

# Boy bands must be stopped



The Backstreet Boys perform during the "United We Stand: What More Can I Give?" benefit concert.

KRT PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY

## Through the looking glass

by Mike Pingree, KRT Campus

### IS THIS JUST BETWEEN US?

A San Antonio man had his friend steal his truck and then was awarded a big insurance settlement and a new vehicle. He would have gotten away with it had he not gone on a radio talk show to brag about it.

### A BARGAIN THEY COULDN'T PASS UP

A 40-year-old man had a thriving brain surgery practice going in the oasis town of Fayoum, Egypt, where he saw 200 patients a week and operated on some of them. Police arrested him when they found out he was grossly unqualified, having only a sixth-grade education. But his price was affordable: \$5 per patient.

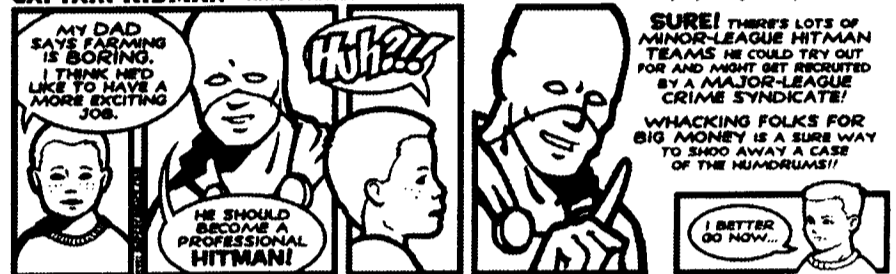
### OK PAL, LICENSE AND REGISTRATION

A policeman in Bethlehem, Pa., saw a heavily intoxicated man driving down the street at 6:30 a.m. in a battery-operated plastic child's car going 3 mph. The drunk ignored the cop when he tried to pull him over so the officer got out of his car and caught up with him on foot.

The man was charged with public drunkenness and released when he sobered up.

## CAPTAIN RIBMAN - Killer Advice

by Sprengelmeyer & Davis



The dangers of urban slang.

By Eric Edwards  
The Orlando Sentinel

And while I wouldn't like to alter my own behavior to attract women, I would like to blame rich, undertalented, overcoiffed boy-banders for my dating woes.

So I have been trying to figure out how to get rid of all the people more attractive than me, starting with the boy bands.

But just when it seemed as if my plan to have all the members of the bands placed in a rocket and shot toward the sun was doomed, Lance Bass of 'N Sync actually volunteered for the job. And better yet, he volunteered to foot the bill for his expulsion from this planet.

Yes, this menace to all men stated a few months ago that his dream was to be launched into space. I support his self-exile 100 percent.

But there is now an obstacle that threatens to keep Lance earthbound and threatens the world with future 'N Sync CDs: the Russians.

It makes sense, who other than our former nuclear nemesis could be diabolical enough to keep Bass on this planet?

No one, that's who.

But all hope is not lost. The Russians, who have been training Bass to

be the youngest astronaut ever, have placed a \$20 million ransom on the singer's head. The red menace claims that if someone doesn't come up with the cash, Bass will be shipped back to the U.S., which could mean that 'N Sync will remain together and continue to perform at any time, anywhere. No one would be safe.

Bass, who selflessly recognizes that he should be floating in the cold, silent void of space, has been trying desperately to raise the funds so that the mission to save the planet from more five-part harmonies can be completed. But he needs our help. We, the citizens of this great nation, need to do our part to make sure Bass is strapped to a Russian Soyuz rocket and hurled into the galaxy. That means cash and plenty of it.

Time is running short though. The Russians have denied Bass a seat on the shuttle due to lack of funds and claim they will follow through on their threat to keep him on this planet. So if we can't satisfy their greedy demands for money, we may be subjected to an eternity of shiny shirts, obnoxious songs and, worst of all, distracted women who aren't exactly thrilled with our hairstyles.

Boy bands are a nuisance.

Their shirts are too shiny, their hair defies nature and, worst of all, they are adored by women.

There is something about these guys' ability to harmonize like choirboys and at the same time shave crop circles into their facial hair that makes them irresistible to the fairer sex, and it has to stop.

I can forgive the shiny shirts, and I'll admit that pop-music hair has come a long way from the bouffant days of the late 1980s. But the boy bands' appeal to women could be affecting my dating life and I can't stand for that.

Musicians have always had the upper hand when it comes to picking up the ladies, but while most musicians don't live in Orlando, most boy bands do.

This means that women who head downtown here on a weekend night could theoretically run into a 20-year-old singing sensation. I can't prove that I have been passed over for a date because of my inability to do a choreographed dance routine, but it can't be ruled out.

## Crossword

- ACROSS  
1 Very distant  
7 Hazy pollution  
11 Definite article  
14 First match  
15 Garr of "Tootsie"  
16 OPEC product  
17 Italian cheese  
18 Makes suitable again  
20 "Cagney & Lacey" co-star  
21 Foolish  
22 Building wings  
23 Short sleep  
24 Seattle pros, casually  
27 Minute aquatic organism  
29 Prepared to play  
30 Put in stitches  
31 Golf standard  
32 "I Know How He Feels" singer  
33 Deadlock  
36 Study of fermentation  
39 Took seats  
40 Writer O'Brien  
42 Psychic's gift  
43 Moray  
45 Danger signal  
47 Apparitions  
51 Writer Norman  
52 Attention getter  
53 Wry face  
54 Atwood novel  
56 "Shelter," Rolling Stones hit  
57 Maxim  
59 Work-shoe protection  
60 Ignited  
61 Severn tributary  
62 Wacko  
63 Sun's fall  
64 Not as much  
65 Trawled

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### Solutions

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L	I	O	I	T	E	R	E	N	E	R	O	P
H	E	T	E	R	M	O	S	E	F	E	R	F

- DOWN  
1 Counterfeiter  
2 Very handsome man  
3 Thaw again  
4 Jackie's Aristotle  
5 Bogs  
6 To and ...

- 7 Landing area  
8 Get together  
9 Major dental process  
10 Old Testament hero  
11 Upper parts  
12 Smack  
13 '02 British Open winner  
19 Actor Ed  
21 Word with cry or chest  
23 Six days after Christmas  
25 Castro's island  
26 Brief quarrel  
28 Moroccan city  
29 Veteran sailor  
31 Young dog  
33 Period in office  
34 Concept  
35 College in Beverly, MA  
37 NYC arena  
38 Vote for  
41 G-sharp

- 44 Most covered in bird droppings  
46 Fatal  
47 Itsy-bitsy  
48 Womanizer  
49 Merciful  
50 Oozed  
52 Holy songs  
55 Vanities  
56 No longer here  
57 Capp and Capone  
58 Easy dessert?  
59 Can material

# College says: Bring on the fun!

by Anabelle de Gale  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Cramming with a hangover, blowing your budget, staying out all night. Don't be a victim. Now there's help: Freshman 101.

College freshmanosis - an acute form of high school senioritis - afflicts thousands of incoming students annually. Schools nationwide are combating the highly contagious condition by offering remedies for surviving campus life.

Close to 600 University of Miami rookies have enrolled this semester in Freshman Experience, a one credit elective course that meets once a week for 75 minutes, a revamped offering this year.

"You've moved out of your parents house. You can get up in the morning or not. You can stay out all night. Nobody is going to check if you made it to that 8 a.m. class. It's a lot of responsibility. We're trying to show you how to make the right choices," said instructor Jan Williams-Eddleman, who is also the director of the Center for Freshman Advising.

The freshmen will be taught how to "develop ideal test-taking strategies." That's highfalutin professor talk for "skip the keg party and stay home and study."

They'll learn "financial responsibility." Translation: Save your dough by dining in on mac and cheese and tap water.

With the course comes some required reading: How to Win Friends & Influence People and Becoming a Master Student.

The I-wish-I-knew-that class covers AIDS awareness, alcohol consumption,

creditcard debt, and health and wellness support tools, Williams-Eddleman said, to make sure they return to school the following year.

Nationwide, the freshman-to-sophomore dropout rate at four-year colleges

country. Nationally, 73 percent of colleges have some sort of freshman seminar, said Mary Stuart Hunter, director of the National Resource Center of the First Year Experience and Students in Transition.



Kristen Hoglund, 20, dances with her roommate, Eve Tucker, 21, while at Legends at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, following finals week in May 2002.

"It's a big transition," she said. "There are tremendous cultural differences between high school and college life." Yeah, like bills, budgets, roommates, dirty clothes and cooking, said UM student body President Michael Johnston. "You're coming from living with your parents and you are used to coming home and your dinner is on the table and your laundry is done. Then all of a sudden, you're on your own," Johnston said. "This class helps them understand how to structure their lives."

Freedom from restrictions is the primary reason students fail early in their college careers.

Even the self-described "socially conservative" Theresa Valentini of Fort Lauderdale registered for the class to help her cope with her new independence and environment.

"I'm not one to party much," the 19-year-old on-campus resident said. "But it's overwhelming. My parents are strict. I had to be home by midnight, and they always wanted to know where I was going. That all changes, plus you're away from everything that is familiar."

The need for first-year orientation programs has caught on around the

"It's not a bad thing to study. It's not a bad thing to party either. They'll learn how to balance a social life with a scholastic life."

At Florida International University, a similar one-credit freshman experience class, which began in 1994, is mandatory.

About 1,500 FIU freshman will be reminded this semester to hit the books more than the bars, said course instructor Aileen Izquierdo.

"A lot of it sounds like common sense," Izquierdo said, "but sometimes they just need a little reminder."

KRT PHOTOGRAPH BY CANDICE C. CUSIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE