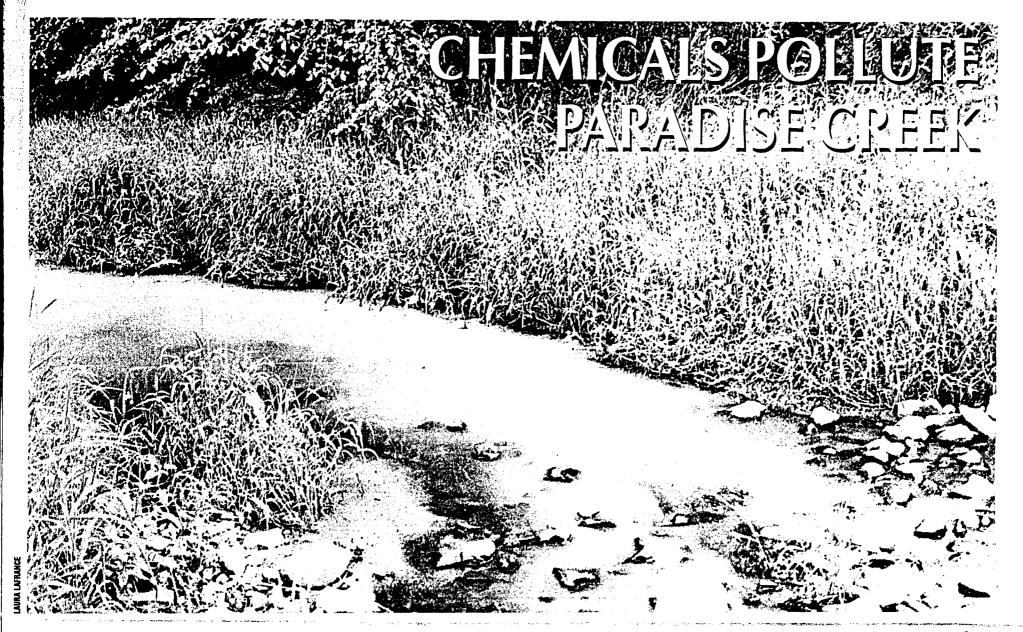
rgonaut





by

resterday afternoon Moscow Police Officer Tom Webber spotted white sediments in Paradise some of it has been flowing into Paradise Creek. Creek, under the bridge of Sixth Street and Deakin Avenue.

The white sediment was thought to be latex paint **WES RIMEL** coming from a sump tank underneath the REPORTER University of Idaho Student Union Building. According to Fred Hutchison, UI Environmental Health/Safety officer, a sump tank is basically a waste tank.

Safety officials poured fluorescent green dye into the tank to determine if the white sediment was coming from the sump tank. Minutes later, the dye came flowing down Paradise has been testing the water for quite some time now and has Creek.

Gary O'Keefe from the Latah County Department of Disaster Services said, "The waste from the sump tank is supposed to flow into the sanitary sewage system where it is sent possibility."

to a waste treatment plant for processing." However, at least

Hutchison said, "The product and source has been identified, so now we can start fixing the problem. The first step is to stop using the bad drains and reroute the waste to the sanitary sewer."

Hutchison couldn't yet determine a time when the system might be fully repaired. Hutchison said, "We

may have been putting water into the creek for a long time that shouldn't have been going in."

Hutchison also mentioned that Washington State University received some trace amounts of E. coli from Paradise Creek. "We don't know if there is a connection yet [between the E. coli and sump tank]," Hutchison said. "But there is definitely a

# Life Science Building cleanup

**WES RIMEL** REPORTER

The Life Science South Building, which caught fire on June 28, must undergo a cleanup and some construction before next fall. The fire damaged four rooms in the Department of Microbiology Molecular Biology and Biochemistry.

According to Moscow Fire Chief Phil Gatlin, damage costs were still being figured out, but he said, "The fire probably caused \$100,000 in damages."

Ken White, University of Idaho Management Services associate director said, "Everything is pretty much destroyed in room 168." He added that rooms 163, 169 and 170 were also damaged in the fire. Room 163 is a lecture lab, 169 is a preparation and lab storage room and 170 is a teaching lab.

White believes all of the rooms except 168 should be ready when students come back in the fall.

As for toxic chemicals he said, "The UI Safety Office is still working in the room, but they haven't found anything of great concern yet."

However, UI Environmental Health/Safety Officer Fred Hutchison said, "There were more chemicals than were originally thought. They vary from five grams to one pound bottles. We are going to bring in an outside company to clean the chemicals up and try to account for all of them."

In addition to smoke damage there was also water damage. White said, "It was a combination of water lines that melted in the fire and the water from the fire

At the June 28 scene a fireman reported that the smoke detectors were shut off in the building. Both White and Hutchison stressed there were very few smoke detectors off in the building. White said, "When there is construction there are often problems in automatic (smoke) detectors. Detectors are sometimes shut off during construction because the dust in the air can set off the dust detectors. There were maybe one or two dust detectors off, but that was only right where construction workers were. The building also has automatic heat detectors and none of them were turned off."

Also, some doors and windows will also have to be replaced. V'hite said, "The fireman had to break out some windows and a couple of doors with an ax to get to the fire."

### Wednesday, July 9

- The Dozier-Jarvis Trio will perform the Brown Bag Noon Concert. The event will take place on the Administration lawn, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- The Latah County Historical Society will host a walking tour throughout the Fort Russell District in Moscow. The tour begins at 2 p.m. at McConnell Mansion, 110 S. Adams. Tickets for members are \$1.50, and \$2 for non-members. Call the Historical Society at 882-1004 for additional information.
- The Idaho Repertory Theatre will perform A Midsummer Night's Dream. The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 885-

### Thursday, July 10

- The Latah County Historical Society will host a walking tour throughout the Fort Russell District in Moscow. The tour begins at 2 p.m. at McConnell Mansion, 110 S. Adams. Tickets for members are \$1.50, and \$2 for non-members. Call the Historical Society at 882-1004 for more information.
- The ASUI Outdoor Program will conduct the Kayak Trip II pre-trip meeting. The kayak trip will be July 12-13 on the lower Salmon, Green Canyon. The meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. at the Student Union Building Outdoor Office.
- There will be a "Fresh Aire" concert in East City Park. The free event will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30
- The Idaho Repertory Theatre will perform Forever Plaid. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. For additional information call 885-2979.
- The Washington State University Theatre Department will perform The Front Page. This performance is part of the "Summer Palace" performances. For more information, call 335-7447.

### Friday, July 11

- · Rendezvous in the Park begins with Geno Delafose and French Rockin' Boogie. The concert will run from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more information call 882-1178.
- · Idaho Repertory Theatre will perform The Outfit. The play will begin

- at 7:30 p.m., for more information call 885-2979.
- WSU's Summer Palace Theatre Department will perform The Front Page. For more information call 335-7447.

### Saturday, July 12

- The Moscow Farmers' Market will take place downtown in Friendship Square. The event runs from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information call 883-7036.
- · Rendezvous in the Park continues with Junior Brown. The concert begins at 6 p.m. and lasts until approximately 9:30 p.m. For more information call 882-1178.
- The Idaho Repertory Theatre will perform Greater Tuna. The play begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 885-2979.
- WSU's Summer Palace Theatre Department will perform The Front Page. For more information call 335-

### Sunday, July 13

• The Idaho Repertory Theatre will perform A Midsummer Night's Dream. The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 885-2979.

### Monday, July 14

- Ghormley Park Pool is tentatively scheduled to open. The season opening was delayed due to cracks in the structure.
- The Idaho Repertory Theatre will perform Forever Plaid. The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 885-2979.
- RV Conference "Life on Wheels" begins on the University of Idaho campus. The event will last until July 18. For more information call 885-3224.

### Tuesday, July 15

· Campus Recreation will host a barbecue. Roast pork will be served in the Arboretum beginning at 6 p.m. For tickets call 885-2163.

### Note:

\*The Frisbee Golf Course will be closed July 9, 13, 16, 23, 31 from 6 p.m. for the production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

## Moscow welcomes top notch decathletes

## O'Brien sponsors event

MICHELLE KALBEITZER

EDITOR IN CHIEF

welve United States High School decathletes are arriving in Moscow today for the 1997 Dan O'Brien National High School Decathlon Invitational. The event will take place at the University of Idaho O'Brien Track Complex this Saturday at noon and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., and admission is

This is the first time the event is being held in Moscow. In previous years it was hosted in Klamath Falls, Ore., and Spokane, Wash.

O'Brien, three time World Record Holder and '96 Olympic Gold Medalist, said, "This year will be one of the strongest fields we've ever had. It's a good opportunity to come out and see the future of my sport."

He added, "What these guys [high school decathletes] are doing now is how I got started."

"Maybe we'll find a new Dan O'Brien out there," said UI Track and Field Coach, Mike Keller about the students participating in this weekends Invitational.

Saturday's events include the 100m, long jump, shot put, high jump, and 400m. Sunday's events will include 110 hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, and 1500m. An awards ceremony will be held Sunday evening at the O'Brien Track Complex.

However, the 12 decathletes will be doing more than practicing and competing during their stay in Moscow. Keller said they will also be shown around the area. On Thursday the group is heading to Clarkston, Wash. for a boat trip and dinner. Friday's schedule includes a barbecue and bowling.

In addition, Keller, O'Brien, and Frank Zarnowski will speak on the decathlon. Zarnowski is an author of three books on the decathlon. He said, "I want to tell stories about what track was like in the 19th century, and what it took to be the world's greatest athlete 100 years ago."

"I want to give them something no one's heard about," Zarnowski said.

The decathletes are from Utah, California, Arizona, Oregon, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Texas, and Tennessee. They are staying in Whitman Hall on campus.

### UI *on-campus* employment opportunities

### **Summer Jobs**

**Fall Jobs** 

---Event Staff

--Event Custodian

-Building Supervisor

-Clerical Roster —Research Assistant

-Laborer Roster\* --Biochemistry

---Custodien

-Child Care Provider\*

-Building Attendant

Instructor

-Weight Room

Attendant

\*continuous recruitment

Student & Temporary Employment Services has the above part-time and/or temporary positions posted. For a full description of a position; more information; or to view a listing of off-campus employment opportunities please visit STES, 1st floor SUB. Summer office hours are 7:30-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Or call 885-4500. Positions are also posted on the Internet at <a href="http://www.uidaho.edu/hrs/sep">http://www.uidaho.edu/hrs/sep</a>.



Time: All concerts are 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: East City Park, Moscow, at the corner of 3rd Street and Hayes

Ticket Prices: Concert tickets are \$8.00 in advance/\$10 at the Park. Rendezvous buttons are \$25 for all 4 concerts. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

Ticket Locations: Tickets are available at Ticket Express outlets (1-800-325-SEAT) and also at Moscow Chamber of Commerce, Book People of Moscow, Palouse Mall Office, Paradise Ridge CDOs & Tapes, Pasta Etc. in Eastside Marketplace, Peppermill at the Palouse Mall, Tidyman's, and Moscow's Farmers Market.

Rain Site: University of Idaho's Memorial Gym

Friday, July 11 Hot and Spicy

eno Delatose and the French Rockin' Boogle

Saturday, July 12 Under Western Skies

**Junior** Brown

Friday, July 18 Blues in the Night

**Charlie Musselwhite** and his Band

Saturday, July 19 Jazz Under the Stars

**Dee Daniels** 



## Be a 'Lifesaver' to a Humane animal

AMY-MARIE SMITH

Recently, the Humane Society of the Palouse instituted a Lifesaver program. This will allow donors to lessen the price it will cost individuals to adopt a pet from the facility.

In this community the Humane Society hears a lot of "if I wasn't a college student," or "if I had a yard..." This program will ease the financial aspect of adopting a pet. "Now people can afford it and take them home," said Donna Robinson, on the Humane Society of the Palouse

Robinson said so far the Lifesaver program has seen little response from the community. While overcrowding isn't usually a problem, animals occasionally have to be put to sleep due to overcrowding, disease, or anti-social behavior.

The Lifesaver program is "like a sponsoring program," and the donated money will "help with the adoption," said Bill Clark, Humane Society of the Palouse manager.

Donors can give contributions in any amount, specified toward a specific dog, cat, or any of the other animals housed by the Humane Society. Basic adoption fees for dogs are \$57.75, \$47.75 for cats, \$15 for rabbits, and \$10 for rats and guinea pigs.

Many Humane Societies have similar programs already in place. These other programs have proved to be successful as witnessed by Robinson. Seeing a need to create an incentive to increase pet adoption she thought, "Why don't we do that here?"

Recent donations have helped the Humane Society to build needed additions to the facility. New dog runs and cat porches are currently under construction after the funds to build them were accumulated in donations. The facility can always benefit from monetary support from outside sources.

Clark is trying to implement another program at the Humane Society, as part of the regular newsletter. Hearing through word-of-mouth, people have begun to send in stories about their pets.

"We put out a newsletter every two months," Clark said. He would like to be able to put out the letter every month. Currently, however, funds aren't available to do so.

In the organization's newsletter, Clark plans to incorporate the pet stories. "It's a brand new program. People send me articles about their cats. dogs, and birds." Clark was inspired to compile such stories from reading the book on animals entitled; Healers and Teachers.

"It's like human interest, only animal interest stories," Clark said.



Feldspar is friendly, attractive, and walks well on a leash. He is up for adoption at the Humane Society and can be adopted through the Lifesaver program.

The program allows people to put down a deposit towards the adoption of an animal. Located at 1913 White Ave. in Moscow, the shelter is open Monday - Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.



(SBC)

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College Bible Study 10:45 am Family Worship 10:45 am Family Bible Study 9:15 am

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1036 W. A St. . Moscow 882-3915

Pastor: Dean Stewart Campus Minister: Tim Freson Choir Director: Jerry Yonkman

Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 am Sunday School-Adult Studies: 9:15 am For van ride call by 9 am

### **Christian Science Church**

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Christian Science Reading Room 518 S. Main - Moscow Tues-Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10-2 pm

### Trinity Baptist Church | First Presbyterian Church

405 S. Van Buren (across from the courthouse)

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Dr. James W. Fisher

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Lin Harmon

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### **Concordia Lutheran Church Mo Syn**

NE 1015 Orchard Dr. Pullman • 332-2830 Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 am

Student Fellowship: Tuesday 7:30 - 9:00 pm Rev. Dudley Nolting Ann Summersun Campus Ministries

Religious Directory

To place your ad in the next Religious Directory of the Argonaut, call 883-7794 by Monday at 3pm.

# Rendezvous, more than meets the eye

AMY-MARIE SMITH

BEBORTER

or two weekends each July Moscow comes alive to celebrate diversity, the arts, and good old-fashioned fun.

Since 1983 Rendezvous in the Park has taken place at this time of year at East City Park, located on the corner of Third and Hayes Streets.

The web-site of the organization, located at <a href="http://www.moscow.com/rendezvous/">http://www.moscow.com/rendezvous/</a>, boasts that "This year's Rendezvous features the finest in jazz, blues, zydeco, and country western." The performers this year are as follows; Geno Delafose and French Rockin' Boogie on July 11, Junior Brown on July 12, Charlie Musselwhite and his Band on July 18, and Dee Daniels will be the last to perform at 1997s Rendezvous on July 19.

Rendezvous in the Park is simulated after the annual old west gatherings of trappers and traders in this area.

All of the concerts run from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets, if purchased in advance, are \$8, or \$10 if purchased at the park. Children under the age of 12 are admitted free. Also available, for the dedicated Rendezvousgoer, is a Rendezvous button, which grants the owner admission to all four of the Rendezvous concerts for only \$25. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Ticket Express outlets, the Moscow Chamber of

Commerce, Paradise Ridge CD's and Tapes, Book People of Moscow, Palouse Mall Office, Pasta Etc., Peppermill, Tidyman's, Moscow Farmers' Market, or by calling 1-800-325-SEAT.

Local food establishments will also be on-site to compile what will be known there as "The Rendezvous Cafe," with food available each concert night at 7 p.m.

In addition to the evening concerts, children have another opportunity to take advantage of the event by attending the Rendezvous for Kids sessions offered July 11 and 12. Children from ages 3 to 12 are invited to attend the specialized workshops in drama, dance, chemistry, and painting. Participating children will receive a sack lunch, a Rendezvous tee-shirt, and attend a final stage preparation. The sessions go from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day and are \$9 for one day, or \$12 for both days.

Rendezvous in the Park is assisted by the following organizations; the city of Moscow, Idaho Commission on the Arts, Latah County Arts and Culture Committee, National Endowment for the Arts, and the University of Idaho.

For additional information, or to volunteer for Rendezvous in the Park, call the Rendezvous office at 882-1178.



### Heads up, Junior is coming

LEX P. LEVY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

uitar hotshot Junior Brown is coming to
Moscow to play Rendezvous In The Park
this Saturday.

The Indiana native, who now calls Texas home, plays an exciting mix of blues, r&b, rock-a-billy and country on one of the strangest looking guitars you've ever seen.

A hybrid between a Fender Telecaster and a lapsteel, Brown's Git-steel is the source for his wild guitar explorations. He often plays both parts of his Git-steel during the same song, and the effect is a mind and note bending array of sounds and textures sure to please the most avaricious musical enthusiast.

Junior moved to Austin, Texas in the early 70s and became a part of the city's burgeoning musical scene. His popularity has blossomed in the last few years as he has established himself as a diverse and skilled purveyor of his unique style of music.



### Geno Delafose, the Red-Hot Cajun Cowboy.

LEX P. LEVY

T's the Fourth of July and Geno Delafose is in Calgary, Canada. As the Calgary Stampede parade goes on in the background, Delafose dis-

cusses life on the road.

"We play about 200 dates a year, from East to West and some overseas," said the 26-year-old Zydeco

musician.

After starting out as a 7-year-old in his father's band, Delafose now plays the accordion and fronts his own band, French Rockin' Boogie.

The band's current lineup includes Germaine Jack on drums, Steven Nash on washboard, Cookie Chavis on electric guitar and Popps Esprite on bass. The group plays a fiery mix of traditional Zydeco blended with blues and a hint of country.

"We mix it up a lot. We don't use a set list and I kind of let the crowd's reaction help decide what to play next," Delefose said.

Delafose cites his father, John, as his major influence, as well as Cajun great Clifton Chienier. Delafose, along with his brother and cousins, spent a lot of time playing together growing up in Eunice, Louisiana. With his father's passing in 1994, Delafose became the heir to Zydeco's throne.

A confessed country music lover who also raises cattle on the family farm, Delafose and his band have played all over the continent, and in some strange situations.

"Last year we played at the Olympics at a gig for all the sailing teams. We ended up playing to only thirteen people. Apparently, none of the teams wanted to hang together," Delefose said with a laugh.

Delafose is an enthusiastic performer who says his main goal is to entertain the crowd, no matter how small. Asked what his favorite part of playing is, he responds immediately: "Making the crowd happy. If I can

make somebody happy, I'm satisfied.
Geno Delafose and French Rockin'
Boogie will be lighting up East City
Park this Friday.











### Greater Tuna, and a night out on the town in Moscow —

LAURA LAFRANCE

REPORTER

The lobby was packed and people were still streaming in through the doors of the Hartung Theatre five minutes before *Greater Tuna's* opening night.

The lines to pick up and purchase tickets were backed up to the wall and started to curve around the room to the left.

Several round tables with red checkered tablecloths and fresh fragrant flowers were crowded with people. People talked and gossiped. They drowned each other out with their own noise. The anticipation could be felt in the air.

Artistic Director, Chuck Ney, said he felt "nervous and excited." He believes "its the best season ever in 44 years."

The people settled down in their seats as the lights started to dim. Country music played in the background. The show began.

It started off with two radio disc jockeys fighting over the microphone. It is a battle that continues throughout the play. A news report came in; the old judge is dead. This affects many of the events in the southern town of Tuna.

The characters each have their own problems to deal with. Actors Douglas Lay and Jeff A. Pierce play ten characters apiece. While this makes for absolutely hilarious roles of men, women, and children, these people have very real problems and feelings. They feel there is nobody who is willing to help.

The residents of Tuna feel alone in their town.

This play is comical and with ironic reality. The audience laughed at the distresses of the characters and forgot that many of these problems occur in Moscow and other communities.

In the play the Humane Society was overcrowded and had to deal with an older woman who found enjoyment in killing dogs with her bitter pills.

Another situation is a family who is going through some difficult times. The father is gone all the time, the teenage girl did not make the cheer squad, the eldest son is in trouble with the law, and the youngest boy wants to be a dog. The mother had no solutions for herself or her family's problems. She just goes one living in her own way.

More problems occurred and the show got funnier. Moscow resident Karen Olstad said, "I think it's hysterical. Its amazing the way [Lay and Pierce], can change characters, costumes, and voices."

After the show, Lay and Pierce said it was interesting and exhausting to play 10 characters, but they got the response they wanted. The audience laughed.

Tickets for *Greater Tuna* and the three other Idaho Repertory Theatre shows can be purchased at the Hartung Box Office or by calling 885-7986.



Jeff A. Pierce plays in Greater Tuna.

### LEX P. LEVY

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITER

## The man in black still rocks

Johnny Cash is nothing short of an American institution.

His career has spanned more than 40 years and he has worked with everybody from Elvis Presley and Carl Perkins to Bob Dylan and Tom Petty. With his latest release, *Unchained*, Cash reclaims his position as one of America's most endearing and original artists.

The song selection on *Unchained* is clever and unique. Of the 14 tracks, only three are Cash originals. The rest are covers of songs penned by artists as diverse as

Beck and Soundgarden. Cash is backed-up by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and the blend of sounds is rich and powerful.

One of the coolest things about *Unchained* is the extensive liner notes written by Cash.

The notes begin with the line, "The veggie burgers were

really good at the sessions." Now, maybe I'm a bit loony,

but if the Man In Black digs veggie burgers, he is awfully high on the hip meter. The notes cover each song, but even better, they cover his life from his perspective. He tells of his courtship of June Carter, and her diligent attempts to tame his wild side. He also gives the reader a history lesson about the early days of Sun Records, relating tales of sessions and tours with Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Roy Orbison. He tells of his boyhood picking cotton in Arkansas and his fascination with the

country music he heard on the radio. The notes give the reader an inside look into the heart and soul of this sensitive and frank American artist.

The songs on *Unchained* cover a variety of emotional and musical textures. Beck's "Rowboat" is a lilting tale of love and loss with a scorching slide guitar lead. Soundgarden's

"Rusty Cage" is transformed from a grunge anthem to an enigmatic country rocker. "Southern Accents", penned by Tom Petty, is a mournful ballad celebrating southern life. Unchained is also full of songs rooted in Cash's deep spirituality, such as "Meet Me In Heaven," and "Kneeling Drunkard's Plea". There is also evidence of Cash's sentimental side on the songs "The One Rose" and "Memories Are Made Of This". "Mean Eyed Cat" and "I Never Picked Cotton" are flat out rock-and-roll, while the album's final cut, "I've Been Everywhere" is a humorous tale of life on the road.

Throughout *Unchained*, Cash's voice is honest and powerful, with more than just a little edge to it. While some of the songs do approach being too sappy, they have a feel that is distinctively Cash's, and bring freshness and enthusiasm with the help of the excellent backing muscisians. *Unchained* is a reminder that with age, many things do indeed get better.









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MIND

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Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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## **Opinion**

REPORTER

## Mars mission icing on America's cake

nly about 500 years ago, many people still believed the earth was flat. Now some people believe there has been life on Mars — including some NASA scientists. Other people

believe there is no way there was ever life on Mars. The new space probe Pathfinder should send some strong evidence back to earth as to who is right.

On July 4, 1776 we declared our independence from the British. Many people did not believe that man could ever fly, let alone travel

Now, 221 years later, America has her goals set on putting men on Mars in the 21st century. Some have even started to talk about actually sending people to live on

I, for one, have always been fascinated with our space program. Unfortunately, I believe the Challenger disaster took a lot of wind out of our sails.

the Red Planet.

Yesterday was truly a historic day in our nation's history. Not only were there fireworks here in America, but the real fire-

works seemed to be with the Pathfinder — a million miles away. According to CNN reports, this project is a test of new technologies

- 25 to be exact. Scientists were saying that if the craft landed successfully and sent back only one picture they would consider it a success. Not just a success for NASA. Not just a success for the scientific community. But a success for our entire country.

The kind of success that for one moment brings together people from all walks of life; young, old, rich, poor, liberal and conservative. That for one moment we might all look at the Pathfinder mission,

imagine ourselves standing under our flag and saying, "I'm proud to be an American. Yes, very proud."

Well, the Pathfinder mission has been a success. It landed safely.

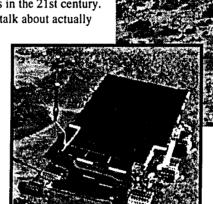
There are numerous pictures all over the Internet. However, NASA is having communications problems with the Pathfinder's small probe which is supposed to search the Martian surface. As some at NASA are joking now, "The space ghoul finally got us."

Of course, there will always be a few skeptics out there who question the space program, and the amount of money it costs. It is a legitimate point. Shouldn't we focus on our own country and our planet before we focus on other planets? Couldn't the money for the space program be put to better use? Yes, it proba-

bly could. Of course if we were really into the business of spending money wisely, we would not be paying about 20 cents of every tax dollar towards interest on the national debt.

The bottom line is that we as Americans seem to have a natural instinct to explore new lands and make our mark. From the first settlers, to Lewis and Clark, to Neil Armstrong, to the Viking in 1976 and the Pathfinder in 1997. We crave the excitement and experience

Our generation needs the space program to do something significant. Most of our parents were able to take great pride in the fact that they saw Neil Armstrong walk on the moon. Now there is talk of putting more American astronauts on Mars in the year 2025. I will be 47 or 48 then, and who knows what I will be doing for a living. But one thing is for sure — I will be taking great pride in watching the Mars mission. Hopefully, anyway.



# When death is the only cure

ast year, I watched cancer quickly and painfully kill my 64-year-old grandmother. The tumors developed behind her eyes and inside her lungs and hurriedly spread to the rest of her body; eventually, after much treatment and little improvement, the cancer beat her into a hazy, morphine-controlled state of near-constant sleep. She died on March 24, 1996, less than three months after her diagnosis.

If she had asked me to help end her life to ease her suffering, I would have said yes.

I would have helped her commit suicide, and I would have faced criminal prosecution for doing so. Currently, assisted suicide is a felony in nearly all of the United States. And it appears that it will remain as such indefinitely. Several groups are pursuing legislation which challenges the constitutionality of bans on assisted suicide, but few are greeted with any degree of success. This happened recently in a Washington state case, h involved three terminally ill patients and four physicians who declared they would help these patients to end their lives if it were legal to

However, on June 26, the Supreme Court upheld the Washington state law which bans assisted suicide, preventing these physicians from adequately treating their patients. The Court based much of its decision on examination of Western

culture's long-standing history of legal and social opposition to assisted suicide, and even went so far as to declare that "suicide is not a fundamental liberty interest protected by the Due Process Clause" of the Fourteenth Amendment, even for terminally ill, mentally competent adults.

To lift the ban on assisted suicide, the Court argued, would require a complete reversal of centuries of "legal doctrine and practice," and ultimately a contradiction of the policies chosen by nearly every one of the states. The Court went on to say that the ban on assisted suicide protected the medical profession's integrity and ethics and maintained physicians' roles as their patients' healers.

This reasoning is unsound.

First, it is obvious that hundreds of years of tradition do not cause a practice to be more or less just, moral, or legal than any other. If this were true-if the right choices are mandated by centuries of tradition—then slavery, religious persecution, and the completely submissive social role of women are due for a revival. The fact that something has been done a certain way in the past never implies that it should continue being done in the same manner.

Second, by lifting the traditional ban on assisted suicide, society would in no way violate the integrity of the medical profession. A

physician's role is primarily as a healer, and the ability to assist in suicide does not interfere with a physician's healing powers. There are times when medical treatment only prolongs the inevitable and ultimately increases suffering-a notion which stands in direct opposition to the concept of healing. Most would agree that sometimes, just sometimes, death is the most practical cure for a terminally ill patient.

So where does the solution to this conflict lie? It is unlikely the Supreme Court will reverse its stand on assisted suicide, and it is equally unlikely that the states will reverse theirs. Meanwhile, terminally ill adults, if they are considering suicide, are left without the option of seeking professional assistance. Perhaps the status quo is the most viable option, provided it could be met with the unofficial leniency of states and their attorneys general-doctors who currently assist patients in their deaths are subject to criminal prosecution, even in cases which are ultimately, and obviously, humanitarian in nature. However, with a closer analysis of each case, assisted suicides which are performed for the legitimate reason of empowering a terminally ill, mentally competent adult with the right to determine the time and manner of his death, could realistically proceed without fear of prosecution.

#### Argonaut **Letters &** Guest Columns Policy

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## The Argonaut asked a two-part question:

Are you a liberal

### What does that mean to you?



"Conservative. I don't make decisions on a whim. I still believe in relationships that last a lifetime, and waiting until you're married."
—Michael Van De Vanter junior in chemical engineering

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"Liberal, I say what I want, when I want. I don't care what people think.

-Mikaela Khounnala senior in clothing, textiles, and design



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> -Vincent Perez senior in secondary education



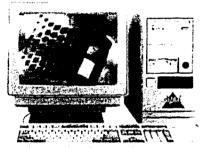


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## Letter to the Editor

### Freedom includes the right to burn

"Even if you don't salute it, don't burn it." The headline screamed out at me. I continued to read thinking that maybe I would be convinced that civil liberties are overrated.

I was wrong. Instead I read a logically flawed, disjointed scrawling that forces the reader to abandon all hope of finding a reasonable argument and instead relies on rhetoric and gut feelings to make

Individuals that make up the "protesters against gay rights, abortions or racial equality" are exercising a right. A right so precious the framers of the Constitution put it first — in the First

Let me say that ideologically I disagree with the previously mentioned views, but to paraphrase Cicero I will fight to the death to defend their right

Preaching and protesting are not wrong. It may be annoying, but it is not wrong. What is wrong is you. Your view that since these protesters do not agree with you that they should be silenced. (It might be worthy to take note that those against gay rights and abortion rights don't burn flags. Antiequality protesters usually don't either).

Flag burning may be vile and reprehensible, it may be immoral and sick, it may offend you and make you uncomfortable Ms. Smith, but that is a small price to pay for freedom.

Our country was founded by misfits and rebels that had no freedom to protest or preach. The same logic that made your diatribe flawed was probably used by the Monarchy of England and its supporters when those uppity settlers in America wanted independence.

The price of freedom is vigilance — and compassion - and acceptance - and more. The same right exercised when burning the flag allows you to write such rubbish without fear of persecution. Unless you count this letter as retribution.

—Dennis Sasse UI student



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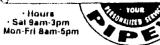
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