

Plus-minus grading ready for approval

BY JON ROSS
OPINION EDITOR

UI students may see extra symbols next to final grades as early as fall 2006, but students and faculty are split on the benefits of the grade change.

The proposal, which would amend the current language in the university catalog, would give professors the ability to assign a plus or a minus to letter grades. A plus would be equal to .3 percent, while a minus would take away .7 percent from the grade. According to the proposal, the grades A+ and D- would not be used.

The measure passed the Faculty Council March 8 by a 10-to-2 vote and was taken to the general faculty for approval. A quorum was not present at the general faculty meeting, and the measure was sent to President Tim

White without a vote.

"The president needs to approve it. I don't know what his decision will be," said Douglas Adams, Faculty Council secretary.

Even though not enough faculty members were present for a vote to be taken at the May 4 meeting, many still voiced opposition.

"There were a lot of faculty members who were very much in favor of this. There were a lot of faculty who were very much opposed to it," Faculty Council chair Jeffrey Bailey said during the meeting. "There were some strong feelings."

Professor Mark Nielsen provided the faculty with a number of reasons why the change would not be beneficial to the university.

"A lot of students don't like this because they're worried they're going to lose 4.0s," he said.

Changing to plus-minus grading would also lead to grade inflation because professors will be more likely to hand out pluses than minuses, Nielsen said.

Washington State University currently uses the plus-minus system. Karen Adams, who graduated from WSU earlier this month with degrees in sociology and sports management, said the system makes it easier for students to pass classes.

"I like it," she said. "It gives you more of a chance to raise your GPA. With regular grades there's no way to go that extra mile."

Being able to reward students of different abilities within the same letter grade is one reason the proposal is being considered.

"I think the majority opinion was that it was a way of making appropriate differentiations between students,"

Adams said.

But some students aren't sure the university needs a broader grading spectrum. "I've never had cause to worry about those marginal grades," Nick Radakovich said. "It doesn't really matter to me."

Radakovich, a senior studio art major, said the university should not mess with the current system.

"Honestly, I don't think they should change it, but then again, I don't care. The only people who should worry about it are underachievers," he said.

Jeremy Weaver, a natural resources student, does not like it either.

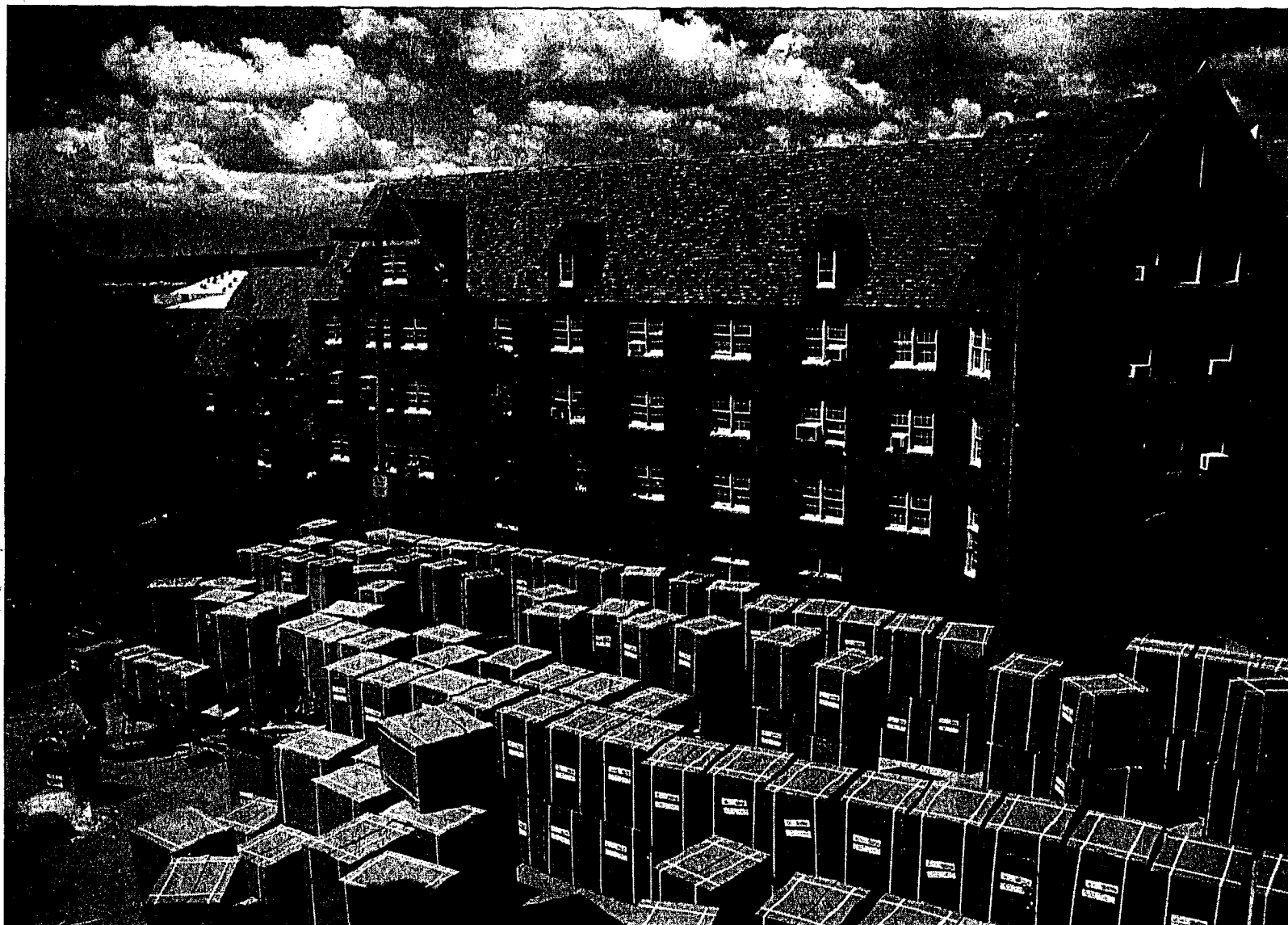
"I just don't agree with it," the junior said. "I guess it has its ups and downs, just like everything else."

If approved, the proposal will mirror UI's grading system to those of other schools around the northwest.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL BICKLEY / ARGONAUT
Plus-minus grading looms at the university.

INVASION OF THE BOXES



PHOTOS BY DANIEL BICKLEY / ARGONAUT
(TOP and LEFT) Premiere Installation's Todd Higen and owner Chris VanCampen unpack and move furniture into the Teaching and Learning Center Tuesday outside the Idaho Commons.
(ABOVE) Mark Schlickemeyer looks out the TLC windows toward the UI Library Monday.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Alumnus goes from oil drilling to medicine

BY SAM TAYLOR
NEWS EDITOR

Editor's note: This is the first article in a five-part series on University of Idaho alumni and what they have done since they graduated.

From the University of Idaho to oil rigs and carpentry to medicine, Dr. Rick Thurston has spent the last 30 years as a UI alumnus with plenty of experiences.

Thurston, 52, graduated from UI in 1974 with a degree in psychology and now lives in St. Maries with his wife Karen, 49, and their four children who range in age from 15 to 20.

"I love living in a small town," Thurston says of his reasons for moving back to his hometown after spending some years overseas and in California. His father was also a doctor in St. Maries.

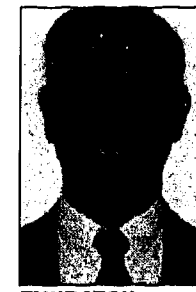
Thurston spent his time at UI getting his degree and being a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, which he says he doesn't really keep in touch with these days.

He graduated and then went to work around Europe — England and Holland to name a couple of countries — for an oil company.

"I did geological work ... as they were drilling," he says.

He worked that job for about a year and then he and a friend, who also went to UI, backpacked around New Zealand for six to eight months.

"Then I did a few odd jobs — farming and logging — then I worked as a carpenter for about three years for my brother in Sandpoint."



THURSTON

After spending time doing manual labor, Thurston decided to rekindle his interest in medicine.

"I had thought about medicine all along, but I wasn't sure I wanted to pursue it. Then I got interested in psychology and got that degree."

So Thurston went back to school and enrolled at Whitworth College in Spokane to get a biology degree before being accepted into medical school at the University of Washington.

Under the WWAMI program, which is a medical education program that shares facilities and faculty in participating states, he found himself back at UI for his first year of medical school.

The year ended and Thurston went back to the main campus of the University of Washington in Seattle to finish his schooling. He graduated in 1986 and moved to Ventura, Calif.

He and his family lived in California until 1991 when he decided to give up a job at the Ventura County Medical Center for work as a family doctor in St. Maries.

In 1998, Thurston decided to be a part of the new 24-hour emergency room system at Benewah Community Hospital in St. Maries. He has practiced emergency medicine ever since.

Even better, last July Thurston was selected to be the president of the 1,800-member Idaho Medical Association.

Thurston says he won't forget his time at UI. Just like his fondness for the small town of St. Maries, Moscow was also an appropriate place for him to attend school.

"The school was small enough to where you could really get involved. You weren't just a number."

Thurston says he loved the social aspects and being part of a fraternity and he got a great education.

His 17-year-old son will continue that tradition in the fall, when he attends the university.

BY BRIAN RICH
ARGONAUT STAFF

Credit card payments rise by 2.5 percent at student accounts to offset fees

Due to skyrocketing credit card use among students for student fees, room and board and tuition costs, the University of Idaho Student Accounts and Cashiers Office has added a 2.5 percent fee to all payments made with credit cards.

To help with the burden of the fee, the university added a Web check option to its online payment applications. The Web check allows the student to pay on the Internet with a checking account and will not be subject to the 2.5 percent fee.

Additionally, the university will no longer allow students to pay for student fees with a credit card at the cashier's window in the Student Union Building. All credit card payments must now be made online.

Students without financial aid or enough cash to pay for things like books and tuition have no choice but to pay the fee and deal with

"If they have a problem with credit card costs, why do they let credit card companies advertise in Wallace and at the bookstore?"

COLIN ADDINGTON
UI ENGLISH STUDENT

the extra cost.

"The university should not punish students without financial aid," said Randy Osborn, a former UI student who left school. "They should be making it easier for students with debt, not harder."

Osborn, a civil engineering student, had to drop out of college after the spring 2003 semester because of debt he acquired through tuition and room and board fees.

"This fee makes it even harder for students to deal with debt," he said.

According to a letter from Student Accounts, the fee is to offset the cost of accepting credit cards as payments, a cost they "can no longer justify."

The fee will not apply to family housing charges or "incidental" charges, such as student health costs or parking tickets.

Some students have a problem with the conflicting views on credit cards coming from the university.

"If they have a problem with credit card costs, why do they let credit card companies advertise in Wallace and at the bookstore?" UI English major Colin Addington said. "If they stopped letting the companies advertise on university property, they could help with the general debt problem as well as keep fees from accumulating."

OUTLOOK PALOUSE WEATHER FORECAST

Weather forecast for today, Thursday, and Friday with sun icons and temperature ranges.

LOCAL BRIEFS

UI extension adds calf-rearing workshops in southern Idaho

Building on its Spanish-language milkers' schools, University of Idaho Extension has developed a new course for Idaho's Hispanic dairy workers.

Golden Joe Award recipients named during spring semester

The UI Residence Hall Association announced the sixth annual Golden Joe Awards in April to acknowledge outstanding achievement and leadership by individuals in residence halls.

Business and Economics Raymond T. Horton Distinguished Service Award

Brett Phillips, Sugar City, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences Resident Assistant of the Year K.C. Schable, Coeur d'Alene Individual Community Service Award

Jake Leachman, Lewiston, College of Engineering Rob Schaefer, Meridian, College of Engineering

UI professors re-elected for teachers' federation

UI professor emeritus Nick Gier and UI music professor Bob Dickow were chosen once again to remain at the top of the Idaho Federation of Teachers April 27.

ARGONAUT

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

Congress challenges Bush during time of centrist control

WASHINGTON - A new center of political power rose up in Washington this week, and it could challenge the White House and leaders of Congress for control of the national agenda.

done. Even if this centrist coalition doesn't endure, its successes this week suggest that the post-Sept. 11, 2001, deference of the Republican-ruled Congress to President Bush no longer is automatic.

Democrats delaying inevitable despite nominee compromise

WASHINGTON - The Senate was a very different place Tuesday, the day after the deal that averted a showdown over judicial nominees.

nominated in May 2001 to a federal appeals court only to be blocked four times by Democrats, sailed past another effort to block her on an 81-18 vote.

Despite that, the Senate's potential for eventual parliamentary Armageddon remains, perhaps just pushed ahead to an indefinite future.

By their Monday night deal, seven Democrats and seven Republicans allowed three previously blocked judicial nominees to proceed to confirmation votes, but the standard they set for judging future nominees is so gauzy and fragile that senators interpreted it many ways.

"Don't overreact that this is a new coalition that's been formed," cautioned Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss. "Whenever that coalition needs to be picked apart, we'll pick it apart."

The test could come as soon as next month if Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., asks for a vote on William Myers, whom Democrats blocked last year from a seat on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The hydrogen car dream begins in California cities

SAN JOSE, Calif. - California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will advocate that California invest \$54 million in public money to help build a network of up to 100 hydrogen fueling stations statewide within five years, according to details of his "Hydrogen Highway" plan.

A team of more than 200 scientists, automakers and environmentalists spent a year drafting the 144-page document, which the governor requested last year, calling hydrogen-powered cars a way to reduce smog, slow global warming and wean the nation from oil.

The "California Hydrogen Highway Blueprint" is set to be formally unveiled Thursday in Sacramento. If state lawmakers approve funding, California would move ahead of the 13 other states pursuing hydrogen initiatives.

The plan concludes that California can help speed a national transition from

gasoline vehicles to environmentally friendly hydrogen fuel-cell cars - whose tailpipes emit only water vapor.

HPV test: scare or necessity? Doctors question ads run

DALLAS - Readers leafing through the top women's magazines this month may encounter an earnest looking woman and this warning: "You're not falling your Pap test, but it might be failing you."

The smaller print tells about human papillomavirus, or HPV, the cause of cervical cancer.

The advertising campaign, which began in April was launched by Digene Corporation, which makes the test for HPV. The Maryland-based company is hoping that HPV testing, a fairly obscure diagnostic tool since its introduction in 2000, will become as familiar to women as the Pap smears that are now the centerpiece of early cervical cancer detection.

But some doctors and public health experts question whether most women actually need the test. They are concerned that anxiety-based marketing and the promotion of mass HPV screening may lead to a lot of testing without a dramatic effect on cervical cancer rates.

Pap tests, which can find cancer and pre-malignant cells on a woman's cervix, have led to one of the undisputed successes in cancer screening. Once among the deadliest of female diagnoses, cervical cancer will strike only about 10,000 Americans this year.

Jackson defense paints mom as welfare cheat in trial

SANTA MARIA, Calif. - In an all-out assault on her credibility, Michael Jackson's lawyers portrayed the mom of his young accuser as a welfare cheat Monday.

The woman sought government aid days after she and her sons banked \$67,000 from a lawsuit settlement, which she failed to report, the defense alleged. Jackson's lawyers produced records, including cancelled checks and public assistance applications in an effort to prove the mom lied about her financial situation.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1 Likeness 6 Big rig 10 Provo's place 14 Heights in the Middle East 15 Before long 16 Fuss 17 Omissions 19 Naturalist John 20 Marsh growth 21 Jacob's first wife 22 Al and Tipper 23 Forever, in a poem 25 Point of contention 26 Jets and gliders 29 Zagreb resident 31 Seamstress 32 Bridle strap 33 Haggard novel 36 Pilchard 38 More destitute 41 Go for the gold 42 Highly excited 44 Zodiac scales 45 Purchasing agent 47 Supervisors 48 Lens adjustment 51 Type of strong acid 53 Happy songs 54 Phil 55 Wallers' co-host on "The View" 59 Landed 60 Standby soldier 62 Note 63 Encounter 64 Pampas lasso 65 Utopia 66 Latin being 67 Irish patriot Robert 9 Election victors 10 Maximum 11 Vacation 12 Excursions 13 Basketball game 18 Islands in the Aisne 22 Actress Scala 24 Actress Garr 26 Sibilant signal 27 Jet-set jet 28 Out of kilter 30 Wallet single 32 Interregnums 33 Bro's bros 34 This place 35 Important times 37 One way to vote 39 "The Time Machine" race 40 Sweetheart 43 Baltimore birds 45 Type of mushroom 46 Carrier letters 47 Writer Easton Ellis 48 Sweetheart 49 Lubricated 50 Regional weather 52 Banal 56 Mosque prayer leader 57 Son on "Six Feet Under" 58. Pesky insect 60 Fr. woman's title 61 Anger

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-67.

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Solutions

Grid of crossword solutions.

CALENDAR

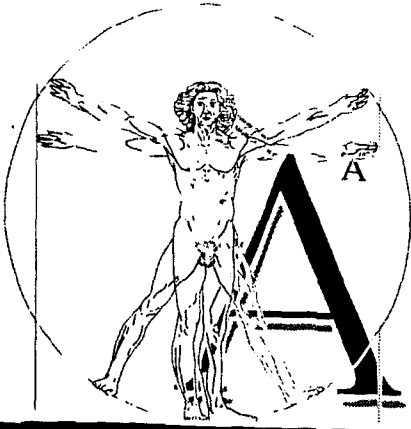
Calendar listing events for Today, Monday, Thursday, and Friday, including conferences, commencements, and social events.

Gambino's Italian Restaurant advertisement featuring a chef, pizza, and "FREE Delivery 5pm to Close" offer.

The University of Idaho Argonaut Telephone Directory with contact information for advertising, circulation, and production.

EDITOR IN CHIEF Cady McCowin and ARGONAUT ADVERTISING MANAGER Lindsay Allen contact information.

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ARTS & CULTURE

GIVE HIM A HAND

Chuck Palahniuk 'meats' Portland

BY LENORE MACLEOD
SPECIAL TO THE ARGONAUT

The scent of teriyaki steak air fresheners filled downtown Portland Thursday. The air fresheners came courtesy of author Chuck Palahniuk. Palahniuk, writer of "Fight Club," graced Portland for the first stop of his tour to promote his new book, "Haunted."

Portland's event started out with Palahniuk autographing books brought in by the crowd. Seats quickly began to fill up, resulting in a line outside the Unitarian Church where **COMMENTARY** reading by handing out the air fresheners, which smelled and were shaped like teriyaki T-bone steaks. He then read one of the short stories from "Haunted" called "Hot Potting," in which the air fresheners added an extra touch to the experience.

"Hot Potting" is a story of reflection for one of the characters, who tells about a winter at a resort where she worked. Hot pools surrounded the resort, some ranging up to 205 degrees Fahrenheit. A co-worker slipped into one of the pools, scalding his whole body except for his head. Palahniuk describes the event with graphic but necessary detail, including the smell. That's where the air fresheners came in.

The smell of meat in the air wasn't enough for Palahniuk, who then reached into a brown box to his right and pulled out a severed arm.

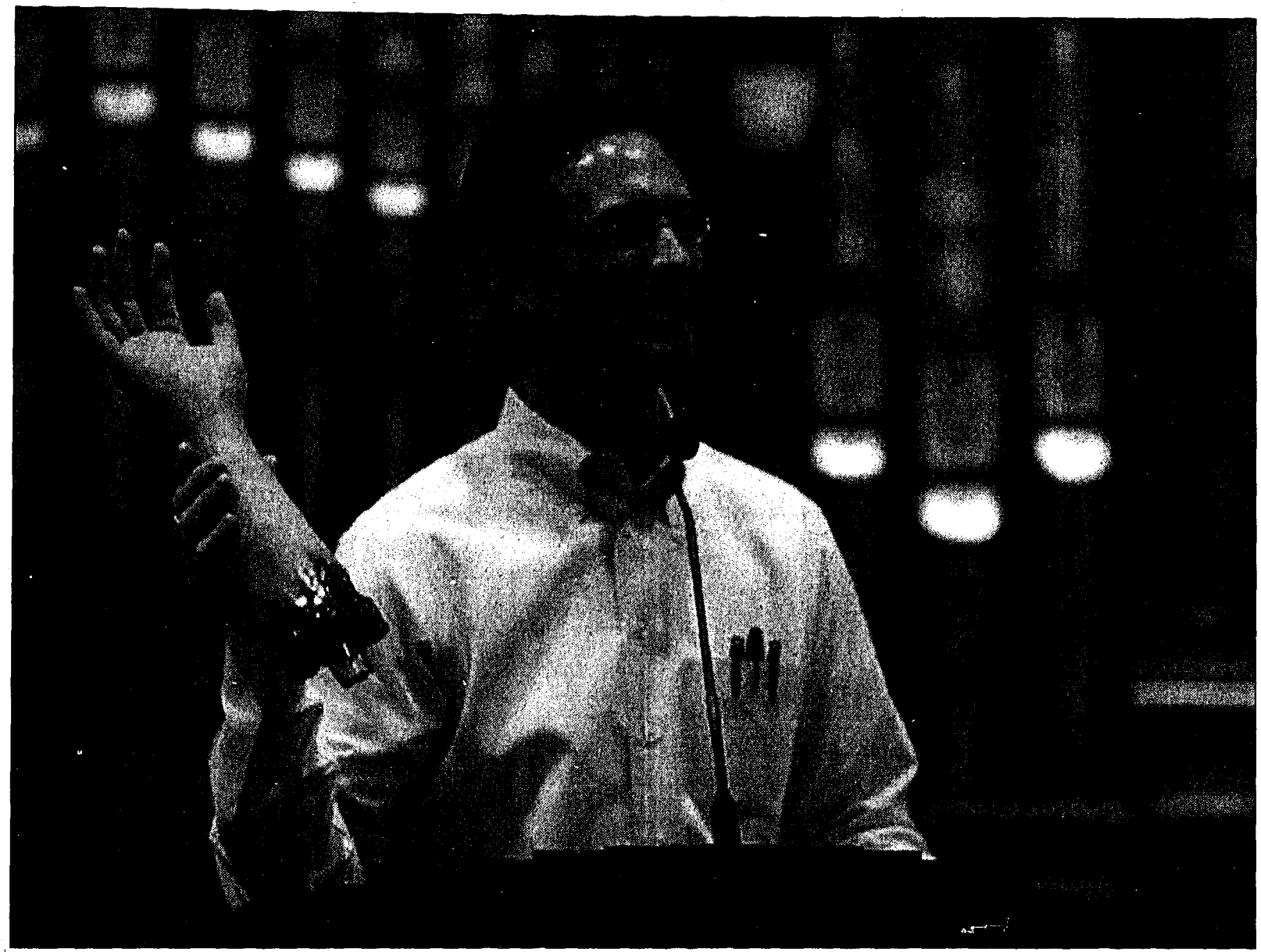
The arm, followed by a foot and leg, were part of Palahniuk's last tour, and were made of plastic. Palahniuk gave several of them out to members of the crowd, along with bathmats shaped like steaks to participants who asked questions.

Conversation ranged from weirdest pronunciations of his last name to a plot device that he refers to as "planting the gun," where an author mentions something (an object, job or another person) at the beginning of the story to use later on as a tool to keep the plot moving.

"Haunted" is Palahniuk's ninth book, chronicling the lives of 19 fictional authors who answered an advertisement asking them to abandon their lives for three months to write their masterpiece. There are short stories by each of the authors, and each story tells of that writer's personal dramas and struggles. The stories cover the whole gamut of human fears and emotions. The characters eventually become their own worst enemy in the search for their ultimate villain in hopes of creating their own great human drama.

Palahniuk said his inspiration comes from real life dramas, often toned down to reach mass audiences.

See PALAHNIUK, Page 4



DANIEL BICKLEY/ARGONAUT

Author Chuck Palahniuk flings severed body parts made of rubber into the audience May 17 at the First Unitarian Church in Portland. Palahniuk kicked off his "Haunted" book tour in his hometown of Portland and was greeted by an audience of about 1,500 fans.

'Sith' ends the saga right

BY TARA KARR
ARGONAUT STAFF

The saga is complete. What began as the coolest trilogy in town, the "Star Wars" saga has finally returned to glory following two disappointing prequels. "Star Wars Episode 3: Revenge of the Sith" is the best since "The Empire Strikes Back."

REVIEW



'SITH'
★★★★(of 5)
Ewan McGregor
Now showing

While underwhelming, the last two prequels had their moments. "The Phantom Menace" still boasts the best lightsaber duel, and "Attack of the Clones" has an excellent action-packed climax. "Revenge of the Sith" offers twice the action of the previous two films and interlaces it with the compelling story of Anakin Skywalker's transformation into Darth Vader. The film opens with a stunning action sequence in which the iconic robot R2-D2 takes center stage, and the action continues through the introduction of a four-armed robot/alien villain, General Grievous.

The movie boasts five lightsaber duels involving Yoda, Mace Windu (Samuel L.

Jackson) and Emperor Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid), but none come close to the excitement of the spectacular climactic battle between Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) and Anakin (Hayden Christensen).

The CGI action is amazing, but this film boasts an emotional resonance that heightens the action on-screen and sets up battles and duels with urgency.

Credit George Lucas for finally inserting some emotion into the series. Anakin's transformation to the dark side is handled extremely well, not only putting the audience inside the emotional state of Anakin, but of the supporting characters as well, especially the Jedi. The story is a spaced-out tragedy, and the final 45 minutes features some of the saga's most powerful imagery and sequences. Palpatine's "Order 66" may be the most compelling moment in "Star Wars" history.

Lucas' dialogue is still, at times, insipid and ridiculous. As Anakin's wife Padmé, Natalie Portman receives the worst of it, and the Oscar nominee can barely tread through the overstuffed romantic drivel. Luckily, "Sith" doesn't have too many of the romantic scenes between Anakin and Padmé that all but destroyed the middle section of "Clones." The tone is grim, and surprisingly the writing in these scenes is much stronger. Still, there are a few pivotal moments that trigger some cringe-inducing

See SITH, Page 4

Religion Directory

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SITH From Page 3

dialogue. Christensen was unfairly criticized for his work in "Clones." He is helped most by the improved dialogue in "Sith" and his central performance is impressive.

McGregor continues his excellent work as Obi-Wan, and serves as the emotional anchor of the film. "Sith" proves he's the definitive Obi-Wan, which is saying a lot considering Alec Guinness is the best thing about the original "Star Wars."

In the supporting actor category, McDiarmid is a showstopper as Palpatine. The twisted evil he weaves in his scenes with Christensen is chilling, and he's as memorable as Darth Vader was in the original series.

As with any "Star Wars" film, there are some problems. There's a certain level of disappointment in some of the early lightsaber duels, especially considering how finely crafted the Obi-Wan/Anakin fight is.

These are minor complaints in an otherwise satisfying conclusion to an iconic film series. The imagery in each scene is so rich, there's almost an immediate desire to watch "Sith" again, a quality that will guarantee the film to make gobs of money over the summer.

PALAHNIUK From Page 3

"Guts" is another story from "Haunted" that Palahniuk read. He gave an anecdote about how one of the characters that inspired the short story was in the crowd at a previous reading, and was unhappy about being referenced.

Palahniuk has a distinct writing style. He often questions things society holds high, such as beauty and conformity.

"Haunted" definitely has a different style from Palahniuk's works. The other books are one complete story, often branching out to tell of other characters and twists, but staying one story. "Haunted" is made up of the 23 short stories, 23 poems and one story interweaving it all.

Palahniuk's spring tour to promote "Haunted" will stop in California, New York, Florida, Washington D.C. and Seattle. Some locations are free, while others require tickets and reservations.



Advertisement for University Laundry featuring '75c WASH' and '75c DRY' with contact information for 123 Styrer Ave.

Eric Anderson pleases crowd at Kenworthy

BY JON ROSS OPINION EDITOR

In a good musical performance, creating a pleasant atmosphere is almost as important as the music played.

Friday night Eric Anderson played a show at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre that was mostly about atmosphere,

REVIEW

Anderson ripped through an hour and a half worth of material to the delight of the almost exclusively high school audience.

Because most of the audience consisted of high school students and a liberal smattering of college freshman - Anderson just completed his first year at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. - it was hard to focus entirely on the music.

Anderson filled his set with the light banter that comes naturally to seasoned comedians and people who have watched the entire DVD collection of "Arrested Development" straight through.

Even though Anderson was funny and occasionally quite witty, the show still had a strange vibe. It was like I was back in high school, sitting in the auditorium listening to peers sing and dance during the annual Artsfest celebrations.

Whether elongating some words, adding little asides or changing the tune entirely, he presented most of the songs in a different manner than on the album. This was probably the most striking aspect of the show and made the standing ovation he received well deserved.

themselves in front of the student body. Well, this was almost like that. But even though it kind of felt like high school, I didn't mind.

Travis Hasko-Young, who is currently working his way through the Moscow school system, started the music promptly at 8 p.m. During his short set he played mostly covers of the indie sort and only picked up an electric guitar for his last song.

The 16-year-old is already known throughout town for his electric guitar work, and it is easy to see why. Hasko-Young looked extremely comfortable on stage and carried the guitar like mothers carry freshly birthed babes.

It was like I was back in high school ... listening to peers sing and dance.

Musically, Anderson's portion of the show was solid. During the first few songs nerves threatened to make an appearance, but by the third song Anderson had pushed them out of his mind.

Whether elongating some words, adding little asides or changing the tune entirely, he presented most of the songs in a different manner than on the album. This was probably the most striking aspect of the show and made the standing ovation he received well deserved.

Will Ferrell makes Hollywood's A-list

BY TERRY LAWSON KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

(KRT) - Having made our request to talk to Will Ferrell about summer movies and, to our surprise, having said request granted, we figure we should jump right in:

Let's start with the movie everybody's talking about, "Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith."

"Well, those are always well done, you know," says Ferrell. "George Lucas. A legend, right?"

Right. OK, how about "Batman Begins?"

"Umm, Batman. I mean, it's Batman we're talking about, right? Batman!"

Finally, it hits me: Ferrell thinks he's here to talk about HIS summer movies.

"So what about that 'Bewitched'?"

"Geez, I thought you'd never ask," he says, warming up to the subject. "Well, I'm in it, with Nicole Kidman. And I know this will sound stupid saying this, but man, can that lady act."

In fact, talking to Ferrell about his summer movies - he's in three - is to talk about the essence of this summer's movies, which could be summed in four words: "Remake, remodel, recycle, return."

Independent and foreign movies aside, the majority of high-visibility films that will fill screens between now and September are either parts of long-running or resurrected franchises, like "Star Wars" and "Batman," cut from the successful cloth of previous hits, such as "Monster-in-Law" (think "Meet the Parents"); or based on a

well-known TV series, as in "The Honeymooners" and Ferrell's "Bewitched," opening June 24, in which he plays the unsuspecting husband of a pretty, perky witch.

Sort of. As Ferrell is quick to confirm, the movie "Bewitched" may not be precisely what everyone expects.

"I play this somewhat out-of-fashion actor that they want to star in a new version of 'Bewitched,'" says Ferrell, referring to the much-loved sitcom that ran on ABC from 1964 to 1972. That show starred Elizabeth Montgomery as Samantha, a witch who vows to give up her supernatural powers when she marries the mortal ad executive, Darrin, something that proves impossible for her to do.

"He (meaning Ferrell's actor character in the film) agrees only if the producers will cast an unknown as a wife, so he won't be upstaged," Ferrell says. "So I meet this girl, this non actress, who's played by Nicole, and convince them she's the right person. But as coincidence would have it, she's an honest-to-goodness witch who's sort of on the lam from her family, which means that her mother comes looking for her."

Samantha's mother, Endora, played by the late Agnes Moorehead in the series, is played by Shirley MacLaine in the film, something Ferrell coyly calls "a pretty neat bit of casting."

With a summer-slotted, big-budget movie like "Bewitched," Ferrell, who, with seven seasons at "Saturday Night Live" was one of the show's longest-serving cast members before leaving in

2002 to make movies, officially graduates to the leading man A-list. He had proven his drawing power and versatility in 2003's holiday hit "Elf" and last summer's local news spoof, "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy."

Ferrell's first summer at-bat is "Kicking & Screaming," which opened May 13, and which Ferrell admits was originally written as something a lot like "The Bad News Bears," the 1976 comedy starring Walter Matthau as an alcoholic Little League coach.

"It ended up being a lot more family friendly, a lot more PG," says Ferrell, "but I think it works. Robert Duvall plays my dad, who's this legendary youth soccer coach who's so tough he cuts my kid, his own grandson, from the team. So I start coaching this team of losers, and you can pretty much take it from there. We end up playing against each other in the playoffs. But to me, just the idea that I'm working with Robert Duvall is amazing, something I could have never dreamed about."

Just two weeks ago, says Ferrell, he was doing scenes for a Marc Forster movie that will be released next year, "Stranger Than Fiction," with Dustin Hoffman. "I would just shake my head when I left the set. I'm acting with Dustin Hoffman you know, and he's telling me I'm doing a good job."

It was the same feeling Ferrell says he got when Woody Allen's casting chief called and said Allen wanted to see him for "Melinda and Melinda." "I was like, 'Are you sure you have the right number?'"

ARTSBRIEFS

Mary Jane Butters signs her new idea/cook/lifebook

Local author Mary Jane Butters will talk about and sign her latest book, "Mary Jane's Ideabook, Cookbook, Lifebook: For the Farmgirl in All of Us" at 3 p.m. May 26 at the UI Bookstore. She will also present from 7-9 p.m. May 26 at the Moscow Public Library.

Jazz grooves will be at John's Alley June 3

Ray B's Groove Project featuring jazz vocalist Rachel Bade-McMurphy will perform at 9:30 p.m. June 3 at John's Alley. Ray B's Groove Project is a Pullman-based band that performs R&B, blues, Motown, funk, jazz and their original

grooves. There is no cover charge for the event.

Moscow Arts Commission band seeks musicians

Local musicians can join the Moscow Arts Commission Community Band for the summer. The band's first rehearsal will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 216 of the Lionel Hampton School of Music Building. Other rehearsals are June 7, 15, 22, and 29 and July 6.

The band is under the direction of Gary Gemberling. It will perform at the first six Fresh Aire Concerts Thursdays at East City Park beginning June 2.

Auditions are not required to join the band. Anyone of any age who plays an instrument can participate. For additional information, contact MAC at 883-7036.

On Stage! Variety Show slated for June 8 in Spokane

On Stage! will present its musical theater company, Theatre Extraordinaire, in its seventh annual production at 7 p.m. June 8 in the Metropolitan Center for the Performing Arts in Spokane. The show is free and open to the public. The show, "Fascinating Rhythms," will highlight the talents of the cast in selections from "The Producers," "Cabaret," "Sweet Charity" and "Chicago."

Guest artists will include the Celtic Notes, a local folk music group; Annie O'Neill, jazz vocalist; the O'Neill Sisters; and children from the Columbia Ballet Theatre.

The show is co-directed by Douglass and Katherine Crow, produced by Douglass and choreographed by Katherine.

Large advertisement for Classifieds with sections for Employment, Rentals, Services, and For Sale. Includes contact information for Argonaut Classifieds and University of Idaho.