Focus





The Afro Celts, having recently released their newest ablum, "Seed," bring their unique sound to the Oregon Zoo on Friday, July 18.

## **JUSICAL FUSION**

the lawn near the Asian elephants at the Oregon Zoo on Friday, July 18. Afro Celt Sound System is electrifying audiences across the nation with their innovative fusion of West African rhythms, Irish traditional music, and cutting-edge dance grooves. Tickets for the Afro Celt's July 18 performance are on sale now.

Considered pioneers of the glo-formance are on sale now. Ticket 226-1561.

called the Afro Celt Sound System, the sound of the Afro Celts has evolved in the past seven years from an emphasis on programmed Tickets West.com (service beats and grooves to real instru- charges apply) or by calling 503mentation and song craft. The lat- 224-8499 or 800-992-8499. Doors est album in their continual musical open at 5 p.m. and the concert exploration, Seed, has an organic begins at 7 p.m. For additional feel throughout.

The Afro Celts are going to rock bal beat movement and originally price is \$15. Tickets are available at the zoo reception office and Safeway TicketsWest Ticket Centers. information, please visit Tickets for the Afro Celt's per- www.oregonzoo.org or call 503-



## Macy Gray's Return to Pop



Singer Macy Gray poses is preparing for the release of her third album, "The Trouble With Being Myself." The 32-year-old singersongwriter finds herself in the uncomfortable position of having to re-establish herself as a pop success.

Only two years ago, Macy Gray was on top of the music world - a critical and commercial darling with a multi-platinum debut album, a Grammy and a ubiquitous hit single.

Then her second album landed a week after Sept. 11, with a resounding thud. Now, as Gray prepares to release her third album, "The Trouble With Being Myself," she finds herself in the uncomfortable position of having to re-establish herself as a pop suc-

"Music is all about timing," reflects the 32-year-old singersongwriter. "You could put out the hottest record in the whole world - if it's not the right time for it, it won't work."

Timing was certainly part of the problem surrounding Gray's "The Id." In the wake of the terror attacks, Gray's sexy, exuberant attitude didn't mesh with the somber, healing tone of the times. "The Id" sold about 585,000 copies - decent for some artists, but a flop compared with the 3.3 million copies sold for her debut.

### **Judge Throws out Felony Charges Against Beanie Sigel**

Rapper with firearms

possession charge had prior charges dropped

At the close of a state court hearing on an assault case, rap artist Beanie Sigel was arrested by federal officials and charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Sigel, a South Philadelphia nathe weapons charge until a federal Fortunato Perri Jr.

The charge comes from an April

20 arrest in Philadelphia, when police after intervening in an argument hicle during a traffic stop, Perri said. The 29-year-old also has a pre-

Police said Sigel fired two shots after intervening in an argument between Speller and two women

outside the Pony Tail Bar. Speller was expected to recover.

shooting a man outside a West session charge, Perri said. tive whose real name is Dwight Philadelphia bar. Last week, Sigel Grant, was to remain in custody on surrendered to police on an at- a following in 2000 with his golddetention hearing, said his lawyer, edly shooting Terrence Speller in

the stomach and foot on July 1. Police said Sigel fired two shots R&B/Hip-Hop chart.

said Sigel threw a gun from his ve- between Speller and two women outside the Pony Tail Bar. Speller was expected to recover.

In the court hearing last week, a Philadelphia judge threw out a felony assault charge but upheld two misdemeanor charges against Sigel for a January assault. The victim, Wendall Mathis, testified that Sigel punched him in both eyes, breaking the orbital bone around his left eye, according to Assistant District Attorney Crystal Scott.

Sigel's 1995 drug conviction is liminary hearing on a charge of the basis for the federal gun-pos-

A protege of Jay-Z, Sigel gained tempted murder charge for alleg- certified debut CD, "The Truth." His second album spent several weeks in the top 10 of Billboard's



#### TOP TEN LIST

Busta Rhymes -- "It Aint Safe No More"

Bone Crusher -- "Attenchun"

Whitney Houston -- "Just Whitney" WC -- "Ghetto Heisman"

Toni Braxton -- "More Than A Woman"

Solange -- "Solo Star"

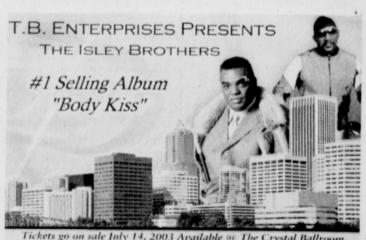
Eric Sermon -- "React"

TLC3D

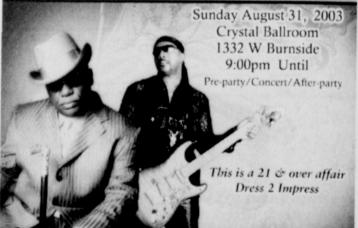
"Friday After Next Snd Trk"

The Isley Brothers

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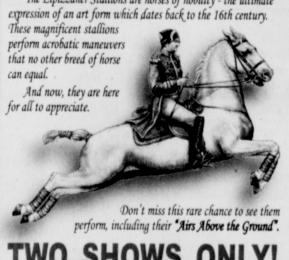
Fickets go on sale July 14, 2003 Available @ The Crystal Ballroe Terrell Brandon's Barbershop and any Ticketmasters outlets. Price \$40.00



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