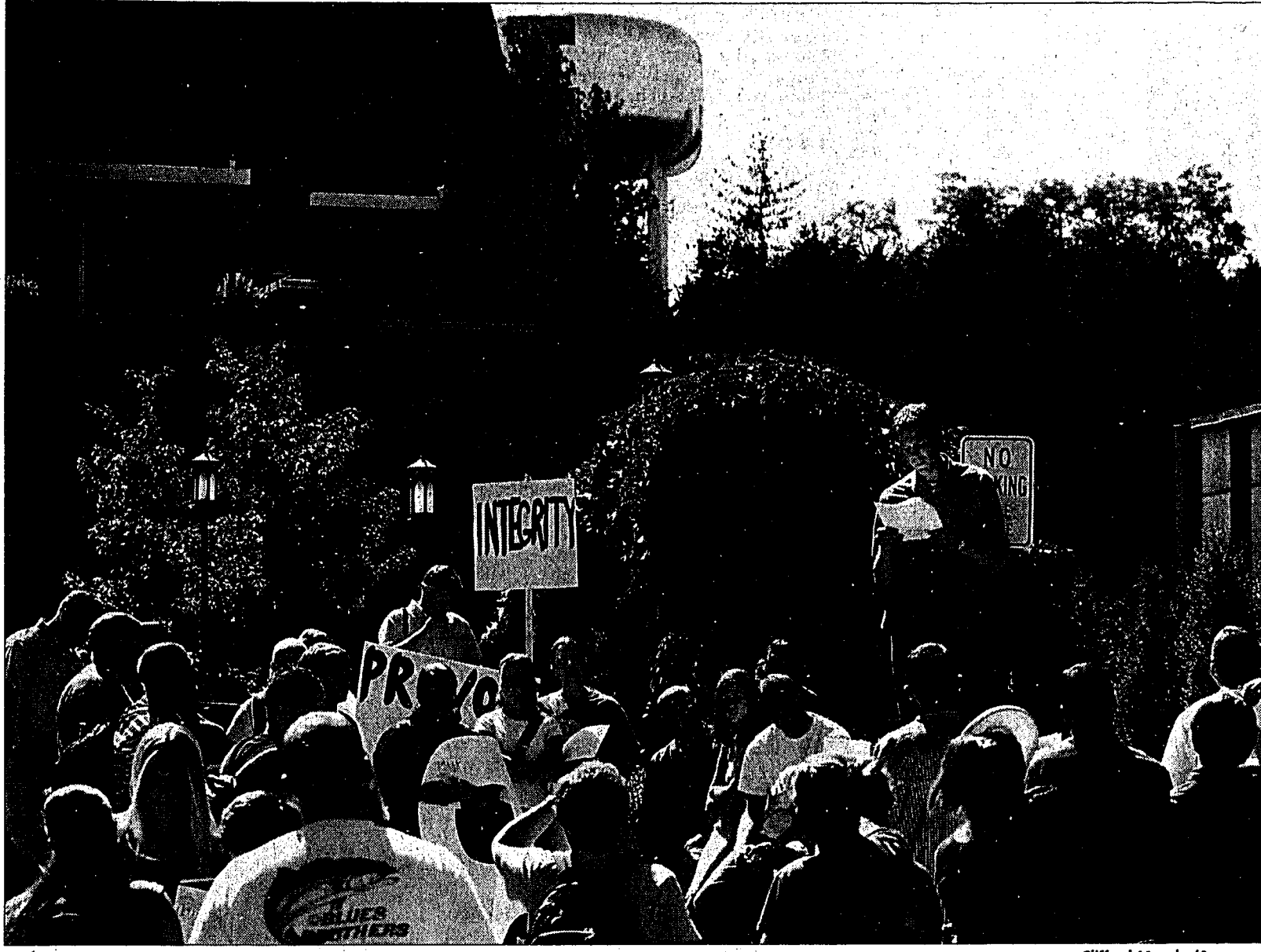


THE ARGONAUT

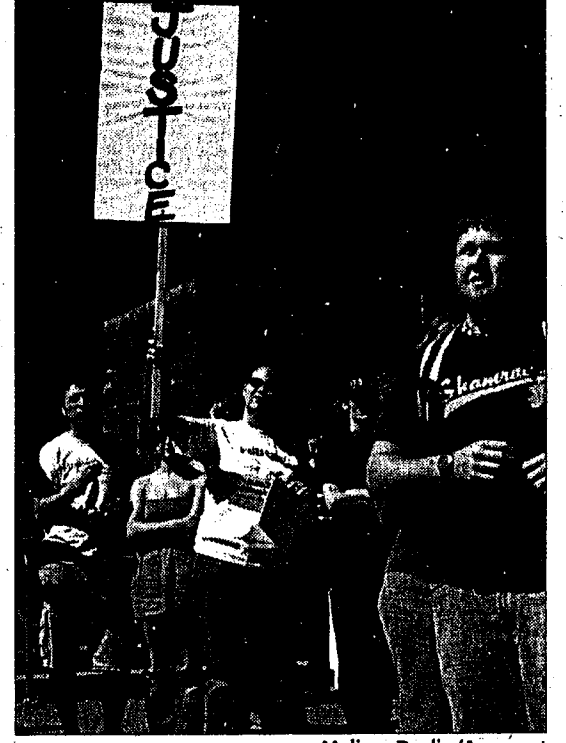
Tuesday, September 13, 2005

The Vandal Voice Since 1898

Volume 107, No. 8



Clifford Murphy/Argonaut



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut

(Left) University of Idaho graduate student Jeffery Burchard speaks during a rally Wednesday afternoon near the Administration Building lawn at the University of Idaho. Supporters signed a petition to protect the College of Art & Architecture Wednesday afternoon. (Above) Students wanting the School of Art and Architecture accredited as a college rally Wednesday afternoon on the Administration lawn.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE PROTEST

Students rally for defunct college

By Brian Rich
Argonaut

More than 100 students gathered outside the University of Idaho Administration Building Thursday to both protest the dissolving of the former College of Art and Architecture and demand the reinstatement of the 24-year-old institution.

Students from the college stood between the Admin and the Art and Architecture North as two speakers stood with megaphones, delivering an emotional message to the university's administration.

"It's personal because of the

students that came to this college just for the College of Art and Architecture," said Nick

Hubof, secretary-treasurer for the American Institute for Architecture Students and UI sophomore architecture major. "It draws a lot of people to UI, and for them to disband it in five days is not acceptable."

Hubof said most students didn't know what was happening when the college was dis-

solved and didn't have the chance to voice their opinions before the decision was made.

"There was nothing wrong with it, it was financially stable ..."

Nick Hubof
UI sophomore

large amount of money to the university, it should be spent at their discretion, not segregated and spent on other, unrelated programs in

the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

"I feel that if it's money given to our program, it should be used for our program," sophomore architecture major Chris Olenyik said. "We don't have our own dean to control our college, so there have been a lot of misuses of the funds and some of the money for art and architecture has been diverted to other places."

Brandon VanTassell, president of the American Institute for Architecture Students and UI senior architecture major, spoke to the crowd first. He told the

crowd the college was dissolved illegally and unethically, and must be reinstated.

"There was nothing wrong with it, it was financially stable and it supported the students," Hubof said. "All of the sudden it was just gone. That was in 2002, and now we haven't seen anything happen for three years."

Jeff Burchard, an architecture graduate student, disregarded the megaphone and shouted passionately to the crowd, visibly shaken by what the students referred to as "a great injustice."

A petition for the reinstatement of the college was passed around at the rally. The goal is for 400 signatures by today. Students interested in signing the petition should go to the architecture department in Art and Architecture South, near the Idaho Commons.

"I would like to see the college reinstated," Olenyik said.

Hubof said many students are beginning to forget about the dissolving of the college and if change is going to take place, the time is now.

"Now it's time for it to happen," he said. "This is our last chance to get it back."

FINANCE VP UI still looking for money boss

By Nate Poppino
Argonaut

Almost two months after the application period opened for the position of vice president of Finance and Administration at the University of Idaho, search committee chair John Hammel is about to narrow the field.

Hammel, dean of the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said the committee plans to select a few applicants in the next few weeks to visit UI for interviews.

"The process is ongoing," Hammel said. "This is very early on."

The position, previously occupied by Jay Kenton, is currently filled in an interim capacity by David Chichester of Tatum Partners, LLP. The company fills temporary vacancies of Chief Financial Officer and chief information officer positions.

Kenton left last March for a similar position in Oregon after just eight months at UI.

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ASUI senator targets students on airwaves

By Christina Peterson
Argonaut

It started as a casual suggestion by a friend, but when ASUI sen. Jimmy Fox mentioned he was thinking about hosting a radio show, it became a venue to "get the word out about the ASUI," he said.

On Friday, Fox proposed a talk radio show titled "Midday Madness" to inform listening students of ASUI politics on UI's student radio station KUOI 89.3.

Fox said the show will be in a segmented format, beginning with a monologue to start off the show, followed by a musical set.

"It would probably be oldies," Fox said, "because that's what I listen to."

Fox said he plans to have a guest recruited from the ASUI to speak on his show, giving ASUI members a platform to discuss their programs.

The first guest will be Emily Davis, ASUI director of communications and ASUI Homecoming committee chair.

Davis said she will promote some of the Homecoming activities.

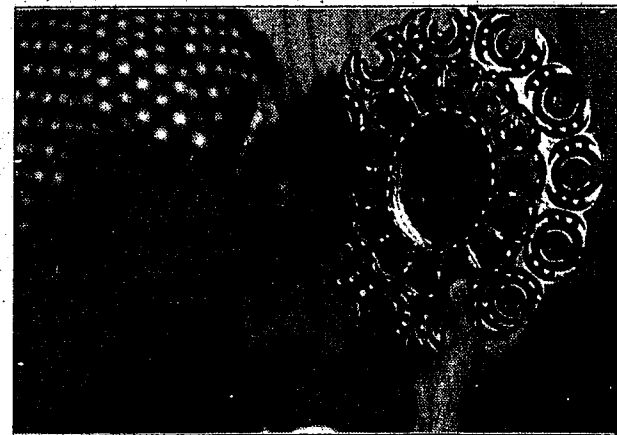
"I'll also talk about off-campus involvement,

See RADIO, page 3



Sarah Quint/Argonaut

KUOI station manager Arlie Sommer helps prepare ASUI sen. Jimmy Fox for the new ASUI radio talk show on Monday. The show starts Wednesday.



Lisa Wareham/Argonaut

UI Resident director Ruth Zuniga looks at her mirror from Peru Sunday in her room in the Theophilus Tower.

Step one: Get out of the house

Zuniga overcame language barrier, culture shock at UI

By Jessica Mullins
Argonaut

Ruth Zuniga says she remembers how cold it was when she first arrived in Moscow three years ago in this month.

The cold temperature was the first of many shocks she says she experienced while adjusting to living in the United States.

Zuniga moved from Costa Rica with her husband, who wanted to get a doctoral degree in natural resources at the University of Idaho. She only knew how to say "hello" and "how are you" in English. She had little contact with everyone she knew from Costa Rica and had trouble meeting new people.

"I would get depressed," Zuniga says of the experience.

She earned a bachelors degree in psychology in Costa Rica and wanted to go to graduate school. But she had to learn English before she could apply to UI.

"The first step was getting out of the house," Zuniga says. "It was a big step."

Zuniga started her social interaction by going to a local international church. Zuniga's English improved as she interacted with people in the church and watched TV.

She began preparations to take the TOEFL, the Test of English as a Foreign Language, a requirement for admission into the university or any college with

See ZUNIGA, page 3

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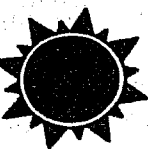
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Opinion	Arts&Culture	Sports&Rec
Jon Ross analyzes the administration's predilection for cutting funding during school breaks.	Blues Traveler comes to campus for a free concert celebrating the new school year.	Idaho coaches are enthused about the move to the Western Athletic Conference.

Today

Mostly Sunny
Hi: 69°
Lo: 44°



WeatherFORECAST

Today Mostly Sunny Hi: 69° Lo: 44°
Wednesday Partly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 46°
Thursday Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 44°

Today's SHOROSCOPE

Today's Birthday Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 5. There are goodies mixed in with all that trash that are quite valuable.
Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 5. Part of the secret of success is to be at the right place, at the right time.
Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 10. You'll soon have an opportunity to further your career.

Discover Life at the Idaho Commons & Student Union

FOREIGN FILM A Decent Factory September 19-20 SUB Borah Theater Showtime is 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm

INDIE FILM Born into Brothels September 14-15 (R) SUB Borah Theater Showtime is 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive Commons Clearwater Room 10:00 - 4:30

Outdoor Rental Center Rafts, Canoes, Kayaks, Wetsuits, Camping Gear

Latah County Fair Van Shuttle 6-9pm Friday, Sept. 16th

Get Wet this Fall! Register now for Kayaking, Climbing, Rafting, Mountaineering, Sea Kayaking, Backpacking, Outdoor Equipment Rental

CrosswordPUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Gent, 5 Exon, once, 12 City on the Tiber, 14 PC picture, 16 More faithful, 17 College credit, 18 Madrigal's instrument, 19 Active or rocket lead-in, 20 Nicknames, 22 Wild swine, 23 Male sibling, 24 Hour of retiring, 27 From now on, 29 Hodges of the Dodgers, 30 "Of Studies" writer, 34 Have a meal, 35 Jamaican fruit, 36 Old oath, 37 Extent from side to side, 39 Sensed, 40 Touch down, 41 Period, 42 More unfavorable, 43 Cover, 44 Do away with, 47 Iterate, 49 Put away, as a sword, 54 Always, 55 Common float, 56 Short putt, 58 au rum, 59 Bullets, missiles, etc., 60 Farewell in Quebec, 61 Asian sea, 62 High-tailed it, 63 High-strung, 64 Towel word, 65 Sharpen.

Solutions from 9/9: 10 Pick up the tab, 11 Kind of canoe, 12 For each, 13 Sign of a hit, 21 Genghis, 22 Pullman bed, 24 Dory or dinghy, 25 Hayley of "Pollyanna", 26 The "hip" crowd, 28 Bravery award, 30 Strait of __ Isle, 31 Once more, 32 Target in a bowling variation, 33 Peculiar, 35 Sci-fi craft, 37 Unit of magnetic flux, 38 The Duke (Wellington), 42 Stimulate, as an appetite, 44 Fifth or Madison, 45 Weather-map line, 46 Sandbars visible at low tide, 48 Clinging vines, 50 Discombob, 51 Rhythm of activity, 52 Macho guys, 53 Wear away, 55 Uncommon, 56 Make lace, 57 Summer quencher, 58 Impatient-rejection exclamation.

LocalBRIEFS

Scholarships help volunteer work pay The UI's Bonner Service Leaders program is now offering several scholarships for students interested in volunteering at local agencies while continuing to pursue their education.

CampusCALENDAR

- Today Idaho Commons Food Court 11 a.m.
TIAA-CREF counseling HR/P Conference Room 9 a.m.
Interdisciplinary colloquium: "The Ethics of Wolf Control" Idaho Commons Whitewater Room 12:30 p.m.
"The Argonomist" SUB Borah Theater 7, 9:30 p.m.
"Dancers, Drummers, Dreamers XIV: Disco" UITV-8 8 p.m.
Wednesday Discussion of the Constitution with justices O'Connor and Breyer

RUDY'S Delicious Burgers What's the big deal about Rudy's Big Deal??? It's Rudy's Deluxe burger, over 1/4 lb. of Angus beef, and includes your choice of toppings, fabulous french fries and a medium soda.

Hispanic Heritage Month Fiestas Patrias Celebrations Join OMA as UI kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month with the live music of Los Diferentes de Michoacan, free games, piñatas, and folklórico dance performance. Sabor de la Raza. Thursday, September 16 • 11:00 am • Commons Commons (rainout site Whitwater Room)

standing community service and leadership. The program is based on the idea that students see the need for service, and when actively engaged will serve in a variety of roles throughout the community. Students who meet the program's five criteria may apply. For more information, visit www.uidaho.edu/bonners.

- Thursday Women's Center open house Memorial Gym, Room 109 1 p.m.
"Born into Brothels" SUB Borah Theater 7, 9:30 p.m.
Chamber music series: The Rose Ensemble Administration Building Auditorium 8 p.m.
"Dancers, Drummers, Dreamers XIV: Disco" UITV-8 8 p.m.

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Lisa Wareham/Argonaut

Resident director Ruth Zuniga practices a traditional Costa Rican dance Sunday in her room at the Theophilus Tower. The dance is done in Costa Rica on patriotic holidays and dancers wear costumes like Zuniga's.

ZUNIGA from page 1

English instruction. Zuniga got an English tutor and continued to interact with people in the community.

After six months she was accepted into the UI graduate counseling program. She also got a part-time job as the graduate assistant residence director for the east side of the Wallace Residence Center, where she was the supervisor of resident assistants.

"I love to work on campus and be involved with the university," Zuniga says.

Zuniga is now the area coordinator for Theophilus Tower. She works closely with the 10 resident assistants, 11 tower mentors and five hall residents. The position requires that she be a supervisor and manager of the more than 400 students living in the tower.

"I love to work with the students," Zuniga says. "They are why I took the position."

Theophilus Tower, the Living Learning Community and the family housing apartments each have one area coordinator.

"It is pretty fun because she lived 20 minutes from where I lived in Costa Rica."

Kendel Murrant
Theophilus Tower mentor

Kendel Murrant, a tower mentor, enjoys working with Zuniga.

"Ruth carries herself as a leader because of everything she has to deal with in the same time she is a very accessible and approachable person," Murrant says. "She has done a great job of integrating (cultures) without compromising."

The Theophilus Tower Upper-Division Mentor program was started last year. The tower mentors are upper-classmen who live in the tower and volunteer their time to mentor freshmen.

Murrant went on exchange to Costa Rica last semester and says she enjoys talking to

Zuniga about the country and its culture.

"It is pretty fun because she lived 20 minutes from where I lived in Costa Rica," Murrant says.

Zuniga often has students over to her apartment for traditional Costa Rican dinners.

"I enjoyed learning about her culture," says Angie Spears, who was a RA last year in Wallace.

Spears has worked with Zuniga for more than two years and says she believes she knows her on a personal level.

"She really inspired me to come back this year and be involved in Residence Life again," Spears says. "It is inspiring she worked so hard last year to complete her graduate work in counseling and was also involved in each of her staff's lives at a very high level."

Zuniga finished her graduate classes this summer and is working on her thesis this semester, which involves observing and comparing Costa Rican and American cultures.

She says after working as area coordinator she hopes to earn a doctoral degree in counseling.

RADIO from page 1

and inviting people to participate in Homecoming," Davis said.

Fox said he wants to provide a question-and-answer session, allowing listeners to call the station and talk to the guests.

Some ASUI senators want more publicity given to their actions, and Fox said a radio show centered on ASUI will enhance students' awareness of what is going on within their government.

"The ASUI does some of the work that most affects students," he said. "Right now The Argonaut is the only media outlet for government to communicate with students. It would be nice to talk to students one on one, but realistically it's not going to happen. We need to utilize any form of communication we can."

He and KUOI station manager Arlie Sommer said they would like the radio show to be another source of information for students.

"KUOI wants to support students by having this show available and maybe it will enable them to talk to people in the ASUI," Sommer said.

The show is planned to run from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays on KUOI 89.3 FM

FINANCE from page 1

The position is responsible for all business and administrative policies of the university, all financial transactions and other similar duties.

Chichester, who is also on the search committee, said the search process is on track.

"It seems to be moving along as expected," he said. "There are about seven or eight candidates who are now in the second stage of the screening process. It's a series of conference calls."

Though the number of applicants does fluctuate, due to some changing their minds and others taking their places as a potential UI

financial leader, Chichester said the number should be dropped to three or four within the next 10 days.

"(They will) then come on campus and do the full interview process," he said.

Most of the applicants, Hammel said, were found by using a search firm.

"They help find candidates and do background checks," he said. "They approach qualified individuals about their interests and help answer questions that candidates might have."

Hammel was impressed with the work the firm has done.

"I think we'll have a good pool," he said.

Chichester, who previously said he was considering

applying for the permanent position, said he decided against the idea in order to participate on the search committee.

"I think the university is a wonderful place," he said. "There are a lot of things I'm putting in place I would love to see through to fruition. Maybe I can in some capacity."

For now, he is content to take in university life. During his time at UI, he is living in the Global Village of the Living Learning Community residence halls.

"It's a wonderful facility," he said. "I find it interesting, and really rather fascinating, that we have such a diversity of students from so many other countries."

The vice presidential search is one of several currently underway at UI, including those for new heads of UI Auxiliaries and Human Resources.

National BRIEFS

March observes Sept. 11, honors troops

WASHINGTON — In a red shirt with a small "support our troops" logo on the front, Beth Bingham of Union, Ore., joined thousands of marchers here Sunday as they walked briskly across Memorial Bridge to the National Mall in commemoration of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

With a small video camera, she filmed the "America Supports You Freedom Walk," which was organized by the Pentagon in remembrance of Sept. 11 — and also to rally support for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The dual message angered many Bush critics and peace activists who question the

administration's motives in implicitly linking Sept. 11 with the war in Iraq, and introduced an element of political controversy to the anniversary.

The march began next to where Flight 77 struck the Pentagon, killing 189 people. Marchers observed a moment of silence for the victims and sang "God Bless America."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld laid a wreath at Arlington Cemetery before starting the walk at 10 a.m.

"Today, history is being written by the valiant men and women of America's armed forces and by determined citizens who will do all they can to win the test of wills — for that is what it is — to keep our children from experiencing the heartbreak and terror of September 11," Rumsfeld said.

Participants were not allowed to carry signs and had to register with the Defense Department.

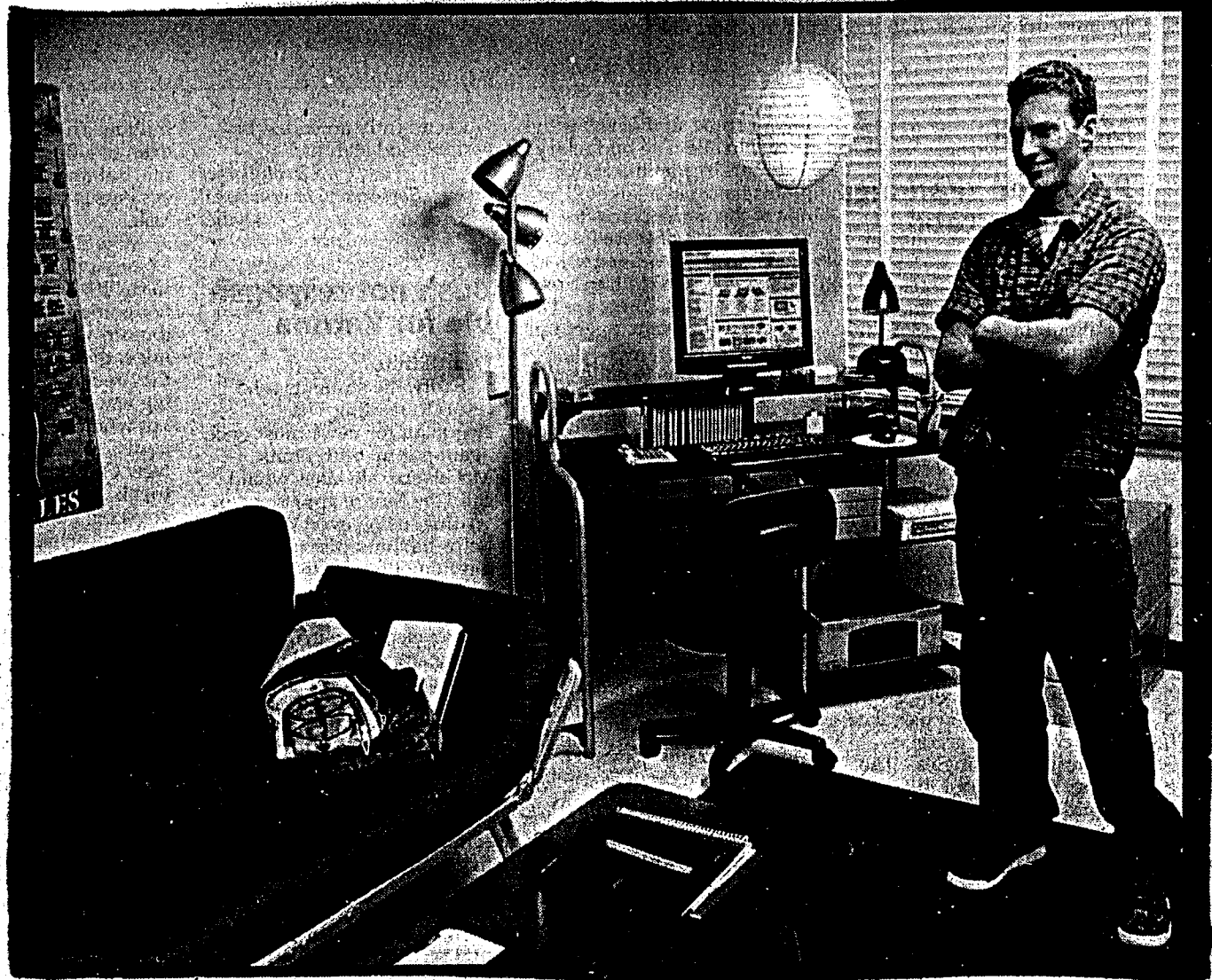
Wanted: Tourists, paychecks for citizens of Big Easy

NEW ORLEANS — Never before has it happened: a major American tourist area — not just an attraction, but an entire destination — out of business, all at once. The wreckage of New Orleans includes its very name, fallen from the list of big-time travel sites, where it has ranked near the top for decades.

This may seem inconsequential, given the human suffering that has marked the region for nearly two weeks after Hurricane Katrina laid to waste one of the nation's most stylish, graceful and saucy cities. In the long run, though, tourism — or the question of what economic force will replace it — will be among New Orleans' big worries.

Before the disaster, tourism accounted for the paychecks of 81,000 people in the region, New Orleans officials say.

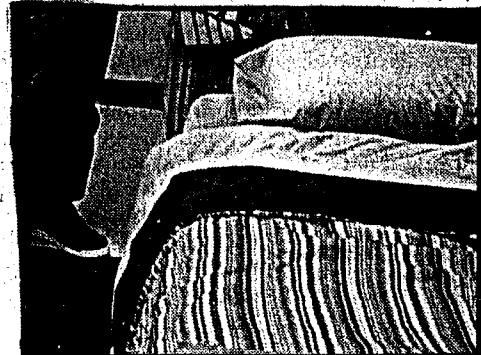
Share your space, but live on your own.



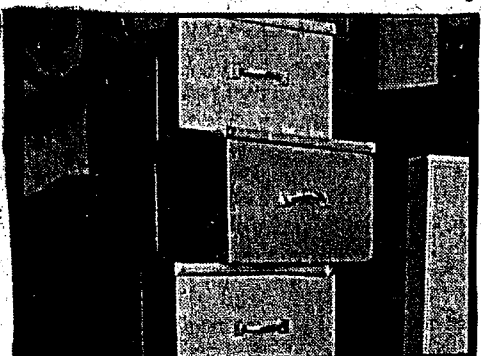
All furnishings pictured are from Wal-Mart.



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Bedding



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Liberalism are playing the blame game

Just when it looks like liberals can't get any lower, they manage to rise to the occasion and sink to new depths.

This must be how Jane Goodall felt after she discovered that chimpanzees took part in cannibalism — if only liberals were that civilized. Our progressive thinkers have not progressed much in the last few centuries. They are always blaming someone or something for natural disasters. As political analyst Charles Krauthamer put it, "When the plague or some other natural disaster struck, witches were burned, Jews were massacred and all felt better (except the witches and Jews)."

After the left complained that Bush wasn't doing enough to unite the country, they took it upon themselves to turn Hurricane Katrina into a repeat of Paul Wellstone's funeral. Political hacks like Jesse Jackson used Katrina to cry racism. (Was he calling the hurricane racist or Bush?) The liberal media get to use the storm, not only to attack the president, but also as a ticket to go in with camera crews, put on telethons and win more Emmys. After accusing the president of everything from being too slow to respond to not caring about blacks, it's time for the left to face facts and see who was really responsible for what happened.

First of all, Mother Nature was responsible for Katrina, although, a few fringe liberals were accusing Bush for creating the hurricane. It's amazing that a guy who they think is so stupid has so much power over the weather. Who is he, Boris Badenov? As has been explained by scientists on the news, we do experience a period of intense hurricanes every 20 to 30 years. It has nothing to do with global warming, no matter what that high scientific authority Bill Nye says.

With this in mind, and the fact that Louisiana is on the Gulf Coast, it was inevitable that a major hurricane would hit. Way back in 1969, The Army Corps of Engineers warned the state that the levees in place would only hold up to a Category 3 hurricane. What steps did the local governments take to ensure the safety of its citizens?

In December 1995, the Orleans Levee Board, the local government entity that oversees the levees and flood-gates designed to protect New Orleans from rising waters, bragged in an article to the Times-Picayune newspaper about federal money received to protect the region from hurricanes. "In the past four years, the Orleans Levee Board has built up its arsenal. The additional defenses are so critical that Levee Commissioners marched into Congress and brought back almost \$60 million to help pay for protection," the letter declared. The levee board promised the readers that the "few manageable gaps" in the

walls protecting the city from Mother Nature's waters "will be sealed within four years, completing our circle of protection."

A year later however, the same levee board was denied the authority to refinance its debts. Legislative Auditor Dan Kyle "repeatedly faulted the Levee Board for the way it awards contracts, spends money and ignores public bid laws," wrote the Times-Picayune. The board was near bankruptcy and would not be allowed to refinance any new bonds until it had submitted a plan to achieve solvency.

By 1998, the state government had a \$2 billion construction budget, but less than one tenth of one percent of that — \$1.98 million — was dedicated to levee improvements. Instead, the state government thought it was more important that the Louisiana Supreme Court had a new home at a price tag of \$22 million. Also, \$35 million was spent for just one phase of an expansion to the New Orleans convention center.

In 1998, the state legislature did appropriate \$49.5 million for levee improvements, but the proposed spending had to be allocated by the State Bond Commission before the projects could receive financing.

The commission placed the levee improvements low on the priority list. In 2000 and 2001, the commission thought it was much more important to approve millions of dollars for the Tournament Players Club golf course. No new state money had been allocated to the area's hurricane protection projects as of October 2002. The available 65 percent federal matching funds for such construction were left untouched. But it's Bush's fault.

Knowing that levees could not withstand a massive hurricane, why didn't the governor or the mayor insist on a mandatory evacuation? Why did the mayor send everyone to the Superdome, without first making sure that there were plenty of supplies and a backup generator? I don't know, but I'll bet it's Bush's fault.

And what happened to personal responsibility? Hurricanes have been known to intensify rapidly, so why were the residents remaining in a city that was below sea level?

Trying to figure out what went wrong after a disaster, and who dropped the ball, is never easy. As we wait for those noted political analysts Angelina Jolie and Sean Penn to tell us what went wrong, here is some food for thought. Bush is not a big brother who needs to go around and make sure every city and village has done what they can to prepare for a disaster. This is not to say that FEMA wasn't slow in responding, but Bush shouldn't have had to call the evacuation for the governor.



Brett Walter Argonaut
arg_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu

UNIVERSITY of IDAHO



We have The **2nd** most diverse faculty on the Palouse!!!

OUR VIEW

UI should diversify

When it comes to diversity at UI, there's good news, and there's so-so news.

The good news? Enrollment of minority students at University of Idaho increased by 6.4 percent for this semester.

The so-so news? When looking at the actual numbers, UI has made positive steps in some areas, but has plenty of work ahead of it in providing a diverse atmosphere for teaching and learning.

With the increased number of minority students, the ethnic breakdown of students is now 81 percent white, 1 percent black, 3 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 1 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native and 1 percent "other," all rounded to the nearest percent. About 9 percent of students chose not to disclose their race.

While having 81 percent of its students be of the same race doesn't exactly make UI the most diverse school in the

world, it is more diverse than the average population of Idaho, which is 88 percent non-Hispanic white. UI has a higher ratio of Asians/Pacific Islanders, with (specifically) 2.59 percent compared to Idaho's 1 percent. UI also has a slightly higher black population than the state's, coming in at (specifically) .9 percent compared to .4 percent.

Some not-so-good news: Idaho's Hispanic population is poorly represented at UI, with only 3.3 percent of students being Hispanic, as compared to the state's 7.9 percent.

UI is less diverse in its faculty. Rounded to the nearest percent, UI's faculty is 91 percent white, less than 1 percent black, 1 percent Hispanic, 5 percent Asian/Pacific Islander and 1 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native. There was no data on professors listing their race as "other," and 2 percent of professors chose not to report their race.

The Argonaut Editorial Board would like to see UI increase its efforts to recruit minority professors, especially black professors, of whom UI has only two, and provide more funding to its programs aimed at recruiting minority students, especially those of Hispanic descent. It is reasonable to expect the percentage of each minority at UI to reflect the statewide percentage, and a more proportionate Hispanic population would help UI students understand the culture of Idaho's second-largest ethnic group.

Diversity, especially in a learning environment, is important because it allows students to share a wealth of experiences and viewpoints they couldn't get if they stayed in their hometowns their whole lives. Diversity in UI's faculty is important because it gives minority students positive and often non-stereotypical role models to look up to.

The Argonaut Editorial Board by no means wishes to belittle the efforts of organizations like the Office of Multicultural Affairs, or programs like CAMPOS, which has brought many Hispanic students to UI. We just ask that if there is any way more can be done, be it through funding diversity programs, recruitment or offering more minority scholarships, UI should do it.

Students come to college not only to learn professional skills, but also to learn the skills that will make them successful human beings. Learning how to get along will people of all races, creeds, financial backgrounds and countries of origin is one of the most valuable and applicable of these skills. If people from different backgrounds can come to UI to learn and teach together, UI students will all be better human beings for the experience. C.M.

MailBOX

Proposed markings misunderstood

Dear Editor,

I was just reading the article about the new grading system by Nate Poppino ("New grading system stalled," Sept. 7). This is not the first article that I have seen in The Argonaut that misreports the proposed grading system. Please talk to your reporters about this.

At the end of the 5th paragraph, the article states, "Pluses would add .3 percent to a grade, while minuses would represent a drop of .7 percent."

First, we are not talking percentages. A percent is 1/100 of an item. So a change of .3 percent in a grade is practically meaningless. The change represents a difference in grade points. Currently an A is 4.0, a B is 3.0 a C is 2.0, etc. Second, minuses will not drop grade points by a full .7 — that is unusually harsh. A minus will drop it to .3.

Notice that a +/- changes the grade by .3 grade points. A grade of B+ is worth more than a B, but is not as good as an A.

Jim Alves-Foss,
Associate professor, computer science

Limit myopic subsidy programs

Dear Editor,

Because of America's current deficit, there are a number of congressmen who will be faced with some tough decisions in the coming weeks. President Bush is call-

ing for some significant budget cuts to alleviate budgetary restraints. Agricultural programs have been targeted as one of the many places to retrieve some of these lost funds. Currently, Congress is looking to cut \$3 billion from these programs. There are two choices from where to get this money.

One choice is to cut from the agricultural commodities program, which is rife with loopholes and has been continuously abused for farming subsidies. These loopholes have allowed some of the largest farms to collect over \$1 million from farming subsidies programs. Unfortunately, subsidies have been studied at length and have yet to be proven to have a significant impact on the well-being of farm based communities.

The second option is to cut from the food stamp program. These programs provide for lower income families in America giving \$1 a day to keep these families from starving. As of March 2005, the participation rate in this program has increased by 8 million.

Current commodity programs do not support the local small farmer; today, programs are targeted at large scale farmers who are given an almost infinite amount of subsidies. Subsidy concentration today is such that 8 percent of subsidy recipients receive 78 percent of the federal subsidies. The effect of this concentration has led to increased farm consolidation, overproduction, falling commodity prices, and increased agricultural dumping.

Congress must do the right thing and limit subsidy programs while protecting the well-being of those Americans

who currently are aided by federal food stamps.
Jacob Parker
Sophomore, international studies

Bush not responsible for Katrina

Dear Editor,

Sadly, the students who resort to reading The Argonaut for news must once again put up with Frank McGovern. He takes what I call "the Moore approach" in writing, using everything that helps him and discarding anything that doesn't.

First, as any liberal writer would, he takes a jab at Bush's election wins. Very classy and stereotypical; kudos, Frank. Continuing in the classic ignorant fashion, he chooses to enlighten us with the age-old "Bush is evil" message. Would an article criticizing Bush be complete without a reference to Iraq? Certainly not, and an intelligent writer like McGovern knows this. So he blames Hurricane Katrina on the war in Iraq. No information presented is entirely false. However, not all information is presented.

Google search "New Orleans budget cuts for Iraq War" and you will find many articles that will say the same thing about budget cuts. Consider Reuters' article, they explain beyond the budget cuts. A project started in 1965 that was meant to shore up the levees never was completed. And that is Bush's fault how? Makes sense to me, and apparently to McGovern as well. Bush made cuts since 2001, dropping the proposed amount from \$496 to \$166

million. That is a lot of money, even to a Bush supporter like me, but upgrading the levy systems is not an overnight task.

Mike Parker, a former Mississippi congressman, said, "If we do stuff now it's not going to have an effect tomorrow. These projects are huge, they're expensive and they're not sexy." More funding would have helped yes, but where do we blame the Louisiana state legislature? Is New Orleans a separate district belonging to the federal government now?

This is clearly a state, or regional, issue. Not a national issue. I live in Southern Oregon where we have drought problems. My city averages around nine inches of rain a year — not very sufficient for a farming community. But I guess if we complain about Bush and his "mother nature-raping devils" then my town could get more money and buy some clouds.

Is Bush's administration piece of the complex puzzle? Yes, without a doubt. But let us not forget that the mayor did little on the part of evacuating his city. I have seen pictures of hundreds of buses underwater — they could have evacuated those in the Superdome before hell broke loose. The governor sat idly as the storm approached, waiting until the last minute to declare a state of emergency. But wait, the governor was not even the one to declare the emergency, it was the evil beast we know as President Bush. Remember, he just wants to "eat pretzels and ignore Cindy Sheehan."

Dan Ritte
Sophomore, history

Take a trip to South Park

By Jason Lemon
Daily O'Collegian (Oklahoma State U.)

(U-WIRE) STILLWATER, Okla. — You may not know who they are, but you have probably seen their work. Have you seen "Basketball" or "Team America"? If not, I know you have seen or at least heard of "South Park."

These media entities were all created by the hilarious Matt Stone and Trey Parker. If you have just seen glimpses of "South Park," or have not seen it at all, then you might think it's crude. This is actually far from the truth. Most people fail to see that the views expressed in the show are actually conservative.

Controversial issues of illegal downloading, the fear injecting media and Michael Jackson have been addressed

by South Park.

One issue aimed at us college kids is the illegal downloading of music. Stone and Parker address this in the show by having the boys form a band. In order to define their style they download music illegally from the Internet.

They get caught by the FBI for downloading. The FBI investigator states because people have chosen to steal, artists are doomed to a life of semi-luxury.

The boys realize they won't make any money either, so they go on strike until people agree to stop illegal downloading.

I believe artists should focus more on entertaining rather than protecting their music.

So when you hear the soft, music in "South Park," be sure to listen up for the truth.



Senior secondary education major Scott Edinborough moves a game piece while playing "Dungeons and Dragons" at his home on Sunday. *Lisa Wareham/Argonaut*

'D&D' players defy stereotypes

By Tara Roberts
Argonaut

Ask Lucas Hutson if there are stereotypes about "Dungeons and Dragons" players. He'll laugh and tell you: Absolutely. A popular one might be guys who live in their moms' basements at 35, who never socialize and dress up in costumes all the time.

But are the stereotypes true? "I don't know anyone who lives in their mom's basement," says Hutson, a senior English major at University of Idaho. Hutson is one among many "D&D" players at UI who say the game is an exciting — and definitely social — activity.

"D&D" is a role-playing game, marketed by Wizards of the Coast. The company's Web site describes "D&D" as a game in which players create heroic fantasy characters which they guide through an ongoing series of adventures, working together to defeat monsters and other challenges and growing in power, glory and achievement.

"D&D" as a fun way to fill free time, but now has a "deeper understanding of where it fits into the world and the social structure it provides for people."

Hutson, Edinborough and Sprague all agree the game is a thrilling escape from reality. "It's a chance to use your imagination in ways that few other things allow you to," Sprague says.

Edinborough, whose dad taught him how to play, said he initially liked the game because he could step into the mind of another character and have adventures with no real consequences. Sixteen years later, he plays for the same reasons.

Hutson, who participated in theater in junior high and high school, said the game has elements of acting and writing, and appeals to people who enjoy those activities. Perhaps the most complex role in "D&D" is that of Dungeon Master, "DMs", as they're called in "D&D" slang, are responsible for organizing, directing, refereeing and playing all the villains in a game. Also, Hutson says, "sometimes (the DM) provides snacks or suggests some snacks are provided."

"It's a chance to use your imagination in ways that few other things allow you to."

Fred Sprague
"D&D" player

scripts for a game or write their own. A challenge of being a DM is the unexpected turns players can throw into a carefully-written game, Sprague says.

"Anyone who has Dungeon Mastered, half of what you're doing is completely off the cuff," he says. "There's an uncanny ability among 'D&D' groups to come up with the one thing you didn't think of."

Another challenge is "the eternal quest for a good group," Hutson says. With the variety of people who play "D&D", DMs have to find people who enjoy playing and socializing together. The game requires group effort to face off against evil monsters and complete tasks, so everyone needs to work together well. DMs must also try to fit the adventures they write or select to the group, Edinborough says.

Sprague speculates that hundreds of people play "D&D" in the Moscow area, but groups tend to be insular and the community has no central point.

Plus, thanks to stereotypes, not every D&D player will trumpet his hobby. "One of the problems with 'D&D' players is they can be very afraid to admit it until they've got a friendly audience," Sprague says.

Adding to the possibility of teasing is criticism from conservative groups who believe the game delves too deeply into the occult, Sprague says, though he personally has never had a problem with anyone.

See PLAYERS, page 7



As players want to make it, Kreps says.

"With expansion and adventure books things get a lot more complicated and intricate," he says. "There's a starter box that gives you everything you need for the first time you play. You can pretty much be playing within a half hour."

Game maps let players draw out the game they are playing. Large maps are \$30 and small maps are \$12. Players can also purchase a

See STORES, page 7

Local stores offer 'D&D' venue

By Abby Anderson
Argonaut

After having sold "Dungeons and Dragons" for the last 10 years and playing on and off since 1978, Tabitha Simmons, an owner of Safari Pearl, knows most views of "D&D" players are unfounded.

"Every type of person plays, and I think specific groups tend to form with players," she says. "More than 200 active players make Safari Pearl their 'D&D' destination, Simmons says."

"There are a lot of players," she says. "One person who runs the game buys the monster manuals, but if you want to play it without being the Dungeon Master, it only costs \$35 to buy the player's hand-

book, the dice and the miniature, which is what you need to start playing."

Safari Pearl supplies books to supplement the role-playing game, player's handbooks, Dungeon Master's guides, monster manuals, vinyl maps, pens, dice and miniatures. The miniatures represent a player's character or monsters, Simmons says.

Most of the books cost around \$30. Miniatures range from 50 cents to \$10, depending on size and material. The markers and vinyl mats are between \$12 and \$30 depending on size, and dice sets are \$2 to \$8.

On Nov. 5, Safari Pearl and stores across the country will host "D&D" events for Worldwide "D&D" Day. "Stores will show new play-

D&D resources

Safari Pearl
213 S. Main St.
882-9499

S&P Hobbies
Palouse Mall
882-9369

Hodgins Drug
307 S. Main St.
882-5536

ers how to play the game and give out a free miniature and a free die," Simmons says. "They teach you how to play the game."

Safari Pearl will host several events for six to eight players

each. "We would have one starting at 11 a.m. and another one starting at 4 p.m. that day," she says. "Each one runs about three hours long."

Safari Pearl also houses weekly in-store games on Wednesdays.

"Right now our group is a little larger than we'd like it," Simmons says. "There are 10 people but we'd like to keep it around eight people. 'D&D' isn't a game that you typically win. You can win over a period of time, but it's all about keeping your character alive, learning skills and having fun with the people you're playing with, that's why groups of friends start playing together."

S&P Hobbies, located in the Palouse Mall, supplies "D&D" books, dice and adventures to

players, and hires those players as well.

Robert Kreps, a UI theatre graduate, has been playing "D&D" since high school.

"It's a fun game," says Kreps, an employee of S&P Hobbies. "It puts emphasis on creativity and thinking, and it's a great game for that kind of environment if you want a little more than your average board game."

"We pretty much have everything you need to play 'D&D,'" Kreps says.

A player handbook is \$29.99 and a box set is \$32 for a level one starter kit. Expansion books are \$30 and books with different adventures cost anywhere from \$6 to \$10.

With the expansion and adventure books, the game can be as simple or as complicated

Music schools work together for hurricane relief

By Abby Anderson
Argonaut

The University of Idaho and Washington State University music departments are banding together to try to help those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The faculties of the UI Lionel Hampton School of Music and the WSU music program will perform at a benefit concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the UI Administration Building Auditorium. Admission will be by donation only.

UI performers include the Idaho Brass Quintet, the Northwest Wind Quintet, Chris Thompson, Catherine Allen, Theodore and Erica Sipes, Jay and Sandra Mauchley, Ferenc Cseszko, Pamela Bathurst, Lisa Simpson, Bill and Linda Wharton, Steven Spooner and the Sesitshaya Marimba Ensemble. WSU performers include Sheila Kearney, Margaret Kelly, Julie Anne Wieck, Karen Savage, Dave

Snider, John Weiss, Jeffrey Savage, Meredith Arksey and Eugene Zenzen. There will be a combined group of jazz musicians from both schools including Jim Pisano, Greg Yasinitzky, Gary Leopold, Al Gemberling, Jon Anderson, Dave Snider, Dan Bukvich and John Gronberg.

"It's a combination, in terms of performances, of anything from electric bass guitars, pop culture, original music, gospel music, Zimbabwe marimba, classical and jazz faculties from both universities combined to perform," UI school of music director Jim Murphy said.

Murphy said he was nervous about how many people would be free to perform on a Tuesday night.

"Number one, I was happy to have the kind of response I had," he said. "I even had to say to people, 'Thank you for volunteering but if you were all here we'd be here for a day and a half.'" After proposing his "spur of

the moment idea" to his counterpart at WSU, Murphy sent out e-mails inviting UI and WSU faculty musicians to perform at the fund raiser.

"I just wanted to contribute to the relief effort, and this was a tangible way I could do it," said

Theodore Sipes, a lecturer from the Lionel Hampton School of Music. "I think this is a unique opportunity for us as faculty, because we don't often get to do things with WSU in a concert even though we're right next door to each other."

Accompanied on the piano by his wife, Sipes, a baritone, will sing two pieces by Ralph Vaughn Williams and two pieces from a set of songs from "Five Mystical Songs." Because the musicians did-

n't have much time to prepare for the concert, Sipes tried to think of pieces he already knew how to perform, which would relate in some way to the fundraiser's purpose.

"These two songs are of a religious nature but not specifically Christian," he said. "The second song says, 'Come my love, my truth, my life. Come my light, my feast, my strength. Come my love, my joy, my all.' It is the idea for those who have passed away because of Katrina or are suffering, that God can meet some of their needs and that in the midst of a tragedy like that, that there is light and truth ... intangible things to grasp onto, even hope."

Murphy said he wanted to include WSU in the concert because the relief effort "seems like it's a bigger thing than just us."

"One thing we can do is perform and give a free concert."

Jim Murphy
LHSON director

are capable of doing to help us."

The concert is a good way for music students to hear their faculty perform, Sipes said.

"It's an opportunity to see some people do some live performing and understand what that's like," he said. "The main thing is you get to contribute to the relief effort and get something out of it, beautiful music from people who perform all over the country."

"It'd be neat to have an audience full of students," Murphy said. "If you are sitting in the audience listening to it, it's going to be really good. I'm excited for the quality of the literature. I think the audience will be well rewarded for their donation."

If there are people who can't come to the concert but would like to contribute to the fund raiser, Murphy said they can make a donation and send it to the university and indicate that it's for the Red Cross, or make a donation to the Red Cross itself.

Rose Ensemble performs unusual early music

By Caitlin Rice
Argonaut

Jordan Sramek isn't sure why he started the Rose Ensemble.

"It was just a harebrained idea, I guess," he says.

Sramek, who is also a tenor in the ensemble, sang with two ensembles in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., in 1994 after studying music, but neither group was a success. He says he saw great potential in the focus on early music and decided to create the Rose Ensemble.

With his business sense, the 12-member group flourished and has now been together for 10 years.

The ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Administration Building Auditorium as the first installment of University of Idaho's Auditorium Chamber Music series.

The ensemble just received the 2005 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence.

Mary Dupree, director of the chamber music series, notes it is a very prestigious award and is presented only once every three years to the best ensemble.

"The first thing that makes them different is that they are a mixed a cappella group of both men and women," Dupree says.

The ensemble performs what is often referred to as "early music" of the medieval, Renaissance and baroque periods.

"We are liberally minded in how we define early music," Sramek says. "In our programs we extenuate traditional and folk music, historical scenes, people and ideas that are often forgotten."

The seven men and five women of the ensemble preserve the past with their repertoire, full of vivid stories of heroes and heroines, as well as some newly written music that harkens back to ancient times.

ROSE ENSEMBLE

Auditorium Chamber Music Series No. 1
8 p.m. Sept. 15
Administration Building Auditorium

"Storytelling is a lot of our approach to performing. It is engaging and intimate and, dare I say, more entertaining than a lot would think," Sramek says of the ensemble's style. "We're not a bunch of boring singers with weird instruments. ... It is lighthearted but good."

The ensemble's UI performance is titled "Catinga! Love, Loss, and Legend in early Spain, Italy, and the Americas," and was created specifically for the chamber music series.

"We took three different programs that we tour with and combined them, some of Rose's favorite pieces are in this program," Sramek says.

Dupree says the ensemble's "program is unique, with solos and some pieces performed with only two or three voices. There is variety within the program and a lot of thought went into it."



The Rose Ensemble includes (l-r) Lisa Drew, Dustin Wirth, Eric Betthausen, Heather Cogswell, Mark Dietrich, Jordan Sramek, John Bitterman, Kim Sueoka, Tim O'Brien, Kathy Lee and Aaron Peterson.

The group usually sings a cappella but for this performance it will have accompaniment.

"As a result of studying in Spain, we decided to add our talents of playing instruments," Sramek says. Members of the ensemble play an array of unusual, early instruments including the medieval fiddle, harp and

hurdu gurdy, which is a musical instrument that makes music with a cylinder studded with pegs.

"There will be so many instruments on stage, it will be quite comical looking," Sramek says.

Dupree says she thinks people will find the ensemble's music fascinating. "There is a lot of folk music

in this performance, not just classical, so I think people will find it very accessible."

Tickets for the Rose Ensemble concert are \$8 for students, \$14 for senior citizens and UI faculty and \$18 for the general audience. They are available at the UI Ticket Office (885-7212), Tickets West (1-800-325-SEAT) or at the door.

'The Man' another painfully average buddy comedy

By Tyler Wilson
Argonaut

Maybe it was evident a few years ago, but now it's official. The buddy-comedy genre is dead.

"The Man" greatly benefits from the chemistry of polar opposites Samuel L. Jackson and Eugene Levy, but still manages to be the same buddy shtick that's dominated the screen since "Midnight Run" and the "Lethal Weapon" movies. Nothing in "The Man" is new, and even the 80-minute running length feels padded.

The story is preposterous,

yet simple. Jackson's detective is looking to entrap some hoods in a massive weapons deal when Eugene Levy's out-of-town dentist is mistakenly identified as the undercover Jackson (don't ask how that works out). Levy is a simple-minded family man with a running gabber, and Jackson is, well, the same role he usually plays: badass with a nasty temper. The two personalities naturally ram into each other.

It's not that Jackson and Levy aren't good at what they do. They've both played these types of roles so often they could do it in their sleep. The problem lies in their surround-

ings. The plot is barely strung together and completely devoid of any mounting tension, and the script doesn't utilize their characters well enough to sustain any humor.

It's fun when Jackson is slamming a perp against a fence with his car, but he just doesn't do enough of it. And Levy has his own moments pretending to be tough or asking Jackson to clean up his foul mouth, but never

reaches his full potential.

Jackson is a fine actor, and his range is often overlooked in recent films like "Unbreakable" and "The Caveman's Valentine." It's unfortunate he draws from his "Pulp Fiction" fame so often in mediocre movies, to the point where he even alludes to his famous "tasty burger" in one eye-rolling scene. With such a lousy script, he can't even come close to



"The Man"
★★ (of 5)
Samuel L. Jackson
Eugene Levy
Now available

rehashing Jules' intensity.

Levy, whose droll humor is a staple of the Christopher Guest mockumentaries, is also noticeably straining to find humor in his character.

In fact, the plot is so riddled with cliché that many scenes from the universal buddy-comedy outline are cringe-inducing. How many times must we see the "I'm not your partner" argument or the neglected child subplot? And just how many badges and guns have to be handed over to superiors before the cop can solve the case?

The producers will say that the plot isn't what draws people into the seats. They'll say people come for the odd-couple humor. The producers, however, have forgotten to make much of this humor funny.

"The Man" has its moments. Some scenes in the film are even, heaven forbid, laugh-out-loud funny. But there's a serious problem when the funniest scene is one, long flatulence joke. Most Saturday morning cartoons try harder than this.

"The Man" is a far cry from some of the year's worst films, but there's something insulting about its blatant obviousness. From Levy's "American Pie" nerdy father persona, to the neglected child's dance recital or Jackson's angry screaming, there's not a single fresh element in its 80 minutes.

Studios wonder why theater attendance is down. Audiences wonder when studios will stop making the same movie over and over again.

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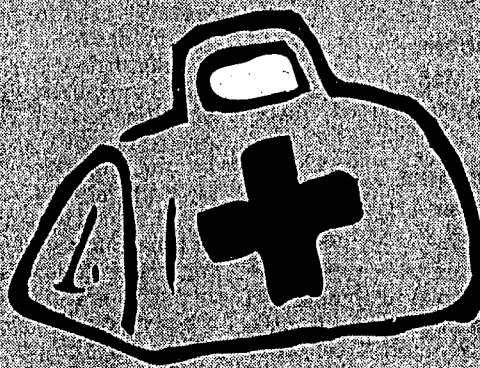
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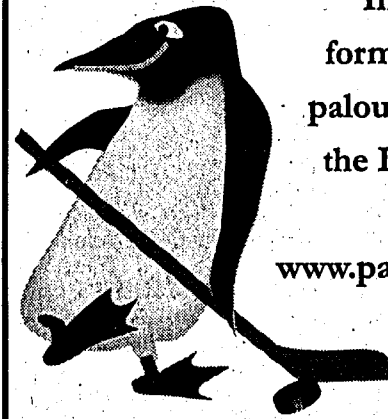
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The Sensible Environmentalist

(NAPS)—Dear Dr. Moore: I've heard that forestry can help reduce the the threat of wildfires. How does that work?

What you're talking about is referred to as active management. It means taking active steps in the forest to reduce natural catastrophes such as fire, disease or insect infestation. The alternative is to leave the forest alone and let nature take its course.

Dr. Moore

It's a controversial subject. Some people believe that humans shouldn't interfere—that leaving the forest alone is always better. Throughout history, frequent low-intensity fires have played an important role in the health of forests and ecosystems, burning smaller trees and undergrowth and leaving large trees mostly intact.

Today, these fires are often suppressed—and for good reason. Our forests are in and around cities and towns where people live. Letting nature take its course puts human life and property at risk.

By suppressing these fires, we have created an unnatural build-up of what can best be described as fuel for much more devastating, catastrophic wildfires. North American forests are as abundant now as they were 100 years ago. But many, par-

ticularly in the U.S., are now overly dense and highly prone to fire. Some are also diseased and pose a very real danger to the healthy forests that surround them.

Catastrophic fires often burn at much higher temperatures than normal fires and cause incredible devastation. As we saw during this year's fire season, homes and even entire communities are lost or threatened. These fires also kill countless animals; pollute rivers, streams and lakes, resulting in the loss of entire fish populations; and leave the earth effectively sterilized for many years.

By actively managing these forests—removing dead wood and thinning the undergrowth, removing some trees, or intentionally burning areas that are distant from homes—we can help to maintain forests that are more open and resistant to natural catastrophes.

We have a responsibility to use our knowledge and experience to help keep North American forests healthy. I believe that a sensible environmentalist would support active forest management to reduce risks to the forest and its inhabitants, human life, and property.

Dr. Patrick Moore has been a leader of the environmental movement for more than 30 years. A co-founder and former president of Greenpeace, he holds a PhD in ecology and a BSc in forest biology. Questions for Dr. Moore can be sent to Patrick@SensibleEnvironmentalist.com.

Fforde silly again with 'Over Easy'

By Tara Roberts
Argonaut

Despite the unfortunately timed pun in its title, "The Big Over Easy" is another brilliantly ridiculous offering from Jasper Fforde, if not as polished as his other novels.

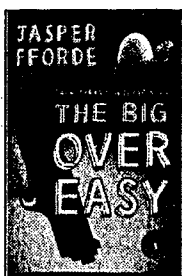
Fforde, a British humor writer best known for his completely off-the-wall "Thursday Next" series, delves into the world of nursery crime. Detective Jack Spratt (yes, he can eat no fat) and his new assistant Mary Mary are stuck with a most unusual case — Humpty Dumpty is dead after a fall off a wall, but was it suicide or cold-blooded murder?

The plot is uncannily similar to fellow Brit humorist Robert Rankin's "The Hollow Chocolate Bunnies of the Apocalypse," in which a kid named Jack also investigates the demise of Dumpty.

But Fforde fans, never fear — there's no

tricky plagiarism going on. Rankin's novel was released in 2003, and Fforde said he wrote "Over Easy" in the early '90s, but was unable to find a willing publisher until after the success of "Thursday Next." Neither author can be accused of plot-theft, and the tones of the books are far different. Fforde dwells in absurd details and plot twists, while Rankin is on the dark side.

Fforde once again proves his ability to create a well-realized fantasy world that is like little else in literature. While the world of "Over Easy" is similar to modern-day England in some ways,



"The Big Over Easy"

★★★½ (of 5)
Jasper Fforde

there are unusual differences.

Instead of movie stars, footballers and pop stars being the country's celebrities, it's detectives. And like the pressure on real-world celebrities to conform to certain standards, detectives are supposed to be clever, quirky fellows who solve multitudes of murders with the tiniest bits of evidence. The ideal famous detective in "Over Easy" is Friedland Chymes, Spratt's arch-nemesis and a hilariously pompous character.

A few other notable differences: Nursery rhyme characters, aliens and animals that act like humans abound in Fforde's world, though they're regarded as slightly suspicious and rather boring by the populous. He also turns stereotypes about politicians on their heads with the benevolent British leader, the Jellyman.

It's evident, though, that "Over Easy" was written during Fforde's rookie years. There

are too many superfluous characters (two of Spratt's five children seemingly disappear after one scene) and the surprise twists become less surprising when there are so many.

The pacing is not always as sharp and quick as the "Thursday" series, but slows for a good 100 pages in the middle. Fforde tries too hard to make sure his readers remember exactly what's going on, even including a chapter called "Summing Up," in which Spratt reiterates the plot thus far to his staff of detectives — and the readers.

Still, fans of Fforde and other writers of silly prose will enjoy "Over Easy" and look forward to next year's release "The Fourth Bear," another Spratt/Mary mystery. Readers looking for the best of Fforde should stick with "Thursday Next," but don't take "Over Easy" off the weekend reading list.

ArtsBRIEFS

Moscow Civic Association premier film

The Moscow Civic Association is sponsoring a free public screening of the documentary film, "The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream." The film will be at 7 p.m. Monday at the 1912 Building.

The film focuses on the impacts on society as the worldwide supply of oil is depleted. A short discussion about the implications for the future of Moscow will follow the film presentation.

More information about the film is available at the Web site www.endofsuburbia.com.

'Beauty Queen' begins at Kenworthy

Martin McDonagh's play "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. A Saturday matinee is at 2 p.m. McDonagh's story is set in rural, western Ireland. This production is directed by Forrest Sears.

Tickets available for 'Boy Gets Girl'

The UI Department of Theatre and Film will present the psychological thriller "Boy Gets Girl," by Rebecca Gilman, Sept. 29 through Oct. 9 at the Hartung Theatre.

"Boy Gets Girl" tells the story of Theresa, a Manhattan journalist, whose blind date with Tony seems to go well. Although it is easier for Theresa to commit to work than to another person, she agrees to have dinner with him. But when the date is over, flowers start arriving every day and the phone keeps ringing, and she doesn't know whether to feel flattered, angry or threatened.

Tickets are \$5 and \$10 and are available

through the UI Ticket office at (208) 885-7212 or at www.uitheatre.com.

Choir auditions scheduled

Moscow Arts Commission Youth Choir auditions will be 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 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.

Cast announcement for PCT's 'The Chalk Garden'

Pullman Civic Theatre has cast the final show of its 2005 season, Enid Bagnold's "The Chalk Garden." Bagnold is best known for her novel "National Velvet."

"The Chalk Garden" is the story of a governess with a mysterious past who takes charge of an unsettled household of an upper-class English family. Deborah Kerr and Hailey Mills played the governess and out-of-control teen girl in the 1964 movie. Dame Edith Evans received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of the family's elderly matriarch.

"The Chalk Garden" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14-15 and Oct. 20-21. Advance tickets cost \$10 and go on sale Thursday at Dissmore's, Neill's Flowers and Gifts and Safeway in Pullman.

Tickets at the door are \$12. The venue for the show will be announced online at www.pullmancivictheatre.com in the near future. Information also available at (509) 332-8406.

PLAYERS from page 7

The scattered "D&D" community in Moscow can make it difficult for new players to find a group, but there are some resources. Safari Pearl has a message board for people seeking groups and players, and S&P Hobbies in the Palouse Mall hosts "D&D" games in the store.

Edinborough encourages

newcomers to pick up the "Dungeons and Dragons Player's Handbook," then find a group to help them learn their characters and the game.

Sprague, who works at Safari Pearl, says the store employees do everything they can to help new players plug into the "D&D" community.

And while "newbs," as Hutson calls them, will find a home in the world of "D&D," their hobby is becoming more

socially acceptable and marketable in the world at large.

Actor Vin Diesel, a longtime fan of the game, wrote an introduction to "Thirty Years of Adventure: Celebrating Dungeons and Dragons" for the game's 30th anniversary in 2004.

"That's some of the best PR the game has had in a while," Sprague says. "'(D&D)' has slowly become much more accepted and cool than it ever has been before."

STORES from page 6

Players can also purchase a pack of character sheets for \$14.95. Character sheets help players to "fill in blanks" for their character instead of creating their own from scratch.

"Once you buy the pack once, you can use them over and over again by using pencil and erasing," Kreps says.

"I've played everything from elves, humans, fighters and bards," he says. "A lot of it has to do with keeping the group you're playing with balanced. Everyone has a role to play."

Last year, S&P held special games day that was part of the 30th anniversary of "D&D."

"A bunch of guys came

and played at the store for the anniversary game," Kreps says.

For those curious about but unfamiliar with the game, Kreps suggests coming down to the store.

"You know, come down here and talk to some of the people who play," he says. "We have a pretty good players' group and they'd be willing to teach you the game."

Kreps estimates that S&P Hobbies has at least 50 "D&D" players.

"I'd say it's a 60/40 split between men and women players," he says. "We've got some women players and even some families who play the game as sort of a family game night thing."

At Hodgins Drug and Hobby, "D&D" players can purchase miniatures to rep-

resent their characters on the board game.

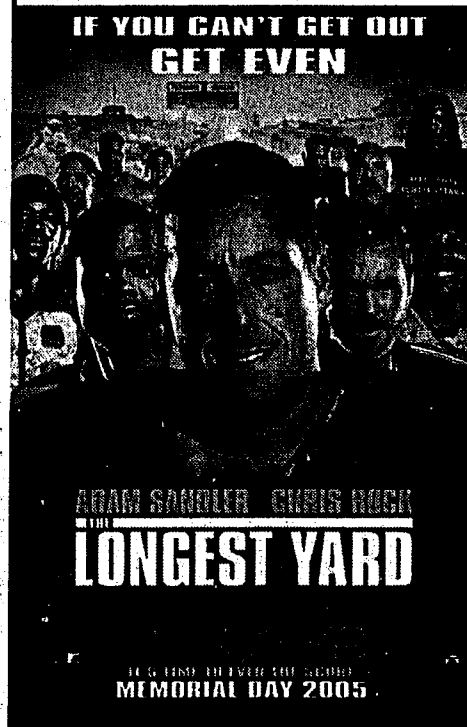
"Miniatures are the little figures that go with the game," says Jim Irvine, hobby manager. "Part of it is a role-playing game and part of it is a board playing game, with elves and wizards and whatnot."

Most books are in the \$15 to \$25 range for the role-playing side of the game. A box of miniatures is available for \$10 and metal miniatures can cost anywhere from \$1.50 to \$5.

"I haven't played it myself," Irvine says. "That's not really my type of thing. Some people get carried away with it, but it's basic — just playing. It's not much different than getting on a stage and doing a play, but you're doing it off the cuff, so to speak."

Longest Yard

September 16-17 (PG-13)



September 16 - 17

Longest Yard

screening at 8 pm on

the Commons Green

Gamma Phi Beta

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Beth Absec | Megan Dahlgren | Marie Mustoe |
| Kate Arbon | Jennifer Duncan | Mallory Nelson |
| Shannon Batt | Katie Duncan | Melissa Newhouse |
| Mollie Baxter | Marie Fabricius | Maegan Reilly |
| Nicole Bernet | Alexis Fairchild | Keelyn Smith |
| Erin Brundige | Kate Foiles | Megan Steele |
| Stacy Cammann | Amy Huddleston | Katie Thomàn |
| Jennifer Casey | Kristen Konzek | Mackenzie Wilson |

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STD/AIDS

Stoll goes pro with Braves

By Mackenzie Stone
Argonaut

The University of Idaho's Sharon Stoll has lived the dream of most collegiate athletes. She has been a part of winning high school and university teams and has now made her break into the professional arena. Yet, she's never suited up for a game.

As the director of UI's Center for Ethical Theory and Honor in Competitive Sports, Stoll will begin working with the Atlanta Braves in February to instigate a program for the players' development in moral reasoning and character.

"We will work with the minor league team for the Atlanta Braves," Stoll said. "There are six development teams with young men from 16 to 23 years old."

Stoll has a full plate of preparation in the next few months before working with the Atlanta Braves. Primarily, her focus with ethic curriculums for sports teams has been with several football teams across the nation. With the transition to baseball, she will have to change gears and research the needs of baseball athletes and learn their terminology.

"There are a lot of Hispanics in the minor league so not only do we have to create the curriculum but translate it in

six months," Stoll said.

"I don't teach ethics," Stoll said. "What I do for a team is help show someone who wants to teach ethics how to do it."

Stoll created a four-year program in which weekly lessons are taught by coaches for athletes to improve their character. The coaches teach the program instead of Stoll because she feels the curriculum is more effective that way. Often, coaches are the athletes' role models.

"In the old days there was a theory that if you played the game then you would get character but today good motor skills don't mean good character," Stoll said.

Several universities across the nation, including ones in Georgia and Alabama, have used Stoll's ethics curriculum through an organization called Winning With Character.

Currently the University of Idaho athletics department does not use Stoll's curriculum.

Stoll said the concept originated at Idaho with football coach John L. Smith but the program fell apart when she drifted away from sports to work for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the US Central Intelligence Agency, the Idaho Bar, and many other non-athletic organizations.

Five years ago, the Winning With Character organization asked Stoll if she would be interested in returning to athletic ethics when the University of Georgia's coach approached the organization in search of an ethical program for its athletes.

Winning With Character is a non-profit organization that provides ethics and leadership training for athletic teams, according to the organization's Web site.

"We develop a curriculum for Winning With Character, which originated in Atlanta," Stoll said. "It is an organization that helps Division 1 and professional teams educate young men."

"It's not that anyone needs the program but coaches have to want to do it," Stoll said about UI. "Idaho doesn't have a lot of money and what we do is funded by a contract or license but the biggest reason is everyone left that used to do it, including me."

Stoll said none of the current coaches from the university have asked her for an ethical curriculum for Idaho athletes.

"We are here to help young people," Stoll said. "We want young people to have a notion of what is right and why, athletes or not, and in our world today it is hard to know that."

SportsCALENDAR

Today

UI women's golf at Oregon State
Corvallis, Ore.

Wednesday

UI women's golf at Oregon State
Corvallis, Ore.

UI Outdoor Program open kayak pool session
7 p.m.
UI Pool

UI Nordic Club meeting
5:30 p.m.
Wellspring Room, Idaho Commons

Thursday

UI volleyball at Utah
Salt Lake City

UI soccer at Weber State
Ogden, Utah

Friday

UI volleyball vs. Santa Clara
Salt Lake City

Saturday

UI cross country at Sundodger Invitational
Seattle

Intramural golf tournament begins

Intramural golf skills challenge begins

Sunday

UI men's golf at Purple and Red Invitational
Layton, Utah

Monday

UI men's golf at Purple and Red Invitational
Layton, Utah

SportsBRIEFS

Women's cross country ranked 34th

The University of Idaho women's cross country team is currently ranked 34th in the nation in the FinishLynx NCAA Division I Preseason Poll released on Sept. 8.

The Vandals received 27 points for the 34th place ranking. Last season Idaho was ranked as high as 19th in the national poll. Idaho was one of two WAC schools ranked in the preseason poll. Utah State received 11 points for a 37th place ranking.

The Vandals next meet is Sept. 17 at the Sundodger Invitational at Seattle, Wash.

UI soccer breaks even over weekend

The University of Idaho women's soccer team earned its second win of the season with a 2-1 victory over Northern Colorado Friday at Guy Wicks Field. Jenny Springer and Sonja Baumgartner scored goals for the Vandals (2-2-0), who handed the Bears (2-1-1) their first loss of the season.

"The wind affected the game a lot," said coach Pete Showler. "We got a bit sloppy in the first 10 minutes and they were able to take advantage of it, but once they scored we woke up and started knocking the ball around. We began to play confident soccer and we created a lot of chances to earn a win that was fully deserved. I am very pleased with the way we came along in this game."

Northern Colorado began the game with the wind at its back and took advantage early with a goal in the eighth minute. Idaho regrouped and was able to notch a goal in the 18th minute when Springer tapped in a Caitlyn Wicks corner kick for her first goal of the season. The assist was also the first of the season for Wicks.

Idaho received the wind advantage in the second half and took full control. The Vandals outshot the Bears 7-4 in the half and earned the game-winning goal on a Baumgartner header from Aly South in the 68th minute. The score was the first career goal for Baumgartner and the first assist of the season for South.

"We responded very well after being down early. The passing and movement was tremendous today and I was very happy with that. We still have some things to work on and hopefully we can pull another win this weekend and really give people something to cheer about," Showler said.

However, the women fell 3-1 to Idaho State University, Sunday. The Vandals (2-3-0) held the advantage in the statistical categories but three costly mistakes gave the Bengals (2-4-0) the victory.

The Vandals held a significant advantage on the stat sheet in shots (11-5), shots on goal (7-4), and corner kicks (6-1), however Idaho gave up three goals in the loss.

"We dominated the game from a statistical standpoint, but we gave away three goals on three sloppy errors and it just killed us," head coach Pete Showler said. "We made some mistakes and didn't close down like we should have and it cost us the game."

The first score of the game came in the 40th minute when an own goal by Idaho gave Idaho State the lead. The Vandals fought back to tie the score in the 42nd minute as Aly South and Sonja Baumgartner converted on their second assist-goal combination in as many games.

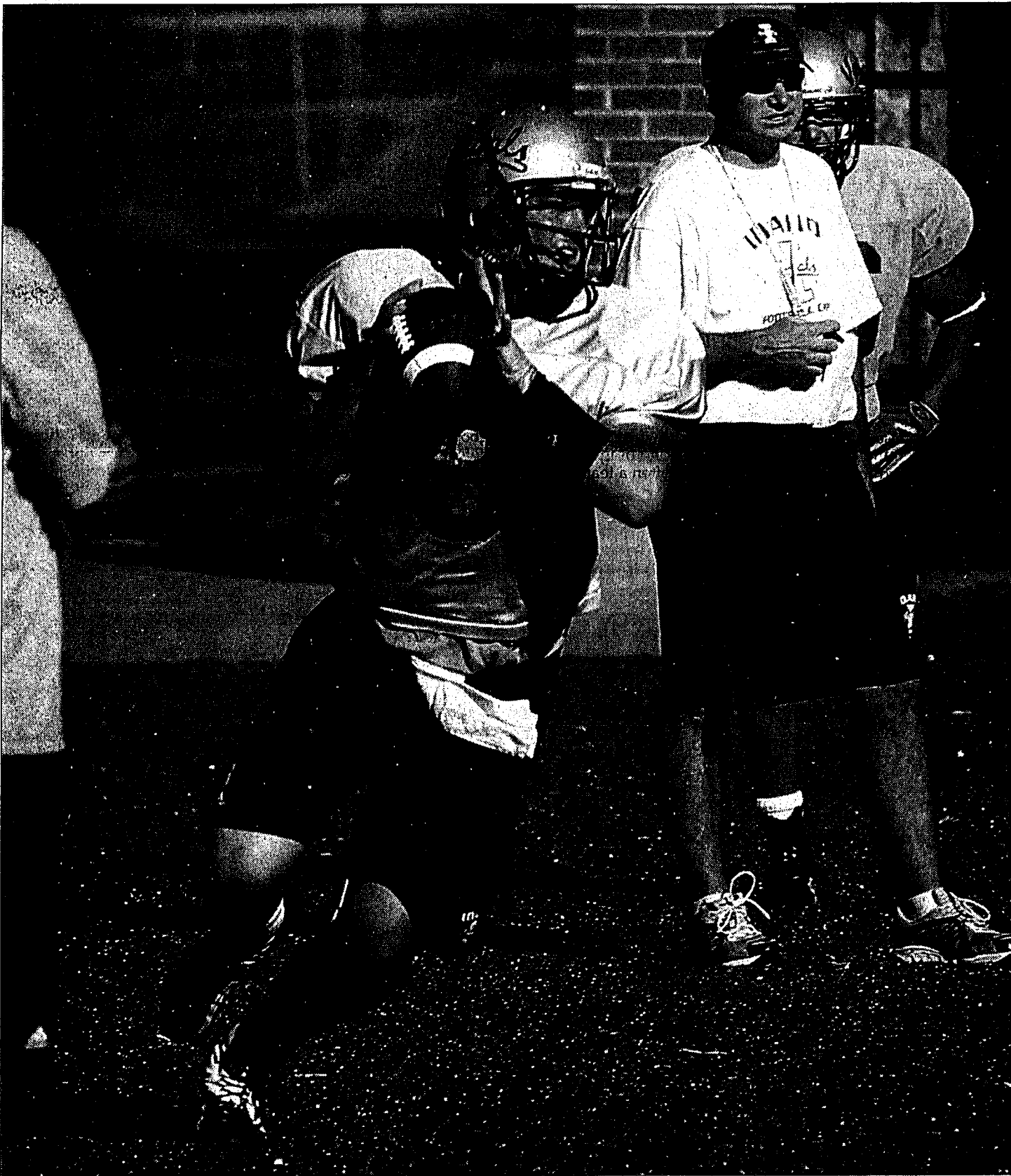
Idaho State scored the game-winning goal in the 54th minute and added an insurance goal in the 81st minute for the 3-1 win. The Bengals were able to score three goals while taking just five shots.

"We played very well in this game and it was fun to watch, but the mistakes were too much to overcome. We had chances in the first half to increase the lead and chances in the second half to make a comeback, but we just weren't able to convert. We hate to have played this well without getting a result," Showler said.

Baumgartner earns WAC Player of the Week honors

Sonja Baumgartner, a forward for the University of Idaho women's soccer team, earned Western Athletic Conference women's soccer offensive Player of the Week honors for her performance in two games last week.

Baumgartner, a freshman from Zurich, Switzerland, came off the bench to score two goals on two shots, helping the Vandals to a 1-1 record over the weekend. Her goal against Northern Colorado on Friday was the first of her career and was the game-winner. She also tallied the lone goal for Idaho in a 3-1 loss to Idaho State on Sunday.



Clifford Murphy/Argonaut

University of Idaho quarterback Steve Wichman prepares to pass during practice Wednesday evening outside the Kibbie Dome.

Vandals miss golden opportunity

By Keanan Lamb
Argonaut

A converted 4th-and-8 play, two completions and a game-winning field goal with no time left on the clock. Too bad it wasn't the Vandals.

University of Nevada-Las Vegas kicker Sergio Aguayo hit the victorious 41-yard shot for the Rebels (1-1), who triumphed over the University of Idaho (0-2) 34-31 Saturday at Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas.

"Much like its first game against Washington State University, Idaho gave up an early big play that instilled confidence in the opposing team's offense. Rebel quarterback Shane Steichen took the option himself 51-yards only 50 seconds into the game. "We can't keep giving up big plays the way we have," coach Nick Holt said. "Especially early in the game."

More bad news followed for the Vandals as sophomore running back Jayson Bird left the game early in the first quarter with a broken collarbone. The Idaho training staff is still conducting tests, but Holt assumes it may be a season-ending injury.

"We need to find out if it really is a season-ending injury, which it looks like it is," Holt said. "It's the doctors and trainers' call, and it looks like it's something that could keep him out that long."

Holt said that Bird, based on his limited playing time in one game and in part of another, will seek a medical redshirt from the NCAA.

Stepping in for Bird in Idaho's two-pronged running attack

was senior Antwaun Sherman, who took the handoff midway through the second quarter and broke for a 60-yard touchdown.

"I just read the blocking and picked the hole," Sherman said. "Wendell Octave made a big block downfield and I just went down the sideline."

In Bird's absence, Sherman did step up his game, finishing with 11 carries for 88 yards and a score.

"I lost a little confidence in the Washington State game," Sherman said. "It felt real good to show my team and the coaches what I could do."

Lost, but certainly not forgotten, in the game was the new starting QB, Steve Wichman. Wichman threw for a career-high 390 yards on 19-of-30 passing, mixing in three scoring passes of 51, 20 and 15 yards respectively. Wichman's performance garnered him WAC Offensive Player of the Week honors; he adamantly credits the whole offense for his recognition.

"I wasn't aware of it at all until after practice (Monday) when coach Holt announced it to the team," Wichman said of the award. "My line blocked well all game and the receivers made some big play catches ... instead of it being an individual award it really should go to the team."

Although the Vandals outgained the Rebels in yardage 490-443, Holt was not pleased with the overall effort by his team's defense. Holt also was unhappy about the amount of penalties (11 for 105 yards), which contributed to the Vandal's loss.

"Too many missed opportunities," Holt said. "These things are correctable; we just need to get better."

BRIEFS

from page 8

The Player of the Week honor is the first for an Idaho player since 2003 and is just the fifth ever awarded to a Vandal in the program's eight-year history.

Vandals take home Baden Cougar Challenge Tournament title

The University of Idaho volleyball team took home the Baden Cougar Challenge Tournament title Saturday

evening with a three game sweep of host Washington State.

Earlier in the weekend, the Vandals swept the University at Buffalo and defeated the Oral Roberts Golden Eagles 3-1 to win the tournament title.

The Vandals defeated WSU with a 30-27, 30-22 and 30-21 streak at Bohler Gym.

"It took us about 10 points to get in a good rhythm and good flow but I thought our team played with a lot of maturity," head coach Debbie Buchanan said. "I thought we executed our game plan really well."

Washington State came out on fire in game one as they jumped out to a 5-1 lead before two consecutive Saxony Brown

aces and a Meghan Brown kill tied it at nine. The Cougars used a five point run to take a 20-13 lead before the Vandals responded to tie it at 27. A WSU attack error gave UI the lead and kills from Amanda Bowman and Erin Curtis gave Idaho the come from behind win.

"We were able to play good defense, block well and serve tough," Buchanan said. "I think we frustrated them a little bit with our defense."

A scary moment for the Vandals came midway through game two when Meghan Brown went down with an ankle injury and had to be helped off the court.

"I think Meghan will be back pretty quick," Buchanan said. "She had an awesome weekend and for her to get MVP although she didn't play the last few games was great. She was a huge part of us winning this tournament and hopefully we get her back for next weekend."

The Vandals continued to dominate in game three as they

led by as many as nine on their way to the 30-21 win and the match.

"We played more consistent this weekend then the past two weekends," Buchanan said. "Our hitters did a great job tonight and we ran a good offense."

At the end of the match UI outside hitter Meghan Brown was selected as the tournament MVP after recording 38 kills in three matches. Also receiving all-tournament honors for the Vandals were Tikker, Curtis and Saxony Brown. This is the second consecutive all-tournament honor for Curtis and third consecutive honor for Saxony Brown.

"Saxony is a great leader. For her first year setting she is doing a good job running the offense," Buchanan said. "Kati is hitting the ball well and she did an outstanding job. Erin is getting better with every match she plays. We need offense from her and she's bringing that for us."

Idaho (7-2) heads to the Utah

Tournament Sept. 15-16 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Vander Meulen earns NCAA honor

Former University of Idaho cross country and track and field standout Tania Vander Meulen has earned the 2005 Idaho NCAA Woman Athlete of the Year honors.

Vander Meulen, a sports science graduate student from Red Deer, Alberta, transferred from the University of Calgary to Idaho in 2001. She completed her bachelor's degree in nutrition in 2004.

In December, she will graduate from UI with her master's degree and said she will be moving back to Canada. She wants to pursue a postgraduate degree in nutrition and become a registered dietitian.

College and universities nationwide and from Puerto Rico nominated 355 student-athletes for this year's 15th

annual award. A committee with representatives from NCAA member schools selected the state winners.

The award honors female student-athletes who have excelled in academics, athletics, community leadership, and have completed their athletic eligibility.

In 2004, Vander Meulen received Academic All-American honors and finished second in the steeplechase at the Big West Conference Championship. She placed 11th in the steeplechase at the NCAA West Regional Track and Field Championship with a personal best time of 10:27.04. Her time ranks second all-time at Idaho.

A national winner will be selected by the NCAA committee on Women's Athletics from among 10 finalists. The 2005 NCAA Woman of the Year will be announced during the NCAA's annual awards dinner on Oct. 29 in Indianapolis.



Mark Von Wehrdon/KRT

Roger Federer defeated Andre Agassi for the U.S. Open tennis championship at the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, New York, on Sunday.

Federer wins U.S. Open again

By John Jeansonne
Newsday

However inevitable, Roger Federer's 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-1 victory over Andre Agassi for the U.S. Open title Sunday let 23,352 enthralled Arthur Ashe Stadium spectators have their cake and eat it, too.

Federer, the young prince of dominance, gave the crowd another demonstration of all-encompassing tennis know-how. Agassi, the dean of de ja vu, further guaranteed that no one would dare look away, for fear of missing yet another of his magic revivals.

Together, they put on a lovely show, displaying every imaginable shot, crafting points in ways seldom seen. Moving each other side to side and back and forth, adding spin, subtracting pace, Federer and Agassi staged their knock-down, drag-out duel. Without histrionics, without bickering over calls or doing touchdown dances or constantly going to the towel, they thrilled and entertained.

For more than an hour, Agassi was executing the precise strategy he had said was essential to have a chance against Federer: He was hitting to one corner, then the other, over and over. He was handling Federer's serve and wriggling out of tight spots.

By the time the match was over, Agassi had faced 18 break points and saved 14 of them. But Federer's first-serve percentage remained at a lofty 76 percent, with 19 aces and no double faults.

Agassi admitted feeling "a sense of urgency on every point, every shot," while Federer marveled at how his own game lifted just when Agassi seemed to be getting his teeth into the match. And the unavoidable arrived much too soon for Agassi and a crowd positioned solidly and noisily behind his quest to win a third Open at age 35.

At one set apiece and having just broken Federer's serve to take a 4-2 lead in the third set, a backhand Agassi error let Federer creep back to 30-30, then two cross-court Federer winners — one a forehand and the other a backhand taken off the net cord — skewered Agassi and put Federer back on serve at 4-3.

"I do wonder why I always play so well, and especially on the big occasions," Federer said. "It just seems to click for me ... when I was down 4-2 in the third, I really started to feel my serve was coming back. That's the first time I felt that throughout the whole tournament; I was quite pleased about that."

Agassi was able to survive four break points in the 11th game, serving at 5-5, and slow Federer's building momentum to reach the tiebreaker. But once in the tiebreaker the ax fell on Agassi's tenuous control of the situation after a single point.

"He's the only guy I've ever played," Agassi said, "where you hold serve to go up, 1-0, and you're thinking, 'Alright! Good! He can hurt you at any point!'"

Two Federer service winners, four successive unforced errors by Agassi, and the air began to seep out of the over-charged stadium. A quick Federer break in the second game of the fifth set quickly made Agassi's chances appear hopeless and forlorn.

"That's the thing," said Agassi, who flatly declared Federer the best he's ever played. "It doesn't take much with Roger. He can break a match open, or he can get back into it right away. I would say that, normally, if I play the way I played today against anybody, I would be favoring myself."

The victory lifted Federer, at 24, yet another rung higher on his swift ladder to the stars and some fairly incomprehensible numbers. He now has won the last 23 tournament finals he has played and his last 35 consecutive matches on hardcourts, surpassing Pete Sampras' record in the Open era. He has won six Grand Slam tournament finals without a loss. No other player in the Open era ever won back-to-back Wimbledon and U.S. Opens in successive years, as Federer now has done.

To be considered among such champions, Federer said, "is great. To play Andre in this situation, him being toward the end of his career and me being on top of my game, was really special."

The crowd was equally satisfied.

By Michael Wilbon
The Washington Post

There's a perfectly good reason no team has won three straight Super Bowls.

It's too hard to do.

And the New England Patriots won't do it either. As dumb as it has been over the past two seasons and three of the last four to bet against the Patriots, it's smarter to pay attention to NFL history, particularly as it pertains to the No. 1 story line as the season opens: Can the Patriots win three straight? The Miami Dolphins were great in the early 1970s and perfect in 1972, but couldn't win three straight. Neither could Chuck Noll's Steelers of the late '70s, and they were talented enough to put nine players in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. The Bill Walsh-Joe Montana 49ers repeated but couldn't three-peat.

The Patriots, for the football connoisseur not distracted by fantasy leagues, are irresistible because they win and because they marry old-fashioned teamwork with cyber-age strategies. They've got the best head coach, the best quarterback, an appreciation like nobody else of intelligent play, an ingenuity that is the league standard for figuring out how to use players, a surreal calm when facing calamity and a stunning aversion to complacency.

Still, asking them to win a third straight championship is asking too much. The offensive coordinator, Charlie Weis, is at Notre Dame. The defensive coordinator of a terribly underrated unit, Romeo Crennel, is in Cleveland. You can't speak of a man's genius for four years, as Brady has of Weis's, and then convince us that the offense will just keep

on truckin' without him. It'll be too hard because Ted Johnson, dead against the run, retired and because Tedy Bruschi suffered a mild stroke in February and will sit out this season. It'll be too hard because no NFL team stays healthy enough year after year after year. It'll be too hard because the NFL is the most competitive of the professional leagues, because while there's always a patsy or two among the 32, there's also a team or two that comes out of nowhere to turn 6-10 into 10-6.

It'll be too hard because the Colts are too good, because the Jets are too good, because the Ravens are too good, because the Eagles are still good despite their mini-drama, because the Falcons are too good and because the Panthers should be at least as good as they were two years ago in their Super Bowl season.

Somebody will stun us this year, the way the Carolina did two years ago, the way the Chargers did last year. But that team almost certainly won't be the Redskins, not this year. Yes, the Redskins have a 12-4 defense. But they've got a 4-12 offense. The Ravens figured out how to win a Super Bowl with that kind of imbalance but more often a team that reaches the Super Bowl has to have, if not a great quarterback, then a hot quarterback. Patrick Ramsey gets no benefit of the doubt starting this season, not even from his coaches, who want Mark Brunell ready to go quickly, which isn't the best sign.

But this notion that the Redskins are one of the five worst teams in the league seems misguided as well. The defense will be somewhere between very good and superb. The offensive line

appears once again to be much better than average and has some depth. The running game is potentially great. That's enough to put a team in the middle of the pack, somewhere between 15 and 25 among the league's 32. And the Redskins should get off to a good start, considering they get to beat up on not just a rookie quarterback, but a kid (Kyle Orton) making his NFL debut, in the season opener. Some people around the league expect decent things of the Bears, who also look to have a powerhouse defense and running game, but not this early in the season. Either way, neither team figures to have an impact in the standings.

Of course, the development of one player or an injury-related absence can change every scenario dramatically. I'm picking the Jets to win the AFC East, knowing that if Curtis Martin suddenly looks old or gets hurt, there's no LaMont Jordan to back him up. I'm picking the Ravens to knock Pittsburgh out of the top spot in the AFC North, figuring Kyle Boller will have grown up enough and been coached up enough to run a team in Baltimore that could be scary-good (especially with the defense that will delight Ray Lewis) if the quarterback doesn't screw it up.

I've picked Philly to win the NFC for at least a couple of years but I'm wavering now, not because of Terrell Owens-Donovan McNabb, but because the club executives seem more interested in rubbing the players' noses in it than winning. Owens isn't

the only unhappy bird in that nest. Brian Westbrook, a player the Eagles simply cannot win without, is upset with his contract and says he's gone after this year. The team cut Corey Simon for what appears to be no good reason, weeks after making him the franchise player. When players sense management is more interested in money than winning, problems arise quickly.

But the Eagles are too talented to bet against. Put me down for the Eagles, Vikings, Panthers and Rams to win their divisions, with the Falcons and Cowboys to take the wild-card spots. (I want to take Arizona to win the sorry, no-account NFC West, but Kurt Warner is so done and the offense looks dreadful.) If those six teams make it, the big disappointment in the NFC would be Detroit, which enters the season on the downer of Jeff Garcia's fractured leg robbing the team of its potential starting quarterback if Joey Harrington continues to struggle.

In the AFC, which is much more difficult to handicap, give me the Jets, Ravens, Colts and Chargers to win their divisions, and the Patriots and Panthers to win the wild-card spots. That leaves out some pretty good teams, including the Steelers, Chiefs, Raiders and Bengals.

My crystal ball has the Jets over the Colts in the AFC, the Eagles over the Panthers in the NFC, and the Patriots playing a lot of great football and winning a lot of games ... just not enough to rewrite the record book.

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THE NUARI THEATER

What does the Nuari look like? On the inside it is newly decorated. The ticket booth is gone. The lower lobby and the veg-in 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 Nuari? The Nuari 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.

- Open mic on Monday nights
- Eric E performs Tuesday nights
- Lionel Hampton Music School jazz group performs Wednesday nights
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Saints beat Panthers on late field goal, 23-20

By Sam Farmer
Los Angeles Times

It was more than a landmark moment for a down-trodden NFL franchise; the New Orleans Saints' 23-20 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday was a morsel of hope for a football team without a home.

"We all need something to hang onto right now," the owner said.

"We wanted to give those people in the shelters something to cheer about," the tackle said.

"We're resilient," the kicker said.

It was that kicker, John Carney, whose 47-yard field goal with three seconds remaining decided the game, a matchup a lot of people thought the Panthers would win with relative ease.

"After all, the Saints have been a vagabond franchise since before Hurricane Katrina hit, and there's no telling when they'll return to New Orleans, if at all. The team first trained in San Jose, Calif., then moved to San Antonio, where its practice field belongs to a local high school. They are supposed to move into the Alamodome this week, although where the Saints will wind up playing home games is yet unknown.

For these players, living in limbo means riding buses to

and from practice, and working out with the general public at a local Gold's Gym. It's not a hardship — players are quick to point out that — but it's definitely an inconvenience.

"We've been emotionally wiped out," said tackle Wayne Gandy, slumping in a chair in front of his locker. "We're not in the same situation as the people that are in those shelters. But as far as trying to win a football game ..."

The Saints didn't just win a game Sunday, they beat a formidable NFC South rival, a team that won six of its final eight games last season and is featured on the cover of last week's Sports Illustrated as the magazine's pick to win the Super Bowl. But any bitterness between the franchises Sunday was tempered by the Gulf Coast tragedy.

"I heard the stories from the people that came crying on my shoulder saying, 'Joe, I lost everything. I don't know where my son is. I don't know where my daughter is,'" Saint receiver Joe Horn said. "Right now they're in disarray. They're still trying to find their families. So I can't speak enough about how much my heart goes out to them. This game was for the fans."

Coach Jim Haslett presented two game balls afterward, both of which were tucked away for safekeeping. One was for the

people of the Gulf Coast. The other was for C. Ray Nagin, the New Orleans mayor who wrote a heartfelt letter to the team that Haslett attempted to read to his players Saturday night. He started reading it, but had to hand it to a team employee to finish.

"I couldn't do it," Haslett said, his voice trembling at the memory.

Very few if any of the Saints witnessed the hurricane devastation firsthand. A group of the players reached the practice facility in Metairie, La., which fared relatively well. About half of the team visited evacuees sheltered in San Antonio, Houston and Mississippi.

"It was worse than what you actually think," Gandy said. "If you go and talk to these people personally, they'll tell you something that sounds like Steven Spielberg made a movie about. That's what touched me. I think about the two or three stories I sat there and heard. It'll change your whole view of how people actually can be.

"When you sit there and talk to someone and they tell you about three or four women giving birth, about them dying and the child dying in a cesspool of vomit, urine and all those kind of things. It makes you feel like what we're going through as a team is very, very minimal."

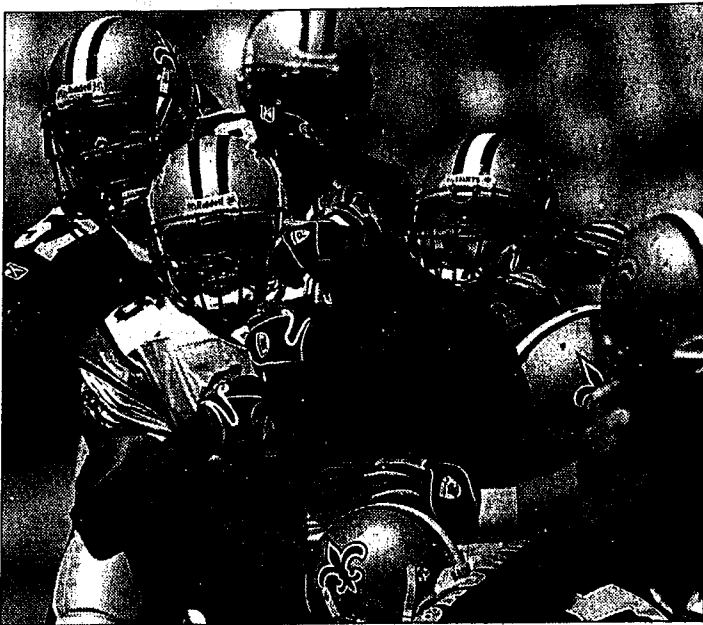
The Saints were introduced

before the game — a rarity for a visiting team — and received a standing ovation as they ran out on the field together. The American Red Cross handed out bead necklaces and collected more than \$175,000 in donations. And the Panthers provided game tickets for more than 300 storm evacuees temporarily housed in the Charlotte Coliseum and a Salvation Army shelter.

A spokesman for Mecklenburg County, which helped arrange the trip to the stadium, said the game "was the first bit of festivity these people have had."

The mood in the New Orleans locker room was subdued, especially in the wake of such a meaningful victory. There's still so much uncertainty swirling around the franchise. The latest plan has the team playing some of its home games at the Alamodome, and some at Louisiana State's Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge. The team's "home" opener will be played next Monday at Giants Stadium, the home field of their opponent. Not all the Saints are pleased about that.

"Why did they have to choose that place over all the other places?" punter Mitch Berger said. "Why couldn't it be Dallas or Houston or the Alamodome for our first home opener, to give us some sort of advantage over the Giants? They didn't. It's a done deal. So



The Panthers' Stephen Davis is dragged down by the Saints' defensive line during Sunday's game.

I guess it doesn't matter."

Berger called "ridiculous" the league's suggestion that the Saints might play all of their home games at the stadiums of their opponents. Not only would it be especially unfair to the Saints, he said, but it also would give some teams one extra home game. That option is not off the table, although the league has said it has been ruled out for New Orleans' games within the division. The league also has said it prefers

to have as many Saint home games as possible played in Louisiana.

The only thing the Saints know for sure is that their future is uncertain. They also acknowledge and appreciate the fact that many people look at them as America's team, at least for the moment.

"But it's not about the New Orleans Saints now," Horn said. "It's about all those people on those cots trying to find their kids."

Yankees top Red Sox in close outing at home, 1-0

By Jim Baumbach
Newsday

As adamant as Randy Johnson was that he didn't treat the New York Yankees' 1-0 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday as a must-win game, he wasn't fooling anyone.

Just by the look on Johnson's face in the hours before the game, the Yankees

were sure he was up for the challenge of keeping them within striking distance of Boston in the American League East. And he didn't let them down.

Johnson had his best outing in pinstripes at the perfect time, giving up one hit and two walks in seven innings in which no Boston player reached second.

Although Johnson (14-8) left

after the seventh because of a left calf cramp, he had made his statement. The Yankees aren't done yet, not with him finally on his game. "That's the pitcher everyone expected," he said, "and that's the pitcher I expected."

The Yankees moved to within three games of first-place Boston and stayed 1 1/2 games behind the Cleveland Indians in the wild-card race.

Jason Giambi hit a first-inning home run off the right-field foul pole against Tim Wakefield (15-11), who picked up all 12 of his strikeouts in the first six innings and allowed just three hits and a walk in eight innings. Boston rallied after Johnson left, but Mariano Rivera stranded two runners in both the eighth and ninth innings for a four-out save, his 37th overall.

"Today was a great game," Rivera said. "We needed to win that: We had to fight with everything that we've got to win the game, and that's exactly what we did today."

And it started with Johnson, who arrived at Yankee Stadium on Sunday morning with what teammates and coaches refer to as "the look" on his face. They could tell that Johnson, who turned 42 Saturday, knew that failure was not an option.

"He was ready to go before this game even started," catcher John Flaherty said. "I was talking to him about the lineup. He mentioned he was going to be into this game and ready for it."

As Joe Torre walked by Johnson, who was in the trainer's room, the manager told him, "We need you today." Before the game, Torre said, "He has a good look to him."

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