

Council amends changes to grading system

General faculty to give input next week

Michelle Kalbeitzer
 Staff

How many times should students be allowed to fail a course before the

Ds and Fs are reflected in their grade point average? This was one of the issues the Faculty Council addressed again Tuesday afternoon in Brink Hall.

Their previous decision, made in December, indicated the answer to this question was zero chances should be given to completely replace failing grades.

However, after receiving a petition from faculty members who believe the move was too extreme, the council chose to reconsider their position on the issue.

An amended grading regulation will be sent to the general faculty Feb. 6 for their suggestions regarding this solution. The meeting takes place at 3:30 p.m. at the Administration Auditorium.

The council decided although all grades will remain on the record, the grades included in the GPA would "begin with the first repeat of a class."

In essence, this gives students one chance to perform poorly in a course without the penalty of the GPA reflecting the failing grade.

Any grades received thereafter, both failing and passing, will then be calculated into the GPA.

"You can repeat any one course once for free, relative to your GPA," said Stephen Cooke, Faculty Council vice chair.

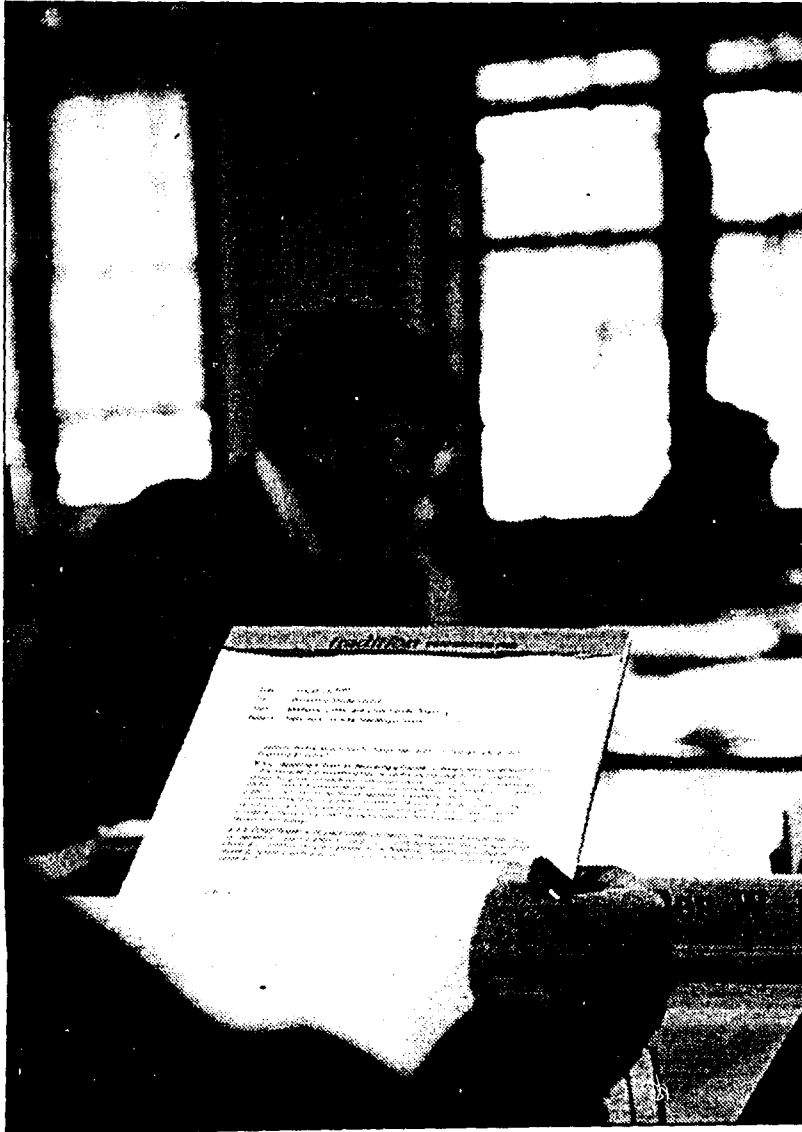
This solution is thought to solve the problem of habitual repeaters abusing the system. It will recognize special circumstances sometimes arise which may prevent a student from performing adequately in a class.

"Their first decision was harsh," said Jennifer Woods, University of Idaho junior, regarding the council's initial proposal to change the grading system. "It would not give students the motivation to retake the class and they wouldn't learn the material."

UI sophomore Chace Slavin agreed. "Normally people have a semester where they mess up and then they need to retake a class from there."

UI alumnus Rob Buchert was present at the Tuesday meeting to give his personal testimony. He said, "When I came in my freshman year I didn't really have a direction or focus. There was a lot of distractions I was not prepared for."

• SEE GPA PAGE A2



Peter McKinney

The revised proposal for GPA calculations states a student can retake a course only once to replace a grade of a D or F. All retakes thereafter are averaged.

Daniels resigns from Senate

Student leaders trek to Boise

Andrew White
 Staff

Senator Jeff Daniels announced his resignation from the ASUI Senate Wednesday, now leaving two open Senate seats.

"It really helped me learn a lot about what I want to do in life," Daniels said of his time in the Senate.

Daniels is leaving to participate in a Reduced-Gravity Student Flight Program sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"I moved my graduation back a semester so I can devote all my time to the NASA project — this is something I have wanted to do all my life," Daniels said.

NASA selected 24 student teams

• SEE SENATE PAGE A4

Yellowstone wolf author to speak in Moscow

Robert Hall
 Staff

Is anyone familiar with the battle over wilderness in America? Is anyone familiar with the displacement of wildlife in America from their native habitat? Is anyone aware of what it means to be extinct?

Gary Ferguson, author of *The Yellowstone Wolves: The First Year*, is one who obviously tries.

In *The Yellowstone Wolves: The First Year*, the popular nature writer profiles the release of the 14 wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone in the spring of 1995.

These wolves represent the first breeding population in that area in 70 years and the first wolves in history to be transplanted from the wild.

Ferguson will be in town next month with slides that cover the moment of release, daily explorations,

choosing den sites, and looking for mates — all for the first time.

He will also show first encounters with Yellowstone's elk, grizzly bear, coyotes, and moose, none of which has ever seen a wolf pack.

The author also shows us the human side of the event. He touches on the story of Chad McKittrick, who shot and killed the male wolf known as number 10. He speaks of the struggle the biologists undertook to save his mate and their eight pups.

Ferguson also touches on the fears of the residents along the Beartooth Range.

"In the coming months, these 14 animals will rarely be cast as anything but gods or devils," Ferguson writes, "the cure sure to save us or the plague that will bring us down — always either a team of saviors or a herd of Trojan horses. Never just a bunch of predators, coming home."

Ferguson's wife, Jane, said she was very proud of her husband and his work.

"This is the best book Gary has written. It covers the wolves from their release to the present. I'm very proud of my husband...everyone involved," she said.

Jane Ferguson works for the park's environmental program. She is very familiar with the park and its concerns. "The book is different because it blends the natural history of the wolf with the people behind the project."

Most are familiar with the controversy behind the wolf release. The ranchers have their concerns, the locals have their concerns, the environmentalists have theirs, and of course the politicians have theirs.

The locals who reside around the wolf release areas want to be able to control what happens on

• SEE WOLVES PAGE A2

Students receive room and board for fighting fires —see page A3

Vandal men prepare to meet UC-Irvine tomorrow —see page A8

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 Comics.....page A11
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Weather

Today—

Breezy with rain showers. Highs around 50, Lows around 35.

Tomorrow—

Scattered showers, then partly sunny with highs near 45.



GPA •FROM PAGE A1

As a result, his GPA plummeted to a 1.3. Buchert decided some time away from school was needed in order to realign his focus. When he returned, he "made a pretty good contribution to UI as a returning student," Buchert said. He graduated last May with a 3.5 GPA.

Buchert wanted the council to know there are students like him who need the benefit of retaking a course without punitive academic action.

Also at Tuesday's meeting was Cooke's motion to add another change to the grading system. He proposed introducing a 20-credit limit to the number of credits a student may repeat to replace a grade.

However, the council voted to hold off on implementing this restriction until the new system has been instituted and properly evaluated.

The Feb. 6 general faculty meeting will allow faculty to

express their views to change the system or support the council's decision. One-fourth of the faculty must be present to constitute a quorum.

The last time enough faculty were present for a quorum was Dec. 7, 1993.

"I would hope enough faculty would care enough about our school to show up," Woods said.

WOLVES •FROM PAGE A1

their property or ranches. Since the gray wolf is listed as an endangered species, they can't.

There is hope the wolf will rebound in the area. The goal is to get 10 healthy packs. If this happens, the wolf will be de-listed and the ranchers will have more control over the fate of their livestock and livelihood.

"It was utterly blissful to encounter the wolves in the wild. I remember when the wolves woke me up one dawn; they began howling very, very close to me. They were calling the others in," Gary Ferguson said.

He also said it was incredible to see how playful the wolves were.

"I remember seeing a whole family sliding down a snow field. They slid for probably an hour before they moved on. Yellowstone Park is truly special place. Its gotten under my skin. There is a lot of magic there," he said.

Ferguson said the whole wolf controversy is starting to mellow out.

"We've destroyed the prey base by killing off a lot of the deer, elk and buffalo. The wolf has had to come down out of the mountains to survive. To date, the wolves have killed about 10 sheep."

Ferguson started his research with the original

14 wolves. He has spent a year of his life studying them in their natural habitat.

"You have about a 50-50 chance of seeing the wolves in the park. They can be seen near the north-east entrance near the Lamar Valley Highway usually at dawn or dusk," he said.

Ferguson has been a full-time writer for 15 years. His science and nature articles have appeared in over a hundred magazines, including *Outside*, *Big Sky Journal*, *Sierra*, *Travel-Holiday*, *Modern Maturity*, and productions of New York's Children's Television Workshop.

He is also the author of nine books on nature including the 1990 *Montana National Forests*, published by Falcon Press, which received the National Association for Interpretation Award for Excellence in Communication.

Before beginning his career, Ferguson spent four years as an interpretive naturalist in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho. He and his wife Jane now make their home in Red Lodge, Mont.

The author will be reading and showing slides at the Book People in Moscow on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m.; at the Washington State University Bookstore in Pullman on Feb. 24 from 11:30 to 1:30; and at the Whitman County Library on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.

Announcements

Today:

Get your order in

Graduation announcement orders will be taken at the Alumni Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 885-6154.

Help someone out

Recognizing African American Concerns in Education (R.A.A.C.E.) members will visit residence halls, fraternities and sororities to raise funds for seeds and blankets for Rwandans.

Finish that FAFSA

Students interested in federal financial aid for 1997-98 should complete and mail the Free Application for Federal Student Aid by today to make UI's priority deadline. Applications are available at Student Financial Aid Services.

Ongoing:

Discuss religion

United Methodist Campus Ministries, located in the Campus Christian Center, 822 Elm Street, is sponsoring a time for discussion, fellowship, spiritual renewal and study on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome regardless of religious background or denominational affiliations. For more information, call Laurie Brockman at 882-9057.

Learn to compute

Throughout the winter, computer classes for beginners and those needing instruction in Windows 95, World Wide Web, E-mail, home page design, etc. will be offered by the UI Enrichment program. Fees and times vary, for more information contact Alison Oman at 885-6486.

Make a donation

Sojourner's Alliance is looking for donations of antiques, appliances, art, and furniture for their first annual fundraising auction to be held March 8. The Alliance provides food, clothing and shelter to the homeless and poor. Call 883-3438 to donate items. Arrangements can be made to have them picked up.

Upcoming:

See the show

On Feb. 8 and 9, the Palouse Empire Mall will be hosting "Promises," their 1997 Bridal Promotion. Activities will include informational booths, a fashion show, a wedding song performance and the "Nearly Wed Game."

Go Oriental

China Night will be held Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. in the SUB Ballroom. It will feature dinner, traditional music, arts and entertainment in celebration of the Lunar New Year. Tickets, available at Ticket Express, are \$6 for adults and \$4 for seniors, students and their spouses. Youth tickets cost \$2, and children under 5 get in free. For information, call Huang Jianguo at 885-9413.

See the world

The International Friendship Association will host the Fifth Annual Afternoon of Culture, Costume, and Cuisine in the SUB Ballroom on Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. The program will feature dance, music, ceremonies and traditional dress from around the world. Tickets are \$6.50 for general public, \$4.50 for students and will go on sale Feb. 3 at Ticket Express. For more information, contact I.F.A. at 885-7841.

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Student residents needed at the fire department

Erin Schultz
Staff

If you have ever wondered who answers all those campus and community fire calls, chances are it's the guy or girl who sits next to you in education or business class.

As in years past, the Moscow Fire Department has places of residency available for University of Idaho students who are interested in giving their time to working for the fire department.

In exchange for acting as volunteer fire fighters, students receive free board at the fire station.

Right now, one spot is open for a student resident. By May, four more positions will become available. Both males and females can apply. Of the 15 volunteers right now, two are female.

Dave Pedras, a UI senior and student resident at the fire department, said he lives with people from all different majors.

"We have resource recreation majors, elementary education, agricultural engineering, business majors — all kinds of stuff," Pedras said.

Pedras has lived at the fire department for three years. Before being able to take on the responsibilities of a fire fighter, he went through a 70-hour basic training course lasting about three months.

In the course, Pedras learned about fire attacks, ventilation, forcible entry, how to handle search and rescue, chain of



The Volunteer Fire Fighters of Station No. 1 (from left to right: Shane Lowe, Soren Lowe, Dave Pedras, Vicki Edwards, Kevin Crowley, Steve Biehn. Not pictured: Wendy Amador, Robb Wong, Gordon Lance, Mike Kildee.



Peter McKinney

A fire axe waits for a call on engine No. 8.

“
I love it. There're so many benefits. It's an awesome responsibility, but also humbling.”

—Dave Pedras

command and other skills needed for the job.

In addition to responding to fire calls, volunteers also work closely with the community, doing things like safety fairs, running CPR classes, and working with Cub Scouts.

"I love it. There're so many benefits. It's an awesome responsibility, but also humbling," Pedras said.

Gordon Lance, another student resident said that generally speaking, it is not hard to balance school and his work.

"Sometimes there will be that fire call when you really have to study for a test, at the worst possible time, but it's usually not a problem," Lance said.

Depending on the week and their responsibilities in the department, student residents estimate that they give between 10 and 25 hours a week to their job.

"You get pretty close to people. We're around each other a lot and you get to know them that way," Gordon said.

Those wanting to apply for a spot at the fire department can pick up an application from the station, located at 6th and Main Street. Before becoming a volunteer, students are required to complete a basic training course consisting of night classes.

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SENATE • FROM PAGE A1

to go to Houston, Texas, and conduct micro-gravity experiments. One team from UI was selected. Team members include Tiffany Roddick, Nathan Stoddard, Josh Wilson and Daniels.

Daniels was the only senator to vote for the appropriation of funds to help former ASUI Advertising Manager Travis Quast finance a lawsuit against the University of Idaho. Quast prevailed in the suit against UI and was awarded access to summaries of the student-teacher evaluations, which he published last fall.

"I felt like I really understood the issue, based around the First Amendment rights," Daniels said. Most senators and other student government administrators didn't back the lawsuit.

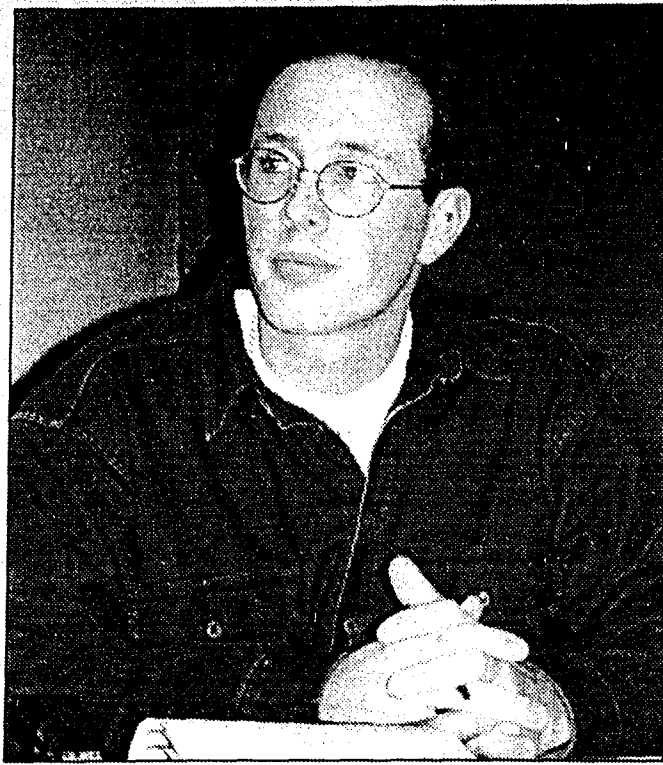
"I felt the Senate didn't understand the issue — they were afraid," Daniels said.

Along with the two open Senate seats, numerous positions within the ASUI are open for students to get involved. Any interested student needs to complete the appropriate application, which can be picked up at the ASUI office located on the main floor of the Student Union.

ASUI President Jim Dalton, Vice President Annie Averitt, Senate Pro Tempore Curt Wozniak, Senator Brian Tenney, and other campus leaders were at the Statehouse in Boise this past week for a legislative reception and scheduled meeting with Gov. Phil Batt.

"I'm looking forward to it. I hope we can talk about some important issues," Tenney said before the trip.

The UI alcohol policy has been under especially close observation by state legislators.



Erin Siemers

Jeff Daniels chairs his last Senate meeting.

ARGONAUT

Editor in Chief, 885-7825
Corinne Flowers

Entertainment Editor 885-2219
Christopher Clancy

News Editor, 885-7715
Janet Spencer

Opinion Editor, 885-8924
Brian Davidson

Sports Editor, 885-7705
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Copy Editor
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Photography Editor
Erin Siemers

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Page Design
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Student Media Business Manager
Laurna Campbell
Media Secretary/ Classified Ads 885-7825
Susan Treu

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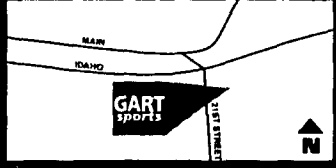
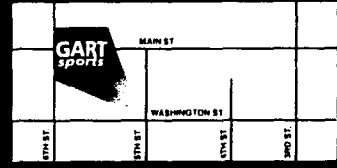
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OPINION

Hey, give us a break

Since becoming editor in chief I have spent some time pondering the purpose and role of the Argonaut on this campus and in the community as a whole.

Are we truly "The Students' Voice?" We do, after all, try to cover a broad scope of news and activities within the university and even the Moscow area. We don't publish every submission from every student who sends something to us, but we do make an effort to let their voices be heard as well as those of our staff. And this is a staff composed entirely of students. The advertising, the news, the photographs, every section, every word is from a student. No one censors us and no one requires us to publish anything.

And I'll say again as I've said so many times before, if you want to see a change in the paper send a letter with some constructive suggestions, join the staff, sub-

mit an article for publication, or write a guest opinion column. But please stop whining about the fact that we have too much Greek coverage but not enough residence hall coverage, and too much residence hall coverage and never anything about the Greeks, and what about this organization that I belong to and what about this coalition or this group or this thing or his thing or her thing or my thing.

Listen people, we put out two issues a week. We cannot possibly cover every thing that goes on, but we try to get a good variety of coverage which we believe our readers will be interested in, and I think we do a pretty good job of putting out a quality publication.

But apparently not good enough for some people.

I can't tell you how many phone calls I

get every day of a father who wants a reprint of his child finger-painting on page three of last weeks' issue — 8 x 10 glossy right away and for no charge, please.

And the person who demands that their annual hamster club meeting be covered and run on the front page with full color photographs, and oh, could you please put that into the calendar and announcements page and run an ad for me free of charge?

No!

We are a business. We sell advertising to get revenue to pay salaries and the incredibly high cost of printing. We sacrifice our grades and our jobs to work up here for pittance. We face criticism and complaints every day, and once in a very rare while a little bit of praise comes our way.

Did you know that there is no allocated amount taken from your student fees to

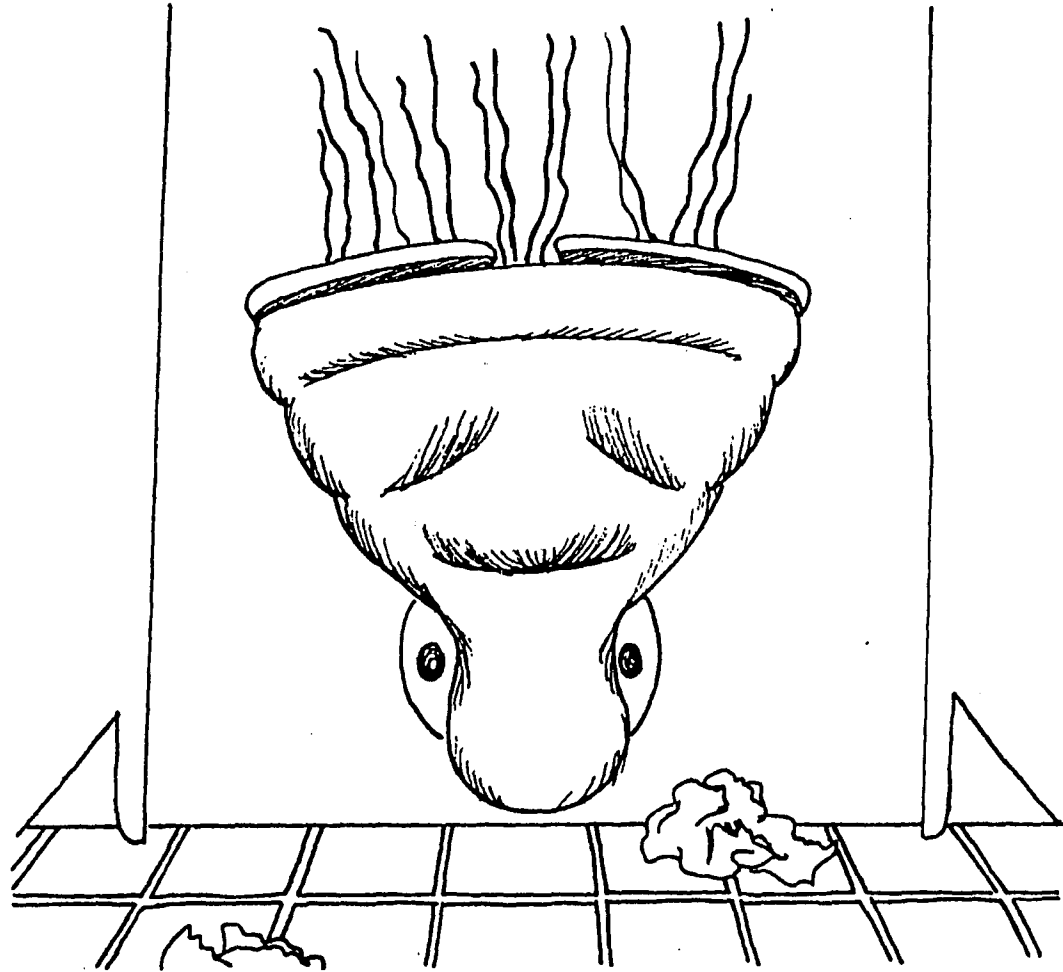
support this paper? We are subsidized by the general reserve of the ASUI Senate which we are expected to pay back in full with our ad revenue at the end of each fiscal year. And we usually come pretty darn close to giving back that money.

But we feel that we're doing an important job and we just want you to know that we're doing it for you, the students and the citizens of Moscow, and we're proud of what we do.

Take a look at the Argonaut, or any campus paper, from years past. Then take a look at today's.

Then stop demanding we be your personal information service, and instead keep us politely informed and aware of what's going on in your corner of the world. I guarantee we'll do our best to fairly and accurately represent you.

—Corinne Flowers



Bring a magazine and a gas mask

Ladies, this one's for us to figure out, crude though it may be. The first time I had to use the bathroom on the main floor of the Student Union, I opened the first door, tripped on the useless 2-inch ledge on the floor, and nearly opened the second door with my head. After I was able to stand on both feet,

Who knew?



Effie MacDonald

"doings" of some human. Not just a human, but a woman!

For the one and a half years that I've been here, I have never been able to open that second door without tears welling in my

eyes from the overpowering odor. Now, for those of you who are creating this foul "fragrance" — I realize it's better to make others suffer than those in your own dorm room or house, but come on. You're giving the rest of us oh-so-pure (who am I trying to fool) women a bad rap.

A couple issues need to be faced here. First off, it's not fair for anybody to have to deal with such a rank smell, whether you created it or not. I don't know if the custodians are too repulsed to enter the room and clean it, or if there simply are no means for the air to escape and be purified. Whatever the case may be, before somebody comes down with some toxic, nuclear waste disease from the nauseating aroma in there, something needs to be done. My gosh, even the lights in there are dim. I'd say this is probably from the haze which has permanently made itself at home.

I am suggesting either some type of POWERFUL air freshener or a fan. Please, for the safety of us all.

Somebody was finally good enough to warn those of us not born with the greatest amount of grace, with a sign regarding the ledge at the foot of the door. I think it would

• SEE GAS MASK PAGE A6

To be returned or not, that is the question

On Saturday I knew I forgot to do something. Go to the store and fill my bottomless gut? No, with my remaining financial aid I had already bought enough Top Ramen to feed Jabba the Hut. All right, how about some beer, did I make the run to

Walmart? Yep.

It seems that on every Saturday afternoon I'm caught in this alternative universe where I stumble around and try to remember what it was I had to do on this particular day.

Of course, I needed to return the movie rentals due back that day. In my hung-over, clouded mind I finally decided to return what wasn't mine.

Sound familiar?

If you answered no at this particular stage, well, you're lying.

At this moment in time, thousands upon millions of video renters are dreaming up a scheme in which they

can drop off their rented movies and book out of the store without getting questioned about being late.

Why has this hidden American crisis spread like bad haircuts or a killer disease? Really, there are no answers. Some may blame it on a simple case of procrastination. Although, if you believe that then there's a story I could tell you about myself suiting up for the Dallas Cowboys.

Scholars have struggled with the delinquent rental dilemma for years and its answer is still unknown (this question is the second most difficult, next to the mysterious contents of the purple stuff in Sunny Delight commercials).

Not even the Greek Oracles have been able to solve this mind boggling question.

So, why do we consistently strive to not return rented movies? For now let's forget about the how and why and concentrate on the actual crime.

It's two days after you rented the *Godfather* series and you decide, "yah, I'll have to take those movies back pretty soon." So in the meantime you'll watch them a couple more times.

Day 5: It's getting down to crunch time — I mean a series overdue fine is building. The answering machine is screening your calls because you know the pestering video rental clerk will call again. If you do happen to get caught picking up the phone, the first words out of your mouth is, "I've been out of town for a while," or "my buddy said he took them back already."

As you sit in the old Lazy Boy recliner, pondering your next move — r-r-i-i-n-g-g.

Your heart jumps in fear as if you'd just heard that Pauly Shore was doing another movie. Without thinking, you pick up the phone. Yep. It's the video lady. And this time she's not taking any b.s. line.

She wants the truth — but can she handle the truth?

The truth is, you've been sitting on that chubby college rump of yours and didn't even have the motivation to walk a few blocks and turn in what isn't yours. Sure, try and convince yourself there wasn't time — but the truth is, watching reruns of "The A-team" and "The Dukes of Hazard" was more important.

And even then you could've passed on playing a season of Techno Bowl on Nintendo.

Conversation: "No, Mr./Mrs. (your name) isn't here, can I take a message?"

"Well, would you tell Mr./Mrs. (your name) that he/she

• SEE SATURDAY PAGE A7

OPINION

GAS MASK • FROM PAGE A5

with a sign regarding the ledge at the foot of the door. I think it would be equally as wise to warn everybody of the danger that lingers behind the second door, as well. Perhaps an "enter at your own risk" sign, (like one of the cool ones that used to hang on your bedroom door at home).

For those of you fortunate enough to not have experienced this grotesque encounter with waste and the extents the human body will go to in order to repulse others, consider yourselves lucky and forewarned.

In order to inform you amateurs of the world behind those doors, let me just say that the pungency blowing down from the agriculture barns above Perimeter Drive on a warm summer's day doesn't stand a chance against what I've encountered in that bathroom.

Don't let the fact there are two doors there fool you into believing it's for privacy. In all actuality, without the security of both doors, the entire SUB would be

exposed to what may be the cause of the rash of illness about the campus.

Guys, I don't know if you have to deal with the same situation. (Unless there is a stack of magazines in the bathroom, I'm going to venture to say no). But if indeed you believe you are being threatened by what lags in the air in your restroom, let it be known that I FEEL what you FEEL.

Why, you ask, do you continue to use that restroom? Perhaps I choose to take on the perplexing challenges in my life. Maybe it's making me a stronger person. It could be that when you gotta go, you gotta go, and that one flight of stairs to the second floor is quite a hike. And the final reason for my continued use of that particular restroom: I am hoping for that one perfect day when I walk in there, not tripping and not gagging, and find that the stench was actually taken care of.

Argonaut Letters & Guest Columns Policy

The Argonaut welcomes reader letters and guest columns. Letters must be typed, double spaced, signed and include the phone number and address of each writer. Letters may also be submitted by e-mail to argonaut@uidaho.edu or by fax to (208) 885-2222. The Argonaut reserves the right to refuse or edit letters. Guest columns must go through the same editing and approval process as our staff columns. Ideas expressed in the Opinion section are those of the writers. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Argonaut or the Associated Students of the University of Idaho.

Letters to the Editor

Irish-Americans not guilty of "shamrockery"

A trio of British visitors to the Palouse have been unhappy to learn that, even in the wilds of Idaho, there are cheeky Americans who question the legitimacy of Britain's continuing occupation of the north of Ireland. The latest Britons to weigh in on the subject are Elaine Winstanley and Emma Saunders, whose letter to the editor appeared in the Jan. 22 issue of the Argonaut. Let me respond to two or three of their observations:

W and S scold Americans critical of Britain's deplorable misuse of Ireland with the suggestion that, "Perhaps your time and energy would be better spent attempting to solve some of the USA's manifold social problems instead of espousing blinkered declarations on issues occurring on the other side of the world." Well, perhaps British visitors enjoying American hospitality should spend some time and energy contemplating the plain fact that it was America's refusal to ignore issues and events occurring on the other side of the world that saved England's bacon in more than one world war.

Regardless of their ethnicity or interests,

Americans are not required to seek anyone's permission to form and express their own opinions about the state of affairs in Ireland, the UK or any other country, thank you very much.

W and S strike a touchingly plaintive note when they ask what is to be done with Ulster unionists who would be uncomfortable living in a united Ireland. "Ship them en masse to England, perhaps?" they ask. I personally think this suggestion has merit, and I thank W and S for bringing it up for consideration. I would only add that the sons and daughters of the Irish Diaspora worldwide stand ready to provide financial assistance to British citizens — sorry, subjects — in Ulster who might need help in purchasing a one-way ferry ticket to England, where they are sure to be welcomed with open arms by their countrymen.

Finally, let's not overlook the condescending observations that "Americans, particularly those with an Irish background, do romanticize the Irish program." This is a timeworn English fantasy, based on the rather delusional belief that Americans so described are misty-eyed sentimentalists, innocent of intellect, who wander around in a state of dazed

shamrockery, totally out of touch with world history, politics and current events. What nonsense!

This being my second published letter to the editor, I won't trouble the Argonaut readers again with my thoughts on this subject. A wealth of material representing all sides of the Irish conflict is available on the Internet. I encourage interested readers to review it and form their own conclusions.

—D.A. Blanco

Editor's note: While the Argonaut encourages open debate on subjects of interest to the student body, one can't help but to feel the continued debate on the fate of Northern Ireland between a handful of students is close to rendering the subject moot. The Argonaut, in fairness, will accept a response from Winstanley and Saunders.

Writer mistaken in salary story

I want to thank the Argonaut for running the story on faculty salaries, and especially

for focusing on our associate professors, the main point of my news release which other newspapers chose to de-emphasize.

I do, however, want to correct an error. Your writer somehow got the mistaken impression that associate professors do not teach!

Except for librarians and counselors, all UI associate professors do teach. Associate professors in the humanities and social sciences do much of the teaching in the core curriculum and other general education courses. Despite this special responsibility and the heaviest teaching loads in the university, they are, after UI librarians, the lowest paid associate professors at UI.

Your reporter was correct in stating that market forces have dictated these low salaries, but the UI administration is not bound by this unfair standard. We in the American Federation of Teachers challenge the UI administration to direct a portion of the equity money to these hard-working professors.

—Nick Grier
President, UI American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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OPINION

I'm taking my democracy and going home

Most of us have been in a situation that parallels this one: A kid playing basketball gets a lot of his shots blocked, the other team calls him for traveling, and he or she always gets picked last.

Eventually, they start whining and say, "I'm taking my ball and going home." No one ever likes those people, whether they are your bosses of today or the person with whom you share your bed.

The reason that they aren't very likable, folks, is that they think by virtue of the power they hold over you they should be allowed to get their way, whether it is deserved or not.

You aren't supposed to respect them; you owe them and thus you should do their bidding.

Will Geeslin
The Kentucky Kernel
(U. of Kentucky)

Unfortunately, we Americans have collectively taken our ball and gone home regarding our United Nations dues.

It strikes me as funny (and then embarrassing) that we, the United States of America (insert "Onward Christian Soldiers" here), are convinced that we hold the light of democracy for the world.

However, it seems we only support democracy when it is in our best interest, i.e. when we have a majority.

The reason we owe \$1.4 billion to the United Nations is that we don't like the democracy they have over there — we lose votes because the rest of the world doesn't like us.

The developing countries have a majority, and we can't strong-arm or buy them off like our poverty-challenged "representatives" in Washington, D.C. Why?

Because we give the lowest amount of foreign aid of any country in the industrialized world;

thus the U.N. delegates from Paraguay know that the United States has nothing to back up its threats.

When Jesse Helms et al. clamor for U.N. "reforms," what they really mean is that they want the voting body to toe the party line — i.e. do what the United States tells them to do.

God forbid that they vote with their countries' best interests in mind. What's good for the United States has to be what's good for the world, right?

Since the United States ostensibly provides 25 percent of the U.N. budget, the new U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan (Koh-Fee, Anon), has recently been forced to come begging to D.C. in the hope that the United States will pay what it owes.

I am saddened by our hypocrisy and understand why most of the world holds us in contempt. When you don't like something that Congress does, what do you do? You register your protest, of course, by refusing to pay taxes, saying that you will pay what you owe when Congress passes reforms. Then the Internal Revenue Service comes to your house, promising to talk to Congress and make sure that Newt will keep his neo-fascist crusade off the public dole; further, the friendly IRS people ensure you that they will talk to the president and his cronies to get them to stop accepting foreign money for campaigns. Oh wait, I forgot — what really happens if you don't pay taxes is that you go to jail.

In the real world, if you don't like what Congress does, you work within the system and try to bring the other side around through compromise. However, since the United States is the only remaining "superpower," no one can send in the troops (as we ourselves have done so many times before) to force us to do anything.

"We owe \$1.4 billion?!" you might be saying. "That's a hell of a lot of money."

SATURDAY FROM PAGE A5

has three movies out and there's a \$30 late fee attached," the video lady says.

"(Gulp) I'll leave the message." That's it — finally you've decided it's time to go on a trip to the video store. But wait, this mission is dangerous. It entails sprinting into the video store, tossing the rentals on the counter and using your slug-like speed to disappear, with little or no sound (shame to the store without an outside drop box).

The door swings open for an eternity. Quickly yet clumsily you hand the videos to a clerk who meets you about halfway across the store.

"Does she know it's me," you won-

der. The lady then stares you down and before a slight hesitation, you bolt for the door while stiff-arming some skinny punk customer on the way out.

The nerve-wracking disorder is over. Or is it?

That very day you decide to rent from another video rental store, this time you rent four movies. The reoccurring unsolved mystery continues.

By the end of the year, you've racked up fines at every video store in the immediate Palouse region — soon you begin asking around about Circle K's rental policy.

Truly, there are no real solutions. For those of us with stacks of videos,

each with a different container pin-pointing a separate video store, we can attest. Heck, I still have *Vice-Versa*, that corny switching places movie from the 1980s — coincidentally, I rented it from Blockbuster just a few short years ago.

Hopefully, after reading this column the delinquents won't feel like freaks or something. Don't feel bad, there are many of us non-returners out there.

If this column didn't help and you're seeking some kind of peace and tranquillity — go buy the damn things.

POT SHOTS

By Brian Davidson

Graduation application or the Inquisition?

If certain students looked more bedraggled and wild-eyed as they darted from location to location on campus Jan. 27, it's a fair bet they were either regretting Sunday night's burrito binge or they were hopeful seniors frantically trying to get their graduation applications in order.

The application comes in several daunting parts, the bulkiest of which is the senior survey wherein you're required to answer questions that may have well been asked by Arnold Schwarzenegger in ancient Greek. It's a comforting thought then, that the survey is easily completed by anyone with a No. 2 pencil and a little imagination.

It's the cursed two-page graduation application and the information necessary to complete it that caused seniors to scramble. In running from office to adviser to office then back to the adviser I felt like Asterix and Obelix — heroes of a popular French comic strip — as they tried in vain to find a copy of permit number 838 in an office building nicknamed The Place That Drives You Mad.

Asterix and Obelix always wound up disturbing the fellow being pushed in his in-office swing by his secretary, and I always wound up at the Registrar's window consulting a cheerful employee who apparently never grew tired of my repeated appearances.

Advice to next semester's seniors, or freshmen for that matter: See your advisers often. Maybe it's fun to blow them off for a few years, but come graduation time you're going to need a few pinch-hitters in your lineup, I assure you.

Communications professor and able counselor Don Coombs told me the whole process — which has been simplified from years past — may be computerized on the UI Banner system in a few years. We agreed that sounds like a mixed blessing.

Maybe it's beta carotene?

The Argonaut quoted Gary Smith, chief operator of the City of Moscow water department in an article Jan. 28 as saying Moscow water recently passed a contaminants test "with flying colors."

I concur. Water often flies out of my Wallace Complex tap a pale yellow and is slowly turning a white plastic cup I use a dull orange. Oh look! A rainbow!

The Chef of the Future ought to see this

Larry Friedlander, who is evidently some kind of technology guru, will be the feature speaker at WSU's Stepping out of the Box: Multimedia for the Next Generation conference to be given at the Compton Union on Feb. 6.

"The computer of the future," say his advertisements, "will be hidden away in the world around us and controlled by voice, movement and even brainwaves or heartbeats."

Am I the only one frightened by such talk? Technology is great and all, but this kind of Star Trek talk really can give a person the heebie-jeebies, especially when you figure not everybody on this planet will be able to afford such trinkets.

Ray Bradbury, science-fiction writer extraordinaire, writes about such technology in his book *The Illustrated Man*, which could easily be used as a technophobe manual for the future. I've got my copy. How about you?

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SPORTS

Joe comes home to the Dome

Nate Peterson and Damon Barkdull
Staff, and Sports Editor

After shaking a five-game losing streak the Idaho Vandals men's basketball team (8-11 overall, 1-5 conference) will host UC-Irvine (1-5, 1-14) in a Big West showdown on Saturday night in the Kibbie Dome. The Anteaters offer UI a good shot of winning yet another conference game.

• Cravens returns to Moscow

Saturday will mark the first return of former Vandal coach Joe Cravens who was fired after a three-year coaching debacle ('93-'96) that saw the Vandals finish sixth in the Big Sky his last two years. During Cravens' stint as UI's coach he amassed a record of 42-41.

Cravens is now an assistant coach for the UC-Irvine Anteaters. Irvine has almost hit rock bottom, with a 1-14 overall record making them the worst team in the Big

West. The Anteaters were running on a 13-game losing streak before they won an exciting 76-74 overtime victory against the Nevada Wolf Pack. Lamarr Parker led the Anteaters with a game-high 22 points and 11 assists in the contest.

The game on Saturday has the potential for emotions to run very high.

Idaho's Kris Baumann, Jason Jackman and Eddie Turner all played under Cravens last season.

"They all have a really good feeling about Joe (Cravens)," Davis said. "It was similar for me when we played Utah State here. There were a lot of guys there that I helped recruit."

Cravens left the University of Idaho last year under much scrutiny and criticism by fans and administration.

Soon after, Cravens joined Rob Baker and the UC-Irvine coaching

staff in hopes of contributing to a Division I-A basketball team.

The Anteaters are led by Parker (15 ppg) and go-to-man Brian Johnson (13.8 ppg).

• Derrick Elliott reinstated

Guard Derrick Elliott has returned to the team after his dismissal two weeks ago and will be active in what could be a turning point in the Vandals season.

"Derrick Elliott has been back the last few practices and his attitude has been outstanding putting the team first in every situation," Davis said. "As long as Derrick does that throughout his career he is going to be a very good player."

Elliott's dismissal is in the past as far as coach Davis is concerned.

"It's part of coaching and you don't like to go through with it," Davis said. "A coach doesn't like to discipline his players but you've got to do what the situation calls for. Derrick made a mistake, that's behind us."

• SEE ELLIOTT PAGE A9



Bruce Twitchell

The Vandal men picked up the intensity in practice this week as they prepare for UC-Irvine tomorrow in the Kibbie Dome.

Vandal women on the road

Kindra Meyer
Asst. Sports Editor

Big West opponents beware — the Vandals are coming to your town. The University of Idaho women's team is on the rise, winning their last three conference games in a row, including uprooting New Mexico State's perfect Big West record. Next in their path of destruction is Cal-State Fullerton on Friday and UC Irvine in a Sunday match-up.

A couple of wins have not only boosted team morale but Big West standings as well. The Vandals are ranked second in the Eastern Division with a 8-9 season, 3-2 conference record. At the top of the charts is Boise State University, a team Idaho beat last week.

Although the Vandals got off to a slow start early in the season, they are charging full speed ahead now. With a number of fresh faces and young players, there was some question as to what coach Julie Holt would be able to pull off during this season. It's clear to opponents and fans alike that this UI team has all

the ingredients to shoot straight to the top.

"This team is coming together and it's the players who are putting it together," coach Julie Holt said. "Everybody is doing their part, doing what they're good at and filling each individual role."

An essential element to the success of the team goes to one of their new additions. Center Alli Nieman has certainly lived up to all expectations, leading the team in both points (17.6) and rebounds (9.5) per game as a true freshman. But it's not just the big numbers that impress those who follow her — it's the little things she does.

If we're going to talk fire, if we're going to talk spunk, then we must talk Kathryn Gussett. Also an unfamiliar face, Gussett transferred from a junior college to join UI's Big West quest as a forward. Her statistics are solid, averaging 8.6 points and 5.9 boards a game but it's her competitive edge and attitude that make her such an asset.

"The new players who have come in have raised the level of the players already in the program," assistant coach Kate Rue said. "Just over the last three games

• SEE WOMEN PAGE A10

Kermit knows hoops

Nate Peterson
Staff

Idaho coach Kermit Davis brings personality and energy to the world of basketball, which is often times seldom seen.

A native of Mississippi, Davis has a congenial and hospitable way of dealing with people, reflecting his upbringing as a Southern gentleman. Throughout his life he has applied himself to basketball and people. In effect Davis has become one of the youngest and most successful coaches around.

For now, winning isn't as important to Davis as the performance of his players. Davis wants his players to not only excel on the court but to also work hard in school.

"We're laying our foundation right now," Davis said. "I feel really good about what our guys are doing not only on the floor but in the classroom."

For Davis, this year has not only been a rebuilding year but also his return to the rolling hills of the Palouse and the basketball program that he led to 52 wins and 12 losses in two years.

"It was good to be back," Davis said. "We made a lot of good friends back here in '86 through '90. I spent two years as an assistant coach to Tim Floyd and two years as head coach in '89 through '90."

The steps Davis took were astounding, not to mention his unusual and premature leap to success.

"I was 28 when I got the head coaching job here," Davis said. "I was the youngest Division I coach in the nation and I learned a lot."

Davis has come back to Moscow and received a warm welcome which made the move that much easier.

"It was the easiest transition I ever made," Davis said. "I knew a lot of people, the surroundings and a lot of boosters."

Davis has the job of rebuilding the program that he helped revive under coach Floyd. Davis wants to bring back a successful basketball team and develop the enthusiasm of fans.

"We had a lot of success and I was surrounded by good players and we really had a lot of great support," Davis said. "Every night in the Kibbie Dome we had loud crowds with a lot of student body support."

Rebuilding the Vandals will be a tough job, coupled with the fact that the Vandals are in a new and stronger conference.

"When we came here in 1986 they had finished dead last in the Big Sky for three years," Davis said. "We're kind of in the same situation, except that building in the Big Sky is much quicker than the Big West."

The challenge, however, is willingly accepted by Davis. As a competitor, the situation made it more enticing to return.

"The league is better and it's going to take a little bit longer and so I wanted to come back and see if we could get this team competitive in a better league," Davis said. "We will."

Next season may again be a struggle with the losses of Jackman, Turner and guard Reggie Rose. Davis, however, is patient and optimistic for the development of his team.

"We feel good about next year even though we are going to lose three very good players," Davis said. "But we've got some good players sit-

• SEE KERMIT PAGE A9



Vandal news and notes

First Security Boulder Mountain Tour officially kicks off the Winter Games

SUN VALLEY— The First Security Winter Games officially get underway on Saturday in Sun Valley with the Boulder Mountain Tour. The official start time is scheduled for 10 a.m.

This marks the 22nd year for the Boulder Mountain Tour. As part of the United States Ski Association's Great American Ski Chase, it is one of the largest cross-country marathon races in the West. Last year nearly 700 racers representing 12 states, competed in this 30-kilometer race that winds through Galena National Park near Ketchum, Idaho.

This year promises to offer a competitive field of racers. Several U.S. ski team members will be racing as well as the 1996 First Security Boulder Mountain Tour male and female gold medal winners, Ben Husaby of Bend, Ore., and Ingrid Butts of Park City, Utah.

The second annual Nordic Ski Festival is scheduled for Sunday following the Boulder Mountain Tour. This event will include Nordic ski demos, clinics, children's obstacle courses, relay races and other activities.

Also on the agenda for this weekend is youth hockey in Idaho Falls and Sunday is a snowboarding competition at Bogus Basin near Boise.

Idaho native talks about season

Byron Jarnagin
Staff

In the tradition of old and new, Idaho native and veteran basketball player Kris Baumann started his college career as a true freshman at UI — putting him in a position to be a part of two totally different Idaho basketball teams: the newest being this season's team in the Big West Conference under the direction of Vandal coach Kermit Davis.

Born and raised in New Plymouth, Idaho, Baumann, 21, started playing ball for the Vandals while Idaho was still part of the Big Sky as a freshman and sophomore. Having been a part of the program for three years, Baumann has seen the changing of the guard.

"College really eliminates a lot of people and since I have been here I bet I've lost eight or nine teammates since the beginning of my freshman year for a variety of different reasons," Baumann said. "In this new league we have not played any cupcakes, everyone has been really good. In the Big Sky you could have an off night and still pull out a victory but in this league you just get hammered if you have an off night."

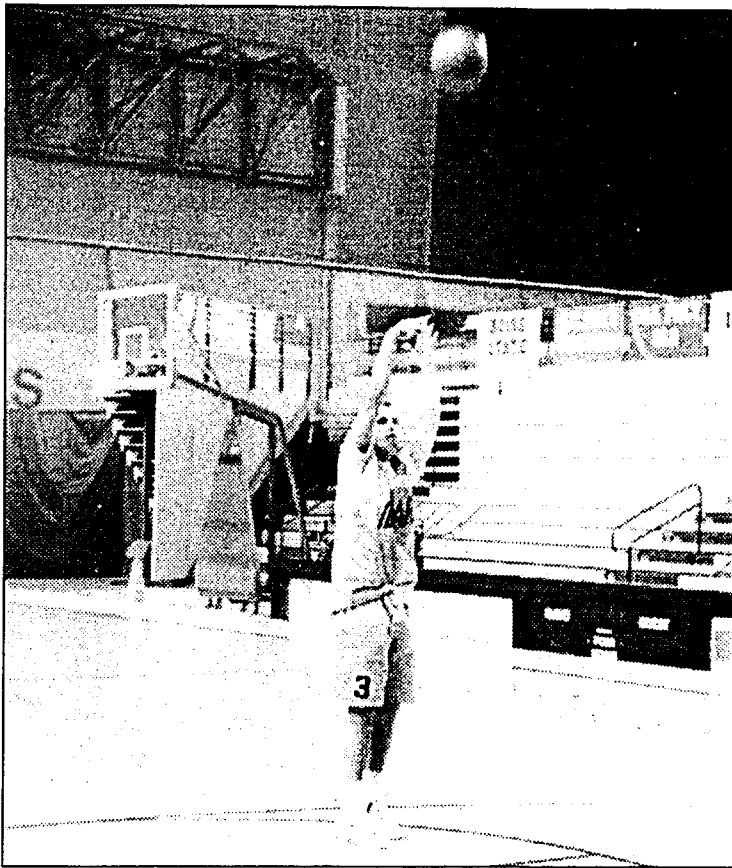
Coming into the Big West the Vandals were ranked in the sixth position at the beginning of the season but Baumann said this is nothing to get discouraged about.

"You never want to think that you will finish the season in one of those last spots and right now we still have a chance to finish in the top four which will give us enough to make it into the tournament," Baumann said. "I think we have a real good shot at it but we need to create two big wins out of our next two home games. Once we get into the tournament anything can happen even though people still hold over our heads that we are only 1-5 in the conference."

With the injury to Reggie Rose, the 6-foot-1 junior was the only true guard still in the line-up for the Vandals.

"I've had to pick up my game to cover the loss of Reggie and I've had some nice nights and some off nights," Baumann said. "It has been an eye opener for me because there is some really good talent in this league and I have had to match-up against guards every night that are very, very good."

This year the Vandals are in a rebuilding phase and Baumann realizes that things aren't going to



Bruce Twitchell

While Kris Baumann may be seen most often on the court, his 3.6 G.P.A. last semester indicates a strong academic ethic in the classroom.

be perfect the first year with so many new additions to the team. Having watched Idaho as a high school student, Baumann has witnessed some great Vandal basketball. Baumann believes in time good things will come to his team.

"It is going to take a while, but coach Davis is going to turn this program around basically into the way he had things running before — when the teams he coached were recording 20-8 and 21-6 seasons," Baumann said. "First of all, the players have to get used to him. I spent two years with a totally different coach and system and when you are used to a certain way of doing things on the court you have habits. Thanks to him I have become a lot better player."

"One of the biggest differences that surprised some of us was coach Davis' huge stress on academics and we all found out he really doesn't put up with any failure in this department," Baumann said. "If you don't make it to your academic meetings or miss a session of study hall you have big problems and it really changed me. Coach has helped me with my confi-

dence, with basketball and with my grades."

On the offensive side of the ball, Baumann has been one of the Vandal's go-to-guys from behind the three-point arch, averaging 2.5 treys per game.

"He's really improved," said Davis. "The improvement really came because of the off-season and summer workouts in the weight room. Kris really has stepped it up and he's very vocal in practice."

The junior is also averaging 9.8 points per game and his performance has helped keep Idaho in games in clutch situations.

"I take enough threes and thinking back to high school. I think I put up something like 270 threes my senior year, so I guess that is the way that I have always been," Baumann said. "My teammates really do a good job of finding me on the perimeter during some of those clutch situations."

Baumann has his heart set on a birth in the conference tournament and came into the season believing this feat will be within Idaho's grasp near the end of the season.

ELLIOTT • FROM PAGE 2

The Vandals have lost some close match ups this season, especially to Big West opponents. Idaho coach Kermit Davis, however, remains optimistic and proud of his team.

"We've made a lot of adjustments the past month and I've been really proud of those guys," Davis said. "A lot of teams would have just quit and not be competitive but we've been right there in every game except for New Mexico State."

There have been more than just a substantial amount of adjustments for Davis and his staff. With injuries and players leaving, Davis has had to utilize players he hadn't planned on.

• Jon Harris jumps into rookie season

Freshman Jon Harris has played major minutes and started, despite Davis' preconceptions of redshirting him. Transfer Jarrett Wendt is stepping up and football standout Robert Scott has walked onto the team. Fortunately, the players are developing and playing roles essential to a winning program.

"The best thing for Jon would've been for him to redshirt," Davis said. "I think he is going to be a really good player in our program. Because of injuries and a couple of

guys leaving our program he had to play. I think that he has responded really well."

Davis is equally satisfied with the performances of Scott and Wendt.

"We've had a nice addition with Robert Scott — and Jared Wendt, he has stepped it up," Davis said.

• Vandals face uphill battle in Big West

Although the Vandals have been competitive, they will need to bring their talent to a higher level if they're to get a birth in the Big West Tournament.

"It's difficult right now," Davis said. "We put ourselves in a hole because of some home losses early. We've still got a chance and we're working on good quality play."

Much of the quality play is going to have to come out of senior center Jason Jackman, whose 26 points and six rebounds led to the win at North Texas last week. Leadership must also come from guards Eddie Turner and Kris Baumann, who are both averaging just under 10 points a game.

"We have to play a really good quality of basketball to win," Davis said. "Our team does not have the luxury of not playing well and still winning."

KERMIT • FROM PAGE A8

ting out and we've got some players who are going to step up next year."

In the Davis family, coaching runs in the blood. Davis' father, Kermit Davis Sr., was a head coach at Mississippi State. Although Kermit Sr. spurned the idea of his son following in his footsteps, Kermit Jr. decided at a young age that he would.

"He really didn't want me to be a coach," Davis said. "But that's what I knew I wanted to be when I was 10. I was very fortunate that he was in the position that he was. He really helped my career take off and I got the chance to meet a lot of coaches and players — going to places like Kentucky and Georgia."

Davis' respect and admiration goes beyond any help that his father gave him. Kermit Sr. gave him someone to look up to.

"He gave me a head start and he was very instrumental in my success," Davis said. "There's no doubt about it, he was my role model. He was great with people and he had a great personality. I'm probably being biased but if you ask almost anyone in Mississippi, he's one of the most well known guys."

Applying oneself in a career and to family is something that Davis has done for some time. Amazingly enough, Davis also finds time to help a cause that has hit close to home.

"I have a little girl who was born with Down syndrome," Davis said. "I've always been active in it before that — as a college player and even here. We're doing a project right now that gives money to state Special Olympics."

At age 38, Davis has already had a rich career of basketball as both a coach and a player. Davis gained many fond memories playing junior college ball and moving on later to Mississippi State.

"I was a role player and it was fun because that was when (Charles) Barkley, (Dominique) Wilkins and Sam Bowie were all in the league (SEC)," Davis said. "Barkley as a young player couldn't even tuck his shirt in he was so fat. He was about 6-foot-4 and weighed 290 (pounds). I remember he caught the ball in the post and went vertical over our guy, dunking on him. It was amazing."



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Attention Graduating Seniors!

What: Graduation Announcement Orders

Where: Alumni Office, Lounge

When: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, January 29th, 30th & 31st

Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Questions? Call the Alumni Office at 885-6154

WOMEN • FROM PAGE A8

we've gelled and accumulated a lot of confidence. It's been a combination of the new additions and the players here already. Players are coming in off the bench having really strong performances and everybody really contributing. Each and every player is making a difference," Rue said.

A couple of those bench benefits lately have come from a mix of old and new blood. Senior reserve Jill Ortner is producing steady back-up at point guard. Ortner picked up 8 and 9 points against BSU and New Mexico State. True freshman Amy Lemm also added spark to the New Mexico State defeat as she scored 5 points in 11 minutes on the floor and swiped



Bruce Twitchell
Freshman sensation Alli Nieman plays a little defense in a mid-week scrimmage at Memorial Gym.

three steals in their come-back victory.

The bottom line is that everyone is contributing and doing their job, just ask Holt, who has something good to say about everyone.

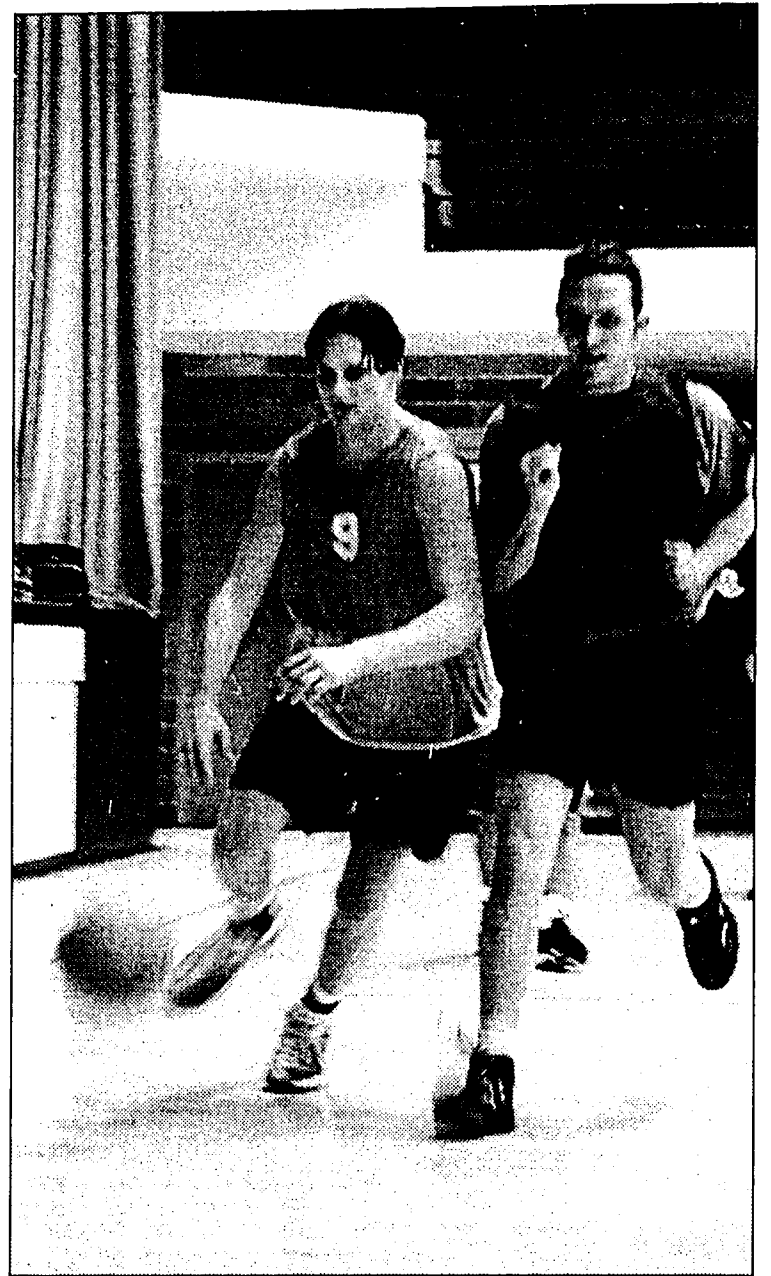
"It's really hard to point out stand-out players, because I honestly have to mention everyone on the team," Holt said. Kathryn Gussett has been playing very well the last three games, Alli Nieman the same thing. You also have to look at players coming off the bench like Jill Ortner who's doing a great job backing up Ari Skorpik and giving her some breathing room. Jennifer Stone is really making things happen at key times and Amy Lemm has come off and done a nice job..... I could go through and basically name everyone."

Friday's match-up on the road with Cal-State Fullerton hopes to be another notch on the Vandal's victory belt. The Titans finally ended an eight-game losing streak with a win over UC-Irvine which may boost their confidence. However, they are still struggling with a record of 6-9 overall, 1-4 in conference. Four Fullerton players are averaging in double-figures, led by guard Andrea Thieme. The sophomore scored a career high 29 points in their first conference victory over UC-Irvine.

While some may be eagerly eyeing a groundhog hole, the Vandals hope to cast a shadow over another animal, the UC-Irvine Anteater. Although their records boast little leverage either way, Idaho is gliding on a three-game winning streak, while UC-Irvine has lost two straight. Ranked second in the Western Division of the Big West with an 8-9, 3-3 conference record, the match-up with the Vandals looks formidable. In order to get past the Anteaters, UI must get by Leticia Oseguera, a junior forward who is averaging 17.8 points and 9.7 rebounds per game.

Practice this week continues and the Vandal coaching staff is trying to keep everyone in synch.

"We've been working a lot on our transition offense and defense because the two teams that we are going to face like to push the ball and score on the break," Rue said. "We're trying to keep the focus on what we do well, keeping what has been working, going. This time of year especially we're refining the little things, making sure we're sharp."



Bruce Twitchell
Intramural basketball is into full swing. Teams from both recreational and competitive divisions battled it out this week in Memorial Gym.

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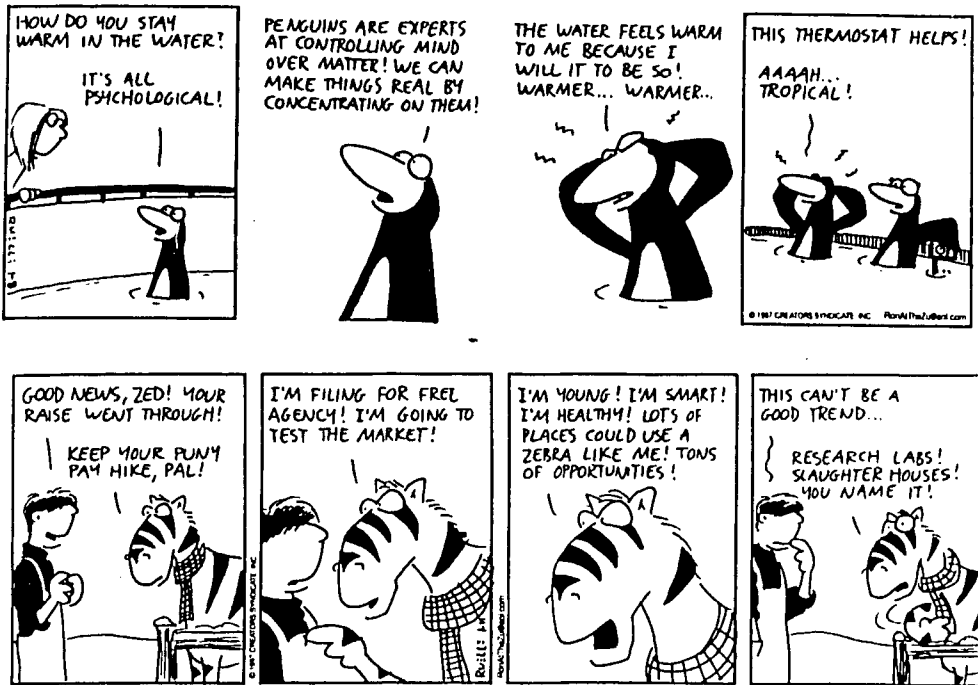
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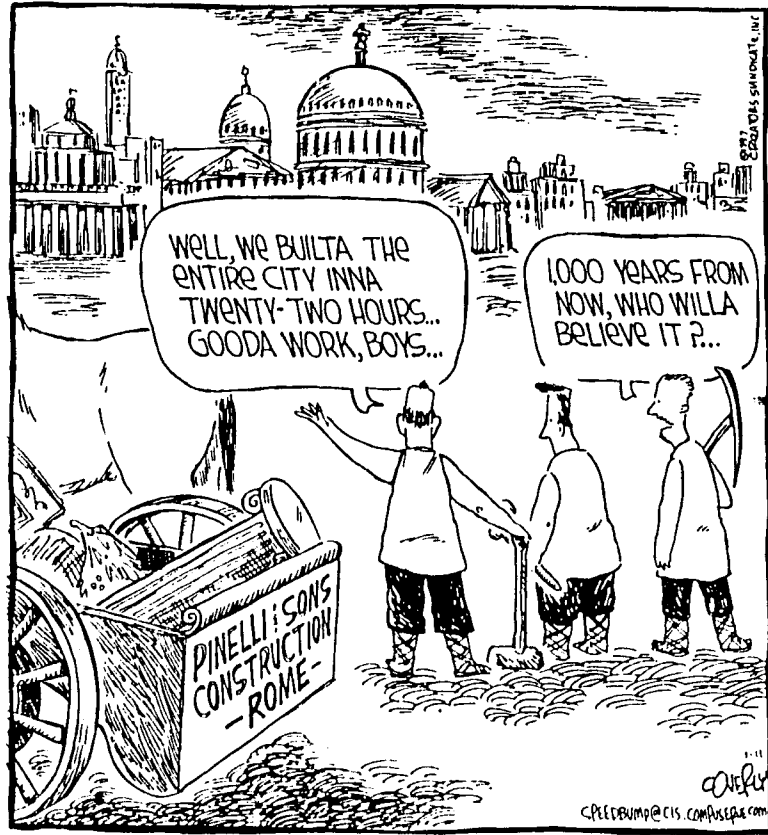
At The Zu

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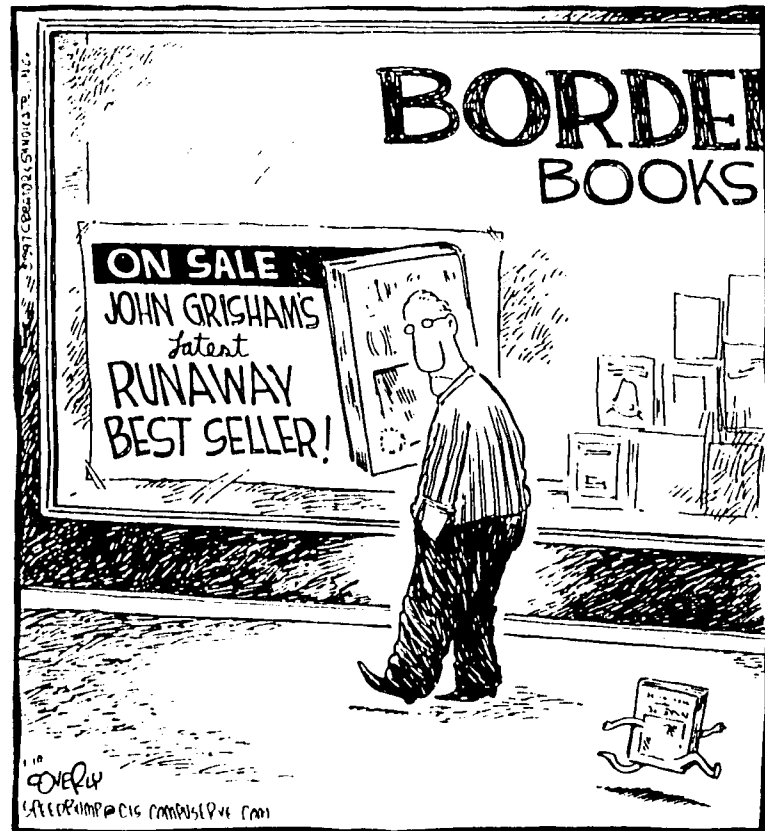
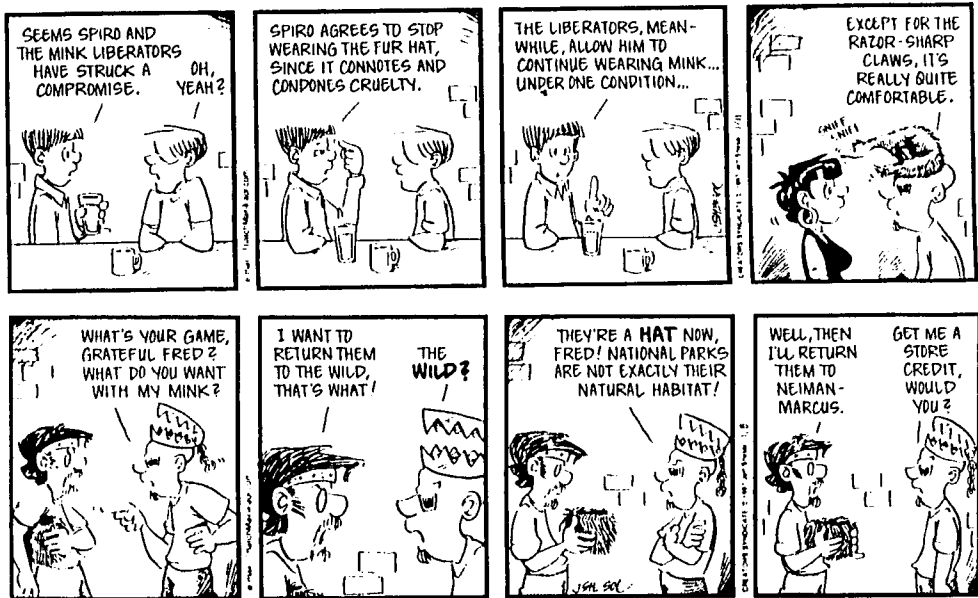
Speed Bump

Dave Coverly



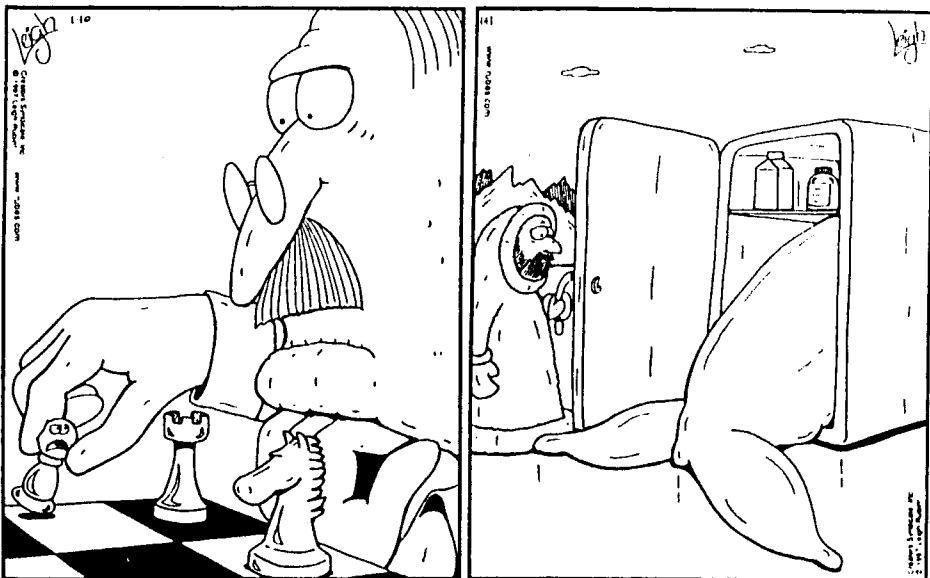
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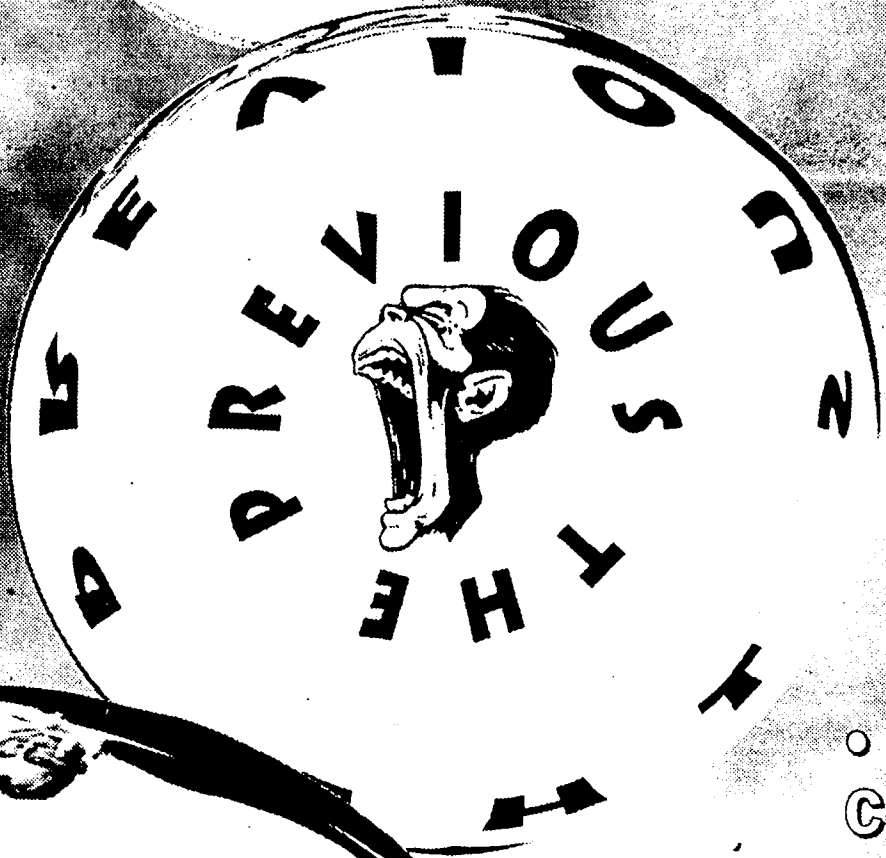
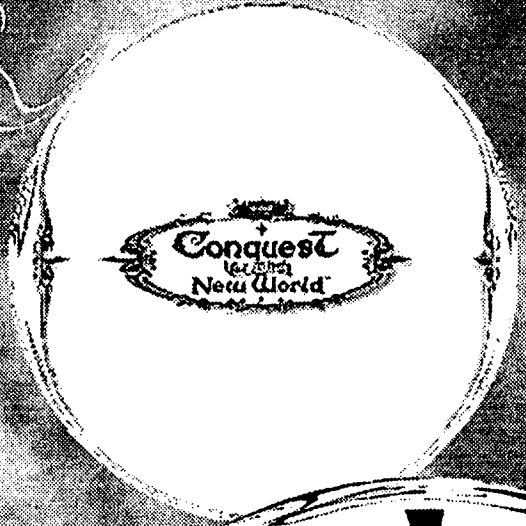
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Literature

Bad-ass bounty hunter, or just bad?

Title: Three To Get Deadly
 Author: Janet Evanovich
 Format: Hard Cover
 ISBN 0-684-88365-2
 Retail: \$24.00

Could the disappearance of a candy store owner have anything to do with the systematic deaths of several drug dealers in the neighboring suburb? This case sounds like a job for the inept Stephanie Plum.

Plum — the former lingerie buyer for E.E. Martin who prefers working for her cousin Vincent Plum, bail bond agent, than the alternative, overseeing the boxing machine at the tampon factory — is back and still stumbling through her bounty hunting career.

This time she must track down the beloved corner candy man come saint in the eyes of the burg in which she grew up. It would be like besmirching Mr. Hooper's good name.

All the characters the readers fell in love with in Janet Evanovich's first two successes, One For the Money, and Two For the Dough, are back in full force.

There is less focus on Grandma Mazur than in Two For the Dough, but Stephanie has a



Janet Evanovich

new want-to-be bounty hunter, Lula, "a former hooker turned file clerk [who'd] just recently embarked on a makeover program that included dying her hair blond and then

straightening it and recurling it into ringlets. The transformation had her looking like a 230-pound black kick-ass Shirley Temple."

Lula has the distinct ability to disappear when police are present, often leaving Stephanie stranded. But Lula does have the street smarts to track down the adored Moses Bedemier, aka Uncle Mo.

While searching the neighborhood for Uncle Mo, Plum runs into a teenager who is in her image, "we (Plum and the teenager) were dressed almost identically. Doc Martens, jeans, flannel shirt over T-shirt, too much eye makeup, lots of brown curly hair. She was 15 pounds slimmer and 15 years younger. I didn't envy her youth, but I did have second thoughts about the dozen doughnuts I'd picked up on my way through the burg."

As the investigation heats up, not only does Plum's mother become berated by calls from concerned citizens of the burg, "a comfy residential chunk of Trenton where houses and minds are proud to be narrow and hearts are generously wide open," but Plum begins to receive death threats.

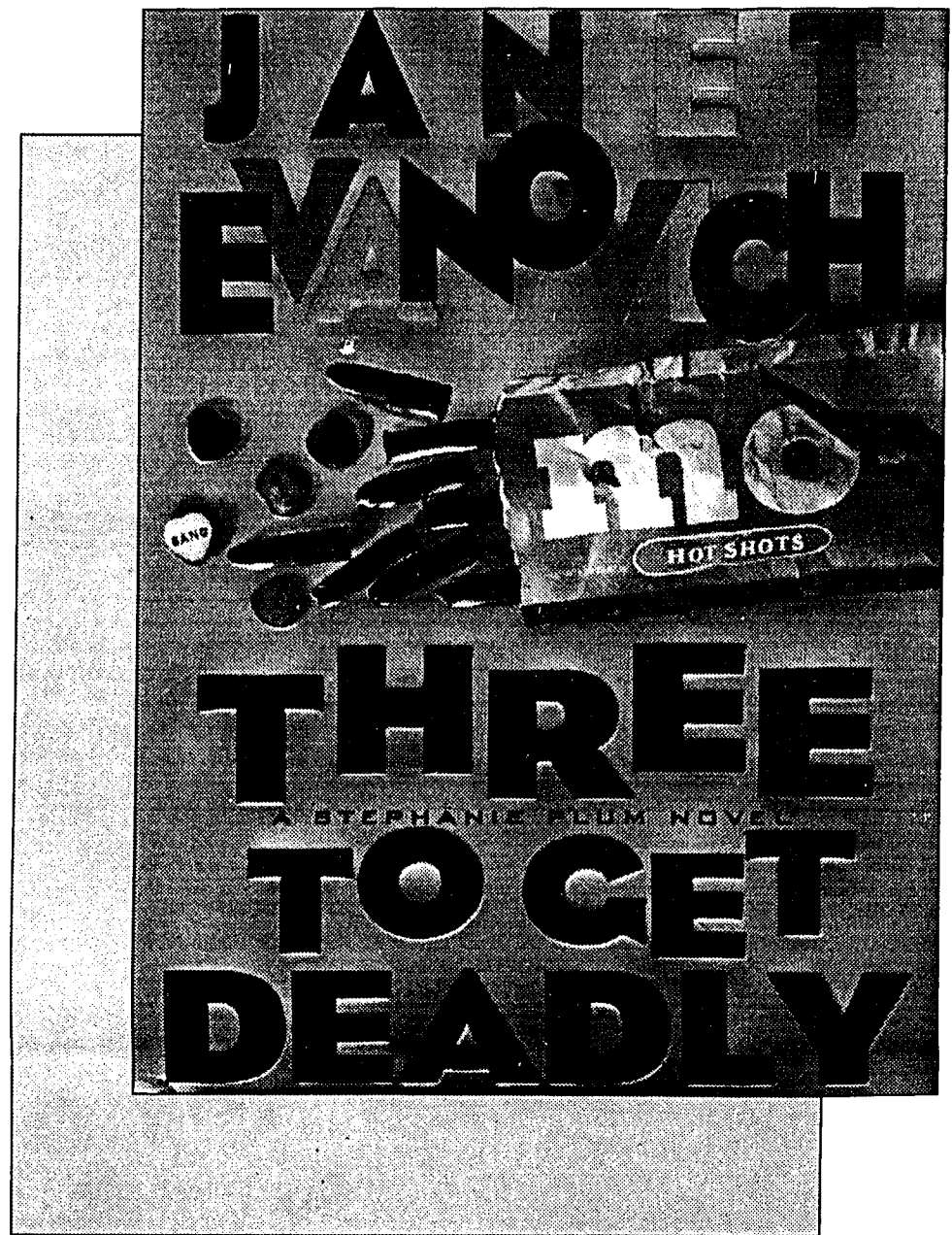
Laced throughout the story is Plum's desire to rid herself of the vintage '50s powder-blue Buick which she calls the Whale. Plum is stung by a crafty used car salesman and her father keeps reminding her that everything continues to be fine with the Buick.

Also propelling the story is her chase down of another FTA (failure to appear) of a young man, Stuart Baggett, who has escaped her twice by the time she catches up to him. She gives chase once when she sees him in a mall where she is having highlights put in her hair. The result is orange hair to add to her general disdain for life.

Furthermore, Joe Morelli has found some scruples and manners. Morelli and Plum grew up together in the burg. They "had a history that ranged from almost friendly, to frighteningly friendly, to borderline murderous. He'd taken my (Plum's) virginity when I was 16, and at 18 I'd tried to run him down with my father's Buick. Those two incidents pretty much reflected the tone of our ongoing relationship."

Morelli is a plainclothes cop, but that is "a misnomer for Morelli, because he's lean-hipped and hard-muscled, and there's nothing plain about the way he fits a pair of Levi's." He tends to show up in time to bail Plum out of a fix, and the sexual tension between the two is almost unbearable.

Ranger — another strong silent type — also



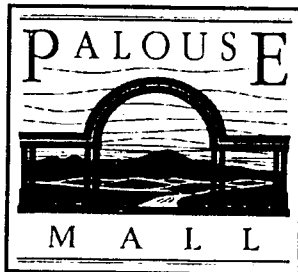
makes more than a cameo appearance in this book. He "had been my (Plum's) mentor when I'd started in the business and was one very bad bounty hunter. In this case, bad meaning ultracool. He'd been one of those army guys who went around disguised as the night, eating tree bark and beetles, scaring the bejeezus out of emerging third-world insurgents. And he knew things I'd never, ever know."

Between Ranger, Morelli and Lula, Plum

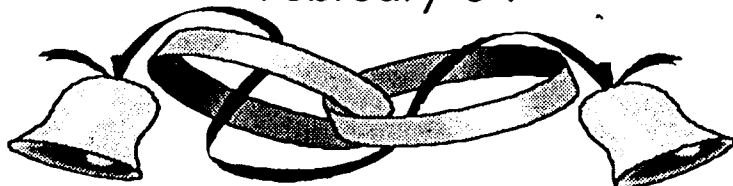
survives the many scrapes she finds herself in. The close knit group of the burg also keep her out of jail. So does she find Uncle Mo? Does she uncover a grisly link to him and the dealers' murders. You'll just have to read this lively sequel in order to find out.

—Shawn Vidmar, Outdoors Editor

The Palouse Mall and The Outlaw 106.9 Present:



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TWICE A WEEK.

ARGONAUT

Urban Elephants

by Brian Davidson

Samantha and her little brother Robert played quietly in the alley behind their house on Cleveland Street. Their house is the blue one, with white trim and the trellised porch hung with morning-glories. The backyard is small, as are most yards in the neighborhood, and there is no fence between the scrap of lawn and the gray graveled alley. Mother never allowed Samantha, who had just turned nine, to play in the front yard, because she was one to daydream and wander and her mother feared she would look out her picture window from her knitting table and see Samantha out in the street in the act of being squashed by the Urban Elephants.

Robert was less of a daydreamer, but being only three, had less experience than Samantha (or her mother) in the dangers of wandering where the Elephants could get you. So it was Samantha's duty to keep a sharp eye on her toddling brother at all times. Mother thought keeping up with their distemper shots was work enough for her.

They played at quiet games, scooting the alley gravel aside where it was loose to expose bare earth for roads for their little metal cars. Sometimes they tossed their red and white handball back and forth. To jump rope with only two was not fun, especially since Robert was too young to understand how to twirl the rope just so. Besides, their regular jumping partner, Judith, who lived two blocks away on Arthur, had a broken leg plastered up in a bulky cast that wouldn't be sawed off for another three weeks. Hide and seek was lonely with two as well, especially since their counting pro Cecil was in traction at the children's hospital, where he'd have to stay until the vertebra healed. Amber, their most expert hider and her sister Emily, their most competent finder had both been sent to Victorville to live with their aunt and uncle. The sun and sea air would help to heal their broken collarbones.

Playing at kick the can was entirely out of the question, since the last can they had kicked caused such a ruckus when it clattered between the McClaskey's steel garbage cans had scared the three alleyway Elephants into charging wildly out onto Fourth Street, smashing Mrs. Swisher's car in their flight. Rotten old Mrs. Swisher, who threw rotten apples at the children from her yard across the alley, had only been slightly injured in the accident. She continued to revile the children, selecting the squishiest and most rotten apples off her lawn to throw at them if they even looked like they were thinking of sneezing in the alley, where loud noises were now

strictly tabu. Samantha played contentedly with her little brother, but enjoyed mostly sitting with him at the kitchen table, where they drew when it rained. While he scribbled with various smelly crayons, she would tell him about the Park.

"Shut up about that park, Samantha!" her mother would grumble as she described the slide and swings to her younger brother. "I don't want you putting fool ideas in that kid's head. Next thing you know he'll be out at the Park, and he'll end up like little Matthew Stubbs." Samantha stopped her Park stories, since she couldn't bare the thought of her little Robert lying so still and cold in the tiny casket that was lowered into that deep hole while the adults stood guard with Elephant guns all around them.

Perhaps something should be said about the Urban Elephants. They were not quite as numerous as the squirrels that still darted haggardly through the trees. The elephants never climbed on electrical wires and fried themselves in the city's transformers, causing blackouts. They never nibbled at each apple on the tree or rooted through the garbage cans in the alley. Running over a squirrel with a car was not nearly as damaging as was an automobile encounter with an Urban Elephant.

Urban Elephants were strays, mostly, though there were some neighborhoods, like the blocks of houses between the state highway and Cleveland Street, that seemed prime real estate for people looking to dump off their animals. Some of them were wild, and quite dangerous, but there were some who were so sweet the children dared ride them, though they only did this when their parents weren't watching and there were no male elephants around. Some of the sweeties were tricksters, though. One, after having given Bonnie a ride down third street, picked her up in her coiled nose and flung her over the Piquet's garage, where she landed (luckily) on a moldering pile of leaves and lawn clip-

pings the Piquets had set out in the alley to tempt the elephants away from their maple trees.

Most of the elephants only visited the alleys during the morning and evenings, when the sun wasn't so hot and there was less traffic to deal with. They lived in the Park, making mud wallows out of the ponds and smashing to smithereens the brick bathrooms that the city had built only five years ago. They ripped the leaves off the trees and stuffed them by the trunkful in their smelly mouths, and ripped up the swing set with their trunks and began piling bones of deceased Urban Elephants in its stead. Heaven forbid a child should ride by the park on his bicycle. The elephants would chase the

youngster down as he pedaled frantically up the gentle slope of Albion, trying to gain the speed-inducing decline that led swiftly to Main Street. A few of the quicker and more intelligent boys made the journey once or twice a

week, daring each other to try higher gears as they raced away from the pack of elephants trumpeting at their rear. A few of the dumber boys would take them up on their dares, and fail to make the summit of Albion and fall victim to the coiling trunks that lifted them out of the seat of their bicycles and flung them as far as elephant nose muscles possibly could. More aggressive elephants would trample the bicycles to pieces, while those with more scientific bents would offer the flinger advice as to height, velocity and destination. All stopped to watch the boy as he sailed and wailed through the air, some landing with a crunch in the bushes of Old Man Johnson's rose garden, others landing with a plop on the mercifully rubberized roof at the Benson's and still others landing with a splash in the backyard pool at the Quimby's.

The Bensons rightly believed that rubberizing the roof was as far as they would go in relieving the sufferings of the flingees, and the Quimbys had fished so many children out

of their pool they no longer hear the splashes, but any child lucky enough to land on Old Man Johnson's property was gently taken into the house by the old man himself, to be bandaged, soothed, fed and bored with stories of what the neighborhood was like before Urban Elephants.

Samantha herself had taken one of these harrowing trips. Her mother refused to replace her bicycle and ordered her daughter to cease repeating Old Man Johnson's stories. She still had the cast from her arm and shoulder from that trip, signed by all the children from the neighborhood and from her class in school.

Robert giggled as he pushed his milk truck down the little road they had made in the back alley. Samantha worked feverishly a yard or two ahead of him, carving out more road down the alley towards Second, ignoring the rotten apple cores that pelted her bottom from the direction of Mrs. Swisher's yard. Suddenly she heard a scream. Both she and Robert turned, wide-eyed, towards Mrs. Swisher's house where the scream had come. They huddled close and backed away towards their own back door as the herd of Bull Urban Elephants slowly shuffled their way up the alley towards them. Their tusks were long and curved; one older fellow still had a mangled rear rim from a bicycle dangling of his left ivory. Cats screamed and hissed and dogs barked as the herd moved forward. Mrs. Swisher hid behind her patio grill, frantically scrabbling for the box of rotten apples she always had stocked at her back door. The elephants shuffled on, sniffing at a telephone pole, scraping a few leaves off tree branches that dangled temptingly in their way, and tossing metal garbage cans left and right while stomping on the plastic ones because they did not make enough noise when they were thrown.

The leader's trunk batted an electrical wire, sending a chattering squirrel flying through the air and landing with a light thud and crackle in the box of aluminum cans on Samantha's mother's back doorstep.

The herd stopped as the leader eyed the two children coldly. Mrs. Swisher gasped, then quickly darted inside her own house. The lead elephant shambled over to Mrs. Swisher's rain barrel, stuck his nose in, and began to drink. Suddenly he turned and with expert aim drenched Samantha and Robert with a trunkful of green rainwater and elephant snot. The herd made approving grunting sounds and a few quiet trumpets as the leader, apparently satisfied with his joke, ambled on. The herd vanished, and tires squealed and horns honked on Third Street.



Urban Elephants were strays, mostly, though there were some neighborhoods...that seemed prime real estate for people looking to dump off their animals.



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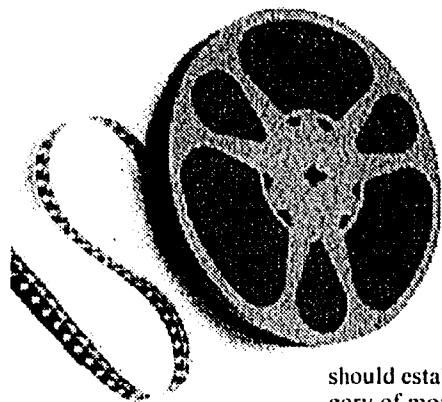
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~ BD

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the garden lounge
West 4th Bar & Grill
Main Street deli & bakery





CINEMA

Turning decapitation into a bad thing

Justin Cason
Staff

Sometimes you walk into a movie theater, sit down and watch a film that surprises you, delights you and even inspires great things out of you. You walk out of the place with illusions of grandeur and a deeper comprehension of all that is good in the world.

Sometimes you just see a piece of crap.

The Relic, the latest work from director Peter Hyams, is the dry, tasteless slab of mediocrity in question. It's difficult to really classify the film into any sort of universally accepted genre. You could call it a thriller, but that would necessitate the movie actually be thrilling in some way, shape or form.

The Relic is not wholly a horror film, either. It's got a plot (though it takes some searching for), relatively famous actors and no guys with hockey masks. Maybe the film makers and film critics of the world

should establish a "garbage" category of movies. You could throw junk like *Cabin Boy* or *Getting Even with Dad* in there, as well as pretty much anything starring Steve Guttenberg. And there, casually lounging in the midst of this heap of refuse, would be *The Relic*.

While not even a Matlock/Angela Lansbury love child could fully uncover the mystery that is this film's plot, it seems that a "species aberration" in the form of a hideous, tank-sized monster has made its way via ocean liner from the jungles of Brazil to a natural history museum in Chicago (in reality, the city's famous Field Museum).

Through some ill-contrived, unscientific explanation, we learn that the monster must feed on the human hypothalamus to survive. To get at this brain matter, of course, it must decapitate its victim, then tear open his or her skull. Consequently, when a bunch of headless, hypothalamus-less people show up on the Brazilian ship and later at the museum, in comes homicide detective Vincent D'Agosta (played by Tom Sizemore) to put all the pieces

together.

D'Agosta and evolutionary doctor Margo Green (Penelope Ann Miller) spend most of the movie investigating and analyzing the monster, and, without giving away anything the average third-grader couldn't have guessed, they defeat the creature in the end.

If anything truly good could be said about *The Relic*, it would have to be in monster creator/special effects guy Stan Winston. Although his salivating, tusk-laden beast slices and dices like a Ginsu knife and evokes an occasional chill, it's not even close to the monsters he developed in *Jurassic Park*, *Aliens* and *Predator*.

There are so many things wrong with *The Relic*, though, that it's exhausting to mention them all, much less watch them transpire on the screen in front of you.

The lack of believable continuation is without a doubt the worst. At the end of the movie, for instance, the creature moves from the museum's main lobby to the basement to an underground tunnel, taking several minutes to behead,

• SEE RELIC PAGE B5



Movie Trivia of the Week

IL POSTINO THE POSTMAN

After its completion, *IL POSTINO* received a great deal of attention due to a strange occurrence in one of the lives of its stars.

Name him and explain what that was.



Please mail answers to:

The Argonaut

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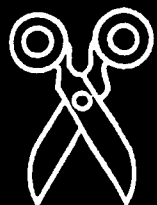
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Li Lu is the first speaker for the Borah Symposium
Foundation Series for 1997. This years theme is
"China in Transition"

Night Life



The Previous hold pro-hemp concert in SUB

Amy-Marie Smith
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Over the last several years, band members have come and gone. "It's like the *Bad News Bears*," Jones explained. "People come in and they learn their spiritual lesson, and then they move on, and I'm like Walter Matheau." (To clarify:

there have been, "between 25 and 40 people in the band," Jones said. When asked how many put together the new CD "UnPop," "there were five of us who got together," Jones answered.

So, then, those posters all over campus advertising the concert, who were those people? They guy in the lower left-hand corner is Jones. The rest of those people were just random extras for the photo.

Jones explained, they are not, and never have been, in the band.

Every song seemed to have another take on societal issues. "Hold Your Breath," and "Drug War," were both pro-hemp.

Before and after each of these two songs, Jones had comments such as, "It might be construed that that song was an endorsement of said product, but that wouldn't be misconstrued, that's what it is."

The song "Election Day" says much of Jones' thoughts on politics. He's against nearly all politicians, and the lyrics illustrated what he thinks, "Jibber-jabber jibber-jabber, yip-yap yip-yap..." and, "lies

and lies and lies and lies." You get the idea.

Jones and Nason harmonized excellently together. The guitar was nice, not too heavy, yet clear — just like their vocals.

During an interview with Jones, I accidentally mentioned I thought his vocals sounded like Bob

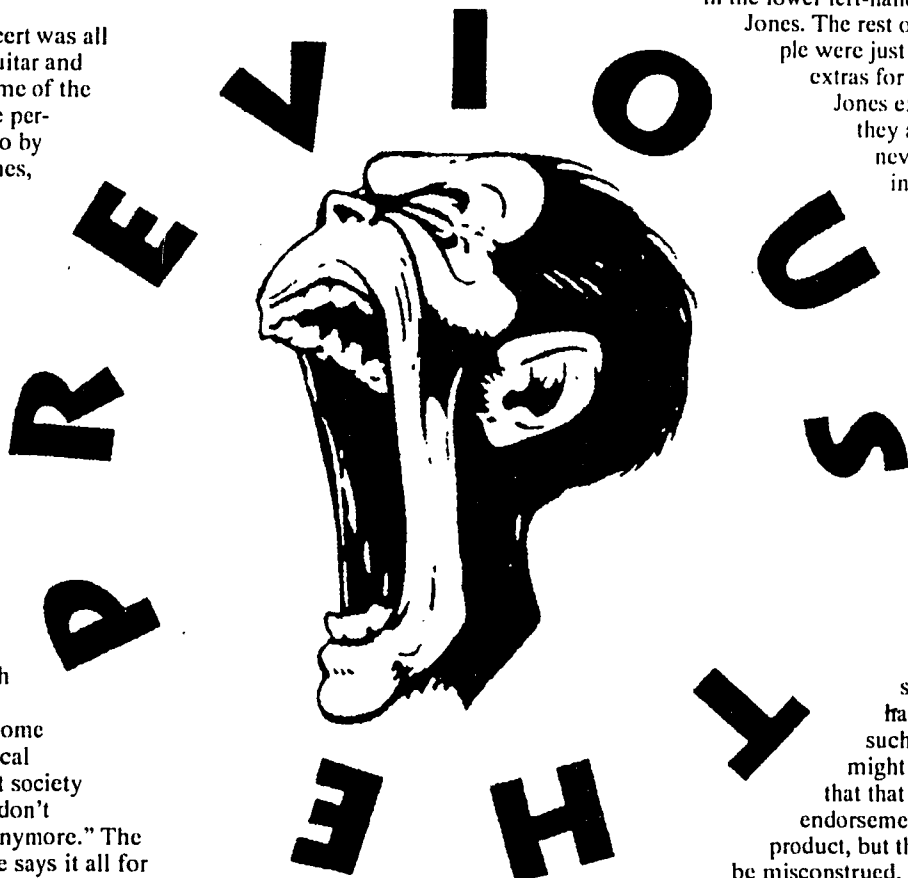
Denver. What I meant to say was John Denver — dominant yet melodic and easy to understand. Bob Denver was Gilligan, Jones informed me. "I think I like that. I'd rather sound like Bob Denver than John Denver. Maybe Allan Hale, he was the Skipper. Or Tina Louise (Ginger)," Jones chided.

Last Saturday night The Previous put on a free concert in the Student Union lounge for about 40 people. The performance didn't provoke the audience to crowd-surf or start a mosh pit. It did, however, evoke laughter and provide entertainment.

The concert was all acoustic guitar and vocals. Some of the songs were performed solo by Andras Jones, the band's leader. For some of the selections he was accompanied by John Nason on bass and back-up vocals.

Jones began Saturday's concert with a song that illustrated some of his political views about society entitled, "I don't know shit anymore." The opening line says it all for the song, and for the attitude expressed by Jones throughout the concert. "In school it was clear, what was goin' on here, what changes were comin' to pass. But now all I see, just shows my degree right up my really smart-ass."

Walter Matheau, in the first *Bad News Bears*, was the drunk coach.) From when The Previous first started, in Los Angeles, and now,



RELIC •FROM PAGE B4

disembowel and maim at each spot. However, the fleeing groups of people never seem to get anywhere while the monster is away killing others. Three feet of progress in 10 minutes is not a good ratio when a giant monster is after you.

Also, the monster itself has been in the museum for about 24 hours, yet appears to know its way around better than Dr. Green, who's been working in the place for quite some time.

For most of the movie — and especially during the creature sequences — the lighting is way too dark. This is irritating, as is the fact that it takes a full hour and a half before we even get to see the beast in full. Where the opaqueness doesn't bother you, the flat-out stupidity does. The film's preoccupation with superstition is trite, and D'Agosta's lucky bullet gets as tiresome as the film itself.

There's also some statue that a curator spends the bulk of the film refurbishing, but its specific connection to the monster (or to anything at all) is hardly ever realized.

In a film where everything is predictable, at least the amount of gore and bloodshed was not.

Those going into the theater expecting short, heavily-edited killing sequences will get quite a jolt when heads starting popping off bodies like a French guillotine party. Squirting fountains of blood and entire torsos being ripped off at the waist reign supreme in this picture.

As far as the cast goes, *The Relic* is titled appropriately. Screen great James Whitmore (*Oklahoma!*, *The Red Badge of Courage*) has really hit rock bottom here, and even lead characters Sizemore (*Heat*, *Wyatt Earp*) and Miller (*Carlito's Way*, *Kindergarten Cop*) prove that their best works were certainly in the past.

The only really fun part belongs to Audra Lindley as the crude coroner who discusses mutilated corpses as freely as a waitress names the soup of the day. "Three's Company" fans will remember Lindley as the sex-starved Mrs. Roper.

Nowhere else is *The Relic* very fun. In fact, it's a lot like watching the Super Bowl. You know what the final result will be, but you have to watch it to just make sure.

At least the Super Bowl had all those cool new commercials.

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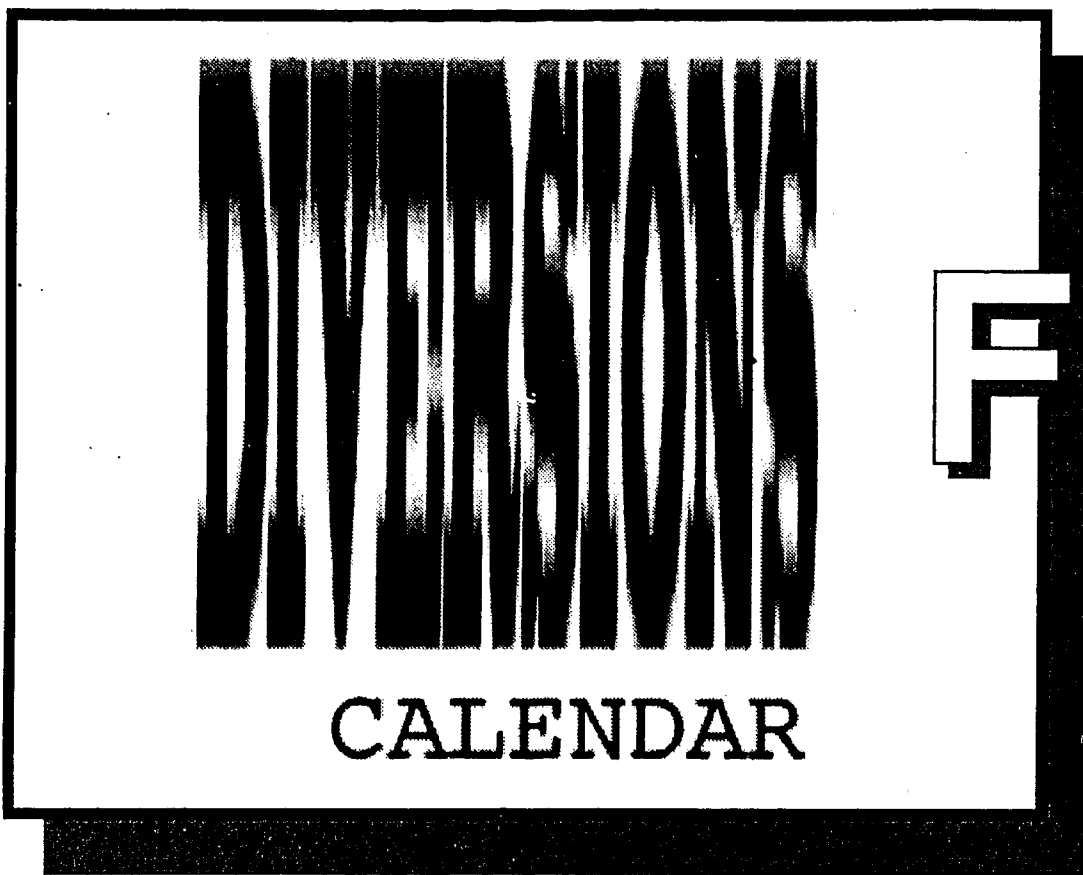


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Jan Februari

Friday

- *Star Wars* re-opens nationwide.
- A Jazz Combo concert, "Bridges," LHSM Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Women's basketball at Cal State Fullerton, 7 p.m.
- Prichard Art Gallery, opening reception for Magic Mud: Northwest Contemporary Ceramics and photocopy mono-print exhibit Lynne Haagensen: Light Opera. Reception, 5-8 p.m., free.

31

Saturday

- McDonalds I Indoor Track Meet, 8 a.m., Kibbie Dome
- The High School Band Fe SUB, all day.
- Men's basketball v. UC-I 7:05 p.m., Kibbie Dome.
- Graduate Recital, Mark P guitar. LHSM Recital Hall, p.m.

01

Tuesday

- Women's Center lunch program, 12:30 p.m. "Threads of the past: Changing the fabric of life," by Sarah Swett.
- Mohammed Bilal, of MTV, SUB Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.
- Guest Recital, Ian Altman, piano. LHSM Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

04

Wednesday

- All-Northwest MENC. Pre-conference Concert: Guitar Quartet, Northwest Wind Quintet, Trombone Ensemble. LHSM Recital Hall, 8 p.m.
- "Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker," Borah Theater, 8 p.m.

05

Thursday

- Deborah Haynes: "The Techno-Seduction of the Artist," 12 p.m., CUB Cascade Room, free.
- Julie Wick, voice recital, 8 p.m., WSU Kimbrough Hall, free.
- "Woman Who Turned to Soap" at 8 p.m., WSU's Wadleigh Little Theatre.
- Concert, songs and stories of the Australian frontier, Martyn Wyndham-Read, at the Combine in Pullman, 8 p.m., Pullman, \$7.
- Faculty Recital, James Reid, guitar. LHSM Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

06

- UI Invitational Scoring, Indoor Track Meet, 4 p.m., Kibbie Dome.
- SUB Sale and Swap, Vandal Lounge, 10 a.m.
- Palouse Folklore Society potluck, 6:30 p.m., Moscow Community Center.
- Women's Basketball v. Santa Barbara, 7 p.m., Memorial Gym.
- Palouse Folklore Society dance, 7:30 p.m. at the Moscow Community Center.

07

- The Guild Trio, 8 p.m., Administration Auditorium.
- Todd Green — Coffeehouse, SUB Kerouac Room, 8 p.m.

- UI Invitational Scoring T 9 a.m., Kibbie Dome.
- Washington-Idaho Symph turing winners of the 21st A Young Artists' Competition Administration Auditorium
- "Woman Who Turned to . p.m., WSU's Wadleigh Litt
- ASUI ski bus to Schweitz Mountain. Contact ASUI O rental center for info.
- WSU concert, a night of music, WS Kimbrough auditorium

08

- Women's Center lunch program, 12:30 p.m. "Life as a Muslim in the United States," by Donna Abunayyan.
- Men's Basketball v. Washington State, 7:05 p.m., Kibbie Dome.
- UI Theatrical Production opens: "Oleanna," Collette Theatre, 8 p.m.
- WSU Jazz Band & Vocal Jazz, 8 p.m., Kimbrough Hall, free.

11

- UI Jazz Bands and Choirs Concert, 8 p.m., LHSM Recital Hall.

- Women's Center lunch program, 12:30 p.m. "Home Schooling," by Sue Steele.
- Scottish Folk Music Concert, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, the Combine in Pullman, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.
- "Oleanna," Collette Theatre, 8 p.m.
- "Winter Ade," SUB Borah Theater, 8 p.m.
- UI/WSU Joint Faculty Recital, Concert of Russian Music. WSU's Briant Hall, 8 p.m.

12

- Pat Engle: "Art, Therapy and the Creative Process," 12 p.m. CUB Cascade Room, free.
- Men's basketball v. North Texas, 7:05 p.m., Kibbie Dome.
- Moscow Community Theatre Production: Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians," 7:30 p.m., \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children.
- "Oleanna," Collette Theatre, 8 p.m.
- Faculty Recital, Cameron Littlefield, voice. LHSM Recital Hall, 8 p.m.
- "Woman Who Turned to Soap," 8 p.m., WSU's Wadleigh Little Theatre.

13



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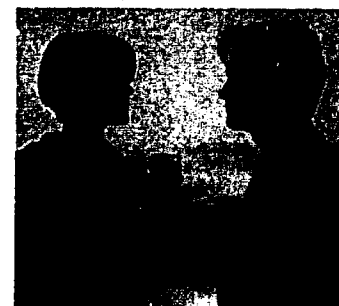
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February

Announcements

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Track
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Little Theatre.
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UI Outdoor

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Sunday

- GROUNDHOG DAY!
- B.B. King, 7 p.m., Spokane Opera House.
- Crimson Company, 7 p.m., Bryan Theatre, free.
- Women's basketball at Irvine, 2 p.m.
- SAI Alumnae Musicale, 3 p.m., LHSM Recital Hall.

02

Monday

- Men's basketball v. Southern Utah, 7:05 p.m., Kibbie Dome.

03

- Women's basketball v. Cal Poly, 2 p.m., Memorial Gym.
- Washington-Idaho Symphony, Lewiston High School, 3 p.m.
- China Night, SUB Ballroom, 5 p.m.

09

- UI/WSU Joint Faculty Recital, Concert of Russian Music. LHSM Recital Hall, 8 p.m.

10

Music Festival

• The last day of the WSU New Music Festival is today. Admission is free.

Glacier Park Hiring for Summer

• Glacier Park, Mont., will hire 900 college students for the summer. Jobs will be in the areas of hotel and hospitality. Employees are needed from mid-May to October. For more information call Glacier Park, Inc., at (602) 207-2620 or e-mail Brad Parker at <bparker@viad.com>.

UI Art Exhibits

• Impressions titled "Skeptics and Other Creatures," by Terry Armstrong as well as charcoal drawings by Art 111 students are on display at the Student Union Gallery, and today is the last day. For more information contact Kathy Barnard at 885-6416.
• UI's Prichard Art Gallery will feature the, "Magic Mud Northwest Invitational," a traveling exhibition of ceramics from artists in Idaho; Montana; Oregon, and Washington. The exhibit opens today, with a reception from 5-8 p.m., and runs through Feb. 26.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show UI Bus Tour

• UI Arboretum Director Richard Naskali will be taking a group of people to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Spokane, Feb. 7-9. This is a specially designed trip offered by the UI Enrichment Program. The cost is \$219, includes bus fare, lodging and two show tickets. Single room occupancy is extra. Call UI Enrichment Program at 885-6486 for more information.

WSU Visual, Performing, and Literary Arts Events

• The play Georg Büchner: *Woyzeck* will be performed Feb. 13-15, 8 p.m., at the Jones Theater.
• The Visual, Performing and Literary Arts Committee's 1996-97 series, "Art and Technology," will be feature Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m., in the CUB Auditorium.

Moscow Community Theater Performance

• The Moscow Community Theater will be performing Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians," Feb. 13-16. Thursday through Saturday the show will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday's show is at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children, and are available at the Chamber of Commerce, or at the door. For more information call 882-5647.

Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival

• This year marks the 30th anniversary of the annual Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival. Events start on Feb. 18 with the Gala Concert at 8 p.m. On Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Andy LaVerne will be featured on piano, and at 7 p.m. the Pepsi International World Jazz Concert will begin. Feb. 20 at

6:30 p.m. Crosscurrent will perform, and at 7 p.m. The Northwest Airlines Special Guest Concert will begin. On Feb. 21 the Vocal Winners Concert will begin at 4:45 p.m., and the All-Star Concert will start at 8 p.m. The last day of the event will be Feb. 22. The Washington Water Power Instrumental Winners Concert will start at 4:45 p.m., the Hampton Trombone Factory will perform at 7:30 p.m., and the GTE Giants of Jazz Concert will begin at 8 p.m. All concerts are at the Kibbie Dome.

WSU Art Exhibits

• Now until Feb. 7 photographs by Mark Daughettee will be featured at the WSU Museum of Fine Arts, admission is free.
• Now until Feb. 23 Fay Jones' art will be featured at the WSU Museum of Fine Arts, admission is free.
• Today is the last day of the Winter Graphic Art Sale at the WSU CUB Cleverger Lounge, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
• Feb. 3-21, Exhibit: "Cowboy Architecture" Radical interpretations of the Western Genre by the fourth year Design Studio of the WSU School of Architecture, at the CUB Gallery, admission is free.
• Feb. 11-March 7, Constructions by Claire Wold Krantz, WSU Fine Arts Gallery II, admission is free.

International Afternoon of Culture, Costume and Cuisine


• The fifth annual International Afternoon of Culture, Costume and Cuisine presented by the International Friendship Association will be in the Student Union Ballroom on Feb. 15, at 3 p.m. Co-chairs of the event are Ron Everett of the UI Sociology department and David Hesel, a senior in computer science. The event will feature music, dance, ceremonies and traditional dress from around the world. Tickets go on sale Feb. 3 at Ticket Express, \$4.50 for students and \$6.50 for the general public. For more information call the IFA office at 885-7841.

WSU Fund-Raiser

• The Friends of the WSU Museum of Art will be putting on the annual fund-raiser Feb. 14, starting at 6 p.m., in the CUB Ballroom. The event, "A Thousand and One Nights..." will be a dinner, silent auction and dessert competition. Reservations should be made by Feb. 7. Tickets are \$27.50 per person, cost includes dinner. Call the Museum at 335-1910 for details.

China Night

• The Chinese Students and Scholars and the Borah Symposium Committee are hosting China Night, Feb. 9 beginning at 5 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. The program will include dinner, traditional music, arts and entertainment by UI and WSU students and community members. Tickets are available now through Ticket Express and are \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, students, and their spouses, \$2 for children 6 and over. Contact Huang Jiangui (John) at 885-9413, or Mary Furnari at 885-8945 for more information.



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Internet connectivity a Conquest in gaming

Christopher Clancy
Divisions Editor

As a strategy game, MacPlay's *Conquest of the New World* is quite possibly the ultimate expression of mass destruction on a historical scale. Set in the 1500s, *Conquest* captures the spirit of the age... the conquest, empire and exploitation of the Americas.

Players choose their colonial empires to be from one of the four competing European powers of the day or play the role of the struggling Native Americans as they try to save their land and culture from the invading marauders and other tribes.

As European characters, the players choose between explorer, settler or conquistador as a subject of the French, British, Dutch, Portuguese or Spanish Crown.

Oddly, and somewhat predictably, however, as Native American characters, players are simply "Natives." Which is rather generic considering the literally hundreds of formidable tribes that existed at the time. A better approach would have allowed players to choose a tribe. Imagine the possibilities — in a better world players could be Inquisis, Huron, Mohawk, even Aztec or Mayan.

What is nice about *Conquest* compared to a lot of the games out there is the outcome doesn't necessarily have to follow history or,

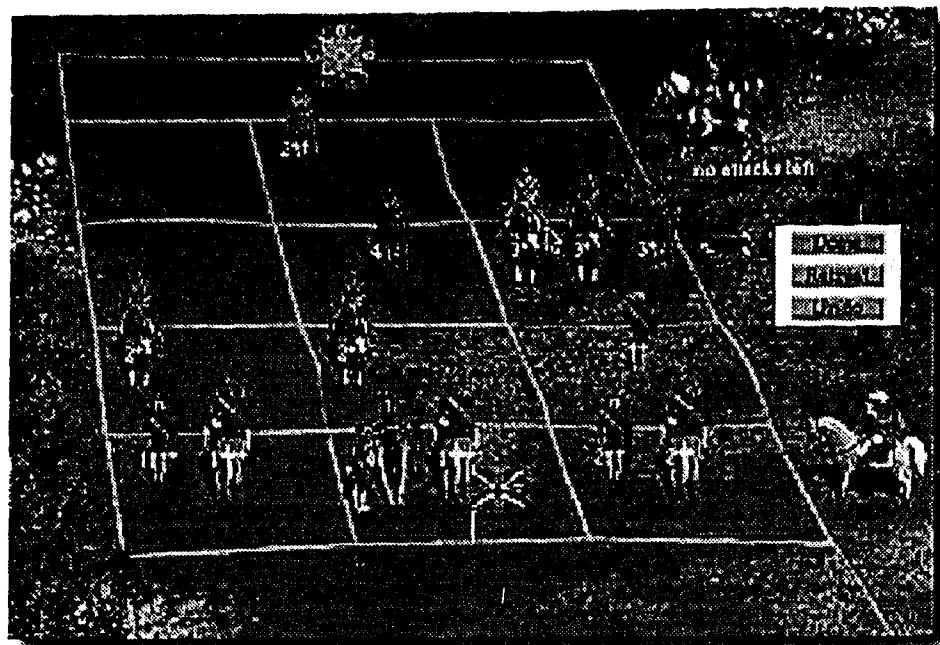
for that matter, any pre-determined course of events. So many historical games are limited by this kind of scope of play making them not only predictable but frustrating. In *Conquest*, every game generates an entirely original world where the winners are simply those with enough blood, guts and luck to prevail.

Adding to the game's ease of play and expandability are a number of other features which make it an altogether new kind of gaming experience. Thanks to the use of Apple's new NetSprocket and Open Transport technologies, players can also play this one over the Internet in real time or by turns. And, though the version we reviewed was for Power PC, Internet connectivity is a cross-platform feature.

Up to six players can participate from virtually any part of the Internet giving networked games the potential to include participants in several countries simultaneously — provided they can read French or English (the two official languages available in *Conquest*).

Action takes place in turns and is similar to games like *Warcraft* or *Dune* in which players start out with a black screen and then explore the terrain, building settlements and discovering landmarks as they go.

A unique feature to the game, however, is



the many different viewing modes and separate combat sequences. In the full map mode players can zoom in from a global perspective to reveal 3-D rendered buildings and landmarks. Combat occurs automatically when hostiles encounter one another and then takes place in turns on a three-dimensional playing field complete with authentic sound effects and tactics.

Muskets and cannons are the weapons of choice for the 15th century combatants, and the effects vary accordingly. Weapons become less accurate with range, making for

challenging play and some surprising upsets adding to the game's realism. Authentic music along with news briefs of the day set the tone and offer a historical insight as the game progresses, though both quickly become tedious after a few hours of continual play.

The game is currently being released in both Macintosh and IBM compatible versions and retails for \$39.95. With all of the elements of *Risk*, *SimCity*, *Civilization* and then some, *Conquest of the New World* is the ultimate in historical gaming simulations.

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KICKERS • FROM PAGE B11

runout, the novice snowboarder can be comfortable just bombing the hill and get used to the feel of a board. A big hillside provides enough room for some rudimentary turning practice that translates easily to the mountain.

For those who have learned the basics of snowboarding but just want to take every opportunity to get better, a kicker is invaluable. The jump can be made big or small and the intermediate rider can learn the basics of taking jumps and landing them without the worry of getting run-over by others on the slopes.

Those who are already comfortable on the slopes can also appreciate a free ride. Whatever progress you make in the comfort of your

own back yard is at least free and helps out your riding in general. Also, it's just plain fun.

For those a little more adventurous, there are a lot of places to go hiking around and ride down. With a little effort and a lot of know-how, you can ride Moscow Mountain and many of the other hills and valleys around town.

It's impossible to list all the possibilities contained in the realm of good kickers, so gather your friends and head out back. You'll be glad it snowed.



Steve Kennedy gettin' high off a kicker.

Sarah Wichlacz

WAX JOB • FROM PAGE B10

P-tex is tricky stuff. Keeping the stick in the blue of the flame will keep ash from forming in the p-tex and make the bond stronger. (Personally, I've never had too much problem with fixed gouges coming unfixed and I know there's some ash in my base.) Once the p-tex in the wound has cooled so that it is just warm to the touch, scrape the excess off with the metal scraper. Use the scraper inclined towards your body, at about 55 degrees or so, and pull towards you. Sometimes you must repeat the procedure a couple times to completely fill in a deep cut.

4. Once you have all the damage repaired, it's time to get rid of the old wax build-up. Again, with your metal scraper, using the same angle of inclination as before, pull from the tip to tail of your board. Use short strokes at first, and finish it off with longer, full-base strokes. It's important throughout the waxing process to always scrape from

tip to tail. This direction will help your board or skis channel water properly and give you more speed. It's also imperative to remember that the scraping edge is always the trailing edge of the scraper.

5. The cheap grind. Once all the old wax is off the board you can condition your base some. This conditioning won't take care of huge damage, but helps a lot. Take out a piece of sandpaper and run it down the board/skis from tip to tail, never edge to edge. This action helps your board take the wax better. For a worked over base you should use the 80 grit. In the spring, 100 to 120 grit is suggested, and 150 is good for all-around use.

6. When you've removed all the old wax and taken care of the base grind, clean up the base. Wipe the base down good with the cleaner, and you'll be amazed how much yuck comes off. While the cleaner is drying start heating up the iron to a nice medium temperature.

7. Wax it up. Hold the iron with the tip on the board and put the

wax to the bottom of the iron. The wax will begin melting and run from the point of the iron onto the board. There are many different styles of applying wax. The best idea is to put it on in long lines from tip to tail. Skis only require a couple, while snowboards may take several lines spaced a couple inches apart. If the wax begins smoking at all, turn down the iron. Some waxes give off noxious fumes that may cause brain damage so remember about the ventilation. Also, it's important to keep the iron moving so you don't singe the base. If it's too hard with the iron touching the board you can hold the iron a few inches above the base, but remember that wax splatters some when it drips so be careful not to get burned.

8. After you have the wax on the board you need to spread it around so it covers the whole base. This is where waxing gets difficult. Remember the golden rule of waxing: Keep the iron moving. It's tricky, but better to move too fast than too slow.

At a medium pace, spread the wax so it covers the entire base. When the topsheet feels warm to the touch you know the wax is getting into the base, but the topsheet should never be hot. This will blis-

ter the p-tex. You may need to apply a little more wax if you were skimpy in Step 7.

9. When the base has cooled down to room temperature, it's time to scrape off the excess wax. Get the plastic scraper and run it down the base as you did with the metal scraper. Try to make it as even as possible. If you know the hill is in sorry shape you may want to sacrifice some speed and leave a little extra wax on for the added protection, but otherwise the wax shouldn't be too thick.

10. Buff it up. Take the Scotchbrite

pad and buff your ski/board with long strokes from tip to tail. Try to buff the base as evenly as possible. When you're done, it should be nice and smooth all over.

11. Take care of those edges. Get out the metal scraper again and make sure no wax is stuck to the edges. They're the one thing you want to grab into the snow, otherwise you'll have a hard time turning.

And that's it. You're now ready to hit the slopes, and the \$15 you saved just might be enough to buy a burger at the lodge for lunch.



Photos by Sarah Wichlacz

Above: the proper inclination for the scraper.

Below: When spreading the wax, keep the iron moving.



This is how the wax should look before you spread it.

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Wax it at home

Shawn Rider
Asst. Outdoors Editor

Some things in life are more important than others. The living room stays picked up while your bedroom is left to go the way of mine sludge. Clothes, notes, bills and change all becoming one with the carpet, irreversibly altering the pristine landscape. Everybody remembers their gloves when they go skiing or snowboarding, but how many have the time, effort and, most importantly, money to worry about any more than the annual wax job for their chosen method of riding?

It's one of those things people either just don't think about or can't afford. At \$15 a pop, the basic wax job costs almost as much as a lift ticket, and which would you rather have? Add another \$30 for a base grind every year, and you've almost bought yourself a weekend at some resorts.

The work ski shops do is a form of modern voodoo. We can see the

difference, feel the improvement, but many of us are ignorant about the sacred rituals of waxing and tuning.

Surely there's some secret course required to wax skis. Perhaps the great Yoda winters on the top of an icy peak somewhere in Canada with a board gone over so expertly it can defy gravity, and he glides up the craggy cliffs to his resting place and teaches young warriors the art of waxing and the means to bring the power of the force to your board, right?

Well, the truth you seek, young Jedi, is this: Wax your own ride. It's not that hard.

The Essentials

First off, you must gather your resources. There are a lot of waxing/tuning kits out there, and it's pretty hard to go wrong. Whether you buy a kit or each piece individually you'll need:

- metal scraper (short for skis, long for snowboards)
- plastic scraper (again,



De-burring the edges.

- the length depends on what tool you use on the mountain — skis or snowboards)
- bastard file and cleaning card
- cleaning agent
- whetstone
- iron
- p-tex
- large piece of cardboard
- lighter
- sandpaper assortment from 80 grit to 150 grit
- Scotchbrite
- wax

start with an all-temperature wax, and experiment later with different ranges and brands. Anything on the list that can't be found at the shop should be found in a hardware store with no problem.

Getting Started

1. Gather your equipment and your snowboard or skis and set up somewhere with plenty of room and ventilation. Waxing doesn't smell so good, so open a window a little. Be sure to also put down that cardboard. Wax doesn't come out of anything easy, so try to keep it off the floor.

2. The second thing you need to do is inspect your edges. Run the whetstone around them to take off any burrs. These will interfere with your turning ability and the general ride of the board. Don't grind the edges down — you aren't sharpening the edges, just cleaning them up some. The whetstone can also take off any little rust spots that may have grown since your last ride.

3. The next thing to do is fill in the more severe gouges those early season rock rides may have incurred.



Applying the wax.

This is where the p-tex comes in.

Now, filling in scrapes is kind of tricky, and if you have something that goes down to the core you may need to take your unit into the shop to have it taken care of, but most damage is easily repaired.

First, clean the area around the gouge. Use the metal scraper to get rid of any old wax, and the base cleaner to get any debris out of the wound. Then, after the area is dried, you need to rough up the edges of the cut a little. The sandpaper or file card will work well to do this. Once you have the scrape all cleaned and roughed up, melt the stick of p-tex with the lighter and drip it into the damaged area.

• SEE WAX JOB PAGE B9



Photos by Sarah Wichlacz

All the stuff you'll need.

This may sound like a lot at first, but sinking \$30 into it right off the bat will save a lot during your wintersporting career. The scrapers, wax, p-tex and a lot of the rest can be found at any good ski or snowboard shop. Irons are easy to come by in pawn shops and secondhand stores. Don't use mom's best iron to wax with, once you do it's not going to be any good for getting wrinkles out. Steam irons have holes in the bottom and, while not ideal, will work pretty well. The cleaning agent would, in the best of all possible worlds, be an actual base cleaner from your local shop, but any kind of citrus cleaner, alcohol or "lemon shine" type astringent will work. It's probably best to

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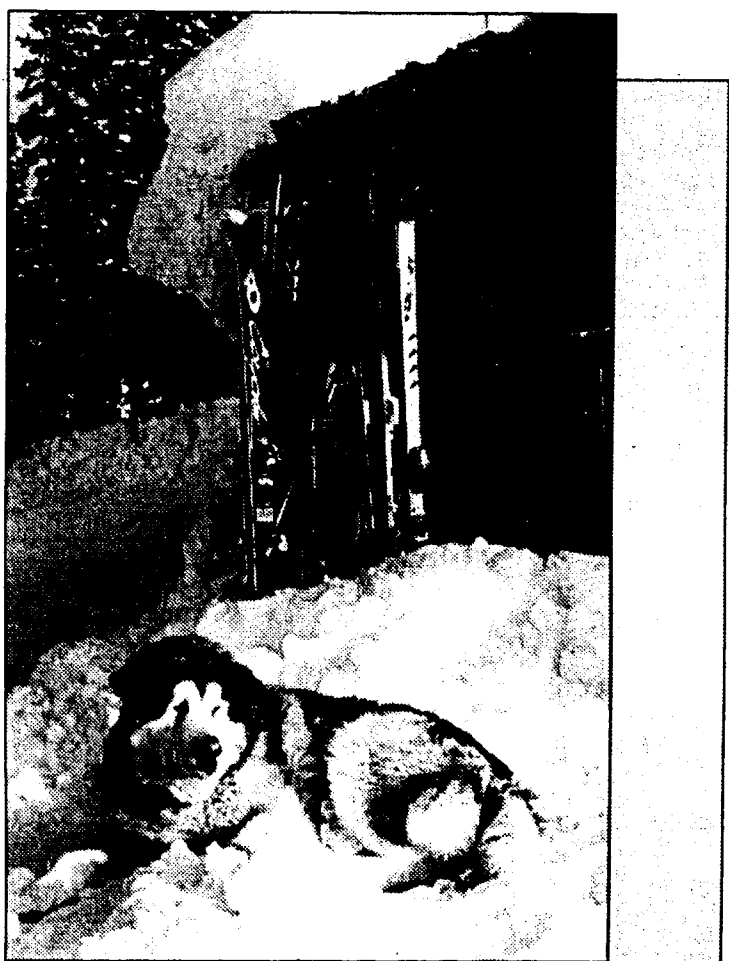
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Shawn Vidmar
Fat boy: the skis, not the dog

Are those clown shoes?

Sarah Horn
Staff

With inches of fresh powder on the ground it is the perfect time to think about trying a pair of "fat" skis.

"What are 'fat' skis," you ask? Fat skis are exactly what the name implies. The skis are wider than the traditional ski, ranging from a variety of widths. They gained extreme exposure during the 1995 National Super 8 Championships. Now they have become all the rage with powder skiers everywhere.

Fat skis have a wider surface which makes them glide over the powder easier than ever before. They are great for those who have had a hard time skiing powder in the past. With these skis anyone can ski powder like a pro without the years of practice.

Some traditionalists will say that fat skis are for lazy skiers, because they provide all levels of confidence to access the powder fields.

"I love skiing powder. It is the challenge that makes it awesome, it is something that not everyone has the skill to do. These new skis make it too easy," said Mark Boyer, a 15-year veteran from Boise.

Although the skis make the chal-

lenge of powder a little easier, there are many veteran skiers who enjoy the skis as well as beginners.

Ski buffs enjoy the smooth lines and of the skis. These skis are a good way for amateur and intermediate skiers to get a taste of powder for the first time and have fun doing it.

"I only ski powder, everything else is too boring. I enjoyed the fat skis. They were a different experience from regular skis, I don't think you can even compare the two. I would try them again," said Dale Mitchel, a ski bum from Meridian.

The only drawback of the skis is once the powder is gone, the skis don't perform as well as regular downhill skis. The width of the skis makes them harder to control on groomed runs. Trying to get on an edge is often difficult.

Another hassle to consider is all the brands of fat skis to choose from on the market. K2, Atomic and Rossignol are only a few of the companies which have their own versions of fat skis. There are also skis for every kind of powder; wet, dry and icy. The trick is finding the pair that fits your skiing style and your favorite mountain's snow conditions.

These skis are perfect for powder

skiing. Of course, that is what they are made for. They wouldn't be recommended for another kind of skiing, though. Powder lovers are certain to have fun but if you love groomed runs then forget it.

Switzer, Silver and other local mountains have fat skis to rent for around \$30 for the adventurous skier who wants to give them a try. If you fall in love and have to have a pair it will take a little larger chunk out of your pocket book, around \$250 to \$350.

Being the poor student I am, I don't have money to go out and buy an extra pair of skis just for powder skiing so I will have to keep on dreaming and renting the skis just for those days when I want to have a little fun. I can always hope my days here at the university will facilitate a good job so one day I might be able to afford these skis. Until then, go to Switzer, Silver or any other mountain near your hometown and rent a pair of fat boy skis and try them out for a day — I'm sure you will fall in love as I have.

I must leave you now to go and study so I can get good grades, graduate, and get a good job with high pay for I MUST HAVE THOSE SKIS!

To build a kicker

Shawn Rider
Asst. Outdoors Editor

It's cold in Moscow, and everybody's broke, right? You want to get up to the hill and "get some turns in" but you can't afford the paper for your art class let alone spare some \$30 to get up to Silver. So what's an impoverished snowboarder to do? Build a kicker.

Moscow is nice because those same hills that make it such a pain to get to that 9 a.m. class are perfect for building a jump to while away the time. If there's at least 8 or 10 inches on the ground and you can find a secluded spot, it doesn't take a lot to get out and have a little fun.

There are several spots you can usually find decent jumps to play on. On the University of Idaho's Kiva lawn there's usually a jump built, but it's not very nice to run over sleds and their families so make sure you're not stepping on anyone's toes.

The hill by Hartung is nice and long and some dormies have usually built jumps there. All around town there are good hills which may or may not have been hit by others with the exact same plan: Build a big jump and get a little air in your down time.

Don't be daunted by big, empty hills that haven't been hit at all, these are your best friends. It's pretty easy to get a decent hit going. Snowboards make great shovels, so start out by making a big pile of snow in a place where the landing won't be too flat, the runout is plenty long enough, and there's enough of an approach

to get some good speed. Ride down the slope first to lay a track and figure out where the best place for the jump is. Pile on the snow as high as you can. This pile all depends on how much of the white stuff is available.

Use your board, and your friends' boards, to pack the pile down into a jump. Smooth out the transition with your snowboard and customize the kicker exactly as you like it. Once you think you have it, take a couple of trial runs and mold the hit into your wildest dream. After a few attempts you should have a jump that will last all day, and the only thing you have to worry about is how long you want to stay.

Riding kickers is a great way to build up your endurance. It's tough to spend an afternoon hiking up a hill and riding back down. You've also created a perfect controlled climate for yourself. You can work on tricks at your leisure and this will help you on the mountain. If you have access to any kind of bench or rail that can be set up behind the jump, anything is possible.

Beginners can also get their feet wet just riding a board down the hillside. One of the hardest things to learn about snowboarding is just balancing properly over the board. It's harder on a real mountain because you get too much speed to avoid the urge to turn or fall, and the rope tows on bunny hills are nearly impossible to deal with on a board. On a hillside with a good



Sarah Wichlacz
Tim Johnson (right) and Rider put the finishing touches on a jump.

• SEE KICKERS PAGE B 9

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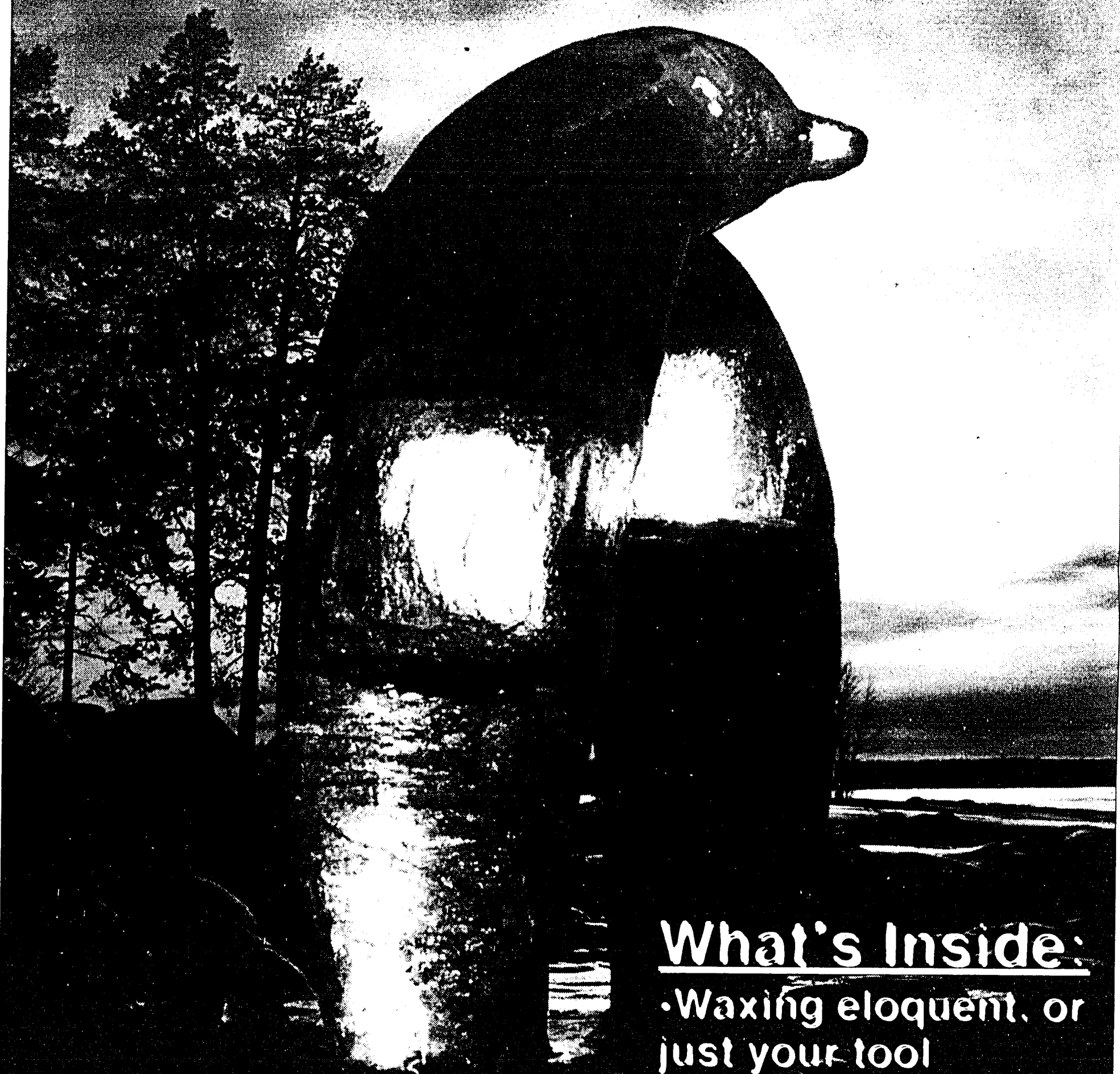
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