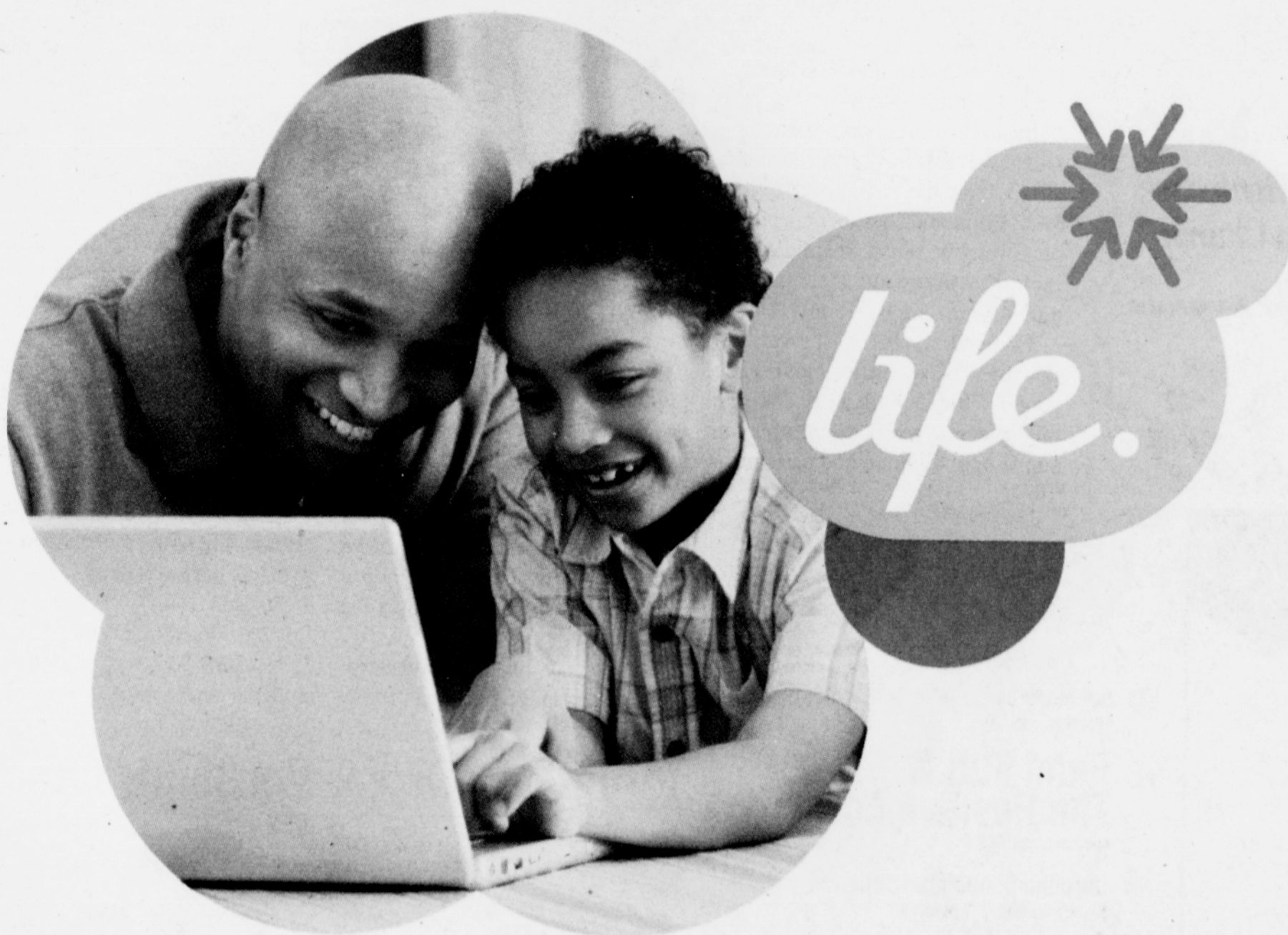


Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Bluesy Twist on Malian music

The banjo's ancestor, the ngoni, takes center stage Wednesday, July 2 when Bassekou Kouyate performs as part of the Oregon Zoo's summer concert series presented by NW Natural. Known as the "ambassador of the ngoni," Kouyate combines the griot tradition of musical storytelling with blues notes from Malian Bambara music to win fans the world over — including stars like Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt and Bono. Kouyate has worked with countless musicians, including Grammy-winning blues legend Taj Mahal with whom he explored American blues and country music. "The ngoni may not traditionally be the star instrument in a performance, but Kouyate and his band, Ngoni Ba, are able to showcase the immense range of it," said Krista Swan, zoo events coordinator. "Concertgoers are bound to be impressed and delighted."

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