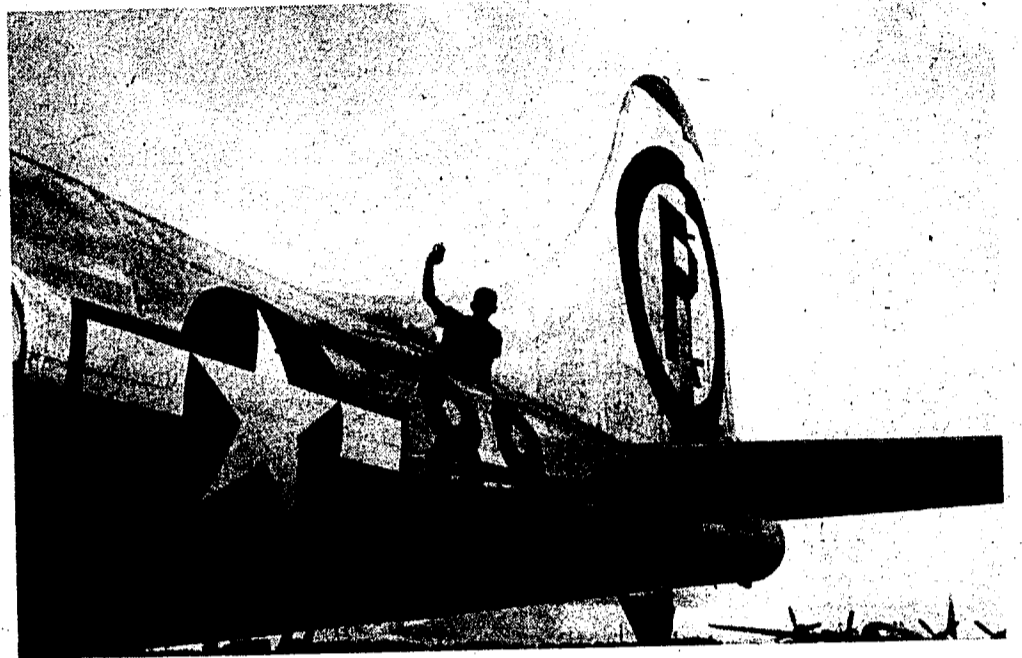


# Argonaut

Tuesday, February 6, 1979  
Moscow, Idaho 83843  
Vol. 83, No. 37



On the island of Tinian near Sai Pan, physicist Lawrence Johnston stands in front of and waves from the B-29 he was aboard during the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Now a U of I physics professor, Johnston



built the triggering device on the world's first atom bombs and flew aboard the bombers when the bombs were dropped. Photo courtesy of Lawrence Johnston.

## Idaho physicist aided, witnessed birth of bomb

by Mark Crane

Few persons have the opportunity to witness, firsthand, a major turning point in history. Only a handful play a direct role in bringing such turning points about. Lawrence Johnston has done both.

Johnston built the triggering device on the world's first atomic bombs—and then flew aboard the bombers that delivered them to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945.

The U of I professor of physics believes he is the only man to see the Japanese bombings, as well as the world's first atomic detonation at the Los Alamos, New Mexico, testing site.

"I was telling myself 'there are people being killed down there,'" said Johnston, recalling his feelings as the Hiroshima bomb exploded. "You see it happening but it hits you later . . . there is a time lapse in your emotions."

But Johnston did recall a general feeling of elation, elation that the war must soon be over. "It seemed probable that Japan would now quit," he said.

Johnston was born in China, where his parents were serving as Christian missionaries. They returned to the U.S. when he was five.

Perhaps because of his Chinese background, Johnston played with fireworks a good deal as a boy. "It gave me instincts for explosives," he said. Because of those instincts and Johnston's scientific skills, he was recruited as a graduate student to join "Project Manhattan," code name for the Allied atomic weapons effort.

As a member of the Project Manhattan team, Johnston developed the exploding system. He still holds the patent for all implosion-style atomic weapons detonators.

Project Manhattan was originally conducted with Hitler in mind, recalled Johnston, but with the war ended in Europe, the decision came to use it against Japan.

"I had special motivation for wanting to defeat the Japanese," said Johnston. "I hold nothing against the Japanese now, and many of my friends are Japanese. But I grew up in China—spiritually I'm Chinese. The Japanese expansionist conquest of China gave me extra incentive."

After the successful test in New Mexico, Johnston and other scientists volunteered to accompany the military

bomber. Johnston's task was to record these impulses as they were received by the monitor.

The third bomber carried reporters, cameramen, and military observers.

Johnston said the Nagasaki mission was largely a fluke. The bomb was intended for another city, but bad weather and heavy anti-aircraft fire forced the flyers to bomb Nagasaki, the alternate target.

The Enola Gay and Johnston's bomber circled for a considerable time waiting for the press bomber to rendezvous. They finally became low on fuel and had to proceed without the

*"I was telling myself, 'there are people being killed down there.' You see it happening but it hits you later...there is a time lapse in your emotions."*

airmen on the actual bombing missions in order to conduct blast pressure tests. Johnston said his wife knew something, was up when he started getting vaccinations to go overseas, but not until after the bombings did she learn that he had flown on the actual missions.

The bombing mission plans called for three B-29 bombers. The famed Enola Gay, of course, did the actual bombing. Johnston was aboard a second B-29. The crew of this bomber released pressure gauges, suspended by parachutes, which measured the blast wave. These gauges sent radio impulses back to a monitor inside the

press craft.

Then, after annihilating a major city with the world's most sophisticated weapon, they nearly ran out of gas on the return trip.

The team of scientists Johnston flew with carried an 8mm movie camera on the missions.

"We didn't expect to use it," he said, "because the press plane carried newsreel cameras. But when the third bomber missed the rendezvous we had the only camera on the mission. Johnston and a staff sergeant, consequently, shot the only known film of the Nagasaki drop.

Because of his duties, said Johnston, he wasn't able to see the actual explosions of the bombs used against Japan. His work with the blast monitor required him to stand by his equipment until the shock wave from the explosion passed.

"I would be kneeling on the floor when I'd see a flash of light on the bomber's roof, through the windows," Johnston recalls. "Then the blast wave would hit. It sounded like someone beating on the sides of the plane with a two-by-four."

After recording the blast, Johnston joined the others at a single tiny window to take turns observing the bomb's effects.

Johnston said there wasn't much time to think about being part of history on those missions. Atomic weapons were still in primitive stages then, and Johnston remembers there was uncertainty about everything working. On the way to the targets, the crews mainly kept busy double-checking equipment.

"It wouldn't have surprised me if the bomb had failed to detonate," said the man who built the detonator.

Johnston said that after the war he had feared that the use of atomic weapons would become widespread. He doubted that hostile nations had enough sense of restraint to settle disputes otherwise.

"During the Cuban crisis I used to wake up from dreams of mushroom clouds at night," said Johnston. "It definitely gets to you."

There would be time later to ponder the fears and dreams. Right after the bombings the crew simply relaxed.

"We talked about what we would do after the war," said Johnston, "and slept. The B-29 has a nice padded tunnel right above the bomb-bay. It made a nice place to sleep."

### Publication information

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## Moscon 1 to turn 'fiction' to fact

by N.K. Hoffman

Moscon 1, product of the collective mind of the Palouse Empire Science Fiction Association (PESFA), is becoming a reality. The Con will happen Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1, 1979.

Moscon 1 will honor the memory of Edward E. "Doc" Smith, noted science fiction author and U of I graduate in chemical engineering. Smith is "considered one of the fathers of science fiction as we know it," according to Dean Smith (no relation), Moscon program chairman. E.E. Smith wrote about fourteen books, including the Lensman and the Skylark series.

Verna Smith Trestrail, E.E. Smith's daughter, will be the guest of honor at the convention. She will give a speech and a slide show on E. E. Smith and the U of I.

Robert A. Heinlein, the "dean of American science fiction writers," will be guest of honor emeritus, if health permits, according to Steve Fahnestalk, Moscon chairman.

In connection with Heinlein's presence, the convention will sponsor a blood drive in Pullman and Moscow Sept. 26 and 27. Heinlein is a nationally-known advocate of blood drives, Fahnestalk said.

Other guests of honor include Alex Schomburg, artist guest of honor, and Jessica Amanda Salmonson, fan guest of honor. Unconfirmed rumor has it that F.M. Busby will show up

at the convention, and Isaac Asimov, Frederik Polh, and/or Jack Williamson may attend.

Some Moscon programs include a banquet featuring short speeches from the guests of honor; a science fiction art show; a speech on E.E. Smith by Heinlein; continuous science fiction movies; a huckster room where books can be sold, bought, and traded; dungeons and dragons tournaments; and panel discussions with the guests on topics such as "how I construct my aliens," "trends in fantasy and science fiction," and "collecting s.f.

literature and art."

PESFA would like to encourage anybody, science fiction fan or not, to come to PESFA meetings at the Paperback Exchange Bookstore, two doors down from the Micro on Third Street, Thursdays at 8 p.m. "We need people to help with the Con," said Smith. "People who help will meet author and artist guests personally."

Moscon 1 memberships are available for \$6. For a convention membership, send \$6 and a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Moscon 1, P.O. Box 9141, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

## FCC changes regulations on exam for radio license

More than sixty broadcasters at KUOI-FM won't have to worry about their third class license exam after Wednesday.

In December the Federal Communications Commission voted to eliminate the exam required to obtain third class licenses with broadcaster endorsement, according to an FCC press release. Instead, anyone holding any class of commercial radio operator license, including the restricted radiotelephone operator permit, can perform routine technical operations of all FM and virtually all AM stations.

Previously, most operators needed at least third class permits endorsed for station

functions, which could only be obtained after passing the FCC examination.

"Basically, it helps us out because we don't have to send people to Spokane or Seattle to take the test and get their license," KUOI station manager Brian McConnaughey said. "The new restricted licenses are also good for the holder's lifetime, no more renewals."

"We have full-time engineers here that hold first class licenses," he said, "so our broadcasters aren't required to hold third class licenses."

## Senate will eye budgeting forms

Bills concerning KUOI-FM rebudgeting will be held in committee for another week, but the ASUI Senate will consider budget forms to be used by ASUI departments for 1980 fiscal year budgeting.


The forms ask for program objectives, goals and alternatives, as well as budget requests and justifications. They also provide space for prior year appropriations and actual expenses.

In other business, the senate will examine a contract for the ASUI golf course professional/manager and several changes in the Rules and Regulations.

The changes include extending the activity center board members' term to a full year for all members. Right now four positions are alternating two year terms and one position is a one year term.


The senators will also consider adding an assistant manager position to the ASUI Programs Board.

They will also vote on a resolution commending financial director Harry Davey, who served as Vice President for Student and University relations last semester, for "his continual services to the students."



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## Solar energy project studies potential for usage in region

Analyzing the performance of solar collectors under Inland Empire conditions is one of five tasks to be conducted in 1979 by the U of I Solar Energy Project.

The project, funded by Washington Water Power Co., is directed by James Peterson, professor of electrical engineering. WWP recently awarded the university a third \$25,000 grant to continue the project through 1979.

Other research items scheduled for the coming year include:

- developing an advanced version of the automated solar data collection system now at work atop the WWP building in Spokane.

- publishing a solar economics report for consumers.

- publishing the results of computer simulation of solar heating under varying conditions.

- developing a videotaped program on "do it yourself" home-built solar collectors.

According to Peterson, the

project's overall goal is to examine the potential for solar energy use for residential and commercial purposes in Northern Idaho and eastern Washington.

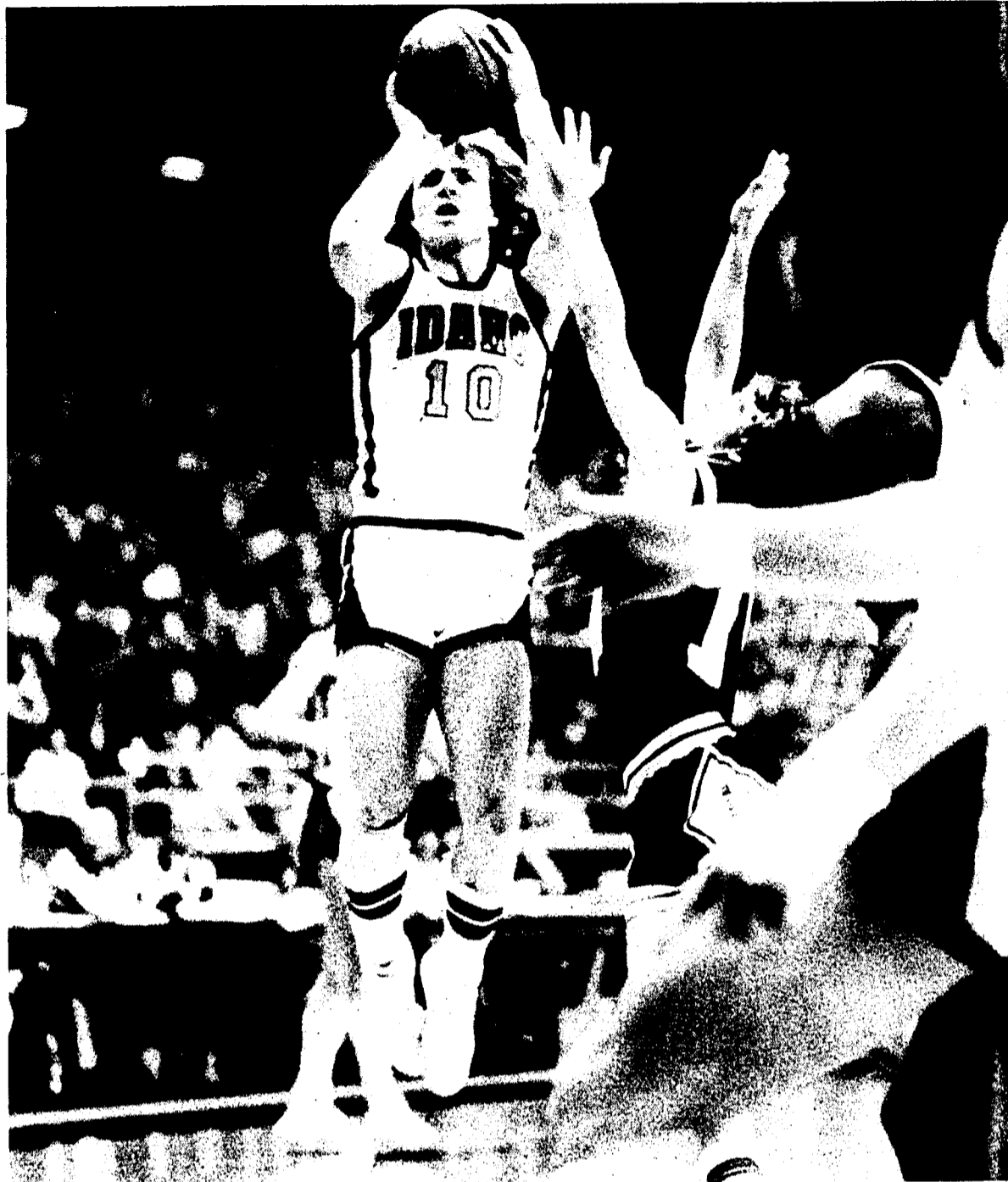
Based on data collected so far, Peterson said, it is clear solar energy can indeed be used in the Inland Empire, but it cannot be a homeowner's sole source of heat. "But that doesn't take away from the fact that solar energy can supply a portion of homeowner's energy needs," he said.

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In picture perfect form, Vandal guard Bill Hessing goes up for a jump shot over Montana State defenders in Saturday night's action. New life and pep from Vandal basketball fans aided the cagers in defeating both the University of Montana and Montana State this past weekend. Photo by Jim Johnson.

## Trophy donations requested for 'special olympic' games

Would anyone like to contribute old trophies to this year's Idaho Special Olympics?

More than 1,000 handicapped people are expected to participate in the Special Olympics on the U of I campus. The participants will be from Idaho and other adjoining states.

If anyone has old trophies to contribute, Telephone

Pioneers will restore and provide the Olympics participants with the trophies. Special Olympics representative Bob Crossin hopes to provide all participants with a trophy. He said, "No losers—everyone a winner!"

Old trophies can be dropped off at any General Telephone Phone Mart or at the U of I library back door.



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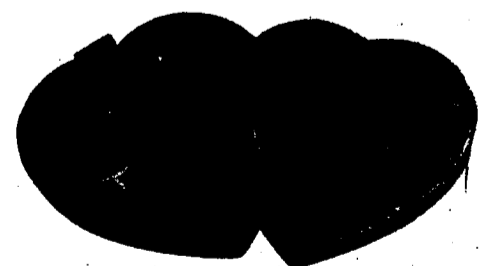
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# Commentary

## Legislature crawling

The majority leader of the state senate commented wryly last week that if the Legislature continues to work at its current pace, it will not finish its usual workload until July—1985.

Sen. James Risch, R-Boise, noted only one bill has passed the legislature in the four weeks it has been in session. He added half the usual number of bills and resolutions have been printed.

One reason behind this slow pace is the mysterious one percent.

Although possible solutions are increasing in number, the lawmakers have yet to clear the first major stumbling block—just when one percent should be implemented.

Now, after a series of discussions, committee meetings, debates, hearings and caucus sessions, the special joint subcommittee studying one percent has agreed to a Jan. 1, 1980 implementation date.

That agreement followed two other implementation options. The senate Democrats last year endorsed a Jan. 1, 1979 implementation date. The Republican caucuses next proposed implementing one percent in July of this year.

Neither apparently were found capable of phasing in one percent without wreaking havoc upon local governments and state institutions.

The Jan. 1980 date has several advantages. It allows another year for local governments and state institutions to gear up for budget cutbacks.

And it allows the Legislature more flexibility in dealing with the constitutional and statutory flaws inherent in the measure.

But there is one major disadvantage. If implemented in 1980, taxpayers would not see any tax relief until the following December. That's well after the November elections and some legislators are understandably nervous.

But the time for deliberations is running out. And at a daily cost of roughly \$10,000 this legislative debate is getting expensive.

M.T.

## What's the difference?

One of the curious aspects of this business is the feedback we frequently get concerning opinion pages. Apparently some of our readers are unaware of the differences between straight news and opinion. Likewise, they appear uneducated in the various trappings of an opinion page.

Straight news is by design objective. The writer attempts to leave his personal bias out of the story.

He does just the opposite in opinion pieces.

An editorial is what you are now reading. Although the *Argonaut* chooses to sign its editorials, these represent the position of the newspaper.

A column is one person's opinion. And that's why one person's name appears clearly at the top.

Columns may also come from outside the *Argonaut* staff. Occasionally, we solicit "guest columns" by experts in given fields.

And occasionally, guest columnists come to us. We are cordially receptive, but reserve the right not to print anything.

Likewise letters are unsolicited, although our editorials may make it appear otherwise. We encourage this response from any and all readers.

While space is a limitation, chances are the letter will eventually be printed—unless another letter on the same topic is more concise, better written, or both.

G.S.

## Good-bye, Rocky

The death of Nelson Rockefeller came as a shock to all. He was an integral part of the American political machine, representing the disenfranchised moderate element of the Republican party.

And it was his standing as the leader of this group that may have prompted Henry Kissinger's tearful farewell last week. In eulogizing his friend and colleague, Kissinger said it was a tragedy for this nation that Rockefeller never achieved his dream of the presidency.

Rockefeller was a member of that group of presidential bridesmaids. Among that group was Hubert Humphrey—who came closer to the mark by capturing his party's nomination in 1968, only to be defeated by Richard Nixon.

Perhaps it was a tragedy that neither served. We'll never know.

But in a much stronger sense, Rockefeller played his part in history with distinction and honor. When it was apparent that he would never win the nomination of the Republican party without capitulating his own moderate views, he chose to stand with his principles.

And in what may well have been his finest hour, he predicted misery and ineffectiveness for the GOP in 1964, challenging the doctrine of extremism.

Four years later, he swallowed his pride and celebrated in a re-united Republican banner. He again lost the nomination. But he seemed content with the respect shown him at the Miami convention.

The radical right again turned against him in 1976, when Reagan backers forced President Gerald Ford to drop Rockefeller from the ticket.

Yet, through it all, he remained a conscience for the party and the nation as well.

Many Republicans may not generally agree with Kissinger's assessment. But they may look back on Rockefeller in future years with awe and respect.

How unfortunate that it comes with his death.

M.T.



Well...it's your baby.

# Response

## Meat lab beefs

Editor,

Why is the meat lab allowed to operate so far underpar? Since Jan. 15 I have been repeatedly calling to obtain information on ordering meat. I have been asked to call back at later dates 3 times which I have done. Today for the fourth time I was told to call Monday to place my order. I've already wasted a good deal of time trying to do this. Why can't they just take my order? I know that they show favoritism as my friend has got his/her order in already! But they won't take mine.

These men are rude on the phone and they give misinformation frequently. I am confused. Is this a training-type program? Is it a profitable project? Are they allowed to sell the meat to priority clients? They told me they could not take my order today because they had just placed an ad in the paper. I guess I just don't understand how the program works. Please advise. Also, please hold my name. I'm afraid they will never sell meat to me if my name appears.

Name withheld

## Thanks, you guys

Editor,

The Men of Kappa Sigma would like to take this opportunity to thank the following living groups and campus organizations that helped make our 4th annual Basketball Marathon a success. With their help we were able to raise \$630 for the Mountain States Tumor Institute in Boise. The groups that participated are:

St. Augustine's Catholic Center, Delta Chi, Kappa Sigma Pledge Class, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Inter-collegiate Knights, Delta Sigma Phi, Upham Hall, Kappa Sigma Sophomore Pledge Class, Delta Tau Delta, Phi Kappa Tau, Snow Hall, Kappa Sigma Junior Pledge Class, Phi Gamma Delta, Houston Hall, Campbell Hall, Sigma Nu, U of I

Faculty/Staff, Delta Gamma and Hashers, Lambda Chi Alpha, Delta Delta Delta, Farmhouse, Willis Sweet, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Tau Omega.

Your sponsorship of a team and contributions were greatly appreciated. Thanks again.

John Mitchell  
Public-Relations Chairman—Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

## Bookstore puzzlers

Editor,

There is currently a resolution before the ASUI Senate concerning the building of a new bookstore.

There are many questions to be asked and answered by all. A few of these include:

The cost of the bookstore?

The location for the building of the bookstore?

Will the scholarships currently offered by the bookstore be lost?

What will be done with the old bookstore?

If you have any concerns, questions, or input on the bookstore please don't hesitate to call the ASUI office at 885-6331.

Rick Sparks  
ASUI Vice President

## Basketball backers

Editor,

This weekend, I attended two home U of I basketball games. Once I arrived at each game, I had to verify that I was actually at the U of I. Why? Because the bleachers were full of excited, loud, and intimidating students! I am sure that anyone who attended either game will agree that the outstanding performances of the crowd and of the Idaho band gave the needed edge to our winning basketball team.

I would like to congratulate all of the winners this weekend: the basketball team, band, cheerleaders, Joe Vandal, and the crowd.

Scott Fehrenbacher

## matthew paine

## from the frying pan

Just as with the public and semi-public figures that are so often castigated in newspaper editorial columns, the media, print or electronic, are often subjected to sharp, sometimes vitriolic, attacks because of the way a subject is handled.

Less often, but still not uncommon, come attacks on the basic institutions of the media, often on the theory that they are the messengers, not the bad news, that should be thrown to the lions.

Private-sector segments of the media, whether they be newspapers, magazines, television or radio stations, are usually in a position to wield the sort of power that comes from keeping and maintaining a secure economic base.

Public-sector media are usually not as fortunate. Coming as they do under the economic control of governmental units, they must operate from a power structure based on subtle influencing of the members of their audience(s), a base built as often as not on a foundation of sand rather than stone. The issues that excite populations today are largely those tied to questions of economics. Woe betide the media whose struggle is one of conflicts of principle, not (primarily) of economics.

At issue today, and for some weeks past, is state funding for public television stations. There are in Idaho, to the best of my knowledge, three such stations, all operated by our state universities, at Pocatello, Boise, and Moscow. The programming of these stations is a mixture of nationally-

televised educational and entertainment shows, handled under the aegis of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and locally produced material, ranging from live public-service programs, through sports features, and on to documentaries. In the case of our local station, KUID-TV, many of the latter have been broadcast regionally and, sometimes, nationally. And it is one of these programs, titled "Cedar Thief," which provided the impetus for the current challenge to public television funding.

The challenger is one David Little, state senator from Emmett. Shortly after the first showing of "Cedar Thief," Little took KUID to task for airing what he considered to be a very biased program. He felt it was biased against Potlatch Forest Incorporated (PFI), the good folks who bring you that sweet-smelling air in Lewiston, a company which is a major economic power in this state.

Never you mind that PFI was repeatedly approached, during the filming of the program, and asked to give its side of the story. Never you mind that the firm repeatedly declined. Don't bother with the facts—it's obvious the program was biased, and so should never have been shown. Or so Little's story went.

"Cedar Thief" gave Little a controversial subject to expound on. Being, presumably, a moderately good politician, Little has kept the issue alive, broadening his challenge until he publicly, though not legislatively, calls public television funding into question (all on behalf of what is no doubt a truly great, benevolent,

compassionate private enterprise).

Save for a few news stories on PFI's immediate reactions to the program (they didn't, if you'll pardon the understatement, exactly give it rave reviews), the company has been silent on the subject. This can, in part, be chalked up to the natural tendency to let sleeping dogs lie. But the company's silence might also be construed as at least tacit approval of Little's attacks.

Not that there is collusion there. I wouldn't think even the collective corporate PFI wise men would be that stupid. But I do wonder how well the PFI public relations department will handle being silent partners of a move to kill public television in Idaho. PFI is caught in the middle. Little is well aware that a PFI statement showing support for public television would be disastrous for him. And a PFI statement showing support for his position, or continued silence on the subject, would create a climate of opinion among Idahoans that will be distinctly cool towards the company.

Having, for the purposes of this column at least, a rather uncharitable state of mind, I also wonder about the lack of publicly stated opposition to (or support of) Little's position by the other members of the state house and senate.

I am well aware that the members of these two bodies are grappling with seemingly-insoluble problems generated by the passage of the one percent initiative. Burdened as they are, I daresay they find time to enjoy at least a small measure of social intercourse at luncheons, small dinner

parties and the like. Yet they seem not to have time to address themselves to Little's pet issue.

Public television touches a lot of lives in Idaho every day, whether it be school children seeing educational programs in their classrooms or adults watching "Masterpiece Theatre" at night. It, unlike many state supported programs, touches rich and poor alike, making a distinction only between those with access to television sets and those without.

I have a fairly well-informed opinion that public television is one of the most highly visible (pardon the pun) and popularly-supported services provided by state agencies. Yet the legislators, in the midst of Little's not infrequent attacks, are strangely silent.

Ver-r-r-y interesting. But not funny.

Presuming that Little is acting on the courage of his convictions, I think the only thing that would stop him, outside of a swelling of public opposition, would be a late night phone call from PFI corporate headquarters in San Francisco, with the party at the PFI end promising to pull the rug out from under unless the subject was dropped. I would hope that someone in the company is smart enough to see that curbing a campaign of checkbook censorship is in the best interests of not only the private sector, but the public as well.

For our beleaguered friends at KUID-TV, a word of hope: if Little succeeds, we can probably find a place for you down here at the *Argonaut*. Writing news stories. At 33 cents a column inch. Whooppee!

## betsy brown

## myrtle and friend

My friend Myrtle Greenwich has had such success as guest columnist for this newspaper that she decided to devote herself more seriously to journalism. Last week she signed up to be a regular staff reporter for the *Argonaut*.

Friday, as you know, was Groundhog Day. On this day each year, the Furry Forecaster emerges from its hole to foretell how much longer winter will last. On the U of I campus, a groundhog known as Golf Course Glenda has been faithfully performing this task for years.

Glenda, who is at least as accurate as the average TV weather forecaster, has become something of a local celebrity. So the *Argonaut* news editor assigned Myrtle Greenwich to do an interview with Golf Course Glenda.

Myrtle dropped by my apartment early Friday afternoon. She was very upset. Glenda had refused to come out of her hole to perform the yearly ceremony of looking for her shadow. She had refused to talk to reporters. The only thing Glenda said to Myrtle was, "No comment!"

Myrtle was almost in tears. How could she face the news editor and tell him that she had failed? "You've gotta help me out somehow, Brown," she said. "After all those times I wrote columns for you when you were busy and everything else I did for you I think you owe me something."

How could I refuse a request like

that? Myrtle looked so miserable that I promised to do what I could to get Glenda to cooperate.

"Come on, Myrtle," I said. "Let's visit Glenda and see if we can get her to talk with you."

So Myrtle and I trundled over to the golf course and wandered around until we found a groundhog hole with a small wooden sign propped up outside. On the sign were the words, "Glenda W. Groundhog IV—Please Enter Without Knocking."

Since the groundhog hole was a good deal smaller than either Myrtle or myself, we couldn't follow the instructions on the sign. So I hollered into the hole and asked Glenda to come out.

A furry head popped out of the ground. Glenda took one look at Myrtle and made a horrid face. "Go away," Glenda said. "I already told you that I didn't feel like coming out today, and I don't want to talk to any reporters. So there!"

"Wait, Glenda," I replied. "Everyone in northern Idaho is counting on you to let them know how much longer this winter is going to last. The least you could do is explain why you don't want to look for your shadow today, and why you don't want to talk to the press. After all, it is Groundhog Day. Besides, poor Myrtle is going to get in awful trouble with the news editor if she doesn't get this story."

"Look Myrtle, it's nothing personal," said Glenda apologetically. "I've been going through this nonsense for years, and after a while it gets very boring."

I climb out of my hole. I look for my shadow. I can't remember what it means if I see my shadow, or what it means if I don't see my shadow. But I have to look, anyway, for the sake of tradition.

Then all those dumb photographers stick their cameras in my face and those dumb reporters ask questions. It's "How much more snow will we get?" or "How does it feel to be a groundhog?" They have the same old questions every year, and every year the questions seem stupider. I don't know why they don't just use the story and pictures they used in the newspaper for last Groundhog Day. I don't think anyone would know the difference.

And looking for my shadow gets more dangerous every year," Glenda continued. "Two years ago, when we had a mild winter, I came out of my hole on Groundhog Day and got hit on the head with a golf ball. It gave me an awful concussion...my head hurt for a week."

Last Groundhog Day I got run over by a cross-country skier. And this year the weather's been so cold, I'd probably freeze my tail off if I went outside.

Really, I'm much more

comfortable staying in here. If people are all that curious about how much longer winter will last, they can always check the *Farmer's Almanac*."

Myrtle agreed that Glenda had a point. In fact, she sympathized so much with Glenda's point of view that she resigned from the *Argonaut* staff in protest.

Glenda, on her part, decided that Myrtle wasn't such a bad sort after all, and invited Myrtle to join her Wednesday night bridge group.

And that is why you didn't see any news about Groundhog Day in the *Argonaut*.

## LETTER POLICY

The *Argonaut* will accept letters to the editor until noon the days prior to publication. All letters become the property of the *Argonaut*. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed in ink by the author, and include the author's phone number and address for verification. Names may be withheld upon request at the editor's discretion.

Letters will be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity and conciseness. To allow space for as many letters as possible, letters should be limited to 250 words. All points in letters will be retained, but letters may be edited for brevity.

The *Argonaut* reserves the right to not run any letter.

# Liz Olds: Moscow minstrel pursuing a dream via guitar

text by Eddie Sue Judy

photo by Mark Johann

One would have sworn the bricks glowed warmer with her singing. One could watch the candle flames dance with guitar string vibrations and hear harmony between music and listeners' conversational laughter.

Saturday was only Liz Olds's third night playing at the Moscow Mule, but nearly everyone who walked in greeted her by name and she would nod or smile or speak recognition. The Mule patrons were personal friends or friends of her music. Olds was at home.

But the little livewire with the hitch hiking-weathered felt hat may soon be taking her guitar where few faces are familiar and her music must make friends anew. She plans to move to Cincinnati and record an album.

At 21, Olds has been playing for Moscow audiences about four years and has become a favorite coffee house, restaurant and living room performer. Her guitar style ranges from semi-classical through Kottke-style picking to a dash of hard-strumming folk rock. Much of the material she performs is her own.

She will play again at the Mule this week 6 to 10 Thursday night and 9 to 1 Friday and Saturday nights.

Olds isn't chasing a Nashville dream. She plans to record her album with Sea Friends Records, an independent company at Cincinnati that's released only one album to date. That album was the work of Therese Edell, one of the company's founders and a predominantly feminist musician who performed a concert at Moscow in November. The album has sold its first pressing of 5,000 copies and Sea Friends is planning a second pressing.

It was Edell's visit that converted Olds' album idea from a someday dream into a plan of action. Edell, herself a guitarist, heard Olds play, decided she had a talent worth nurturing and suggested the possibility of an album. Olds hopped a bus to Cincinnati over the holidays to see Edell and work out business arrangements.

"It all seems like one big, vast Greyhound fantasy," Olds said after returning to Moscow. "I used to fantasize about one of these women artists coming here and hearing my music and wanting to work with me. It's happened."

But several obstacles stand between Olds and a record in hand. One of those is \$10,000—or rather, the lack thereof. Studio time, pressing and other production factors all cost, and Sea Friends is still an infant. Edell's album was financed out of her own pocket and through loans from friends.

Olds needs the \$10,000 to get the album through pressing, but can go into the studio on about \$4,500. She plans to damn the torpedoes and record. Her first fundraising activity will be an "extravaganza yard sale" within the next few weeks. She plans to move to Cincinnati in August and get into the studio in October.

"It's not a vanity press thing. It's making an investment in your career," Olds said.

Various small recording companies, according to Olds, are springing up to record musicians who may be talented but are ignored by major companies. Some musicians are shut out by political and cultural philosophy, some because their musical genre is not modeled to mass consumption and therefore not big-selling.

"All these little recording companies are trying to get the artist's control back. Up until the past few years, until Olivia (a feminist recording company) started, a woman, to get recorded, had to put on a dress and play this "I love my man" crap.

"That's fine for people who believe in it, but it would be hypocritical for me and I don't want to start my career as a hypocrite."

Olds' music has no overt political messages, though she is an avowed feminist.

"It's not movement music at all. It's just that it's by a woman."

That could be a handicap in getting people to hear her music, because it will not be heard as a rallying point.

"I'm a people person. I don't say everyone should be feminist or whatever. I just want them to have the music. Naturally I feel I'm right but I don't necessarily say else is wrong."

Olds said male musicians have told her, "You're pretty well—for a girl."

"That's not even a compliment. I don't want to be good, for a woman. I just want to be pretty good, period."

She hopes her music will cross over into audiences that are not necessarily feminist but like contemporary music.

Olds plans no vocals for the album, though she has lyrics and has performed them and other vocal pieces in Moscow. A male's voice changes in adolescence and a woman's voice often doesn't change until she's in her twenties. Olds' voice has reached that stage, she says.

"My voice is doing right now exactly what a choir boy's voice does when they throw him out."

An album is not Olds' goal to end all goals. She largely as a tool to gain performance engagements at college and women's music festival circuits. She sees Edell's album as an example of how a record can make a singer in the eyes of audiences—and booking people.

"I wouldn't say her career is skyrocketing because you don't skyrocket in that particular way. But her career is Roman candle. Firecracker anyway. She was just regionally known and not nationally known."

Olds, who started college in technical theater and also like to enter the technical and business aspects of music. Sea Friends, co-owned and operated by Edell and Teresa Boykin, provides sound technician services for other performers' concerts.

Admiration for Edell is a major incentive for Olds.

"When you're 21 and a cocky kid, it's seldom someone you can really submerge your ego with and realize until I met Therese how much I have to learn."

Olds is not without trepidation about leaving Moscow. "I've known people in theater who go down to San Francisco and think they're going to go places and wind up on food stamps and selling their blood! Moving to a big city where I basically know two people and am heavily in debt for a piece of mashed potato is pretty scary."

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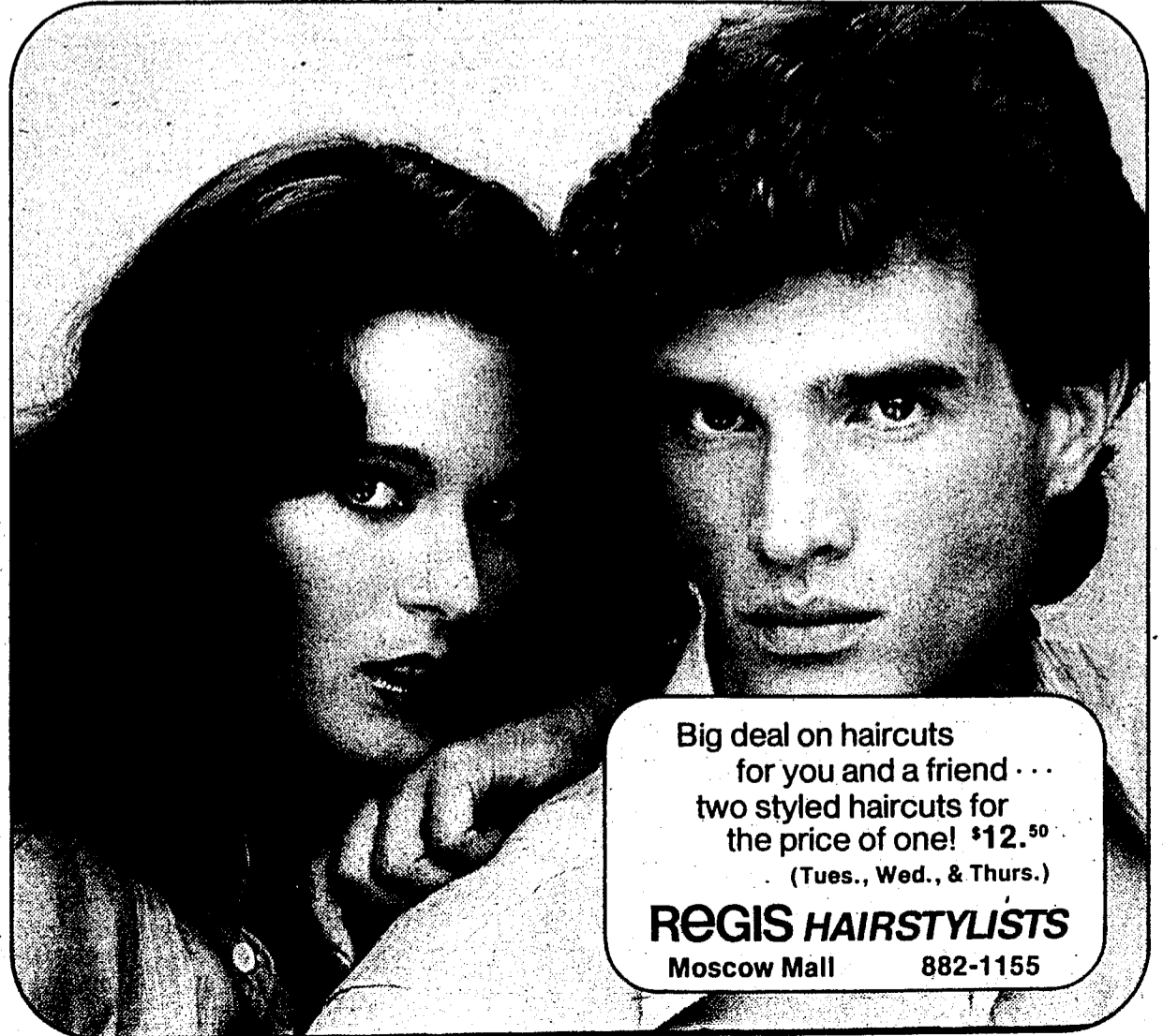
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Yet, to grow in her music, she feels she must move on.  
"Moscow would be a wonderful place to spend my whole life if I wanted to just enjoy my apartment and make a few hundred dollars a month and stay off food stamps. I have a lot of friends here. It's secure."

"But when you sit around the bar with people and they like you personally and then you get up to play in front of them, they tell you they like your stuff even if you don't give your best performance."

Much of Old's repertoire and style developed at Moscow. She grew up surrounded by guitar music, for her father has played jazz and classical about 40 years. She started playing in junior high school. But much of the present shape of her music formed through a "traumatic experience" her freshman year at Idaho.

"I was in love with this person who split town. I was living in a decrepit house on Almon Street with a splendid view of Kentucky Fried Chicken. There was no heat upstairs and you could see down into the living room through cracks in the upstairs floor. I spent a lot of time sitting in front of the window playing and writing songs."

Olds wrote about the trauma of love lost, but with at least as much imaginative humor as lovelorn pathos.

Most of Old's pre-college years were set in Waldorf, Md., "a hick town gone suburban."

"It's what Moscow could become, heaven forbid, if people don't take care of it."

Moscow memories that will go with Olds are fond ones. Like playing coffee houses with a rubber chicken as her stage partner. And playing softball in the summers. And getting a friendly visit from the police after she flew her foot-wide stuffed bat on a string from the roof of Idaho First National Bank.

But old friends are leaving and the town is changing, she said, becoming less the small community she's come to call home.

"I'm afraid of going because when I come back the changes will be more apparent."

"I'd like to spend a last summer in Moscow, seeing it as the last, so I could have that memory."

If she can establish herself on the concert tour well enough that she doesn't have to be in a population center, she'd like to make Moscow her base of operations.

But for now, she has to follow a dream.

"If I'm ready for it, I'll pull it off. If not, I'll fall flat on my ass. But I just believe it's going to happen, somehow."



If the eyes of Liz Olds sometimes look distant, maybe it's because the fulfillment of a dream is just coming in sight. Liz will be at the Moscow Mule Thursday, 6-10 p.m., and over the weekend, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Photo by Mark Johann.

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# Sports

## Vandals win three straight

by Marty Renzhofer

The Vandals moved one step closer to respectability this weekend with a pair of victories over the University of Montana and Montana State, 62-56 and 67-63.

The Vandal record is now 9-11, and 3-6 in conference. The next home game is Sunday against Portland State, but the

next conference game is Saturday at Gonzaga. The Vandals are now tied for fifth place in the Big Sky, one game out of playoff competition.

Friday night Bill Hessing sank two free throws with 13 seconds left to play, to ice the victory. Terry Gredler added insult to injury as he stuffed the ball with six seconds remaining.

In the closing minutes of

play, Idaho played its best defense of the year. Down by five with five minutes to play, the Vandals came out of their zone defense and played a man-to-man. With 58 seconds to play, Reed Jaussi hit both ends of a 1-1 to put Idaho on top for the first time, 58-56.

Don Newman was the Vandal high scorer with 14 points. He brought the crowd to life with his drives toward the basket, and his pinpoint passing. Newman ended the game with nine assists.

The next night, Idaho broke out to a 22-6 lead, and never trailed. Although Montana State made the game interesting by pulling within two points twice, Vandal scoring in key spots pushed the Bobcats away.

Although Don Newman didn't have the type of game that he normally does, the Vandals were able to win. Idaho coach Don Munson was pleased with that aspect of the game.

"You can't expect a person, and I don't care what league you're in, to have great games all the time, it's impossible. Now people come out here," he said, "and expect Newman to have 26 great offensive and defensive games. He can't do it all the time."

Bill Hessing put this game under ice for Idaho again with two free throws with 33 seconds remaining. The two points put the score 65-59, and Idaho only had to stall for the win.



Vandal Elain Hendrickson illustrates poise with confidence on the balance beam during a women's gymnastics meet. Photo by Rick Steiner.

## Women gymnasts pull second

With Boise State's standout Patty Rintala leading the way, BSU went on to defeat the U of I women's gymnastics team

121-88 in a scheduled triangular meet Saturday.

Due to several of their women being ill, Eastern Washington was unable to compete in the meet and forfeited to both the U of I and BSU.


"We did better than the score indicates," commented U of I women's coach Sherri Steffan. "We scored 88 points, and that was with no one competing in the vault exercise for us."

"In particular," continued Steffan, "Cindy Bidart and Sue Williams improved their all-around scores by nearly a point and half over the last meet." Bidart scored 25.90 and Williams 25.25.

Other fine performances by U of I women came by Jan McCrosky with a third place finish in the floor exercise and Sue Williams taking third in the beam.

"We just have to keep plugging away," said Steffan. "With only five women competing for the university all five girls have to score exceptionally well for us to stay in the meet. I am very proud of the way the women have been performing and the courage they have shown under these conditions."

Idaho's last home meet of the season will be this Friday at 7 p.m. as they will be hosting a quadrangular meet.



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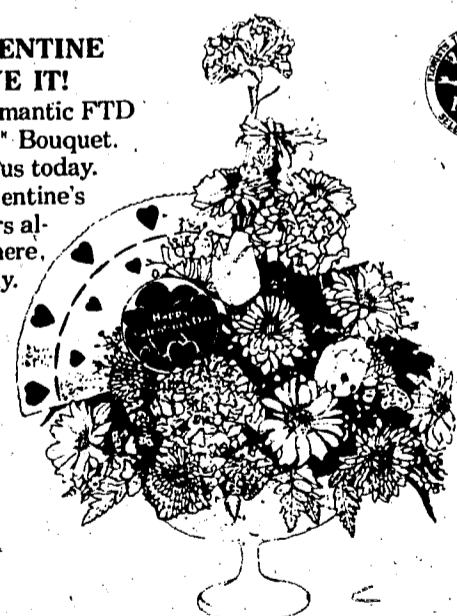
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# Swimmers continue rampage on Oregon coast

The U of I swimmers' grueling three-day road trip ended Saturday in Salem, Ore., as the women defeated both Willamette University and Southern Oregon College, while the men split by downing Willamette and losing to Southern Oregon. Picking up five victories on the three-day road trip for the women, and four for the men, the two swimming teams pushed their season records to 12-2 and 11-2 respectively.

Thursday, the women began their road trip off on the right note by blasting Portland State 87-45. The men

nipped PSU 61-60 in what DeMeyer called a "wild" meet. Kamiah native Jerry Wicks sewed up the victory for the swimmers when he won the three-meter diving competition. With only one event left, and the Vandals up by eight, the seven points PSU gained on the last event of the meet were meaningless.

Freshman sensation Nancy Becktholdt once again paced the women taking firsts in the 200, 100, 50-meter freestyles. Also adding to the winning cause was Kathy Schmal by taking the 100 and 50-meter breaststroke, Kris Albin

winning the 100 and 50-meter backstroke, and Linda DeMeyer capturing first in the 200 and 500 freestyles. For the men, Don Moravec took first in the 200-meter individual medley and backstroke, Mark Nordquist took the 1,000-meter freestyle, and co-captain Steve Cobb the 200-meter freestyle.

Friday, the swimmers moved from Portland to Salem, Ore., where they met both Willamette University and Lewis and Clark. "It was by far the best day of the three day road trip" said DeMeyer. The women crushed both

Willamette 75-47 and Lewis and Clark 71-46. The men easily defeated Lewis and Clark 78-26, and nipped Willamette 56-48. The Willamette meet was also decided on the outcome of one event. "The difference came in 200-meter butterfly," declared DeMeyer. "Had Brent Bjorn not taken second place behind Don Moravec, we probably wouldn't have won the meet." Bjorn turned in his best time of the year in the 200-meter event in 2:09.8 minutes. Mark Nordquist won both the 1000 and 500-meter

freestyles, and Don Moravec won both the 200-meter butterfly and individual medley. For the women, Becktholdt, DeMeyer, Nancy Rand, and Kathy Schmal were all winners.

In Saturday's double dual the Vandal women defeated Southern Oregon 78-43 and Willamette 68-50, while the men beat Willamette again by the score of 53-50, but lost to a powerful Southern Oregon school 54-48.

Both teams will be back in action this weekend for a pair of home meets.

## Women cagers split games with Montana schools

The Idaho Vandal women's basketball team came back from a two game series at Cheney with one victory and an 11-5 record overall.

Friday the Vandals, according to coach Tara Van Derveer, played uninspired basketball, and dropped a 69-57 decision to Rocky Mountain College. Mary Heath was the high scorer in this game for the Idaho women with 20 points.

Saturday, against Eastern Montana, the Vandals played a more consistent game and won 75-68.

## Highjumper sets school record

U of I highjumper Bob Peterson broke a thirteen year-old school record in the high jump, and middle-distance runner Doug Beckman qualified for the NCAA indoor track and field

championships in Detroit, Mich., later in the winter to highlight a weekend of competition. Peterson broke the 7-foot barrier to erase the 6'11" record set by Steve Brown.

## New Vandal downhill squad in first meet

Though it took nearly half of the season to add an alpine squad to its fast growing team, the Vandal Ski Club sent four U of I skiers to Bend, Ore., to compete at Mt. Bachelor in a southern divisional meet.

"Since it had been awhile since most of the men had skied competitively," said coach and advisor Edith Partridge, "I told the boys to ski at only 90 percent so that they could just get back into the feel of racing and avoid getting hurt." Tom Richards took thirteenth, and Steve Bonnar thirteenth to pace the Vandals.

John Herning, who formerly skied for the University of Las Vegas, and Jim Brennar, a Pocatello area native, also competed for the ski club.

"The men will be practicing a couple of times a week up at the North-South Ski Bowl," added Partridge. "They'll be doing it in conjunction with a physical education class that's meeting up there. We'll also have them practicing their turns up on the golf course on campus."

"We want to approach the downhill skiing competition a little bit slower than the nordic skiing," said Partridge.

"It requires more safety precautions for the obvious reasons. Right now, we are just concentrating on getting the men back in the right condition, especially the physical aspect of competitive

downhill racing." Next weekend both the Vandal Ski Club nordic and alpine teams will join together for the first time this year to compete at Crystal Mountain in a northern divisional meet.

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# Entertainment

## Dance company will perform here

Social commentary is an important element in the concerts of 5 by 2 Plus—A Modern Dance Repertory Company due here Feb. 9 to 11.

The company will be in residence at the U of I. A concert is set at 8 p.m. Friday at the Hartung Theatre. Free master classes will be given Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Tickets, at \$3 per person, are available at Cox and Nelson, the Student Union Building and at the door.

Among the five dances to be performed at the concert is "The Beloved," a powerful piece choreographed by Lester Horton in 1943 and restaged by James Truitte.

Horton once wrote that the work "attempts to state in pure dance terms the bigotry

and sexual chauvinism that held women subservient in fin-de-siecle New England, a kinetic projection of the social savagery of the double standard."

Also on the program is "Negro Spirituals," a work at one time considered an important fusion of concert dance and social consciousness. The dance, part of a suite choreographed in the 1930s by Helen Tamiris, has been called a highlight of the company's repertoire by reviewers.

Light-hearted works are also included on the program. "Gallopade," a take-off on classical ballet, opens the concert. "Celestial Circus" and "Just Another Dance" complete the program.

The New York company was started by two dancers—Jane Kosminsky and Bruce Becker—who gave concerts of five dances. The "Plus" is three additional dancers who allowed for expansion of the repertoire.

Free two-hour master classes will be given at the Women's Health Education Building. Intermediate modern dance classes are set for noon and 2 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Repertory classes are at 4 p.m.



Diane Tong, vocalist, guitarist and banjo frailer, performed Saturday night at the Well Coffeehouse in the Grain Growers Auditorium. Photo by Steve Davis.

### Righteousness For All

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### Future Features

Tuesday, Feb. 6...

Crabshell Alliance will meet in the SUB at 7:30. The public is invited. "Shadow Weave Adaptions" is the title of a seminar to be presented by Mrs. Lynn Baritelle in the Home Economics Building, Room 105 at 4 p.m.

Northwest Gay Peoples Alliance will meet at the Women's Center at 7:30 p.m.

Outdoor Program will hold instructional session on winter camping. Information about snow shelters, tents, clothing, hypothermia, frostbite and avalanches will be available. Begins at 7:30 in the Borah Theatre.

ASUI Blood Drive begins today and continues through Thursday. Appointments should be made at the SUB information desk.

Peace Corps will show a movie titled "Peace Corps-The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love" in the SUB Cataldo room. A display dealing with the Peace Corps will be featured in the lobby of the library during this week.

Wednesday, Feb. 7...

Outdoor Program will present a slide show about a two month cross country ski trip in Alaska. Mike McAllister will host.

Women in Communication will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the reading room of the communication building.

Pi Beta Sigma will meet at 7 p.m. in the Cataldo room of the SUB. New and old members are urged to come. Semi-formal dress.

Campus Christian Center will hold a contemporary eucharist celebration at 8:30 p.m.

NORML will meet at 8 p.m. in the Blue Dining room of the SUB. Included will be a membership drive, button sale, discussion of a raffle, form letters, national membership and future programs.

Young Life Rejects will meet in the SUB at 9 p.m. Singing and sharing ideas on various topics is planned. Guitar players are invited.

German Kaffeeklatsch will meet at the Campus Christian Center at 4 p.m. for German conversation, refreshments and a German film "Carl Spitzweg."

Peace Corps will show the film "Peace Corps-The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love" in the Chiefs room in the SUB at 7:30 p.m.

Outdoor Program will hold an instructional session on winter camping in the Borah Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

ASUI Blood Drive ends today. Make an appointment at the information desk in the SUB.

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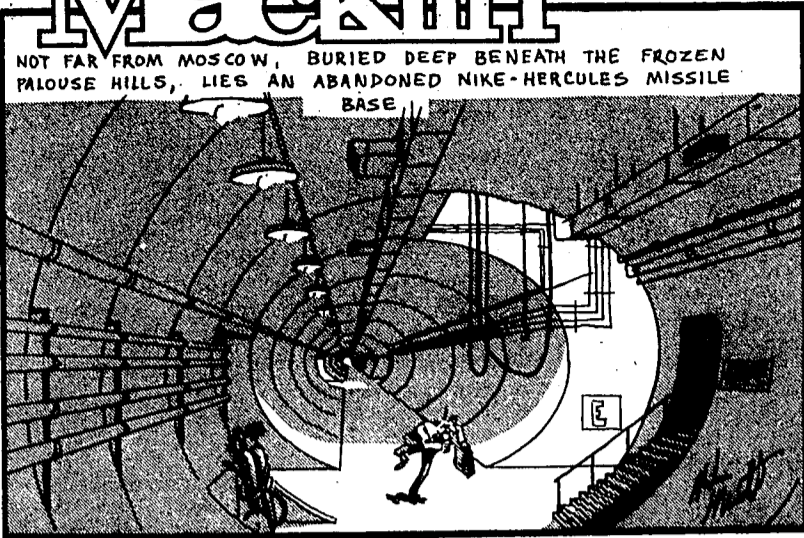
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Shotokan Karate Club meets Tuesday, small gym WHEB. Thursday dance room WHEB. Beginners 8:00-9:00, intermediate 9:00-10:00.

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Help me, God. My poor darling little brown tiger-striped kitty disappeared in the vicinity of Jefferson and Spotswood. You don't have him, do you God? Anyone else seeing such a cat, please call 882-6375. **Owner hysterical.**



## Album exchange added to Moscow bookstore

The Paperback Exchange Bookstore has added an album exchange to its other systems of barter.

The Exchange bought out the record inventory of both the Moscow and the Coeur d'Alene Magic Mushroom stores when they closed. Dean

Smith, proprietor of the Exchange, said he will trade one album of his for two of the customer's. The albums are also for sale. "We're selling them a lot cheaper than Magic Mushroom did," said Smith, adding that album prices range from 50 cents to \$2.

### Album Preview

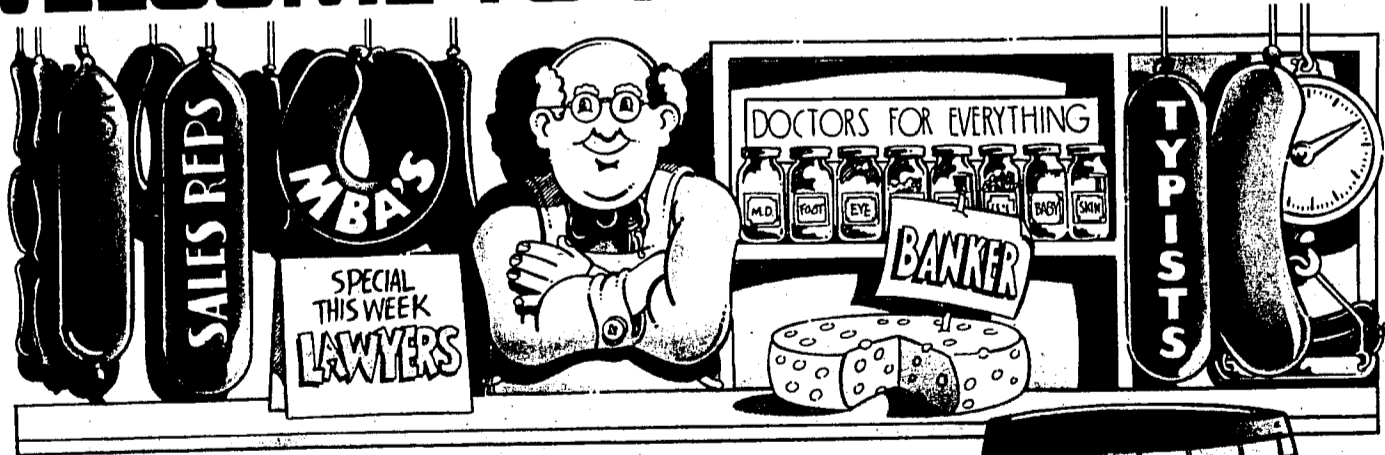
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**Monday**—Ryo Kawasaki, "Eight Mile Road"  
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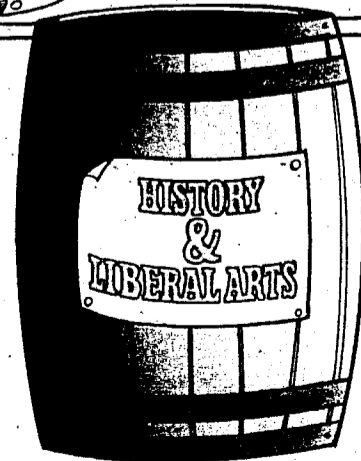
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FORD DIVISION

# Creative Anachronism gives medievalists an outlet



by N.K. Hoffman

They were quaffing mugs of beer when we arrived. I sat down next to Aijaeth Shajar, Seneschal of East Farthing Shire, hoping that my wig wouldn't slip.

Pitchers of beer made the rounds of the table as we talked, and newcomers received fresh mugs as soon as they sat down.

I asked Aijaeth about the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), which met in costume at the Rathaus Wednesday.

The SCA is "dedicated to recreating the Middle Ages as it was—and to some degree, as we would like it to have been," according to SCA handout literature. Aijaeth said members of the SCA take on a persona who could have lived in the period between 950-1650 A.D.

"You are forbidden to take a character out of history or literature, but you may swipe part of a name," Aijaeth said.

"You make up or choose a name. You don't have to find a name right away. Sometimes people bestow one on you if it fits the personality of your persona.

"Some people get taken over by their personas. They are completely different people. Some people have several personas. It depends on who they're feeling like that day. Think yourself up a general period—you don't need to limit yourself immediately. You should come to a meeting first," said Aijaeth.

The SCA has about 10,000 participants in Canada and the U.S. The Society hierarchy consists of six Kingdoms subdivided successively into principalities, baronies, provinces, cantons, shires, protectorates, and colleges.

Kingdoms hold

tournaments three times a year to determine who is king. "The only way you can become king is by beating everyone else in the kingdom in tournament combat," said Aijaeth.

Tournaments are fought with rattan weapons rather than steel ones. "The weapons bruise and occasionally break bones, but they don't cut," said Aijaeth.

East Farthing Shire, which extends from Spokane to Lewiston, belongs to the principality of An Tir, which covers British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and a small slice of Idaho. An Tir is part of the Kingdom of the West, which contains Northern California, Washington, Oregon, some of Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

An Tir is presently trying to become a kingdom. "There's a revolution going on," said Aijaeth. She stood up, beer mug held high. "To the Revolution!" she cried. Everybody raised their mugs and toasted the Revolution. "The Principality of An Tir is trying to disassociate itself from California," Aijaeth explained. "We don't have enough in common with them."

Why do people join the SCA?

"I'm in it for the costumes and the medieval history, and being with like-minded people," said Jerold McCrabbe. "It fulfills some fantasy trips."

"I've always been very interested in historical novels of that period," Morgana Woodland said.

Robert the Black said he has been a medievalist for years. "It's something I've always been interested in, the combatives and the life-style." He said the SCA is a "fairly friendly group" which welcomes new members. There are so many things you

can get into: medieval arts, cooking, costumes, falconry, jousting, embroidery and other disciplines, Robert said.

Rainer Greenleaf and Fariydah Bint Amr Al Murri are a married couple from Colfax. They have been official SCA members for two years. They got interested in the society when they saw a segment about the SCA on a TV-news magazine.

"I saw maidens come out with gatorade after battles, and I thought, wow! This is for me," said Rainer. "Archery tournaments. Combat. Bellydancing. I thought, 'This is great. I want to join.'"

"Doctors, dentists, lawyers belong to the SCA. There are a lot of respectable people in it. They may be nuts, but they're respectable nuts, not acorns," said Rainer.

Outside the SCA, Rainer is an unemployed registered pharmacist. His persona is "by nature an alchemist. I ill well people," he said. Fariydah is a cook at Pullman Convalescent Center and a part-time student.

East Farthing Shire welcomes new members. "New members should show up at meetings, be prepared to wear a weird costume and take on a persona," said Aijaeth. "We're superanxious to have anybody participate who wants to show up, but we're not putting on a show for anybody."

"It's not a spectator sport," said someone.

"If you're interested we can get bits and pieces and scrape up a costume for you. Women can wear a long dress. Men can wear pants, tucked into boots, and an untucked shirt with a belt around it," Aijaeth said.

Presently East Farthing Shire is looking forward to a war. "It's our first opportunity to do something locally," said Aijaeth.

Two Kingdoms are trying to claim Idaho. "We think Ateneveldt wants to claim Boise," Aijaeth said. "They have not tried to claim us yet, but they may. We can demonstrate our unwillingness to become members of Ateneveldt."

East Farthing Shire members prefer to remain part of An Tir. "We know people in An Tir who help us, and An Tir is closer than Arizona and New Mexico," said Aijaeth.

"It's a good excuse for a war," said Robert the Black.

The war will probably take place between April and August, when the weather is at its best. The war will be held at a campground where there is plenty of room. Wars are "very formal," said Robert the Black.

"We invite the enemy to meet us to have a battle over a specific conflict," Aijaeth said.

East Farthing Shire will hold its next meeting at a potluck lunch, Feb. 25.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the SCA can get in touch with Aijaeth by calling Beth Finkbner at Wildflower Designs, Inc. 882-1574.

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