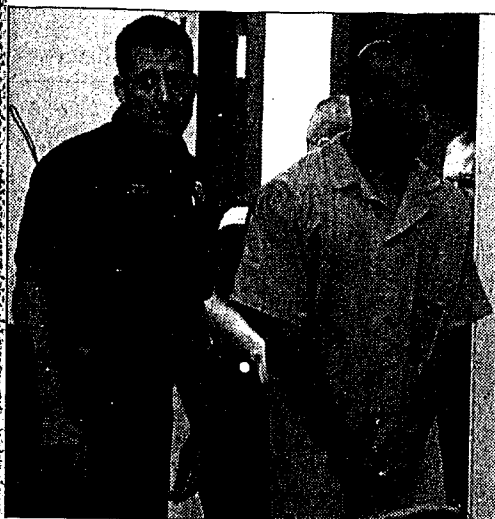


UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
**THE ARGONAUT**

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

The Vandal Voice Since 1898

Volume 107, No. 16



File photo  
 Matthew Wells is brought in to the courtroom for his arraignment in Whitman county, Wash.

# Wells brothers plead guilty

By Cynthia Reynaud  
 Argonaut

Matthew and James Wells pleaded guilty to charges of second-degree murder Friday morning for last year's fatal shooting of former University of Idaho football player Eric McMillan.

The pleas were made in response to a plea agreement made by Latah County prosecuting attorney Bill Thompson. He dropped the original charges of first-degree murder in exchange for a guilty plea to second-degree murder from the two

brothers.

The pleas draw a close to a year-long investigation of who murdered McMillan and why.

On Sept. 19, 2004, McMillan was shot twice at his apartment on Lenter Avenue in Moscow. He was pronounced dead at Gritman Medical Center early the next morning. McMillan was a 19-year-old sophomore and a starting cornerback for the Vandal football team at the time of his death.

"This gives us an opportunity for closure," UI athletic director Rob Spear said in a press release from

the athletic department.

Taking responsibility

At the pre-trial conference at the Latah County courthouse Friday, James Wells stood before Judge John Bradbury and a room full of onlookers including Spear and recounted the events leading up to McMillan's murder before entering his plea.

Matthew Wells sat at the opposite end of the table from his brother, his head hanging down, and nephew Thomas Riggins sat with his head down on the table as James told the story in a voice thick with

emotion.

"I'm taking responsibility for the negligence that made me come to the agreement to plead guilty," James said.

On the night of Sept. 18, James said he was asleep when he received a phone call and learned Riggins and the Wells' younger brother Aaron Wells had been in a fight with some football players. In response, he and Matthew drove from Seattle, Wash., out to Riggins'

See WELLS, page 3

## PRICE INCREASE

# Parking meters, fines rise with permit prices

By Brian Rich  
 Argonaut

The University of Idaho Office of Parking and Transportation will raise parking meter prices and some fines this semester, as part of a university-wide push for increased income from parking.

This semester is also the beginning of more expensive parking permits, and many drivers who park illegally will notice their fines have increased as well.

Kimi Lucas, Parking and Transportation services manager, said the increases were spread out to ease the burden on students and faculty.

"It makes each one a little less painful," she said.

What is actually happening is the buying power of coins will decrease at meters, meaning each coin will buy fewer minutes

According to the Parking and Transportation Web site, the increase is due to additional administrative obligations and a "growing backlog of deferred maintenance."

Lucas said since Parking and Transportation is completely self-sufficient, relying on income only from permits, parking fines and parking meters, there were no other ways to increase income other than through price increases in each category. Instead of doubling or tripling permit costs

or fines, she said, it made more sense to spread out the increase as much as possible.

"Rather than make permits all of the revenue, we get revenue from three different areas," Lucas said.

Lucas said the fine increase is incremental within itself, beginning with only some of the fines and progressing until all of the fines have increased over a period of several years.

"It's on a long-term process," she said. "We don't take all of the fines and increase them. Over the last three or four years we've been taking 30 percent of the fines and increasing them, then the next year taking another 30 percent and so on."

UI sophomore Ben Storer said he is not happy with the price increases.

"It sucks," Storer said. He said with all of the parking fees, on top of record

gas prices, he is not going to be driving much in the future.

According to the parking department's Web site, parking meters account for a little more than 8 percent of the department's income. Fines and permit prices make up about 45 percent each, and less than 2 percent is generated from events hosted by the department.

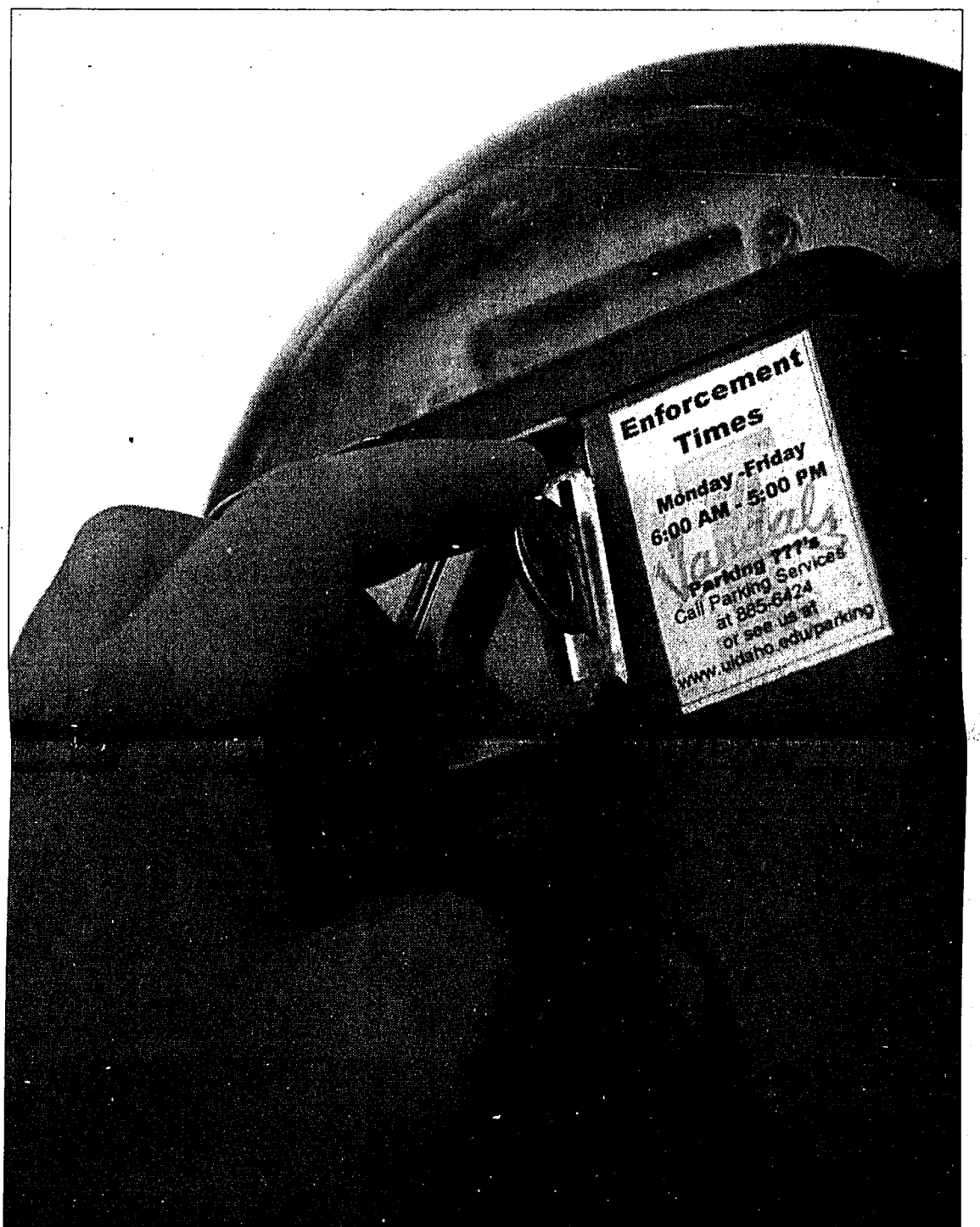
Storer said he's glad Moscow is so small and walking to and from campus isn't much of a problem.

"I'm just thankful for these two feet," he said.

**"Rather than make permits all of the revenue, we get revenue from three different areas."**

Kimi Lucas  
 Parking and Transportation Manager

## Ka-Ching



Daniel Bickley/Argonaut

Yet another reason to ride a bike: rising meter prices may cause students to scrounge for more spare change.

# New grading system stalled

By Nate Poppino  
 Argonaut

A plan to switch some University of Idaho courses to a plus-minus grading system has stalled, but some faculty are working on reviving it.

UI President Tim White said the proposal, which would add plus and minus categories to letter grades, lacked a plan for implementation and may not be a necessary change. The proposal passed UI's faculty council in March by a vote of 10-2 and was sent to White for approval after the May faculty meeting did not have a quorum.

"What I picked up in my reading and from conversations, faculty meetings and a limited number of articulate e-mails from students is there is no consensus," White said Aug. 30 at a general faculty meeting. "The most major thought is no change is needed."

If adopted, the change would have put UI in line with Washington State University and other Northwest colleges and universities, including three in Idaho.

Faculty members would be allowed to decide for themselves whether or not to use the system, in which pluses and minuses would represent certain percentages. Pluses would add .3 percent to a grade, while minuses would represent

a drop of .7 percent.

The advantage, said Peter Griffiths, chair of UI's chemistry department, is a system that more accurately reflects student performance.

"I feel that it's really unfair to give someone who just missed an A the same grade as someone who barely got over a C," Griffiths said.

Based on WSU's system, the changes would not allow an A-plus or D-minus.

Robert Zemetra, faculty council chair, said he understood why White did not approve the change.

"He wanted a little more review on the idea and more details on how it would be implemented," Zemetra said. "That's a legitimate question."

Zemetra plans to start over and poll faculty and students about the proposal.

Though surveys last spring found most faculty members approved of the change, students were almost completely against it.

"If there is still interest in having a plus-minus grading system, then we would develop an implementation plan," Zemetra said. "We would lay out more guidelines on when faculty members can decide to use plus-minus grading and when they can decide not to. It was still always going to be at the discretion of faculty members."

Results of the new survey may be similar.

Senior Ben Pollard, who is majoring in both Spanish and physics, has studied abroad at schools using the plus-minus system.

He said it is bias toward students lower on the grade scale.

"If you're an A student, all it can do is hurt you," he said.

Freshman general studies major Lydia Ownbey agreed.

"I don't really like it because you have to have above a 95 percent to have a 4.0 average," she said.

Administrators, Pollard said, should focus on other issues at UI before returning to the topic of a new grading system.

"I am a Spanish major, but couldn't get into a Spanish class this semester because they cut back so much staff," he said.

Even if Zemetra finds faculty and students are interested in moving ahead, the proposal may still face delays, overshadowed by other council business.

"In the next two weeks we'll be trying to decide what issues the council wants to take up for the semester and the year," Zemetra said. "This is one of the potential issues, but it'll depend on what else is going to come up for discussion."

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# ASUI senator resigns

By Christina Peterson  
 Argonaut

ASUI sen. Kris Kido resigned Friday after informally announcing his resignation at Wednesday's senate meeting.

Kido said he had to resign because he just got a full-time job elsewhere and would not have time to sit on the senate.

"I had to choose what was going to be cut out," Kido said.

Kido had been involved with ASUI for three years. He was on the Academics Board his freshman year, later becoming the director of the board.

During his term as senator, he coordinated volunteer efforts like programs that gave free dental care to area children. He also worked on last year's ASUI Vandal Survey, which he said was a success.

"It had a 20 percent voter turnout, which is unheard of. The structure of academic advising is going to be changed because of the things people said in that survey," Kido said.

Kido said now is the best time for him to step down.

"Some people asked me why I don't just try to balance everything now, but I wanted to give the senate a fair opportunity to replace me," he said.

ASUI vice president Liz Bento estimated it will take three to four weeks to select a new senator.

According to the ASUI Rules and Regulations, the open senate position has to be advertised for two weeks, after which applicants will be interviewed by ASUI chief of staff Megan Thompson and President Autumn Hansen. After the applicants are narrowed to three candidates, the senate will vote on one of those candidates.

ASUI is currently hiring for a number of positions, and Bento said applicants specify on the application whether they would like to be considered for a vacant senate seat if one becomes available.

Anyone interested in applying for a senate position or other open ASUI positions can apply at the ASUI Web site or get an application from the ASUI office on the third floor of the Idaho Commons.

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Opinion	Students, faculty and staff should feel cheated by the anti-climactic outcome of McMillan murder trial.
Arts&Culture	Alternative country band Salt Lick will play a concert at John's Alley Thursday night.

## Today

Sports&Rec	The Idaho women's soccer team won one and lost one on the road last weekend.
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Mostly Sunny  
 Hi: 83°  
 Lo: 48°



**National/BRIEFS**

**Bush nominates Roberts to be chief justice**

WASHINGTON - With a quick nomination of John Roberts to be chief justice, President Bush on Monday made Roberts' confirmation hearings even more important and opened a new debate over who should fill the other vacancy on the Supreme Court.

Bush took just a day after the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist to decide he wanted to shift course and nominate Roberts to the top job instead of the seat of Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who's retiring.

He will search now for a replacement for O'Connor, facing political pressure to nominate a woman to keep the lopsided gender balance of the court at its current seven men and two women.

Rehnquist's body will lie in repose in the Supreme Court on Tuesday and Wednesday. He will be buried Wednesday.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, which was scheduled to start its hearings Tuesday on the nomination of Roberts to the O'Connor seat, said it would delay the hearings until later this week or next week.

Bush lauded Roberts as a man of integrity and fairness, as they appeared side by side at the White House. Bush said Roberts could win confirmation easily and quickly enough to preside over the opening of the new court term in October.

"It is in the interest of the Court and the country to have a chief justice on the bench on the first full day of the fall term," Bush said. "The Senate is well along in the process of considering Judge Roberts' qualifications. They know his record and his fidelity to the law. I'm confident that the Senate can complete hearings and confirm him as chief justice within a month."

Roberts said he was "honored and humbled" to be nominated to succeed

Rehnquist, for whom he once worked as a law clerk.

Democrats urged a delay and greater scrutiny of Roberts. They already had planned to question him aggressively on civil rights and other issues.

**Information scarce for survivors looking for family**

BATON ROUGE, La. - Jazzlyn Ezeb leaned over a table, anxiously flipping through thousands of loose-leaf pages.

She searched for three names: Durnell Freeman, Anthony Davis and Flora Long. Her aunt, uncle and godmother.

They've been missing since Hurricane Katrina tore through New Orleans a week ago. Ezeb, 20, last spoke to them the day before the storm hit. She has no idea where they are.

"I don't know whether to cry or scream or just keep going," she said. "There's all these bodies floating down the street, and you wonder if they're your family."

Hurricane Katrina tore apart families, scattering them across different states and time zones.

At shelters and in cities across the country, hurricane evacuees are still desperately trying to reconnect with family members separated during the chaotic New Orleans evacuations.

They have no idea if their relatives are in Texas or Tennessee. Hurt or homeless. Alive or dead.

Volunteers with shelters, churches and the American Red Cross are working to reunite families. But with hundreds of thousands of people in shelters in at least nine states - and thousands more homeless - the task of finding missing loved ones is daunting.

"It's hit or miss," said Michael Brcard, a Red Cross volunteer from Baton Rouge. "People are having a pretty hard time

finding their family."

**Gas prices likely to drop, supply likely to remain tight**

WASHINGTON - A week of uncertain energy prices awaits motorists after record high prices for gasoline throughout the long Labor Day weekend.

The AAA motor club reported Monday that the nationwide average for a gallon of gasoline was \$3.05, although prices were much higher in most major metropolitan areas.

But prices could start dropping as soon as this week.

"I think there will more or less be a return to normal. We are finding more (oil) rigs coming back, refineries are coming back, pipelines are coming back. It would appear the worst is behind us," said Peter Beutel, an oil analyst with Cameron Hanover in New Canaan, Conn.

Power was restored to three-quarters of the storm-tattered Gulf Coast region over the weekend, allowing pipelines to increase the flow of oil and gasoline, especially to the East Coast, which has seen spot shortages and runs on gasoline stations.

The Bush administration has opened emergency oil stockpiles, and European allies late last week pledged to send 30 million barrels of oil and gasoline from their emergency supplies to the United States to help bridge short-term supply disruptions.

Offsetting that good news, the federal Minerals Management Service said Monday that offshore oil production in the Gulf of Mexico had returned to only 32 percent of its normal capacity.

The Energy Department confirmed over the holiday weekend that a ConocoPhillips refinery in Belle Chase, La., and a ChevronTexaco refinery in Pascagoula, Miss., suffered major hurricane damage. Combined, they have a capacity of refining 572,000 barrels of crude oil a day into gasoline and other products. And the biggest refinery in the Hurricane Katrina-affected area, ExxonMobil's plant in Baton Rouge, La., is running below capacity.

**WELLS from page 1**

home before proceeding to the Moscow-Pullman area.

"We came over here to try to get a good understanding of what happened," James said. "We told them, 'We'll handle it.'"

He and Matthew then walked around the UI campus looking for somebody who looked like a football player, but they didn't see anybody, James said.

The two took a break and got something to eat and rested before they returned to their search at about 5 p.m.

"We looked for someone to talk to so it wouldn't happen again," James said.

James said he thought at the time he knew how fights could get and that it would best if he and Matthew resolved the situation themselves.

The death of an innocent Later, Matthew saw McMillan walking across the parking lot of an apartment complex on Lenter Avenue, James said.

After driving around some more and not seeing anyone, the two returned to the parking lot where they had seen McMillan and sat in their car to decide their next action.

"We thought, 'What are we going to say, what are we going to do? We didn't know,'" James said.

And just as they were thinking about going home, they changed their minds, James said.

"No, let's talk to somebody so that nothing happens again," he said.

Matthew kept a gun in his glove compartment for which he had a permit, and James had a gun, which Riggins gave him earlier that day. Both men brought the guns with them to confront McMillan, James said.

"I said, 'Let's bring them just in case. ... We probably won't need them,'" he said.

McMillan answered the door and James went inside first, he said.

From that point on, James said it was all a blur.

"I told him we want to know about what happened," James said.

At first McMillan backed up. "At this time he was grasp-

ing the situation," he said.

James stood there with the gun in his pants and when McMillan took a step toward him, all his nervous energy built up and he pulled out the gun and shot him, James said, motioning to where the gun had been tucked by his side.

"I pulled out the gun and boom," he said, his voice breaking with emotion. "It all happened so fast. It wasn't his fault at all. We were in his house."

At the same time, Matthew saw McMillan coming toward his brother and reacted in much the same fashion, Matthew said, blotting his eyes with a tissue.

"When I see the young man reach towards my brother, I shot him. I didn't even know my brother shot him," he said.

For both, they said, the rest was a blur as a high-speed chase took place and ended with their arrests.

"It was straight negligence on my part. I take full responsibility for that today," James said.

Why lessen the charges? Tuesday, Thompson responded to questions about why the charge of first-degree murder had been dropped.

"Both the state and the defendants have achieved certainty," Thompson said as to the validity of the testimonies the Wells brothers made Friday.

There was no evidence found during the investigation to suggest McMillan's murder had been premeditated, as a first-degree murder charge would suggest, he said. The charges wouldn't have been amended for any other reason.

Saved money for the city was only a secondary benefit, Thompson said.

"The cost of the trial played no role whatsoever in our decisions," he said.

Thompson said he felt justice had been achieved with the brothers' conviction of second-degree murder. He also said a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison was appropriate for the crime committed.

Neither James Wells' lawyer, Tom Whitney, nor Matthew Wells' lawyer, Charles Kovic, could be reached before press time to comment on why their clients chose to accept the plea agree-

ment.

UI President Tim White said although the guilty pleas have left the campus with some sense of closure, "sorrow still remains."

"The heartache of this tragedy will linger for a long time to come," White said. "Yet this is a move toward justice for Eric and provides an avenue for the healing process to truly begin. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Eric's family, friends and teammates."

Sandra Lignon, McMillan's aunt, disagreed with Thompson's decision to lessen charges.

"Were all very disappointed over the second degree charges. It's very disheartening," Lignon said.

She added that she did not believe the story they told in court was the truth, and that their story repeatedly has changed.

Lignon said she does not believe the Wells brothers claim that they did not specifically target her nephew.

"All of it is an absolute crock," she said.

Sentencing Sentencing for the Wells brothers is set for Nov. 18. The maximum sentence for second-degree murder is 30 years in prison.

At 8 a.m. today Thompson will decide whether or not to dismiss the charge against Riggins of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder.

If the charges are not dismissed, Riggins' trial will begin Sept. 19, as previously scheduled.

Riggins' lawyer, Greg Dickison, said he anticipates the charges will be dismissed due to statements made by both Wells brothers that Riggins was in no way involved with the murder and was not to be blamed.

"There was no conspiracy at any point," Dickison said. "I do appreciate the fact that both Matt and James Wells took responsibility."

Five people, including Riggins, are still facing charges of perjury for lying before the grand jury last year.

"The inquiry continues to be open in regard to the role others may have played in the events leading to Eric McMillan's tragic death," Thompson said in a statement released Friday.

**71st Annual Lewiston Roundup**

**September 8th - 11th**

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**Sunday • 1:29 pm**



**Thursday  
Sept. 8th  
6:59 pm**

**LEWISTON  
ROUNDUP**



**Dance to  
Exit 7  
Friday & Saturday  
10:00 pm**

**Lewiston  
Roundup  
Parade  
Downtown Lewiston  
Saturday • 1:29 pm**



**Where the Action is!**

# Study Abroad Fair shows world cultures Thursday

By Jessica Mullins  
Argonaut

The Study Abroad Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the Idaho Commons courtyard.

Students will be able to meet with representatives from 12 study abroad programs and attend study abroad seminars.

Jill Kellogg-Serna, a UI study abroad adviser, said students should take advantage of the UI study abroad opportunities.

"I think the most important thing is to get out of a place you know and go somewhere you aren't used to," Kellogg-Serna said. "You learn to look at a country from a different light."

Students will not be able to take five to nine months to study abroad with financial aid after they graduate, Kellogg-Serna said. A person can also take advantage of volunteer work and internships while they are a student.

"It's the chance of a lifetime," Kellogg-Serna said. "It gives you time to get to know yourself. It helps you clarify things as you are getting ready to graduate and move on in the world."

UI alumna Erika Pedroza graduated last semester after studying abroad in Zaragoza, Spain. She double majored in accounting and Spanish.

"It was a good experience and involved coming out of my comfort zone," Pedroza said. "I absolutely loved it and wished

I could have stayed longer." Pedroza said she had to adjust to the culture and understand why it's different. The way people talk and interact is more straightforward, she said.

Pedroza studied at a Spanish university. She took mostly business and Spanish classes.

"The material taught was really good," Pedroza said.

She said adjusting to the different education system was difficult, but the professors were great.

Pedroza started preparation to study abroad in August 2004, before she left for Spain in February 2005.

Kellogg-Serna said most students prepare to leave a semester before hand. Most of the spring programs have deadlines in October and November.

"Students should look into it as soon as possible so you can look at all the options and won't have to rush," Kellogg-Serna said. "It's good to start thinking about a year in advance and then start paperwork a semester ahead."

Pedroza stayed in Europe for part of the summer. During her stay, she traveled across the European continent, including to Portugal; England; Paris;

Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Prague, Czechoslovakia.

"I felt really ignorant to other countries, and they know a lot about the U.S.," Pedroza said. "You have to open your mind and value what you have here and what other countries have."

The two advising sessions at the fair will be seminars about going abroad through UI. There also will be students who have traveled abroad to answer questions.

**"I think the most important thing is to get out of a place you know and go somewhere you aren't used to."**

Jill Kellogg-Serna  
Study Abroad Adviser

"Our job is to make sure all students have received all the right orientation information," Kellogg-Serna said.

She said they make sure students know about important issues involving safety, the policies of UI, credit trans-

ferring and available scholarships.

"A lot of students believe that when you go abroad you pay UI tuition and fees," Kellogg-Serna said.

She said students technically attend UI and can earn credit from their experience abroad, but pay tuition through the study abroad programs. The cost of studying abroad varies with each program, and the best-priced programs are the

UI exchange programs, Kellogg-Serna said.

"It's usually about \$2,700 a semester," Kellogg-Serna said.

Because the student is still a registered UI student, financial aid can be applied toward any study abroad program. There are many scholarships available for studying abroad, including scholarships and opportunities through specific UI colleges.

Other programs that aren't exchanges may include costs for excursions and room and board. The price varies with the country and services.

Language requirements vary with each program. Pedroza studied with Spanish students because she had a strong Spanish background and emphasis. She said at her university other exchange students took an intensive Spanish course.

There are other programs where language experience isn't required, Kellogg-Serna said. Students can study in English outside of an English-area in places like Thailand, Sweden, Netherlands and Korea.

Kellogg-Serna said the best way to learn a language is to be immersed in it. Students can get through four semesters of a language in one semester in some programs, she said.

Other specific requirements and offerings for the study abroad programs can be addressed at the fair.



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut  
Erika Pedroza, who studied abroad last spring, displays a souvenir ribbon she brought back from a church in Spain. Students can learn more about studying abroad this Thursday at the Study Abroad Fair.

# Panelists will discuss Roberts for Supreme Court

By Eric Mather  
Argonaut

The University of Idaho is sponsoring a public discussion panel at 4 p.m. Thursday on the nomination and confirmation of John Roberts to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The panelists include UI professor of political science Don Crowley, UI associated professors of law Richard

Seamon and Russell Miller, and UI assistant professor of political science Brandon Rottinghaus.

The panelists will discuss a wide range of political and social issues associated with the possible confirmation of Roberts to the high court and answer questions from the audience.

The discussion is part of a weeklong celebration of the

U.S. Constitution. A law signed by President Bush in 2004 requires all federally funded educational institutions to hold a yearly event that recognizes the Constitution on Sept. 17, UI administrators said.

Liberal groups have expressed opposition to Roberts because of his conservative writings as an attorney for the Reagan administration and his rulings as an appeals court judge.

Conservative groups are for the most part supportive of Roberts.

President Bush has said Roberts has been closely scrutinized since he was nominated as an associate justice, and that Americans like what they see.

Bush has repeatedly cited Roberts' experience of having argued 39 cases as a lawyer before the Supreme Court. Bush has also said Roberts is a natural

leader.

Laurel Zimmer, president of the UI College Republicans, said she plans to attend the panel. Other members of the group may attend as well, but Zimmer was not sure.

Zimmer said Roberts is an extremely qualified man.

"My biggest confidence is that he upholds the Constitution regardless of his personal opinion," Zimmer

said. Zimmer said she would like the panel to cover Roberts' qualifications, instead of scrutinizing his personal opinion. She also wants to see a balanced panel, where both sides are represented.

German Santana, co-chairperson of the UI Gay Straight Alliance, said he expected some members of that organization to attend the panel also.

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**IT'S NOT JUST AN ITCH**

## When NARAL lies, Roberts gets blamed

Last week, some shrill was on the news screeching at some poor journalist. This Armani-wearing demagogue was Nancy Keenan, the president of the National Abortion Rights Action League. Keenan was still defending the ad her organization produced attacking Supreme Court nominee John Roberts — the ad that was pulled from the air. And why exactly was the ad pulled, Ms. Keenan?



**Brett Walter Argonaut**  
arg\_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu

The ad stated that Roberts supported an abortion clinic bomber. While it's true Roberts sided with the bomber and many other defendants in a civil case he argued, the case didn't deal with bombings at all. Roberts argued that abortion clinics that brought the suit had no right to use an 1871 federal anti-discrimination statute against anti-abortion protesters who tried to blockade clinics. In the end, a 6-3 majority of the Supreme Court agreed. Roberts argued that blockades were already illegal under state law. As an attorney in the Reagan administration, Roberts drafted a memo in 1986 saying, "abortion clinic bombers should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

The images of the ad were especially misleading. The ad showed images of a bombed abortion clinic before a woman identified as Emily Lyons appeared on screen saying, "I nearly lost my life." An announcer said, "Supreme Court nominee John Roberts filed court briefs supporting violent fringe groups and a convicted clinic bomber. Call your senators. Tell them to oppose John Roberts. America can't afford a justice whose ideology leads him to excuse violence against other Americans." (This is the group that opposed the ban on partial birth abortion.) The images that are used in the ad are of a clinic bombing that happened nearly seven years after Roberts signed the legal brief in question.

Even after the ad had been debunked by FactCheck.org, journalists and even anti-abortion politicians, Keenan continued to defend the ad, calling it "completely accurate."

The thing is that the left knows that "Roe v. Wade" is in jeopardy. The passing of the Lacy Peterson Law recognizes that a fetus is a life, and the ban against partial birth abortion was another devastating

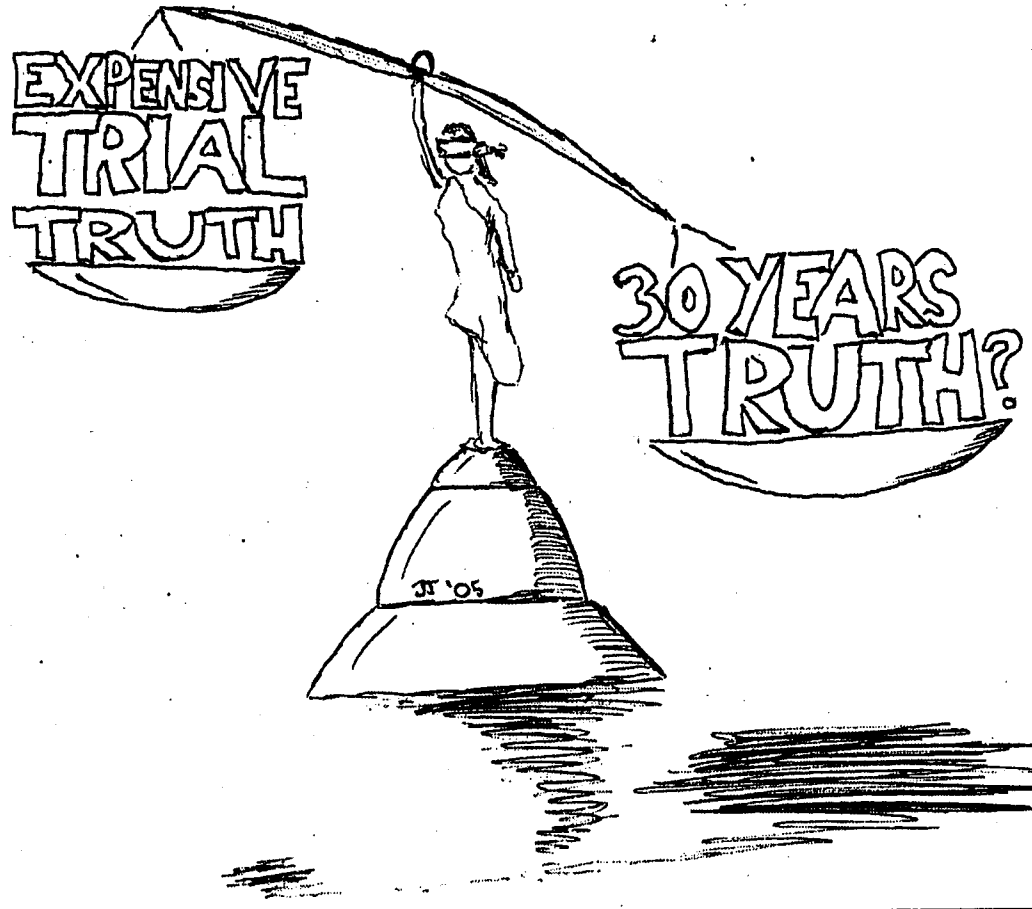
blow to the abortion rights militia. As Ann Coulter put it, "they want to be able to deliver a baby all the way except for the head, then puncture the baby's skull, suck its brains out, and proclaim a constitutional right has just been exercised." But there is no convincing them that "Roe v. Wade" is faulty lawmaking from the bench. The Constitution grants the power of lawmaking to the legislative branch, not the judicial. The 1973 Supreme Court decision that overrode

numerous state legislations goes against everything that the founding fathers had intended, and liberals know this. If they didn't, then why are they so protective of "Roe v. Wade?" The fact that NARAL, one of the country's biggest abortion advocates, had to resort to blatant dishonesty is quite telling about how intellectually bankrupt their arguments have gotten.

One of the first questions liberal politicians ask of any potential judge is whether or not they would vote to overturn "Roe v. Wade." If the prospective judge answers that yes he would, then the left pulls out their character assassins faster than Paris Hilton can pull off her clothes. But it's important, as Sen. Ted Kennedy says, that we don't have a court consumed with partisanship. If it really was a legitimate law, then conservatives wouldn't have any more of a chance at overturning it than liberals would at overturning the second amendment (which of course, they would love to).

I guess it's asking too much that NARAL actually apologize for trying to publicly assassinate John Roberts with faulty information. Regardless, the public needs to brace itself for a major battle. The Democrats are in combat mode, for if they lose control of the Supreme Court, then their agenda will be halted for who knows how long. The "Party of the People" doesn't like the people right now, because the people won't vote for them or their issues. They need the Supreme Court to override the votes of the stupid citizens, and the last thing they need is some Christian on the court. So, they are gearing up for battle. If you thought Election 2004 was bad, then you ain't seen nothing yet.

## Mixed Justice



### OUR VIEW

## Time does not fit the crime

The first UI-centric murder trial of the new millennium, which has captivated an entire town for almost a year, is over before it started. The people who followed the story since reporters descended en masse to Lenter Avenue have been fed a cheap ending. Justice has not been adequately served and, in terms of time and money spent, a huge "get away with murder" card has been issued. Maybe this trial was doomed from the start.

Optimists would say Friday's guilty plea by the Wells brothers is great because it lessens the burden on taxpayers. If no trial exists, Moscow residents don't have to pony up the dough the city would need to fully prosecute the Wells brothers. These optimists may be forgetting that the major fact-finding portion of the trial has already been done, and that it itself is a major portion of the money expenditures. The grand jury and both sides of the argument have already invested much of the time and energy needed to bring this to trial, so much that a plea a week before the start date seems like a raw deal. After all, money should not be an issue when justice is at stake.

The University of Idaho administration seems to agree that this plea is one

of the best things possible for students because it allows them to move on. A trial would have dragged students into a debate about Eric McMillan, which would open old wounds that have hopefully been medically sealed. The problem with this reasoning is that the plea does not afford students the needed closure. Now these events may never end for some students who feel that McMillan was never properly laid to rest. It is doubtful that any student agrees that the Wells brothers should only receive a maximum of 30 years in prison for murdering a UI student in cold blood.

UI students no longer feel safe and, given James Wells' stunning account of how the murder was completely random and could have been anyone, this feeling is justified. How can someone indiscriminately roam the campus looking for someone who looks like a football player in order to intimidate them get away without a proper trial? If this is any precedent, every football game could ultimately lead to an altercation, and this cyclical flow of events could cost Moscow residents tons of money and internal strife. By not having a trial and by issuing the Wells brothers a lenient sentence, the

city is saying that getting mad about a fight at a Moscow club and punishing a random player because he happens to be part of the offensive team is OK. With this deal, the city is telling its residents and students that 30 years is the price people will pay for a murder motivated by hate. A proper trial, in which UI students would have participated, would have allowed the entire truth of the events to come out. Currently, the series of events that history will remember is the Wells' account of what happened that night. This tale might be less than credible, but it is all Moscow has. Is this enough sustenance to sustain an entire community? A trial would have come complete with witness testimony, evidence and the grand jury findings, but now that is all irrelevant. With this plea, the city of Moscow is taking the word of murderers, and this is not acceptable.

It is more important for justice to occur than for money and even current unpleasantness to be spared. The plea offered the Wells brothers did not fit the crime. UI students should feel cheated and, even more so, offended.

J.R.

## Now showing: God

Every summer my family takes a two-week trip to rural Maine. Our vacation spot has no phones, gas lights and no electricity. It goes without saying that watching DVDs and playing video games is out of the question.

When living the simple life gets boring, there has always been a standby: The local movie theater. Almost as familiar a family activity as the dictionary game, the cinema in Waterville allowed for me to keep sharp on pop culture references when stranded in an Internet-free world.

All this changed two years ago. The theater, a multi-screen godsend, had magically transformed into the Faith Evangelical Free Church. Imagine my dismay, my absolute horror, when, instead of being greeted with a marquee touting showings of "Wedding Crashers," I saw bold, red letters outlining the phrase: "Reject Satan, worship his enemy." Needless to say, I did not see any movies on that vacation.

It seems this phenomenon has made the trip cross-country and settled in the Palouse. The Nuart in downtown Moscow, a renovated theater of which the lobby is now a coffee shop, hosts Primetime every Thursday night. Primetime, while not a "pull out all the stops" church, is a viable method of worship attended by college students. The building is owned by New Saint Andrews College and is also used for class sessions every Friday, but this is old news. The newest theater takeover transpired last week in the middle of downtown Pullman.

The Cordova Theater, a one-screen movie house, officially stopped showing films Wednesday. The theater, which ran repeats of movies that had already left the main cinemas, was bought in July

by two California residents. The purchasers then leased the space to Four Square Church, and the rest of the pieces are simply waiting to fall into place.

The Cordova, like the Nuart, is an integral part of city history. The Daily News, which broke the story, touted the significance of the establishment to residents and students who live in Pullman. The site had been showing movies to Palouse residents for 80 years.

Why are movie theaters turning into churches? It is agreed that the Moscow/Pullman metropolitan area has too many movie houses for its own good — there are two major theaters in each city — but a church seems like the complete opposite of what the building was meant for. From the parishioners' perspective, the theaters afford a huge amount of seating and a nice place for a pulpit. But where are all the windows and the ornate religious artifacts that line even the poorest of worship houses? Maybe religion is at such a premium in the area — worshippers are literally begging for somewhere they can call home — that churches have to make do with what they can. I guess it's not about the building, but what happens inside.

If all the permits and licensing mumbo-jumbo go through, there will soon be a church in downtown Pullman, in a building that used to screen films rife with content that was questionable to religious people. This is much the way the Moscow crisis — "Not in our town" — started. If history does indeed repeat, I fear a long religious battle is brewing across the border. Then again, maybe it just means people will no longer have a second chance to see Tom Cruise stumble through "War of the Worlds."



**Jon Ross Argonaut**  
arg\_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu

### MailBOX

#### Free concerts rock

Dear Editor,

I'd like to clear up a couple of the misconceptions presented in the editorial published Tuesday ("Broken promises, shattered dreams").

Autumn Hansen has been a tremendous help to our board. She has provided encouragement and a variety of ideas to do what we do better while also promoting ourselves. We deeply appreciate this, and cannot let her take criticism for that for which she is not at fault.

The money that we received this year in the form of a 50 percent increase in our budget was never earmarked for exploration of the campus pub. We received that money as a direct response to students demanding more and better entertainment opportunities on campus throughout the year.

Students also told us through surveys and word of mouth that they would not mind seeing student fees go up if they could see the direct impact of where their money is going. As a result, we decided to plan a big welcome back concert with a band whose name is well known. We also decided to do it free of charge, in part to say thank you for giving us what we needed to give you what you want. In the case of concerts, what we needed was more money. In other cases it is simply more input. The student body's input is valuable, and we welcome that input at our board meetings.

Lastly, we wanted to show you that we really are listening. We jumped on an idea we got from the students and implemented it quickly as a gesture of goodwill to the students and to show ourselves that we could make it hap-

pen, and in a big way. The Blues Traveler concert drew the biggest crowd we have had at any event in the last decade.

We hope you enjoyed the concert and we look forward to bringing you more quality events in the future.

Jackie Johnson  
ASUI Vandal Entertainment

#### Open entertainment meeting Monday

Dear Editor,

ASUI Vandal Entertainment functions through the ideas and input of the students. We feel this makes each of our events a good representation of what the student body wants to see and what the student board thinks will best entertain the campus.

We would also like to make it clear that while Autumn Hansen and other student leaders may offer suggestions, the board makes final decisions about the entertainment that comes to campus and how the allocated funds are spent.

ASUI Vandal Entertainment would like to remind students that our board and its meetings are open to all undergraduate students. We invite you to attend our next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 12 in the Panorama room of the commons. Have your voice heard and help plan future events to bring to the UI campus.

Amy Steele, Danielle Thurlow  
ASUI Vandal Entertainment

#### Christ Church stands against racism

Dear Editor,

Frank McGovern's article ("Moscow still racist after all these years," Sept. 2) is no different than all the other pieces of mud that

have been slung around by well-meaning but ill-informed people in the last couple of years. The people who write these articles are glad to form an opinion at a glance without personally talking to those involved, and without really trying to see if there is anything more to the issue than the popular gossip presents. Few people want to look beyond their biases long enough to see that Christ Church has a number of multi-racial families, even one of the church's elders is from such a family.

Christ Church has a seminary called Grey Friars. It is for men that Christ Church thinks so highly of that they want to train them and send them out to plant churches. One of these elevated men is a black man, Chris Morris. Rather strange for a "racist" church.

Few Christ Church haters have ever gone and talked to Doug Wilson about their concerns. If they asked him, they would clearly hear him say, as he has countless times, that slavery is and always was one of the greatest evils. He simply thinks that we could have eradicated it peacefully like every other civilized nation.

Obviously, since Christ Church has a black pastoral candidate, it is not a racist group. But people don't really want to get below the surface of tasty gossip. Barbara Richardson-Crouch, when she is really leaving town because her husband was voted out of a job, finds a neat way to paint a pious, sensationalist picture of why she is leaving town. One more disgusting bit of mud kicking off her heel as she leaves the town she "loves." The people being called haters in this town are not haters, and they are being hated by people who call themselves non-judgmental peacemakers. Sick.

Scott Braski  
Moscow

## 'Ida B' a sweet look at a child's mind

By Tara Roberts Argonaut

While the New York Times Bestseller List is full of murder mysteries and self-help books, some college-age readers may feel tempted to return to the simpler literature of their youth. Katherine Hannigan's debut children's novel, "Ida B," (published in 2004) is just such a book to pick up and spend an afternoon enjoying.

The story follows impertinent, imaginative fourth-grader Ida B. Applewood as she faces a string of significant changes in her life. After her mother is diagnosed with cancer, Ida B's freewheeling, independent schedule of wandering through the woods, playing in the brook and being home-schooled is destroyed.

She unwillingly returns to public school (which she was pulled out of after a traumatic experience in kindergarten), and to make matters worse, her family is forced to sell a portion of their land to pay her mother's medical bills.

Hannigan does an admirable job of avoiding melodrama by deftly shaping Ida B's attitude toward the situation. While some authors would have made their hero a sweet, stoic child ready to sacrifice for the good of her family, Hannigan makes Ida B real. She gets mad. She throws fits. She is selfish, stubborn and at times downright mean — just like any sad, confused kid might be in such upsetting circumstances.

To readers, Ida B's actions are also funny (though she approaches them as quite serious). In an effort to drive out the new neighbors, she posts signs with messages such as "Danger: Tsetse Flies," "Ferocious, ravenous giant malamute escaped from pet store in vicinity" and "Plague of locusts expected this year." She calls the school bus the "Yellow Prison of Propulsion." And when she is entirely fed up with things not going her way, she attempts to force her parents to sign a contract saying they will do as she asks from then on.

Ida B's precociousness is mostly endearing and entertaining, but Hannigan goes a little over the top. A key part of the story is Ida B's connection to her family's land, but her continuous talking to the trees is annoying after a while — she is far more interesting when interacting with humans. Hannigan makes some good points about preserving beautiful places, but gives Ida B environmentalist tendencies a bit too far beyond her years.

The story ends with a clearly (though slowly) changed Ida B, but doesn't bend to the temptation of a perfect ending — Ida B doesn't get her way in all things, and some damage is irreparable. Readers will be as thankful for the imperfect ending as they are for the imperfect protagonist, and leave the book feeling refreshed and relaxed.

Here's hoping that Hannigan joins the ranks of so many wonderful children's book authors these days and continues printing unique stories for young and old alike to enjoy.



"Ida B" ★★★★★ (of 5) Katharine Hannigan Now Available

## BURIED ALIVE



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut

James Yeary, a second year art student at the University of Idaho, demonstrates his ephemeral sculpture project Thursday afternoon. The sculpture is meant to resemble a tomb, and is a project for his sculpture II class.

# Salt Lick brings alt-country to John's Alley

By Ryli Hennessey Argonaut

Salt Lick has been called alternative country, but members say the band is much more than that narrow label.

"It (alternative country) is being played by grunge musicians that don't really care for modern cookie-cutter country," drummer Scott Headrick said.

Salt Lick will showcase its unusual brand of country at John's Alley Thursday night, promoting its new CD, "A Face Only a Mother Could Love."

Salt Lick's music has a groovy, twangy sound, but is not your everyday alternative country, members said.

"It's got something you can't really put your finger on that makes it different from other alt-country bands," keyboard player Ryan Tocchini said.

Singer Steve Taddei's voice is anything but average, Headrick said. He

said all people have signature weirdness about their voices, and Taddei has a unique, nasal, twangy sound.

Salt Lick didn't start out being an alternative country band, said Chris Ross, lead guitarist and pedal steel player; it just came out that way.

Many of the band's songs can be described as rock with a country twang, but in others the country influence is more obvious. Taddei describes the song "Bar Stool" as a Neil Young-esque, harvest-era song.

Salt Lick's music has a unique sound, but some band members say what really sets them apart is Taddei's songwriting. Taddei, who said he sat in his room through high

school writing songs, was described by the band as being a great songwriter.

All of the band members say their live performances are energetic and unique to their style.

"We get louder than any band I would call a country band," Headrick said.

Everyone in the band sings backup vocals at live shows. Scott described shows as having a raw, '70s-rock quality to them that appeals to young hipsters as well as an older crowd.

"For the kinds of songs that we're playing, we're playing them with as much energy as possible," Taddei said.

Bass player Jerry Abelin said the performances can be very different

sometimes. They can be a small acoustic production or, depending on the venue, a larger, more energetic production.

Ross said the band's performances are entertaining, because the members have good stage banter as well as good audience interaction.

Most of the band members have played in Moscow before with other bands, and are looking forward to playing a comfortable, familiar venue.

"It's nice to walk into a place and hear your own music on the jukebox," Abelin said.

John's Alley has been a great place to play for members of Salt Lick. They said it has an awesome stage and a good sound system.

The band is also looking forward to playing for the Moscow crowd.

"It's good to get to the places that really remind you why you're doing it," Headrick said.

**"We get louder than any band I would call a country band."**

Scott Headrick Salt Lick

# McAdams sparks thrills in 'Red Eye'

By Tyler Wilson Argonaut

In a time when actresses are force-marketed to become the next big thing (will the completely untalented Jessica Alba please stand up), it's refreshing to see Rachel McAdams earn her star status.

"Red Eye" is a simple, but effective, thriller starring McAdams as a tough businesswoman named Lisa enduring a crazed terrorist on an overnight flight. The story finds tension and excitement in the simplest of things, namely two people talking in a cramped space. Cillian Murphy (the Scarecrow in "Batman Begins") delivers a creepy performance as a charming but ruthless terrorist named Jack, but it's McAdams' tough, smart female lead that dominates the film.

If you've seen the trailers, you know the film begins as sort of a pseudo-romance film, as Lisa and Jack have a flirty conversation in an airport terminal. But once they find themselves sitting next to each other on a late-night flight to Miami, Jack's true

intentions are clear. Unlike many similar high-concept thrillers,

"Red Eye" doesn't tack on a bunch of silly plot twists and reversals to find thrills. The script intensifies quite a bit once the airplane lands, but most of the tension is a result of Lisa's reaction to Jack's plan. It's almost a relief to watch a film that doesn't turn the plot into melodrama.

Director Wes Craven has always had a keen eye for thrills and horror (even after this year's truly abysmal werewolf stinker "Cursed"). "Red Eye" is more of small-scale Alfred Hitchcock thriller than a horror film, but Murphy does generate chills as Jack, and the threat of sky-terrorism adds scary relevance.

The success of the film's

thrills can be traced to a few very important details at the beginning of the film. Like in many airplane movies, we're introduced to the usual assortment of clichéd individuals, the difference here being that they all come back in some shape or form to enhance the cat-and-mouse game between Lisa and Jack. Also vital are the few but important details about Lisa's character in the film's opening that sharpen her believability. Using old family photos, and even the overused device of a scar, it's clear that Lisa can hold her own against any foe.

Setting an entire film on a plane can be tough, and thankfully Craven knows when it's time to get off the plane and drive the action. Some will dismiss the more traditional, action-oriented climax as routine, but McAdams especially shines in these final minutes. She's tough, smart, beautiful and ready to take down anyone for the sake of what's important to her. Too often in film, females are relegated to screaming and making huge lapses in judgment. Lisa is a firecracker, and you almost feel bad for



Courtesy Photo

Cillian Murphy as Jack, a terrorist (left) torments Rachel McAdams' character, Lisa, in Wes Craven's thriller "Red Eye." The movie takes place on an airliner, where Jack attempts to make Lisa help him commit a crime.

Jack for even trying to mess with her.

"Red Eye" is B-movie material for sure. The dialogue isn't high-class, the movie's short and small-budgeted and the entire scenario, even in these times of heightened security, isn't exactly logical. But McAdams and Murphy play off each other so wonderfully, first with a hint of sexual

chemistry, then with a huge sack of hatred for one another, that their time together is what makes the film more than typical thriller fare. Murphy's already on his way to the top, but after showing her range in "The Notebook," "Wedding Crashers," and now "Red Eye," McAdams is the next big thing. And she didn't have to take her clothes off to accomplish it.

# 'Beauty Queen' opens at Kenworthy

By Hillary Flowers  
Argonaut

Sirius Idaho Theatre will present "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" this month, a Tony Award-winning play that revolves around lives of sex, violence and deception. The play was written by Martin McDonagh, and Forrest Sears is directing the Sirius production. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and Sept. 15-17 at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. Matinees will be 2 p.m. Saturday and Sept. 17.

It is set in the mountains of Connemara, County Galway, Ireland, in 1989. Maureen Folan (played by Pam Palmer) is a plain, virgin woman in her early 40s who has the burden of taking care of her manipulative, useless mother, Mag, played by Valerie McLroy.

Maureen has only kissed two men in her whole life and has reached the point where she wants to be in love and make love to somebody who loves her. Her love interest is Pato Dooley, (Peter Aylward), with whom she grew up. Pato is a man who has had many women in his life, but he is smitten with Maureen.

He hasn't spoken to Maureen in about 20 years. Then he comes back from England for his uncle's going away party. Pato has his 20-year-old brother Ray Dooley (Michael Carpenter) deliver a message to Maureen inviting her to the party. The only thing stopping Ray from delivering the message is Maureen's

mother, who denies ever seeing Ray. The story then revolves around the two people falling in love with the interference of the mother from hell.

"In a relationship, how much can we demand of somebody else before the demand is too big?" said John Dickinson, chair of the board of directors of Sirius Idaho Theatre. "What happens when the pressure comes to some boiling point?"

Palmer's character Maureen is naive when it comes to love and relationships. Palmer, who is also the artistic director of the play, said some scenes include sex and violence.

One such scene takes place after the party, when Maureen and Pato go back to her house to talk and flirt and end up making love. Dickinson said the actors did an impromptu scene to see what happened at the party, which isn't shown in the play. They wanted to find out why Pato would go home with this older woman who has only kissed two men in her life and is still a virgin.

"If she's sexual at all, it's because she saw it in the movies," Dickinson said. "If someone's only kissed two men and they're 40 years old, they're not going to have very many moves."

Carpenter said his character, on the other hand, is sort of an A.D.D.-type of person whose mind shoots off in different directions every minute. He said Ray is a deep character with many things going on in his head at the same time.

"You really get to be some-

body completely different," Carpenter said. "What actor doesn't want to play a crazy young guy who lives in his own little world?"

"Ray is interesting because he's Pato's brother, but they're 20 years apart," he said. "Pato is more of a father figure to him."

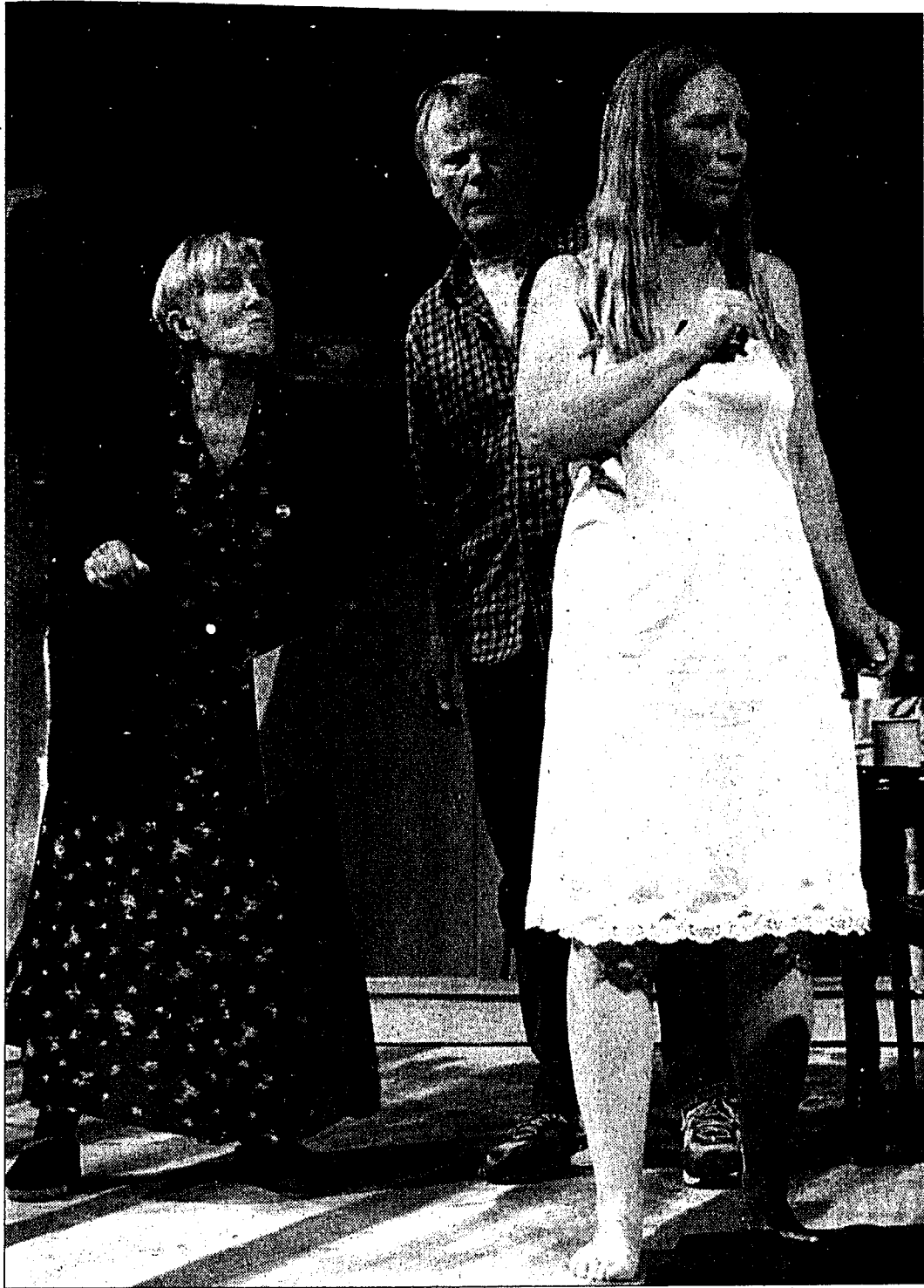
Carpenter had done a play called "Proof" with Palmer in 2004 and decided to come back for this one when he got the call that the person who was supposed to play Ray hurt his knee. Carpenter was in Seattle working after he graduated from Washington State University in May. He majored in English, but minored in theater. He said he has only been doing theater for three years and realized it's his calling.

"English training helps you get in the mind of the author," Carpenter said.

He said an English degree helps an actor see the bigger picture of the show. Carpenter plans to go back to Seattle after the play ends. In October, he will move to Los Angeles to audition.

He said Sirius Idaho Theatre has been very accommodating since he's been back in Moscow and has a family feel to its company.

Ticket prices for "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the Kenworthy ticket office one hour before showtime, BookPeople of Moscow and Moscow Farmers' Market.



Sarah Quint/Argonaut  
Mag (Valerie McLroy) returns to the scene holding papers to prove her daughter was in a "nut-house," while Pato (Peter Aylward) tries to settle a dispute with Maureen (Pam Palmer).

## Last year's hit show 'Lost' season one now available on DVD

By Justin Rude  
The Washington Post

ABC had an excellent season last year, with both "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives" becoming overnight successes. Following a pattern that has become common, the network is rolling out the first seasons

of these shows, beginning with "Lost," which is now available, just in time for the Sept. 21 premiere of the program's second season.

"Lost" is an ambitious project for network television. Following a violent mid-air disaster, a section of a commercial airliner crashes on a tropi-

cal island. People emerge from the wreckage and scrape together necessary survival tools while attempting to expedite their rescue. It becomes apparent that neither the island nor any of the passengers are exactly what they appear to be and with evidence of a large predator on the island, things

become very tense.

The strength of the show lies in its ability to juggle its increasingly convoluted plot revelations, while keeping each of its characters important and fresh.

As a serial program with almost no episodic plots to speak of, this is a perfect televi-

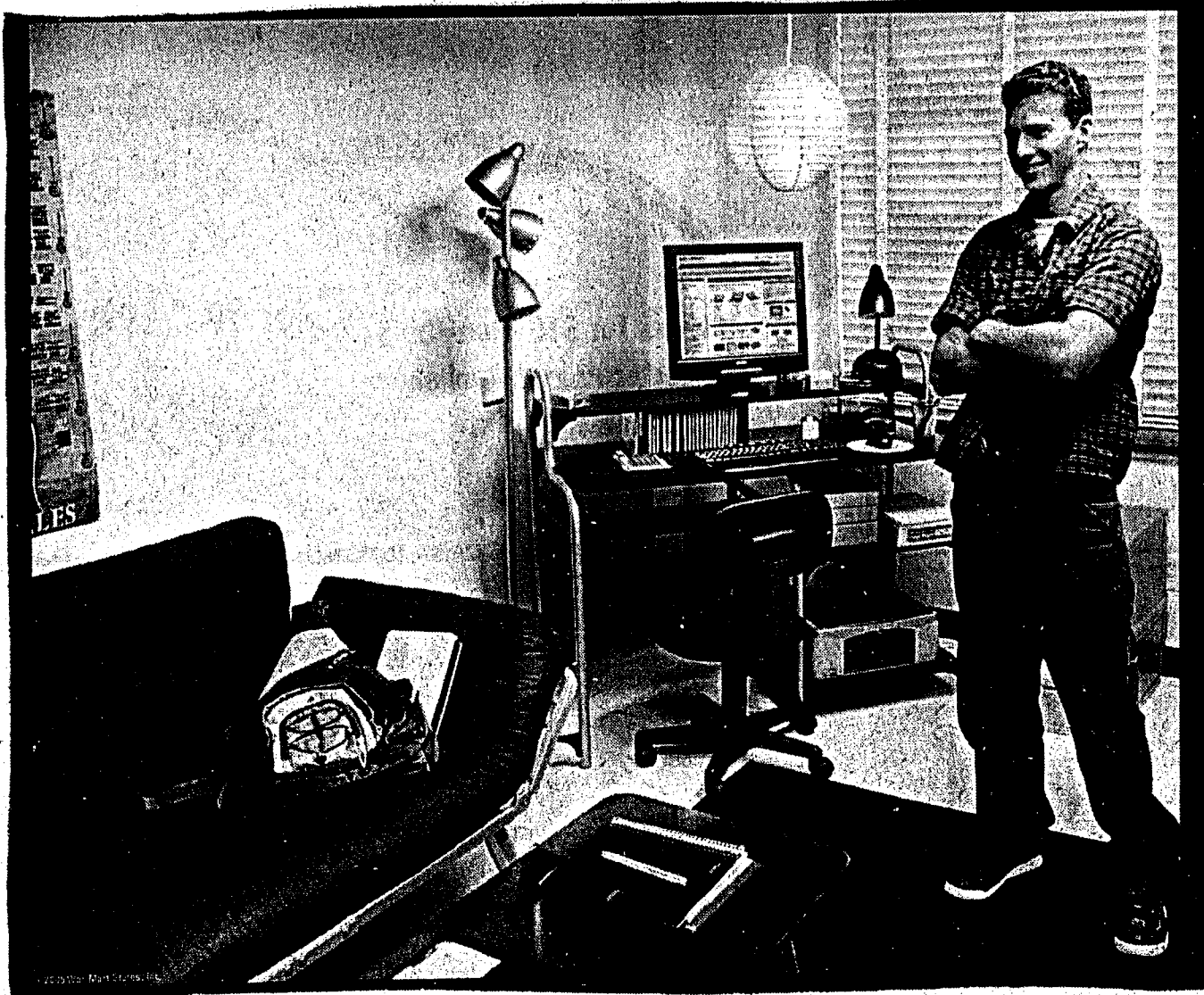
sion show for DVD — to be enjoyed in marathon sessions with no concession to commercial interruptions.

The extras are a good example of what most TV series made in the DVD era can offer. The standards include cast and creator commentary tracks, audition tapes and cast festi-

monials, a making-of featurette and a piece by the creators on how the show was conceived.

A bonus feature especially rewarding to lost "Lost" fans is a collection of revealing, unaired flashbacks that didn't make it into the first season and hint at secrets yet to be revealed.

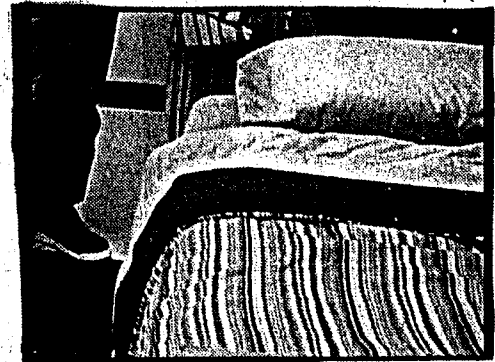
Share your space, but live on your own.



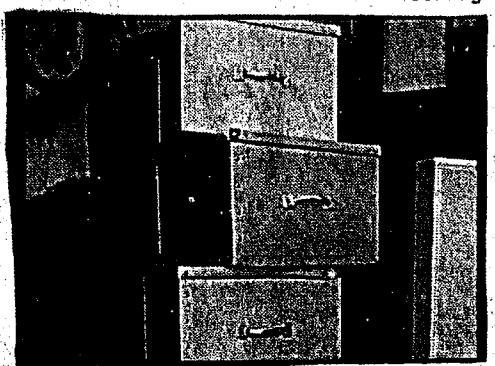
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# Taking popcorn fare to paradise

By Merrill Balassone  
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Whether it was a projectionist drunk on homemade grog or faulty wiring that made equipment go up in smoke, independent film producer John Pierson was in for a challenge when he took over a rickety 288-seat movie theater on Fiji's remote island of Taveuni.

At first, the New York transplant was comforted by the locals who reassured him with their oft-repeated slogan — "no worries." That is, until he deciphered the code.

"What it really meant was, 'This isn't going to work, but just don't worry about it,'" Pierson said. Pierson first came across the 180 Meridian Cinema in 2000, while searching for the world's most remote theater for an episode of his Independent Film Channel documentary show, "Split Screen." (The 180 Meridian Cinema is 5,000 miles from Hollywood.)

Word of mouth, known on the island as "coconut wireless," that Pierson would be holding a free screening drew a throng of Fijians, many of whom make the equivalent of about \$20 a month and rarely splurge on movies. The film? The Three Stooges' short "Some More of Samoa," in which natives try to boil Curly for dinner. The audience reacted with exuberant laughter verging on pandemonium.

"It was an out-of-body experience," Pierson said.

Pierson said he decided right then and there that he'd return to Taveuni and bring more movies with him. The documentary "Reel Paradise" tells that tale.

A player in the independent film industry in

the late 1980s, working with filmmakers such as Spike Lee, Michael Moore and Kevin Smith, Pierson recalled that in the years before his Fiji visit he'd become jaded about independent films. They were becoming less defined as a genre and more and more featured big-name Hollywood casts.

Fiji seemed like the perfect place to recharge and gain some perspective.

Pierson convinced his wife and business partner, Janet, and their teenage children, Georgia and Wyatt, to join him on a yearlong retreat to the remote island. Pierson relied on contributions from Smith, "South Park's" Matt Stone and Haxan Films, producers of the "Blair Witch Project," to help him finance free screenings for a year.

Soon, audiences at 180 Meridian, where shutters let the island breeze through and paintings of Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny grace the facade, were howling with laughter at "Jackass: The Movie" and caught up in the action of "The Scorpion King."

"It seems like these movies are commercial fodder and beneath you, but if you saw them with that audience at the Meridian it would change your mind," Pierson said. "We always hear that Hollywood is shoving these movies down our throats, but people really do enjoy

them. It showed me that entertainment value really does matter in movies."

It was a lesson Pierson learned the hard way. Against the better judgment of his son, Wyatt, Pierson decided to screen "Apocalypse Now Redux." It put the people who didn't leave the theater to sleep.

Documentary filmmaker Steve James, best known for "Hoop Dreams," arrived for the last month of the Piersons' stay. He captured family spats and the Piersons' clashes with island culture as the elder Pierson promoted a "10 movies in 10 days" marathon. He also documents John Pierson coming down with dengue fever and the second burglary of the family's plantation home, with nearly \$10,000 worth of electronics stolen.

While the natural beauty and friendliness of the natives amazed the Piersons, their lifestyle was a far cry from home in Garrison, N.Y. Wyatt and Georgia attended a Catholic school in Taveuni

with all-native classmates and in one interview, Wyatt told of his struggle to find how best to transport a cane knife on the bus for his agriculture class.

"I didn't know how to fit it in my backpack without cutting up all my notebooks," he said.

For James, who spent years collecting footage for "Hoop Dreams," filming the Piersons for

only a month was a challenge. He felt free to portray the family, though, and shows blowout arguments about curfews and sex, hiccups and even clashes with their Australian landlord.

"They're a combative bunch," James said. "Everyone gets their two cents in, and I like that."

James worked with three crew members and only one camera to capture each member of the Pierson family as well as the Fijians, shooting nearly every day for 14 hours. In one scene, Janet is captivated by watching the women grill fish and chicken over open fires, and some men gathered nearby are speaking excitedly.

Back in the studio with the audio translated, James, who thought he had been eavesdropping on a slice of island life, was disappointed to learn that the men had been telling jokes, some obscene, and making fun of James and his crew.

Although the Piersons met resistance from Catholic priests on the island who accused them of ruining attempts to instill individualism and discourage handouts among the Fijians, the family hopes to return soon. They are battling around the idea of a "filmmaker timeshare," in which filmmakers would take turns showing films in the theater during the summer.

For cinephiles like John and Janet Pierson, and James, the surround-sound experience of Fijians utterly lost and enveloped in the movie experience has been unmatched.

"It's like a drug," James said. "It doesn't matter as much what you're watching, it's just the experience of watching it there. You really feel like you're closest to the experience of audiences a long time ago, who would watch a train come into the station on the screen and duck to get out of the way."

**"It seems like these movies are commercial fodder and beneath you, but if you saw them with that audience at the Meridian it would change your mind."**

John Pierson  
Independent Film Producer

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**THE NUART THEATER**

What does the Nuart look like?  
On the inside it is newly decorated. The ticket booth is gone. The foyer, the lobby and the vegan store (at one time Clarence's barber shop) are all one room. It is beautiful, with new tables and chairs, a couch and soft, relaxing armchairs. The ceiling is recessed. The auditorium is now lighted. It has a new stage, stage lights and sound system.

What happens at the Nuart?  
The Nuart coffee house has a stage, with musicians performing live several nights a week, and free movies showing every Friday night. It has an espresso bar. It has wireless internet service (bring your laptop). It has a bookstore with several hundred hand-picked, life-changing books; we will also special order books that are not in stock. It is a place to study, hang out, play chess or do nothing.

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- Lionel Hampton Music School jazz group performs Wednesday nights
- Campus Crusade for Christ Prime Time on Thursdays
- Free movies and free popcorn on Friday nights
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- The International Church meets at the Nuart at 10:30 Sunday mornings

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**ArtsBRIEFS**

**Architecture projects displayed**

A gallery exhibition of Italian architecture projects, photographs and sketches by students who attended the 2005 Italian Summer Program from the UI Department of Architecture will have a formal opening from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Ridenbaugh Hall. A slideshow promoting next year's program will follow at 7 p.m.

Students spent three weeks of an eight week trip traveling through Central and Northern Italy, and the Ticino region of Switzerland, while spending five weeks of design studio in Andrea Palladio's hometown of Vicenza.

From this experience emerged over thirty projects, which will be displayed in the gallery on Wednesday evening.

For further information contact Dr. Michael Jones at michaelajones60@aol.com or professor Phillip Mead at pmead@uidaho.edu.

**Beegel discusses Hemingway**

Susan Beegel, an affiliate faculty member at UI and editor of The Hemingway Review, recently served as a scholar/consultant for the American Masters documentary, "Ernest Hemingway: Rivers to the Sea," which will air Sept. 14 on PBS.

She also will participate in an online discussion sponsored by The Washington Post Sept. 15.

Individuals wanting to participate in The Washington Post chat should go to www.washingtonpost.com on Sept. 15. Scroll down to the "Live Online" section. The chat is scheduled from 10-11 a.m.

Beegel will be joined by Valerie Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's daughter-in-law, who wrote "Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways."

The Hemingway Review, a scholarly journal, is published twice a year by the UI English department and the Hemingway Society. This year

marks the journal's 25th anniversary. Beegel has edited the journal since 1992. More information about the journal is available online at [http://www.hemingway-society.org/hemingway\\_review.htm](http://www.hemingway-society.org/hemingway_review.htm).

lets, by phone at (800) 325-SEAT or online at [www.beasley.edu](http://www.beasley.edu).

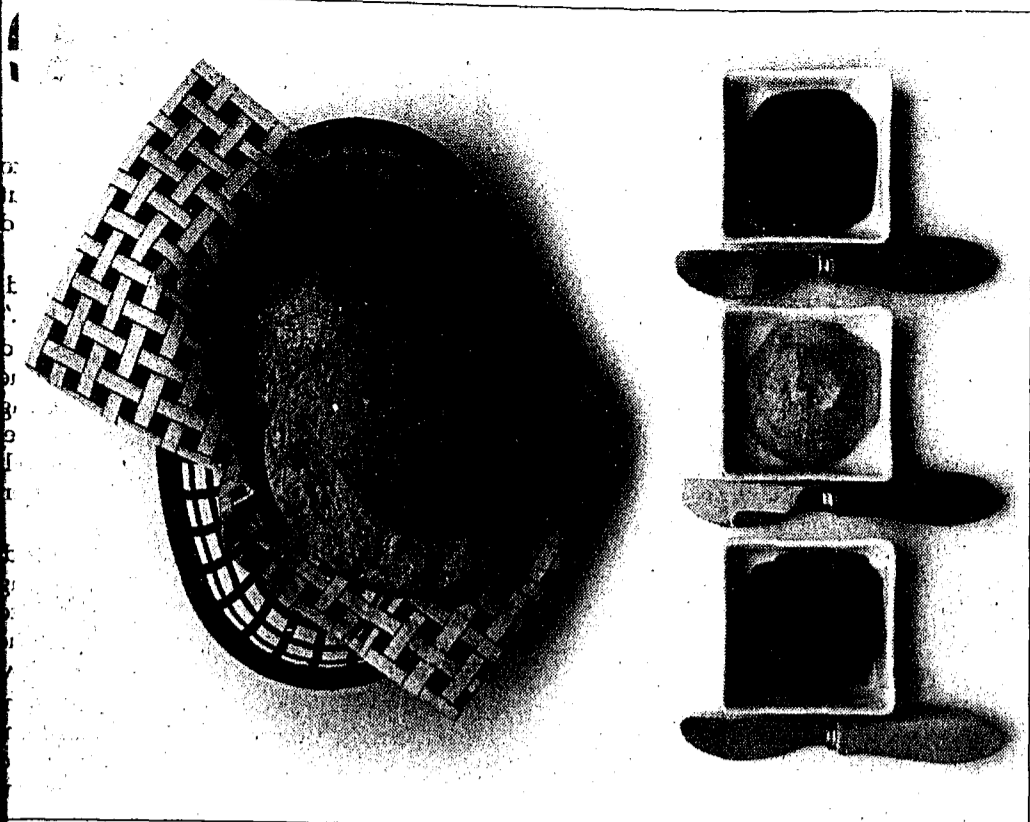
**Youth choir auditions scheduled**

Moscow Arts Commission Youth Choir auditions will be held Sept. 19 and 20 in the Lena Whitmore Elementary School music room.

The 10-minute auditions will begin at 3:10 p.m. both days. New and returning students should call MAC at 883-7036 to schedule an appointment. No auditions will be held during school hours, and no preparation is required.

The choir is open to third-through sixth-graders. Public, private and home-schooled students are accepted. The fee for the choir is \$52 for the semester or \$32 for students on the reduced hot lunch program and is due at auditions unless prior arrangements are made.

Choir rehearsals will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m. every Monday and Thursday beginning Sept. 22 at Lena Whitmore.



Courtesy photo/The Washington Post

Here are some uncommon hamburger condiments, and a plastic burger basket to hold it all. For details, including where to buy, see accompanying story.

**The 'In' Burger: Toppings go right into the meat**

By Stephanie Witt Sedgwick  
Special to The Washington Post

Meet the latest burger. It's cast away the layers of condiments, the mountain of add-ons that turned the basic burger into a tower of toppings. Burgers have a new mantra: Stop piling it on and start mixing it in.

Instead of putting cheese, bacon and mushrooms — and don't forget all the sauces on top, burgers now are getting seasoned from the inside out. The bacon cheddar burger is a melt-in-your-mouth combination of ground beef, grated cheese, diced smoky bacon and golden onions, perfectly proportioned and mixed together. Other pairings might include Swiss-mushroom burger that bypasses the bacon alto-

gether or a spicy jalapeño-laced turkey burger. "People were getting tired of the plain old hamburger," explains Theo Weening, meat coordinator for Whole Foods Markets. So last year, Whole Foods rolled out a line of burgers ranging from the bacon and blue to veal Florentine with the flavors stuffed inside.

When Balducci's started polling customers about what they wanted to see in the meat counters, burgers topped the list, according to Kevin McDade, the retailer's meat and poultry merchant. The decision to introduce the seasoned, ready-to-cook burgers in the stores this summer was based on customer feedback. "We tested the burgers in the Bethesda (Md.) store and got a good response, so we brought in a bunch of flavors," McDade says.

The store-bought burgers offer convenience, but there's no reason not to create them in your own kitchens. Anybody looking for a lot of flavor without too much fuss can easily whip up these burgers at home.

The add-ons are diced, sometimes cooked and then mixed right into the ground meat of choice. In fact, you can mix in many of the ingredients you probably had ready to pile on top of the burger. The whole process takes only a few minutes. Even when the ingredients are cooked before being added to the meat, the burgers can be thrown together in less than 15 minutes.

Stephanie Witt Sedgwick, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, likes to grind her own meat for burgers.

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## Outdoor Program floats into fall

By Mackenzie Stone  
Argonaut

Despite increasing gas prices and student fees, the University of Idaho Outdoor Program is offering low-cost trips for students, from rafting to climbing the second-highest mountain in the Northwest.

The Outdoor Program began its fall schedule with a rafting and kayaking trip last weekend on the Lower Salmon Gorge, starting near Cottonwood and ending in Lewiston.

"The cost for an outfitter to put something together like this would cost over a \$1,000," UI graduate student Michael Zobott said.

The weekend trip was led by Outdoor Program coordinator Mike Beiser and consisted of a two-night stay, camping on the water. Six kayakers joined 13 other people to float the 80-mile stretch for \$50, including transportation.

"On the trip they went for 60 miles on the Salmon and ... about 20 miles on the Snake River," Zobott said.

The Outdoor Program also led a Salmon River paddle raft trip on Saturday for students interested in day trips.

For students interested in outdoor activities such as kayaking and mountaineering, the Outdoor Program offers introductory classes and instructional trips prior to larger, more difficult outings. The program will host an introduction to kayaking class at 7 p.m. today and Sept. 21 in the UI pool. There will be two instructional kayaking trips prior to weekend kayaking trips in October.

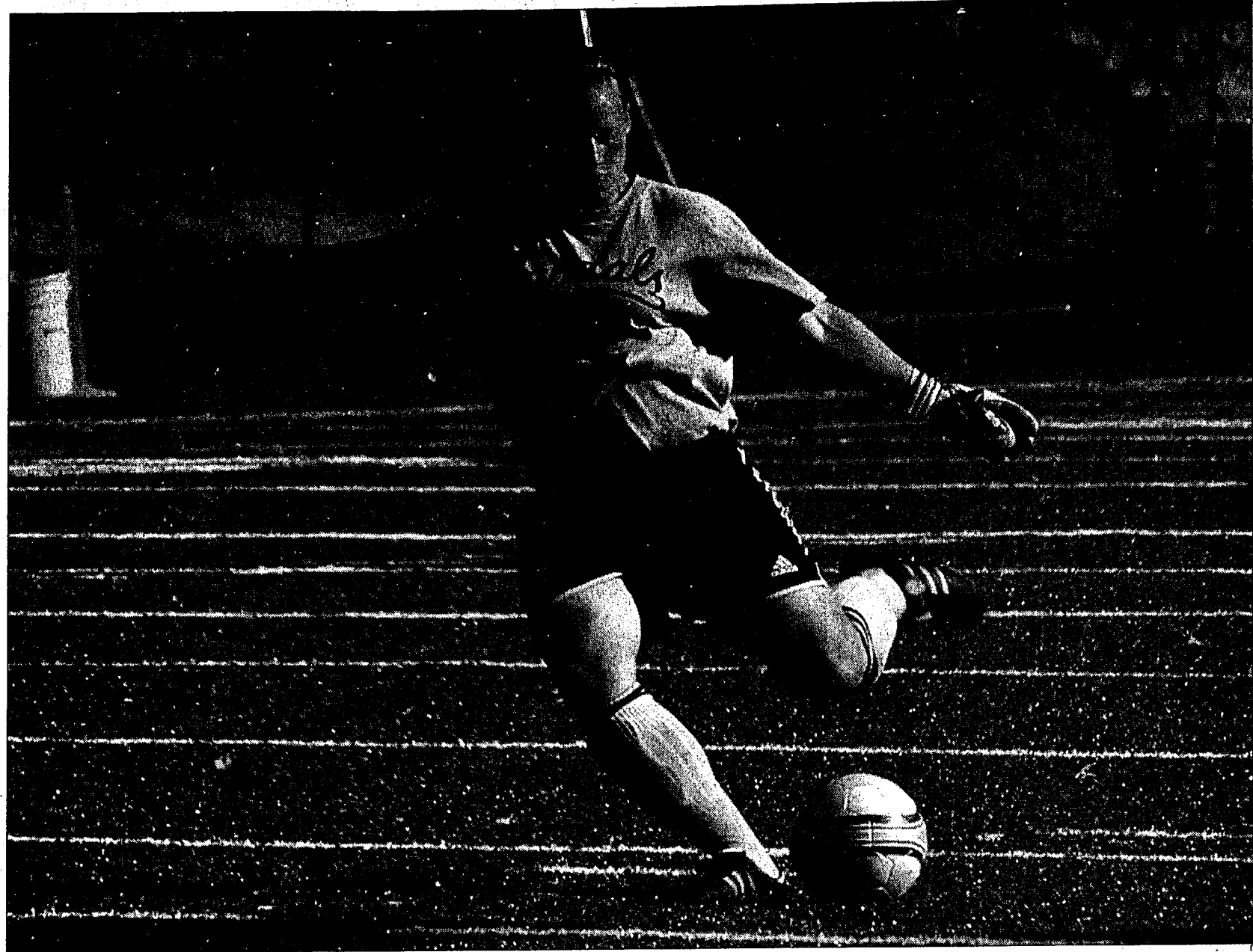
The Outdoor Program also is offering rock climbing classes and an avalanche workshop this semester for students interested in mountaineering. It is holding its pre-trip meeting at 5 p.m. today for an introduction to mountaineering class Sept. 9-11 at Kokanee Glacier in Canada.

"They will be there for two days with all hands-on training for skills and teaching on ice," Zobott said. "There is still space for the trip, so if anyone wants they can go to the pre-trip meeting and sign up for the trip."

The trip will provide an opportunity for students to obtain mountaineering experience and knowledge for trips later in the semester such as the Mount Adams summit climb Sept. 23-25.

Mount Adams is a 12,281-foot stratovolcano in Washington; therefore, previous experience in mountaineering is required. The trip will cost \$65 for students, including transportation and peak fee.

For more information, contact the Outdoor Program in the Student Recreation Center.



Senior Lindsay Smith practices Wednesday afternoon at the Kibbie Dome. Smith is goal-keeper for the Vandals.

Melissa Davlin/Argonaut

## Soccer team wins one, drops one on the road

By Justin Royster  
Argonaut

It was one step forward and one step back for the University of Idaho women's soccer team on the road last weekend. The trip produced the team's first win of the 2005 season against Portland State, and a crushing loss courtesy of undefeated and 22nd-ranked Utah State.

The first game, on Friday at Portland State, was inconsistent with both teams' usual style of play. Idaho coach Pete Showler said it took some adjusting to maintain the offense and defense.

"It was a very scrappy game and not the prettiest at times, but the result is all that matters," he said. "I would rather not play up to our potential and win than play our best and lose. I am very pleased with the win, and because it came against my old team makes it all the sweeter."

Junior Eija Hodgkin scored the only goal of the game off an assist from junior Morgan Bunday. The goal was the first in Hodgkin's career, as well as Bunday's first assist.

However, Portland State, last year's Big Sky conference champion put up a good fight, ending the game leading in shots and disappointing the team's breakout attempts failed to convert to points.

"It was nice to get a win against Portland State early on in the season, nice to see we can play better and win as a team," Hodgkin said.

Standout goalkeeper Lindsay Smith also managed the third shutout of her career, stopping four balls.

"As a team we really battled and the defense pushed forward to shorten the field. Lindsay played another great game in goal for us," Showler said.

However, the team had trouble

getting the job done Sunday in Salt Lake City.

"We will never face a team this quick and technically skilled again," Showler said. "They were a very big, physical team and there is no doubt they are a top-25 team in the nation. They used their speed and really got us back on our heels."

The Utes dominated the first half, scoring three goals, and ended the half leading in shots. Senior Adriane Kehl headed in Idaho's one goal off a pass by Hodgkin shortly before halftime.

The Vandals varied their defense after halftime, which seemed to slow the Utes down, although they were able to tack on one more goal in the second half, ending the game 4-1.

"We came out in a different formation in the second half and felt we matched them play-for-play," Showler said. "We worked hard to

get at them and battled hard and I was glad we were able to give them more of a game in that second half. I am happy with the way this team is playing at different points in the game, we just need to string it together for 90 minutes."

The Vandals will face another undefeated team, Northern Colorado, at 3 p.m. Friday at Guy Wicks Field. The team is confident it will be able to overcome tough games, but also is realistic as to the steps needed for improvement.

"The girls have got to learn from the loss and how effective we played in the second half. Right now, though, we can't come out against unbeaten sides, go down a goal or two and expect to come back," Showler said.

Following the Northern Colorado game Friday, the team hits the road to take on Idaho State at noon Sunday.

### SportsCALENDAR

#### Today

Intramural soccer begins

Intramural co-rec softball tournament entries due

UI Outdoor Program pre-trip meeting (Kokanee Glacier, Canada) 5 p.m.

Outdoor Program office

UI Outdoor Program introduction to kayaking 7 p.m.  
UI pool

#### Thursday

Intramural Frisbee golf entries due

#### Friday

UI volleyball vs. Buffalo Pullman

UI soccer vs. Northern Colorado Moscow

Intramural golf tournament entries due

Intramural golf skills challenge entries due

UI Outdoor Program introduction to mountaineering class Kokanee Glacier, Canada

#### Saturday

UI volleyball vs. Oral Roberts Pullman

UI volleyball at Washington State Pullman

UI football at UNLV Las Vegas

Intramural co-rec softball tournament

#### Sunday

UI soccer at Idaho State Pocatello

Intramural Frisbee golf tournament

#### Monday

UI golf at Oregon State University Invitational Corvallis, Ore.

### SportsBRIEFS

#### Volleyball fares 2-1 in weekend tournament

The UI women's volleyball team kicked off the Loyola Marymount Four Points Sheraton Classic in Los Angeles with a 3-0 win over Coastal Carolina Friday night. The Vandals (3-1) defeated the Lady Chanticleers (1-1) 30-26, 31-29, and 30-26.

Despite the sweep, the Vandals won by only a combined 10 points and were outdug 53-48. The two teams were close in hitting percentage, and Idaho's saving grace came from the service line, where they had eight aces to Coastal Carolina's two.

"We played a really ugly match and it was not up to our level," coach Debbie Buchanan said. "We expected to win and played with maturity in that regard, but we need to play up to our level and with more focus on our own game. We definitely need to make things better going into tomorrow's match against a tougher opponent."

Kati Tikker paced the Vandal squad with a team-high 13 kills, while Meghan Brown held the team's highest hitting percentage with nine kills and one error on 20 attempts (.400) and added three aces. Saxony Brown also had 34 assists and two aces.

The Vandals defeated Northeastern during the second day of the tournament in three straight games, 30-21, 30-18 and 30-27.

"We played a great match until the very end when we missed too many serves," head coach Debbie Buchanan said.

The Vandals recorded a .405 hitting percentage in the first game, then outdug the Huskies .433 to .077 in the second game to take a two-game lead. Northeastern kept things close in the third game, but the

Vandals were too much as they rallied for the 30-27 win and the match.

"We played really composed and met all of our goals," Buchanan said. "We played with a lot of focus."

Freshman Haley Larsen led the Vandals with 13 kills on .370 hitting percentage. Erin Curtis and Megan Brown chipped in 10 and nine kills, respectively. Stacy Sode led the Idaho defense with 13 digs, while Saxony Brown recorded a double-double with 39 assists and 10 digs.

Overall, the Vandals outdug and outdug the Huskies .352 to .113 and 52 to 34. Both teams recorded five blocks.

However, the Vandals had a turn of bad luck against the Loyola Marymount Lions Saturday evening to take the LMU Four Points Classic title in four games. Game scores were 20-30, 30-28, 26-30 and 22-30.

"We didn't compete to our level and at times we were flat," Buchanan said. "At times we turned it on and at times we didn't."

The Lions held the Vandals to just a .091 team hitting percentage to win game one 30-20. Idaho used a seven-point streak late in game two to come from behind and steal the 30-28 contest. With the match tied at one game apiece, the Lions rallied to win the final two games. LMU finished the match outdugging the Vandals 82 to 64.

"We need to be more consistent," Buchanan said. "We still haven't figured out a set lineup yet and our kids really need to play at a higher level."

Kati Tikker led Idaho with 14 kills on the night. Meghan Brown chipped in 13 kills and 13 digs, while Erin Curtis added nine kills on .304 hitting percentage. Saxony Brown recorded another double-double with 46 assists and 12 digs.

Curtis and Saxony Brown were named to the All-Tournament team after leading the Vandals to a 2-1 mark.

"We played in spurts tonight and we need to play at a higher level," Buchanan said. "We need to play well for a whole match and fight when we are ahead."

The Vandals (4-2) will be at the Cougar Invitational Friday and Saturday at Pullman Wash.

#### UI cross country does well at Vandal Twilight Jamboree

A young UI men's cross country team fared well by placing four runners in the top 20 at the Vandal Twilight Jamboree Friday at the UI Golf Course.

In the multiple duel-scored meet, the Vandal men defeated Gonzaga 26-31, but fell to Washington State University 36-19.

Dale Engler was the top finisher for the Vandals in the four-mile run, finishing seventh with a time of 20:45.08, followed by freshman Kevin Friesen in eighth (20:51.65).

Also finishing in the top 20 were Derek Laughlin in 14th place (21:18.37) and Kevin Potter in 19th place (21:44.93).

"I'm very excited about the men," coach Wayne Phipps said. "We're such a young group, but we're a lot deeper than we've ever been before."

For the Vandal women, only three runners participated in the Jamboree.

Bevin Kennelly finished seventh in the 4k run with a time of 15:11.46, followed by freshman Allix Lee-Painter (15:32.11). Melinda Ouwerkerk finished in 17th place (16:50.34).

"Allix Lee-Painter ran very well for us," Phipps said. "I think her performance was the highlight of our team."

Idaho hosted the Jamboree for Gonzaga University, Washington State and Clackamas Community College.

# 20-year-old wins, gives money away

By Shav Glick  
Los Angeles Times

A couple of years ago, when Kurt Busch burst onto the NASCAR scene and started winning races, the folks back in Las Vegas smiled and told anyone who would listen, "If you think Kurt is good, just wait until you see his kid brother Kyle."

They saw The Kid Sunday. In front of a packed California Speedway and a national TV audience, little brother Kyle — barely 20 — became the youngest winner in NASCAR history, impressively holding off Greg Biffle, Brian Wickers and pole-sitter Carl Edwards in a two-lap shootout after a late accident brought out a yellow flag.

"Just incredible, just incredible," said an emotional Busch as his blue and yellow clad

Kellogg's Chevrolet crew enveloped him on the track, followed by car owner Ray Hendrick and big brother Kurt, who finished 12th.

Then he donated his winner's purse of \$241,065 to the Hurricane Katrina relief fund.

"For how much joy we're able to share here, I still want to dedicate it to all those guys down there in Louisiana and Mississippi," he said, then turned to Hendrick and said, "We're going to donate your share and my share to them down there."

Busch became NASCAR's youngest winner by four days. He is 20 years, 4 months, 2 days old. The previous youngest was Donald Thomas, who was 20 years, 4 months, 6 days when he won at Atlanta in 1951.

In a race dominated earlier by "Chase for the

Championship" talk, the dramatic rush of the younger Busch from 25th starting position to take the lead in 82 laps overshadowed a confusing day-into-night of racing.

"My nerves were on edge when I made my last pit stop," said Kyle. "I didn't know what the other guys would do, but when I looked in my mirrors and saw them coming in with me, I thought, 'Hey, that's good.'"

Busch, who led a race leading 95 laps, led the final 11 laps but had to live through three caution periods. The last involved an accident on the backstretch involving Scott Riggs, Scott Wimmer and Jeff Burton that forced race officials to call for a green-white-checked two lap shootout.

"Kyle got a great restart there," said Biffle, who won

at Fontana in February but could not catch Busch. "Congratulations to him and that whole Hendrick team."

California Speedway has been good to Busch family in the past, even counting the day in 2001 when Kyle was the fastest qualifier for a Craftsman Truck race only to be not allowed to race because he was under age.

"That was a sad night for the Busch family, but in the end it turned out fine because it was that night that I became associated with Ray Hendrick. Kyle also won the pole for the Auto Club 500 in February. Kurt Busch also won the 2003 Auto Club 500.

"Beating Biffle, it was kind of like my first win in the Busch series. He was hunting down my rear spoiler then, too. To be able to beat all 42 Nextel Cup competitors out

here it's just amazing."

After 3 hours 43 minutes of action that saw 30 lead changes among 12 drivers, Mark Martin clinched a spot in the Chase, Jamie McMurray and Matt Kenseth moved into the top 10, Ryan Newman is one point back of 10th and Jeff Gordon fell from 10th to 12th and is in danger of missing out.

Only one race remains, Saturday night's Chevy Rock and Roll 400 at Richmond, Va., before the 10-race Chase shootout.

Four-time champion Gordon was running as high as 10th after 200 laps, but faded to 21st and is now 30 points out of 10th place.

"It was a hell of a night," said Gordon. "We're definitely the ones that are behind. I thought we had a great car here, then things went back-

ward. That shows how much I know."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. had an engine blow that blew away his last fading hope of running for the championship. Junior finished 38th.

"Our car was horrible," said Earnhardt. "I'm glad it's over with and I'm ready to go to Richmond. The engine ran like crap. It was all over for me for at least 80 laps. The motor just blew up. If it hadn't blown up it would have gone to hell."

Edwards, who won the pole Saturday before winning a

Busch series race, led 21 laps early in the race before a blown tire sent into a double spin and back to 33rd place before he worked his Roush Ford back to fourth place.

The comeback put Edwards into position for a berth in the Chase if he finishes 19th or better at Richmond.

# Sports salaries may be spiraling into control

By Childs Walker  
The Baltimore Sun

Players ruled the business of sports through most of the 1990s and early 2000s.

In baseball, not even a canceled World Series could force the players union to accept a salary cap. Then, Alex Rodriguez became the \$252 million man.

In basketball, stars signed some of the biggest contracts in sports history, with rookies becoming multimillionaires before ever taking a dribble.

In hockey, the average player's salary more than tripled between 1995 and 2004, even as the league's franchises reported hundreds of millions in annual losses.

But such wild and woolly days may be passing.

In baseball, no free agent has approached A-Rod dollars in the past two off-seasons. The union made modest concessions on revenue sharing and luxury tax in 2001 and earlier this year, reopened its contract negotiations a steroid-testing policy demanded by Commissioner Bud Selig.

In the NBA, players have accepted a strict and detailed salary structure.

And in the NHL, players had to give back money they had already been promised just so they'd be allowed to return to work.

Might an era of greater management control be dawning?

Not necessarily, say sports labor experts, who argue that the major sports must be examined case by case and that any seeming trends are coincidental.

"I think what really drives it is the economics of the individual sport," said Matt Mitten, head of Marquette University's sports law institute.

Fan demand establishes how big a revenue pie each sport gets, Mitten said, and labor negotiations represent a battle over that pie by the play-

ers, who monopolize a special skill, and the owners, who monopolize the businesses and venues that allow the skill to be sold.

"It's hard to generalize, but my sense is that neither side is getting what they want, but both are getting what they need," he said.

When asked whether sports unions are on the run, New York labor attorney Jeffrey Kessler said, "I think that's unique to the National Hockey League and that, in fact, the reverse is true in other leagues."

Baseball and basketball players have never done better, said Kessler, who has worked with the NBA and NFL unions.

"I don't think one sport has a tremendous influence on another," he said. "The economics and the deals in each league are just so different that each sort of stands on its own."

Rodney Fort, a Washington State professor who studies sports business, agreed.

"All in all, it appears to me that very little has changed between the owners and players, except that the owners finally, at least, had a successful trip to the plate in 2001," he said of the baseball agreement. "Prior to that, their batting average was zero against the players."

Other observers said owners seem to have done better in recent negotiations but said it's hard to know why.

"I think you'd have to say the needle has shifted toward the owners, on balance," said Raymond Sauer, an economics professor at Clemson. But when asked to identify a broad trend behind recent negotiations, Sauer said he couldn't.

"We just don't have any

models that say, 'This is what the outcome's going to be,'" he said.

Economists said national trends run against unions, because most workers can earn acceptable wages without collective bargaining and because workplace conditions are generally safe and humane.

But it's hard to equate labor disputes in sports with airline strikes or layoffs in the auto industry. Sports stars have greater public profiles and are perceived to have rare abilities. So they have leverage not available to everyday workers. Owners, meanwhile, hold true monopolies, meaning players essentially have to bargain with them.

The baseball union is considered the gold standard, having trail-blazed the path to free agency in all sports and having held together through two substantial work stoppages.

"Every time they've been to court, they've won, and then they don't give it up," said Steven Zucker, a Chicago-based agent who teaches a class in labor relations at Northwestern. "They have a history behind them, and I think that's why they always come out ahead."

Fort said the union's "dominance softened a bit in 2001" but reminded that its modest concessions came in the face of contraction threats from management and of national depression over the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some also saw the union's willingness to reopen its contract for steroid negotiations as a sign of weakness.

But others said congressional scrutiny made drug testing a unique issue.

"Do I think it's a tremen-

dous sign of weakness? No," Kessler said. "The reality is that pressure from Congress made both sides believe that if they didn't do something, Congress would do it for them."

Kessler and others predicted that the union would stand as strong as ever if the owners push for a salary cap during the next round of negotiations (the current four-year deal runs through next season).

The NBA is also known as a players' league, with the highest average salary among the major sports and a marketing plan built around individual stars. But with David Stern — widely considered the most powerful commissioner in sports — sitting across the negotiating table, players have hardly ruled in labor negotiations.

The NBA owners won their biggest victories in 1998 after a seven-month lockout. Players gave in to a salary cap and limits on individual contracts (albeit at levels where stars make at least \$12 million a season).

A new six-year deal, completed earlier this year, was more of a mixed bag. Players got a greater guaranteed share of league revenue, but owners gained concessions on issues like drug testing, a 19-year-old age limit and maximum annual raises.

Labor experts say the owners have given players a large share of the revenue pie in

exchange for the greater cost certainly afforded by a salary cap and limits on individual contracts. Both sides seem content with the arrangement.

"I'd call it a 50-50 deal," said Stern, sitting next to nodding union head Billy Hunter at a news conference announcing the agreement. "The essential economics stay the same."

No such equanimity exists in hockey, where most observers say players were foolhardy to assume anyone would care about their stand against management's restructuring of the sport's economics.

The owners, led by Stern protege Gary Bettman, stuck together on the notion that they would all lose money in perpetuity if the sport's finances were not restructured.

In the end, players abandoned the hard-line stance advocated by union chief Bob Goodenow and signed a deal worse than the one they left on the table before the 301-day lockout. With salary rollbacks, a hard salary cap and limits on salaries for individual stars, the settlement struck many as a

setback for a major sports union.

Economists say the NHL's overall revenue struggles led to the dramatic showdown. The NFL, by contrast, is the country's most popular league, and many say labor peace (no work stoppages since 1987) is one reason.

But the NFL and its players union are negotiating a new

collective bargaining agreement (though the current deal doesn't expire until 2008) and, by some accounts, the players are taking a more aggressive stance than in years past as the union seeks a larger share of the league's rapidly growing revenue pie.

The NFL is the one league in which owners have traditionally held the upper hand, with revenue sharing creating a parity that's the envy of other pro sports.

The players won free agency in the 1990s but accepted a salary cap in exchange and have failed to make guaranteed contracts a routine part of NFL business. That means players must rely on signing bonuses for financial security in a sport in which contracts are routinely torn up due to injury.

In recent months, agent Drew Rosenhaus has raised a stink about the absence of guaranteed money, but union officials say they prefer the current structure because if contracts were guaranteed, risk-averse teams would offer one-year deals to the vast majority of players.

At least with multi-year signing bonuses, the union argues, players get substantial chunks of cash in hand.

Though some reports have suggested a deal could come in the next month, the owners canceled a meeting next week because of a lack of progress in labor negotiations.

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# Jerry Rice retires, takes records with him

By Sam Farmer  
Los Angeles Times

The sum of Jerry Rice's impact wasn't only evident on the field.

In the wake of the star receiver's retirement Monday, a former San Francisco 49er teammate recalled his influence in a locker-room moment, how Rice — some say the greatest player in NFL history — made a huge difference even before he set foot on the field for Super Bowl XXIX, the most recent of the franchise's five Super Bowl victories.

"It sends a chill down my spine just thinking about it," said former 49er linebacker Gary Plummer, recounting how he and teammate Rickey Jackson, both experienced veterans, were as jittery as rookies before that championship game against the San Diego Chargers.

They were nervous, that is, until Rice walked over and guaranteed they'd come away with their first championship rings.

"The moment he said what he said the feeling of confidence was back," Plummer said. "The borderline arrogance — no, the over-the-top arrogance — was back. At that point, if I could have bet on the game, I'd have put down \$1 million that we were going to win."

The 49ers did win, getting three touchdowns from Rice in a 49-26 rout. During that January 1995 game, he set Super Bowl career records for receptions, yards receiving and touchdowns. And he wasn't finished. He played for more than a decade longer — 20 seasons in all — before walking away at age 42 as the owner of 38 NFL records, including those for career receptions, 1,549; yards receiving,

22,895; and touchdowns receiving, 197.

In 1997, Rice missed 14 of 16 games because of a severe knee injury, one that many people thought might end his reign. But after that he put up a second career's worth of numbers: 492 catches for 6,440 yards with 42 touchdowns.

In the final act of his career, Rice turned down the role of bit player with the Denver Broncos. He made his decision over the weekend in San Francisco, then returned to Bronco headquarters and informed Coach Mike Shanahan.

"This is a happy day," an emotional Rice said Monday. "I think the tears that you see basically is that I have really enjoyed this ride."

Released by Seattle after last season, Rice signed with Denver over the summer and was reunited with Shanahan, a former offensive coordinator

in San Francisco. Early in training camp, Rice was the third receiver and it looked as if he might make a substantial contribution this season. But it turned out that was more a reflection of a slow start by Darius Watts, who moved into that spot as his play improved over the course of camp. Rice slipped down the depth chart, and it became evident his career was drawing to a close. He finished the summer with four catches for 24 yards in four exhibition games.

Rice said he takes the greatest pride not in what he accomplished on the field, but in how he played the game.

"I play the game with a lot of determination, a lot of poise, a lot of pride," he said. "I think what you saw on the field was an individual who really loved the game and I was just like a little kid. I enjoyed the preparation and the hard work and the dedica-

tion that I had to make to try to be one of the best receivers to have ever played the game."

Although he reached the Super Bowl with the Raiders in the 2002 season, Rice's glory years came with the 49ers where he and Joe Montana were the two most recognizable symbols of one of the most successful franchises in sports. While with San Francisco, he was elected to the Pro Bowl 12 times and won Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and league MVP honors. When he was the No. 1 target, the 49ers won three Super Bowls and reached the playoffs 13 times.

In a news conference Monday, Shanahan remembered running into Rice at 49er headquarters after the receiver had finished one of his notoriously grueling off-season workouts.

"I asked him, 'Jerry, what

are you doing?' " Shanahan said. "He's all, 'I'm looking at film.' I asked, 'Who are you studying?' He said, 'I'm looking at the top 10 receivers in the AFC and the top 10 receivers in the NFC. I don't want any of these young guys ever to catch me.'"

"Not very many people who hold all the records give that type of commitment in the off-season. That's why in my opinion he's the greatest player to ever play the game."

Rice said he's ready to move on and spend more time with his family.

"My son, he's playing football for the first time this year," he said. "He's a freshman. My daughter just told me walking downstairs, 'Well Dad, you know what? You can come to my volleyball games now.' I had my oldest going off to college."

"Now I can move on and go to another place in my life."

# Saints offer solace to Hurricane Katrina victims

By Mark Maske  
The Washington Post

As a caravan carrying New Orleans Saints players and front-office employees neared a shelter for Hurricane Katrina evacuees, they spotted an elderly man wearing a white Saints T-shirt and thought they'd found a devoted fan among the displaced people they were about to visit.

As it turned out, they'd found much more.

The Saints delegation soon learned the man was Lester Vallet Sr., a former longtime employee whose son still works for the team. Vallet had been transported to the shelter after leaving his flooded home in New Orleans, and he hadn't been able to get in touch with his wife, Carolyn, since rescue workers took her from the

house last week.

"She sent me to look for her sister," Vallet said at the Kelly USA industrial park (formerly Kelly Air Force Base) where refugees are being housed in two buildings. "She stayed home. When I got back, they'd rescued her. There was a note on the door. They said they'd be back for me. But they didn't come for me for two more days, and I haven't been able to find her."

Vallet, who turns 83 next month, said he worked as the Saints grounds superintendent for 30 years. He is the father of Lester Vallet Jr., who is the team's assistant facilities manager.

"I'm speechless that we found him," Saints General Manager Mickey Loomis said.

Vallet said he thinks his wife was taken to the Superdome in New Orleans and then to the

Astrodome in Houston. Saints officials planned to take Vallet back to their hotel Sunday after their visit.

Vallet said his house in New Orleans has about two feet of water in it, and his two cars are underwater. He arrived at the San Antonio shelter Friday.

"They're doing a pretty good job, the best they can," Vallet said.

"You've got about 2,000 or 3,000 people in there. They're not serving any hot food, but cereal and milk. There's water. People are happy just to be alive and just to be able to have a place to sleep and a place to get food and water."

According to Randy Jenkins, public information

officer for the San Antonio Fire Department, there are about 10,000 Katrina evacuees at four facilities in San Antonio, including a Levi Strauss factory and a mall department store. About 4,500 of those evacuees are at Kelly USA, Jenkins said.

Seven Saints players visited the shelter, and the team plans to make other visits.

"It's heart-wrenching," linebacker T.J. Slaughter said. "I was happy that we were able to come down here. It's crazy for these people, that one day you have a roof over your head and the next day you don't have anything. Seeing it up close now, seeing these kids and seeing people with no clothes, it tears

you up."

Two huge rooms inside the building the Saints visited contained cots lined up virtually wall-to-wall. Large fans helped people endure the heat. There was a television set on a table, and food and water were being handed out. People gathered in one corner, singing gospel music. In the other room, there were phones evacuees could use for free calls.

The players were greeted warmly as they made their way from cot to cot, talking to people, exchanging hugs and holding babies. One young man tried to convince Loomis to sign him to a contract.

"I'm excited they're here," Linda Thompson, a New Orleans woman staying in the shelter, said after meeting tackle Wayne Gandy. "They're helping a whole lot by being here. We need them to win. We

need them to give us a lift and get the city back on its feet."

The team is preparing here for its regular season opener next Sunday at Carolina.

Loomis said the Saints plan to remain in San Antonio all season and want to play their final seven home games in Baton Rouge, La.

The NFL announced Friday that the club's Week 2 home opener against the New York Giants would be at Giants Stadium, and Saints Coach Jim Haslett said commissioner Paul Tagliabue put the team "behind the eight ball playing the first game on the road" instead of in San Antonio or Baton Rouge.

But Loomis and Haslett were quick to add they weren't complaining about their circumstances after seeing firsthand the predicaments of the hurricane and flood victims.

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