY DAWSON/
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Punk legends NOFX perform as the closing band at warped.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BLAISDELL

INTERVIEW: FAT MIKE OF NOFX

DM: What did you think of Fahrenheit 911?

FM: Pretty good, a little slow in the middle.

DM: What stuck out the most to you about the film?

FM: That Saudi Arabia owns seven percent of our country. It was pretty revealing. A lot of the stuff I didn't know, like the Bush-Bin Laden ties.

DM: Your latest album seems a little more political than previous ones.

FM: Barely. If you look at "Punk in Drublic," which is from '94, half the songs were political. The president wasn't on that album cover though. Our new album has four or five political songs but some aren't political.

DM: Do you think this new album has more of a social-political impact on today's youth than "Punk in Drublic" did?

FM: Sure. I hope so, like you said, the title is more political ("War on Errorism") but you want to try and be timeless with an album. Bad Religion did the same thing with "The Empire

Strikes First." But it almost seems more important now to make a political statement.

DM: Do you listen to Air America?

FM: A little bit. I have Satellite Radio.

DM: On the tour bus?

FM: No at home, the punk rock station on that is so killer. I listen to it a little bit. I actually

listen to right wing/conservative radio more because I find you have to know their argument more than you know it... when you're arguing. They both make me angry so I read the New York Times. I believe the two party system is better than Italy's 13 party system. There, when a party wins it only represents about 10% of the people. A party system seems weird in the first place. If you fix the system here it will still be a two party system and it will still work. I don't know, the whole reason I got into politics was because George Bush has been the worst president of my lifetime. I graduated from San Francisco State

with BA in Political Science so I think I am more well-read than 90% of the bands on tour. But I don't think you need to finish school to know what's going on. Brett Gurewitz dropped out of high school in tenth grade and he is one of the smartest people I know.

DM: Greg Graffin has a degree though, doesn't he?

FM: Right. Dexter Holland does too, but look at his lyrics, they're remedial. They're not rocket scientist lyrics. But you should always listen to people who have something to say that's legit. People have a problem with me because my band has some funny lyrics. I don't understand why you can't be funny and political at the same time. Just like Al Franken or Michael Moore, you don't have to be a serious political science major.

Fat Mike is in charge of the Punk-Voter Tour this fall. Though no Idaho dates have been set, check your local listings in the months ahead.

INTERVIEW: DENNIS, NATHAN, AND BOB OF FLOGGING MOLLY

DM: What did you guys think of Fahrenheit 911?

D: I loved it.

B: Same. I thought it was good.

DM: Did you think it was preaching to the choir or do you think it is really going to make a difference in this upcoming election?

B: I think it will make a difference to people who already feel that way. I think it will get them to vote. I think it preaches to a pretty apathetic crowd. I don't think it will sway anyone who isn't or who is lazy.

DM: How have you guys been using a band to get behind a political platform?

N: Well in September we're going to be riding our tour with the Punk-Voter Tour. The volunteers will be out there at the shows getting fans to register to vote.

DM: So you're encouraging kids to vote.

B: Right, I mean they don't have to vote the way we want them to vote, it's their choice and they should definitely be counted.

DM: You guys have been together for awhile and I know this isn't your first Warped Tour...

D: Fourth

DM: Is there a different feel to the Warped Tour now that we're far into the 21st century

and there is a war going on?

D: I have noticed that political issues rarely came up before in interviews, and when we talk to kids outside now there seems to be an air about something that needs to be changed. That's the difference I have felt.

DM: What would you like to see happen with America and its situation with the world?

D: I'd like to see us get out of all these countries that we've been arming and get involved with positive ways of funding medication, food and AIDS research. Things that are positive and not us going in to a country because of our interests in starting some war.

N: Look at Canada. They have socialized health care and education, because they know. Now that I am a parent I think, goddamn the schools here suck. My cousin just broke his leg and he doesn't have insurance and it's like what is he going to do?

DM: We are living in a country that is probably one of the most hated countries in the world right now, are you guys proud to be Americans?

B: I am proud of what America means. I don't think people over seas confuse Americans with American government. We go over there and we see kids who know that we don't make the same decisions as George Bush. I think that is the big discon-

nection right now. The portion of America that he represents never goes overseas. They stay here and spend money. They spend billions of dollars on machinery that gets destroyed over there to get replaced but they can't pay the people when they are destroyed. The people we meet in Europe are aware that the American Government and the American people aren't the same thing.

N: It does get blurry sometimes though.

B: And that's what gets confusing to them. They're like, "you're American, why don't you do something about it?" They don't see how it is possible this could go on. You know, you impeach Clinton for sleeping with a girl but now you have a criminal in office that goes around the world bullying people. Why don't you impeach him?

DM: Of Fahrenheit 911, what stuck out he most?

D: That's an obvious one, when the mother goes to the White House and starts to cry her eyes out. What really made me angry was when they interviewed the marines that played music along with their killings.

INTERVIEW: JOSH FREEZE AND JOE ESCALATE OF THE VANDALS

DM: So do you have a biased take on the media?

JE: I just heard some band on stage say, "We don't have much of a choice in this election, but anyone is better than Bush." If that's what they're telling kids, that everyone would be better than the current president? 'Cuz there's a bunch of members of the KKK that would be worse presidents than Bush. He included that. He said they were better. There are these sweeping generalities. That's an example of a guy who's probably a great guitarist.

DM: So you don't think that a band like say, Bad Religion, who use their band to get behind a political view are valid?

JE: Well yeah but they would never say something like that.

JF: They wouldn't say something that blatant. They're in the 2% of bands smart enough to know what they are talking about.

JE: Well I don't think Bad Religion is that serious. They just go to a dictionary, look up any word ending in T.I.O.N. and put it together with terrific music. I think they know what they are doing, we don't do it but that's one of my favorite bands.

ROCKSTAR RANTS

...On Courtney Love: "One time we were at an acoustic Christmas radio show. I was with my wife and my son backstage, he was like six months old and Kurt and Courtney were there. She came running across from the way screaming, 'Oh my God! A baby!' So I turned to my wife and said, 'Run! Run away! Just fucking run away!' and she did."

-Jay Bentley of Bad Religion

...On punk: "It hasn't died, it's been around, obviously a lot longer than any most other styles of music. And when it's not trendy anymore it will still be big underground, especially in the political scene...right now it's trendy though."

-Eddie Reyes of Taking Back Sunday

...On kids who wear Hot Topic clothes: "Well, it's a lot fucking cooler than say Warrant or

Poison, right? I'm serious, those bands led to nothing. If you are into a pop punk band, there is a possibility you may stumble into a band like The Clash. Now wouldn't that be a hell of a lot cooler than some dude with a mullet driving around in a Camaro? You know, I liked '70's rock bands; I just couldn't stand '80's hair bands."

-Jay Bentley of Bad Religion

"Well...it's definitely changed. I wasn't around for it in the '80s, but when I was around it was a lot smaller and more personal and friendlier. You'd go to a show and know everyone there more than being at a 'concert.' I have kids coming up to me saying, 'Hey I really liked your concert.' I thought we were playing punk shows, not concerts. It's getting less personal and more popular than it used to be."

-Rick of The Casualties

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Before the Earth, planets, and the stars were ever created, there was the Almighty God Jehovah, who always was. Then Jehovah God created His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ) the Word, and they Together created the Heavens, the Earth, and the angels.

-Colossians 1:15-18

One of these angels was appointed to rule over man. He was a high-ranking cherub called Lucifer. Lucifer rebelled and misled Eve. After this, Lucifer was known as Satan, Serpent, Dragon, and Devil. -Ezekiel 28:13-15

After Lucifer's rebellion and the downfall of mankind through disobedience of Adam and Eve, the Almighty God Jehovah promised to bring forth a Holy One who would rule the universe and mankind under Jehovah God in righteousness. That Holy One is the Only Begotten Son of Jehovah God, the Word, Jesus Christ, who was sent to Earth to become flesh and choose his government from among mankind, consisting of those who would believe upon Him. The world, however, hated Him. They crucified Him, and He returned to the right hand of His Father Jehovah in Heaven until the appointed time of His second coming. -Acts 3:20-23 & Luke 4:43

At Christ's (Jehovah's Son's) second coming, this wicked system of things will be destroyed, and His righteous, faithful followers will be resurrected from their graves to live forever, some in Heaven and some on Earth. -2 Peter 3:7-13

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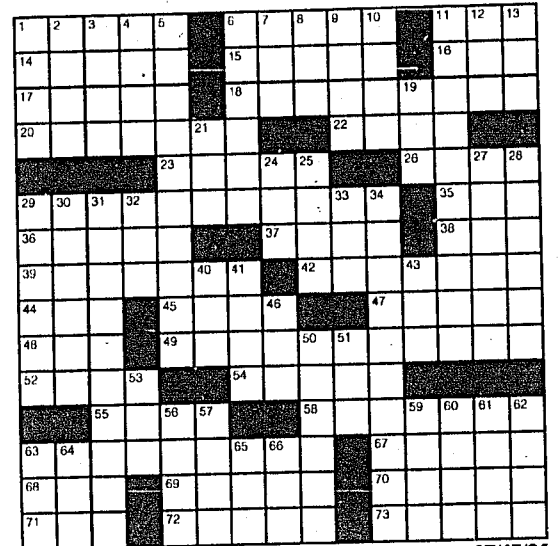
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HOW TO EAT FOOD
AND RUN AWAY.

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Crossword

ACROSS

1 Visual aid
6 Funeral piles
11 "Nova" network
14 Bigot
15 Dern or Bush
16 Lion's name
17 Isolated
18 U.S. citizens
20 Degrades
22 Plod along
23 18-wheelers
26 Hairpieces
29 DC motor
adjuncts
35 Garfunkel or
Buchwald
36 Studio sign
37 Wait a minute
38 Dawn Chong
39 Squatters
42 City near Fort
Ord
44 Mental quickness
45 Liquid weather
47 Demolished
48 Fruity beverage
49 Peculiarity
52 Tall tale
54 Bend down
55 Zany Imogene
58 Caches
63 Iranian religious
leader
67 Valerie Harper
slicom
68 RPM part
69 Missouri
tributary
70 Finish lines
71 Small boy
72 Bishops of
Rome
73 Calf fronts



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07/15/04

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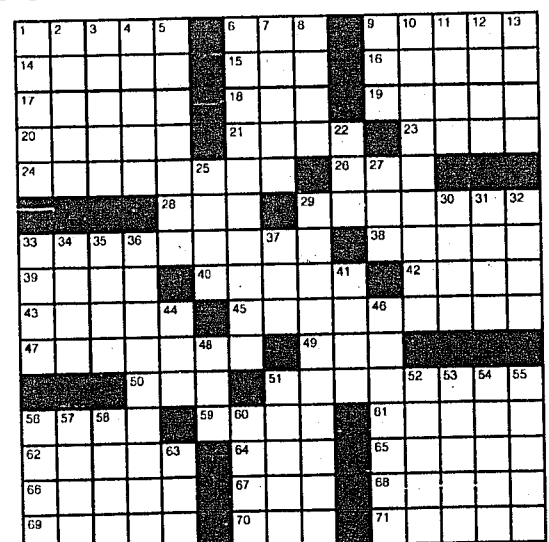
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SNIHS
SEVIL
VOCAL
SEHS
SSON
DEZV
EVAL
CHARG
SITAC
DOIS
SNEVE
SNVO
OETV
SEB

50 Snacks
51 Came down with
53 for profit
56 Henhouse
57 Too
59 Persian ruler
60 Pueblo people
61 First garden
62 Be mouthy
63 Likely
64 Affirmative
vote
65 Track circuit
66 Historic period

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Separate
6 Bit of butter
9 Discomfit
14 Kind of maid
15 Id companion
16 Skillful deceit
17 Cry of
appreciation
18 Moving vehicle
19 Like a big
brother
20 Archipelago
member
21 God of the sun
23 Wanton
24 Revealing
26 Shoe width
28 Cassowary
cousin
29 Warming up
33 Brooking no
delay
38 Stairway
element
39 Showdown time
40 Place
42 Cairo's river
43 "Time in a
Bottle" singer
45 Forever
47 Clothed
49 Tom of oaters
50 Tatter
51 Diner server
56 Soft mineral
59 Force on
astronauts?
61 Lasso
62 Fred's first
partner
64 Touch tenderly
65 Unexpected
victory
66 Expert
67 Holiday
forerunner
68 Steel plow
pioneer
69 Group of lions
70 Ending of profit?
71 Concluded



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07/14/04

Solutions

SEPARATE
BIT OF BUTTER
DISCOMFIT
KIND OF MAID
ID COMPANION
SKILLFUL DECEIT
CRY OF APPRECIATION
MOVING VEHICLE
LIKE A BIG BROTHER
ARCHIPELAGO MEMBER
GOD OF THE SUN
WANTON
REVEALING
SHOE WIDTH
CASSOWARY COUSIN
WARMING UP
BROOKING NO DELAY
STAIRWAY ELEMENT
SHOWDOWN TIME
PLACE
CAIRO'S RIVER
"TIME IN A BOTTLE" SINGER
FOREVER
CLOTHED
TOM OF OATERS
TATTER
DINER SERVER
SOFT MINERAL
FORCE ON ASTRONAUTS?
LASSO
FRED'S FIRST PARTNER
TOUCH TENDERLY
UNEXPECTED VICTORY
EXPERT
HOLIDAY FORERUNNER
STEEL PLOW PIONEER
GROUP OF LIONS
ENDING OF PROFIT?
CONCLUDED

51 Operate a loom
52 Grow on the vine
53 Let off pressure
54 Cubic meter
55 Cloyed
56 Pack down firmly
57 Hebrew month
58 First name in jeans
60 Fencer's instrument
63 U-turn from WSW

HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (July 14).
This year is about communication, in a very intimate sense. You have some things you've been saving up that ought to be distributed. These include words of praise for loved ones, as well as some precious heirlooms. Don't hold onto these valuables any longer. They're worth more to you if you share.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -
Today is an 7 -
You're smart and cute, and that's a good combination. But don't think you'll get away with breaking the rules.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -
Today is a 7 -
If you find yourself wondering what to do with your spare change, set it aside for a rainy day. You'll be thankful that you did.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) -
Today is a 7 -
Once you've agreed to a compromise, you can get on with your business. The next few days are good for turning a tidy profit. Don't meet this opportunity unprepared.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) -
Today is a 7 -
Your routine is in a state of flux, or maybe it's completely messed up. At any rate, it looks like you need to be flexible. And stay in touch with the other people involved. Anticipate disruptions.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -
Today is an 7 -
You can't have it both ways or be in two places at once. You're going to have to choose, or at least set priorities. It's good practice.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -
Today is a 7 -
You can't have it both ways or be in two places at once. You're going to have to choose, or at least set priorities. It's good practice.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -
Today is a 7 -
Of course you want fame and fortune, just like everyone else. But don't sacrifice something that's more important, like time with your family.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -
Today is a 7 -
The things you want will cost more than expected. If you anticipate it, the costs

will have to be really outrageous in order to catch you off guard. It could still happen. Beware.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -
Today is a 7 -
Do your chores and pack your bags so that you can take off tomorrow when the opportunity presents itself. If you're ready, chances are good you'll get to make a break for it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -
Today is a 6 -
The further you get into the job, the more you're likely to find that your master plan needs modifications. Keep at it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -
Today is a 7 -
A person you'd like to get to know better could have a conflict of interests. If he or she stalls, don't feel bad. It might be for a reason that isn't your fault.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -
Today is a 7 -
It's not a particularly good day to begin a bold adventure. Too many details still need to be addressed, and you'll soon find out what they are. Make a shopping list and a fix-it list.