

**Inside**



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The University of Idaho Argonaut  
Idaho's largest Collegiate Newspaper  
Moscow, Pullman, and the Palouse.

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Volume 101 - No. 21

**Friday 10.29.99**



**Mostly Cloudy**

High: 49, Low: 37

Saturday: Mostly Cloudy  
High: 56, Low: 36

Sunday: Partly Cloudy  
High: 52, Low: 35

Friday: Mostly Cloudy  
High: 50, Low: 33



**Weather Link**

**ASUI deadline vastly approaching**

By Wyatt Buchanan  
University of Idaho Argonaut

MOSCOW, Idaho— Candidate petitions for the Associated Students of the University of Idaho (ASUI) fall elections are due Monday at 5 p.m., according to Tommy Osgood, ASUI Elections Board Chair.

Open positions include one president, one vice president, six senators and one faculty council representative. Elections are held Nov. 16 and 17. All positions are salaried and last for one year, beginning at the spring semester.

As of Wednesday, 15 students began the petition process, with 13 students seeking senate seats, one seeking the presidency and one seeking the vice presidency. No students had signed up for the open faculty-council representative position.

Osgood said he wants to see 15 students run for the senate and more than one for the president and vice president position.

"More people running creates more competition and also improves voter turnout," said Osgood.

To be eligible, candidates must be full time UI students with a minimum 2.0 grade point average during the current or previous semester, according to the ASUI Rules and Regulations manual for elections. Also, candidates must obtain a petition from the ASUI office and gather 75 student signatures supporting them.

Osgood said in the past, unintentional problems have risen with names on petitions not being valid or certain names being repeated on a single petition. To combat the problem, extra spaces have been added on petitions for up to 90 signatures to ensure a candidate has at least 75 which are valid.

The open positions have a lot of variety in their job descriptions, according to Osgood.

He says the president has an unbelievable amount of duties, from meetings to relations between the students, senate and community. The president also ultimately oversees the operation of the senate as well as many other ASUI activities.

Osgood said the president gets to travel frequently and often represents students at State Board of Education meetings.

The vice president is the president of the senate which means he or she is in charge of all senate meetings and does a lot of hands on work with senators, according to Osgood.

Senators are the representatives of all students in the ASUI, says Osgood. Each senator is assigned to a living group where he or she reports senate activities to the students and finds out what students want and need. They present this information to the entire senate.

The ASUI Senate meets every Thursday in the Gold Room of the Student Union Building. Senators are required to attend

these meetings as well have five office hours per week, according to an ASUI document describing the positions.

There are a total of 13 senators, six elected during the fall and seven elected during the spring.

The faculty council representative, a position Osgood says no students have yet applied for, attends weekly meetings of a faculty council where they discuss student-faculty-relations issues.

Some decisions the representatives have been involved with are the release of students for Veteran's Day, the core curriculum requirements and teacher evaluation procedures. The representative reports back to the senate on the activities of the council.

Osgood says his advice to students interested in running for positions is to pick up a petition and turn it back in as soon as possible in case there are any problems with it.

Current ASUI senator Brad Schaff says students should not be discouraged from running because of the amount of signatures needed for petitions.

"It's easy to get all the signatures, even if you don't know 75 people," says Schaff. "It gets the word out about you running, allows you to meet more people and is well worth it for the benefits."

Schaff says some of the benefits of being an ASUI senator have been the networking opportunities with the UI administration and the knowledge of current campus events.

Interested students can pick up applications at the ASUI office in the SUB until they are due at 5 p.m. on Monday.



Photo by Aspen Svec



The Moscow Castle looms as a fitting backdrop for Halloween spirit. (above)

Join the witches in their return to the McConnell Mansion Saturday, Oct. 30th, for storytelling, tricks and treats from 1:30-3:00. This historical landmark was built in Moscow in 1878 and was owned by William J. McConnell, a member of one of the region's wealthiest families. The McConnells were forced into bankruptcy during the depression in 1893 and forced to sell the house. (Contributed photos: left and below)



**STUDENT HEALTH FAIR**

**Keeping UI healthy for 11 years**

By Monika Lewis  
University of Idaho Argonaut

MOSCOW— The UI Student Health Center kicked off its eleventh annual Health Fair in the SUB Ballroom and Vandal Lounge yesterday.

According to Fair Coordinator Mary Schwantes, the Fair consisted of over 70 exhibits presenting the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of health.

The event was open to students, faculty and staff members, and community members. "There's something there for all age groups," said Schwantes.

Services such as bone density screening for women, fitness testing, and massage, were provided free of charge. Flu shots were administered for \$6, and cholesterol testing for \$2 and \$5 (non-fasting and fasting).

A variety of medical professionals from businesses such as Palouse Foot & Ankle Clinic, Paris Vision Center, and Gritman Medical Center were available to answer questions and give basic consultations.

Mental health, pregnancy-counseling, and even LCSC career counseling services were provided. Newsome & Kimberling Insurance were present to answer questions regarding student health insurance as well.

A number of food exhibitors from across the region were offering free samples including Idaho baked potatoes, Washington apples, bean soup, pumpkin bread, and meatless chicken nuggets.

According to Schwantes, the Fair was promoting natural food, with particular emphasis on soy products replacing meat products.

Campus Recreation held demonstrations of kick boxing, Nia, and Tae Bo. A car demolition took place in front of the SUB to demonstrate safety precautions. The American Red Cross was sponsoring a blood drive in the Appaloosa Lounge. Inland Northwest Blood Center Marrow Program was also seeking marrow donors.

Alternatives to Violence, Good Samaritan Village, Moscow Food Coop, American Cancer Society, and UI Dietetics Program were but a few of the many exhibitors at the Health Fair.

"This is the second best attended student event on campus," stated Schwantes. "It is a great way to learn about new products, food, and services in our area."

For information regarding other services student health provides, call Mary Schwantes at 885-6693.

**Tri Delta collects cash instead of candy**

By Ruth Snow  
University of Idaho Argonaut

MOSCOW — When doorbells ring on Halloween night, the last thing Moscow residents expect to see is groups of fraternity women trick-or-treating for donations.

The women of Delta Delta Delta have made trick-or-treating for the Ronald McDonald house an annual tradition in the Moscow community.

Ronald McDonald Houses are temporary homes away-from-home where the families stay while the child receives treatment at a nearby hospital or treatment center.

One of Tri Delta's national philanthropies is raising money for children's cancer charities. Trick-or-treating for the Ronald McDonald House has raised over \$800 in the past. The money lets families stay for free.

The first Ronald McDonald House was opened in 1974 in Philadelphia. The house

was named the Ronald McDonald House because of McDonald's fundraising support from restaurants and for the positive, hopeful and fun-loving feeling the well-known clown could inspire in children.

Tri Delta sponsors this philanthropy every year, each woman donating part of her night to raise money for a good cause. The money raised goes to the Ronald McDonald houses in Boise and Spokane.

"This is a great opportunity to raise money for local families dealing with this type of emotional and financial crisis," said Crystal Robbins, Tri Delta Vice President of Public Relations.

"We have a fun time, and it's nice to give back to an organization in our community that gives local families so much," she said.

Tri Delta has a close bond with the Ronald McDonald house for another reason.

Kelly and Dan Smith are the house parents

at the chapter and they stayed at the Seattle Ronald McDonald house when their daughter, Sarah Largent was being treated for bone cancer, in 1997.

The Smiths stayed at the Seattle Ronald McDonald House, with 22 other families, for eight months.

"We love the Ronald McDonald House. Any family who has a sick child that has to be away from home for an extended period of time could never find a better place to be," said Kelly Smith.

"We made life-long friends that we'll always have," said Smith.

Sarah passed away from the bone cancer at age 17.

Residents who are interested in donating money, in care of Tri Delta, can make checks payable to the Ronald McDonald House.

For more information about this philanthropy, call Mindy, 885-6686.

**Students' Voice**

**Where did that come from?**

Dressing up

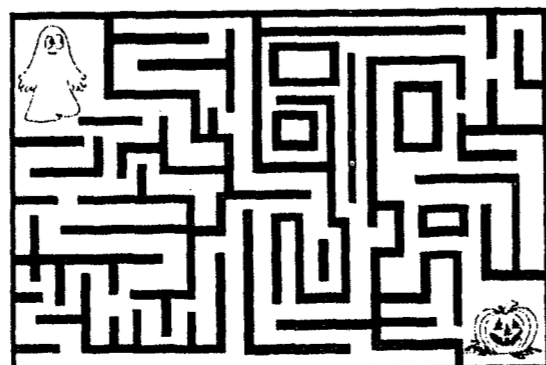
One story says that on the Celtic New Year, the disembodied spirits of those who had died the year before came back in search of living bodies to possess. The living wanted to avoid being possessed so villagers would extinguish their fires making their homes undesirable, and dress up in ghoulish costumes, noisily parading around in the neighborhood in order to frighten the spirits away.

Trick or treating

This tradition is thought to have originated with a Ninth-century European custom called souling. On Nov. 2, Christians would walk through the villages begging for "soul cakes" (square pieces of bread with currants). The more soul cakes the beggars received, the more prayers they promised to say for dead relatives

Jack-o-lantern

As the Irish tale is told, a man named Jack tricked Satan into climbing a tree. Jack then carved an image of a cross in the tree's trunk, trapping the devil inside. Jack made a deal with the devil that if he never tempted him again, he would let him out of the tree. When Jack died, he was denied entrance to both heaven and hell because of his evil ways. He was given a hollow turnip with a single ember to light his way through the



frigid darkness. The Irish used turnips as their "Jack's Lanterns" originally, but when immigrants came to America they found that pumpkins were more plentiful.

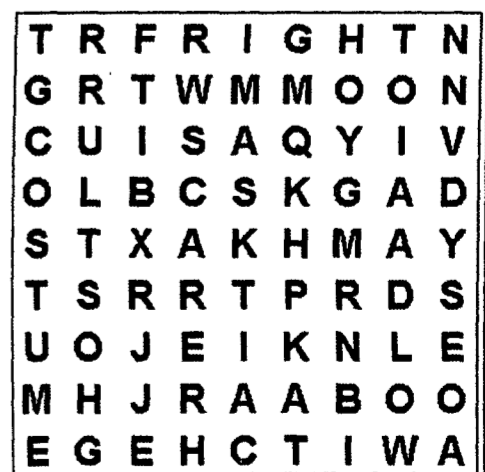
**Goblin them up: Recipes**

**Green Slime**  
serve soft-set lime gelatin out of a bowl

**Eyeballs**  
Make rice krispie treats (directions on box). Form into balls, about 1 or 2 in. across. Add a pastel M&M or any small round candy for the iris and dot the candy with frosting or gel for the pupil.

**Ghost Hand Punch**  
Buy some new latex gloves. Wash one out and fill with water. Fasten the arm closed with a twist-tie or rubber-band. Freeze it. Float it in the punch before serving.

**Halloween word find**



trick ghost mask candle  
fright treat night boo  
moon scare vampire  
costume witch dark



\*information courtesy www.halloween.com



**Sergio Brown**

*Editor in Chief  
Chairman, Argonaut Endowment  
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**Announcements**



Cooperative Education Orientation, every Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. in the SUB Diversity Education Center (main floor). Start finding internships now to help you meet your career goals.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting every Wednesday, 6:30 a.m., St. Augustine's Church, 628 Deakin Street. Any questions, 882-1597.

UI Children's Center will have infant opening starting Nov. 1. Contact Tina Baker, 885-6414. All students are invited to attend the meetings of the Queer Student Association (QSA). Monday nights at 6 p.m. in the Women's Center.

Halloween trail to benefit the Humane Society will be held on Oct. 29, and 30 from 7-10 p.m. at East City Park. The trail begins at the stone arch on the corner of 3rd and Monroe. Admission is \$1.00 for children 13 and under; and \$2.00 for all others.

Narcotics Anonymous meets Mondays in Moscow at the Presbyterian Church at 405 S. Van Buren; and Thursday & Saturday

at the Church of Christ, NE 1125 Stadium Way, Pullman. The meetings are all at 7 p.m.

Tau Kappa Epsilon's 25th annual Haunted House is Sunday, Oct. 31, from dusk until dawn. 745 Nez Perce Dr. Admission is \$3 at the door or \$2 with a can of food. Benefits go to the Moscow Special Olympics and the Moscow Food Bank.

At 11:30 today, Law School room 103, there will be a presentation by Michael Mulford, a professor and practicing lawyer from Iowa. He will be presenting on serving the international needs of clients. This event is open to the public.

Listening, Note-Taking and Textbook Reading: attend a workshop at Student Support Services. The workshop will be offered on two different days, Nov. 3 or 4 in CEB 105 from 12-1:30 p.m. Participants can choose the day that fits their schedule. Please pre-register by calling the SSS main office at 5-6746.

Daylight savings is over! Remember to set your clocks back one-hour Saturday night at 2 a.m. Don't forget to FALL BACK!

**A-Phi's and SAE's carve a smile with local kindergartners**

By Ruth Snow  
University of Idaho Argonaut

MOSCOW — Russell Elementary kindergarten students get a special treat each year when Halloween comes around.

For the last five years, Judy Pilcher's kindergarten classes have carved pumpkins with members of the Alpha Phi sorority and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

"Each child gets their own pumpkin to take home, which is donated by the A-Phi's and SAE's," said Pilcher.

The pumpkin carving is held at AF each year.

"Last year it was a really nice day, so the kids went outside and had fun playing in the leaves," said Pilcher.

"It's fun interacting with the kids and watching them have a good time," said Eric Beckwith, a senior at SAE.

"Usually the college kids read the kindergarten kids Halloween books. It's a nice connection with college students and the kindergarten children," said Pilcher.

Jill Bielenberg, a sophomore at Alpha Phi, carved pumpkins last year with the children. "Seeing everyone being able to interact with the little kids and seeing how the

kids appreciate and look up to the older students is my favorite thing." While some members appreciate the privilege of being able to bond with the children, others see some real life benefits of having the kids around.

"The children seem to bring out the inner-child in a lot of the guys who participate. When the guys are around the children, any sign of macho-ism disappears," said Katie Heffelfinger, a senior at Alpha Phi.

For more information about this activity or any other philanthropy call the Alpha Phi philanthropy chair, Nicole at 885-6167.

**Chevron executive: pump rates are market-driven, not cost-based**

Associated Press

BOISE — A Chevron executive told Attorney General Al Lance's task force investigating high gasoline prices that pump rates primarily are dictated by a number of constantly shifting retail market forces, not production costs.

"The art of pricing is just that. It's not a science at all," Jim Haden, Chevron's retail manager for Idaho and other states in the West, said Tuesday during the second meeting of the panel led by former attorney general Jim Jones.

The American Automobile Association reported last week that the \$1.48 average price per gallon for self-serve unleaded gas in Idaho was the highest in the continental United States. While down a penny from September it remained 19 cents

higher than the national average.

Deputy Attorney General Brett DeLange said even though the average price that gas wholesalers like Chevron charge in the Boise area has dropped 11 cents per gallon since September, "we haven't seen it at the retail level."

Haden said the various subtle supply and demand factors behind stubbornly high prices and differences from one pump to another sometimes are virtually inexplicable, but two in particular might shed some light on Idaho's dilemma.

First, Idaho's economy is vibrant and the state is growing. That means greater demand for gas.

Second, only one regional pipeline — owned by Chevron and used by eight suppliers — carries gas from Salt Lake City to southern Idaho terminals. That means supply is restricted.

"Idaho is limited more so than many other states in its availability of product," Haden said. "The pipeline, being the primary and almost only source into Idaho, has been at full capacity for almost a year."

Gas also is trucked into Idaho, most heavily during the summertime peak demand period. But he said that expense can add 6 to 8 cents per gallon to retail prices.

Other factors generally involve local market conditions and competition among retailers, Haden said in responding to Jones' recent letter seeking answers from oil companies about their pricing policies.

So far Jones has received replies from Chevron, Sinclair and TOSCO Refining, which supplies retailers in northern Idaho. And BP-Amoco offered to send a representative to Tuesday's meeting but Jones said it would not be necessary.

**JARS OF CLAY**

FRIDAY, OCT. 29 - 8PM  
BEASLEY COLISEUM (@ W.S.U.)  
PRODUCED BY DOUBLE TEE www.doubletee.com

**Tales for a Dark Night**

Welcome to my house  
Enter freely...  
and of your own will

A One Man Show  
written and performed by  
Scott Keely

NOVEMBER 3RD, 8:00PM  
SUB BALLROOM  
PRESENTED BY ASUI  
PRODUCTIONS

**THANK YOU!!!**

Student Health Services Staff would like to thank all of the vendors for their participation, door-prizes, and raffle gifts in the 1999 Health and Nutrition Fair.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended the Fair.

**This Week at the Bookstore**

**Martin Stadius**  
Booksigning Friday,  
Oct. 29th from 2-4 p.m.  
He will be signing his new book **DREAMERS: On the Trail of the Nez Perce**

Join us Saturday and receive a special discount coupon.  
20% off and General book  
10% off any Spring 2000 Textbook

Join us in Welcoming Bestselling Author **J A Jance** Saturday, Oct. 30th at 2:00p.m.  
She will give a presentation "The Mystery of writing Mysteries" and will be signing books after the presentation.

885-6469  
www.bookstore.uidaho.edu  
uibooks@uidaho.edu

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
**BOOKSTORE**

### Violence: guns or prescription drugs?

By Tim Lohrmann  
University of Idaho Argonaut

It seems like it happens at least once a month. Someone walks into a church, a classroom, maybe an office building and opens fire. Many die. Many are wounded, scarred, even paralyzed. The talking network news heads grab the story and run with it. They carry on in subdued, tearful tones for a few days. Behind the scenes, their bosses gloat about surging news ratings. Then the coverage fades. Until the next episode.

We all agree on some things. It's sad. It's scary. And something has to be done. That's where agreement seems to end. And there's good reason for the lack of consensus. Will emotional and undoubtedly well-meaning cries for more gun control really address the root cause? It's a difficult case to make. After all, up until the 1970s, deadly school violence was almost unheard of. And at that time it was even easier to purchase guns. Nearly anyone could simply send a check and an order form to the address listed in any Sears-Roebuck catalog. A couple of weeks later the weapon of choice would arrive at the doorstep in a cardboard box. No computer-aided background check, no forms to fill out, just a straight sale. Also, many kids participated in school marksmanship teams. They brought weapons to school and stored them in their lockers. In rural areas, it was common to bring guns along with books for a little rabbit or squirrel hunting on the way home from class. Using weapons on school-mates? It almost never happened. Times have changed, but it seems that factors other than mere gun availability are in serious play. Media and video game violence are being examined. Maybe we're not getting enough info, or maybe we're in such hyper-media fog that we lose track of crucial follow-ups to the tragedies. Many read something like this article by Kathy Sanders, which appeared in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* a few weeks after the tragedy:

Fort Worth, TX "A doctor had prescribed the anti-depressant drug Prozac for Larry Gene Ashbrook, but investigators are unsure whether he had been taking it when he killed seven people and then himself in a southwest Fort Worth church last week, police said yesterday."

It was too late. The story was gone. The victims were buried. Few were paying attention.

Prozac. Now there's an psychiatric anti-depressant American household word. Or consider the following snippet from a report a couple of weeks after one of the most horrific of these deadly incidents—the Columbine High School bloodbath: "The psychiatric drug that Eric Harris had been taking before he went on a shooting rampage at a Colorado high school last week was prescribed about 1.4 million times last year."

The drug here was Luvox, another serotonergic anti-

depressant, a close relative of Prozac.

Another school shooting from the dim past took place in Springfield, Ore. a couple of years ago. Fifteen-year-old Kip Kinkel killed his parents, drove their car to school the next day and then killed one and wounded several: Prozac. Or how about the Connecticut Lottery shootings in March 1998? Matthew Beck shot-up the lottery office where he worked, killing four: Luvox, along with Lorazepam, an anti-anxiety drug. It would be easy to continue. Many nearly identical news stories have prescription psychiatric drugs as a common thread. A day-trader takes out a brokerage office in Atlanta: Prozac. Many school violence cases involve similar drugs. It's an epidemic.

What's amazing is that these behavioral side effects are known and proven. The manufacturer of Luvox has been quoted as saying that "such episodes are rare and likely to be caused by the underlying depression that led the patient to Luvox." But, according to the International Coalition for Drug Awareness (ICDA), statements on the drug information sheet given to patients when they get a Luvox prescription says such episodes are in fact "frequent" side effects to the drug. There has been little pediatric testing to determine the effects of these drugs on children. But the number of prescriptions for even the youngest of kids keeps increasing exponentially.

Dr. Ann Tracy, executive director of the ICDA, says hundreds of thousands of kids as young as preschoolers are taking Prozac and other

mood-altering drugs approved only for adults with little or no pediatric testing. From 1996 to 1997, the number of children aged 5 and under taking the common anti-depressants climbed from 8,000 to 40,000, according to IMS Health, a pharmaceutical research firm in Plymouth Meeting, Pa. In that same 12-month period, the number of youngsters 17 and under who were prescribed Prozac or its primary competitors, Zoloft and Paxil, rose by more than 120,000 — from 669,000 to 792,000. And it keeps going, even in the places most affected.

In a recent news release, Dr. Tracy says, "while in Littleton last month I was told by one of the teachers at Columbine that close to half of their students are now 'on something' to cope with the Luvox-induced tragedy carried out by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold."

It's easy to see why there's little publicity on prescription drug violence. When money talks the corporate media listens. Eli Lilly, the manufacturer of Prozac, pulls in over \$6 million daily from the sales of that one drug alone. Corporate shareholders are entitled to returns—at any price. The government is fighting a war on drugs in this country. Maybe it's time for the warriors to consider changing targets. But maybe the media needs examination for other reasons as well.

### Homecoming: a valuable tradition

By Kami D. Miller  
University of Idaho Argonaut

Last Saturday I had the privilege of attending the University of Idaho Homecoming Football Game. Not the biggest football fan in the world, I sat with my friends and ate concession food as we laughed at the remarkably comical inflated Joe Vandal mascot.

The game began with a T.V.

show host wanting us to chant "Hey Tim, the game's right here" or something to that effect. Though it was admittedly silly, you can imagine how we all chanted that stupid phrase like cattle following each other off a cliff. That kind of silliness can happen when you get over 23,000 people together, fill most of them with alcohol, and provide two hours of big sweaty guys beat-

ing the crap out of each other.

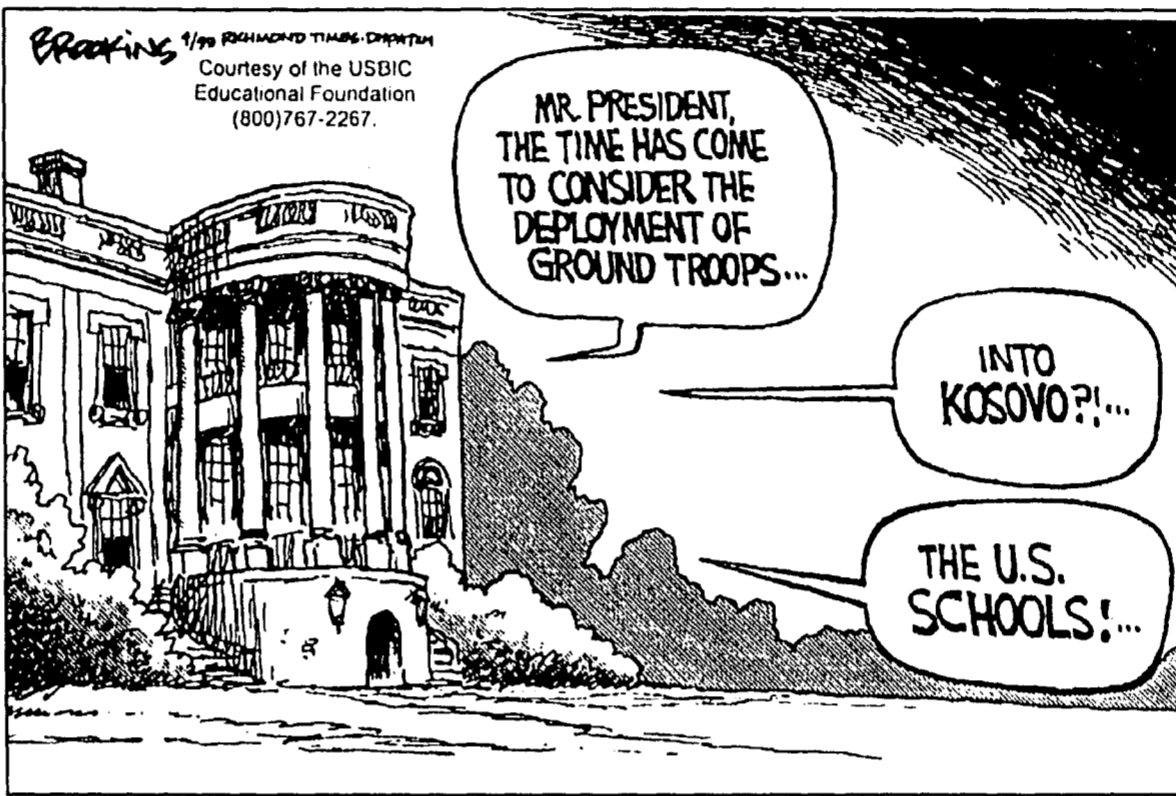
The kick-off followed, and I watched the game, feigning interest. I looked at the people around me. My friends watched the game with as little interest as I until we got to cheer because we scored a goal or whatever.

Lots of older people attended the game, many of them returning alumni with their children. They

looked cold but seemed excited about the game. Inflato-Joe came to our side of the stands and I couldn't help but convulse with laughter. He let the children hit his abnormally large head; he even deflated his head and arms for our amusement. I found this extremely funny, mostly because of the way he walked, and the way he seemed to be oblivious of how ridiculous he looked. The entertainment value of the game paled in comparison to Joe's goofy antics.

As the game progressed, I let all the cynicism in my being just disappear.

I watched the laughing children beating up the mascot. I watched cheering frat boys. I even smiled at a cheerleader and I saw the look of relief in her eyes that I had accepted the insipid cheering without much irritation. I watched the game and yelled my head off when we scored a "touchdown". I realized that even with all the crap that goes on at this University, with the Greek system, academics, football riots and everything else, this is a place of tradition. For generations, this is where students have come to learn and grow and live. Homecoming is a big part of that tradition and I thought it was stupid before, but it really means something. And even I think it's cool.



### Students think homecoming means beer, partying

By Marshall Stokes  
University of Idaho Argonaut

With homecoming week over, the Vandals winning the game, and hundreds of students still recovering from their hangovers, I thought it might be appropriate to address an issue which likely surfaces every year during this time: the majority of UI students do not know what homecoming is. Furthermore, many of them see it simply as an excuse to get boozed up. These startling discoveries came in light of a recent and highly unreliable survey of UI students last week before the big game. After realizing that he and some of his classmates did not actually know what Homecoming is, an anonymous pollster decided to find out. Does anyone have any information on this topic, or does everyone just blindly follow the masses to the (free) game and stand by watching all the happenings, beer in hand, cheering and making up songs? The results are somewhat alarming.

This survey revealed that while almost 88 percent knew that it was homecoming week, only 13 percent of those living off-campus knew what homecoming is and, sadly, not one student surveyed residing on-campus had any clue either. Fortunately, roughly half of those surveyed planned to attend the game and parade, and 100 percent of the students questioned had plans for consuming large quantities of alcohol shortly thereafter, if not during, or before, the events in question.

Clearly, there is a problem here. Some students still have hangovers, and a few of them may still be drunk from last weekend. Furthermore, the student body is vastly uninformed on the topic of homecoming. The survey results do indicate, however, that most students do not particularly care about the purpose of homecoming, considering that not one person interviewed asked the surveyor if he knew anything about it. Also, many guessed that it was an excuse to drink. I do actually happen

to know a couple of people who really are still hungover, if not drunk from, or drinking since, last weekend. A possible solution to this problem of our uninformed student body is to have homecoming information printed on beer cans during homecoming week, much like other sports-related advertising that appears on soda cans occasionally. Then students could even learn while they drink! Or perhaps those in charge of homecoming could offer free beer or beer discounts for students that find out what it's all about.

More importantly than the survey findings discussed above are the responses to the last question the pollster asked all those interviewed: "What would you do if you were homecoming queen?" Again, not surprisingly many of those questioned replied, "Get drunk," or something similar. Two girls from an anonymous sorority agreed that "Pick my nose" would be the most appropriate action, and a vast major-

ity made references to having illicit sex. "One fifth of Jack, and see where I end up in the morning." Not surprisingly, this person was not a woman, and the pollster was quite positive that he was drunk at the time. Other responses to this question included, "Get a sex change," "The football team," from some girls who also appeared to be intoxicated, and "Please leave me alone now," from a number of people who were studying near the UCC when the survey was taken.

The point here is that these survey results demonstrate that homecoming generally is viewed as an excuse to drink by UI students. Not that anyone finds it difficult to make up an excuse. Also, I am not going to disclose any homecoming details here, but there's a really good book in the Student Union Building that has the whole story if anyone is interested. My guess, though, is that few really care. The powers that be should definitely consider that beer can idea for next year.

### American's presidential race: Ain't democracy grand?

By Greg Mullen  
University of Idaho Argonaut

Presidential politics started to heat up this week, in case you care. There's still a good three months until primary elections begin, but big money is already deciding who we'll be allowed to consider. Now is as good a time as any to start scoping out the field.

The first bunch of candidates can be considered the sons of privileged (and a daughter, too.) These are the people who have inherited wealth and power, and seem to think that this qualifies them for office. Al Gore is a good example. His daddy was a senator before him, and he grew up in the corridors of power. He stands for a continuation of the current misadministration, but he's less fun to watch.

The best example of inherited privilege is probably George W. Bush. He comes from big oil, and his daddy was president (as well as CIA director and a host of other positions). Bush and his brother govern two of the largest states in the country, and may have used their privilege to avoid drug charges that would have sent anyone else to

prison.

Bush calls himself a "compassionate conservative." No one knows what this means, but since he's presided over nearly 100 executions while he's been governor of Texas, we can rest assured that the "compassionate" part is a lie. That leaves "conservative," meaning more of the same. He'd basically continue the status quo, except maybe open more jails to lock up people who can't buy their way out.

The only Republican who can afford to buy a challenge to Bush is Steve Forbes. Since he inherited his daddy's publishing fortune, he can buy nearly anything. He seems to stand for a combination of reactionary social values and robber-baron capitalism that would take America back to the nineteenth century. But hey, he's rich. That's a family value, isn't it?

Americans don't really appreciate inherited wealth and privilege, however, unless it's their own. They know the political system is broke, and they're willing to support nearly anyone who seems to come from outside the political class. Unfortunately, turning to a normal

person is out of the question, so we simply delve into another privileged class: media celebrities.

That's how Minnesota got Jesse "the Body" Ventura. It's too bad he's not in the running for the White House. Americans should demand the most entertainment for their taxpayer dollar. Actor Warren Beatty is making noises about running as a Democrat, which would make him the only liberal in the race. At least he's got a history of political involvement, unlike Donald Trump. Most Americans realize that a real estate speculator is the most useless life form around, however, so Trump's no more a contender than Beatty.

That still leaves Bill Bradley, who entered politics on a basketball scholarship. He's giving Gore a run for his money, since he's got the money to run with. Having fewer political opinions than Bush and less personality than Gore, he just might be what America wants: a politician who will shut up and leave them alone for four years. After eight years of Bill Clinton, it might be nice to have a president we can forget about for months at a time.

With rich kids and celebrities out

of the way, we're left with the insiders who run as outsiders. John McCain may be the most militaristic of the major candidates, but he's had the integrity to fight for campaign finance reform year after year. Too bad he thinks he can beat big money by playing the big money game.

Finally, there's Pat Buchanan, the idealogue of the right. He's been a political insider for decades, but it's easy for him to play the outsider—no one in power wants to admit they had anything to do with him. The man figures that if Hitler was a monster, at least he was a monster we could have done business with. That should keep him on the fringes for a while longer.

The Libertarians or the Greens just might field real candidates this year, but they'll probably be serious, sober, thoughtful, intelligent. But don't count on press for them, unless they pick Howard Stern or Hulk Hogan.

So there's your choices. You can pick the rich and famous, the really rich and famous, or the colorful wingnut. The only thing you can't pick is someone who represents real Americans. Isn't democracy grand?

**The psychiatric drug that Eric Harris had been taking before he went on a shooting rampage at a Colorado high school last week was prescribed about 1.4 million times last year.**

News report

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We welcome letters of up to 250 words on topics of general interest. All letters are subject to editing. Please sign with your full name (first name, initial, last name) and include a daytime telephone number where you can be reached for verification. Letters to the editor are selected on the basis of public interest and readability.

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Or email:  
argonaut@uidaho.edu  
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## Sports in Brief

### Yankees provide fitting encore with Series sweep

NEW YORK - On a stage where encores have to be earned, the New York Yankees found a way to follow the winning season in baseball history - overcoming heartbreak to capture the World Series.

The Yankees won their 25th Major League Baseball crown by sweeping the best-of-seven series with a 4-1 triumph here Wednesday, producing their third title in four years and second consecutive sweep, a feat not achieved in 60 years.

In 1998, the Yankees won an American League-record 114 regular-season games and captured 11 more in the playoffs, more than any club in history in a single year.

### Vandal Calendar

#### Friday, Oct. 29

- Women's Soccer vs. Portland State, Guy Wicks Field, 2 p.m.
- Campus Recreation's Turkey Run entry due, 204 Memorial Gym, 5 p.m.

#### Saturday, Oct. 30

- Football at New Mexico State, 5 p.m.
- Volleyball vs. UC Santa Barbara, Memorial Gym, 7 p.m.
- Cross Country at Big West Championships, San Luis Obispo, California, TBA

#### Sunday, Oct. 31

- Women's Soccer vs. Gonzaga, Guy Wicks Field, 1 p.m.
- Intramural Ultimate Frisbee Playoffs, TBA

#### Monday, Nov. 1

- Intramural Ultimate Frisbee Playoffs

## Something has to change this weekend

### Vandals face NMSU in key Big West matchup

By Jim Bielenberg  
University of Idaho Argonaut

When the University of Idaho plays a team named the Aggies for the second straight week, there will be no question what the focal point of the contest will be. The key to victory will lie in the New Mexico State running game, or the lack thereof.

New Mexico State has relied on its rushing offense the entire season, averaging just under 230 yards per game. Idaho has centered their team around their ability to stop the run, giving up

barely 80 yards per game. New Mexico State's rushing offense ranks twelfth nationally while Idaho's rushing defense ranks ninth nationally.

The Aggies feature three running backs who average 4.5 yards per carry or more. Kenton Keith averages 4.5 yards per carry, Walter Taylor averages 4.82 yards per carry, and Chris Barnes leads the conference in yards per carry averaging 5.42 yards per attempt.

Similarly, the UI defense relies on several formidable players to stop the run. Defensive linemen James Durrough and Mao Tosi provide strength and power up front. Chris Nofoaiga is among the league leaders in tackles for loss, and safety Brad Rice is often called upon to stop the run from the secondary.

Outside of their running game, NMSU has fallen upon rough times lately. The Aggies have lost their last four games after starting the season with three wins. The Aggies' last victory came against then-twenty-first ranked Arizona State.

The game will start at 5 p.m. Saturday. The pre-game show will start at 4:15 p.m. on 104.3 KHTR.



Photo by Cade Kawamoto

### The Vandals will win the Big West Title if:

- UI wins the rest of their BWC games
- UI beats two of its remaining opponents (NMSU, BSU, and Nevada)
- UI beats NMSU
- AND USU loses one of its remaining BWC games
- AND Nevada and BSU lose two of its remaining BWC games
- UI beats Nevada
- AND BSU loses two of its remaining BWC games

- AND USU and NMSU lose one of its remaining BWC games
- UI beats BSU
- AND Nevada loses two of its remaining BWC games
- AND USU and NMSU lose one of their remaining BWC games
- Idaho loses its three remaining games
- AND BSU goes 1-2 in its other remaining BWC games
- AND Nevada beats UI and goes 1-2 in its other remaining BWC games
- AND NMSU beats UI and goes 2-2 in its other remaining BWC games
- AND UNT goes 2-1 in its remaining BWC games
- AND USU goes 2-2 in its remaining BWC games

	Conf		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Idaho Vandals	3	0	5	2
Boise State Broncos	1	1	5	3
Nevada Wolfpack	1	1	2	5
Utah State Aggies	1	1	2	5
North Texas Eagles	1	2	2	5
Arkansas St. Indians	1	2	2	6
N.Mexico St. Aggies	0	1	3	4

## INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN THE MOSCOW COMMUNITY? COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NIGHT

Come talk with representative of local non-profit agencies.

Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

5pm-8pm

SUB Ballroom

Sponsored by UI Residence Hall Association & Student Activities

For more information, call 885-8851 or 885-2237.



To Place Your Ad in the Next Religious Directory of the Argonaut, call Dave at 885-5780

<p><b>The Church of JESUS CHRIST of Latter-day Saints</b> UNIVERSITY STUDENT WARD SACRAMENT MEETING TIMES 1<sup>st</sup> (single students)-11:00 a.m. LDS Institute, 902 Deacon 2<sup>nd</sup> (married students)-9:00 a.m. Corner of Mountain View &amp; Joseph 3<sup>rd</sup> (single students)-9:00 a.m. LDS Institute, 902 Deacon Visitors welcome.</p>	<p><b>Living Faith Fellowship Ministry Training Center</b> 1035 South Grand, Pullman 334-1035 Drs. Karl &amp; Sherri Barden, Senior Pastors Phil Vance, Campus Pastor Sunday: Bible &amp; Life Training Classes ..... 9:00 am Worship ..... 10:30 am Wednesday: Worship ..... 7:00 pm Friday: CAMPUS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ..... 7:30 pm Excellent nursery care A dynamic, growing church providing answers for life since 1971</p>	<p><b>The United Church of Moscow</b> American Baptist/Disciples of Christ 123 West First St. • 882-2924 Roger C. Lynn, Pastor <a href="http://community.palouse.net/Unitedchurch/">http://community.palouse.net/Unitedchurch/</a> (an accepting congregation where questions are encouraged) <b>Sunday Schedule</b> College Class - 9:30am Morning Worship - 11:00am</p>
<p><b>Concordia Lutheran Church Mo Syn</b> NE 1015 Orchard Dr. Pullman • 332-2830 Sunday Morning Worship: 8:00am Sunday School: 9:15am Worship Service: 10:30am Chinese Worship: 1-5pm University Group: Tue. @ 6:00pm Rev. Dudley Nolting Campus Coordinator: Anne Summersun</p>	<p><b>Emmanuel Lutheran Church</b> 1036 W. A St. Moscow • 882-3915 Pastors: Dean Stewart &amp; Dawna Svaren Sunday Worship: 8:00am &amp; 10:30am Adult Studies: 9:15am "Sunday Worship Van" Pick up at SUB at 10:15 am Wednesday 5:30 pm Worship and Dinner at the Campus Christian Center 822 Elm Street Phone 882-2536 Campus Pastor: Janine Goodrich e-mail: <a href="mailto:Emmanuel@turbonet.com">Emmanuel@turbonet.com</a></p>	<p><b>Believers Fellowship</b> "A place to dance and shout praises to God." Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 am Wednesday Evening Worship: 7:00 pm 715 Travois Way (across from Fairco Mini Mart) 882-6391 e-mail: <a href="mailto:believers@turbonet.com">believers@turbonet.com</a></p>
<p><b>St. Augustine's</b> Catholic Church &amp; Student Center Sunday Mass 9:30 am &amp; 7:00 pm Weekly Mass 12:30 pm in Chapel Wed. Reconciliation 4:30-6:00 pm 628 Deakin (across from SUB) 882-4613</p>	<p><b>First Presbyterian Church</b> 405 S. Van Buren • 882-4122 Pastor: Dr. Jim Fisher <a href="mailto:jimfisher@turbonet.com">jimfisher@turbonet.com</a> Worship Service: 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am Church Home Page: <a href="http://community.palouse.net/fpc/">http://community.palouse.net/fpc/</a></p>	<p><b>MOSCOW CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> "Being Real" University Ministries Sunday Worship: The Bible 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. Kryso Wilson, University Pastor 882-4332 1400 East 7th Street E-mail: <a href="mailto:nazarene.moscow@turbonet.com">nazarene.moscow@turbonet.com</a></p>

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## Mandir plays religious Venue

By Ben Morrow  
University of Idaho Argonaut

What is a Unitarian church? A house of worship? Just another stone and wood modern human contraption? Or is it a concert hall, ready to be filled with glorious sounds and feelings?

Well, come tonight, a concert hall it is, because Montana-based new age band Mandir will be playing there. This band, looking like a crew of hippies from the dark ages, will be invading Unitarian Church's religious womb. For the first time in a long time, people will have to pay to enter a church.

Mandir, composed of Beth Youngblood-Peterson, Lawrence Duncan and Matthew and Michael Marsolek, has been described by various reviewers as everything from an "undefinable musical entity" to a "four-headed, eight-armed Hindu god/goddess." As far as undefinable goes, however, "new age" should paint enough of a picture for those who are curious.

If not, it might help to know that Mandir is quick to bring up

facts about their music, like how the song "Going Quickly Beyond Time" is "based on an Indian scale, but you'll hear Latin American influences, too.

For the most part, Mandir seems more concerned with emanating an intelligent musician image, making the kind of music the wealthy can put on at their wine parties and explain how the next song features udu-drums and Eastern drones. Or how all of it comes together to describe the amazing feelings of a Sanskrit poem with bassoon playing Hindustani melody in African rhythms, a tar, or a classical guitar replicating the noise of the Siberian ground hog

Or, instead of describing the music vaguely, ambitious art freaks could think of impressive things to say at such a party (or Unitarian church) like "...this song has a bitchin' mtekk-tek solo. Mtekk-tek means 'ancient spirit' in Egyptian, in case you were wondering." And so on.

Mandir will be charging from \$7 to \$9 at the door. The concert starts at 8 p.m.



Contributed Photo

## Upcomming Events

The Prichard Art Gallery, Main Street Moscow, is currently hosting Keiko Hara's "Topophilia-Semaru" and Andi Olsen's "Freak Show." The two exhibits are up until Nov. 17.

Jars of Clay performs at the Beasley Coliseum Friday Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets are 17.50 in advance and \$20 at the door. The show is general admission and tickets can be purchased through G&B Select-A-Seat at 1-800-325-SEAT.

Indigo Girls are set to perform at the Beasley Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$27.50 in advance and can be purchased through G&B Select-A-Seat Outlets or charged by phone at 1-800-325-SEAT. The show is reserve seating and there are a limited number of Golden Circle seats available for \$32.50.

The Alien Costume Ball that was set to take place in the Kibbie Dome Halloween weekend is cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

Natalie MacMaster will play at the Beasley on Nov. 1 at 7:30.

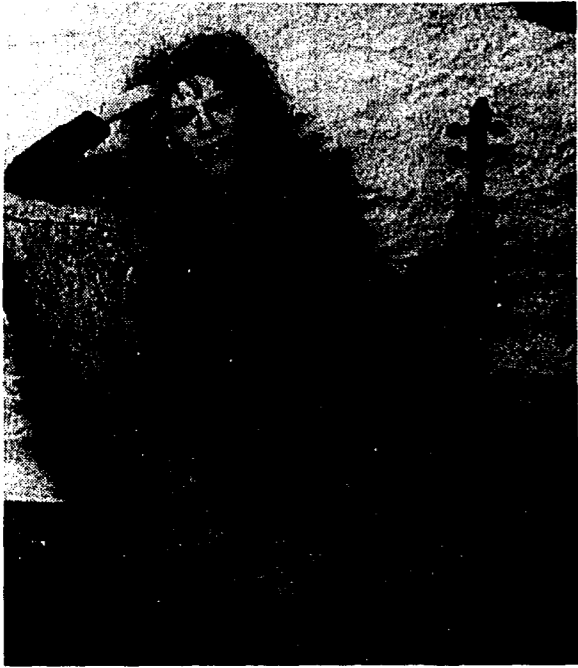
Natty Nation and Boom Shaka play at 8 p.m. on Nov. 10 at the Beasley Coliseum. Tickets are \$7 students and \$10 non-students and can be purchased at 1-800-325-SEAT.

Martin Stadius, author of "Dreamers: On the Trail of the Nez Perce" is signing books at the University bookstore today from 2-4 p.m.

J.A. Jance is signing books on Saturday at the UI bookstore from 2-4 p.m. Jance is a bestselling mystery author from Seattle.

"Small Potatoes" is performing at Laura's Tea and Treasures on Nov. 4. The band is a folk duo from Chicago. Tickets are \$4.

### WSU's Beasley Coliseum (Canadian Fiddler)



### Natalie MacMaster

Scottish-Rooted Celtic Music of Cape Breton

Monday, Nov 1 7:30pm

Tickets \$12.50 public/\$8.00 Student  
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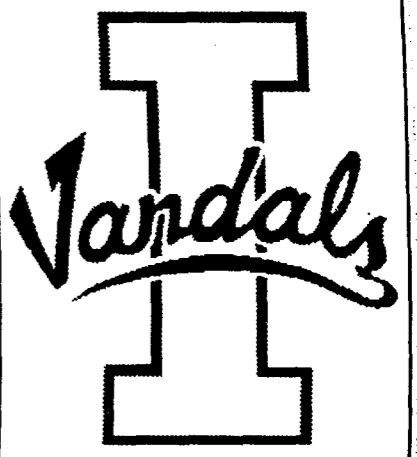


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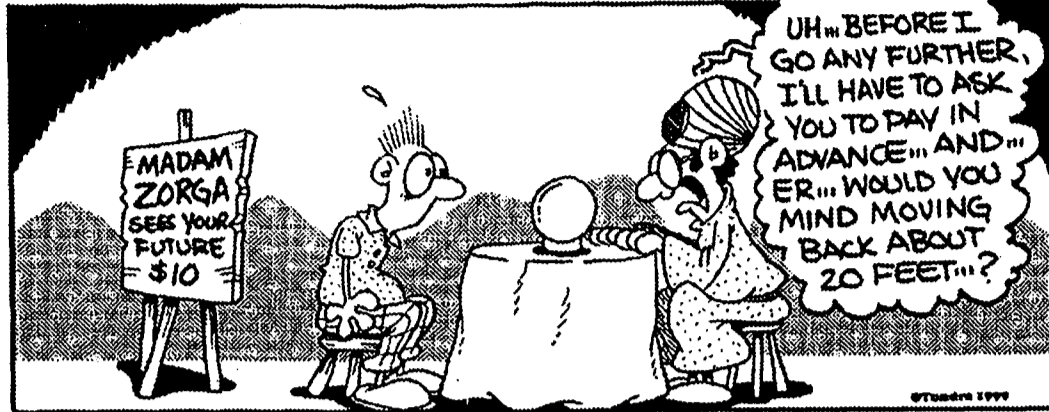
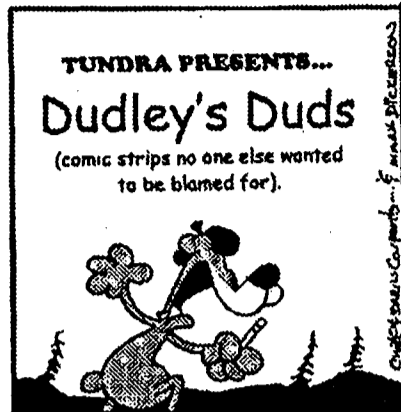
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# Comics



## TUNDRA

by Chad Carpenter



# TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Lowland
- 5 Napoleon's punishment
- 10 Matured
- 14 Algerian port
- 15 "The Moon Is Blue" star
- 16 Type of moth
- 17 Lower limbs
- 18 Happening
- 19 Dry
- 20 Less difficult
- 22 Bather's need
- 24 Jokes
- 25 Annoy
- 26 Annoy
- 27 Frenzied
- 30 Pseudonyms
- 34 Charged particles
- 35 Eternities
- 37 Tree knot
- 38 Toupee: slang
- 39 Shoot from a hidden spot
- 41 It's for horses!
- 42 Heron
- 45 Iliad, e.g.
- 46 Seine tributary
- 47 Timidity
- 49 Sour, curdled milk
- 51 Alice's co-worker
- 52 Team
- 53 Firm

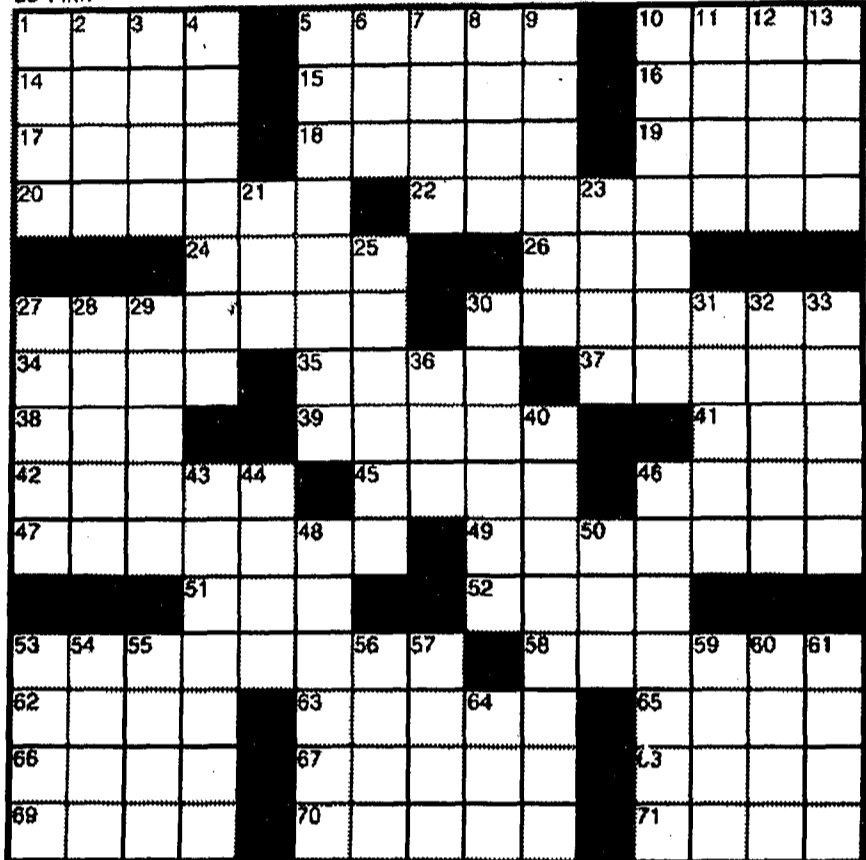
### DOWN

- 1 Mouselike rodent
- 2 Sector
- 3 Falls behind
- 4 Naval officers
- 5 Powers
- 6 VII times II
- 7 Currier's partner
- 8 TV host Jay
- 9 Involve
- 10 Nome resident
- 11 Spiritual teacher
- 12 Oklahoma town
- 13 June honorees
- 21 Nosh
- 23 Overly proper one
- 25 Tea cakes
- 27 Shoots

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED



- 28 Coarse
- 29 Furious
- 30 Savory jellies
- 31 Former title in India
- 32 Wipe out
- 33 Crafter
- 36 Bite
- 40 Surpasses
- 43 Hugs
- 44 Blab
- 46 Cleopatra's Needle, e.g.
- 48 Noises
- 50 Nabokov girl
- 53 Hashana
- 54 Novelist — Stanley Gardner
- 55 Look as if
- 56 Work hard
- 57 Jacob's brother
- 59 Yemen's port
- 60 Dog command
- 61 Writer Wiesel
- 64 Pt. of ESL



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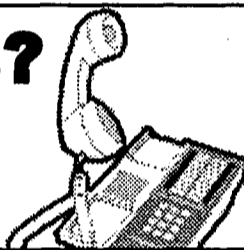
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  - Nov. 5 & 6, Borah Theatre ... Tarzan, 2 showings 7:30 & 9:30
  - Nov. 16, Sub Ballroom ... Paperboys in Concert & Eddie from Ohio, time TBA
  - Annie Hopkins Band is Coming Soon, Gault Party Rm.

## EMERGENCY: DOGS IN NEED OF HOMES!!

Woman with terminal cancer has 12 dogs that need to be adopted. Her son says they must be adopted or put down.

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- 1 small white Terrier
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- 1 Yellow Lab
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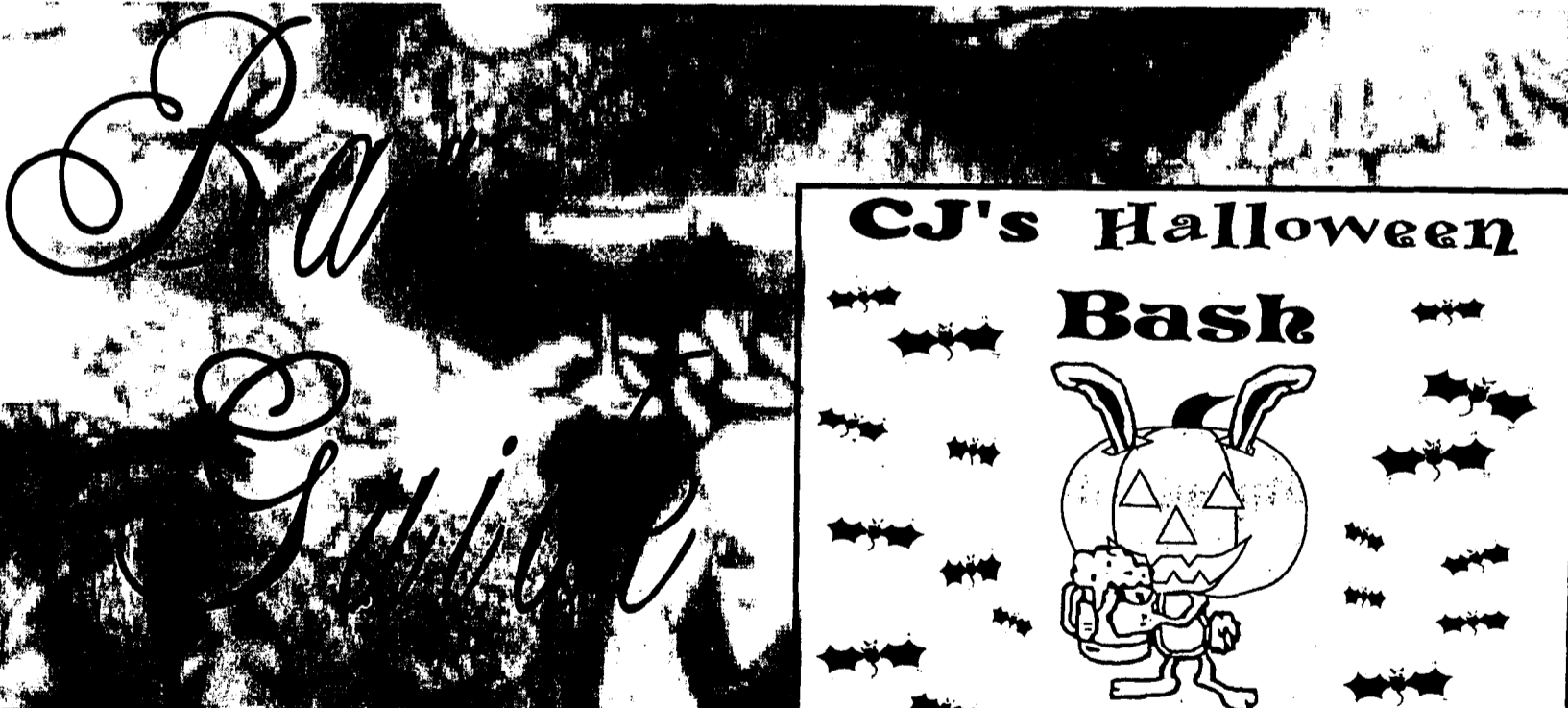
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# VANDAL HOMECOMING GAME GUIDE





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# VANDALS CHALLENGED FOR VICTORY

## The Homecoming game crucial to Big West race

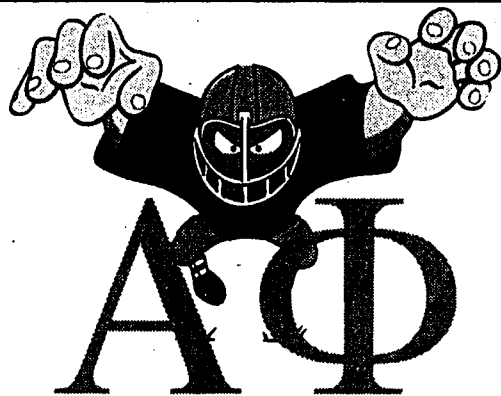
By Jim Bielenberg  
University of Idaho Argonaut

When the Vandals (4-2, 2-0 BWC) face Big West foe Utah State (2-4, 1-0 BWC) at Martin Stadium Saturday, it may prove to be a homecoming that shapes the BWC championship race. Albeit early in

the conference schedule, this game puts the winner in control of the conference.

Idaho and Utah State are two of the three teams that are undefeated in conference play. Idaho defeated North Texas and Arkansas State, while Utah State beat Arkansas State. Both teams beat the ASU Indians by six points, although Idaho needed overtime to do so.

Utah State has played impressively in their last few outings. The Aggies took 19th



### Wishing the Vandals

### Good Luck against Utah

Go Brothers!  
Jared Keefer #41  
Jeremy Wallace #52  
Brett Morton #66  
Travis Stombaugh #85  
Casey Hills #45

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ranked BYU to overtime before succumbing 34-31. Utah State played well last week as well, staying within two touchdowns until 4:08 left in the third quarter before being beaten by 7th ranked Kansas State.

On the other hand, Idaho has played shoddily lately. The Vandals gave up 28 points in a second-quarter marred by mishaps in a loss at Wyoming. Idaho then had trouble passing against North Texas, compiling only 41 yards in the air. Last week, special teams and offensive play nearly cost the Vandals a victory at Arkansas State.

The only thing that has been consistently positive in Vandal contests has been their defense. Idaho ranks 10th in rushing defense and 17th in overall

defense. Opponents have converted less than 30 percent of their third-down attempts and have yet to convert a fourth-down.

The Idaho defense will have its hands full Saturday, as the Aggies bring with them

Demario Brown, the leading rusher in the Big West. Brown averages 114.8 yards per game, and had 225 yards against

Arkansas State two weeks ago. The Aggies also feature quarterback Jeff Crosbie, who ranks third in passing efficiency in the Big West. "They're scary offensively," Vandal head coach Chris Torney said.

Kick-off is set for 6:07 p.m. at Martin Stadium. The game will be broadcast on KHTR 104.3 FM and cybercast on the web at [www.its.uidaho.edu/athletics](http://www.its.uidaho.edu/athletics).

# Vandal fans: score free stuff at the game

By Jennifer Warnick  
University of Idaho Argonaut

In the mess of glorious homecoming activity this weekend, there are a few things all Vandals should take note of:

There is FREE transportation to and from Martin Stadium, which should be appealing to anyone who has attempted to find parking in the Pullman city limits. The buses will run from the Kibbie Dome parking lot beginning at 2 p.m. for early gamegoers - other bus routes include stops at the SUB and Wallace Complex.

The game is FREE to stu-

dents. Vandals need only to present their student ID card at the gates for free passage and to experience the untold excitement of Aggie-butchery (there are rumors of free Aggie burgers in the visiting teams' locker room after the game.)

If you attend this game and the Boise State game on Nov. 20 you could drive home a FREE Dodge Neon. The drawing will take place at the Boise State game, and the more home games you attend, the more entries you have (four total.)

National television stardom could be yours, FREE, if you attend Saturday's game. Fox's

Saturday morning college sports show will be taping at the game, and the host, a former MTV veejay will likely roam through the crowd. Due to the sea-of-faces syndrome, those who really wish to appear on national television should dress to grab some camera time - anything goes, the crazier the better.

The pregame party begins at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse with food and beverage vendors. Who knows, if you meet someone nice you could also score a FREE date.



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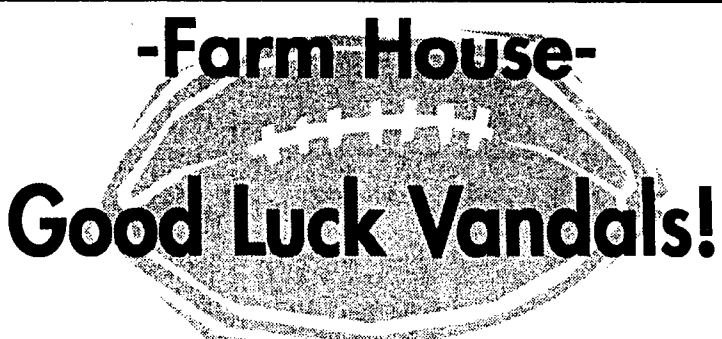
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# The NFL? This season, maybe it's the LFN

By Scott J. Mahurin  
University of Idaho Argonaut

The trouble with being a sportswriter is that you always look dumb.

Check that. The trouble with being a sportswriter is that your predictions almost always make you look dumb.

That's better. The NFL season has been one of the strangest in recent memory. Let's consider the following: The Broncos and Falcons, last year's Super Bowl teams, are at the time

of this column a combined 2-8. The St. Louis Rams, Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers, Tennessee Titans and Seattle Seahawks are a combined 17-4. My pick to win the Super Bowl, the Minnesota Vikings, are below .500. What is going on here?

Many theories abound about the state of the NFL. My personal take is that the Broncos were actually more dependent on John Elway than originally thought. The Jets lost Testaverde for the season, and Rick Mirer is a significant dropoff (as any Seahawk fan will tell you.) The Falcons have

lost QB Chris Chandler and RB Jamal Anderson, and the Vikings may just be experiencing football justice for their unbelievable season last year.

Nonetheless, it remains exciting to see all of these young teams doing well. If the playoffs started today, the Rams, Bears, and

Redskins would all have spots. When was the last time that happened at all, let alone in the same season? In the AFC, the Chargers, Seahawks and Titans all look to be jockeying for position this early season. Indeed, it is still October, but things are looking mighty interesting.

Even in today's wacky NFL, there are still some things you can count on. The Eagles, Bengals, and Saints are still bad. Brett Favre still wins games that he's not supposed to. Steve Young still is tempting fate.

And the predictions of sportswriters still look silly.

## Nut Up and Pick'em

Games of the Week	Lance Womack	Jennifer Warnick	Matt Benke	Cody Cahill	Jim Bielenberg	Brian (G) Harmon
Utah State @ UI	UI	UI	UI	UI	USU	UI
WSU @ Arizona St.	WSU	ASU	ASU	ASU	WSU	ASU
Nevada @ Boise St.	BSU	BSU	Nevada	BSU	BSU	BSU
Arkansas St. @ N. Texas	UNT	UNT	UNT	UNT	ASU	ASU
NMSU @ Army	Army	Army	Army	Army	Army	Army
Tennessee @ Alabama	Bama	UT	UT	Bama	UT	UT
Mich St. @ Wisconsin	MSU	Wisc	MSU	MSU	MSU	MSU
Ohio St. @ Minnesota	OSU	Minn	OSU	OSU	OSU	OSU
Penn St. @ Purdue	Purdue	PSU	PSU	PSU	PSU	Purdue
Nebraska @ Texas	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Texas	Nebraska
Last week	5-5	6-4	6-4	6-4	7-3	8-2
Overall Record	39-21	2-1 (27-13)	2-1 (27-13)	2-1 (27-13)	2-1 (27-13)	2-1 (27-13)

Go Vandals!

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Saturday, October 23

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6-9:00 Open House at Delta Chi

8:30 Breakfast at Delta Chi

11:00 Homecoming Parade Downtown Moscow

12:30 Banquet (semi-formal) Moscow Social Club

4:00 Barbeque/Tailgating Martin Stadium, WSU

6:00 U of I vs. Utah State

9:00 Breakfast at Delta Chi

10:15 Alumni Ceremony

11:30 Group Photo

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# Schedules of UI and Opponents

## IDAHO VANDALS (2-0 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/2	at EWU	W 48-21
9/11	at Auburn	L 23-30
9/18	Wash St.	W 28-17
10/2	at Wyoming	L 13-28
10/9	North Texas	W 28-10
10/16	at Ark State	W 30-24
10/23	Utah State	4:05 ET
10/30	at N Mex St	8:00 ET
11/6	at Nevada	3:05 ET
11/13	at Montana	2:05 ET
11/20	Boise State	TBA

## EWU Eagles (1-3, 3-1 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/2	Idaho	L 21-48
9/11	Cent Wash	W 44-14
9/16	at Port State	L 39-48
9/25	Cal State NR	W 48-41
10/2	at N Arizona	W 14-10
10/9	at Boise State	L 7-41
10/16	Idaho State	W 45-38
10/23	at Montana	4:05 ET
10/30	Cal State Sac	4:05 ET
11/6	at Mont State	2:05 ET
11/13	Weber State	4:05 ET

## Auburn Tigers (1-4, 1-4 SEC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	Appalach St.	W 22-15
9/11	Idaho	W 30-23
9/16	LSU	W 41-7
9/25	Mississippi	L 17-24
10/2	at Tennessee	L 0-24
10/9	Miss State	L 16-18
10/16	Florida	L 14-32
10/30	at Arkansas	7:00 ET
11/6	Central Florida	TBA
11/13	at Georgia	TBA
11/20	Alabama	TBA

## Wash State Cougars (1-4, 1-2 Pac-10)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	Utah	L 7-27
9/11	at Stanford	L 17-54
9/18	at Idaho	L 17-28
9/25	Arizona	L 24-30
10/2	California	W 31-7
10/9	LA Lafayette	W 44-0
10/23	at Ariz State	7:00 ET
10/30	Oregon State	TBA
11/6	at Oregon	10:00 ET
11/13	USC	7:00 ET
11/20	at Wash	3:30 ET
11/27	at Hawaii	TBA

## Wyoming Cowboys (4-2, 1-1 MWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	at Tennessee	L 17-42
9/11	Weber State	W 41-16
9/25	at Air Force	W 10-7
10/2	Idaho	W 28-13
10/9	Nevada LV	L 32-35
10/16	at LA Monroe	W 38-20
10/23	Col State	3:00 ET
11/6	at Utah	TBA
11/13	BYU	2:00 ET
11/20	New Mexico	2:00 ET
11/27	at SD State	9:00 ET

## North Texas Eagles (2-4, 1-1 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/2	Nevada LV	L 3-26
9/11	at LSU	L 0-52
9/18	at Tex Tech	W 21-14
10/2	at Baylor	L 10-23
10/9	at Idaho	L 10-28
10/16	Boise State	W 17-10
10/23	Ark State	3:35 ET
10/30	at Nevada	3:05 ET
11/13	at TCU	3:05 ET
11/20	at N Mex St	4:00 ET
11/27	Utah State	TBA

## Arkansas St. Indians (1-6, 0-2 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	at Illinois	L 3-41
9/11	at Mississippi	L 14-38
9/18	at Memphis	L 26-31
9/25	TCU	L 21-24
10/2	Sam Houst St	W 45-20
10/9	at Utah State	L 14-20
10/16	Idaho	L 24-30
10/23	at N Texas	3:35 ET
10/30	LA Lafayette	5:00 ET
11/6	at Boise State	3:05 ET
11/13	Nevada	5:00 ET

## Utah State Aggies (2-4, 1-0 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	at Georgia	L 7-38
9/11	Step F. Austin	W 51-17
9/18	Utah	L 18-38
10/1	BYU	L 31-34
10/9	Ark State	W 20-14
10/16	at Kan State	L 0-40
10/23	at Idaho	4:05 ET
10/30	Boise State	3:05 ET
11/6	N Mex State	TBA
11/20	at Nevada	3:05 ET
11/27	at N Texas	TBA

## New Mexico State Aggies (3-3, 0-2 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/2	N Mex High	W 73-7
9/11	at N Mexico	W 35-28
9/18	at Ariz State	W 35-7
9/25	at UTEP	L 23-54
10/2	at Col State	L 7-46
10/9	Nevada	L 16-23
10/23	at Army	1:00 ET
10/30	Idaho	8:00 ET
11/6	at Utah State	TBA

11/13	at Boise State	3:05 ET
11/20	North Texas	4:00 ET

## Nevada Wolfpack (2-4, 1-0 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	Oregon State	L 13-28
9/11	at Col State	L 33-38
9/18	at Oregon	L 10-72
9/25	Fresno State	L 24-49
10/2	Nevada LV	W 26-12
10/9	at N Mex St	W 23-16
10/23	at Boise State	5:05 ET
10/30	North Texas	3:05 ET
11/6	Idaho	3:05 ET
11/13	at ArkState	5:00 ET
11/20	Utah State	3:05 ET

## Montana Grizzlies (5-1, 4-1 Big Sky)

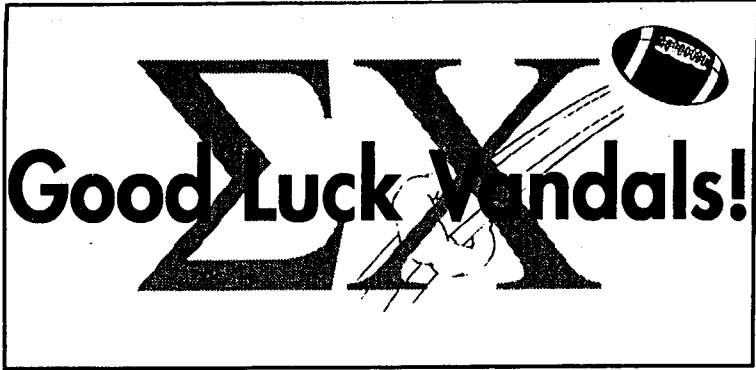
Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	South Dakota	W 45-13
9/11	Cal State Sac	W 41-38
9/25	Weber State	W 81-22
10/2	at Port State	L 48-51

10/9	Cal St NR	W 48-27
10/16	at N Arizona	W 42-23
10/23	E Washington	4:05 ET
10/30	at Idaho St	8:35 ET
11/6	at Cal Poly	4:00 ET
11/13	Idaho	2:05 ET
11/20	at Mont State	2:05 ET

## Boise State Broncos (4-3, 0-1 BWC)

Date	Opponent	Time
9/4	at UCLA	L 7-38
9/11	S Utah	W 35-27
9/19	at Hawaii	L 19-34
9/25	New Mexico	W 20-9
10/2	Utah	W 26-20
10/9	E Wash	W 41-7
10/16	at N Texas	L 10-17
10/23	Nevada	5:05 ET
10/30	at Utah State	3:05 ET
11/6	Ark State	3:05 ET
11/13	N Mex State	3:05 ET
11/20	at Idaho	TBA

Schedules Courtesy of ESPN.com




**Good Luck Vandals!**

Go Vandals!



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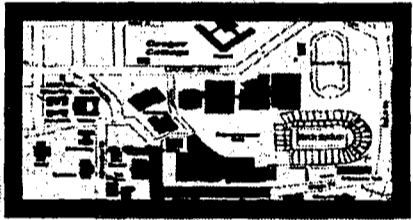
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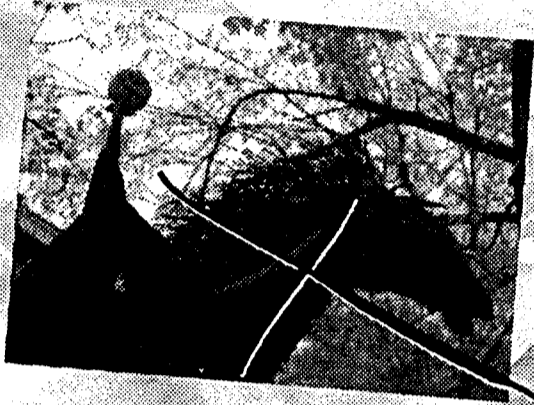
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# University of Idaho Halloween: 1999



## On the brink of belief

By Mary Abshire

Students know it as "a creepy place," and many describe the confusing halls as "a maze."

Maze it may be, but is there reason to think that it houses a supernatural presence?

Brink Hall was first built in 1936 as a mens' dorm, able to accommodate 200. An addition was completed in 1938, and the building was later converted to office space. Now it is home to the placement center, mathematics and statistics center, the English department, and miscellaneous faculty graduate offices.

Since Brink Hall once served as a dormitory, unconfirmed rumors say that some residents committed suicide in the building. "I heard that people used to commit suicide here. That's why they turned it to offices," said one student. Do the uneasy spirits of young suicide victims still inhabit the building?

"Someone hung themselves from sheets out a window," said another student.

James Mayo, during his first year as a graduate student in the English department, was working late one night

in mid-September 1997 on the first floor. While he was in the men's restroom, he saw a shadow on the wall above him. In an email correspondence, he described it as "not just a small thing, like maybe there was a moth flying above the light, but a human-size shadow, but most of it was on the wall above me and I'm 6'4." Mayo said he spun around, but he saw nor heard anything else. Nonetheless, he was uncomfortable enough that he "packed up and went home to finish his work," he said.

Other than this occurrence, nothing else of great significance happened to him, except what he describes as a "little war of attrition" with a coffee pot and an unknown presence on the second floor. Mayo said he had an "ongoing thing" with the pot; each time he was ready to turn the coffee on, "someone or something would have done it already," he explained.

"It's probably the ghost of a janitor" joked Ron McFarland, head of the creative writing department. McFarland had never heard of the ghost, despite working in the building for many years.

### Disclaimer:

10-29-99

The stories and testimonies contained in this document are the accounts and experiences of University of Idaho students, faculty, staff and alumni. The articles included within contain tales of spirit/human interaction at various locations on the UI campus. The Argonaut is not responsible for any potentially harmful use of this information.

It is not the intent of the Argonaut to either denounce or verify the existence ghosts on campus.

### Photos:

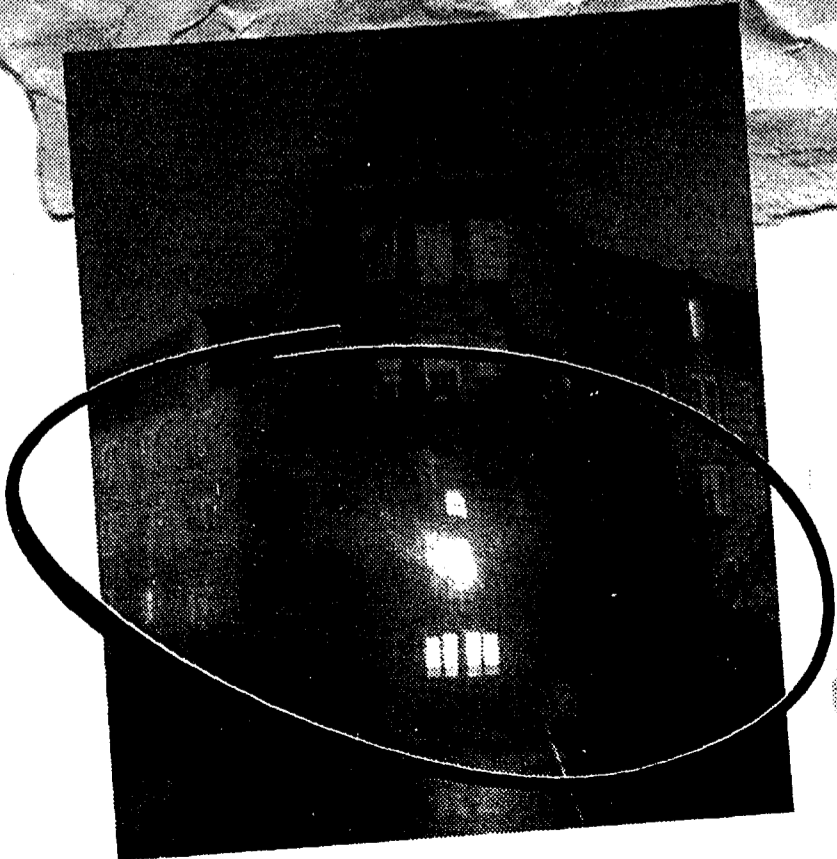
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Nick Hopkins

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Aspen Svec



# Tower Scares

by Keith Southern

Many people have heard the different "ghost stories" from all around campus. A few people have even heard about the ghost that haunts the Theophilus Tower. But few have truthfully heard the tale. More specifically, most have simply heard the tale from someone who heard it from someone else who heard it from their roommate who heard it from an upperclassman, etc.

Thus, the facts of the stories are distorted and diluted until they become fiction. That is, after all, the point of a ghost story: fiction.

There must, however, be at least some fact behind the different stories. Two different stories seem to have been circulating throughout the tower. One, about a baby, is quite common. The other is probably far less known.

The story about the baby states that a baby cries at the garbage chute. Back in 1999, a UI student gave birth to a baby on the top floor of the tower. She successfully hid her pregnancy, and after the birth, she killed the baby and dropped her child down the garbage chute.

This part of the story is true; newspaper articles about it actually exist. But, after that, fiction takes over. The baby supposedly cries. But no one has actually heard this crying. Everyone knows someone who knows someone who has heard the baby cry. After this much dilution, the story loses integrity.

Also, many people aren't even aware of a garbage chute; some R.A.s, in fact, didn't even know that there were garbage chutes (the chutes themselves might be a mystery, I couldn't find them).

There aren't any girls who could confirm the crying baby. I even went down to the trash to

see if I could hear a baby crying; but it was no luck!

One R.A. did, however, give me a little bit of insight into this entire mystery. Joellen Simpson had never heard of the crying baby. But, she did have another story to tell.

Simpson lived on the eleventh floor of the tower last year. She said that the girl who used to live across from her believed that a ghost lived in her room. This girl heard sounds like people crying, and she also claimed that doors would simply close of their own free will.

These strange incidents led the girl to believe that a ghost was haunting her room. Simpson went on to say that the girl even went so far as to go to the library to see what had happened in the tower that could account for the disturbance. The girl found the story of a young lady who killed herself on the eleventh floor of the tower. This information brought her to the conclusion that that girl had had the same room as herself; she believed that girl haunted her room.

But, whatever the story, one thing is certain, this is just a story, nothing more. It is Halloween, and that only helps the stories grow. This article itself will probably help to perpetuate the myths. But, what's the harm; they're just stories.

On the plus side, these stories are good for one thing: entertainment. They'll be good to tell if the power goes out again, or during some freshman initiation next year, or just to scare some tower trick-or-treaters. But, outside of those instances, the stories are bound to be just that, stories. Unless, of course, you live on the eleventh floor.



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# The haunting of Hartung

By Mary Abshire

"I've never met Oscar," said Nick Fouch, a fifth year Theatre Arts major. But stories of Oscar (the rumored theater ghost) have circulated in Hartung Theater since the beginning. C.J. Bellamy and Co. of Coent d'Alene were hired to build the theater; construction lasted from 1972-73, and it officially opened in April 1974. Originally the Performing Arts Center, the building was later named after Ernest Hartung, UI President 1965-67.

Ed Chavez, theater arts professor, remembers a strange incident before the building was even opened. He had been helping with the final stages of construction, and was painting in the dressing room, when what he describes as the "strangest feeling" came over him. The room became "terribly cold, like a refrigerator had been opened," he said. He became uncomfortable, and soon headed home. At the time of this occurrence, no one else could have possibly been in the building because it wasn't even open to students.

"As I got halfway down the driveway, the door I'd just come out of started shaking violently, as if it were being blown by a strong wind. I started to go back to check the door when this unearthly scream started from behind it. It was just too bizarre."

According to the 1979 October Argonaut, Steve Remington, technical director and stage manager, encountered the tricks of Oscar several times. "One night while I was closing up the theater, I started to get really nervous, almost panicky, for no reason," he said. He turned out the lights, and headed out the back door.

"As I got halfway down the driveway, the door I'd just come out of started shaking violently, as if it were being blown by a strong wind. I started to go back to check the door when this unearthly scream started from behind it. It was just too bizarre," Remington said.

"So I said to hell with it and went downtown and had a drink."

UI students Bob Langley and Greg Clifford made a film documentary in November and December 1984 of "Oscar" encounters. By that time, tales of Oscar were not uncommon. Some students believe that the ghost favors the prop room. "That's the only place that gives me the creeps," said one 1984 performer. Sounds of furniture being dragged have been heard in the room when the doors were locked and the lights were out.

It is traditional for a theater to have a ghost, Langley and Clifford explained in the documentary. "Most theaters have a ghost because there is so much fantasy in theatre arts."

On Sept. 19, 1973, Leslie T. Lande, local contractor, was found dead at 8:24 a.m. on the uncompleted construction site of the Performing Arts Center. Lande was 54 years old.

In the 1984 video, Langley and Clifford documented stories that included:

- Voices and shadows under doors that were locked. When they were unlocked, the room was empty.

- When John Morgan and Steve Remington were alone in the building, John heard footsteps going up the stairs. He yelled up the stairs, thinking it was Steve, but was astonished to find Steve standing right behind him.

- A radio left playing was found unplugged. The room could only be accessed by passing through a room that was occupied by the only person in the building.

- Two performers were looking for a pair of shoes for a cast member. After trying on "at least eight pairs," according to one student, a pair of shoes fell off the shelf--a pair that fit the performer perfectly.

- Many performers report seeing someone out of their peripheral vision sitting in the empty house during practice and rehearsals. When they turned around, no one was there.

- During one practice in the early 1980s, the lights in a room downstairs turned on and off at least six times without the light switch moving to the "off" position. The last time, a performer was left standing in the dark. She called out, "Oscar, do you love me?" and the lights turned on again.

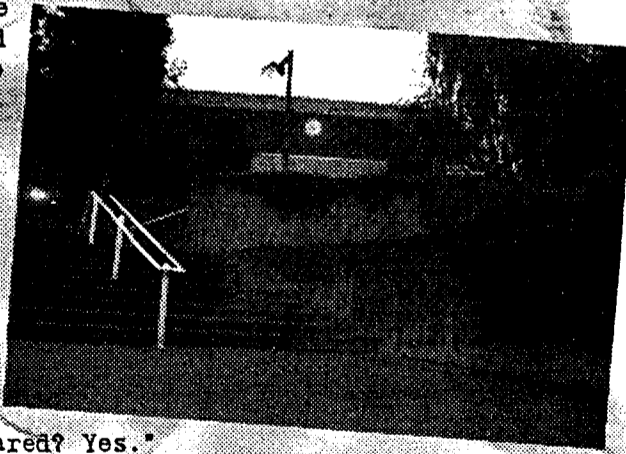
- One night, members working on a set said they heard screaming downstairs when they knew they were the only ones in the building. They quickly packed up the materials they were working on and left the building.

- On one occasion, the lights had been unscrewed and turned the wrong way, so that on the night of performance, the lights would shine in every direction, and "blind the audience," according to Langley and Clifford's video.

Other minor incidents occurred regularly, according to cast members interviewed in the early 1980s. These incidents include many other occurrences such as items moving by themselves in empty rooms.

Theatre arts professors Forest Sears and Ed Chavez say stories of Oscar should be absorbed with a certain amount of skepticism. They will not deny the stories of some sort of presence though. Sears said, "all of us who work in the theater have felt from time to time a strange energy." After thirty-two years of working there, enough incidents have occurred to have him still wondering, he explained. Despite his encounter in the early stages of construction, Chavez said he "never felt threatened. Scared? Yes."

"I always said, if indeed there was a ghost, it was a very benevolent one," Chavez said.



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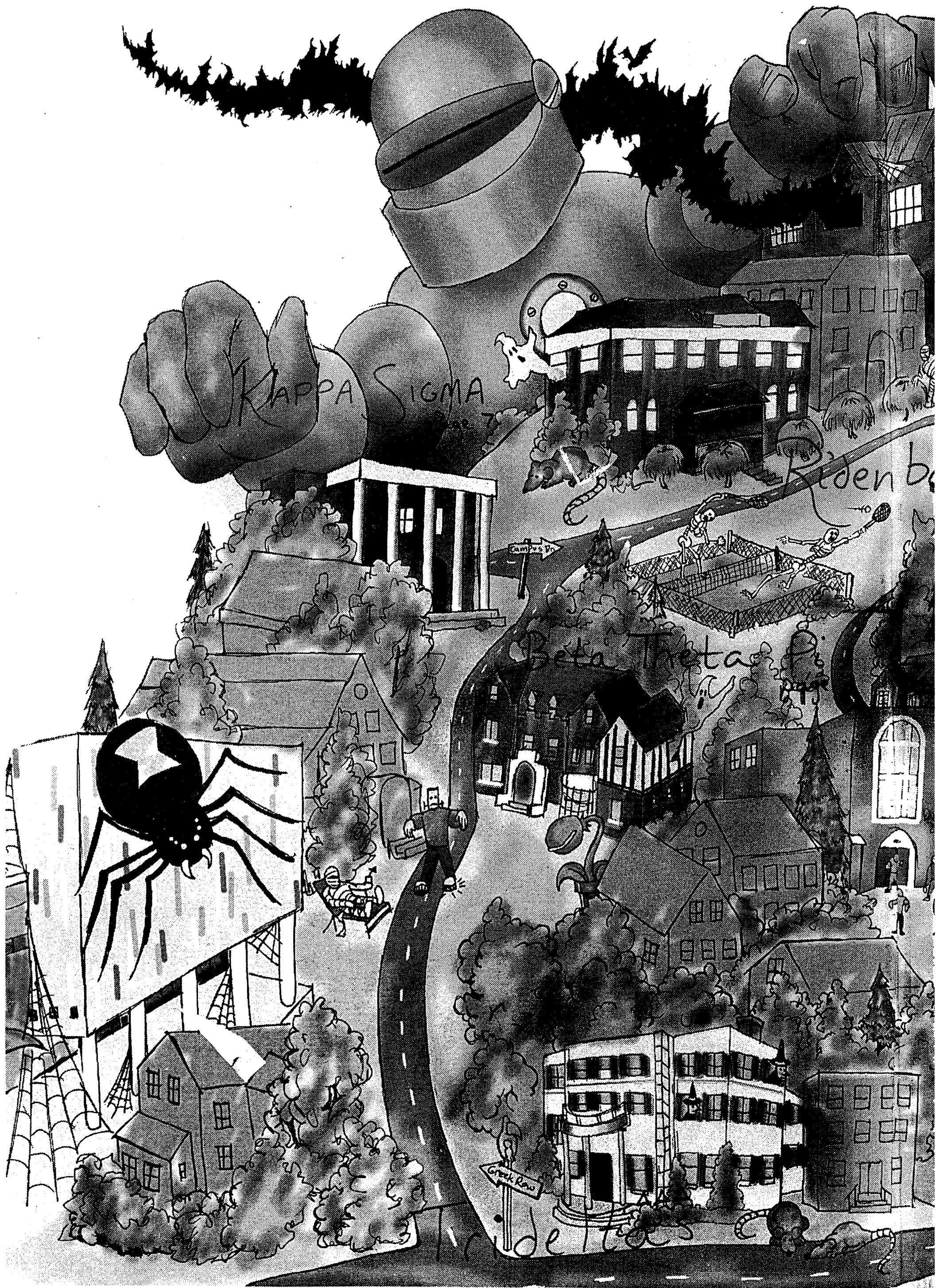
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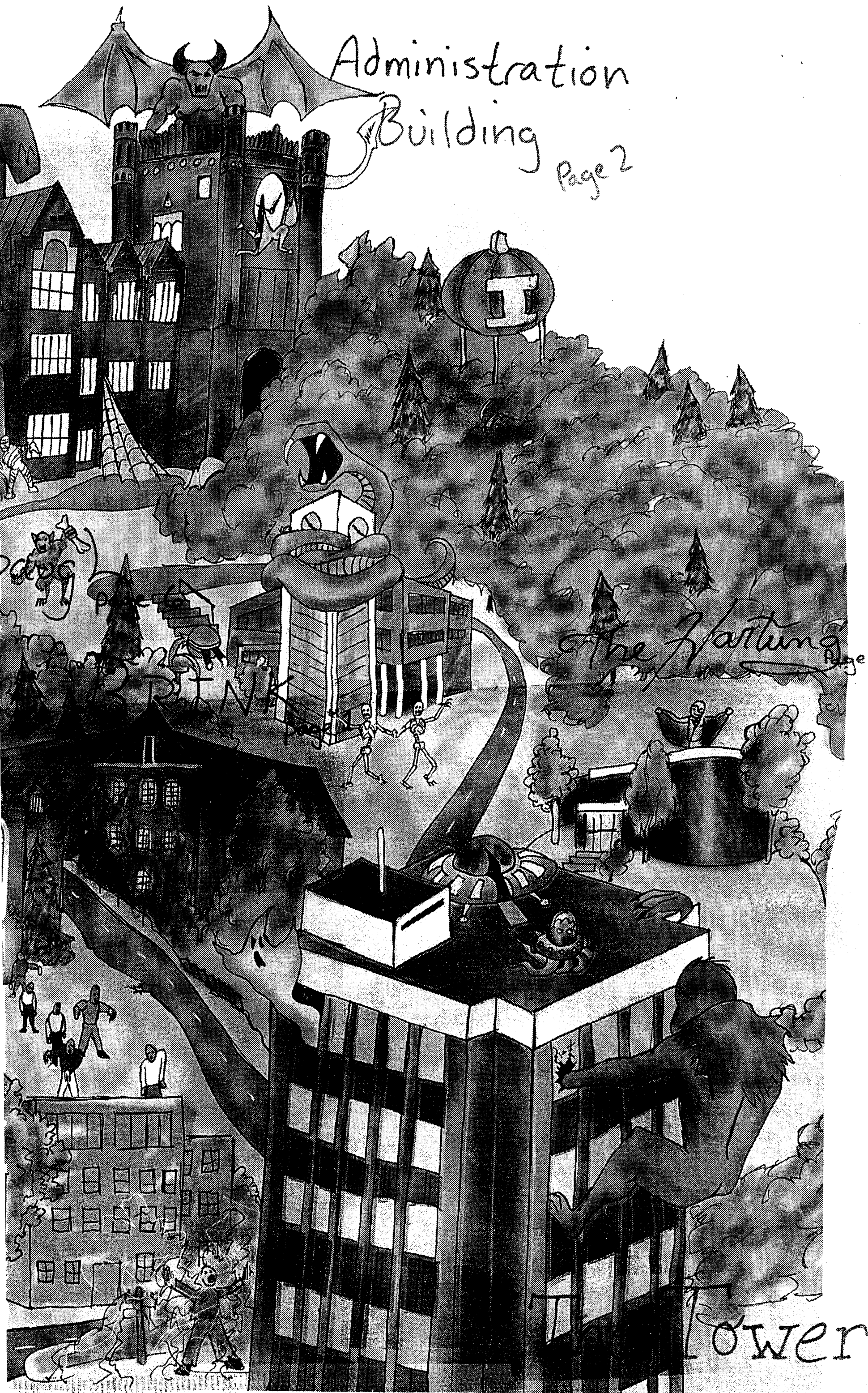
Campus Dr.

Greek Row

Beta Beta Beta

Delta Delta Delta

Administration  
Building Page 2

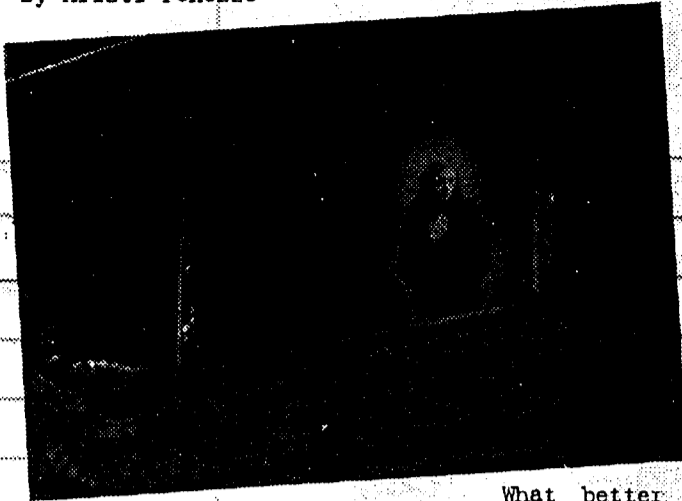


The Flattening Page

Lower

# Ridenbaugh Ghost: Fact or campus legend?

By Kristi Ponzio



Unfortunately for music students, they really have no other place to practice, so they are forced to go to be in the building. Most of the time they practice at night, and sometimes very late into the night.

In an article in the 1992 March Argonaut, light-trance medium Lorraine Warren was reported as coming to campus to investigate the UI campus. Warren was reported to have entered room 225 of Ridenbaugh and "immediately feeling a presence of a young girl, student age, probably in her early 20's," said the 1992 article. Warren described the girl as wearing clothes from the 1930's, with her hair pulled back in a bun.

If this ghost does haunt Ridenbaugh, then why? Kent Chalmers might have an explanation. Chalmers chooses to practice in room 225, even when most people won't, because the sound is good and the piano is decent. His first close encounter happened sometime last year when he was practicing piano in the room late at night,

"I swore I heard a woman singing in the exact same pitch as I was playing on the piano. When I stopped, she would stop; when I played she would sing," explains Chalmers who was fairly sure no one else was in the building. "Another time, I was practicing the trumpet and every time I hit a key I would see a flash of light under the door." Chalmers explains that when he turned to look he saw nothing. Could this ghostly woman just happen to enjoy the music at Ridenbaugh, and choose to stay just to enjoy it?

Chalmers said weird acoustics, or people turning the lights off and on could explain this phenomenon. Whatever it is, the ghostly presence doesn't bother him.

Did a woman really commit suicide in Ridenbaugh? Old Argonaut issues turned up

What better place for a ghost on campus than Ridenbaugh Hall? Ridenbaugh is almost one hundred years old. Built in 1902, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Shrouded in mystery and vines, Ridenbaugh sits at the base of the Admin hill, occupied by practicing musicians late into the night.

Upon entering Ridenbaugh, one immediately realizes that it is indeed very old. Much of the old architecture is still in place, built in the Italian renaissance revival style, and quaint as that is, it also makes for haunting creaks and dark nooks and crannies. Even the art exhibit that currently occupies the gallery on the first floor gives off eerie vibes. "The House" is an Art 410 Gallery Glass project that features four rooms of a house each a completely different color and bathed in that light.

In 1983, Ridenbaugh was due for restoration. An Idahoian article from December 22 of that year explains that the restoration of Ridenbaugh unearthed a few mysteries. The article states; "There are no good architectural drawings in existence so UI officials are at a loss trying to explain staircases in the attic that lead nowhere."

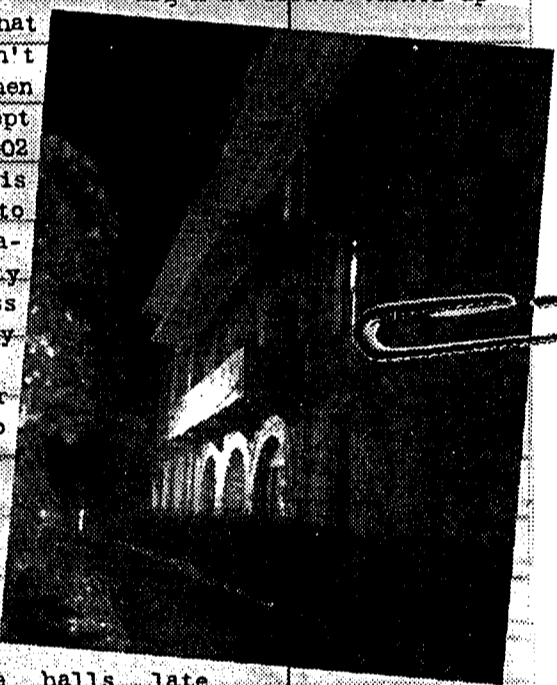
Ridenbaugh was originally used as a women's dormitory, but sometime after WWII, it was made into a music practice hall. Ridenbaugh now houses practice rooms, a few professors' offices and the first floor art gallery.

The ghost that haunts the building is said to be a woman who hung herself in room 225 when Ridenbaugh was still a woman's dormitory. Most people know the story about the ghost, but few have actually experienced the ghost's presence, I could find no one who has actually seen the ghost.

Music major Jena Baerlocher said she has heard the story about the ghost in room 225. "No one likes to practice in room 225 I used to practice in there but I don't anymore," says Baerlocher who has never had any close encounters with the ghost, but says she hates being in the building alone.

no evidence, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen. Not knowing when this took place, except sometime between 1902 and after WWII, it is close to impossible to search all old newspapers or old county death records unless you had a few empty months on your hands.

Maybe we'll never know the answers to the building's past, but the building is exquisitely scary, if nothing else. You could feel lucky you aren't a music major, or you could take a stroll through the halls late Halloween night and find out what all the fuss is about.



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# The Haunting on Blake Street

By JP. Diener

Being completely alone in the house doesn't bother him. He's spent a lot of time alone throughout the course of his life, and a few days over Thanksgiving Break isn't a problem. It's a chance to finally finish reading that novel he's been struggling through all semester, and there is plenty of football on TV, so he'll be just fine.

It is Thanksgiving night. He's all by himself in North Parlor, reading the last chapter of his novel. He stops. Was that a noise upstairs? He shakes his head and returns to his book, but pauses once more as he hears it again. Yes, there is a noise, and after listening for a moment he figures out what it is: a ball of some kind being bounced on the floor upstairs. The house is dead quiet except for the incessant bouncing. Unease creeps over him, and he slowly gets to his feet. No one can be bouncing a ball on second deck because he's the only one in the house, and he would have heard if someone had come in. He goes to the bottom of the stairs and now the sound is unmistakable; there is definitely someone bouncing a ball on the second floor.

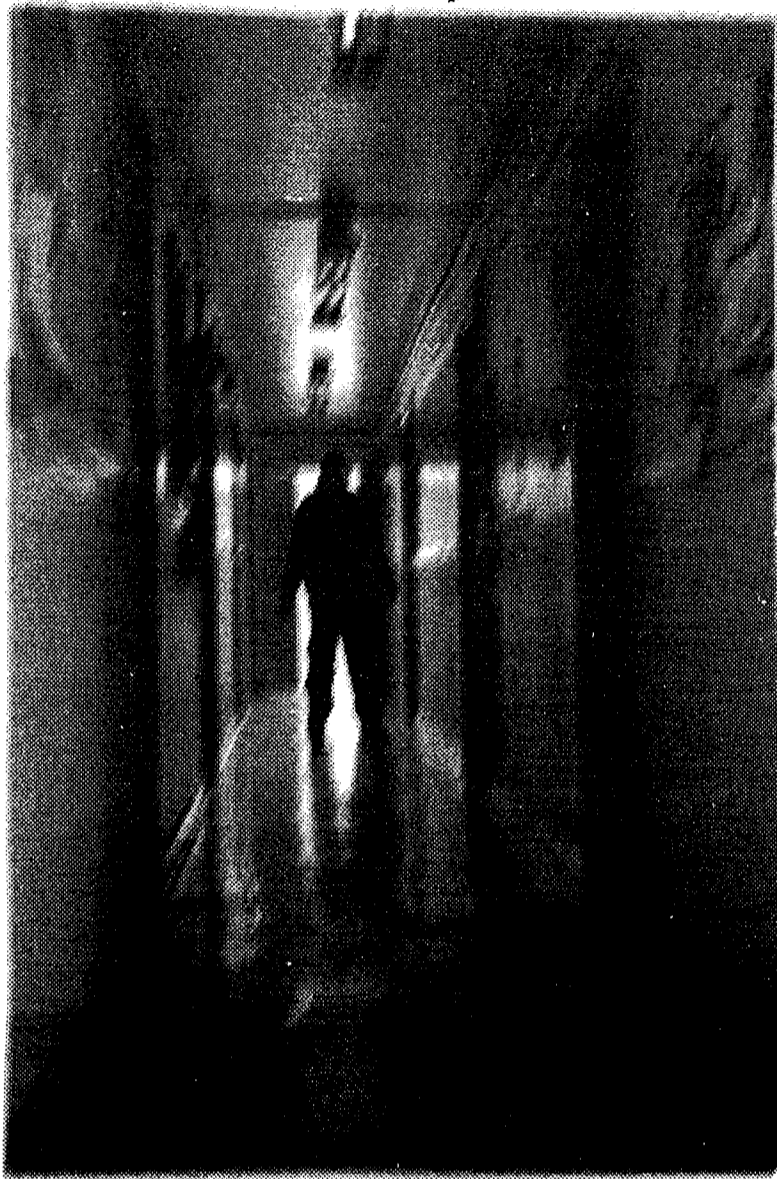
"Hello?" he calls out. The sound halts abruptly. A chill runs up his spine, but he stands his ground. Then the ball is bouncing again, but with each bounce it becomes louder, and with dread he realizes the ball is bouncing its way down the stairs. He is holding his breath as the ball rolls around the corner and down the rest of the stairs towards him; it comes to a rest at his feet. Recovering, he searches the house, but no one is to be found. He spends the night at a friend's.

That was a supposedly true story in a long line of tales surrounding the Kappa Sigma Fraternity Ghost, Glen. Glen Holm was a model member of Kappa Sigma in the late 1940's. As the story goes, Glen was killed on

his way home for Christmas, and because at that point in his life the fraternity was so important to him, that's where his soul went to rest. According to more recent members of Kappa Sigma, Glen is not a bad ghost, he can be mischievous but overall he is friendly and just likes to make his presence known.

However, for a long period of time there was some kind of malevolent force also making its presence known and many of the live-in members thought it was Glen gone bad. Everyone was having terrible nightmares, there were small fires started in random places around the house, things disappeared or were inexplicably broken, and so on. So in the mid 1980s the Fraternity brought in "experts" in the field of the paranormal, and discovered that an evil spirit had taken up residence in the house. They claimed it had something to do with balance of good and evil; because Glen was "good", eventually an evil spirit was bound to move in for the sake of proper balance. So the "experts" proposed a seance/exorcism to try and remove the evil spirit from the house, yet in doing so would also remove Glen. The members agreed, and since then the frequency of strange incidences seems to have dropped off considerably. However, there is still the occasional story from a late night wanderer who claims to have glimpsed a strange figure in the shadows, or heard talking

or laughter in a room only to find no one there upon investigation. Whatever the explanation, there is no denying that Kappa Sigma has the oldest Fraternity House on campus and a fair amount of history... so who knows, maybe the ghost of Glen Holm really has made his eternal rest in the Kappa Sig House, and maybe, just maybe, he's not the only one.



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# Truth stranger than fiction? spooky spectors scare students

by Erin Braun

Most Greek houses are rumored to have a ghost or two floating through its walls. Whether the tales are true or simply told to terrorize the tender-hearted, no one can really tell.

Delta Delta Delta chapter house completed construction in 1931 and a new crop of women moved in during 1932. At the time, the all-brick structure was the largest house on campus with sleeping porches on both second and third floor.

"The whole ghost story is set on the third perch," said sophomore Kileen McCaughey. "I think it's a joke, but the whole plot is worth us recanting it during house tours."

According to legend, half of the third sleeping porch in the 1930s was the executive suite where the president and vice president lived. Both women were close friends but one had a fateful secret.

"Supposedly, the vice president was dating the president's boyfriend on the sly," said McCaughey. "When the prez found out, Whamm-o."

While the vice president was sleeping soundly the president allegedly whacked her over the head with a frying pan. The vice president died and is now, according to some chapter member, haunting the house.

"Everyone says her name is Ruth so one day we went through all our rosters from the 30s and 40s but didn't find any matches. We even asked one of our charter members a few years back but she had no recollection of any event like that," said junior Tiffany Caudle.

Not all members believe the story is a hoax however.

"One night my roommate came home late from studying and claims she saw an apparition in the ironing room. I don't know if it's true but it makes you look over your shoulder late at night," said senior Carmen Stanfield.

The Tri Delta's alleged phantom isn't the only poltergeist that took an interest in domestic chores. The Beta Theta Pi house was built in 1925 and has its share of supposed spooks.

Alumni Bill Savidge remembers hearing stories about a friendly ghost who took a liking to housework.

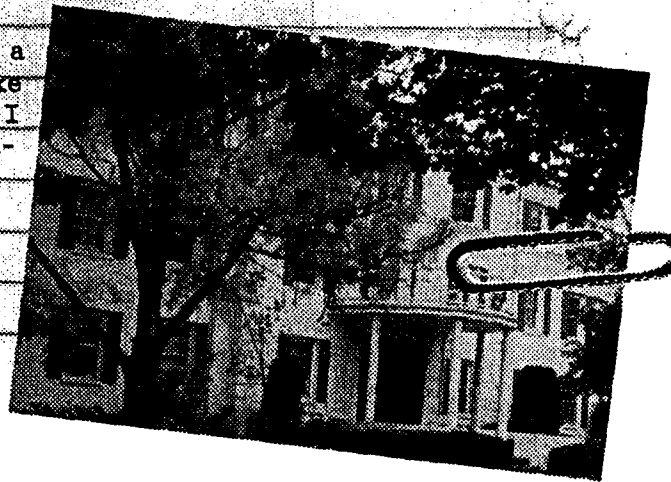
"I don't remember if she was a former house mom or a cook but she had a thing for folding people's clothes," he said.

More than once members would trudge to the laundry room to find their washing already neatly stacked, according to the story.

"No one likes folding another guy's jockey's," said Savidge. "Usually they were just lumped in a pile so you notice when your clothes look like they were ready for display at the Gap."

Some members also claim they have seen this motherly figure wandering throughout the house, according to senior Todd Pfenneger.

"It's more of a cool brush of air and a vivid imagination," he said. "It's not like we're running around chanting Red Rum, but I think but the story is at least entertaining."



# Trick or Treat

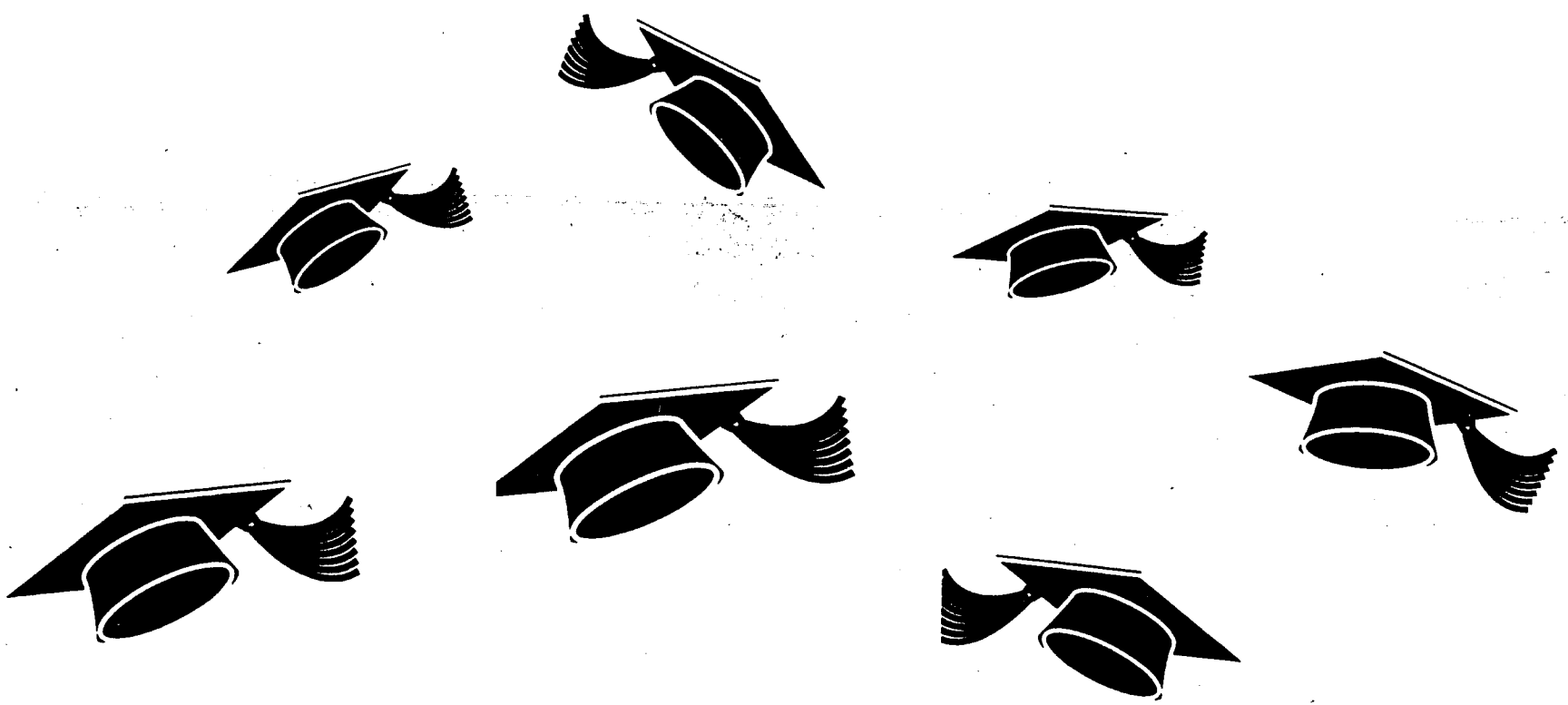


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# Congratulations Graduates

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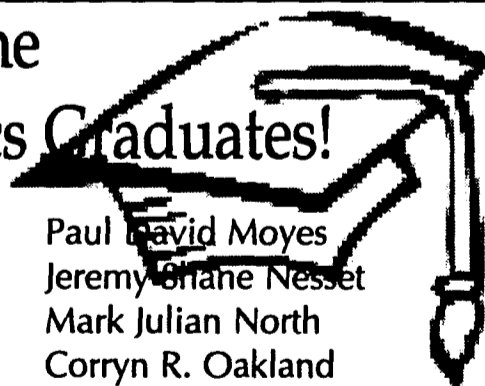
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# Congratulations

## U of I - Class of '99



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Balzer*

We're so proud  
of you.  
Congratulations!

Love,  
Mom, Dad, Sandy,  
Christy, & Ryan

## U of I - Class of '99



*Michael J.  
Aho*

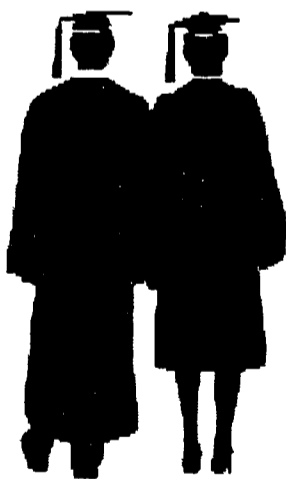
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You made it, of  
course! I am so  
very proud of you!

Love,  
Mom

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of our program. Good lu  
GO

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Richard Barlow  
Elizabeth Bruce  
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# ons Graduates

## U of I - Class of '99

*Rockne Charles  
Keliholokuau Elliott*



Imagine, my little,  
baby boy graduating  
from college. I  
couldn't be any  
prouder!

Love,  
Mom

## U of I - Class of '99

*Becca  
Carpenter*



Who would have  
thought our little  
"dirt digger" would  
become a geologist?  
Congratulations!

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Mom, Dad, Jana,  
Lunden, Matt and Loui

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Kevin Hill  
Katharine Hough  
Jeff James  
Brian Smith  
Antia Taruscio  
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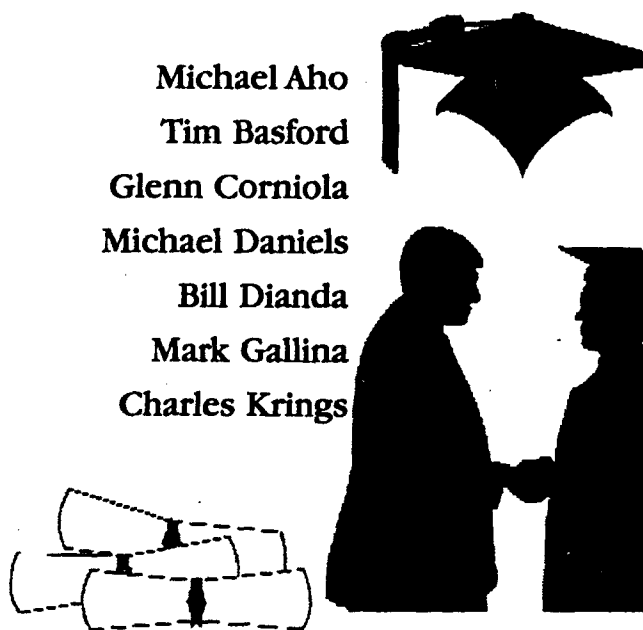
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NICOLAS FOUCH**



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Glyn	Travis	Deputy	Cum Laude
Sara	Bryn	Douthit	Summa Cum Laude
Molly	Christine	Joyce	Bachelor of Science
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Kathryn	Ruth	Miles	Bachelor of Science
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Tamara	Jean	Hopkins	Bachelor of Arts

**Congratulations**

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**Best Wishes**

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Isaac Adam Wright  
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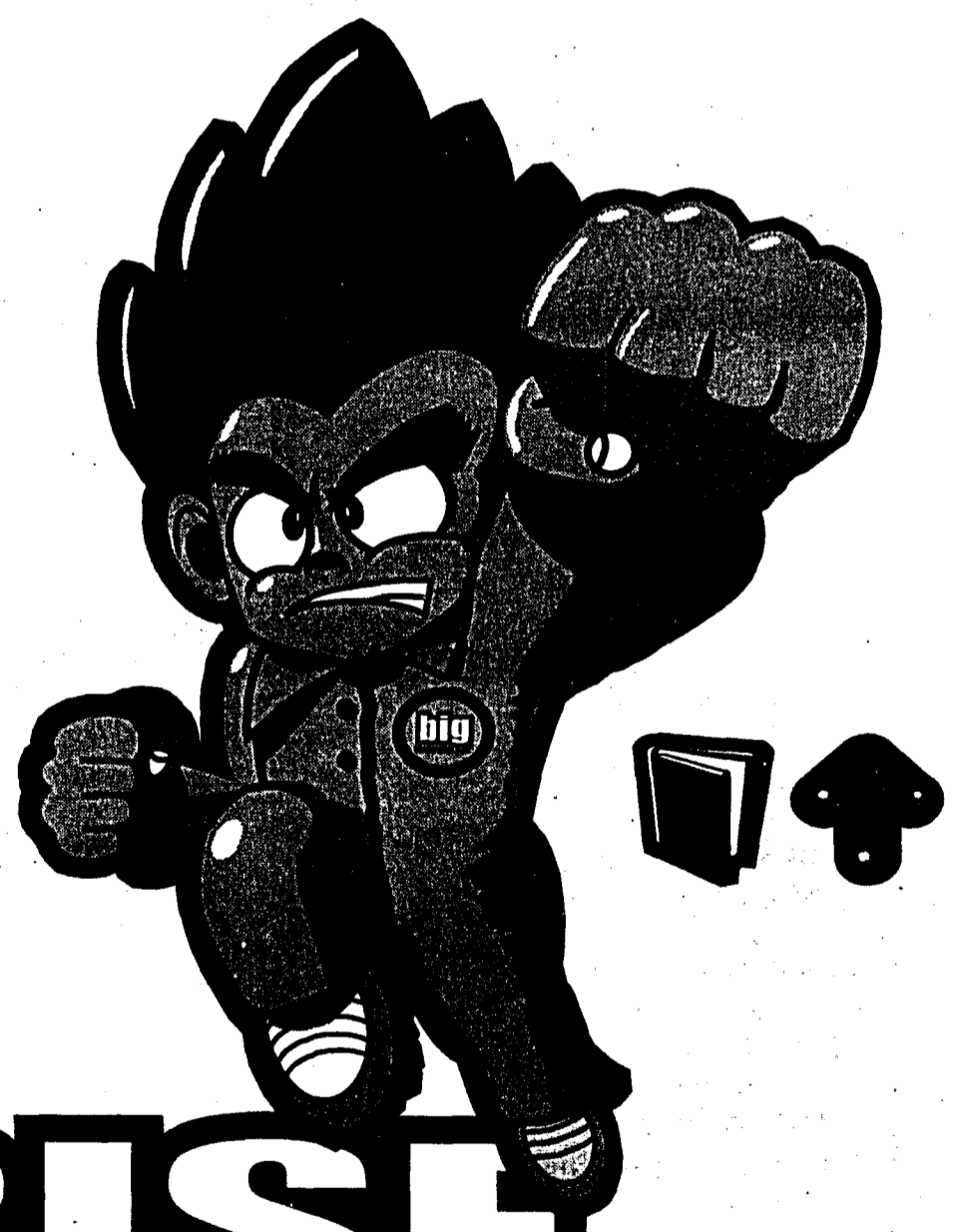


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# HOPE *and* healing



*"When I look back at where I have come from —  
the guilt, the shame, and the grief of abortion —  
it is with continual amazement...  
d e e p j o y*

"I now live my life with a deep joy and gratitude. Through my healing I have learned how to have more compassion and mercy for others. I am careful not to judge, because I know where I have come from and how much I needed compassion and mercy."

Like Theresa, thousands of women and men are now sharing the joy, healing, and personal growth they have experienced with others. They are reaching out to help those women and men who continue to struggle with negative feelings about past abortions.

In these pages you will meet other people like Theresa who can teach you how to help your loved ones—even those who haven't told you about their abortions. If you will only *take the time* to understand just a few basic points,

you will be far better prepared to offer them *effective* compassion and support.

If you have had an abortion yourself, this publication will help you find the people and resources that can help you overcome any feelings of sadness, anger, guilt, or resentment that may be holding you back from complete healing. They can help you find the hope and joy that you want and deserve.

This publication is for anyone who has ever been directly or indirectly affected by abortion—and that includes nearly all of us. When you read these pages with an open heart and mind, you will learn the secrets of hope and healing that can directly benefit you or your loved ones.

<b>INSIDE</b>	
How to Sow the Seeds of Healing	1
Where to Find Help—For You and Others	2
Politics of Abortion	3
The Emotional Costs of Abortion	4
Who is Most at Risk?	2
Can Relationships Survive After Abortion?	6
I'm Sorry: See Who Wants to Apologize to You	7

#### THE FACTS:

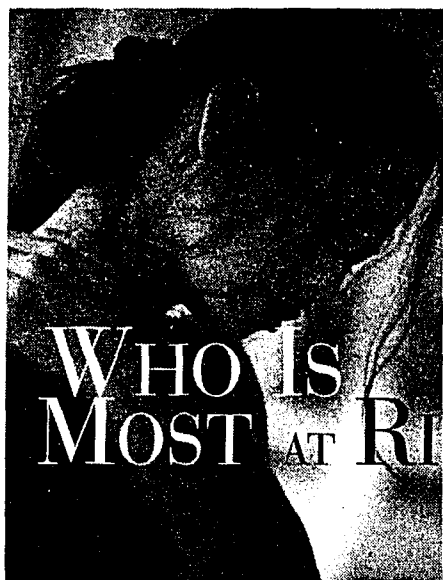
- ✓ Over 50 million women and men in the U.S. have lost a child to abortion.
- ✓ More than half report negative feelings.
- ✓ Most people are uncomfortable talking about abortion.

#### THE RESULT:

- ✓ Millions suffer in silence from unresolved grief, aching hearts, anger, and fear.
- ✓ As many as one of every five people you know are afraid to tell you about their secret pain.

#### THE SOLUTION:

- ✓ Take time to learn about post-abortion healing.
- ✓ Learn to listen with compassion.
- ✓ Begin by reading this publication, *Hope and Healing*.



Some people seem to come through an abortion unchanged. Others struggle for years with feelings of grief, guilt, shame, anxiety, low self-esteem, anger, or depression. Still others have problems with nightmares, eating disorders, broken or abusive relationships, substance abuse, and even suicide.

It is possible for any woman to unexpectedly have a bad emotional reaction to an abortion. But researchers have identified several factors that predict which women are most likely to suffer the most severe reactions.

The best-established risk factors include: feeling pressured to have an abortion; strong maternal tendencies; a desired pregnancy; feelings of attachment to the unborn child; a history of prior psychological illness or emotional instability; lack of support from her parents or her male

partner; adolescence; prior beliefs that abortion is immoral; a history of prior abortion(s); or abortion in the second or third trimester.

A woman who has one or more of these factors is likely to have strong negative reactions to an abortion. The best estimates indicate that at least four out of every five women undergoing abortion today fall into one or more of these high-risk categories. How many of these women will actually have post-abortion emotional problems is still unknown.

For a more complete list of known risk factors, plus a breakdown of the percentages of women seeking abortion who fall within many of these categories, and citations to the medical literature documenting these risk factors, visit our web site at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org) and follow the link to the *Hope and Healing* version of this article.

## FINDING THE RIGHT HELP. . . . . IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

When looking for a post-abortion counselor or support group, keep in mind that many of these groups have different philosophies and approaches.

Many are run by women who have had abortions themselves. Some are run by licensed psychiatrists, psychologists, or social workers. Others are extensions of churches or crisis pregnancy centers.

Be sure to ask lots of questions in order to find a group or counselor with whom you feel comfortable.

In some cases, especially if you have a history of psychological problems or other trauma that may complicate your abortion problems, you may need the help of a professional counselor.

Don't expect that just any licensed counselor can help you. Indeed, many professional counselors are unaware of or may even be politically hostile to post-abortion issues. Many women have reported that their therapist's insistence on looking at everything but their abortion made their problems worse.

If you want a professional counselor, make sure you find a therapist who has experience and training specifically in the field of post-abortion counseling. Your local post-abortion ministry or crisis pregnancy center can probably refer you to one.

The following is a partial list of the many organizations offering post-abortion counseling either by phone or by providing referrals to a network of counselors around the country.

In recent years, many crisis pregnancy centers have also begun to offer post-abortion counseling. You may want to inquire about post-abortion counseling by calling your local crisis pregnancy center or asking for a referral from a sympathetic pastor at your local church. Many post-abortion counseling services are free.

CARENET	(703) 478-5661	National Memorial for the Unborn	(800) 505-5565
Fathers & Brothers	(303) 494-3282	National Office of Post-Abortion	
Healing Hearts Ministry	(888) 217-8679	Reconciliation and Healing	(800) 593-2273
HEART Inc.	(513) 528-6040	Rapha	
Last Harvest Ministries	(972) 840-3553	(refers only to licensed counselors)	(800) 383-4673
Men's Abortion Recovery	(610) 384-3210	Rachel's Vineyard Retreats	877-HOPE-4-ME
America's Crisis Pregnancy Helpline	(800) 672-2296	Victims of Choice	(630) 378-1680

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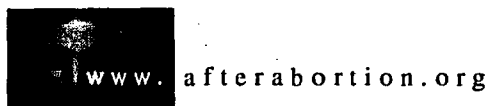
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Published by: Elliot Institute, PO Box 7348, Springfield, IL 62791-7348. Editor: David C. Reardon, Ph.D. Assistant Editor: Amy Sobie. © 1998 Elliot Institute. The Elliot Institute was founded in 1988 to promote post-abortion healing and to undertake original research and education on the impact of abortion on women, men, siblings, and society.

Contributions to the Elliot Institute, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, are tax deductible. Much more information is available on our web site at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org).

To receive a free sample of our quarterly publication, *The Post-Abortion Review*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Elliot Institute, PO Box 7348-H, Springfield, IL 62791-7348.





# PRO-LIFE PRO-CHOICE BEYOND THE POLITICS OF ABORTION

David C. Reardon, Ph.D.

Everyone has an opinion about abortion. That's fine—up to a point.

The problem is when these political and moral views get in the way of efforts to help those who are *hurting* because of a past abortion.

Just for the moment, set aside the question of whether or not abortion should be legal, and ask yourself, "Shouldn't we *all* offer understanding and compassion to our friends and family members who are feeling grief over a past abortion?"

Most people would answer yes. Indeed, this is one of the few areas of common ground between both sides of the abortion debate. Unfortunately, people on each side generally believe that while *they* are understanding and compassionate, those on the "other side" are not.

The truth is closer to this: both sides really *want* to be understanding and compassionate, and both sides are blind to the ways in which *they are failing* in this regard.

As a result, women and men who are struggling with unresolved grief over an abortion are caught in a trap. They're boxed in by the politics of abortion.

On one side, they are afraid to share their grief with friends who are "pro-life" because they fear being condemned and rejected. On the other side, they've learned that when they turn to friends who are "pro-choice," their grief may not be acknowledged as truly valid.

## Pro-Choice Denial

In the latter case, pro-choice friends typically try to offer support with words like, "Just forget about it. It was your best choice at the time. It wasn't really a baby yet. You can have another baby some day."

These statements are meant to offer reassurance. But those grieving a past abortion hear something else: "Just forget it. You didn't lose anything that was *real*." They walk away feeling that their grief is irrational, unimportant, or even abnormal, and so they bury their pain once more.

But this buried pain is exactly their problem! They *want* to expose it, work through it, and get beyond it—and *they need the support of their loved ones to do this*.

This is why people of every culture hold funerals and wakes. It is a time of open grieving when we acknowledge and validate each other's loss.

In abortion, something is lost. Whether you want to call it the loss of a child or just the loss of an "opportunity" to have a child, the loss is real. It has to be grieved and released. If friends and loved ones deny this grief, the grief process will actually be prolonged.

Yet pro-choice advocates often hesitate to recognize the reality of post-abortion grief because they fear this means they have to recognize the death of a baby, which may somehow undermine the political argument for legal abortion. Some extremists will even go so far as to deny that abortion can *ever* cause emotional suffering, a claim that is insulting to the millions of women and men who know differently from their own experience.

In short, the politics of abortion are getting in the way of post-abortion healing. Those who are experiencing grief do not need rationalizations or slogans. They need the reality of their emotional experience to be understood, accepted, and respected.

## Pro-Life Judgmentalism

Now let's look at the other side of the trap.

Do women and men struggling with a past abortion feel comfortable talking about it with their pro-life friends? Rarely. This is because the pro-life movement has done a far better job of condemning abortion than of promoting compassion for those who have experienced it.

Most pro-lifers probably do want to be compassionate. They really do "hate the sin, but love the sinner." Unfortunately, this seldom comes through in their anti-abortion rhetoric.

Consider, for example, this comment made by many pro-lifers: "I can't understand how anyone could have an abortion." Sadly, anyone who says this is merely exposing his ignorance of the immense pressures which drive people to choose abortion.

Polls show that at least 70 percent of women having abortions believe abortion is immoral. Most of these women thought they would *never* have an

abortion. Many even considered themselves to be pro-lifers. But when they found themselves trapped in a hard situation, they ended up submitting to the "evil necessity" of abortion as their "only choice." With this fact in mind, a more humble pro-life attitude would be to say, "Who am I to throw stones at others?"

Secondly, pro-lifers who say, "I don't understand how anyone could have an abortion" are blind to how hurtful this statement can be. Think about it. What is the implication of this comment to a person who has had an abortion? Won't it be heard as, "Only an evil person could ever have an abortion?"

This is not what most pro-lifers *intend* to say, but it is the message that is *heard*.

Faced with comments like these, it is no wonder that most women and men hurting over a past abortion will go to great lengths to hide their secret.

Would you share *your secret grief over a past abortion with someone who "just can't understand" how anyone like you could do such a thing? Of course not.*

Most pro-lifers probably don't intend to be condemning. Indeed, most would genuinely want to offer comfort and understanding. But the truth is, most *don't* know how.

## Let's Face Their Reality

Bottom line: whether you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life, it is *essential* to acknowledge the feelings of those who *do* feel pain after an abortion. Your political and moral views about abortion will not change how they *feel*. Pushing your views may simply prolong or aggravate their negative feelings.

Everyone, on both sides, can do better. Our friends and loved ones *need* us to do better. Reading this publication will help you do better.

David C. Reardon, Ph.D., is the director of the Elliot Institute and author of *Making Abortion Rare: A Healing Strategy for a Divided Nation*.



www.afterabortion.org



# TRYING TO SURVIVE

Judith Evans

My childhood was brutal. I was abandoned by my father when I was two-and-a-half. Then when he reappeared in my life again at the age of eight, it became worse. I survived incest, starvation, and beatings.

I clung to life. It was my two abortions that nearly destroyed me.

When I became pregnant for the fifth time in seven years, my doctor asked me if I really thought I should "continue the pregnancy." Abortion had never occurred to me until he suggested it.

My husband said, "It's your decision. Do what you want," and left for work. Naively, I began looking for women who had had abortions. But I couldn't find anyone who would admit to having had one. I asked my doctor and he said, "It only takes a few minutes and it's over."

Having already had four babies, I am now appalled at how ignorant I was about fetal development. My doctor said the baby—at six-and-a-half weeks—was "just a blob," and I believed him. Afterwards, before I even got home, I began to cry. It didn't help.

When finally I stopped crying on the outside, I kept crying on the inside. I felt so dirty and alone. Something deep inside of me froze, I think. I dreamed a lot about snow and ice, as well as about babies. I felt cheated, betrayed, and manipulated.

I went to counseling and the psychologist said, "forgive yourself," and "let yourself go on."

She didn't say how.

Two years later, I had another abortion as an act of self-punishment. I wanted to die, or at least go crazy so I could escape the torment, the nightmares about babies, the self-disgust and the degradation I felt.

.....

I wasn't told that there could be complications which wouldn't be discovered for years. I wasn't told that the strength of the suction machine is such that it can turn a uterus nearly completely inside out. I had to have an early hysterectomy because of it.

I wasn't told that after having an abortion an unbelievable self-hatred would consume me and lead to distrust, suspicion, and the utter inability to care about myself or others—including my four children. I wasn't told that hearing babies cry would trigger such anger that I wouldn't be able to be around babies at all.

I wasn't told that it would become impossible to look at my own eyes in a mirror. Or that my confidence would be so shaken that I would become unable to make important life decisions. My self-hatred kept me from pursuing my goal of becoming a registered nurse. I didn't think I deserved success.

I wasn't told that I would come to *hate* all those who advised me to have my abortions, because they were my accomplices in the murders of my babies. I wasn't told that having an abortion with my husband's consent would end up causing

me to *hate* the father of my children, or that I would be unable to sustain ANY satisfying, lasting, fulfilling relationships.

I wasn't told that I could become suicidal in the fall of every year, when both of my babies should have been born.

I wasn't told that on the birthdays of my living children, I would remember the two for whom I would never make a birthday cake, or that on Mother's Day I would remember the two who would never send me a card, or that every Christmas I would remember the two for whom there would be no presents.

My abortions were supposed to be a "quick-fix" for my problems, but they didn't tell me there is no "quick-fix" for regrets.

.....

I went to a psychiatric hospital and they gave me shock treatments. They didn't help. The nightmares continued.

I became a workaholic. Work didn't help.

I became a compulsive eater. Food didn't help.

I became an anorexic as another form of self-punishment. That came close to killing me; I had two strokes.

I tried alcohol. It only helped temporarily. The torment would still be there when I woke up. That effort to escape the pain only lasted two months.

Three things finally helped. First, I participated in a ten-week post-abortion healing program. It was incredible! It did so much for me.

Second, I took the training to help lead others through the post-abortion healing program. Every time I lead a group, I witness the miracle of God's mercy restoring the joy to these women's lives. That has helped me.

Third, in September of 1997 I received a phone call at two in the morning. A girl in Texas had seen a brochure containing my testimony. She was scheduled to have an abortion at three o'clock the next day. We talked until five in the morning. Later, she called back and said she had decided against having the abortion.

Finally, I knew with certainty that God had used my experience to save someone else from making my terrible mistake. That helped a lot.

Healing does not mean forgetting. I will always regret what I did, and I will always miss my babies until the day I am with them in Heaven. But I know now that God can use every part of our lives, even the worst parts, to allow us to help others.

Praise the Lord. He is kind and merciful. He has done wondrous things in my life.

.....

*Judith welcomes correspondence from anyone who has had an abortion or is considering an abortion. She can be reached at [talrcrft@kans.com](mailto:talrcrft@kans.com).*

## AFTER AN ABORTION: STEPS TOWARD

# HEALING



1. Recognize that *you are not alone*. Others have been through the same experience and the same trials. Their experiences and understanding can help you. They *want* to help you, just as you may want to help others after you have finished going through the healing process. (See "*Don't Go It Alone*," page 12)

2. Recognize that the road to full recovery will take time and effort. God's forgiveness can be had instantly. But sorting out your feelings and overcoming the ever-present temptation to give in to despair and doubt—these take time.

3. Recognize that it is normal and good to mourn the loss of a loved one. Just as mourning the loss of a parent or spouse takes time, so does mourning the loss of an aborted child. In the case of abortion, the mourning process is often cut short and never completed because of denial or feelings of guilt.

Courageously allow the mourning process to get back on track. Accept your grief as normal rather than something which must be covered up or pushed away. Recognize that the pain of your loss will fade as your healing progresses.

4. Admit your personal responsibility but also recognize that others, too, were involved. Pray for the strength to forgive both yourself and everyone else who either encouraged you to have the abortion or failed to help you avoid it.

5. Give your child over to the care of God. Know that he or she is loved, happy, and well cared for in heaven. Do not try to hold onto your child by prolonging your grief. Hold onto him or her by remembering your child's happiness in heaven.

6. Forgive others. Recognize that they, too, acted out of ignorance, fear, or petty human selfishness. If possible, let them know that you forgive them.

7. Forgive yourself. Remember that because your child lives in the love and mercy of God, he or she is beyond earthly malice. Your son or daughter does not resent or condemn you. Instead, your child, like God, *wants* you to be healed and restored to the fullness of joy and happiness.

# CLEARING THE AIR ABOUT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ABORTION

Martha Shuping, M.D.

## Why do women have abortions?

At least 70 percent of women having abortions say they believe it is immoral. But they choose against their conscience because of pressure from others and their circumstances.

Most women choose abortion out of fear—fear of not being able to raise a child, fear of losing their partner if they do not have an abortion, fear of losing control over their lives, etc. Some polls show that more than 80 percent say they would have completed their pregnancies under better circumstances or with more support from the people they love.

It is precisely because so many women who abort are acting against their consciences and maternal instincts that the psychological impact of abortion can be so profound.

## Didn't former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop conclude that there are no psychological consequences from abortion?

Actually, no.

What Dr. Koop reported to President Reagan was that all the studies on abortion complications were seriously flawed. As a result, the data was simply *inadequate* to determine the *extent* and *degree* of the psychological impact of abortion. He made a recommendation for a government-funded study to answer this question. Unfortunately, this study was never done.

Some extremists have twisted Dr. Koop's letter to the President to mean, "Koop didn't find anything, so nothing exists." Dr. Koop has publicly refuted this misrepresentation of his views.

He has stated that he is personally convinced, even by the existing evidence, that many women *do* suffer serious post-abortion psychological problems. It is the degree of this problem that has not been measured.

## Still, don't most experts agree that there is no significant psychological impact from abortion?

While many abortion proponents will discount the psychological costs of abortion, others are more candid. For example, Dr. Julius Fogel has personally performed more than 20,000 abortions. He is unique in that he is *both* a psychiatrist and an obstetrician, and he insists that "every woman, whatever her background or sexuality, has a trauma at destroying a pregnancy....[I]t is not as harmless and casual an event as many in the pro-abortion crowd insist."

In fact, there are more than 375 studies dealing with the psychological impact of abortion on women. All show that at least a minority of women, typically between 10 and 20 percent, have one or more negative reactions shortly after an abortion. Studies looking at long-term reactions indicate that the longer after an abortion one looks, the more negative reactions will be reported.

## So what are the psychological aftereffects of abortion?

Every woman is different. They each have different responses in different time frames. Some women repress or are unaware of any aftereffects for many years.

Commonly reported reactions include: feelings of guilt, shame, anxiety, helplessness, grief and/or remorse; uncontrollable crying; feelings of anger, bitterness, and

resentment; feelings of distrust and betrayal; lowered self-esteem; avoidance of babies, small children, or anything to do with pregnancy; fear of future pregnancies or, alternatively, a desire to have a "replacement" baby; flashbacks to the abortion experience; nightmares or sleeping disorders; depression; sexual dysfunction; eating disorders; substance abuse; self-destructive behavior; broken or abusive relationships; problems bonding with other children; suicidal thoughts or tendencies; and other problems.

A trained post-abortion counselor can be of tremendous help in resolving these problems.

## You said that some of these reactions might be delayed or repressed. Are there times or circumstances when negative reactions are more likely to occur?

Delayed reactions are often triggered by subsequent life events such as the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship, a religious conversion, or even physical changes like menopause.

Many women have "anniversary reactions," such as anxiety attacks, depression, suicidal impulses, or abdominal cramping around the anniversary date or month of the abortion or around the time when their babies would have been due.

Dr. Martha Shuping, M.D., is a psychiatrist with more than ten years of experience in helping women with post-abortion issues. Supporting citations are posted at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)

## MY NAME IS AMANDA

My name is Amanda and I am 18 years old. When I told my boyfriend [I was pregnant] he blamed me for getting pregnant and insisted that I have the abortion.

My mom told me that I either had to have an abortion or get out of her house.

No one would support me, not my boyfriend and not my family. I felt alone and trapped. I went through with the abortion but I never wanted to do it.

The amount of guilt I feel is tremendous. Everything reminds me of what I did. I am trying very hard to get through this.

The only advice that was ever offered by my boyfriend and my mom was to just not think about it. They said that it was the right thing and that I did what I had to do. I think that is a joke.

I just can't get over it.



# CAN RELATIONSHIPS SURVIVE AFTER ABORTION?

Theresa Karminski Burke, Ph.D.

Many women choose abortion in an effort to save their relationship or “keep” a boyfriend from leaving.

Sometimes this choice is the result of an outright threat of abandonment if the woman won’t “do the right thing” and abort. Other times, the pressure is more subtle: “It’s your decision, but...”

Unfortunately, all the evidence shows that abortion to “save a relationship” almost never works. Most relationships between unmarried couples come apart shortly after an abortion. Others survive only because the partners are still bound together by grief. These relationships often turn into prolonged, mutually destructive mourning rituals. Even married couples are often driven apart by an abortion unless they can find a way to complete the grieving process together.

Abortion breeds anger, resentment, and bitterness toward the partner who was not supportive or who ignored their partner’s desire to keep the baby.

At the same time, there is often tremendous pressure in the relationship to conceal one’s true feelings of grief or guilt. This can especially be a problem for men, who are often taught to hide their emotions. Men may also feel obligated to appear “strong” so as not to upset the woman any further.

Men can be affected by abortion in many of the same ways as women. Many men have reported post-abortion problems such as feelings of grief, helplessness and guilt; sexual dysfunction; substance abuse; self-hatred; fear of relationships; risk-taking and suicidal behavior; depression; greater tendencies toward becoming angry and violent; and a sense of lost manhood.

When either women or men carry the emotional baggage of an unresolved abortion into a subsequent relationship, it can cause trouble in subtle and even dramatic ways.

This is especially a problem when they keep the abortion a secret from their spouses, who are then unable to understand their emotional cycles. The distortions in behavior that result when spouses keep secrets from each other can be devastating to a marriage.

At the very least, the “need” to keep a past abortion secret prevents couples from giving and receiving unconditional love. This deprives the relationship of the opportunity to reach its full potential.

It is no coincidence that the abortion rate and the domestic violence rate have risen almost side by side. Abortion, for both women and men, is associated with self-hatred, self-punishing behavior, and an increased tendency to act out anger and rage toward others.

A woman who is self-destructive or suicidal, but afraid to deliberately harm herself, may be more likely to become involved with a violent man. A violent relationship may allow her both to express her own rage and to experience what she unconsciously feels is the “punishment I deserve.” Because of self-hatred and low self-esteem, she may remain in the relationship because she thinks she doesn’t deserve anything better.

Certainly, there are many other causes of domestic violence. But substantial statistical evidence and many case studies show that abortion is contributing to this national tragedy.

Until these women and men are provided with an environment that promotes post-abortion healing, they are likely to remain trapped in these cycles of violence.

Dr. Theresa Karminski Burke is a psychotherapist and founder of Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries. Supporting citations are posted at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)

## ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM POST-ABORTION STRESS?

**Q1:** Do you find yourself struggling to turn off feelings or memories related to your abortion(s)? Do you need to keep reminding yourself to just forget it or put it behind you?

Do you become uncomfortable around reminders of the abortion, such as being around babies or pregnant women, being in a doctor’s office, or when hearing news reports about abortion?

**Q2:** Do you feel nervous or anxious at the idea of telling a loved one about your abor-

tion? Is your abortion a secret that is holding you back from greater intimacy with others?

When you do choose to share your abortion experience with others, are you overcome with strong feelings such as anger, grief, or guilt?

Is there an increased distance between you and your parents, siblings, or partner because of the past abortion(s)?

**Q3:** Do you have trouble talking about the abortion issue as a political issue? When you

do talk about it, do you find it hard to respect opposing views, or do you become overly emotional, either in support of or in opposition to it?

**Q4:** Do you tend to look at life in terms of “before” and “after” the abortion(s)? Are there traits about your “self” before the abortion that you lost but would wish to regain?

Has the abortion changed the way you look at yourself?

Have you lost interest in taking care of

yourself? Have you tried to become less attractive to avoid the risk of becoming involved in a relationship, love, and sex?

**Q5:** Do you become angry or depressed more easily?

Have you experienced “reconnectors” to your abortion, such as nightmares, flashbacks, or hallucinations, such as hearing a baby cry?

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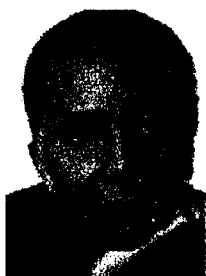


# S O R R Y

I feel like I'm speaking for all mothers. I want to say to my daughter and to every daughter who ever felt pressured to abort by her mother, I'm sorry. I had no right to ask that of you.

I had no right to insist that you choose between your love for your baby and your love for me or your father. I honestly thought it would help to save the future we always wanted for you. I never imagined how it could affect you forever.

Can you ever forgive me?



I'm sorry for not having been there for you. I was afraid, confused....

I've never forgotten you or our baby.

Speaking for all the men who skipped out on the women who trusted us, urged an abortion, or simply didn't fight hard enough for our relationships with both you and our children, I'm sorry.

I'll always be sorry.



I was prejudiced. I just assumed that having a baby, in your situation, was automatically a bad thing. I encouraged or went along with the abortion because it was easier than helping you to find a better solution.



As a medical procedure, abortion is easy to do. The alternative—helping people to welcome a child into the world—is hard. That takes time and commitment.

It was easier for me just to offer you an abortion—cheap love. I'm sorry.

What you really wanted was help. I took the easy way out.

I'm sorry that I encouraged you to abort. I know I made it sound so easy.

What I didn't tell you was that I had buried my own pain about abortion. I wanted to convince myself, as much as you, that my abortion wasn't so bad.

Worse, in encouraging you to abort, and seeing you abort, I was somehow hoping that your abortion would make me feel a little better. After all, I liked you, and if you also had an abortion, then somehow that was proof that I could still be likable too.

As you can tell, I was really messed up.

I'm sorry.



For myself, and all fathers, to all of our children who were too afraid to tell us about their pregnancies—too afraid to face our disappointment, or even our anger—I'm sorry.

I'm sorry I made you feel that you had to be perfect. I'm sorry that when you were a child, I didn't build up enough trust in you so that you would know that your mother and I would have stood beside you.

Given some time to adjust, we would have helped. We would still have loved you, and been proud of you, and been proud of our grandchild.

But we failed you. We failed to give you the confidence to have your child and to rely on us.

I'm sorry.



I want to tell my boyfriend, whose baby I aborted, I'm sorry.

I did it without even telling you, except afterwards...just to make you feel the same hurt I was feeling.

For myself, and all of us women who have used our abortions to dump on men, I'm sorry. We were just so confused, frightened, and hurting.

I'm sorry for all the times I was insensitive.

I'm sorry for the times I did *not* speak on abortion when I had a chance to shape your future choices.

I'm also sorry for the times when I *did* speak on abortion without emphasizing God's love for you, and my love for you.

Instead, I only said how wrong it was—piercing your soul with words of blame—when what you really needed was a gentle word, a reminder that we all make mistakes. We all fall short.

But our God is so loving that if we run to Him when we fall, He will always tend to our wounds and make us whole again. This is what I knew. This is what I *wanted* to share with you. But so often, the words never came out right. I'm sorry.

Allow me to speak for every minister of every denomination who has ever failed you: I'm sorry. Every minister of God tries to faithfully preach both God's law and His mercy. But so often we end up preaching more of one than the other, and the message becomes unbalanced.

Please, forgive us our failings, just as God will surely forgive you yours.



# REMEMBERING THOMAS

Phil McCombs

This year's March for Life, in which 45,000 abortion opponents picketed the Supreme Court, didn't have the emotional impact on me that these events often do. I was on my way out of town on business and scarcely noticed.

Looking at news reports later, it seemed that everyone had been on his or her best behavior. The abortion opponents were making it plain that they oppose the use of violence to close clinics. The counter-demonstrations by abortion rights advocates, as we're careful to call them, were rare.

It's all a little confusing to me. I don't know anyone who—in his or her heart—doesn't hate abortion. And it seems odd to see Christian conservatives so eager to force their will through the armed authority of the state when they already have at hand the far more powerful weapon of prayer.

Anyway, I like prayer. It's all I have left.

And pain.

When the abortion was performed, I was out of town on business too. I made sure of that. Whatever physical, emotional and spiritual agony the woman suffered, I was not by her side to support her. I turned my face away. My behavior was in all respects craven, immoral.

For some instinctual reason, or just imaginatively, I've come to believe that it was a boy, a son whom I wanted killed because, at the time, his existence would have inconvenienced me. I'd had my fun. He didn't fit into my plans.

His name, which is carved on my heart, was Thomas.

My feelings of responsibility and guilt are undiminished by the fact that the woman had full legal authority to make the decision on her own, either way, without consulting me or even informing me. In fact, she consulted in an open fashion reflecting our shared responsibility, and I could have made a strong case for having the child. Instead, I urged her along the path of death.

And skipped town.

It's not a lot of help, either—emotionally or spiritually—that the high priests of the American judiciary have put their A-OK on this particular form of what I personally have come to regard as the slaughter of innocents. After all, it's the task of government to decide whom we may or must kill, and not necessarily to provide therapeutic services afterward. In the Army I remember being trained at public expense in the "spirit of the bayonet," which is, simply put, "to kill." The spirit of abortion is the same, in my view, though the enemy isn't shooting back.

I feel like a murderer—which isn't to say that I blame anyone else, or think anyone else is a murderer.

It's just the way I feel, and all the rationalizations in the world haven't changed this. I still grieve for little Thomas. It is an ocean of grief. From somewhere in the distant past I remember the phrase from Shakespeare, "the multitudinous seas incarnadine."

When I go up to the river on vacation this summer, he won't be going boating with me on the lovely old wooden runabout that I can't really afford to put in the water but can't bring myself to discard, either.

He won't be lying on the grass by the tent at night, looking at the starry sky and saying, "What's that one called, Dad?"

Because there was no room on the Earth for Thomas.

He's dead.

•••••

The latest numbers show abortions in America have been running at about 1.5 million annually. That's a lot of pain.

Secular men's groups have tended to be focused on the "no say, no pay" issue. "These men feel raped," says Mel Feit of the National Center for Men. "They lose everything they worked for all their lives. In many cases they had an agreement with the woman not to have a baby and when she changes her mind they call me up and say, 'How can she do this to me? How can she get away with it?'" Feit plans to bring suit in federal court.

I'm more interested in the traumatic pain that many men, as well as women, often feel after an abortion. A healing process of recognition, grieving and ultimately forgiveness is needed.

"There's a lot of ambivalence for men when they get in touch with their pain," says Eileen C. Marx, formerly communications director for Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington and now a columnist for Catholic publications. "They didn't have the physical pregnancy, so often they feel they're not entitled to the feelings of sadness and anger and guilt and loss that women often feel."

She tells of one man, a friend, whose wife had an abortion. "He pleaded with her not to have it. He said his parents would raise the child, or they could put it up for adoption. The marriage broke up as a result of the abortion and other issues. He was really devastated by the experience."

Marx has recently written about a post-abortion healing ministry called Project Rachel, in which more men are becoming involved—husbands, boyfriends and even grandfathers. There are 100 Project Rachel branches, including one in Washington.

I found it helpful just talking to Marx, a caring person, on the phone, though it was a little tough when she mentioned being pregnant and hearing the heartbeat and feeling "this wonderful celebration of life inside you."

She said not to be too hard on myself, that healing is about forgiveness and God forgives me.

I said sure, that's right, but some things are still hard.

Like looking in the mirror.

Phil McCombs is a Washington Post staff writer. ©1995, The Washington Post. Reprinted with permission.



# ARE LATER CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ABORTION?

Martha Shuping, M.D.

## Can an abortion affect one's parenting skills?

Obviously, if women and men are having emotional problems because of their past abortions, this is going to have an impact on their families. For example, women who have had an abortion are more likely to report subsequent substance abuse. Clearly, alcoholism and drug abuse have a negative impact on families.

Women who have had abortions are also more likely to become depressed for long periods of time. This, like other prolonged reactions to abortion, can affect children's emotional development, which is modeled on their parents'.

A past abortion can also have a direct impact on one's parenting "style." For example, in one study of women who had post-abortion problems, nearly half reported that they feared they would be "punished" for their abortions by some harm coming to their other children.

In many cases, these women choke back their love and are afraid to bond with their children. They fear that if they love their children "too much," they'll be punished by losing them.

Conversely, nearly half of the women in this study reported a "compulsion to be a perfect mother." These tendencies have led many women to report that they have become overly protective and "smothering" of their subsequent children. They too may be motivated by a fear of harm coming to their children, so they are deathly afraid of letting them out of their sight.

Unfortunately, some parents with unresolved grief want their born children to serve as "replacements" for the one who was aborted. This can result in the born children constantly being judged against the unattainable standard of "what might have been."

## But aren't these problems offset by the fact that abortion has reduced child abuse by reducing the number of unwanted children?

This "fact" isn't a fact at all. Indeed, after decades of study, researchers haven't found a single shred of evidence to support the conclusion that abortion reduces the risk of child abuse. Instead, numerous studies have shown the opposite: *a history of abortion is statistically associated with higher rates of child abuse.*

These findings are supported by clinical experience. A substantial number of women and men seeking post-abortion therapy have described a link between their unresolved post-abortion feelings and patterns of emotional or physical abuse of their subsequent children.

One woman described feelings of intense rage whenever her newborn baby cried: "I did not understand why her crying would make me so angry. She was the most beautiful baby, and had such a placid personality. What I didn't realize then was that I hated my daughter for being able to do all these things that my lost [aborted] baby would never be able to do."

## Are you saying abortion can cause child abuse?

Yes. The reasons for child abuse are complex, and can't be fully dealt with here. But let me make a couple of quick points.

Difficulty bonding with subsequent children because of fear, shame, or guilt is commonly reported by post-abortion parents. Lack of adequate bonding is also one of the most significant risk factors for child abuse. When inadequate bonding is combined with feelings of anger and rage, which are common aftereffects of abortion, a dangerous mix can result.

In some rare instances, abortion can also lead to complete emotional breakdown with tragic results. Renee Nicely of New Jersey experienced a "psychotic episode" the day after her abortion which resulted in the beating death of her three-year-old son, Shawn. She told the court psychiatrist that she "knew that abortion was wrong" and that she "should be punished for the abortion." Unfortunately, Shawn became the victim of her pain and guilt.

Sadly, in years to come it may be shown that post-abortion trauma was a major cause of the dramatic rise in child abuse cases in the last two decades.

## Can abortion have an impact on siblings who were already born?

Yes. Some children experience "survivor guilt" over the abortion of a sibling. They feel guilty that they were the ones "chosen" by their parents to live. Some may even feel that they are responsible for the abortion of their sibling; if they had not been "so much trouble," perhaps their parents would not have felt it necessary to abort "another burdensome child."

One expert in the treatment of child abuse, Dr. Philip Ney, has noted that children who know they were "wanted" may not feel they were simply "welcomed" for who they are. This subtle shift, from being unconditionally "welcomed" into a family toward being "wanted" to satisfy their parents' expectations, may have a lasting impact on the child's self-perception.

Dr. Martha Shuping, M.D., is a psychiatrist with more than ten years of experience in helping women with post-abortion issues. Supporting citations are posted at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)

## Post-Abortion Stress Quiz continued from page 6

**Q6:** Was there a period after your abortion when you experienced an increase in the use of alcohol or drugs? Have you experienced other forms of emotional deadening?

Have you experienced any suicidal thoughts? Do you take risks that put your life in danger? Have you developed any eating disorders?

**Q7:** Do you have trouble finding, building, or maintaining good relationships with people of the opposite sex? Do you have trouble with issues of trust and control?

Do you get involved in hurtful or abusive relationships? Do you tolerate abuse because you feel you don't deserve any better?

**Q8:** Have you lost the desire for sexual intercourse? Do you have increased pain during intercourse?

Have you become promiscuous because of low self-esteem?

Have you lost a previous desire to have children, or are you filled with an anxious desire to have a child as soon as possible?

**Q9:** Do you experience periods of depression, heightened anxiety, or cramping during certain months of the year, particularly during the months that would correspond to the month of your abortion or the due date of the aborted pregnancy?

**Q10:** Did you have a faith in God that you have now lost? Are you afraid of God? Are you angry at God? Have you rejected your religion for emotional rather than thoughtful reasons?

## Post-Abortion Stress Quiz Answer key:

If you have answered yes to three or more of the previous questions, post-abortion counseling may help. Skilled and understanding people, many of whom have been through the same things you are going through now, want to help. Many services are free. See page 2 for a list of referral centers.



[www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)

# HOW SAFE IS ABORTION?

Beverly McMillan, M.D.

*Dr. Beverly McMillan is an ob/gyn. In 1975, she became the first woman to open an abortion clinic in Mississippi. She ceased doing abortions in 1978 when she became convinced that the abortions she was performing were causing everyone involved far more harm than good.*

## What are the physical complications of abortion?

The most common, immediate, and short-term complications include excessive bleeding, chronic and acute infections, intense pain, high fever, convulsions, shock, coma, incomplete removal of the baby or placenta (which can cause life-threatening infections and sterility), pelvic inflammatory disease, punctured or torn uteruses, and even death.

Abortion can also result in uterine scarring, a weakened cervix, blocked fallopian tubes, and other damage to reproductive organs that can make it difficult to conceive or carry a child to term in the future. This latent morbidity of abortion results in long-term and sometimes permanent damage.

Women who have had abortions also experience more ectopic (tubal) pregnancies, infertility, hysterectomies, stillbirths, miscarriages, and premature births (the leading cause of birth defects) than women who have not had abortions. Abortion has also been linked to increased risks of developing breast, cervical, and uterine cancer.

**I'll admit that abortion is not a good thing. And it may have physical and psychological risks. But don't you have to admit that legal abortion is safer than illegal abortion?**

No. More than 90 percent of illegal abortions were already performed by doctors.

When abortion was illegal, abortionists had to be very careful to avoid infection, laceration, and puncturing of the uterus, since a visit to the emergency room was an invitation for a police investigation. Not anymore.

Today, abortionists are free to operate

on an assembly-line basis. The faster they work, the more money they make. When women get hurt...well, that's just the risk that goes with any surgery.

**I still think that legal abortions must be at least marginally safer than illegal abortions. Certainly women who suffer physical complications can get emergency medical treatment faster now without being afraid of becoming involved in a criminal investigation.**

That's true. But that is the only health benefit of legalized abortion.

The overall impact is still very negative because the total number of women having abortions has increased dramatically.

Why? Because legalizing abortion has made it easier to pressure reluctant women into having abortions. Before 1973, women could resist an unwanted abortion on the grounds that it was illegal and unsafe.

But now people assume that since abortion is legal, it must be safe. That makes it harder for women to resist unwanted abortions for health or safety reasons.

As a result, the number of abortions has increased ten- to fifteen-fold with only a minimal improvement, if any, in safety.

So, while the *percentage* of deaths from hemorrhage and infections may have gone down, the *actual number* of women suffering these complications has gone up far more.

In addition, since psychological complications are even more common than physical complications, the number of women experiencing complications of one type or another has increased dramatically.

# THE EMOTIONAL EFFECTS OF ABORTION

- 92% **Emotional deadening**  
(Reported either feeling less in touch with their emotions or feeling a "need to stifle their emotions")
- 86% **Increased tendency toward anger or rage**  
(48% reported they became more violent when angered)
- 86% **Had a fear of others learning of the abortion or a greater sense of fear for unknown reasons**
- 82% **Greater feelings of loneliness or isolation**
- 75% **Had less self-confidence**
- 73% **Sexual dysfunctions**  
(Increased pain during intercourse, promiscuity, frigidity, or loss of pleasure)
- 63% **Denial**  
(Respondents were asked, "Was there a period of time when you would have denied the existence of any doubts or negative feelings about your abortion?" Of those responding yes, the average period of denial that they reported was 5.25 years.)
- 58% **Suffered from insomnia or nightmares**
- 57% **Greater difficulty in maintaining or developing relationships**
- 56% **Suicidal feelings**
- 53% **Increased or began use of drugs or alcohol**
- 39% **Eating disorders which began after the abortion**  
(binge eating, anorexia, or bulimia)
- 28% **Attempted suicide**

These statistics were drawn from a survey of 260 women who, on average, had their first abortion 10.6 years prior to being surveyed. These women were volunteers who either were seeking post-abortion counseling, had participated in post-abortion counseling in the past, or had a history of prior abortion and were seeking help at a crisis pregnancy center to carry a subsequent pregnancy to term.

These findings appear to be representative of the reactions of the group of women who experience negative emotional reactions to abortion. These figures may not be representative of the entire population of women who have had abortions, of whom very little is known.

For more information on this study and other research, visit our web site at [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org).

## Do people have to believe in God to benefit from post-abortion counseling?

Post-abortion therapists are prepared to help people of every religious background, or no religious background. Most are very respectful of the religious beliefs (or non-beliefs) of the women and men they serve.

Because abortion involves issues of death and moral responsibility, however, it is natural and necessary for the religious and spiritual beliefs of the client to be explored.

Another major issue, for many, is letting go of the anger and resentment that are keeping them trapped in the past. For these women and men, the ability to draw on their religious beliefs can become an aid in dealing with issues of forgiveness.

Many others are in great distress over the question, "If my baby had a soul, where is it now?" If this is a stumbling

block toward healing, it will be important to address this spiritual issue from a religious perspective.

*In short, post-abortion counseling can benefit everyone, even those who don't believe in God.*

But many counselors report that they have been able to help atheistic patients cope with a past abortion only up to a point. These patients often appear to "stall out," short of the more complete healing that counselors witness in women and men who can draw on a "higher power."



## HOW TO SOW THE SEEDS OF HEALING

Do you realize that you can promote post-abortion healing without ever talking to people about their past abortions?

You don't even have to know if someone has had an abortion. And you certainly don't have to become a trained counselor or an expert in post-abortion issues. All you have to do is sow a few words of healing into your everyday conversations.

In every case, your goal is merely to plant the seeds of understanding, empathy, and hope that can lead to future healing. You are not trying to complete the healing process. But you *can* help break down some of the obstacles to healing.

In a simple, conversational way, cover the following three points:

(1) Announce that you have come to a whole new understanding of the abortion issue, including why people choose abortion and how it affects them;

(2) Express your compassion for women and men who have had abortions, knowing that they must constantly face the fear that others are judging or condemning them, and that they may be experiencing feelings of doubt and regret; and

(3) Describe how you have heard of new programs that help women and men find freedom from the burdens of secrecy and shame associated with past abortions.

For example, you might simply say, "I read an interesting article that gave me a whole new understanding of why women have abortions. I never really understood before how much pressure many are under to have an abortion.

"I also didn't realize before how much they feel judged and condemned by others. That fear of judgement can really make it hard for them to complete the healing process. Did you know that on average it takes around ten years for women to recover emotionally from a past abortion?"

"The good news is that there are a lot of new programs now to help women and men who are dealing with post-abortion problems."

That's it. You have planted the seeds. Perhaps someone will ask for more information, in which case you can give them a copy of this publication or refer them to a post-abortion ministry in your area.

Just remember these three key words: understanding, compassion, and hope.

The first step, expressing understanding, respects the mind.

The second step, expressing compassion, soothes the emotions.

The third step, offering hope, feeds the spirit.

Wouldn't our world be a better place if everyone would begin to sow the seeds of understanding, compassion, and hope?

We have prepared this publication precisely to raise up millions of people, like you, to sow the seeds of post-abortion healing. Together we can create a much more loving and healing environment for those who are burdened by a past abortion.

So use this tool. Get some extra copies of this publication to leave around school or at work, to place in the literature rack at your church, or wherever. Encourage your friends and family to read it.

If this publication has opened your heart or mind in any way, it will help others, too.

## HOW TO HELP OTHERS

### DO

- Do listen patiently. They are trying to sort out their feelings. Verbalizing them with someone who will listen helps. Expect and allow them to repeat themselves and to bring the subject up again later. Listen for clues to their deeper feelings to which you can respond later.
- Do reassure them that we all make mistakes, and all religions teach that our mistakes/sins can be forgiven. God wants to forgive us. All we have to do is to admit that we need and desire it.
- Do reassure them that their feelings are normal. Others have experienced the same thing and found healing. Build up a sense of hope that they can be healed and reconciled with God and their child in heaven.
- Do allow them to vent their anger toward others. Remind them that it is a sign of an even deeper hurt that lies beneath the anger. Encourage them to get in touch with both the anger and the hurt, which they need to do before they can "let go" of their anger and approach forgiveness. Encourage them to see that the people they blame were also confused, scared, or just looking for the fastest way out of a hard situation.
- Do allow them to regret their choice. Remind them that we all learn from our mistakes. Women and men who have found healing after an abortion often become more humble, compassionate, and sensitive. Even a negative experience can be used to help others.
- Do encourage them to entrust their child completely to the care of God. Reassure them that, on a spiritual level, their loss is only temporary. Someday they can be with their child in heaven, and they will be able to ask for, and receive, their child's forgiveness.
- Do give them a copy of this publication, an 800 number to a post-abortion hotline, or some other referral information. If you don't have it on hand, promise to get it to them within the week. Then keep your promise.
- Do show that you care by keeping in touch and continuing to be a sounding board for them. Make at least one follow up call to see how they are doing.

### DON'T

- Don't shut them off by changing the subject.
- Don't condemn them for making a bad or immoral choice.
- Don't deny that they lost a child.
- Don't encourage them to blame others for the abortion. But don't push them to forgive others either, especially when they are in the initial stages of venting their anger and rage.
- Don't insist that they did the "right thing" or the "best thing" at the time.
- Don't suggest that having another child "someday" can make up for the one that was lost. Future children are a blessing and comfort, but they can never replace the child who was lost.
- Don't leave them without encouraging them, over and over again, to find and accept the help of post-abortion counselors or peer support groups.
- Don't be afraid to follow up.

## GIVE US FEEDBACK

If this publication has been a help to you or someone you love, write to us. Your letters of support will help us obtain the funding we need to continue distributing this publication at little or no cost to others.

## GIVE US TO OTHERS

Our goal is to distribute *Hope and Healing* as a paid advertising insert in college and community newspapers throughout the country. With your help, we can reach millions of people with this message of understanding and compassion. You can help us place *Hope and Healing* in newspapers by sending your tax-deductible donation to: Elliot Institute, PO Box 7348-11, Springfield, IL 62791-7348. Thank you.

# DON'T GO IT ALONE

It's scary to talk about an abortion experience with others.

What if they don't understand?

What if they condemn you, withdraw from you, or start acting weird whenever you're around?

These are all reasonable fears. We have them because it is important for all of us to see and feel that people around us care about us, love us, and understand us. So we often hide the things about ourselves that we fear will drive people away. We put up a defensive wall, a fake *persona*, to protect us from the negative judgments of others.

That may be all right for short periods of time, but if that defensive wall becomes a permanent part of ourselves, it is no longer just a defense; it is a prison. It is a prison that keeps people from really knowing us. It is a prison that keeps us from fully experiencing the love and compassion of people who *are willing* to understand our abortion experience.

To break out of this prison of fear, grief, and isolation, it is essential that you or your loved ones talk with someone who under-

stands what it is like. It may be especially helpful to talk with someone who has gone through the healing process themselves. Their enthusiasm can energize you by giving you a foretaste of the great joy of release that will soon be yours.

This is why post-abortion counseling programs and peer-support groups are so helpful. The people you will talk to have heard it all. Many, if not most, have been there themselves.

This is why they have a great yearning in their hearts to help you and your loved ones. They know about your fears. But they also know about the great joy of having this secret weight lifted off your back.

Know that post-abortion healing is a process. It takes *time*. Often you will make tremendous progress in just a short time, then plateau for a while, and then complete the process in a few more smaller steps. But

the involvement of others is *always* essential to that process.

For example, Kathy Williams was able to "stuff" the grief of her abortion away for many years. The birth of her second child, however, dredged up an enormous amount

of repressed grief, regret, and guilt. After one great episode of tears, she cried out to God and experienced a great sense of mercy and forgiveness.

Years later, Kathy decided to

volunteer at a crisis pregnancy center. The director asked her to participate in the center's post-abortion healing program first. Kathy felt it was unnecessary because she had already been spiritually healed, but finally she agreed.

Through the class, Kathy found healing for many areas of her life where her abortion was still causing problems. She worked

through issues of forgiveness and isolation. Most of all, she felt a tremendous experience of healing by becoming involved in "a small, intimate group, made up of abortion victims like myself."

"I could be confident of their acceptance of me," Kathy said. "[I learned] that while it takes the blood of Jesus to deliver us from guilt, it takes the acceptance of others to deliver us from shame."

The acceptance of others will deliver you from shame, isolation, and loneliness, too. The place to begin is with post-abortion ministries that understand exactly what you have been through and know how you can recover the full sense of freedom and joy in your life that you desire.

Don't go it alone. There are so many who want to help you along the journey to healing. They've been there before you. And someday you yourself may be able to help others along the same path.

Help is there for all who need it. You only need to accept it. Please call one or more of the post-abortion counseling numbers on page two.



To those who mourn,

When I was seventeen years old I underwent a second trimester, saline abortion. Although I wanted to have my baby, my parents pressured me to submit to the abortion.

After many hours of labor, I gave birth to a dead baby boy. To say that this had a major impact on my life is an understatement.

When I look back at where I have come from—to all the guilt, the shame, and the grief of abortion—it is with continual amazement. I now live my life with a deep joy and gratitude. Instead of doubting the mercy and goodness of God, I have come to expect it.

It is said that God can bring good out of even the worst situations. There was a time when I would have found this hard to believe, but I know through personal experience that it is

true.

Through His grace, those who have had abortions can come to find peace, healing, and even joy in their lives.

I know some of you are probably thinking, "but I had more than one abortion," or "mine was probably worse than hers," or "nobody forced me to abort," etc.

My answer to you is that the process of healing from abortion isn't about who *you* are and what *you've done*, it is about who *God* is and what *He has done!*

The mercy of God is there for the taking—if you only dare to trust His lead on the journey of healing. His mercy will bring you a new level of life, one that is full of peace. I feel this peace because God now lives within me.

I no longer feel the need to be perfect, because I know that God loves me in spite of my imperfections—and even because of them.

I no longer fear abandonment, for I have learned that He never abandoned me—even after my abortion.

Through my healing I now have more compassion and mercy for others. I am careful not to judge, for I know where I have come from and how much I needed compassion and mercy. Through my child lost to abortion, God has taught me about true love, as opposed to the self-centered attachments I always wanted.

Through the forgiveness I have received from God and others, I have learned how to forgive others—and even myself. Because of the love I have found in God, I am less afraid of suffering, because I know I am never alone in this life. He is with me.

I won't lie to you. It was a difficult journey. You must face yourself honestly, and it is frightening to confront the many faults we have.

For those of us who are post-abortive, often the very things we have to face are the same fears that caused us to choose abortion in the first place. The paradox is that facing these things—pride, self-love, fear of abandonment, etc.—is what will set us free from them.

No matter how hard the journey, it is never as difficult as what you are living with now.

So I invite you to begin your journey toward healing, and I pray that you will begin by reaching out to those who can help you.

Remember that *you are not alone* in your feelings. There are reasons for them. There is no room for "politics" or controversy in post-abortion healing. We have lost our children. We must be allowed to grieve for them.

Through healing you will become a better person in spite of your abortion. God, through His mercy and love, is waiting for you.

I will be praying for you.

*Theresa Bonaparte*

