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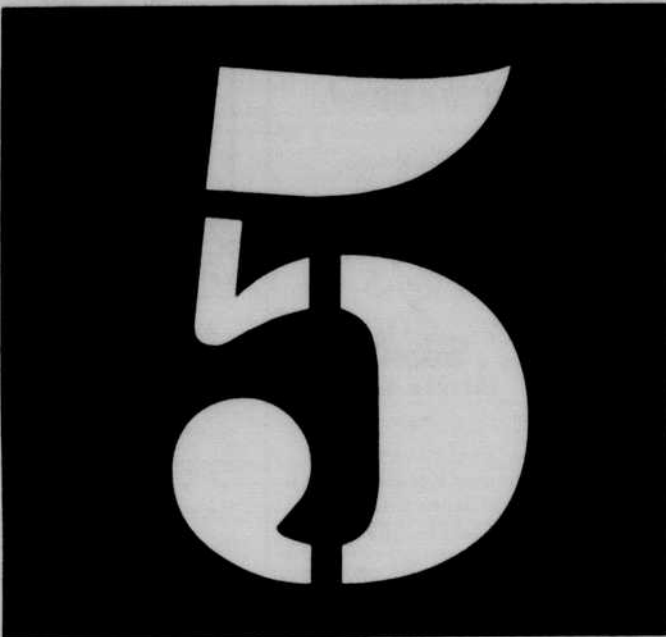
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OCT. 18-23, 1993**

1. Go to a party and not drink alcoholic beverages.
2. Be the designated driver.
3. Brag about a good time you had sober.
4. Organize a non-alcoholic outing on the weekend.
5. Learn more about alcohol abuse.

If you are reluctant to accept one of the five challenges above, ask yourself:
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Barkley still can't beat Jordan

Boy, oh boy, do I feel sorry for good ol' Charlie Barkley.

Look at the guy. For years, he has had to deal with being the star who was never quite as good as the superstars. Yes, he's a great player. But he was just not in the same league as "Magic" Johnson, Michael Jordan and Larry Bird.

While Magic, Bird and Jordan all led their teams to NBA Championships, Barkley was stuck playing with a bunch of stiffes for much of his career, giving high-fives to Manute Bol for hitting one of those silly three-pointers in another Sixers' loss, rather than drenching his teammates with champagne.

Eventually, Chuck got traded to a team that had the possibility to win a title, the Phoenix Suns. Charles was happy, Phoenix was happy, and it seemed like Chucky and the Suns would go all the way.

Wrong. Jordan and the Bulls disgraced the Suns and Barkley in the playoffs.

Then Jordan retired. Barkley desperately wanted to beat Jordan once, just once. Barkley even won the MVP last season, but who's going to remember that? What everyone will remember is the fact that Jordan led the Bulls to three straight over the Suns.

When Jordan retired, it reminded me of when Mike Tyson was sent to prison. No matter who wins the heavy-weight title while Tyson is in



DAVE CHARBONNEAU

prison, it's not the true title, because the real champion is behind bars.

Whoever wins the title this coming NBA season should have an asterisk next to 1994 saying "The year after Jordan retired."

No one knows this more than Charles.

At least Charles can feel better because, after all, he is, without a doubt, the best player in the NBA. He will be the man to carry the torch of popularity for the NBA. Right?

Once again, wrong. Now that Jordan is gone, no one cares about those veterans anymore. Jordan, Bird and Magic have been replaced by Shaquille O'Neal, Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson. These are the guys who are going to carry the NBA into the next century.

Besides, most fans can't stand Barkley, the NBA front office is tired of dealing with him, and even his own coach seems to get a little irritated with Barkley's mouth at times.

Face it, he's not as media-friendly as Jordan and Magic

were. In fact, he's not even as media-friendly as Sean Penn at times.

Jordan's retirement had to crush Barkley. Besides the fact they were such "great friends," — oh yeah, I'm sure Jordan just jumped at the chance to pal around Chuck — there's just nothing for Barkley to do in the NBA anymore.

If he wins a title, he'll still have to deal with everyone saying, "Yeah, but you'd never have beat the Bulls if they still had Jordan." To make matters worse, Barkley has reached his peak and will have to watch as one by one the young guys pass him on the scale of popularity.

So last week, Barkley announced he will probably retire at the end of this season.

Hey Charles, no one cares!

Barkley's announcement was a sad attempt to once again steal the headlines from Jordan, but it didn't work. I don't recall "Date-line NBC" interrupting its show to announce Barkley's plans.

Go ahead, Charles. Retire at the end of the season. The big story when the 1993-94 season comes to close won't be "Will Barkley really retire?" It will be "Will Jordan come back?"

Charles should take golf more seriously. Maybe, with a lot of practice, he'll be able to beat Jordan on the links. He never will on the court.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Pac-10 honors Cota

Oregon free safety Chad Cota was named Pacific-10 Conference defensive player of the week for his performance in the Ducks' 45-36 win at Arizona State on Saturday.

Cota, a junior from Ashland, played a huge role in the Ducks' victory, making 11 tackles, intercepting a pass and forcing two fumbles, both of which were recovered by the Ducks.

Cota's interception marked the fourth consecutive game in which he has picked off a pass. His four interceptions lead the Ducks this year.

UCLA receiver J.J. Stokes and Arizona kicker Steve McLaughlin were named as the Pac-10's offensive and special teams play-

ers of the week.

Stokes caught 10 passes for 190 yards and four touchdowns, including a 95-yard score, in the Bruins' 39-25 win over 12th-ranked Washington. The four touchdown catches tied the Pac-10 single-game record, and the 95-yard touchdown is the longest offensive scrimmage play in UCLA history.

McLaughlin kicked two field goals, including the game-winner as time expired, in the Wild-cats' 27-24 win over Stanford.

Oregon quarterback Danny O'Neil, who threw for 364 yards and four touchdowns Saturday, was nominated for the offensive player of the week honor.



FILE PHOTO
 Chad Cota was named Pac-10 defensive player of the week.

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