

THE ARGONAUT

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

The Vandal Voice Since 1898

Volume 107, No. 20

Rape case trial date set

By Hartley Riedner
Argonaut

David L. Barkdull, a University of Idaho graduate, entered a plea of not guilty to charges of rape at an arraignment Monday at the Latah County Courthouse.

Barkdull, 23, is charged with the alleged rape of an 18-year-old female UI student in the early morning on Sept. 9 at the Kappa Sigma fraternity house. Barkdull is a Kappa Sigma alumnus and a former Argonaut employee.

Judge Carl Kerrick met briefly with Latah County prosecutor Michelle Evans and Barkdull's defense attorney, Jed Nixon, before the arraignment began to discuss possible trial dates.

Kerrick set a trial date of 9 a.m. Jan. 22 at the Latah County Courthouse, which Barkdull is required to attend.

Barkdull's presence is also required at a pre-trial conference at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 8 and at a pre-trial motion hearing at 8 a.m. Dec. 21.

Kerrick granted Evans' request to extend the no-contact order between the alleged victim and the defense until the trial begins.

When asked to comment, Nixon declined except to say that "there are always two sides to every story." He added that Barkdull is looking forward to presenting his case.

The charges against Barkdull carry a possible sentence of up to life in prison.



David Barkdull

Stage lights and duct tape

UI students compete in Miss Idaho competition

By Caitlin Rice
Argonaut

A fishing tackle box of fake eyelashes, cotton balls, lipstick, earrings and hair spray is never far from this beauty contestant's side during a show.

"Everyone has a roll of duct tape around," says Miss Idaho contestant Krysta Schell of Idaho Falls.

This beauty queen essential can be used to fix a ripped gown — usually caused by a stiletto going through the hem — and keep a dress in place, or a girl might wrap it around herself to add a little extra cleavage.

The upcoming 2007 Miss Idaho USA pageant will be the fifth show that Schell has competed in, and she knows the game. She went through five different pageant coaches until she found one in Texas with whom she does coaching sessions over the phone.

She knows her optimum heel height is 4 inches — it makes the leg look trimmest and longest — and she has scouted out the best brush-on tanner available.

"I've been working my butt off for this. I really want it," Schell says.

Since she was 8 years old, Schell has dreamed of becoming Miss Idaho after she saw a family friend win a pageant title.

see the PAGEANT

2007 Miss Idaho USA
Friday and Saturday
Public invited at 7 p.m. Saturday
Swayne Auditorium
Nampa, Idaho
Tickets at the door: \$15

"Her mom had a custom Barbie doll made of her in her gown and gave it to her, and I thought, I want one of those."

Schell has been running on sometimes only three hours of sleep, and says she is putting in about five hours of preparation a day as the pageant nears. The stress doesn't get to her unless there is homework to worry about, she says, but as a sophomore architecture major with 19 credits, she has to keep a tight schedule.

Pageant director Tracey Driflot says the workload isn't for everyone.

"I had 30 girls drop because they couldn't meet the requirements," she says.

Contestant Sarah Weinstein, a UI sophomore from Boise, says this is her first pageant. Her tomboy, athletic lifestyle lends itself well to competing in the pageant.



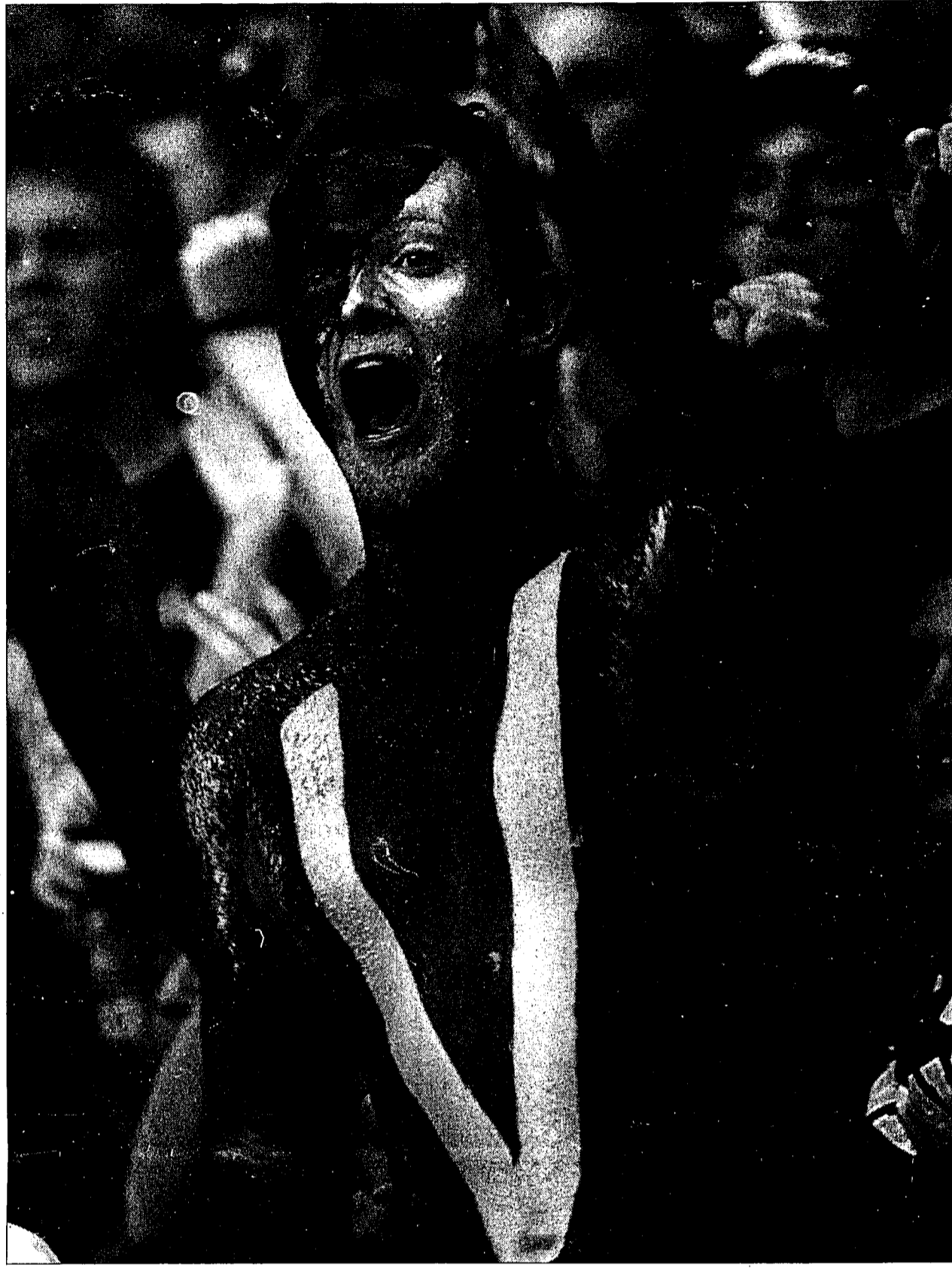
Krysta Schell



Sarah Weinstein

See MISS IDAHO, page 4

DEDICATION



Senior K.C. Anderson cheers after an Idaho first down during the Vandal football game against Boise State in the Kibbie Dome Saturday.

Politicians rally for votes

Otter works to score votes outside the Kibbie Dome before the BSU/Idaho game

By Brandon Macz
Argonaut

As the Vandals and Broncos looked to score touchdowns inside the Kibbie Dome Saturday, governor candidate Butch Otter and several other Republican candidates stood outside looking to score some votes.

Prior to attending the University of Idaho's tailgate party, Otter was at an Idaho Forestry Association meeting where the decorations were

in both Vandal and Bronco colors. Otter said this was a good sign for sports and politics.

"We can have these great rivalries that are festive and fun, but when Idaho has a chance to have some leadership, both sides come together," Otter said. "And they all know I'm an alumnus of Boise."

Otter attended Boise State when it was a junior college, and received his bachelor's degree in political science from the College of Idaho in 1967.

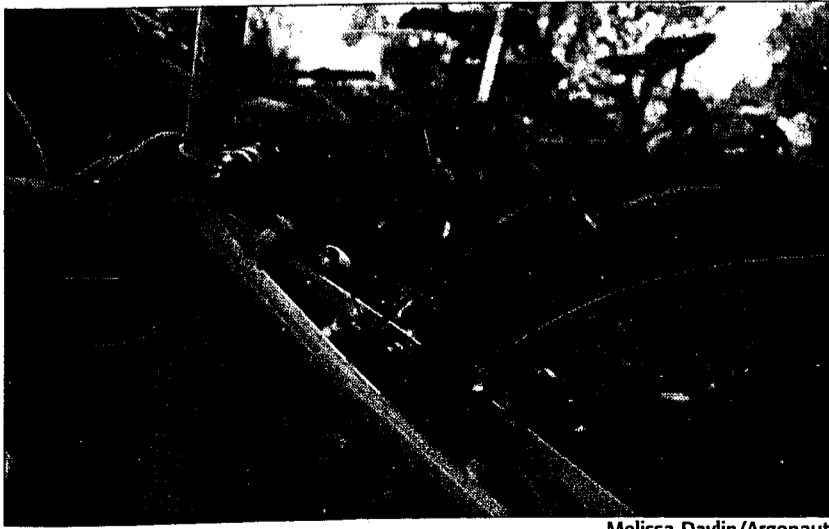
Sports fans turned political as they shook hands with the current congressman and he filled them in on his stance on many popular issues that will follow him and his opponent, Democrat Jerry Brady, to the polls.

He said he hopes to give Idaho a larger voice as one state governor out of 50, as opposed to one congressman out of 535. Medicaid was a good example of what governors can do to promote reform in their states, Otter said.

"Four governors came before the

See OTTER, page 5

As bike thefts increase, a bike lock is the best prevention



A bike with a broken lock sits outside the Student Union Building. An increase in bike thefts on campus has students taking extra precautions when riding their bikes on campus.

By Hartley Riedner
Argonaut

Bike locks have become more valuable to bike owners as incidents of bike theft in Moscow have risen in recent weeks.

The Moscow Police Department has received more than 50 reports of bike theft since the first week of September, which is more than in years past, Lt. Paul Kwiatkowski said.

"Usually we would get one or two people come in about a stolen bike," said Fred Cunningham, an employee at Paradise Creek Bicycles. "Now we get a few a day."

Cunningham said the stories of bike theft are usu-

ally similar.

"It's either that the bike was not locked, but semi-hidden behind a house or something, or that it was locked in the same place for a week."

That's how Beau Miller's story goes. A UI junior, he left his bike unlocked but hidden underneath the stairs of his apartment complex after riding home late one night earlier this semester. In the morning, his bike was gone.

"I was pissed," Miller said. "It was a nice, expensive bike and I bought it with my own money."

Miller reported the theft to the police, who told him that many times people take bikes for joy rides and just

leave them around town.

"Most bike thefts are crimes of opportunity," Kwiatkowski said. He added that it is unlikely that the thefts are a result of an organized crime ring. "We don't have a mafia bicycle chop shop going on here in Moscow."

The city of Moscow requires that every bike have a license, but Cunningham guessed that less than a third of the bikes brought in to Paradise Creek Bicycles have licenses.

"It does help to some degree," Cunningham said. "Then you have a record of the serial number with the police department, and there's a better possibility of getting it back."

Kwiatkowski agreed that getting a bike license is a smart move for bike owners.

Licenses can be issued through the Moscow Police Department and cost \$7. The police record the serial number, color, make and model. If stolen, the information will link the bicycle to the bicycle license number.

With a license, it is more likely the bike will be returned to the owner if it is found, Kwiatkowski said.

"We recover about 400 bicycles every year that aren't licensed and we don't know who they belong to. That's 400 bikes that we have to get rid of at the end

See BIKE, page 5

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Nate breaks down Proposition 2 and Travis discusses voting ballot options.	"Death of a Salesman" starts Thursday at the Hartung.	UI lost to Boise State, but had success in swimming and soccer.

Today

Shows
Hi: 51°
Lo: 34°

WeatherFORECAST

Today Shows Hi: 51° Lo: 34°
Wednesday Partly Cloudy Hi: 50° Lo: 35°
Thursday Partly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 39°

Visit the Argonaut's blogs at www.uiargonaut.com/blog

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Saturday: 9am-8pm
Sunday: 12pm-12am

Student Union Hours:

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Friday: 7am-8pm
Saturday: 9am-8pm (will stay open later for programming)
Sunday: 12pm-12am

Outdoor Program

Mark your calendar... Pull out your old equipment. Annual Outdoor Equipment/Ski Swap

Thursday, Nov. 9 6 p.m. SRC Mac Court

Student Health Clinic Hours:

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Student Health Pharmacy Hours:

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-5pm

Contact the clinic at 885-6693 and the pharmacy at 885-6535

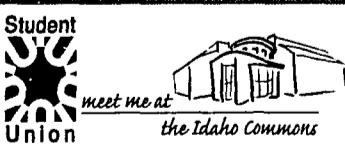
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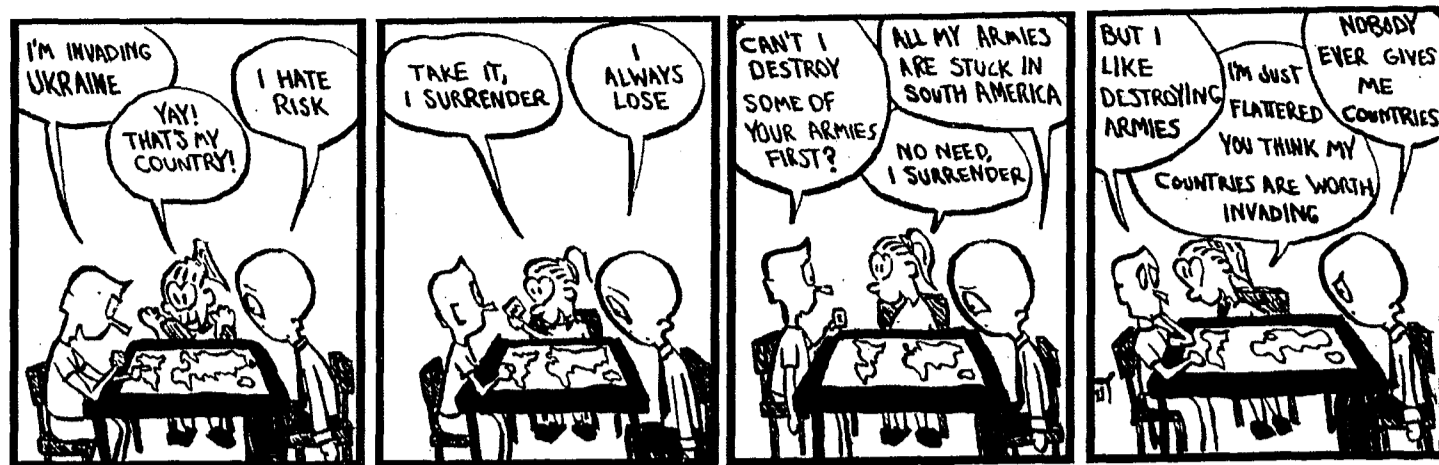
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885-INFO • 885-CMNS

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UniversityAVE.

by Paul Tong/Argonaut



CampusCALENDAR

Today

Retiree Task Force meeting SUB Ballroom 9 a.m.

University Interdisciplinary Colloquium Commons Whitewater Room 12:30 p.m.

Director of Diversity and Community candidates reception: Mark Edwards SUB Vandal Lounge 4-5 p.m.

Economics Club Parking Services forum TLC Room 40 6 p.m.

'Look Both Ways' SUB Borah Theater 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Retiree Task Force meeting Parma, SW Idaho R&E Center 8 a.m.

Retirees Task Force meeting Caldwell, Caine Vet Teaching Center 11 a.m.

Retiree Task Force meeting Boise Idaho Water Center, Classroom 162 3 p.m.

University Matters: 'Assessment of Program-level Learning Outcomes: Curricular and Co-curricular' Commons Clearwater Room 3:30 - 5 p.m.

'The Great New Wonderful' SUB Borah Theater 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

Thursday

Retiree Task Force meeting Twin Falls District III, CSI Campus Evergreen Building 8 a.m.

UI- Coeur d'Alene Professional Development Series Bay Four of the Coeur d'Alene Resort Hotel 8:30 a.m.

MMBB Seminar: 'Studies on Nutrition and Human Lactation in the Palouse' Life Sciences Building, Room 277 12:30 p.m.

Retiree Task Force meeting Kimberly R&E Center 1 p.m.

'Great Stories' Administration Building, Room 316 3:30 p.m.

Martin Forum: 'East Asia Situations and U.S.-Japan Relations' SUB Gold Room 3:30 p.m.

Director of Diversity and Community candidates reception: Francisco Salinas SUB Vandal Lounge 4-5 p.m.

OMA 'Transform Your Reality' Workshop: Conflict Resolution Idaho Commons Crest Room 7 p.m.

'The Great New Wonderful' SUB Borah Theater 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

'Death of a Salesman' Hartung Theatre 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Chamber Music Series School of Music Recital Hall 8 p.m.

LocalBRIEFS

Prevention week helps end bullying

This week is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week. The week encourages teachers, parents and children to use bullying prevention activities and materials at www.PACER KidsAgainstBullying.org to help end bullying.

The week is sponsored by PACER Center's National Center for Bullying Prevention and is cosponsored by the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education, National Education

Association and National PTA.

For local training on bullying, contact Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc. at 342-5884 or 1-800-242-4785, e-mail parents@pulidaho.org or visit the Web site www.ipulidaho.org.

UI wildlife expert highest award

UI wildlife professor J. Michael Scott received one of the highest awards given by the American Ornithologists' Union. Scott, a senior scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, received the AOU Conservation Award Oct. 7 at the Fourth North American Ornithological Congress in Vera Cruz, Mexico.

The award was established in 2005 to honor those

who have made extraordinary scientific contributions to the conservation, restoration or preservation of birds and their habitats.

Local Republicans to meet today

The Latah County Republicans will meet at 7 p.m. today at the Latah County Fairgrounds. Social activist and Republican leader Carl Hulquist will talk about the Governor's Council on Families, the Children and Domestic Violence Council and related issues he is working on.

For more information contact Barrett Schroeder at 882-7402 or visit www.latah-gop.com.

United We Care asks for donations

The Idaho State

Employees' Campaign for Charitable Giving runs through Oct. 31, but people can help all year long and support local needs by participating in the United We Care Campaign.

People can pledge money by visiting the Web site http://www.unitedwecare.idaho.gov. Once there, click on "I Want to Donate," open the "Pledge Form" and print out a form.

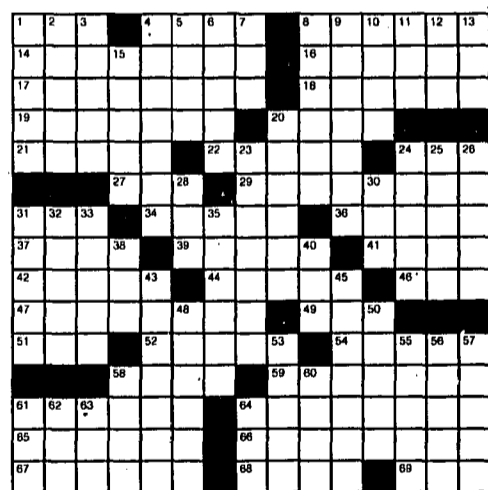
For more information contact campaign coordinator Kay Maurin by e-mail at kmaurin@uidaho.edu.

U of Utah dean to meet with students

Dr. Wayne Samuelson, dean of admissions at University of Utah School of Medicine, will meet with interested students at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 in the Albertson Building Room 102. Everyone is welcome.

CrosswordPUZZLE

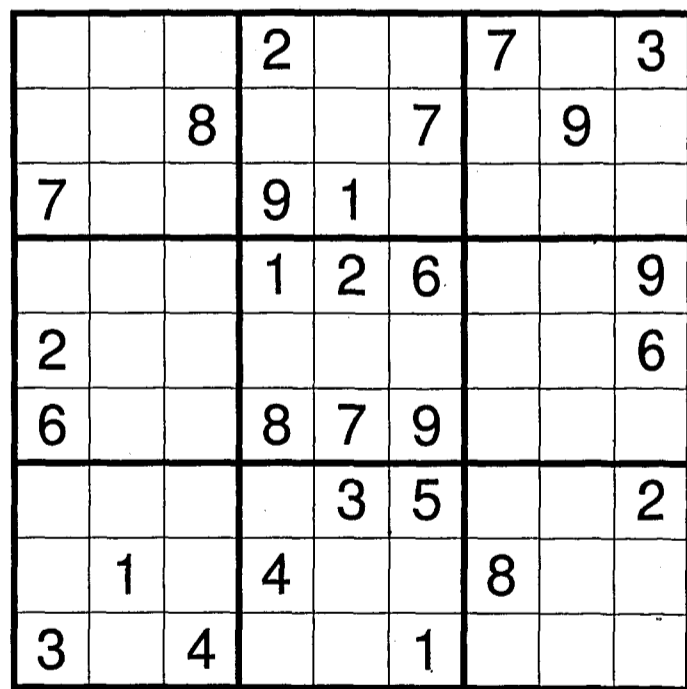
ACROSS
1 "6 Rms. _ Vu"
4 Act dejected
8 Released fumes
14 Captivated
16 Cozy and then some
17 Uninformed
18 '50s crooner
19 Quarterback Joe
20 Scoff (at)
21 Sully
22 Urís and Russell
24 Emb. leader
27 Douglas' tree?
29 They went _
31 Gardner of "On the Beach"
34 Apla's country
36 Pictures of illusion
37 Duck or dodo
39 John Cleland novel, " _ Hill"
41 One of HOMES
42 Alphabetical quintet
44 Wall climbers
46 Hair fashions
47 Climbing plant
49 "Bill _ the Science Guy"
51 Double curve
52 Thin sounding
54 Trivial stuff
58 That woman's
59 One Snoop Sister
61 Denver suburb
64 Campus choristers
65 Small piano
66 Kindergarten
67 Give consent
68 Eurasian vipers
69 PBS on radio



Solutions from 10/20

8 Singer Easton
9 San Joaquin Valley city
10 Epps of "Scream 2"
11 Kipling book
12 Wide shoe width
13 GPs
15 Recurring artistic theme
20 Composer Strauss
23 Certain English schoolboy
24 Bestow upon
25 Author Puzo
26 Memory units
28 Brit. flyboys
30 Big lug
31 Humble
32 Panoramas
33 Zodiac ram
35 Experts
38 Female rabbit
40 Strong desire
43 Said
45 Greenstreet and Pollack
48 Freebooter
50 Put up
51 Botanist
53 Cheers
55 Singer K.T.
56 Baffle
57 Cavalry sword
58 Put an edge on
60 Gather in
61 Botanist Gray
62 Vert. bars on goods
63 Singer Ocasak
64 Student's fig.

SudokuPUZZLE



Solutions from 10/20

3 4 6 8 2 9 1 5 7
7 1 2 3 4 5 8 6 9
5 9 8 6 1 7 4 2 3
8 7 9 5 3 4 2 1 6
6 3 4 1 8 2 7 9 5
2 5 1 9 7 6 3 4 8
4 2 5 7 6 3 9 8 1
1 6 7 4 9 8 5 3 2
9 8 3 2 5 1 6 7 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

The Argonaut

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Non-profit Identification Statement: The Argonaut, ISSN 0891-1409, is published twice weekly during the academic school year and is located at 301 Student Union, Moscow, ID 83844-4271.



The Argonaut is printed on newsprint containing 24-40 percent post-consumer waste. Please recycle this newspaper after reading. For recycling information, call the Moscow Recycling Hotline at (208) 882-0590.

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50th anniversary of fire brings back alumni

By Cynthia Reynaud
Argonaut

One large story was finally put to rest as the night of Oct. 19, 1956 was recreated 50 years later through the stories of individual survivors.

Seven people who were involved in the Gault Hall fire gathered at a reunion Thursday at the University of Idaho to remember the heroes and the victims of a fire that took the lives of three students and left others with scars that have remained long after the burns on their skin healed.

The fire was one of a string of arsons started by UI student and former Argonaut reporter Paul D. Matovich on the campus in '56. Paul Johnson, a sophomore from Davenport, Wash., William Shuldberg, a freshman from Terreton, Idaho and John Knudsen, a freshman from Idaho Falls, all died in the early morning fire.

After a private dinner for the alumni, both the past and present residents of Gault Hall gathered in the new Gault Hall Living Learning Community to share memories, answer questions and give comments about the fire.

"These returning alumni were sig-

nificantly affected by this tragedy and they have important stories to tell," said Dean of Students Bruce Pitman, who led the discussion following the dinner. The Dean of Students Office, UI Alumni Association and University Residences all helped coordinate the remembrance.

The memories the alumni had to share brought both tears and laughter to those present. Some got the answers to questions they had waited 50 years to ask about the events that took place the night of the fire.

FarmHouse alumnus Tom Stroschein recalled how he had grabbed his FFA jacket before running out of his room to the aid of his neighbors at Gault.

"Why I did, I'll never know," he said. Stephen Hinckley got teary eyed as he asked his fellow hallmates to remember the heroic feats of Floyd Lydum and Lawrence "Lash" LaRue. Both men saved several students the day of the fire.

Pitman said there will be a memorial plaque made that will commemorate both these men as well as those who died. "It is an important part of our campus history," Pitman said.

Current Gault Hall president Kerie Kushlan joined several other current

for the WHOLE STORY

See the article "50 years later" in Blot Magazine, which hits stands Nov. 14.

hall members who lingered in their lounge listening to the tales the alumni told about the fire.

"It's so different to hear about it from the people who lived through it," Kushlan said. She added that she had heard stories of the fire before, but never knew the details.

A few of the survivors who were unable to make it to the event sent letters of their recollections in their place. "You hide these things like this but they stay with you in your subconscious," said survivor Ben Schaffer. "This helps."

Gault Hall was restored after the fire, and was used as a residence hall until 2003, when it was demolished. The Gault Living Learning Community was completed in 2004.

Matovich was sentenced to 25 years in prison after his arrest 33 days after the Gault Hall fire. He was paroled in 1968 and died in 1980.



Lisa Wareham/Argonaut

Tom Stroschein (left) Elwood Kinter (center) and Ben Schaffer (right) talk about college life at the Gault Hall Memorial Dedication Thursday at the new Gault Hall at the Living Learning Center.

THE MORNING AFTER



Lisa Wareham/Argonaut

FarmHouse fraternity members Arnoldo Olmos (left) and Eric Billings (right) voluntarily pick up trash from Saturday's football tailgate Sunday morning in the Kibbie Dome parking lot.

MISS IDAHO from page 1

The most time-consuming part so far, she says, has been finding a swimsuit that she will be comfortable wearing in front of 1,500 people.

The pageant is made up of a dance routine that all the contestants perform together, individual introductions, an interview session and then modeling of swimsuits and evening gowns.

Besides the "Miss Idaho" title, the young women vie for "Miss Congeniality" and "Miss Photogenic." Driflot says this pageant is different from old-fashioned ones that focused on stereotypical brainless beauty. Now a pretty face alone won't win the title. Judging of body image now has to do with a healthy, fit physique, not the super-model skin-and-bones look.

"These are smart, savvy, intelligent young women. They are the ones that will be running businesses or becoming president ... the fluffy ones don't make it."

"These women are going

to school, either part-time or full-time," says Weinstein. "And if they aren't going to school they are working. Nobody's just a diva that walks in."

The interviewing is the hardest part, says Schell, who has her friends, parents and coach test her daily on possible interview questions. The questions have to do with cultural, political or miscellaneous topics.

"Sometimes a judge will ask you something like, 'What's your favorite midnight snack and why?' just to throw you off ... they are looking for someone who is good on their toes."

Weinstein and Schell both say their families are vital in helping them compete.

"My mom does the whole 'beauty pageant mom' thing. ... She runs my dresses to the seamstress, makes hair appointments, she's there if I get stressed," Schell says.

"We have a checklist," says her mother, Sherree Schell. "I ask her how she is doing with her physical training, her hair, nails, pedicure. She has to be careful of what she eats, and get lots of protein, vegetables and fruit. She needs an extra pair of hands to do everything and I love being able to do that for her."

"My parents tell me that I

am their 'Miss Idaho' no matter what," Weinstein says. "At first my brothers made fun of me ... but once they saw all the work I was putting into it and the heels I have to walk in, I got a little more respect."

Competing in a pageant wasn't something Weinstein's mother, Linda Weinstein, says she ever expected her daughter to pursue.

"We were totally surprised ... pageants were never really talked about in our home, and we've never been to one," Linda says.

But, she says, she is there for her daughter to help with wardrobe, attend meetings and provide moral support.

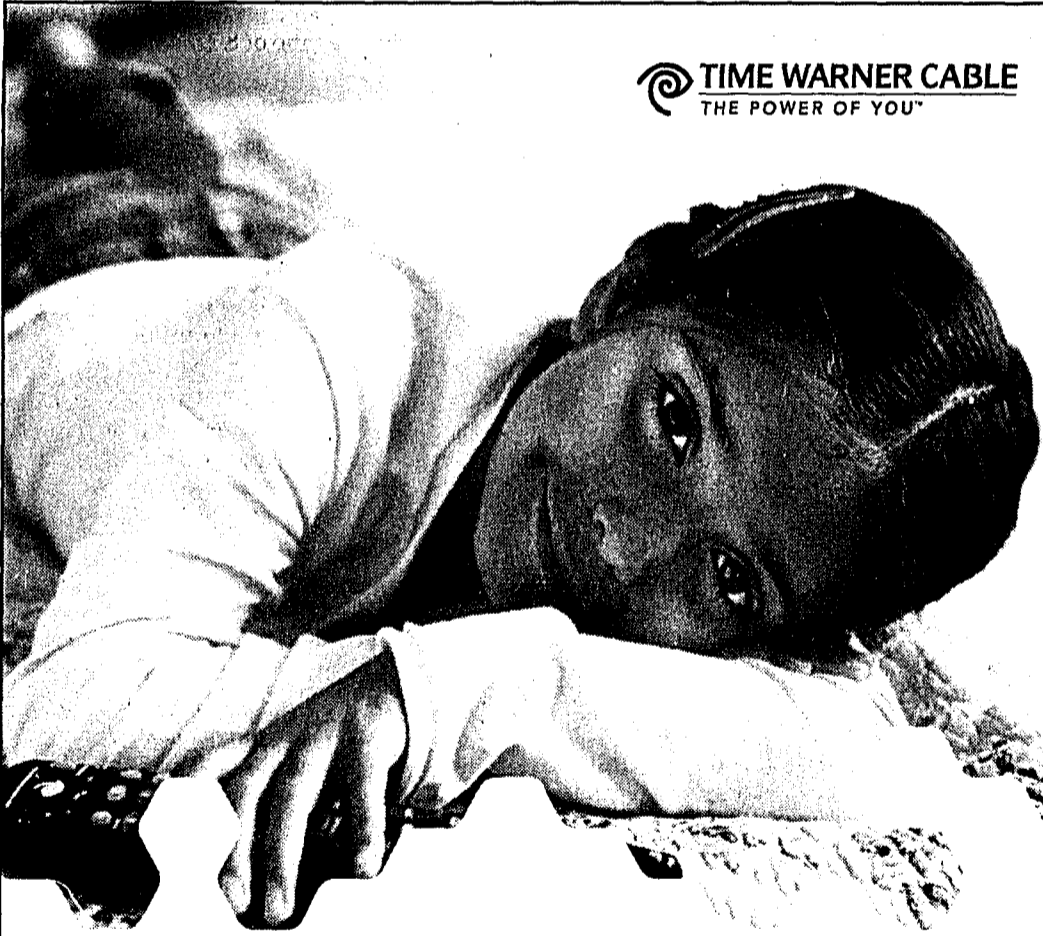
In the end, when it all comes down to one winner, someone's feelings always get hurt, says Schell, and that part isn't fun.

"If all you're thinking when you finish is, 'Why didn't I win?' you've just wasted a lot of time," Schell says.

Once the pageant is over, the skills learned, confidence gained and memories made are priceless, Schell says.

"I think a lot of girls have forgotten about the grace of being a woman," Driflot says. "I teach them to stand up and walk with pride."

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Fall 2006

- Oct. 25: Comma Crammer - Commas and Other Mysteries of English Grammar; LOCATION: TLC122 (Presenter: Mary Ann Judge)
- Nov. 1: NO! We Can't Talk About This Later! Overcoming Procrastination
- Nov. 8: This is a Test - This is ONLY a Test (essay exams)
- Nov. 15: Memory Drives this Bus / Tools and Tips for Easier, More-Effective Study, Study Smarter
- Nov. 29: This is a Test
- Dec. 6: This is a Test

All classes held on Wednesdays
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Idaho Commons Room 327 (Ice Springs Room)

Pre-registration encouraged but not required.
Mickey Lyngholm 885-6307
mickeyl@uidaho.edu
Idaho Commons 306

Off the CUFF

What a game

Saturday's football game vs. BSU was one of the best games I've ever been to. The energy of the crowd was overwhelming, and I couldn't help but get caught up in things. I even have a giant bruise on my calf from falling off the bleachers. The game itself was thrilling — despite the final score, the Vandals actually put on a hell of a show. And even though we didn't win, we can console ourselves with this small but significant fact: We lost, but they still go to Boise State.

-Tara

Presentations

I hate presentations. It's not like I have stage fright or anxiety speaking in front of large crowds. I generally just dislike teaching the class something they really don't want to learn. I see their eyes glaze over and their smiles droop. Not a good feeling. I wonder how teachers do it every day.

-Sarral

Hot dog disposal

I didn't go to the tailgate party this weekend, but I heard that it was wild. Maybe too wild. My friend told me overzealous Vandals threw hot dogs at unsuspecting BSU fans who walked by.

What the heck, man? If you want to throw things at Broncos, resist the urge to fling your frankfurters and stick with non-edible things.

Then send the unwanted hot dogs to me. I will gladly dispose of them.

-Melissa

Gift of life

Recently, an amazing family left their dad the ultimate gift.

Organ donation saves lives. Tell your family.

-Miranda

Playing butcher

So butchering was great. A fun (yes, I am weird, but it is fun) tradition that I've been a part of since I was a little girl — and nobody cut off any fingers. It was a good weekend until I got sick on the way home and was sort of in a daze the rest of the night. Then there was the whole thing with waking up this morning and finding out our toilet ran last night and flooded half of our apartment. Of course, I feel better when I see our freezer packed full of another year's worth of beef. My life's little surprises are fun, aren't they? I need chocolate.

-Teresa

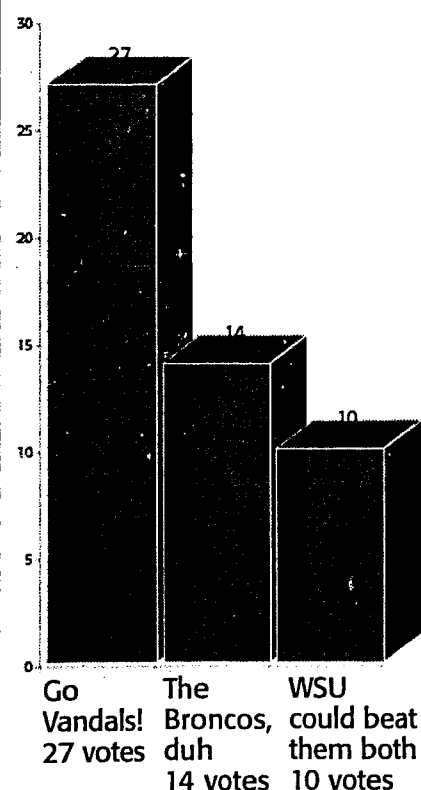
Antsy at the theater

I can't stand going to the movies anymore because everything I see is far too long. Why does every filmmaker think they need two-and-a-half hours to get their point across? I blame Peter Jackson. That hobbit-loving nerd ruined movies for me. I mean, whatever happened to the 90-minute movie? Seriously people, if you don't have anything to say don't try to stretch it out to three hours.

-Ryli

Last week:

Who's the better football team, UI or BSU?



This week:

Have you registered to vote?

OurVIEW

Prop 2 deserves a resounding 'No'

If Idaho politics were personified, they would have to be a man waving a shotgun and shouting "Gov'ment git out!"

Idahoans have long been proud of their opposition to government interference in private lives. That's why Proposition 2, billed as protecting private property from meddling government interests, must seem appealing.

But voters would be wise to vote "no" on this supposed blessing.

The proposition is essentially a response to a 2005 Supreme Court case, *Kelo v. New London*, that allowed the city of New London, Conn., to seize private homes and use the land for a shopping mall, ostensibly to improve the town overall.

However, the Idaho Legislature already responded to that case with House Bill No. 555, which became law in July. The bill prevents government entities from using eminent domain seizures for private development, except in certain situations such as condemned buildings.

It's a very thorough law — which must be why Laird Maxwell and This House Is MY Home in Boise used essentially the same wording for Proposition 2. But Maxwell added something not quite related: language allowing property owners who find themselves restricted as to what they can do with their land to sue the government for the money they would have gotten otherwise.

This is quite the slippery slope. Sure, compensation may seem like a good thing, but a quick look at Oregon will show otherwise. The state approved its equivalent law, Measure 37, last year and is now paying the price — more than \$5 billion in claims. Tell us what state has that kind of money just lying around.

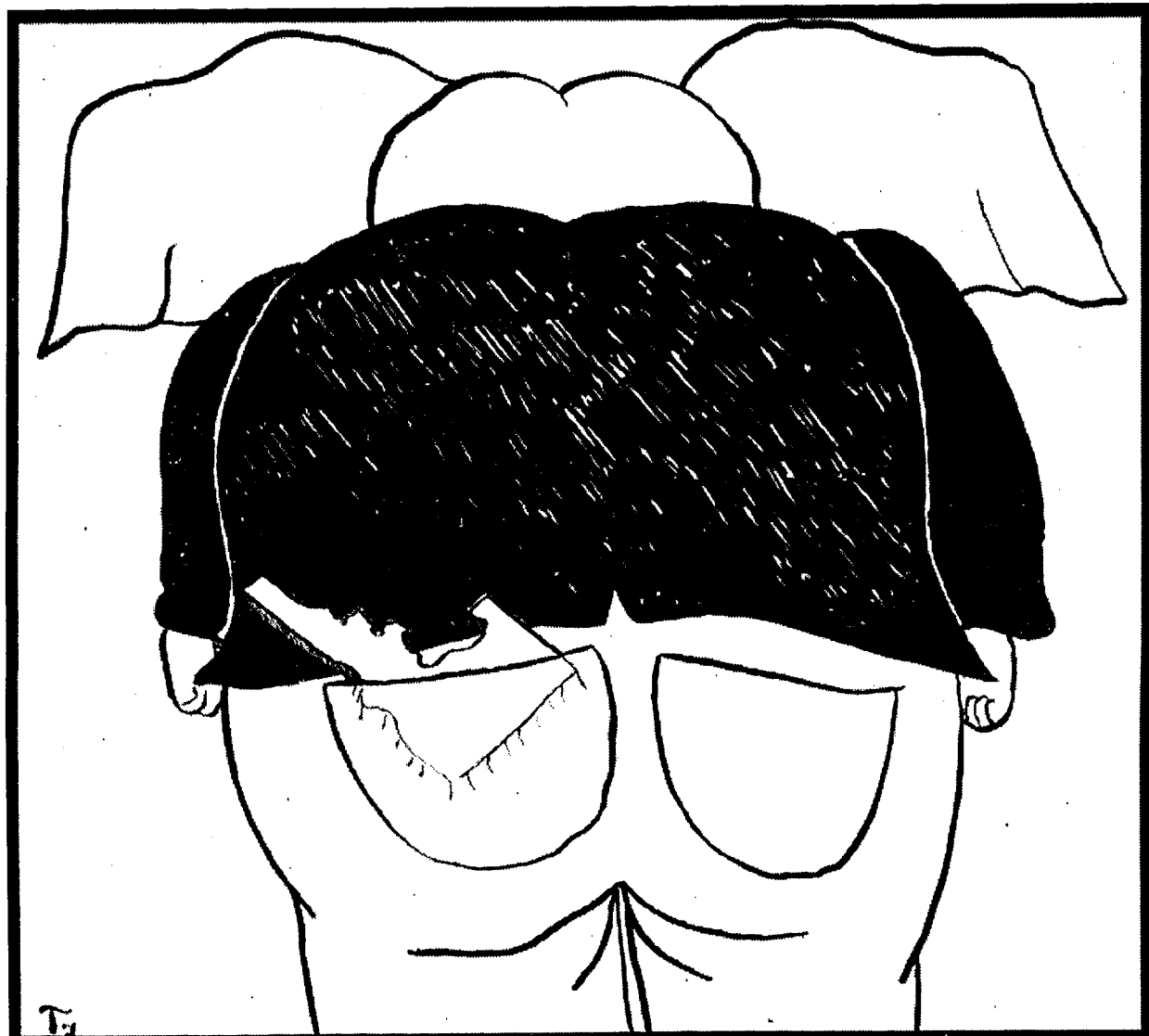
The problem comes from how widely the proposition could be applied. It limits itself where public health and safety and public nuisance are concerned, but otherwise property owners are free to claim whatever they want. Here in

Moscow, Naylor Farms — prohibited from mining clay north of Moscow by the Latah County Commissioners — could conceivably back around the public health exemption and demand money for the restriction. In Twin Falls, one of our hometowns, developers prevented from building tall hotels on the rim of the Snake River Canyon could demand their lost money.

Maxwell is not alone in his work. He's actually one of many activists receiving funding from New York real-estate mogul Howie Rich, who through many different sources is paying for similar initiatives in Arizona, California, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Washington and other states.

That's right. This is a coordinated campaign, and voters in Idaho, Washington and other states need to wake up and reject it. The idea of more profits must seem great to developers, but the state bankruptcy that would result would mean a hard life for the rest of us.

N.P.



2006 election: Education on the ballot

Next month there's going to be a general election. And to make things interesting, we get to vote on things other than candidates for office. In Idaho, we have a couple ballot measures to be voted on — two of the most contrasted are the Property Tax Relief Act of 2006 and Proposition 1.

The Property Tax Relief Act of 2006 is as its name implies — property tax relief. If passed (the act is currently in effect — the ballot measure would make it permanent) it would cut \$260 million dollars in property taxes, mostly from residential taxes. To counter the loss in property taxes the sales tax has been raised 1 percent, or \$210 million dollars. The remainder of the shortfall would be made up from money from the Surplus to Protect Education. However, it's important to keep in mind that the surplus money is a one-time deal. Taxes or the state budget would have to be reassessed again in a year. Not to worry, \$100 million will be shifted into education protection that can be used at a later date.

Proposition 1 is a little different. The teacher unions of Idaho sponsor Prop. 1, and the teacher unions of several other states have jointly financed the campaign. Instead of readjusting state revenue streams, Prop. 1 would increase public education spending by \$219 million per year. But, as its opponents are quick to point out, Prop. 1 does not specify where and how \$219 mil-

lion is supposed to be raised. But, I think it might be a good opportunity for the State Legislature to exercise a little creativity. What Prop. 1 specifies is that the money is intended for textbooks, classroom supplies and teacher salaries.

I don't like the Property Tax Relief Act of 2006. I'm going to be honest with you — I don't like how a fill-in governor and a "special" session of the Legislature altered the state revenue stream using and/or stealing from education surpluses as a short-term fix. While I'm not exactly an expert on the subject, from what I know of the state's recent history, education surpluses are intended to make up for budget shortfalls that are caused by changing economic conditions not intentional tax cuts.

If the goal was property tax relief, that's fine. But, it could have been done the same way without cutting into education surplus money, perhaps through increasing the sales tax a little more than 1 percent. Maybe 1.5 percent — I don't know, I'm not a good math student.

Now Prop. 1, I do like. Like everyone else, I'm not a big fan of tax increases. But public education is important. Idaho's public schools are subpar — as the State Department of Education and State Board of Education will tell you — but state legislators will insist it is just fine. Simple education standards, like

math requirements, are set lower in Idaho than most other states. Not because there is no desire to raise them, but because the availability of teachers for certain subjects is an issue. Secondary education standards are important because they determine what colleges are available to students, and what basic classes they may need (generally referred to as remedial classes — a sizeable chunk of Boise Junior College's class are remedial) if they enter college. Teacher salaries are partly to blame as Idaho ranks 32nd nationally in teacher pay. In the 2006 session, the State Legislature considered several bills to create scholarships for students who study certain subjects to become teachers to fill current needs. However, these bills were rejected.

A little mind-boggling isn't it? The state has an expressed and well-understood need to improve its education system, but doesn't do anything about it. Prop. 1 actually makes an effort to improve the state of education in Idaho, granted through raising some sort of tax. The Property Tax Relief Act of 2006 just underhandedly steals money from education to cover a property tax relief.

So, it all comes down to which way people go in November. If you're satisfied with the status quo in Idaho with regard to education, the Property Tax Relief Act of 2006 really won't affect much... this year — the budget will have to be readjusted. If you're not content with the state of education in Idaho, you might want to take a look at Prop. 1.

MailBOX

Thanks to FarmHouse

This weekend I attended the BSU vs. UI football game. As a Vandal alum, it was great to see all of the support for our team. We had a great time during the pre-game tailgate. It is wonderful to see the Vandal spirit alive and well. Unfortunately, as we prepared to pack up and leave, we watched a sad display of behavior as the fraternities packed up. We watched the flags come down and the trash that was in the back of the trucks was thrown on the parking lot ground. I was appalled to see that after emptying the truck beds, the trucks drove off leaving their area littered with bottles, cans, broken coolers and cups. I would like to thank the Farmhouse Fraternity who not only picked up its own trash but also cleaned up the surrounding area. I think it is sad that for many fans the lasting memory of Saturday's game was not how great the guys played, but the disappointing behavior of the student tailgaters. I would hope that in the future, we can show our Vandal pride by leaving the area better than we found it.

Kristie James
alumna, Spokane

No on Prop. 2, yes on 1

A number of District 6 citizens have asked my position on several issues facing Idaho voters on Nov. 7.

Proposition 2 would be a taxpayer nightmare. It affects both eminent domain and local planning. According to Attorney General (Lawrence) Wasden, Idaho has some of the best eminent domain laws in the land. And the Legislature passed several laws this past session improving homeowner and business protection.

Prop. 2 will allow speculators to dodge local planning laws forever changing the character of our neighborhoods and rural lands. Under Prop. 2 speculators could build a pig farm or junkyard next to your house or the taxpayers would have to pay them not to.

Prop. 2 will undermine the local planning safeguards that investors and businesses count on to make investments with confidence. Local land use approvals will come to a halt while courts sort out it all out — delaying and increasing the costs for local projects. Oregon passed a similar measure in 2004 and now faces over \$5 billion in claims from speculators. Vote no on Prop. 2.

Proposition 1 is a citizens' initiative placed on the ballot by 80,000 citizens' signatures to improve public school funding. Idaho's schools have the eighth most crowded classrooms, and we rank 45th in funding public education. Idaho citizens are being asked to provide about \$230 million in additional funding for our public schools. This will mean updated textbooks, smaller class sizes, with additional access to art, music and PE for students.

If Proposition 1 passes the Legislature will be charged with coming up with alternative revenue streams to provide the funding.

Vote yes on Proposition 1.

Tom Trail
Representative, District 6
Moscow, ID

Idaho for Idahoans

The last thing Idaho needs is a small fortune in out-of-state campaign money from Republicans and big corporations intended to persuade us that the sole purpose of federal, state and local government is to continue increasing the runaway national debt, perpetuate tax cuts for the rich, continue corruption in Congress, turn Social Security over to Wall Street, pursue until the end of time the failed Iraq War and remove local control over what is going to be built by your next door neighbor — be it a fast food outlet, gravel pit or a coal-fired power plant.

Larry Grant, running for the 1st District congressional seat, is faced with a massive funding effort and smear advertising campaign by the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Jerry Brady, candidate for governor, is pitted against Big Energy money in his quest to bring a much-needed balance to Idaho state government. Brady fought to maintain local control when Semptra Energy wanted to construct a coal-fired power plant in the Magic Valley to generate electricity for out-of-state customers.

Proposition 2 will put an end to land use control over what is built next door to us. This is the brainchild of Howard Rich, a real estate mogul based in New York City, who spent over \$250,000 just to collect enough signatures to put Proposition 2 on the Idaho ballot.

As smart people, Idahoans should reject candidates and issues funded by outside interests.

Votes for Jerry Brady and Larry Grant and against Proposition 2 are votes for Idaho.

Rich Levensgood
Moscow, ID

Editorial Policy

The opinion page is reserved as a forum of open thought, debate and expression of free speech regarding topics relevant to the University of Idaho community. Editorials are signed by the initials of the author.

Editorials may not necessarily reflect the views of the university or its identities. Members of the Argonaut Editorial Board are Tara Roberts, editor in chief; Nate Poppino, managing editor; and Sarrah Benoit, opinion editor.

Letters Policy

The Argonaut welcomes letters to the editor about current issues. However, The Argonaut adheres to a strict letter policy:

- Letters should be less than 300 words typed.

- Letters should focus on issues, not on personalities.
- The Argonaut reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and clarity.
- Letters must be signed, include major and provide a current phone number.

- If your letter is in response to a particular article, please list the title and date of the article.
- Send all letters to: 301 SUB, Moscow, ID, 83844-4271 or arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu.

Breaking onto the art scene

By T.J. Tranchell
Argonaut

When you are young and you pour shampoo onto your parents' scanner, you get in trouble. If you break your Gameboy, you get in trouble. If you are Stuart Larson, you print the results and charge \$200.

Larson is currently exhibiting "Liquid Scans & Dead Technology" at the Prichard Art Gallery. The show will run until Dec. 2. Admission to the gallery is free.

The earliest print from Larson's "Liquid Scans" section was made in 2002, and many were made only months ago.

"I take the lid off the scanner and pour the substance right on the surface," Larson said.

Pouring liquid in a scanner could be damaging, but Larson came up with an idea to help prevent scanner malfunction.

"I tried using picture frames, setting them on the scanner then pouring the liquid, but that little bit of distance just didn't work," he said.

The solution: Larson built a guard rail out of Plexiglass to contain whatever substance he is using.

"I'm on my third printer," he said, "but the first one still works, just not with the same quality."

The range of liquids can be seen in the diversity of results. The earliest print in the show, called "Dawn," is a field of yellow with tiny black dots that look almost like dividing cells. The substance used was dishwashing soap.

Another, titled "Relief," has similar black dots, only in blue instead of yellow. In the top right corner is a large absence of color, like a black hole. Milk of Magnesia produced this effect.

The print called "Mega Expressive #1" looks more organic, like a microscope close-up of blades of grass. It is, in fact, Mega-Expressive Styling Gel.

"That's the one that gave me the biggest 'wow' effect," Larson said. "That is how I judge what to print and what not to print. Sometimes, I just sit back and think, 'Did I make that?' And I'm completely blown away."

The other half of Larson's exhibit, "Dead Technology," is more of a social comment than "Liquid Scans."

"We take things from house to house, box to box and never use them," he said. "Each time I moved, there was that Gameboy, out of one box and into another, and I hadn't used it in 10 years."

Each work from "Dead Technology" has a brief story. The "Game Boy" story goes like this: "Game cost: \$150 in 1991. Product Failure: Product replaced with smaller models with better graphics and color screens."

Instead of continuing to carry these obsolete objects, Larson has chosen to create art from



Robert Harder examines artist Stuart Larson's "Cell Phone," a part of Larson's "Dead Technology" exhibit at the Prichard Art Gallery on Friday night. Bruce Mann/Argonaut

them. "The most satisfying was probably 'Tape Radio' because it was the first," Larson said. "I've become divorced from any attachment to these objects so there isn't anything I feel bad about breaking."

Both "Liquid Scans" and "Dead Technology" are evolving processes. Larson has begun varying his applications of liquids, sometimes using a palette knife or pouring the liquids in streams instead of completely covering the scanner surface. And as long as tech-

nology keeps advancing, other objects will become obsolete.

"It is about trying to bring back the artist's mark," Larson said. "Making the choices about the process and about what to print is where any artist shows their vision."

How to dissect 'Death of a Salesman'



Dan Peterson as Willy Loman rehearses a dramatic scene from "Death of a Salesman" with fellow cast member Matt Smith Wednesday evening in the Hartung. Kylie Pfeifer/Argonaut

By Brandon Macz
Argonaut

Willy Loman always lived with the belief that how well a man was liked determined his success.

Being demoted from his traveling salesman job is only a spark in a life that flames out of control as his son Biff tries to step out of his father's shadow and become his own man. Willy realizes that the only way to save his family is to cash in on his life insurance policy by checking out. How will this affect his wife and two sons?

This is one conflict in "Death of a Salesman" that has been examined by director Jerre Hodgkin and his cast. As reflective as the actors must be to delve into the characters imagined by Arthur Miller in 1949, Hodgkin said that the play should teach others to reflect on themselves.

Willy is a stubborn character, according to Hodgkin, who doesn't want to look at his weaknesses or have anyone do it for him. Without acknowledging the truth about himself, Willy can't navigate through what life gives him, Hodgkin said.

Everyone has to find themselves, he said, and that is what makes Miller's play timeless — the humanity of reflection.

"Trying to navigate ourselves through change is a really difficult

process," Hodgkin said. "I don't think that matters whether it's 1949 ... or 2006."

The play deals with Willy's haunting past cutting into his present through a series of stage transitions. Often, he will lose himself in the past when the other characters are still in the present.

"I think that all of us have approached this, not as if it's a great American classic. You don't see this iconic 'Willy Loman,'" Hodgkin said. "What I was seeing on stage was a man ... struggling ... for his goddamn life and being, and that's what it's about. That's what Dan has brought to this."

Professional guest actor Dan Peterson will be playing the role of Willy Loman. Peterson studied acting at Boise State University, but grew up in Lewiston and said he feels a strong connection to North Idaho. Now, he has developed a connection with Willy.

"He has these values. No matter what you think of those values, he has them and he holds onto them with every fiber of his being," Peterson said.

After Hodgkin had compiled his cast, he told them that the play is about a family where everyone tries their best to connect with each other, but can't — a series of

See SALESMAN, page 9

'The Prestige' lacks magic, fails to surprise viewers

By Ryli Hennessey
Argonaut

If "The Prestige" is supposed to develop like a magic act, then director Christopher Nolan must be an amateur magician. The point of magic is to keep an audience guessing, but instead he shows all of his cards before he makes it to what magicians call "the prestige."

The film starts out with two men working as audience "plants" for a London magician. Aspiring magicians Alfred Borden (Christian Bale) and Rupert Angier (Hugh Jackman) are friends. Rupert's wife Julia (Piper Perabo) is an assistant in the show and the two are in

charge of tying her up for her underwater escape act. Alfred trade and the complexities of putting a magic act together. There may even be some truth to the rivalry between magicians, though this situation is very sensationalized.

When Alfred decides to use a new knot (maybe) to tie her up one night, she cannot escape and ends up drowning in front of a packed crowd. This event sets off a lifelong rivalry between the two that increases in cruelty as the film progresses. The best part of the film is it gives the audience insight into the world of the magician. It reveals a few tricks



"The Prestige" ★★★ (of 5) In theaters now

of the about the middle of the film. It

leaves no surprise for the audience, and it has given away the secret of the trick before it has a chance to wow the audience.

Even though the ending is predictable, the story is still interesting. The lengths that both men go for revenge are astonishing.

Surprisingly, one of the most sinister parts of the film (though they are never actually seen) are Edison's thugs. David Bowie plays Nikola Tesla, a fellow inventor who is working on more effective means of electricity as well as a magic trick for Rupert. To protect his work he has an electric fence around his secret lab up in the woods. When Edison comes

into town his lab is burned down and he is forced to flee. His machine is a little cheesy, but still pretty scary. Bowie is barely recognizable — what gives him away is his mismatched eyes.

Jackman, an actor who also

knows how to play a dark superhero, is good but never likeable. It seems like the audience should be rooting for Rupert — after all he is the one whose wife has just died. But he is so mean that it is difficult to sympathize with his character.

Even after figuring out all of the details of the ending most audience members will expect a twist — Nolan is the director of "Memento." Unfortunately, it ends predictably. No twist, no surprise, just a few disturbing images.

'Adverbs' slightly funny, generally annoying

By Tara Roberts
Argonaut

You know Daniel Handler. He's better known as Lemony Snicket, the wit behind the wildly successful children's novels "A Series of Unfortunate Events." But can he write for adults?
"Adverbs" is Handler's newest (grown-up) novel, released around the same time as the final "Unfortunate Events" book. The premise is curious and shows early promise: a collection of vaguely interconnected chapters, each titled with an adverb, create a novel about love in all its beauty and fickleness. The problem: Handler's style is quirky at

best, and will drive some readers up the wall.
While the places in "Adverbs" are well-known cities (San Francisco, Seattle, New York), the people are harder to keep track of. Readers meet a Joe in an early story — but is the Joe in the end the same guy? Are any of the Tomases the same dude? Are Andrea and Allison the same Andrea and Allison in every story? The point is ambiguity. It's actually supposed to be confusing, if you believe the dust-jacket blurb. But the effect is annoying, except to the very



"Adverbs"
★★★ (of 5)
Daniel Handler

patient or to people who dig this kind of stuff.
Because of the convoluted string of characters and the fractured storyline, it's easier to consider the book as a collection of stories rather than chapters. There are themes and motifs that echo off each other throughout each story (like the recently reviewed "The Stars Over Veracruz," but weirder and more humorous), and some are even directly connected in strange ways.
In "Clearly," a man and

ruined in an ... er ... compromising position in the woods by a man (Tomas, one of many) whose friend Steven (also one of many) has been severely injured nearby. When Adam and Tomas leave for help, Eddie and Steven are left in the darkening woods to worry and bond. This is one of the best stories in the book for its simplicity (lacking in most of "Adverbs") and its humor. One of the stranger but funnier jokes included is Eddie's retelling of a dream she has in which she discovers she's been dating a dead man without realizing he's dead. The story following directly after "Clearly," "Naturally," tells in detail the story of a woman who's dating a dead man without knowing

he's dead. It's a surprising and pleasant connection, and there are a few similar ones that appear in other parts of the book.
But despite clever plotlines, the novel overall is frustrating. Handler loves wordplay and odd metaphors, but it often feels overly self-aware, as if Handler is reading over your shoulder and gloating about how damn funny he is.
"Adverbs" is decent enough, but it's definitely not for every reader. To test if it will be a fun read or an annoyance, read the Handler-penned blurb on the dust jacket. If you laugh, read on. If you feel a sudden urge to start twitching and slam the book repeatedly shut, don't open it again.

SALESMAN from page 7

it is a struggle between two men, Willy and his son, Biff.
Biff fails math and, after visiting his father out on business in St. Louis, runs away for three months and never graduates. Willy holds unrealistic expectations for Biff, forcing him to keep lying and retracting to save his father's pride.
"I think sometimes ... we lose track of how important and pivotal Biff is," Hodgins said.
A first-year MFA actor, Kevin Partridge had always wanted to act in "Death of a Salesman." When he got out of the military in 1992, he

received a bachelor's degree in theater from Western Washington University. His ambition is to teach theater.
"It's just about as deep a script as you can get," Partridge said. "It's just meaty."
In examining Biff, Partridge said it was hard to make connections and parallels with the character because his family was completely different from Biff's.
"I think there's always a struggle to achieve and to realize when you are going to become your own man and do what you want to do, and do what you have to do and break from the family tradition," Partridge said. "A lot of parents are really too forthcoming in giving advice on what the future should hold for their children."

In the play, Willy has two sons, the other being Happy or Hap for short.
The younger brother, Happy, recognizes Biff's position in the family and knows that Biff should always be in the position of success, said Adam Critchlow, who plays Happy.
"Happy's really content supporting that and propelling his brother forward," Critchlow said.
Critchlow is a third-year MFA student who is performing in "Death of a Salesman" as his Capstone project in order to graduate. He said Biff, Happy and Willy all live with lies.

"The play's really about identity and what happens when we don't have identity," he said. "If your identity's wrapped up in a lie, then pretty soon the lie dissolves and what you're left with is nothing, so you have to recreate yourself."
These dysfunctional characters began development in September and will be performed in the Hartung Theatre 7:30 Oct. 26-28 and Nov. 2-4. Tickets are available at the UI Kibbie Dome Ticket office or at the door, and are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for UI and WSU students, faculty and staff.

"It's just about as deep a script as you can get. It's just meaty!"

Kevin Partridge
Actor

Band holds steady with new Kerouac-inspired album

By Chris Riemenschneider
McClatchy Newspapers

On the weekend of the Hold Steady's CD-release party last year in New York City, frontman Craig Finn nonchalantly mentioned that he recently had reread Jack Kerouac's "On the Road."
"I read it when I was 16 but didn't really get it," he said. "This time, I was surprised how hilarious it is."
Talking by phone two weeks ago — on the road — the Edina, Minn., native was still laughing about Kerouac's book, which gave him the theme behind the Hold Steady's third album, "Boys and Girls in America."
The record, released Oct. 3 by mega-indie Vagrant Records, is named after and largely based on a line in the book: "Boys and girls in America have such a sad time together. Sophistication demands that they submit to sex immediately without proper preliminary talk. Not courting talk — real straight talk about souls."
Finn recalled, "I underlined that and said, 'I think I could get a whole album out of that.'"
Could he ever. The songs on "Boys and Girls in America" all touch on the great divide that exists between young men and women, and the crazy things kids do to hook up.
Of course, the NYC-via-MSP band explores this universal motif via the formula that defines each of its albums: vivid and often sordid storytelling about partying, boozing and getting high,

and guitarist Tad Kubler, the latter of whom played with Finn in the '90s Minneapolis punk band Lifter Puller.
"Craig and I had been doing the big-guitar-riff sound for a long time," Kubler said, "I sort of went with a less-is-more mentality this time."
Franz and I worked together a lot and created a lot more space for the piano, which is where a lot of the melodies come from."
To go with the extra dose of piano, there's an inordinate amount of singing on this record. The typically monotone Finn tests his vocal abilities in songs such as the acoustic downer "Citrus" and the CD's anthem closer, "Southtown Girls," an unlikely reflection on Bloomington, Minnesota's nondescript Southtown Shopping Center.
More prominently, the other members offer more backup vocals, from simple "woh-oh" hooks in "Massive Nights" to full-blown choruses in the horse-race-as-a-relationship song "Chips! Ahoy." Soul Asylum's Dave Pirner and the Reputation's Elizabeth Elmore also provide guest vocals in "Chillout Tent," about a day at a rock fest gone awry.
Much of that work fell to keyboardist Franz Nicolay

"The songs all loosely relate to each other, but there isn't one linear story ... doing it this way was sort of a new challenge, with one theme but otherwise unrelated songs."

Craig Finn
Band frontman

Fall 2006 new series report card

By Mike Duffy
Detroit Free Press

Some new shows raise the bar; others don't even come close to touching it.

ABC:

"Brothers & Sisters": Despite high-profile stars Calista Flockhart and Sally Field, the upscale family drama is losing a third of the "Desperate Housewives" audience. Grade: B-minus.
"Help Me Help You": Another big-name disappointment as 50 percent of the "Dancing with the Stars" viewership abandons Ted Danson's misfiring shrink sitcom. Grade: C.
"The Knights of Prosperity": Sitcom about misfits trying to rob Mick Jagger is benched before scheduled premiere. It's on hold till later in the season. Grade: Incomplete.
"The Nine": The ballyhoed bank hostage thriller has done even worse in the post-"Lost" time slot than last fall's canceled "Invasion." Grade: C-minus.
"Men in Trees": Anne Heche's appealing romantic dramedy is quickly losing steam on Fridays in a bad time slot. Grade: D-plus.
"Six Degrees": Romantic relationship drama from producer J.J. Abrams ("Lost," "Alias") fizzles badly following "Grey's Anatomy" on Thursdays. Grade: D-minus.
"Ugly Betty": A stylish, funny, big-hearted winner in a tough time slot, fall's No. 1-rated new series is averaging 15 million viewers. Grade: A.

CBS:

"The Class": Strong reviews but iffy ratings for the "Friends"-echoing sitcom, though a time slot switch with "How I Met Your Mother" did offer a slight boost. Grade: C-plus.
"Jericho": The small-town nuclear apocalypse thriller is a fall season ratings surprise and growing hit despite grim subject. Grade: B-plus.
"Shark": James Woods' courtroom drama is no "Without a Trace," dropping a big chunk of the "CSI" audience it inherits on Thursdays. Grade: C-plus.
"Smith": And another one bites the dust. Even with Ray Liotta and Virginia Madsen, the suspense drama about professional thieves was DOA, gone after three episodes. Grade: F.

NBC:

"Friday Night Lights": NBC had high hopes for the high school football drama, a very good show sacked by terrible ratings its

first two weeks. Grade: D-minus.
"Heroes": Hot, hot, hot. The supernatural underdog surprise, a comic book thriller about everyday superheroes, has won its time slot three straight weeks and scored big with young viewers. Grade: A-minus.
"Kidnapped": Another serial thriller flop, the suspense drama with Dana Delany and Timothy Hutton has been exiled to Saturday nights to finish out its brief prime time life. Grade: F.
"Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip": Rapturous reviews, lukewarm viewer response. But even with a drop-off in ratings, Aaron Sorkin's smart, ambitious backstage drama is No. 1 among affluent, educated viewers and likely to survive unless those numbers keep falling. Grade: B-minus.
"Twenty Good Years": John Lithgow and Jeffrey Tambor's slapstick testosterone twist on "The Golden Girls" staggered badly out of the gate. Grade: D.
"30 Rock": So maybe Tina Fey isn't ready for prime time. Even with critical raves, her sly show biz satire premiered poorly in a tough 8 p.m. Wednesday slot. Grade: C-minus.
FOX:
"Happy Hour": It's a bad sitcom hangover for the boorish buddy comedy. Canceled. Grade: F.
"Justice": The flashy, trashy legal drama is guilty of blah ratings and has been moved to 9 p.m. Mondays following "Prison Break." Grade: C.
"Standoff": Another disappointment, the suspense drama about FBI hostage negotiators is being shifted to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and "House" goes back to 9 p.m. Grade: C-minus.
"Til Death": The tacky, tasteless Brad Garrett squabbling married couple sitcom is awaiting its cancellation divorce papers from Fox. Grade: D.
"Vanished": The tangled, conspiracy-laced story about the kidnapping of a Georgia senator's wife couldn't abduct enough viewers and is moving to the pre-cancellation death slot of 8 p.m. Fridays. Grade: D-minus.
CW:
"The Game": The sports-related "Girlfriends" sitcom spin-off was flattened along with the rest of the CW Sunday sitcom lineup and has been moved to Mondays. Grade: D.
"Runaway": When you're No. 99, the lowest ranked of all prime-time series, nothing is fine. So the family on the lam thriller is definitely headed for cancellation oblivion. Grade: F.

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New films seem to reflect a loss of faith

By Christopher Kelly
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

In Stephen Frears' great new film, "The Queen," which is set in the tumultuous days following the death of Princess Diana in August 1997, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) stares intently at the television in her private chambers, as news reporters recite a relentless and damning case against her.

Her country is in mourning, but Elizabeth has chosen to stay above the fray and to keep the royal family holed up at Balmoral, her estate in Scotland. Elizabeth's subjects are appalled and then openly outraged by the queen's absence in this time of national crisis; some even begin to suggest that it's time for the monarchy to be abolished altogether. The situation gets graver by the minute, as the film takes on the texture of a thriller: Will Elizabeth heed the advice of Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen) and return to Buckingham Palace to give her people the simple words of comfort they so need? Or will she wait too long — and lose all the respect and authority she's spent half a century cultivating?

On its most basic level, "The Queen" is a gripping, bitingly funny take on one of the most surreal chapters of recent world history. Certainly, in the hours after Diana and Dodi Fayed died in a car crash in Paris' Pont de l'Alma tunnel, no one could have imagined that the very future of the British monarchy would hang in the balance just one week later.

But it's hard not to also see "The Queen" as an allegory that transcends national boundaries and political systems. Frears' film shows us what happens when leaders lose touch with those they are leading; when they feel the ground shifting beneath their feet

but can't comprehend why. Those leaders inevitably cling to rules (Diana can't possibly be given a state funeral because she's no longer "officially" a member of the royal family) and protocol (a flag for Diana can't possibly be flown at half-mast outside Buckingham Palace because that's simply not how things are done), even if, by doing so, they're further alienating their subjects — and all but guaranteeing that the entire system will collapse around them.

What makes "The Queen" especially intriguing is that it arrives alongside a number of other films about leadership and power, and their attendant temptations and trappings. In Sofia Coppola's "Marie Antoinette," Kirsten Dunst plays a queen even more cloistered than Elizabeth II, who becomes so consumed with fancy clothing, sumptuous food and courtly behavior that she doesn't entirely realize she's supposed to be leading a nation.

In the recently released "The Last King of Scotland," James McAvoy plays a young doctor who falls under the spell of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin (Forest Whitaker), a man whose power was as mercurial as it was deadly.

And in this summer's "The Devil Wears Prada," Meryl Streep — playing a fictionalized version of real-life "Vogue" editor Anna Wintour — brilliantly showed us what it takes to climb to the top of the fashion-magazine world. The movie itself leaves tantalizingly open to debate the question of whether all of her sacrifices are worth it.

This spate of films feels like the inevitable cinematic response to current events, ranging from the Enron scandal to the handling of the war in Iraq. If, right now, they reflect an unease with leadership in Washington or corporate America, they also speak to our unending fascination with authority and power. We can't stop yearning to climb

inside the heads of those who rule over us.

What's unexpected about this new strain of "power cinema" is its fundamentally empathetic portraits of leadership. Indeed, movies like "The Queen" and "The Devil Wears Prada" are products of the same power and celebrity-obsessed culture that has turned "The Apprentice" into one of television's top-rated shows. If anything, these movies are closest in spirit to those "Power Lists" published in magazines like Vanity Fair and Entertainment Weekly — which are at once snarky, worshipful and hyperanalytical. They illustrate why we're all drawn to the most authoritative and commanding leaders; and they remind us that — as much as we might pretend otherwise — we'd all like to have a little bit of that authority and command ourselves.

Take "The Devil Wears Prada," which unfolds through the eyes of Andy Sachs (Anne Hathaway), a bright, ambitious young writer who claims she has no interest in celebrities, parties or fashion. But as Andy goes to work for the insanely demanding magazine editor Miranda Priestley (Streep), she finds herself drawn ever deeper into a world of surface pleasures. In one giddy montage, director David Frankel shows Andy marching across the streets of Manhattan in a succession of gorgeous couture get-ups — thigh-high Chanel boots; an off-white angora coat by Yigal Azrouel; a brown cotton voile dress by Calvin Klein. To paraphrase Miranda herself, as she's stepping out of a limousine and onto the red carpet of yet another party: Who wouldn't want such a glamorous life?

When the movie was released in June, many critics accused "The Devil Wears Prada" of hypocrisy. "There's something mealy-mouthed about the way the movie dangles all the goodies of worldly success before our eyes, then

scolds its heroine for wanting to grab a little of that pleasure and power for herself," wrote Dana Stevens in Slate.

That criticism misses the larger point. "The Devil Wears Prada" takes place in a very modern world, where capitalism has sunk its claws into all of us. Sure, we should know better than to embrace a system that rewards beauty over brains and glamour over sensibility. (Just as, in "The Queen," the British public should know better than to endorse an antiquated system of government that rewards people solely because of their bloodline.) But we willingly submit ourselves to those systems: The pleasure of the fantasy — what might our own lives be like if we could walk in such gilded shoes? — more than outweighs the exacting cost of reality.

As the latest entry in the mini-genre known as "The Boss From Hell" movie (see also "Swimming With Sharks," "Working Girl" and "9 to 5"), "The Devil Wears Prada" is immensely entertaining and witty — certainly the most enjoyable Hollywood movie of the year. It also makes for an unexpectedly fascinating double feature with "The Last King of Scotland," which follows a young Scottish doctor named Nicholas Garrigan (McAvoy) as he travels to Uganda with the intent of helping poor villagers — but who ends up living in the ruthless dictator Amin's palace and working as his personal physician.

Both films show us how easily our moral compasses are swayed in the face of luxury items (for Garrigan, it's a shiny Mercedes instead of a Marc Jacobs bag) and what it's like to work for a megalomaniac — the type of boss who demands complete fealty from his underling (and even then isn't satisfied).

Perhaps most significant, both films show what it takes to achieve and sustain dominance, and why — once lead-

ers have scratched their way to the top — it usually takes a bullet (or worse) to topple them.

As easy as it is to see this new wave of films as a reflection of how fed up many have become with the old authoritarian models — note President George W. Bush's historically low approval ratings and the lingering outrage over the Mark Foley scandal — the reality is that most of these movies have been in the works for years. (In the case of "The Last King of Scotland," the producers had been trying to get it made since before Bush took office.)

But serendipity shouldn't be ignored. Certainly, the enthusiastic reception all of these films has thus far enjoyed suggests there's a cultural shift at work here: Moviegoers are suddenly keen on stories of leadership in crisis. ("The Devil Wears Prada" was a surprise blockbuster this summer, grossing \$125 million; "The Queen" and "The Last King of Scotland" have both been performing strongly in limited release.) In the swift and brilliant final section of "The Queen," Elizabeth sits with Blair, who has been advising her through the crisis. Although her public image is suddenly tarnished, she's determined to carry on. None too subtly, she lets Blair know that someday he, too, will be blindsided; that he'll wake up and realize he's lost touch with the electorate.

The message couldn't be more timely, especially for those politicians facing an uphill battle for re-election in November. It couldn't be more eternal, either. It's the same message that runs through Greek tragedy, Shakespeare, Pulitzer Prize-winning novels like "All the King's Men" and prime-time television soap operas like "Dallas" and "Dynasty":

Power wouldn't be half so intoxicating if it came with a lifetime guarantee. Just make sure to enjoy it while it lasts.

Witchy television film is a campy Wiccan update

By David Bianculli
New York Daily News
(MCT)

The ending is tacky, and some of the special effects should be downgraded to "ordinary" — but "The Initiation of Sarah," an ABC Family Channel telemovie, which premiered Sunday night at 8 p.m. EDT, has enough "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" flavor to make it watchable.

There's no pretense of higher meaning. "The Initiation of Sarah" is a story about rival sororities in which the young women and their house mothers are witches of the spell-casting variety. Newly arrived sisters, Lindsey (Summer Glau) and Sarah (Mika Boorem), get caught up in a tug-of-war between the supernaturally powerful women of Alpha Nu Gamma and Pi Epsilon Delta.

Which sorority will each sister pledge? And if they're accepted, will they make — or

be — the necessary sacrifices?

In the end, it all comes down to battling initiations, with everyone wearing the requisite flimsy nightgowns and color-coded shrouds. This eternal battle between good and evil is like Red States versus Blue States — except, in this sorority row, it's Red Shrouds versus Blue Shrouds.

Writer Dan Berendsen and director Stuart Gillard, to their credit, don't take any of this too seriously. Characters speak glibly, almost "Veronica Mars"-like, as when the two sisters approach Alpha Nu for the first time — the somewhat mousy Lindsey eagerly, the gloomy Sarah with proper trepidation.

"Why do you judge people before you know them?" Lindsey asks her sister, challenging her antisocial attitude. "Isn't that what they're about to do to us?" Sarah responds.

The villainous Alpha Nu girls, led by blond and beauti-

ful Chorine (Joanna Garcia) and black and beautiful Ezme (Tessa Thompson), want Sarah for a blood ritual. Over at Pi Epsilon, faculty advisor Dr. Hunter (Jennifer Tilly) wants Sarah for her own purposes — and isn't above casting her own spells, from time-shifting to shape-shifting, to achieve them.

The young women are surprisingly good in this — especially Glau, who played River the mystery cargo in both TV's "Firefly" and the movie "Serenity." When she undergoes a magical makeover, she's not only bewitched, but bewitching. And as the sisters' mom, Morgan Fairchild has only a few scenes, but pro-

vides an intentional link to this telemovie's inspirational source.

Back in 1978, when telemovies were young and generally crudely done, ABC presented the original "The Initiation of Sarah," starring Kay Lenz in the title role. Don Ingalls, Carol Saraceno and Kenette Geller wrote the tele-

play, which was less self-aware and entertaining. Fairchild, just before taking off as a soap diva in "Flamingo Road," played one of the sorority's sexy, snooty blondes. In the new "Initiation," she plays a former pledge — but one who hasn't entirely given up her wicked, wicca ways.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Page 11

Welcome back, rivalry

Vandal fans wore T-shirts that said Boise State was in for a shock, and that's just what they received



By Alec Lawton
Argonaut

The outcome of the Vandals' 42-26 defeat against Boise State on Saturday was more of the same for this season — a growing buzz among Vandal fans, and a reserved confidence from University of Idaho football coach Dennis Erickson.

While Erickson said he couldn't have asked the Vandals to fight any harder, he didn't take anything from the loss because he was already confident that his team would be competitive.

"I don't take a damn thing, not a damn thing other than our guys played hard," Erickson said. "We have four football games left. We have a chance to have a good season. We competed. I knew we would do that."

Part of Erickson's strategy for the game was to rob Boise State of the early offensive momentum that they have used so effectively against other opponents this season. Erickson said if he had the choice, he would have started on offense, even though he has not done that this season. Ultimately though, it was BSU that deferred the ball.

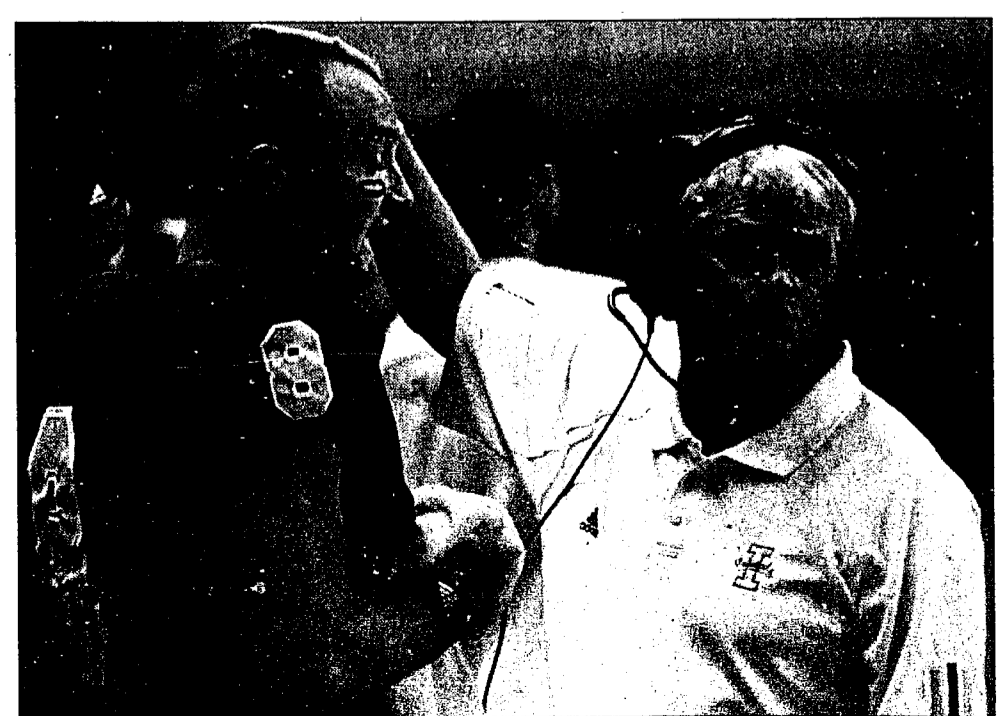
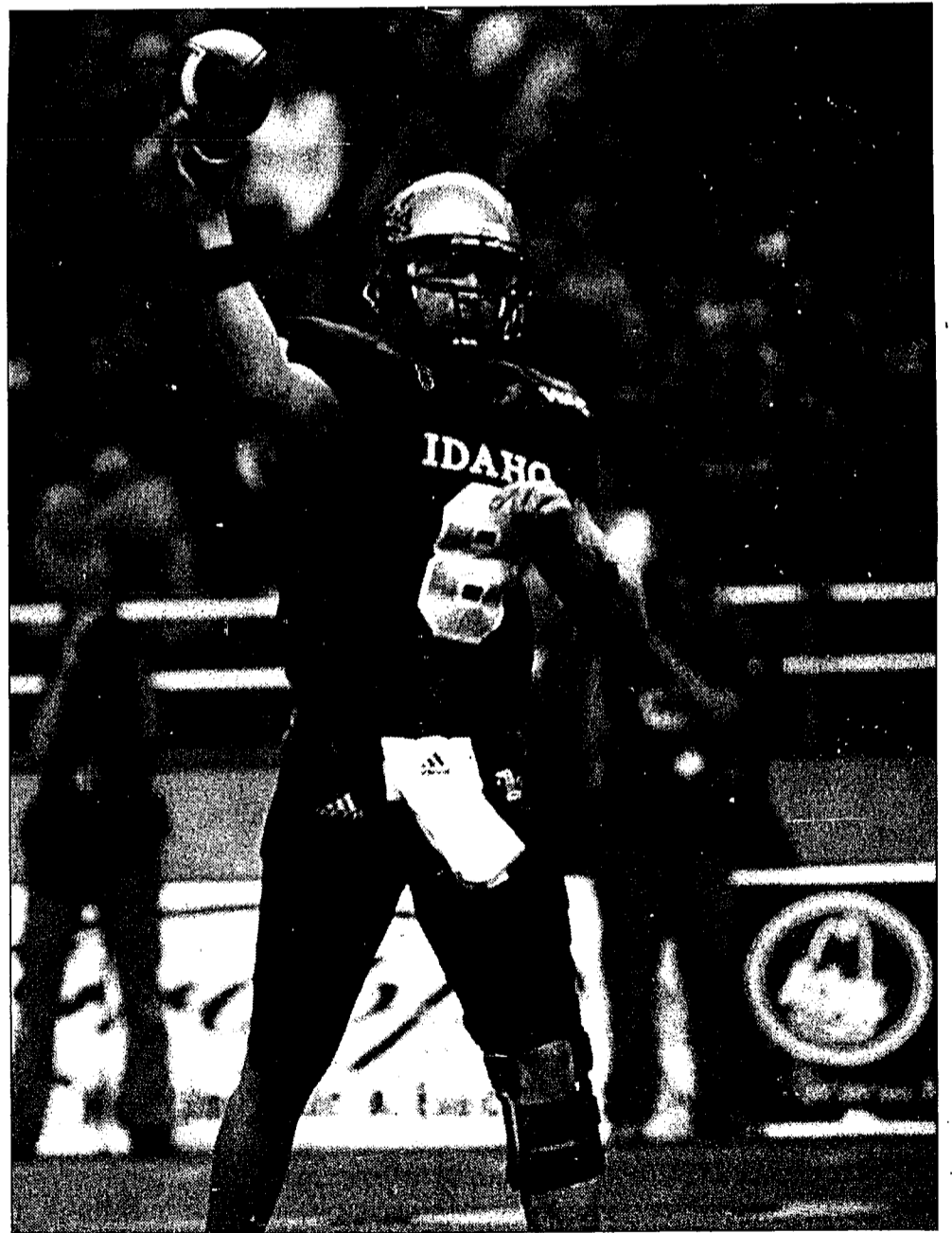
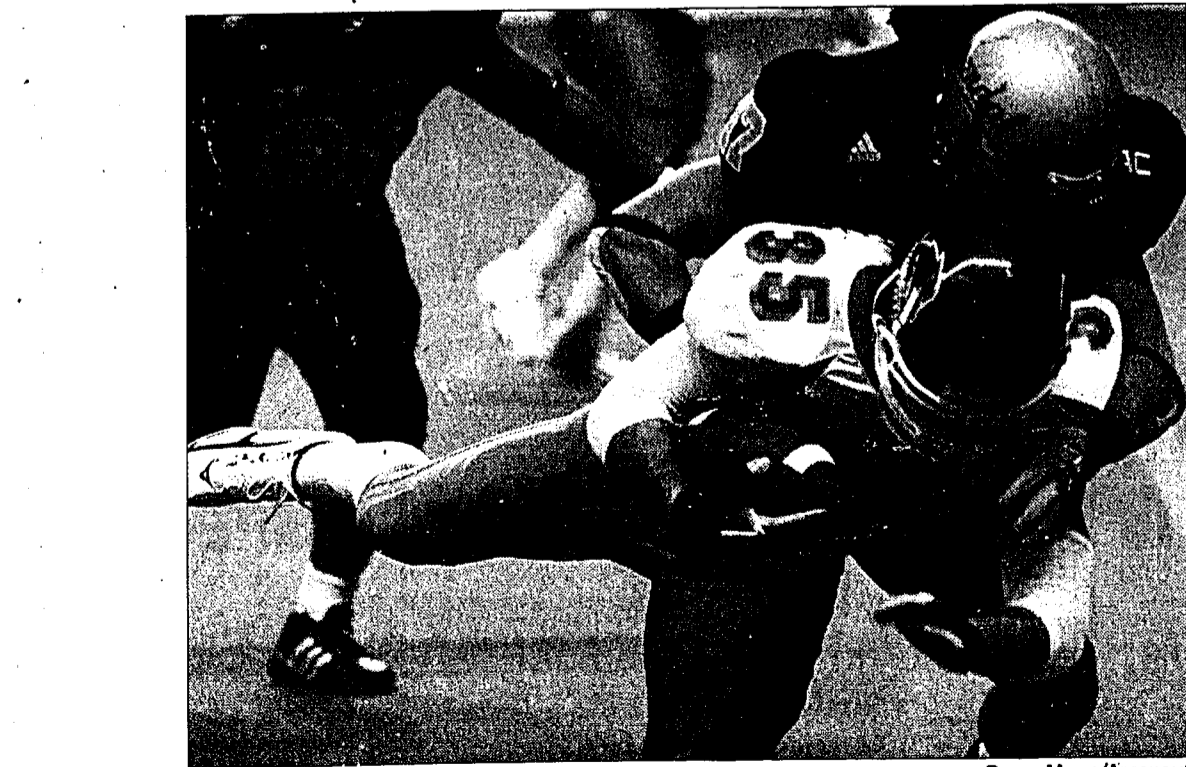
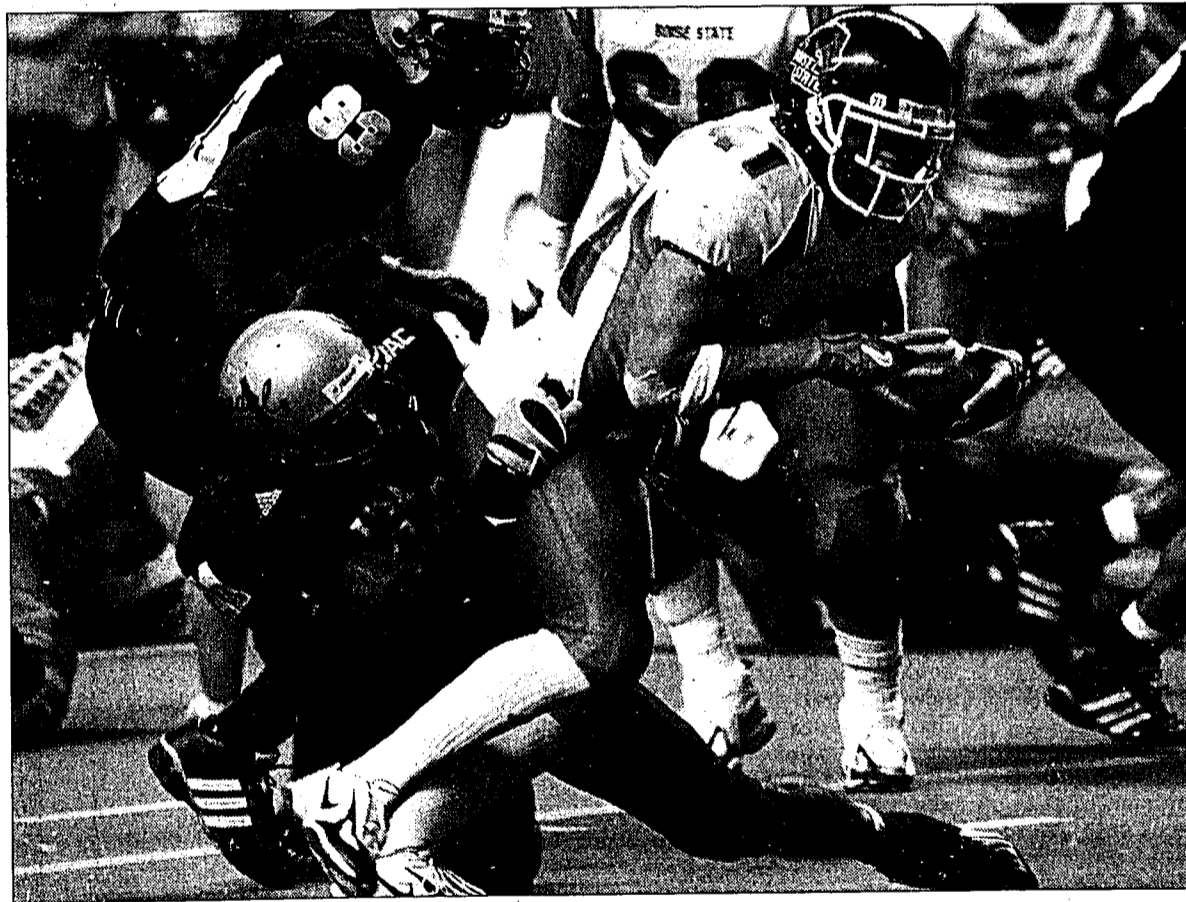
"They're a good starting team. I mean they come out and jump on everybody pretty good," Erickson said. "We felt that we could do that. Actually it's the first time that we've had the ball in the first possession. Usually we defer, and we went down and scored."

Quarterback Steve Wichman said that no school other than Wyoming has jumped on BSU early in the game and gained momentum, and that was the Vandals' goal heading into the Kibbie Dome.

"We couldn't have executed any better the way we started offensively," Wichman said. "We knew going into that game that if we won that toss or they deferred to us, that we would be more than happy to take the ball. We wanted to set the tone in that game."

Wichman had his best game of the season, completing 24 of 45 passes for 328 yards and three touchdowns. This, coupled with the rest of the UI offense and absentee BSU pass coverage, fueled two first-half touchdowns for the Vandals. Boise State scored 21 points at the

See BACK, page 11



Top: The Vandal captains, Jaron Williams (11), Steven Wichman (9), David Vobora (40) and Luke Smith-Anderson (45), enter the Kibbie Dome for the coin toss on Saturday. **Above:** Jaron Williams (11) brings down Boise State running back Ian Johnson (41). Johnson rushed for 183 yards and four touchdowns in the Boise State win over Idaho. **Below:** Senior Robert Davis (17) tackles Brett Denton (35) during the football game on Saturday at the Kibbie Dome. **Below left:** Dennis Erickson pats quarterback Steve Wichman on the head after Wichman's second touchdown pass against Boise State. **Left:** Idaho quarterback Steve Wichman lets a pass fly during Saturday's game. Wichman threw for 328 yards and three touchdowns in the Vandals loss.

Winning streak continues

Vandal swimmers move to 4-1 for the season with two victories at home

By Ryan Atkins
Argonaut

The University of Idaho swim team made a strong statement this weekend dispatching Cal State Northridge and San Jose State University, despite being without two of their top swimmers.

With JoJo Miller (foot) and co-captain Adriana Quirke (shoulder) sidelined, a group of talented freshmen took on leadership roles and helped lead the Vandals to their first Division I victories of the season.

In Friday's matchup against Cal State Northridge, Idaho jumped to the early lead thanks to a victory in the 200 yard medley relay, and the Vandals used that momentum to eventually pull away for a 139-66 victory.

After the meet, UI coach Tom Jager said he was pleased with the way the

Vandals handled the pressure from the other teams.

"Northridge came in a lot more powerful than we gave them credit for," Jager said. "They swam great and it made us swim better. And I was very pleased that our athletes stood up to the pressure because we could have easily gone the other way."

Jager said he was happy with the effort from all his swimmers, but singled out the efforts of Sara Peterson, who was a member of the winning 200 yard medley relay team.

"Sara Peterson understands what it means to race, and she made all the difference by starting us out on the right foot in the opening medley relay," Jager said.

Peterson also won the 400 freestyle relay and the 100 yard freestyle.

Peterson, a junior, said the team just came out and did what it had to do.

"I think overall, our performance as a team was wonderful. We all came together and we performed amazing," Peterson said. "We just knew what we had to do. We knew this was a big weekend for us and we just went all out and gave it everything we had."

With the impressive performance still fresh in their memories, the swim team came back Saturday for an important matchup against conference rival San Jose State.

Once again the Idaho freshmen proved to be key. Crystal Streight won both the 200 individual medley and the 200 breaststroke, while fellow freshman Amanda Nerbovig won the 200 and 100 freestyle.

Jager lauded the performances of his young swimmers and also complimented the strong performance posted by freshman Meghan Lord.

It wasn't only the freshmen who helped lead the Vandals to the 111.5-91.5 victory, however, as juniors Kacie Hogan and Paige Lee claimed individual victories as well.

Hogan narrowly beat San Jose State's Ashley Vrieze in the 200 backstroke, and Jager said the race was the turning point in the meet.

"The 200 back was very important. I mean that was the meet right there," Jager said. "It could have gone either way and we could have been on the losing end, but Kacie gave it everything she had."



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

Freshman Crystal Streight swims warm up laps Thursday at the Swim Center.

And with a disappointing turnout from the Idaho fans, the victory was all that more impressive for Jager.

"This was a good win for us. There was a smaller crowd today for this meet and the energy came from within the swimmers. That is tough to do," Jager said.

The win over the Spartans was

Idaho's first in three tries since the Vandal swim program was revived in 2004-05, and it was the fourth straight win for Idaho since a season-opening home loss to Washington State.

The team will try to continue its recent hot streak when it travels Nov. 4-5 in Irvine, Calif., for the Big West Shootout.

SOCCKER

17-game losing streak snapped

By Shanna Stalwick
Argonaut

Sonja Baumgartner's first goal of the season couldn't have come at a better time for the University of Idaho soccer team.

After 17 straight losses and just two games left in the season, the Idaho soccer team (0-4-1) broke even against Boise State Sunday with a 1-1 draw.

"The whole team was definitely a step up from all the other games we've played this season. It boosted a lot of the players' confidence," Baumgartner said.

The Swiss sophomore's goal was just the fifth for Idaho this season. Vandal opponents have scored 56 goals on Idaho.

Boise State's (6-6-3, 1-2-2) lone goal came in the 11th minute, while Baumgartner evened the score in the 56th minute off an assist from senior Jenny Springer.

"We didn't seem to be ready in the first half and let a goal leak through, but in the second half we really got the ball down and played," Idaho coach Pete Showler said. "We were able to control most of the game by simply possessing the ball. Everyone worked well together and we can take a lot of positives from this game. It was a satisfying performance, but there are still some areas which can be improved."

The Broncos held the advantage in shots 15-13, with Ashley Irish leading the Vandals with seven attempts.

"I am very proud of the performance from the players," Showler said.

"We silenced the crowd on a few occasions and a game like this does a lot for our confidence heading into the final week of the season, especially after the bad loss last weekend."

Showler was referring to the 5-1 loss at Nevada last



File Photo

Sonja Baumgartner muscled the ball through the Sacramento State defense at the Sept. 9th game at Guy Wicks Field.

Sunday that he categorized as the

"worst performance" since he has headed Vandal soccer.

"Everyone — especially going from this weekend — everyone is on a high," Baumgartner said.

"We want to do well in these next two

games to finish the season better

than how we started and show people we can actually do it." The Vandals return home this weekend to take on Louisiana Tech at 3 p.m. Friday, followed by a 1 p.m. Sunday matchup against Utah State at Guy Wicks Field. Team standings at the conclusion of conference play will determine the six of eight teams that will move on to compete in the Western Athletic Conference Tournament Nov. 2-5.

"We silenced the crowd on a few occasions and a game like this does a lot for our confidence heading into the final week of the season," Showler said.

CROSS COUNTRY

Failure overshadows victory

UI cross country hopes to mimic last year's conference performance

By Joel Slocum
Argonaut

With focus on UI football last weekend, the last thing on anyone's mind was the status of the University of Idaho cross country team.

However, over the past few months both the men's and women's teams have been working hard to achieve a high level performance to match last year's success (a Western Athletic Conference title by the women's team and a second place finish for the men's).

The team has made progress over the past months, while the women didn't have enough runners for placing in their last meet, Eastern Washington Invitational, and the results of the men don't seem all that impressive. But when taken in context, it is possible to see their potential has not been fully reached, nor has it been fully viewed.

"We only ran five guys this last meet, not even the top runners," University of Idaho coach Wayne Phipps said. "This last meet isn't really an indicator of where the men are at."

Last week's meet on Oct. 14 in Cheney, Wash., showed the progress of individuals more so than of the two teams. Melissa McFadden had her highest place finish in her college career, placing sixth for the Vandals.

The men's team took home fifth place, while Allix Lee-Painter tied with her season best of 12th. The men had four finishers in the top 20, with Kevin Friesen leading the way with a ninth place finish.

"We finally got everyone running well. This has been the best week of training for the men all season and we have the outside chance of winning," Phipps said.

The same can be said for the women's team.

"If the two top females were running, we could win comfortably," Phipps said. "The new athletes have been doing well and we don't find ourselves too far from winning."

Their impressive finishes last year have raised questions about their ability and pressures to perform at the same level this time around.

"The men's team is kind of an under-

for more INFO

The runners attending the WAC Championships in Fresno, Calif.

The Men's Team:

So. Kevin Friesen
Jr. Ian Chestnut
Sr. Michael Thompson
So. Matt Racine
Sr. Derek Laughlin
So. Kevin Merkling
Jr. Bastien Tardy

The Women's Team:

Fr. Rhea Richter
Jr. Breanna Chipney
So. Allix Lee-Painter
Fr. Melissa McFadden
Sr. Melinda Ouwerkerk
Fr. Shawna Carlson

dog and it works for them," said Phipps. "As for the women's team, if the two top performers hadn't been red-shirted then I think we would be having some added pressure."

"All in all, if we have a good day and either Utah State or Nevada are off just a little bit, then we should have a good chance of winning," Phipps said.

Freshman McFadden is one of those newbies to the team who has shown great promise to the team.

"I really want to do well and I believe I will. It is what we have been talking about all year," she said. "When it comes to the WAC it is crucial to have a good performance so that the whole team does as well."

With that spirit the team will do well. The journey to victory for the cross country team is no easy task, and these first battles have only been in preparation for the biggest hurdle of the year, the WAC Championship. Idaho has been pacing itself for this highlight of the season. At the championships, the men will face their toughest competition from Utah State, who like our team, has a lot of depth, and Boise State, who has two front runners. The women will face competition from Utah State and Nevada.

As junior Ian Chestnut said, "The end of the race is not won in the first kilometer. It is won in the last seven."

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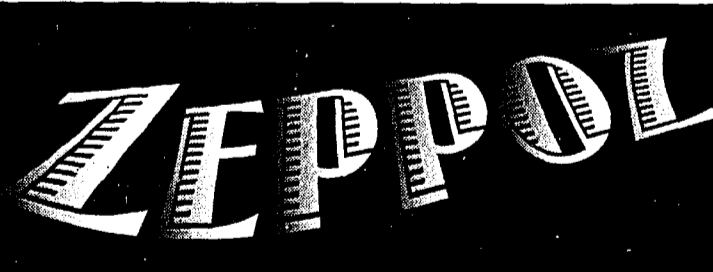
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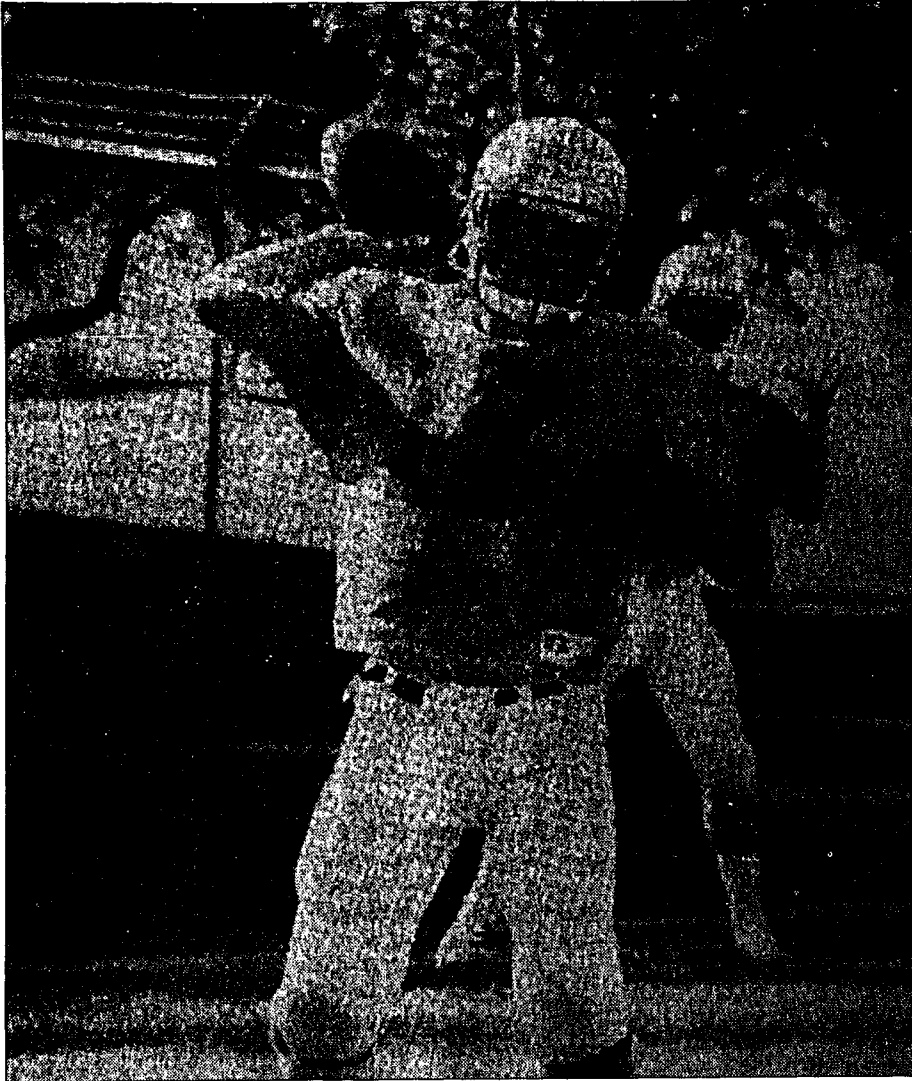
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HALL OF FAMER



File photo

After the first quarter of the UI football game on Saturday, #17 John Friesz's number was retired from the Vandal roster. Friesz was Idaho's starting quarterback from 1987-89, leading the team to Big Sky Conference championships all three years. Friesz played for four NFL teams in his professional career — the San Diego Chargers 1990-93, the Washington Redskins in 1994, the Seattle Seahawks 1995-98 and the New England Patriots 1999-2000. Friesz was inducted into the College Football hall of fame in August.

Have a ball with these costume ideas

By David Thomas
McClatchy Newspapers

If you're still looking for a Halloween costume idea, here are some suggestions from the world of sports:

An NBA player

In accordance with the league's dress code for players, you must wear business-casual attire. And leave the bling-bling tucked inside your clothes — it can't be visible — or, better yet, leave it at home. The less you look like an NBA

player, the more realistic you will appear.

An NFL player

What you wear is not as important as what you do. So think props. You must bring props — pompoms, Sharpies, cell phones, etc. — to show off your latest touchdown celebration.

A professional soccer player

It doesn't matter what you wear, because no one will notice you.

Dazed and confused

Iron Mike Tyson's wild ride of self-destruction

By Tim Smith
New York Daily News

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — It was a long way from the glittering palaces on the Las Vegas Strip where Mike Tyson made his fortune and carved his fame. But as Tyson entered the ring at the Chevrolet Centre on Friday night, it was as if he was still one of the sport's shining stars. The crowd couldn't have cared less that he was fighting an exhibition against a former sparring partner who was partially blind in one eye.

For a moment, as the cheers from the half-filled arena rained down upon him, Tyson could have closed his eyes and imagined that it was similar to the night he fought Evander Holyfield or Lennox Lewis.

Of course, once he opened them and looked around, he would have been quickly transported back to reality. Here he was, a 40-year-old former heavy-weight champion fighting in a meaningless exhibition to stave off poverty, the adoring crowd finally turning on him once it became clear that this was no real fight. Tyson, who decided not to wear headgear unlike his opponent, Corey Sanders, threw half-hearted shots in a choreographed four-round exhibition. He caused no hurt nor got any.

There were only two questions left hanging in the stale arena air: How many more of these exhibitions would Tyson subject himself to before throwing in the towel, and how in the world did the once "Baddest Man on the Planet" wind up here?

Tyson did not appear at a post-fight press conference to answer questions about his performance on Friday night or his plans for the future, including the 12-city worldwide tour promoter Sterling McPherson is trying to pull together.

Tyson's road to a boxing ring in Youngstown was paved by his extravagant spending habits, which forced him into bankruptcy two years ago, and his unwillingness to box in sanctioned matches.

Tyson estimates that he blew between \$200 million-\$300 million over the course of his career, leaving him \$27 million in debt in 2003. At the time of his bankruptcy filing, Tyson owed the Internal Revenue Service \$22 million. Though he received a \$14 million settlement last year from a lawsuit he had filed against promoter Don King, Tyson remains millions of dollars in debt.

With no future job prospects,

Tyson is hoping the proposed tour will help him earn enough money to get out of bankruptcy. One of his bankruptcy attorneys said that Tyson is sincere about erasing his debt.

"The money I make here is not going to help any of my bills really from a tremendous standpoint," Tyson said at a press conference last month. "But I'm going to feel better about myself. I'm not going to be depressed."

He is either sincere or desperate or both: following his loss to Kevin McBride last year, Tyson said he hated boxing and had been faking interest for the last 15 years.

"The best decision I ever made was to retire from boxing. Because I don't have any stress. I'm pretty simple," Tyson said. "I like the person I am now more than I did. I don't like 'Iron Mike' — I like Mike Tyson."

That is what makes this exhibition tour a dicey proposition. Are people going to pay to see a kinder, gentler Mike Tyson paw his opponent when he once gnawed one?

"It's a sideshow," says Bert Sugar, noted boxing historian. "Here's a man who doesn't want to fight, but he's fighting. It's an oxymoron. This is his coda, his exit strategy."

It is certainly not the exit strategy that many envisioned for Tyson, who became the youngest heavy-weight champion ever when at 20 he KO'ed Trevor Berbick in the second round on Nov. 22, 1986. It looked like he would reign forever. And the financial windfall he would reap was beyond anything he could have imagined when he was growing up poor in Brownsville.

But his support system crumbled — trainer Cus D'Amato died, followed shortly by manager Jimmy Jacobs. Left to his own devices and with a lot of money on his hands, Tyson began a slow, destructive downward spiral. There was the time that Tyson gave a toll booth clerk his Rolls Royce. There was his stormy marriage, and subsequent divorce (\$14 million in the settlement) from actress Robin Givens.

Through it all, Tyson remained boxing's biggest box-office star.

"Mike has always been an attraction," says Jay Larkin, a former programming executive at Showtime. "Now he's just a different kind of attraction. You could read this as a tragedy in the mold of 'The Harder They Fall.' But I don't think you have to. Mike made his life. Mike made his bed. He's made staggering amounts of money. But he also went through

staggering amounts of money."

While no one is denying that Tyson has been taken advantage of by various managers and promoters throughout his career, his own spending habits contributed mightily to his current financial state.

"He had an accountant," says Shelly Finkel, Tyson's former manager. "But it didn't matter. He was in control of his own destiny. As we all are."

After Tyson parted company with promoter Don King in 1999, Jeff Wald, a friend of Tyson's, hooked up the fighter with Michael Karlin, a high-powered L.A. financial whiz whose management firm tried to manage Tyson's cash. But even those plans couldn't thwart Tyson from squandering his fortune on sports cars and motorcycles, gilded mansions and the care and feeding of Siberian tigers. He spent \$1.6 million on a watch and a bracelet when he was in London in 2000.

"It's not like efforts weren't being made to help him financially," says someone with knowledge of the situation. "But what are you supposed to do when someone calls up and says, 'If you don't give me my money, I'm going to come over there and rip your head off.'"

There were always those around who were willing to lend Tyson a hand when he was down, because his popularity, even now, makes him a living, breathing ATM.

When Tyson walked out of an Indiana prison in 1995 after serving three years for raping beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington, he stepped into a limo provided by King, who had secured casino deals and future fights worth around \$120 million. Later Tyson accused King of stealing more than \$100 million, but the promoter maintains he didn't rip Tyson off.

"There is the Mike Tyson with me and the Mike Tyson after me," King says. "When he left me he had a four-fight, \$150 million deal that he walked away from. Then he went with Shelly Finkel and his purses were what we used to give him for training expenses." Finkel didn't want to comment on Tyson's present exhibition tour or how he has squandered his money. He says Tyson's attitude about boxing changed after he tore cartilage in his left knee against Danny Williams in 2004.

"I know he was pretty depressed about that," Finkel says. "But he worked hard to get back. The night he fought McBride, I thought he looked really good coming in. I thought he'd knock McBride out. But he hurt his knee again. It's a sad, sad story."

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