

The odds finally caught up with Pete Rose



GIAMATTI
canned Rose

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Rose was kicked out of baseball Thursday and may never be back.

Rose, the very symbol of the game itself for a generation, was banned for betting on his own team. He says he will return — maybe next season — but none of the 14 others who got lifetime penalties ever did.

"There is no deal for reinstatement," Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti said emphatically at a news conference in New York. "He has been fired by me."

Rose, who continued to deny he bet on baseball, can apply for reinstatement after one year under the game's rules. Even if he's turned down, the game's most prolific hitter will still be eligible for election to the Hall of Fame in 1992.

"My life is baseball. I hope to get back into baseball as soon as I possibly can," Rose said in Cincinnati, where he was born and where he broke Ty Cobb's all-time hits record of 4,191 in 1985. "I've been in baseball three decades and to think I'm gonna be out of baseball for a very short period of time hurts."

The Cincinnati Reds named coach Tommy Helms as interim manager and said they would begin a search for Rose's permanent successor.

Rose now may not appear at old-timers' games, cannot wear a major league uniform or work in any capacity for a big league club. He can't even step on a field.

Rose's contract runs through Oct. 30, 1990, and calls for him to get an additional \$60,166.67. The Reds, however, are no longer obligated to pay him, although they can if they want.



ROSE
kicked out

Rose reaction

■ Few in baseball say they feel sorry for former Reds manager.

■ Columnist says Rose, who thought of himself before baseball, got what he deserved.

1C

Billings Gazette



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TOP STORIES



Circus time

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus, billed as "The Greatest Show on Earth," is returning to Billings for four performances. Audiences young and old will enjoy the new theme: Africa.

—ENJOY!

New Dow high

The stock market surged ahead with some renewed vigor Thursday, breaking a record high for the Dow Jones industrial average that had stood intact for two years.

—BUSINESS 5B

SATURDAY

Hair statements

Back-to-school hairstyles often offer a little more than a new, clean look for a new year. Sometimes they offer an individual statement. Other times they have their own message, such as "hi mom."

—TEMPO

INSIDE

Heavy rainstorm socks Billings area/3B

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OUTSIDE

Rain heavy at times west today, showers likely with snow in the mountains. Scattered showers Saturday. Highs today 50 to 70, lows 40s. Highs Saturday 65 to 75.

For 24-hour updated news, call Weatherline, 652-2000.



City Judge Donald Bjertness talks with soliciting defendant Thursday.

Gazette photo by Larry Meyer

'Johns' get same penalties as prostitutes from judge

By RITA MUNZENRIDER
Of the Gazette Staff

Four men who admitted that they tried to buy sex in downtown Billings got the same sentences this week that prostitutes have in the past.

City Judge Donald Bjertness fined each man \$500 and sent him to jail for 10 days as part of a six-month suspended sentence.

The judge told the defendants that he imposes the same sentence on hookers who appear in his court on prostitution charges.

"I see no reason to treat the customers any differently than the ladies," Bjertness told two defendants who pleaded guilty to prostitution charges in City Court Thursday.

Two others pleaded guilty to the same charges earlier this week, while four pleaded innocent and three others asked that their arraignments be continued.

The 11 men were arrested last Friday and Saturday

nights during the Billings Police Department's "John detail," in which local female law officers posed as prostitutes on Montana Avenue between North 26th and 27th streets.

In City Court Thursday morning, David Scheveck, 27, 2023 Phoebe Drive, and Danny Holbrook, 41, of Helena, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor prostitution charges.

Scheveck, who identified himself as a welder, was accused of offering the undercover officers \$5 for sex. "I was just down there to see how much it actually did cost," he told the judge.

Bjertness told Scheveck: "You not only took care of embarrassing yourself, but you did a first class job of doing so for your family."

Holbrook, a smelter worker, said he had "discussions" with the ladies, but was leaving the area when police stopped him. He said he had no intention of doing what he had discussed with the ladies.

(More on 'Johns', Page 15A)

School funding law flawed, lawyer says

HELENA (AP) — Montana's new school-funding system does little to remedy spending inequities among school districts, and needs court supervision until its problems are solved, an attorney representing a coalition of school districts told the Montana Supreme Court Thursday.

Bozeman lawyer James Goetz also said he expects the new system will be challenged in court, but that his clients want to observe its effects next year before making a decision.

"We feel the appropriate course of action is to wait until House Bill 28 goes into effect, so that the actual information regarding school-district tax effort and funding per student will be available to assess whether HB28 meets the requirements of the Montana constitution," he wrote.

Keenan agrees/3B

HB28, which revamps Montana's system of public-school funding, was passed by the Legislature July 21 and takes effect next summer.

The Montana Supreme Court ruled in February that the current system is unconstitutional and maintained jurisdiction over the case. Three days after HB28 was passed by the Legislature, the Supreme Court ordered the state and the school districts that challenged the current system to comment on the proposed new system.

Goetz asked the high court Thursday to extend its jurisdiction over the school-funding case through July 1, 1991, and to send it back to a district judge for hearing of further evidence.

Poll says public ready to pay for school reforms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans, once resistant to the idea of paying for public school changes, now are willing to pay higher taxes to implement a variety of school reforms, including a national curriculum, a Gallup Poll said Thursday.

In fact, 70 percent of those questioned for the 21st Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools, released by Phi Delta Kappa, a professional educational

fraternity, favored requiring public schools to conform to national achievement standards and goals. Only 18 percent were opposed and 1 percent were undecided.

As for taxes, 64 percent of the respondents in the latest file said they would pay higher taxes to improve the quality of public schools in poorer communities. In 1983, 38 percent said they would pay higher taxes to raise the standards of public education.

City officials fear gridlock during drive

By DENNIS GAUB
Of the Gazette Staff

Gridlock probably will grip Billings Heights when the Great Montana Centennial Drive concludes Sept. 9 with a parade down Main Street, state and local government officials said at a Thursday planning meeting.

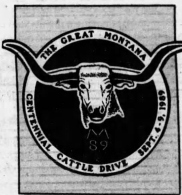
More than a dozen representatives of the city of Billings, Yellowstone County, the state Highway Department and the state Highway Patrol attended the session. They agreed that car travel will be difficult — and probably impossible — in Billings Heights much of the day of the parade.

City Administrator Alan Tandy said members of his staff will use news releases and public-service announcements to alert residents and visitors of what to expect.

"Our advisory will say don't anticipate moving anywhere in the Heights," he said.

The Drive '89, scheduled Sept. 4-9, is expected to feature a herd of 4,000 cattle, 100 drivers, 3,000 horse-back riders and 300 wagons that will travel 60 miles from Roundup to Billings. Drive officials have said the event is drawing national and international attention, and estimates of potential parade attendance have gone as high as 150,000.

At city parks, recreation and public lands superintendent, said he expects many spectators to congregate in Swords Park. The best mode of transportation probably will be walking or riding a bicycle, but people may have to go three



to five miles from where they park their car to a parade viewing site, he said.

Spectators will need to get to parade viewing sites hours before dawn, officials said. Otherwise, it will probably be impossible to drive to or from — or within — the Heights.

"There are no guaranteed alternatives" to using Main Street for Heights access, said Jim Fels, an engineer with HKM Associates, which prepared the traffic plan for Lalgio Corp., organizer of the drive. The plan calls for closing all six lanes of Main Street, which carries more than 30,000 vehicles per day and ranks as one of the busiest arterial roads in the state.

Fels suggested that spectators copy the strategy used by many people who participate in a New Year's Day tradition. "They're going to have to do like people do for the Rose Bowl parade — camp out all

(More on City, Page 15A)

Solidarity rewrites history

Activist steps into Polish leadership

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Senior Solidarity activist Tadeusz Mazowiecki was elected prime minister Thursday in a historic switch from Communist rule that he said should give the "green light to Polish hope."

The once inconceivable change for Eastern Europe came about not through revolution but in an orderly parliamentary vote, with Communist Party members joining Solidarity deputies to elect the journalist and former political prisoner 578-4 with 41 abstentions.

It was the first non-Communist government to be seated in Warsaw since 1944.

Among the first to celebrate was Solidarity chief Lech Walesa, who engineered the coalition that gave Mazowiecki a solid majority in parliament and then got Communist President Wojciech Jaruzelski to go along with the deal.

"I will do everything so that my premier, my child — passes the test before society," pledged a jubilant Walesa in Gdansk after watching Mazowiecki's election on television. He wished Mazowiecki success in "transforming our country from a totalitarian system to democracy."

Congratulations also arrived from President Bush and from the prime minister of Communist East Germany, one of the least reform-minded countries in the East bloc. The Soviet Union, for whom Po-

land is the largest and most strategic Warsaw Pact ally, greeted the election with equanimity.

"We shall regard Comrade Mazowiecki as our partner in the relations that link our two countries," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gremitsikhin in Moscow.

Mazowiecki said he will support Poland's East bloc treaty obligations, telling a questioner pointedly that it was wrong to identify "people striving for reforms" as "enemies of the Warsaw Pact."

His speech before the Polish parliament stressed the need to restore "normal" political and economic life to Poland, including transition of power between political parties and a market-oriented economy.

Opera project hits peak tonight

By CHRISTINE C. MEYERS
Gazette Arts and Travel Editor

Setting the wheels of a world premier in motion was a slow but steady procedure.

And while it didn't always have complete momentum, the "Pamella" project never stalled.

The opera is in high gear for its opening tonight, with organizers expecting a complete sell-out.

The musical story of pioneer adventurers Pamela and James Fergus plays Friday and Saturday at the Alberta Bar Theater with champagne, roses, red carpet and much of the fuss that accompanies premiers in Vienna, Milan or Rome.

The city's first operatic world premier is getting national attention for its blending of Montana talent with the international opera community.

A video was shot Wednesday, to be aired on public television.

National Public Radio interviewed conductor Uri Barnea and others.

Two world class opera stars are singing the leads. Arts officials and opera buffs from throughout the

(More on Opera, Page 15A)



Gazette photo by Larry Meyer

Acclaimed opera singers Leslie Richards, left, and Fabio Elvira will be in the lead roles in the world premiere of "Pamella" Friday and Saturday in Billings.

City

From Page One

night to see the parade," he said. But if people decide to spend the night in city parks, they could present additional problems by starting bonfires and drinking alcoholic beverages. Hink said, asking for police patrols.

The Latigo traffic plan calls for the herd, drivers, riders and about 50-60 selected wagons to leave the final campsite at 6 a.m. on Sept. 9 and be past MetraPark at 9:14 a.m. The herd will be split at First Avenue North, half going to the Public Auction yards on Minnesota Avenue and

the other half crossing the East Bridge en route to pens at Billings Livestock Commission Co. in Lockwood.

Roy Ventura, district engineer for the highway department, said authorities will try to preserve access to the Heights via Senators and Governors boulevards, "but there's no guarantee that they will stay open."

Assistant Police Chief Jack Samson said the biggest challenge for officers may come after the parade when cars pour out of private lots and side streets.

"That's where we're really going to get gridlock," he said. "I don't know how to handle it."

Assistant Fire Chief Phil Frank said the fire department plans to beef up protection for Heights areas east

of Main Street. Ambulance crews, fire trucks and firefighters and the St. Vincent H.E.L.P. helicopter will operate from the Little League field adjacent to Bitterroot School. "We'll treat it like we had a complete station there; we're going to call it station 7," he said.

Samson said the police department will assign two patrolmen east of Main Street to keep Bench Boulevard open as an emergency route.

One fire crew will also stand by in the paddock area at MetraPark because it will be cut off from the rest of Billings during the parade, Frank said.

The department will have 12-14 additional firefighters on duty on parade day, joining the 50 Billings police officers who will work overtime shifts.

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'Johns'

From Page One

On Monday, Lawrence Taylor, 43, of 416 Gay Place, pleaded guilty to a prostitution charge in City Court. On Tuesday, he appealed the conviction to District Court, records show. City Court officials identified Taylor as a Lavina school teacher.

On Wednesday, Carl Diesel, 38, a student at Montana Tech, pleaded guilty to prostitution.

Court officials said the men will serve their 10-day sentences at Alpha House, a pre-release center in Billings where some misdemeanors

offenders serve time when the Yellowstone County Detention Facility is too crowded. The men must pay \$25 to stay at Alpha House, Bjertness said.

Those who pleaded innocent to prostitution charges on Thursday were:

- Daniel Rosa, 49, a Butte elementary school principal. Rosa didn't appear in court, but his attorney, Mike Moses of the Moses Law Firm in Billings, entered an innocent plea on his client's behalf.

- Shawn Paulsen, 19, of Belgrade, who was identified by court officials as a rodeo cowboy.

- Wade Hansen, 24, of Belgrade, who also was identified as a rodeo cowboy.

- Ronald Salte, 48, who is self-employed in Lewistown.

Bjertness set \$500 bonds for each defendant pending Oct. 23 trials.

Grege Verstraete, 48, of 3066 Fourth Ave. S., No. 8, and Donald Davis, 39, of 113 N. 23rd St., No. 4, told Bjertness they wanted to consult with attorneys before entering pleas to the charges.

When arrested last Friday night, Verstraete told police that he was a staff paralegal for the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana. On Thursday, he told Bjertness that as of Sept. 1, he will be unemployed.

Verstraete and Davis, a postal worker, are scheduled to appear in City Court on enter pleas next Monday.

Hugh Grove, 73, of 2212 Alderson Ave., Apt. D, is scheduled to appear in City Court on Sept. 7.

Opera

From Page One

U.S. are here.

And a Fergus descendant, also named Pamela, has flown from Alaska for the premiere.

"Tonight, 100 cast, crew and musicians along with sets, sound and light systems will blend in a unique chemistry that is live opera. Then it's over."

But if "Pamela" is successful (and Barry Bonifas, manager of the ABT, says it will turn a profit) a smaller, more portable version of the opera could be toured in the Northwest or some major cities.

Genesis for the premier came last October, after parts of the music were played in a Montana composer series by the Billings Symphony.

Dreaming of a world premier, BSO conductor Uri Barnea approached Billings arts patron and philanthropist Senia Hart.

"I knew we needed an enthusiastic committee to get the full scale opera off the ground," Barnea said, crediting Hart for her know-how in organizing an earnest group.

Soon the Pamela Committee had savvy volunteers headed by chairman Ellen Alweis.

But the work was just beginning. "We had to start from scratch," said Barnea. "We had no opera company, no framework for obtaining funding, publicity, anything."

Even such basics as letterhead, phones and an office did not exist.

"That was part of the beauty, the crazy aspect of it all," Barnea

chuckled. With donations of space, time and money from well known volunteers and fund-raisers, including banker Bob Waller, the group set a goal of \$30,000 to raise by May 1. They also locked in premier dates of Aug. 25 and 26, knowing they would have to schedule singers well in advance and secure the ABT.

After meeting the goal and breathing a metaphorical sigh of relief, the group continued its auditioning. "We had to audition and get the people, even knowing we might cancel," said Barnea. "Fortunately everything went ahead."

Acclaimed mezzo-soprano Leslie Richards will sing the title role of Pamela Fergus, a part which attracted her, she said, "for its strength and beauty."

She has won raves for her work with the San Francisco Opera and New York City Opera and debuted in March at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Famed baritone Pablo Elvira, a Montana transplant who has sung most major roles with the Metropolitan and other major companies, will sing the part of James Fergus, who came seeking fortune to the Montana Territory in the 1860's.

For Elvira, the ABT premier is a fitting celebration. His May 11, 1985 concert in the old Fox was the building's last production before its \$5 million renovation.

"Pamela's" modest budget of \$70,000 represents both corporate and private benefactors willing to support the landmark cultural event five years in the making.

In 1985, Bozeman writers Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith had yet to become librettists when they began

deavouring the letters of Pamela and James Fergus. She was a bright wife left behind in Minnesota with four children and a failing business.

He was the husband heading west with a vision of gold and fortune.

When Peavy heard a concert by another Montanan, Bozeman composer Eric Funk, she was drawn to his music. The pair convinced him to tackle the project of putting their words to music.

Funk, whose ancestors were pioneers, was likewise drawn to the writers' story, describing the collaboration as "mystical, full of coincidence."

Depending on tonight's reaction, Barnea says, "we would like to see the opera become part of opera repertoire in the U.S. It would have a place in the East, Europe, all over the world."

Tickets — selling for \$10, \$15, \$20 and \$75 — are going fast and the \$75 ticket is nearly sold out. (Those persons will enjoy a dinner and dance after the performance.) A few tickets are still available on the back balcony and sides, ABT personnel said, advising concert goers to come in person to Magiclex, ABT, Metra or the Supervalu stores.

The 20-member Pamela Committee will meet again next week to decide whether to disband, or continue and pursue other performances," said Barnea. "Of course, other cities would have to come up with their own funding to bring the production in."

Among tonight's audience will be Sen. Max Baucus, hosting the Japanese Ambassador to the U.S., and the theater's major patron, Alberta Bair.

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