

# THE ARGONAUT

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The Vandal Voice Since 1898

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## Stopping the poor advice

Students and faculty raise the standard for advising

By Hillary Flowers  
Argonaut

ASUI President Berto Cerrillo has heard many scenarios in which students had to postpone their graduation dates because they received poor advising.

"I have heard numerous stories from students with complaints about poor advising," Cerrillo said. "Advising has been an issue for as long as I've been here."

One student lost a scholarship and all of financial aid because of poor advising, Cerrillo said. Another student was asked by an adviser to map out a four-year plan, but then realized all the listed classes were all offered at the same time. The student's four-year plan had to be rearranged.

"These are all examples of poor advising," he said. "Faculty and other staff advisers are not doing their job in advising our students."

ASUI is working to improve advising by establishing a task force, made up of Cerrillo, Provost Doug Baker, Faculty Council chair Bill McLaughlin and ASUI director of academics Heather Pearson, among others. The group will work on improving advising and not just talking about the issue.

Advising was one of the top three issues on the Faculty Council's agenda for this year, McLaughlin said. "I think advising is incredibly important to students' success in college and ultimately having a good start-off point of being successful in a career," McLaughlin said. "I think it is really important that both faculty and students have expectations to meet."

Academic Advising Services Coordinator Cyndi Faircloth and sophomore and Vandal running back Yusuf Salahuddin look through the spring 2007 catalogue Tuesday at the Academic Advising Center in the TLC.



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut  
Academic Advising Services Coordinator Cyndi Faircloth and sophomore and Vandal running back Yusuf Salahuddin look through the spring 2007 catalogue Tuesday at the Academic Advising Center in the TLC.

See ADVISING, page 4

ASUI

## Slump in voting turnout

Seven new senators elected by 6 percent of student body

By Hillary Flowers  
Argonaut

A mere 6 percent of the student body turned out to vote in the ASUI fall elections last week to decide the new senators.

Five hundred and twenty-five students voted in the election out of 8,515 eligible students. Candidates elected were Chris Shirts with 240 votes, Pedro Garcia with 186, John Adkins with 175, Michael Barker with 169, Garrett Holbrook with 156, Ashley Cochran with 147 and Tricia Crump with 144.

"I'm a little disappointed with the turnout, but there's a lot of factors that contributed to that," said ASUI elections coordinator Eric Everett. "It looks like we have a good set of candidates and good winners. I look forward to working with them in ASUI."

The candidates will be inaugurated Wednesday. Their terms will end at the end of fall 2007.

Garcia said he wants to work toward having better voter turnouts for spring semester and future semesters and find ways to get to know the student body. Garcia is a junior architecture major.

"Let them know that changes can be made, but they have to put their voice in," Garcia said. "I know that at the university there's been times when we say we are going to make changes, and we don't make changes."

The university needs to go work on those changes to make it better for our future, Garcia said.

"What got me interested (in ASUI) was the fact that people always want change at the university and they never intend to step up and make that change," Garcia said. "I want to be that change. If I want to see change, then I think I can be the one to make change."

Anybody can make change, they just have to want to, Garcia said. Since the voter turnout was low, Garcia said he believes ASUI has to find a different way to reach the student body and to get them to vote.

"I would have thought people cared more about their senators, but obviously not," Garcia said.

Since this is Barker's first time working as a senator, he said the first thing he wants to do is try to learn as much as possible. Barker is a junior business and economics major.

"I'm a quick learner and I'm willing to do it so I'm excited for that," Barker said.

One of the major issues Barker plans to work on is funding for Wheatland Express. The funding may set to expire in 2007, but Barker said he would like to find a way to keep the transit running. One way to keep the funding is through user fees, he said.

"I think that there are some good candidates out there," Barker said. "I've read their (bios) and I've talked to a few of them and everyone seems like they are really involved."

Garcia said even though some of the candidates did not have any background in government, they have intriguing attitudes toward trying to make change.

See VOTE, page 3



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

Snowball offenders maliciously throwing snowballs can face up to one year in prison as well as a \$1,000 fine.

## Throwing around the snowball truth

By Jeremy Castillo  
Argonaut

Every year, students want to know: Can they throw snowballs?

Some say that it's completely against the law to throw snow. Others think such a rule is only a myth blown out of proportion.

Both sides are partially right. While snowball-throwing between consenting parties is completely OK, it is a punishable crime to throw snowballs at buildings, cars and unsuspecting people.

"It is not against the law to throw a snowball," said Moscow Police Lt. Paul Kwiatkowski. "However ... let's say you're just an innocent bystander walking down the street and someone chucks a snowball at you and hits you in the head. (If) you didn't want to be hit and weren't involved, that would be battery."

Under Idaho Statute 18-903, battery is defined as unlawfully and intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual.

"Anything you do that effects

someone else in a way that harms, hurts, intimidates them or puts them in some sort of danger is a criminal act," Kwiatkowski said.

He said throwing snowballs at buildings or private property is illegal as well.

"If you and your buddies are hooting and hollering back to your frat or dorm and you throw snowballs at an unsuspecting car, that's against the law," he said.

That scenario would be a violation of Idaho Statute 18-7001: Trespass and Malicious Injuries to

Property.

Kwiatkowski said this is a misdemeanor crime, which requires the offender to appear before a judge in court. Furthermore, someone found guilty of damaging someone else's property can be fined up to \$1,000 and/or spend up to a year in county jail, according to the statute.

However, that is the "worst case scenario" of being caught,

See SNOW, page 3



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

Christmas decorations currently adorn the stairway in the Administration Building.

## Christmas decorations light up Admin, spirits

By Christina Lords  
Argonaut

An upper-level window of the Administration Building received a little extra holiday spirit this year, after a University of Idaho custodian took time out of her schedule to decorate it for the winter season.

"I just wanted to surprise the faculty members who work in the Admin, and the students, with all of the decorations," said Judy Anderson, the team cleaning specialist from Building Services who put up the decorations.

Anderson said she has been working for the University of Idaho for 23 years.

"When I started in 1983, they had Santa Claus decorations up there all the time, but nothing has been up there since then," Anderson said.

Anderson said this is the first time she has decorated the window.

"I was walking by the window and thought that it would be a good place to decorate," Anderson said.

The window is decorated with multiple strings of lights, a Christmas tree and moving toy bears.

She said all of the decorations belong to the Administration Building, and they are used to decorate various rooms each year.

Anderson said she wanted to celebrate wintertime and Christmas where everyone could see the display.

"With all this snow, it gets you in the holiday spirit," Anderson said. "I really just wanted to put a smile on people's faces."

"I got one string of lights up, and it didn't look right, so I had to go back for more," Anderson said. "I had this space in my head and none of it looked right until I was finished."

Anderson decorated the window on her

See ADMIN, page 3

### CONTENTS

- Arts&Culture ..... 5
- Briefs ..... 2
- Calendar ..... 2
- Classifieds ..... 10
- Crossword ..... 2
- Opinion ..... 4
- Sports&Recreation ..... 8
- Sudoku ..... 2

### ARTS&CULTURE

Yin Radio brings women's voices to the radio and Moscow searches for a new art director. Plus a dance photo spread.



### a look INSIDE

#### OPINION

The editorial board tells ASUI to shape up and Travis wants America to thin down.

#### SPORTS&REC

UI alumnus Matthew Leituala wants big changes in the athletic department, in the first of a two-part series.

### ON the WEB

Read stories, comment on blogs and browse our (nearly) full archives at [www.uiargonaut.com](http://www.uiargonaut.com)

WeatherFORECAST

Today Snow Hi: 32° Lo: 24° Wednesday Cloudy Hi: 34° Lo: 27° Thursday Partly Cloudy Hi: 36° Lo: 28°

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

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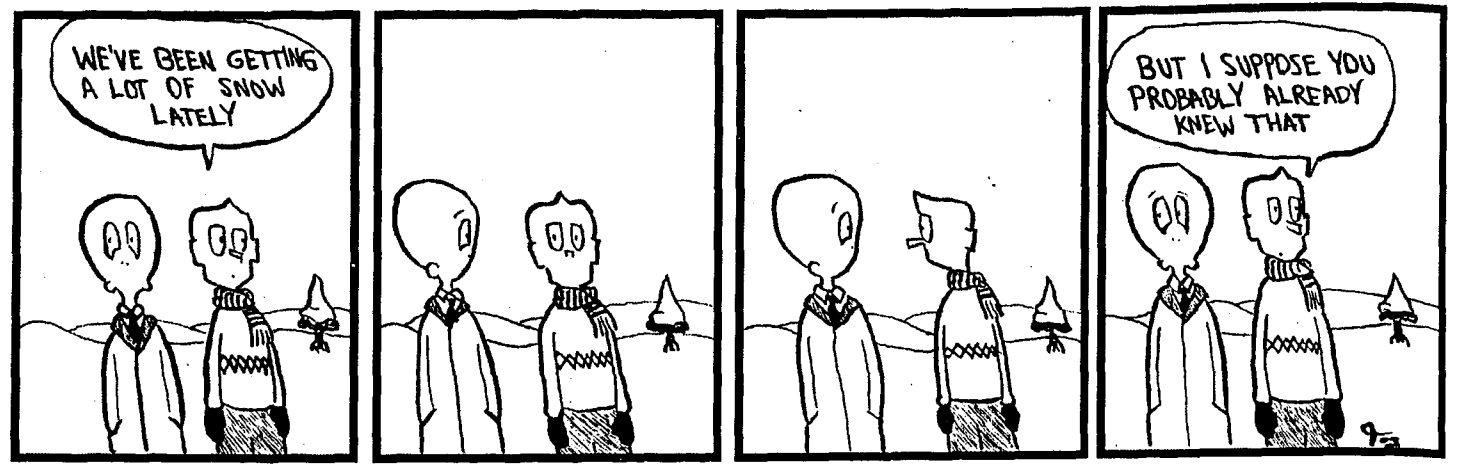
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CampusCALENDAR

Today VIEW session: 'How to write business plans that investors race to fund' Commons Aurora Room 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Fireside chat with President White Cedar Grove Room 1-2:30 p.m.

'UI Voices' UITV-8 7:30 p.m. 'Fuddy Meers' Kiva Theatre 7:30 p.m. Student Composers Concert School of Music Recital Hall 8 p.m.

LocalBRIEFS

Winter graduation held Saturday The UI's December commencement will recognize the accomplishments of 910 graduates. About 500 graduates are expected to walk in the commencement ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Kibbie Dome.

Learn about alternative break

A brief meeting for people interested in the upcoming spring service trip will be at 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the Commons Horizon Room. The meeting will include general information about the program and a question/answer session.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday at the Dahmen Barn. There will be more than 30 artist vendors at the event. There will be live music including carolers from the Idaho Washington Concert Chorale and the Grobey family.

appointment is an initiative of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences. The role of the Distinguished Humanities Professor is to develop and coordinate a wide-ranging humanities program, invigorate and inspire faculty who teach the humanities, and work closely with other faculty campus-wide and constituents statewide to strengthen teaching and learning within the humanities discipline.

Palouse skating club hosts exhibition

The Palouse Hills Skating Club will sponsor a holiday skating exhibition at 12:30 p.m. Sunday at the Rotary Veterans Memorial Pavilion and Ice Rink at the Latah County Fairgrounds in Moscow.

Holiday Gala shows Palouse crafts

Products and art made in the Palouse will be for sale at the first annual Holiday Gala from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday at the Dahmen Barn.

UI recognizes faculty excellence in teaching

Gary Williams, professor of English, is UI's first Distinguished Humanities Professor, an appointment intended to recognize faculty excellence in humanities teaching and scholarship.

Williams, who has taught at UI since 1973, has received numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Idaho Humanities Council and the American Antiquarian Society in support of his scholarly work on 19th-century American literature.

SudokuPUZZLE

Sudoku grid with numbers 2, 4, 9, 6, 3, 1, 8, 7, 9, 2, 4, 3, 5, 1, 6, 3, 8, 2, 7, 5, 4, 3, 8, 9, 1, 6, 8, 3, 4, 6, 1, 9, 7, 5, 2, 7, 2, 9, 3, 8, 5, 1, 6, 4, 1, 6, 5, 7, 4, 2, 8, 3, 9, 5, 7, 8, 4, 9, 6, 3, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, 5, 7, 6, 9, 8, 9, 1, 6, 8, 2, 3, 4, 7, 5

Solutions from 12/1

Sudoku solution grid with numbers 6, 9, 1, 5, 7, 4, 2, 8, 3, 2, 8, 3, 9, 6, 1, 5, 4, 7, 4, 5, 7, 2, 3, 8, 9, 1, 6, 8, 3, 4, 6, 1, 9, 7, 5, 2, 7, 2, 9, 3, 8, 5, 1, 6, 4, 1, 6, 5, 7, 4, 2, 8, 3, 9, 5, 7, 8, 4, 9, 6, 3, 2, 1, 3, 4, 2, 1, 5, 7, 6, 9, 8, 9, 1, 6, 8, 2, 3, 4, 7, 5

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.

CrosswordPUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 In the sack 5 Threw a party for 10 Plot of land 14 Flat charge 15 Basra man 16 Wharf 17 Enigmatic 19 Driving force 20 Draft animals 21 Gave one's consent 23 Move like a peacock 28 Audibly 27 Spats 30 Goose or speed followers 34 Sch. of Trojans 35 Consecrate with oil 38 Stable youngster 39 Great landmass 41 Blood giver 42 Quaker pronoun 43 Open-handed blow 44 "This is \_\_\_ Tap" 46 Drivers' org. 47 Lungs a hand 49 Family favoritism 51 Fencing move 54 Singer Mariah 55 Storehouse of arms 58 Train like Rocky 60 Bound upward 61 Phobos and Phobos 66 Biblical wise men 67 Minute amount 68 Digits per hand 69 Gin fizz 70 Gossip 71 Units of length

Solutions from 12/1

Crossword puzzle solutions grid with words: S E I N, O E X I V, V I S S O, I N O V, G E O V I R, M E H V, V N O W, V E N U Y, M E R O, N Y S N S, A B B V, J V A, E I L V T V, O H I, V H S, S S Y W V I V, O V W O L O J, N O E, S B V O, B V I, Y B B W N, V E A, Q V E H I, O O A, S T V, E J I, O N I T H S, S I C E I E O, N Y W D V T S, E J V O S E, I W V, O S I O, W Y E J Y, M E T B, E L I W S, J U E N, E O V J, V O N E S, E H A E, S I S V, S I E M F, E L A V, E L D

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UI STUDENT MEDIA BOARD The UI Student Media Board meets at 5:30 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Time and location will be published in the Argonaut Classified section the Tuesday of the week before the meeting. All meetings are open to the public. Questions? Contact Student Media at 885-7825 or visit the Student Media office on the SUB third floor.

# National Society of Black Engineers chapter established

By Jessica Mullins  
Argonaut

When Richard Hill was an undergraduate chemistry major at Tuskegee University in Alabama, he didn't think about becoming an electrical engineer. Then he joined the school's chapter of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

The group of about 100 members helped him learn about countless accomplishments made by blacks in engineering and science, Hill said. The organization became his support group. Hill went to the national NSBE conference that included workshops and tons of job offers, he said.

Now, during his first semester at the University of Idaho, the graduate student in neuroscience has helped establish the UI chapter of NSBE.

"There is an under representation of minorities in engineering," said Hill, the president of the UI chapter.

The low representation affects the achievements made, said senior

Gitau Munge, vice president.

The black engineering students needed an opportunity to present themselves, Munge said. NSBE is also to help increase the number of black engineers at UI, he said.

The group is trying to reach out to students in high school, particularly students of minority decent, Hill said.

The group wants to prove that minority students can go to college and study science, Hill said.

Faculty member William Edward started the organization, which began meeting during the summer.

This semester the group set up the chapter's charter.

"Initially we needed to see what the interest was," Hill said. "We are a new organization and will have hiccups."

There are about 16 members of the UI NSBE and the leaders expect the group to continue growing. The non exclusive group serves as a support base for students, Hill said.

"As long as you have a passion for engineering," said parliamentarian

Gbenga Ige, a graduate student from Nigeria.

This is Ige's first semester at UI. At the beginning of the semester he tried to find groups that would help him.

"I see it as a challenge to be integrated into society and develop myself as much as I can," Ige said.

Ige was attracted to the organization because it is run by students, he said.

"It was a chance for me to improve my academic and people skills," he said.

Ige has made friends and met other graduate students through the organization. It has also helped with little things, he said, such as finding a ride, getting tips for adjusting to the weather or having friends to watch a football game with.

The UI social atmosphere is different from what Munge said he has experienced in his time spent in other places in the United States. The Kenya native has been at UI for one year, but in the United States for five

## to get INVOLVED

For more information about the National Society of Black Engineers, contact the UI chapter president Richard Hill at [Richard.hill@uidaho.edu](mailto:Richard.hill@uidaho.edu) or visit [www.NSBE-idaho.org](http://www.NSBE-idaho.org).

years in various locations, such as Seattle.

"When you come to (UI) no one has built up trust in you," he said.

At the NSBE chapter at Tuskegee, students would skip class to go to the meetings, Hill said.

"Dynamic speakers would come in and get everyone pumped up," he said.

Next semester the UI NSBE will host events, for members or non-members, such as lectures and speakers. The group will also offer a tutoring program.

The group will hold functions for

Black History Month in February. The events will celebrate the achievements of past and present black engineers, Hill said.

"There are lots of achievements African Americans have made in science and engineering that no one knows about," Hill said.

Many people tend to know each other here, Hill said. "If you come from the outside, their only view of you is their pre-conceived notion," he said.

A common pre-conceived notion is that black students are not engineering students, Hill said.

NSBE provides a platform for students to express themselves, he said.

"Everyone has a voice," Hill said.

"If you don't have a vehicle to express your self then that is a problem."

Munge said NSBE is a way for him to contribute into the community and have a positive impact. It also provides him with an opportunity to establish who he is and make a statement, he said.

## SNOW from page 1

Kwiatkowski said. He said though he's never ticketed or arrested someone for throwing a snowball, he would get involved if he feels a situation gets out of control.

"With five-on-five, things get bigger and bigger," he said. "There's more people, plus there's alcohol involved. Then people will put rocks into the snowballs and then it turns into a small-scale battle."

"A lot of times these snowball fights result in people getting hurt or property gets broken, so officers are called. In the past, there was a group of individuals throwing snowballs at windows. We exchanged information, they paid for the broken glass and we dismissed it with that."

Nancy Spink, UI's risk management officer, said there has been at least one report of damage caused by snowballs every winter since she started working at UI.

"Since 2002, there have been three occasions (of damage) overall," Spink said. "On each incident, there were several broken windows. I'm not sure on an estimate of costs for each damaged window, but it adds up."

Spink said that if an individual damages property and is identified, they will be brought to the Student Judicial Office, which is run through Dean of Students Bruce Pitman.

"The UI Code of Conduct has provisions to prevent students from harming each other," Pitman said. "And there's language in there about not harming or harassing someone else. There's no rule saying 'Thou shalt not throw snowballs.' But our intent is to prevent harm and promote persons to use common sense is implied."

However, Spink doesn't want students to not take advantage of the winter while it's here.

"Snowball fights are play, which is wonderful and recharges us," she said. "But it's only fun until someone gets hurt or something gets damaged. Please go and have winter fun, but do so in a childhood spirit."

## ADMIN from page 1

own time. She also decorated the Building Services Office with lights and a Christmas tree.

The team-cleaning specialists have a crew made up of 14 people and have 17 buildings to clean every day. The specialists are divided into three teams, with two teams of five and one team of four, Anderson said. Each team is either on the day crew, the swing shift or the graveyard shift. She said her shift can run as late as 1 a.m.

"I know they've got a lot of buildings to do, and it is just so neat that she would take the time to do this for us, too," said Hil Priest, an assistant to the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures Office, located in the Administration Building.

"It's nice to see the decorations up," said Kelly Stuart, a freshman at UI. "It's good to take a break from thinking about tests and finals coming up, and really remember what the season is all about."

Anderson said Christmas and winter is her favorite time of year. She said she considers herself an outdoor person who likes to hunt and fish.

"We love going out there with our four wheelers in the snow with our dogs," Anderson said. "I love Christmas time. We're just happy out there."

# Iraqi Shiite politician calls for tougher U.S. action against Sunnis

By Hannah Allam, Jonathan S. Landay and William Douglas  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A powerful Iraqi Shiite Muslim leader on Monday urged the Bush administration to step up military attacks against Sunni insurgents and al-Qaida terrorists in his country, saying the United States' failure to take tougher action against the two groups has brought Iraq to the brink of civil war.

"The strikes they are getting from the multinational forces are not hard enough to put an end to their acts, but leave them (to) stand up again to resume their criminal acts," said Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) after White House talks with President Bush. He spoke at the U.S. Institute for Peace, a U.S. government-funded foreign policy institute.

Using the terms Shiites use to describe al-Qaida and the Sunni insurgents, Hakim called for tougher U.S. military action. "Eliminating the danger of the civil war in Iraq could only be achieved through directing decisive strikes against the Taqfiri terrorists and Baahist terrorists in Iraq," he said.

Hakim's call for greater action against Sunni insurgents, which came two days before a bipartisan commission is expected to recommend that the U.S. begin reducing the number of U.S. combat troops in Iraq, underscores how at odds Iraq's Shiite leaders are with American policymakers.

For several months, U.S. officials have said that Shiite militias, not the Sunni insurgency, are the greatest threat to Iraqi security, and they've pressed Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to disarm them, something Maliki has been reluctant to do.

Hakim declined to say whether he'd pressed for more U.S. military action during his meeting with Bush. The White House also declined to detail Hakim's discussions with the president.

Hakim, whose SCIRI party's militia, the Badr Organization, has been accused of infiltrating Iraqi security forces and committing atrocities against minority Sunnis, denied that his party had any role in death squads or extra-judicial killings.

But he warned that continued attacks by Sunni insurgents against Shiites could spark even greater violence. He said that "Shiite religious authorities" have urged Shiites to refrain from all-out retaliation, but warned that those authorities "might

lose their ability to calm down the reaction to the continuous (Sunni) sectarian cleansing attacks."

Hakim also said he favored revamping Iraq's central government so more power rests with regional administrations dominated by the country's religious and ethnic groups, something Bush administration officials view skeptically. He also said he opposes an international conference to help resolve Iraq's problems, a proposal that some expect the bipartisan commission to make in its report on Wednesday.

White House officials have portrayed Hakim's visit as an effort by Bush to reach out to various factions in Iraq in an effort to bolster the Maliki government and find a solution to the violence there.

Officials said the Hakim meeting also is aimed at undercutting the political influence of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose supporters control the largest bloc of seats in the Iraqi parliament and whose Mahdi Army militia is blamed for most of the death squad activity in the capital.

But Hakim's support in Iraq is ebbing, and there's talk in Baghdad of a new coalition to replace Maliki that would include neither Maliki's Dawa party nor Hakim's SCIRI.



# DISCOUNTED SEASON PASSES

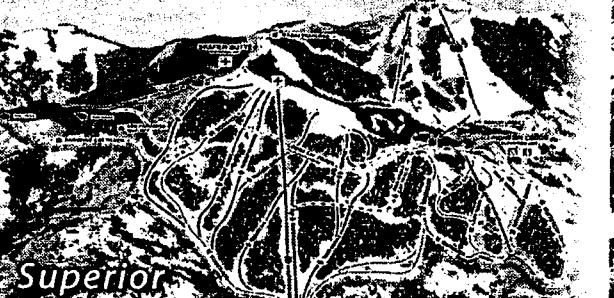
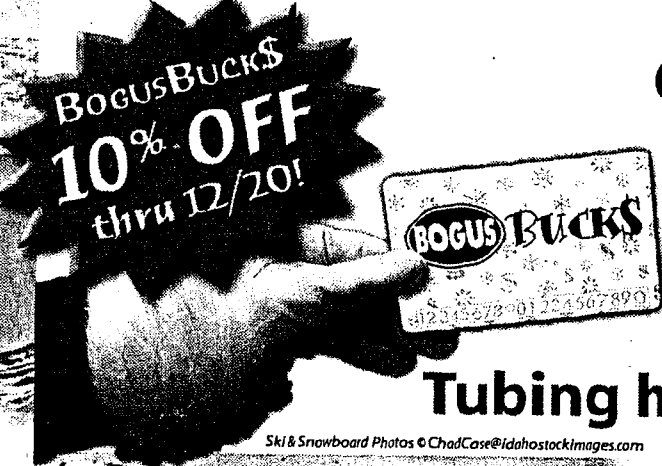
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## VOTE from page 1

Any candidates who were not elected and are still interested or any students interested in the ASUI senate can campaign in the spring 2008 election, Everett said. Eight senate seats will be open in the spring semester.

ASUI Vice President Travis Shofner said he is excited to see some new faces in the senate and he looks forward to hearing the ideas they bring to the table.

"Only time will tell what kind of senators they will be," Shofner said. "I will try my best to advise them and be someone they can come to for information or just someone to talk to."

Shofner said he hopes the new senators will learn from the current senators who will still be serving their terms spring semester.

"That way they will have good leadership around them," Shofner said.

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# ADVISING

from page 1

The task force, called the Student Learning Academy will consist of about five students and four or five alumni who will identify ways to have better advising by gathering student input and observations.

The academy is considered a pilot program that will begin spring semester within the College of Business and Economics. If the academy is successful, it will expand to other colleges at the University of Idaho.

Students in the College of Business and Economics will evaluate and take observations about conditions in and out of the classroom, faculty relationships and advising within the college. The academy will meet during the semester with groups of faculty and others to share their experiences, answer any questions and ask questions. At the end of the semester there will be areas identified that need to be improved, areas that are currently working well and an action plan of how to improve class participation.

The issues of the students are one side of the coin and the issues of the faculty are another, McLaughlin said.

Earlier this semester, the university had an enrollment management summit that looked at recruitment and retention issues. The meeting consisted of deans, associate deans, department chairs, individuals from student affairs and academic affairs, new student services and financial aid. The summit addressed how the university can do a better job on recruitment and retention. Improving advising was discussed in reference to retention. Those involved in the summit decided to see if all students had an adviser. They found out they didn't.

"It's been one of my main goals this semester to focus on the issue of advising and to raise the issue so that people understand this is an important thing that needs to be taken seriously," Cerrillo said. "If not, we will continue to see trends that we have with enrollment and retention."

"We've lost a lot of good students because of poor advising," he said. "I've met a lot of students and it

always bothers me to hear the stories because I know what students are asking for isn't something extraordinary. The bottom line is they're (faculty) all there because the students are here and not the other way around."

Cerrillo said he believes none of this can happen unless advising is tied into faculty tenure promotion and yearly evaluations. Tenure is when faculty members have reached a level where they cannot be fired, their pay cannot be docked and they receive a certain amount of money. For example, tenure can occur when a faculty member is promoted to a department chair. The faculty member can stay at the university until they decide to retire.

One way to improve advising is for advisers to receive proper training, Cerrillo said. The academy will identify ways for advisers to receive training.

The Academic Advising Center does faculty training and sometimes department request training. The center also advises general studies majors and students who are on probation. Faculty Coordinator Dean Panttaja said the center is a resource for faculty. Each department is supposed to receive training by a staff person who is an adviser or by a peer.

"I think that is where we are at right now, is looking at all the systems and seeing what systems work the best and why they work the best," Panttaja said. "It's really different from unit to unit, but the training does occur."

Some departments are overloaded and are above the national standards for advisers to faculty, while others are under-loaded. Panttaja said most of the training is getting faculty onboard with understanding how the curriculum in a certain area works, why that curriculum is sequenced the way it should be so the student can graduate on time, where to find the tools to make sure the student is tracked properly through four years and making sure the students work through the Degree Audit, taking the courses needed to fulfill their degrees.

"In some departments there is a freshman adviser, there's a sophomore adviser, junior adviser and a senior adviser and they know those

specific areas," Panttaja said. "Maybe that is something that needs to be addressed, is a little more communication with faculty about student developmental traits."

The academy is a feedback tool for faculty, Baker said. It is a way for students to give feedback to faculty about issues that are affecting their learning and their student experience. These issues could pertain to advising, the curriculum in the program or co-curricular activities. Baker said the academy will allow students to give feedback not only on what is taught, but how courses are taught.

"Part of good advising is to get the adviser and student together and that doesn't always happen," Baker said. "Advising can be a really powerful teaching opportunity and learning opportunity as you are trying to figure out where you're going, what you need to be doing, how you should be involved in the classroom or outside the classroom."

In some ways the academy is an outgrowth in the university's strategic plan, Baker said. The academy is a report card for the faculty, he said. Baker has heard of similar programs at other universities where focus groups are used to obtain feedback. This feedback could be obtained through focus groups, written reports given by students, faculty interviews with students or by using surveys.

"We are trying to build a structure for that feedback," Baker said. "Faculty are dedicated to helping students learn as best as they can. For them to do that, they need that feedback."

Unfortunately, people do get lost in the system, Panttaja said. Sometimes poor advising is the fault of the adviser, while other times students do not do what their advisers tell them.

"Sometimes people fall through the cracks, but usually what happens when we lose people is that they never go to their adviser the first time and somehow somebody registers them or they get registered so they just figure they can do it on their own," Panttaja said. "Another way is when they change majors they don't get assigned an adviser."

Another problem with advising is the relationship between the student

Student Level	College	Adviser Assigned on Banner?				Total		
		Students	Percent	Students	Percent	Students	Percent	
Undergrads	Agricultural & Life Sciences	767	100%	2	0%	769	100%	
	Art & Architecture	621	99%	7	1%	628	100%	
	Business & Economics	1,129	97%	32	3%	1,161	100%	
	Education	1,015	100%	5	0%	1,020	100%	
	Engineering	1,140	100%	4	0%	1,144	100%	
	Letters Arts & Social Sciences	2,734	99%	39	1%	2,773	100%	
	Natural Resources	490	100%	1	0%	491	100%	
	Science	509	97%	14	3%	523	100%	
	<b>Undergrads Total</b>		<b>8,405</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>8,509</b>	<b>100%</b>
	Graduate Students	Agricultural & Life Sciences	131	82%	28	18%	159	100%
Art & Architecture		67	83%	14	17%	81	100%	
Business & Economics		11	79%	3	21%	14	100%	
Education		536	76%	173	24%	709	100%	
Engineering		284	81%	66	19%	350	100%	
Graduate Studies		33	25%	100	75%	133	100%	
Letters Arts & Social Sciences		203	58%	147	42%	350	100%	
Natural Resources		166	95%	9	5%	175	100%	
Science		130	68%	61	32%	191	100%	
<b>Graduate Total</b>			<b>1,561</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,966</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10,671</b>	<b>100%</b>	

and adviser. Some students do not know who their advisers are or the adviser does not know their students on name or face basis. Students are advised by a faculty adviser, while others are advised by staff, and others are advised by peer advisers.

"Different students prefer different things, but I think most of them wanted some kind of face-to-face advising," Panttaja said. "I think personally there should be some consistent requirement of faculty in regards to advising. All faculty should understand certain principles of advising."

Many students say having that one-on-one time with faculty is really important, McLaughlin said.

Sometimes when a student switches advisers, the new adviser cannot see the notes from the past adviser about the student. This is a result of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which means that the student's records are confidential and only certain people can view those records, Panttaja said.

McLaughlin is working on a program called E-Portfolio where students can create a portfolio of their

best work. The work in the portfolio could include a student's best essay or best science project. When students transfer to a new adviser, their portfolios can transfer with them if the students allow it to. They can decide who sees their portfolio and who does not.

The adviser-student relationship should build instead of having to start over every time the student gets a new adviser, McLaughlin said. The portfolio would be FERPA-friendly, he said.

"I want students to tell us this is what I want," McLaughlin said. "If we don't get them written down somewhere there's really no way to help the students reach those goals."

Baker said training is available for faculty, but it is not currently mandatory. Baker is encouraging departments to take part in the activities of the academy.

"I think what is really important here is that students, faculty council, administration see advising as an issue," McLaughlin said. "It's an area where we all ought to be able to get together and make something happen."

# Mississippi expects to file Katrina-related fraud indictments

By Geoff Pender  
McClatchy Newspapers

BILOXI, Miss. — The first fraud indictments involving HUD Katrina-relief money should be coming out within a month, a State Auditor's office investigator said.

"We have 40 cases open," said Jesse Bingham director of investigations for the office. "We've looked at around 300 cases. We're probably within 30 days of bringing indictments and making arrests. We're going to be aggressive with these cases."

Also Friday, Ken Donohue, inspector general for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said his office has heard of complaints about HUD-funded Katrina contracts a state agency awarded to state lawmakers and his agency is looking into it.

The comments were made at a one-day forum Donohue organized at Imperial Palace casino in Biloxi for all the federal and state watchdogs of Katrina relief money to foster communication and teamwork between the alphabet soup of agencies.

A complaint was recently filed with the state Ethics Commission about state Sen. Tommy Robertson, R-Moss Point, and state Reps. Jim Beckett, R-Bruce, and Jim Simpson, R-Long Beach, making money from legal work on Katrina homeowner grants. The contract for the work was awarded by the Mississippi Development Authority, which is administering the federal

homeowner grants.

"I'm aware of the issue, and I think that's being explored as we speak," Donohue said.

Gray Swoope, incoming head of MDA, said this week the agency followed all applicable laws in awarding contracts, and the company created by Robertson and Beckett had the lowest and best bid for the legal work.

"The groups that got (con-

tracts) were much lower than the others," Swoope said. "We have a fiduciary responsibility to save money whenever we can."

Donohue and State Auditor Phil Bryant said Friday's summit was an important one. It was attended by dozens of auditors from the state, HUD, Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Government Accounting Office,

Department of Health and Human Services and others, as well as officials from Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Texas. Last February, Bryant held a similar get-on-the-same-page meeting.

"A lack of communication between all these agencies could just be disastrous," Bryant said. "As (Gov. Haley Barbour) said, we want to front-end load this process of auditing these funds. We want to reduce and elimi-

nate de-obligation — that's the dirty word. That's when we spend money, and then (the federal government) comes back and says you're not going to be reimbursed because you didn't follow the rules. That's a terrible potential for state and local governments."

Bryant said so far, the apparent percentage of fraud with the billions of federal dollars that have been flowing into

Mississippi "is very low, in the single digits," compared to a roughly accepted average in similar programs of around 15 percent.

"We want to be able to say that here in Mississippi, we prevented fraud," Bryant said. "We want these first people indicted to have their pictures on the front page. We want it to be a terrible experience when you try to defraud HUD or Mississippi."

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# Supreme Court weighs diversity cases

By Stephen Henderson  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — In historic arguments over voluntary school desegregation plans in Seattle and Louisville, Ky., a majority of the Supreme Court seemed highly skeptical Monday that race can be used even as a "tipping factor" in the decision to move students around to produce racially diverse schools.

But Justice Anthony Kennedy, probably the decisive vote on the matter, also seemed to stop short of embracing assertions that the Constitution always requires color-blind approaches to school integration, such as magnet schools.

Either way, the court effectively could end voluntary integration plans that are in place in dozens of school districts across the country by next spring. That would force administrators to come up with more subtle ways to ensure that children don't attend schools that reflect the nation's still-segregated housing patterns. Kennedy's distinctions might be the only hope for school districts that want to desegregate.

"When it came to the plans at issue, Kennedy certainly seemed to evince a good deal of hostility," said Ted Shaw,

the executive director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is supporting the school districts in the cases.

"But I also think he was trying to figure out where the stopping point was or how far the argument ought to go," Shaw said. "I think he was looking for a limiting principle" for the idea of government colorblindness.

Kennedy was joined by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Justice Antonin Scalia and Justice Samuel Alito in his criticism of the school plans. Justice Clarence Thomas, a longtime critic of race-conscious policies, typically doesn't speak during oral arguments but is widely expected to object to the plans.

The cases, *Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1* and *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education*, mark a return for the justices to the dicey question of how race fits into the Constitution, and how the nation's past can be confronted.

The school districts say integration is a key component of a public education, and is compelling enough by law to justify a limited use of race in policies designed to produce that integration.

Scalia was especially dubious of the argument, advanced by a lawyer for the Seattle schools, that the plans were

justified as a way to combat segregation.

"Can you think of any area of law in which we say whatever it takes, so long as there's a real need?" Scalia asked. "I mean, if we have a lot of crime out there and the only way to get rid of it is to use warrantless searches, you know, fudge on some of the protections of the Bill of Rights, whatever it takes, we've got to do it?"

"It seems to me you're saying you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs," Scalia said.

Kennedy seemed closer to Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer on the question of whether race-conscious policies should be permitted at all.

Breyer was particularly exercised over assertions that race-conscious integration efforts, which have been mandated by courts seeking to remedy past segregation, could be deemed unconstitutional outside the context of a court order.

"How could the Constitution, the day that that decree is removed, tell the school board it cannot make that effort anymore, it can't do what it's been doing, and we'll send the children back to their black schools and their white schools?" Breyer asked.

Kennedy was quite pointed in his

criticism of the Seattle and Louisville plans, saying that unlike more nuanced measures, they characterize "each student by reason of the color of his or her skin."

"That is quite a different means. And it seems to me that should only be, if ever, allowed as a last resort."

But Kennedy also signaled to lawyers for parents who've challenged the assignment plans that race neutrality may not always be required.

In Seattle, an "open choice" student-assignment plan allows high school students to pick a number of schools they'd like to attend. They're generally granted their choices, but if a school has too many applicants, the district takes several other factors into account to decide who got in.

One of them is race, which is used to prevent most schools from having demographics that differed wildly from the district as a whole.

In Louisville, after public schools were released from a court-ordered desegregation plan in 2000, administrators chose to continue an integration plan. Students choose from among several schools near their homes, and the district assigns them based, in part, on maintaining a racial balance in each school.

But parents, including some blacks,

in both districts sued after their children were denied entry to neighborhood schools or schools they otherwise wanted to attend. They say the districts' policies discriminate on the basis of race, something the 14th Amendment to the Constitution doesn't permit.

The parents are supported in both cases by the Bush administration, which has consistently argued that while diversity is a compelling interest, it must be achieved through race-neutral means.

The cases' arguments echo the court's 2003 rulings on college affirmative action, which carved a narrow berth for race-conscious admissions as a way to enhance campus diversity. The school districts rely directly on the reasoning in those cases to support their policies.

The cases also reach back to *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark 1954 case that ordered an end to public school segregation. *Brown* at one time was used to support massive involuntary busing and sweeping, court-ordered desegregation plans, and its promise of integrated public schools is the legal force behind the voluntary plans that exist today.

A decision is expected by the end of June.

# Polonium that killed Russian spy rarely used as poison

By Jeremy Manier  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The suspected murder weapon is a radioactive substance found in nature and normally harmless, yet so toxic if swallowed that it can kill in doses smaller than a speck of dust.

The harmful particles it emits cannot pass through skin or through paper, making it relatively safe to deal with and relatively easy to conceal.

Yet if carelessly handled it can leave traces on surfaces it touches, and a contaminated person can excrete it through sweat or urine.

Eventually, the unusual properties of the radioactive element polonium-210 may be what allows authorities to track down who was responsible for the lethal attack on a former Russian KGB agent who died Nov. 23.

Amid international intrigue over the bizarre poisoning death of Alexander Litvinenko, the oddest development may be the substance that killed him. Experts in the field of health physics say there is no previous record of polonium-210 being used as a poison.

On Friday, British authorities said tests also had revealed polonium exposure in Italian security expert Mario Scaramella, who met Litvinenko at a London sushi bar on the day the former spy fell ill. Scaramella was hospitalized but has shown no symptoms of poisoning, a hospital spokesman said.

A friend of Litvinenko's told The Associated Press on Friday that Litvinenko's wife also was "very slightly contaminated" and did not need medical treatment.

The minuscule amounts of polonium used have set off an intense response by the British Health Protection Agency that one British paper described as similar to the planned protocols for a radioactive "dirty bomb."

The investigation has revealed an invisible radioactive trail that includes a dozen locations around Britain and at least three jetliners that traveled between Britain and Moscow.

"Whoever did this, it doesn't sound like they were neat," said Don Cossairt, associate head of radiation protection at Fermilab in Batavia.

Although the polonium-210 isotope is safe to

handle in a controlled environment, tiny bits of it scattered in public places would pose a risk, he said. "You don't want people ingesting this stuff," said Cossairt.

Polonium occurs naturally at low levels in ordinary soil and can be found in water, cigarettes and some vegetables. It has been used commercially in devices to eliminate static electricity. Most experts say it would take a nuclear reactor or particle accelerator to make significant quantities of the material; Cossairt said the accelerators at Fermilab do not make it in substantial amounts.

The isotope's peculiar threat comes in the form of alpha particles, products of radioactive decay that are the same as what is found in the nucleus of a helium atom. Polonium-210 decays rapidly; the isotope has a half-life of just 138 days.

Its decay also releases intense heat if the substance is present in large amounts. One gram of the substance can reach a temperature of more than 900 degrees, which is a reason why the Russian space program used the isotope as an energy source for space probes.

The alpha particles that polonium releases can-

not penetrate a sheet of paper, but if ingested they can kill cells by breaking strands of DNA, said Albert Wiley, director of a radiation emergency response center within the National Nuclear Security Administration.

"Before this incident I had never heard of polonium being used in a poisoning," Wiley said.

One of the only previously suspected victims of polonium was scientist Irene Joliot-Curie, the daughter of researchers Marie and Pierre Curie, who were the co-discoverers of polonium. Joliot-Curie, a Nobel Prize winner like both of her parents, died of leukemia 10 years after an accidental exposure to the substance.

When ingested, polonium-210 can damage the digestive tract and enter the bloodstream, where it can devastate a person's bone marrow and vital organs. The isotope also can cause baldness because it damages hair follicles and any other tissue that undergoes a rapid turnover of cells, Wiley said.

Just one-millionth of a gram of polonium-210 could be a fatal dose, according to a fact sheet released by the Health Physics Society.

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**OurVIEW**

## Don't blame students for vote turnout

Keeping with its reputation of being one of the most politically inactive schools in the nation, only 6 percent of the student body voted in last week's senatorial election for ASUI. Out of nine candidates, seven new senators were elected with only 525 votes, a percentage that would have any national election screaming, "Redo!"

As easy as it would be to lambaste UI students for caring so little in the decision of who will help shape their university, there is a bigger force at work: ASUI dropped the ball on getting word out about this election.

The election, which ran from Wednesday to Friday of last week, received little publicity beyond a few candidate posters around the Commons.

In an article posted on the Argonaut Web site Friday ("Low turnout produces new senators"), elections coordinator Eric Everett said, "I'm a little disappointed with the turnout, but there's a lot of factors that contributed to that."

Indeed, factors that include ASUI failing to even mention the election to the Argonaut until Monday, Nov. 27, and not providing us with any candidate biographies until Thursday, leaving the newspaper to print the only information that got out to the campus en masse on the last day of the election.

ASUI did not advertise candidate debates well. If a student happened to be in the Commons when a debate was taking place and knew that an election was going on, he would have been a more informed voter. However, since the majority of students didn't vote, it's safe to say a majority of students didn't watch, or know about, the debates.

Perhaps, as Everett said to The Argonaut when apologizing for his tardiness, the districting election earlier in November distracted ASUI and the student population from the election. Or, maybe, ASUI just forgot.

Either way, the election is over and the damage is done. It's time to move on and make sure this never happens again.

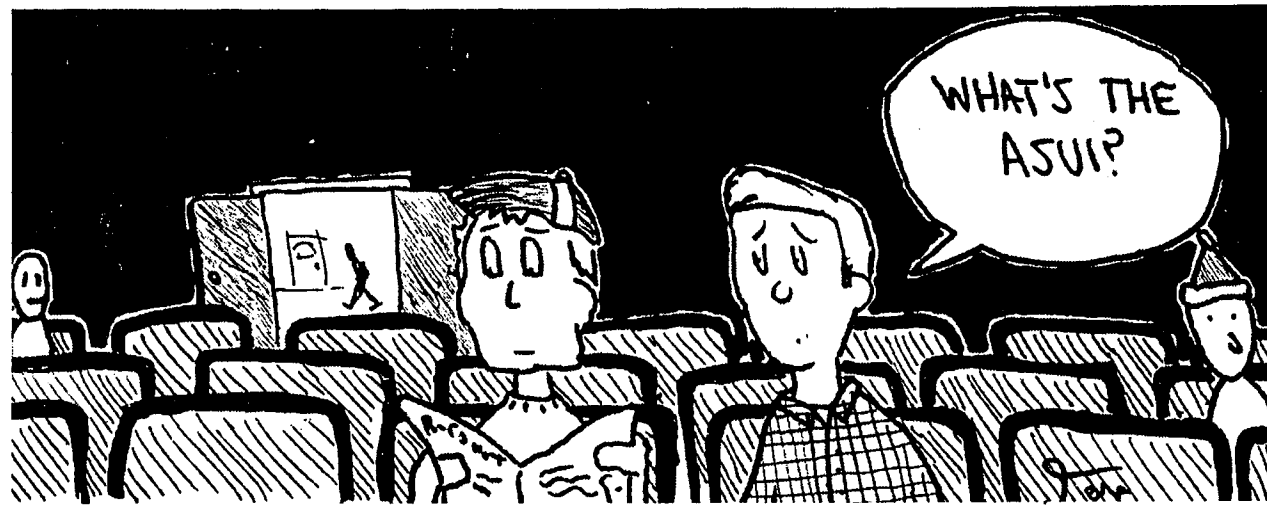
To the seven new members of ASUI: Please, pay attention.

Perhaps advertising for an election seems like small beans to you, but you were just elected by an absolute mockery of the democratic process. Most of the student body doesn't know who you are. Regardless, you are here to represent and support the voices of your constituents, whether they voted or not. You made campaign promises, you voiced desires for change. Don't forget those.

Right now you are excited and energetic about your new positions, whereas some of the current senators are becoming bitter and resentful. Don't follow in their footsteps. Let this feeling of political activism in you remain strong. Put in the time and effort to get to know your absent voters and find out what they care about and how you can help them.

And please, for the love of God, don't let an election like this happen again.

S.C.



## America's fat crisis

The fat crisis in America is starting to get out of hand. No, I'm not talking about pork barrel spending in Washington. I'm talking about straight up body fat. It's time we have a real discussion in America about the overweight epidemic facing our country.

Thirty percent of Americans have a BMI over 30, meaning their height-to-weight ratio meets the criteria for being very overweight or obese. Now, there's a word that should be taken lightly. Obesity is in fact a genetic predisposition and disease for a small minority of obese people, but not the majority.

Across the country various levels of government have taken steps to curb the increasing waist sizes of their citizens. The most notable in my mind is the city of New York debating a ban on the use of trans fats in restaurants. Whether or not the measure passed is beside the point. The fact that we're having these kinds of discussions in America isn't really all that cool — it's incredibly embarrassing.

Let's be honest about America's progressively fattening ass. Weight gain is a long-term problem for the country at large. Why? Because it's expensive. Being overweight dramatically increases the risk of a great many health problems, which means that people who are overweight have to spend more money over time on health care. Increased numbers of health problems that are treated by increasing numbers of fatter, less healthy people are driving the cost of health care premiums and insurance upwards.

In 2005, the people of the United States, in all of their economic wisdom, spent 15 percent of the nation's GDP on health care (roughly \$1.9 trillion, only Japan, Germany, China, Britain and France had a GDP greater than this in 2005). As a

percentage of GDP, American health care expenditures surpass any other nation by a considerable margin, as most other nations spend between 8-10 percent of their GDP on health care.

In the next ten years health care expenditures are expected to reach 20 percent of GDP. Coincidentally, the number of overweight people in America is expected to increase. Being fat isn't bad just because it's unattractive and expensive; it's bad because it costs us all money in the grand scheme of things.

Still being honest, what's the real reason people are fat? Because they eat too much, or eat the wrong things. This whole situation shouldn't be a matter of limiting what restaurants can cook with, but should be about getting individual people to put the fork down, or keep their hand out of the bag of chips.

To me, having grown up in the midst of the great fattening of America, I've realized that all we're doing is looking for scapegoat in the whole mess. People place guilt on restaurants, snack foods and always-evil large corporations that for some reason have food divisions (Fun fact: Philip Morris, the tobacco superstar, owns Nabisco, known for their cookies). Everyone knows where the real guilt lies, with the people themselves.

In all the history of humanity, there has never been a society as fat or wealthy as modern America. Which highlights another important point: In most countries wealthy people are fat because quite literally they're the only people that can afford to be. In the United States, the majority of our fat folks reside toward the bottom of the socio-economic totem pole. This is often hard for people in other countries to wrap their heads around. For some strange reason, we have a lot of

poor fat people. Some people claim that foods readily available to the lower classes are more fattening. Others would say that there are plenty of less fattening and well-known alternatives available that are affordable to lower income households, for example wheat instead of white bread (studies show people who eat wheat bread gain less weight over time than those who eat white bread). Quite frankly, I think this is nothing more than an excuse for laziness. If you have to live on a budget, it's more than possible to do so in a healthy way.

Speaking of poor fat people, let's talk about the impact of fatness on public health care costs. An ever-increasing portion of Medicare and Medicaid is being spent on health complications from being overweight. Essentially, your tax dollars are being spent to cover medical complications from people not managing their own weight properly. That's disgusting to me. If you're overweight because you don't know when to put the fork down and you're on Medicare or Medicaid, please do me a favor and stop eating my tax dollars.

For those of you who are overweight for reasons of predisposition or complications from other medical conditions, I sympathize. For those of you who are fat because you are either lazy or you eat too much, please get help or stop eating entirely. I'm serious, this is getting ridiculous. We're the fattest country on Earth. If that's not an achievement worthy of utter disgust and disdain than I guess I'm out of tune with the world.

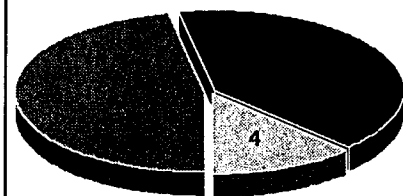
If it sounds like I'm attacking fat people, that's because I am. It shouldn't be OK or acceptable to be overweight in this country. If you're still wondering why, you obviously missed the whole "it costs everyone money" explanation above take your hand out of the bag of chips and read again.



Travis Galloway  
Columnist  
arg\_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu

**Last week:**

What do you like most about snow?



Nothing. It's cold and I hate it: 15 votes  
Outdoor sports: 13 votes  
Pelting unsuspecting students with snowballs: 4 votes

**This week:**

Why didn't you vote for ASUI senators?

To vote go to  
[www.uiargonaut.com](http://www.uiargonaut.com)

## Computers: 1, UI faculty: 0

Faculty and staff, this one's for you: How many of you use those fancy computer setups in UI classrooms?

OK, OK ... Now, how many of you feel you were properly trained in how to use those things?

I haven't actually heard from many of you on this subject, but I'm willing to bet your answers to both questions were in the "so-so" range. Despite the potential of all of the technological wonders installed in classrooms in the TLC, Albertson and other buildings, I'm not sure the university has gotten the most bang for its buck.

I'm not saying that every class should use every part of the computer system. Transforming all course material into a multimedia

circus won't help students retain information better. But I have been struck during my three and a half years here by how many professors either eschew the computers and projectors completely or seem to have problems running them.

Why is this? It could be hit-and-miss training. For students who don't know, faculty must complete a training course before they can teach in the TLC. That's not true for many other buildings on campus, including the Administration Building.

So theoretically, teachers in the TLC know how to use the big LCD touch pads and what every switch in each room does. But in practice, that hasn't been true. I've been in many classes where the professors in front fumbled their way through turning on

the projector screen, navigating Windows and even switching between the computer display and the camera. I don't know that many students would do any better were they at the front of the room, but from our perspective, it's a little embarrassing.

This begs the question — at what point does technology cease to be useful and start dragging down classes? For every instance a video on the Internet has enriched my classes, five minutes of otherwise-useful class time has been wasted by people trying to find the "zoom" button.

Something needs to be done to fix this, whether it be additional computer workshops for faculty or better information coming from administrators and techies. For a campus that for so long prided itself on its position in "most wired campus" lists, it's a shame when its faculty can't turn the lights on.



Nate Popino  
Managing editor  
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**Off theCUFF**

Quick takes on current events from our editors

**Short-term festivities**

A surprising warning on a string of Christmas lights: "These lights are meant for short-term display only, not exceeding 90 days."

My question: is the 90-day limit because the lights will be damaged if outdoors for that long, or because the Christmas-light racket is tired of its image being sullied by people who leave their lights up all year long?

-Tara

**Clean my street**

Thank you, Moscow Public Works, for your excellent job sweeping my street. I barely even noticed that you walled my car in for a few days. Or that even though it was due in part to my poor tires, I was still able to become stuck on some ice Monday morning. I see other streets that are in large part dry now — is there any reason Baker Street doesn't deserve that kind of treatment?

-Nate

**Endless nights**

The closer it gets to the first official day of winter, the more frustrated I get with the time it gets dark. It is ridiculous that when I get out of my class at 3:15, it is starting to get dark. I don't like walking in the dark, and usually, I feel ready to go to bed when it gets dark, which doesn't work when it is completely dark by about 4:30. I can't wait until daylight saving and spring comes around, and my days can be productive once again.

-Miranda

**Take my two cents**

I hate pennies. They are useless. Yesterday, I risked a parking ticket because of pennies. I didn't want to park all the way out in the blue lot to work on the paper, so I parked in the meter lot next to the SUB. But the only change I had was pennies. I had 45 minutes to go before it was free parking. So I risked it. Stupid pennies. I hate pennies. If we combined all the pennies that people collect thinking they'll cash them in some day (they won't) we could end world hunger, I bet.

-Savannah

**Got 'em**

Some little rascal got into my garbage this morning, but I caught him red-handed. Red-handed, my friend. He was a fat little thing, definitely ready for winter. This squirrel has become dependent on the garbage left by my lazy neighbors and me, who leave trash bags outside their front doors. But I'm worried about the little guy — what happens when we all leave for Christmas break? He'll starve. It'd be nice if someone could drop by some food for him while we're gone. I think he's forgotten all survival skills after being fed all semester. Much appreciated.

-Mackenzie

**Canned politics**

Albeit culture-specific, color association is nothing unique. In America, red and green mean Christmas, the rainbow means gay pride and a pink or blue beanie on a newborn can save people the trouble of determining gender the old fashioned way.

For me, vibrant Pepsi blue and Coke red (a trademarked color) signify the struggle between the Democratic and Republican parties. What I don't understand is why I can't disassociate Coke from Democrats and Pepsi from Republicans.

Maybe I saw the Pepsi yin-yang on a smart bomb or something. I guess RC cola must represent the Libertarians, but that's just because of its pathetic market share.

-Alec

**Forgotten cookies**

My roommate and I hosted an amazing Christmas cookie party this weekend with some amazingly delicious treats. We invited some amazing people but some of those people didn't think they were amazing enough to join in on the fun. So I shed an amazingly big tear and ate an amazingly big cookie. And then I felt amazingly better and went on to have an amazing night!

-Cynthia

**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 Savannah Cummings, 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](mailto:arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu).

# Sledding down the sidewalks

As a child I lived in snow. It was not unusual to miss a few days of school because we couldn't get out of the house.

Eventually, I moved away from snow to Las Vegas, a place with only two seasons: hot and not-as-hot. And now I'm here.

It is called Moscow for a reason.

Let's get this straight: I'm not complaining. I asked for this. I wanted to come here.

Right now, there is a drift piled against my van so high so that I won't be driving it until March — or April, as I've heard from some people. I don't mind. It is safer to walk.

Yes, I've slipped and stumbled and sworn at the sky to stop dropping its white hell down upon us. I haven't fallen, though. My rear has yet to meet the ice-covered pavement.

However, good luck on the ice is not true for many local drivers.

Last Monday morning, as I gently walked down the hill from my house, I saw a Jeep Cherokee stop halfway up the hill and begin spinning its tires on the ice.

The driver was kind enough to honk his horn as he slid backward down the incline. By the time the Jeep made it to the lower cross street, the nose of the vehicle pointed a perfect 45 degrees from where it began.

And just because that car was a red City of Moscow vehicle doesn't mean the same thing can't happen to you.

Raise your hand if you've needed a push from the cor-

ner of Sixth and Line. The fancy new pothole says not enough of you are putting your arms in the air.

It isn't just Dodge Neons getting stuck, either. It is pick-up trucks and minivans, too. Really, no one is safe, unless you have chains on your tires just to make it to class.

The fun part about all this ice, though, is that you can sled down the sidewalks.

New tracks have appeared on the sidewalk down Cherry Lane everyday this week. I'm not too worried about a sledder losing control and becoming a part of "A" Street. Anyone who would lose control at the bottom of the hill probably hit one of the trees farther up and never made it to the bottom.

I'd like to say "thank you" to those sledders. Without them, I wouldn't be able to find the sidewalk.

Right now, it is difficult to make the climb back up the hill to my house, but I can live with that. And, yes, it is rather cold. I can live with that, too.

And so can you. It happens every year. Deal with it.

Just wait until spring when the snow all melts and pools on the street. I'll be laughing, then, too, in my house on the hill.

For now, I walk to class, careful not to fall on my ass. It may be padded (well-padded, if you ask some) but it will still hurt if I fall. That and I'd hate to have my CD player skip while I listen to Frank Zappa.

Remember, kids, don't eat the yellow snow.



T.J. Tranchell  
Staff writer  
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## MailBOX

### Congrats, Frank

The verbosity of one's journalistic vernacular indubitably diffuses the comportment of relevance necessitated by an erudite congregation of a university's registrant-directed biweekly periodical. The masturbated lexis of The Argonaut's principal controversy purveyor, Frank McGovern, eloquently transmits inarguable veracity, insuperfluously punctuated with galvanic adversatives which attenuate his benighted oppugnancy. Felicitations Frank, your acuminous fomentations propitiate our

appetence for obdurate circumambages.

Chad Butt  
Moscow

### Exercise in winter

With winter starting to take its toll, the urge to get outside and fight the cold windy breeze seems to be a lost cause, as does eating healthier. A nutritious diet and regular exercise can greatly improve the quality of life and reduce the risk of heart disease, increased blood pressure and obesity. Right now 68 percent of Americans are overweight.

A well balanced diet combined with regular exercise could be a step toward better health. Being active and eating

right not only reduces the risk of becoming overweight, it also improves the quality of life. A sense of accomplishment is gained when going outside in lousy weather for a run, a bike ride or a walk.

Combining exercise with proper nutrition is the best way to maintain a healthy weight and live a positive lifestyle. Personally, I exercise at least an hour everyday and feel that a healthy diet is essential to maximize benefits from working out and help recovery. I do realize that it takes a lot of time, effort and dedication to fulfill the commitments required to stay fit, not everyone has a schedule that can accommodate these

needs.

If you are pressed for time and don't cook your own meals, avoid fast food restaurants. Typically, the food served is overloaded with grease and salt, which generate no nutritional benefit. Consuming the right foods will not only provide more energy for working out, you will recover faster and feel better when hitting the right food groups. Incorporating daily exercise and eating healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables and lean proteins will make a difference in overall health and body weight.

Kevin Friesen  
Sophomore, Econ, finance and info systems

# Hardcore holiday advice

Away from home, most of us can get by without socializing with our parental units as long as they continue to send us their love and concern, care of MONEY.

Not every home is for the holidays, at least not every person is. So, perhaps it is time to prepare for what could be an unspeakable break from higher education. So put up your beer bong, and any other bongs of the like, and take the following into consideration for surviving the "Joys of Christmas."

### The drive home

If it can be avoided, don't drive. The roads are icy and drivers are insane. Nobody needs the grief that comes with taking a 60 mph highway at 35 mph to avoid pulling an Earnhardt. But if it is unavoidable, come prepared for the boredom because even if you don't intend to drive safely, there are many who will.

Bring a collection of angry music, enough food to load a pack mule and thick gloves for "giving the bird" in sub-zero temperatures.

### Caroling

No good can come from a mobile chorus line. Now we have to worry about dropping a happy night of great-grandpa's World War II Nazi massacre stories

for a tone deaf army of carolers.

The only thing worse is being invited by your supposed dear ones to join this melodic firing line. Since the time of slavery, we have known that the only real way to get out of anything is injury.



Brandon Macz  
Staff writer  
arg\_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

Suburban Brat: Sorry, mom. I cut my leg off. I guess I can't go caroling.

Suburban mom: Oh, Bartleby.

### Light seeing

There is something to be detested about getting in a car and looking for Christmas lights. Why waste time slipping around alien neighborhoods looking at what appear to be red, white and green spaceships? It is much more recommended to stay home and watch a holiday classic like "Boogie Nights" with a glass of flammable eggnog.

Besides, with Bush Claus sending his guided sleighs across the Middle East, we could afford to save gas and electricity this year. Instead of lights, try throwing M80s at would-be light-watchers' cars.

### The F@\*%# tree

The Christmas tree is an epic quest, indeed. What starts as a 7 a.m. drive in to rural America becomes a two hour walk through a tree farm noting how the 100th tree looks just as good as the first.

A man should never look at the size of a tree for compensation. So, if your father or mother's lover that you have to call Uncle Andy won't settle for average, be understanding. Take him aside and tell him that any "tree" he gets will make the family and mom happy.

Does anyone know what the machine that violently shakes the loose needles from the tree is called? Let's just call it the "British Nanny."

### Coming out for the holidays

Many homosexual students deem the holidays to be the best time to come out to their parents, but have trouble explaining that their experimentation came back with positive and permanent results. Here are two suggestions for gay men and lesbians.

For the gay men, try bringing your man home wearing nothing but a large sock on his "unit," and when the family answers the door, say, "This is my stocking stuffer."

For the heterosexually unavailable women, have your lady come wearing a red nose and fake antlers and say, "This is the reindeer that guides my sleigh every night."

These are both shrewd, politically incorrect and effective methods. However, if you're afraid to come out and would take this to heart, maybe conservative mommy and daddy deserve a lump of coal for Christmas.

## Got something to say?

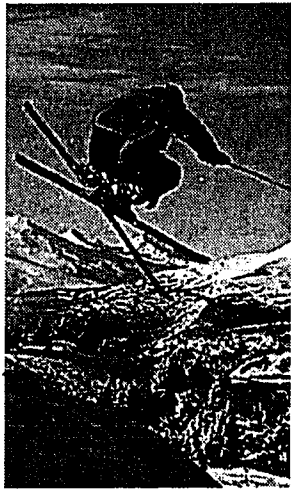
Submit your letter to the editor or guest column to [arg\\_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu](mailto:arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu)

## Get what you want for Christmas

Write a letter to Santa and submit it to The Argonaut!

Letters must be received by 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7 and will be printed in Friday's issue. Send your or your child's letter to [arg\\_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu](mailto:arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu)

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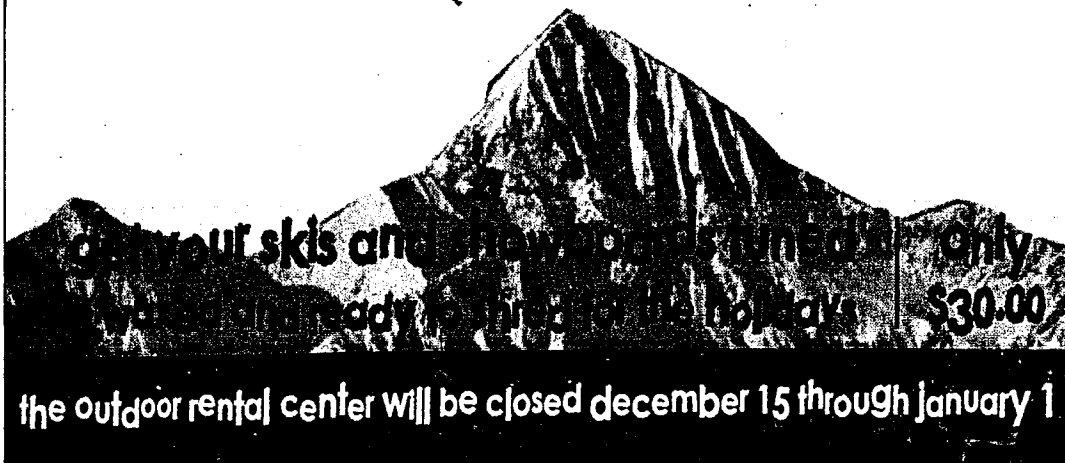


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## Different dances



Photos by Melissa Davlin/Argonaut  
 Top: Dancers perform "Consuming Hold," choreographed by Ashley Swinney, at "So You Think You Can Dance Idaho" on Saturday night at Hartung Theatre. Above: Dancers perform "Water Study," choreographed by Doris Humphrey. "Water Study" originated in 1928 and contains the first full exhibition of the modern dance principle "fall and recovery." Right: Dancers perform to "The Breath That Reminds Me," choreographed by Hilary Thompson.

## Radio gets a feminine side

By Rebecca Bujko  
 Argonaut

Sandi Billings, producer and DJ of Yin Radio, was a child during the 1960s at the height of women's liberation.

"I was taught that you can be all you want to be," she said.

Billings said she has worked with a lot of women, young and old, and she wants to share what she has learned.

Yin Radio is a part of KRFP, Radio Free Moscow, a nonprofit organization supported by the community. The station has been running for two years.

"The media is a powerful thing. I think it is really a great forum for issues that don't get a floor for discussion," said Lysa Salsbury, a staff member at the UI Women's Center.

"The program lets women know they are not alone in this world," Billings said.

She said it is common for women to reevaluate their lives when they get older after they have been working hard and raising a family. She said some people call this point a mid-life crisis.

"We don't talk about us when we are older, just when we are young," she said. "If you talk to your other female sisters you can work through it."

Although the radio show is for women in particular, the motto says men are welcome, too: "Yin Radio, for women and men who

love women."

"I love to have (men) listen and I have had men's voices on the show," Billings said. She frequently captures men's voices on a section of her show called Around Town, in which she



Sandi Billings

goes around Moscow asking community members for their opinions on a certain issue. On the Nov. 16 show "What's Eating You?" she featured a man whose daughter died of bulimia.

"I think men will know women and understand women better if they listen to the show ... but not just as sexual beings. That's just a part of us, not all," Billings said.

Billings said her favorite show so far was "The Boob Show" that aired on Oct. 5. The Around Town question was "What is the biggest thing

you can fit under your boob?"

"It was a fun question for everyone to play around with," Billings said.

"I think I could hold a shotgun," was the response from one woman.

But the show did have a more serious side to it. It featured a woman who was a breast cancer survivor or "fighter," as she called it. Billings also interviewed a man who studies breast shape and size.

"He has a love of breasts with respect," said Billings of the man, who has done studies all over the world.

Billings said "The Boob Show" was a lot of fun for everyone.

### listen to THE SHOW

Yin Radio airs from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. every Thursday on KRFP, 92.5 FM. To submit work or ideas, contact Sandi Billings at (208) 310-9150 or sandib@vpfound.org.

"I imagine men appreciated that show," she joked.

The show is aimed at a wide variety of viewers.

"It is really great that (Billings) is reaching out to the campus community and giving them a voice," Salsbury said of Billings's encouragement for contribution.

Billings said all works are welcome: school work, essays, speeches, stories, poetry, performance pieces and anything else.

"I'll come to you, prerecord your work, edit it and provide background music," she said. She said acting students can get involved to read their own pieces or works from other people.

"Your stuff is good, your ideas are good, we'll work out the glitches. I want to hear from you," Billings said.

Salsbury said it is valuable to support independent stations that try to help the community.

"When you have intelligent, thoughtful programming, it really makes a difference," she said.

## A seriously arty town

### The City of Moscow's search for a new arts director

By Caitlin Rice  
 Argonaut

It's arty but opinionated. It's free thinking but likes tradition. It's close-knit. It's divided.

The Moscow arts scene is one of extremes and dreams, budgets and conflict, and everyone, it seems, has his own take on it.

Moscow is one of only three cities in Idaho that receives state funding for its arts programs, a point of pride for many in the community. Moscow was also named one of the best 100 small cities in America for the arts.

And one person is in charge of running the show and pleasing everyone — or at least trying to.

"The position of the arts director is an important and high-profile one because we take our arts so seriously," said Robin Ohlgren-Evans, former assistant at the Moscow Arts Commission and current program coordinator of the University of Idaho Auditorium Chamber Music Series.

Moscow continues its search for a new arts director after Deena Heath resigned in September. Heath left Moscow to take a position as arts director in Stockton, Calif., because she said the larger city provided the new professional challenges she wanted.

A nationwide search for a new director produced 35 applicants and the final decision will be made by the end of December, city supervisor Gary Riedner said.

The applicants have gone through a screening process, and next will go before an interview committee. The committee will make a recommendation to the city supervisor and the mayor and the mayor's final recommendation will go to the City Council for confirmation.

"To make a living as an artist is incredible, to organize artists is even better," said Lumin, an arts commissioner, who goes by only one name.

This position is hard to fill in any town, but Moscow presents some challenges of its own.

"The position of arts director is very politically charged, in an already politically charged town," said Cathlin Setz, interim arts director. "The director has a very public role, and the public feels it owns a piece of that."

At times the job can even raise personal issues. "You're under tons of scrutiny for taste, mannerisms or how you express yourself or reply," Lumin said.

One issue that has caused some difference of opinion within art circles is the Moscow Farmer's Market. The problems arose, because of "growing pains" and the widespread interest in becoming a vendor, Setz said.

## 'This Film' takes a stab at the MPAA

By Rylfi Hennessey  
 Argonaut

"This Film is Not Yet Rated" director Kirby Dick takes a critical look at the MPAA ratings system, exposing the group which has long been a secret organization.

With input from filmmakers like Kimberly Peirce ("Boys Don't Cry"), John Waters ("A Dirty Shame," "Pink Flamingos"), Matt Stone ("South Park," "Team America") and Mary Harron ("American Psycho," "I Shot Andy Warhol"), all of whom have been given an NC-17 rating for their films, whether they released it that way or not.

In some of the film's most interesting moments these filmmakers talk about the experience of receiving an NC-17 rating, citing examples from sexual content to the overall tone of

their films.

Peirce talked about her experiences making "Boys Don't Cry" and how the ratings board was afraid of female sexuality, a theme brought up by many filmmakers.

Waters spoke of the NC-17 rating of his new film "A Dirty Shame" and how he had heard the board had some of the sexual terms like "felching" explained to them by a medical doctor.

Felching — now is that a technical term?

Sex is one of the film's main themes because of the ratings filmmakers receive for sexual content. Even a film like "Boys Don't Cry" that has reason for its sexual themes and taste when showing them originally

got an NC-17 rating while films like "Sin City" receive an R despite the strong violence. For



"This Film is Not Yet Rated" ★★½ (of 5) Kirby Dick DVD to be released Jan. 23, 2007

whatever reason, violent films often receive R ratings, where films with sexual themes will receive an NC-17. In a society that is so afraid to speak honestly about sex, but gung-ho about going to war, this is not surprising.

The film is littered with clips of films slapped with an NC-17, making it fun for movie enthusiasts to pick out films they have seen and love or seen and never knew were originally given

the dreaded rating. The film exposes the problems that arise from being given an NC-17 rating. One reason is that many companies will not

release a film rated NC-17; another is the obstacle of getting it shown in theaters once it has the rating. So in order to get their films out to the public, filmmakers often have to make cuts, raising many issues about censorship.

The identities of ratings board members have long been kept secret so it becomes the mission of Dick and his private investigator to expose them. They follow cars, dig through garbage and use hidden cameras to eventually reveal the names of members of the ratings board.

This is a documentary, and like all others it has an agenda. Conservative parents of young children may not agree with the stances Dick takes with his film, but most viewers with a little bit of sense will understand where he is coming from.



# Twelve joys of a UI Christmas

A dozen UI students and faculty share some holiday memories through the sounds of the season

By Joel Slocum  
Argonaut

If there is one thing that helps people reminisce about holidays-past, it is the sound of Christmas. A dozen UI students and staff did some reflecting to find their own holiday memories.

## Mike Whiteman

UI staff

*"Carol of the Bells"*  
I believe Christmas songs should be played right after Thanksgiving. They are anticipatory and lead up to the Celebration that is Christmas. That means they also stop when the day of Christmas is over. Of the songs I like, I really like "Carol of the Bells." When we decorate the tree, it is a song we often play and it's just cheery.

## Jane Baillargeon

UI staff

*"I'll Be Home for Christmas"*  
Every year, my daughter calls me up and sings Christmas carols just to annoy me. She does it right after Thanksgiving. I don't much care for Christmas songs before Christmas, but on that day they are appreciated. We often have them playing in the background. This year my favorite song would have to be "I'll Be Home for Christmas" by Bing Crosby. It reminds me of how my family gets together every year. I mean the whole family with lots of food and lots of cheer.

## Matt Schug

senior, computer science

*"O' Come, O' Come Emmanuel"*  
"O' Come, O' Come Emmanuel" would have to be my favorite Christmas song. I like the melody of it and I like the tune. I especially like the content and just thinking about the meaning. I am a Christian and it's has a special meaning for me, as it is calling for the return of Christ. I learned to play it on the piano once and performed it a few times, but nothing, it wasn't particularly moving. It is more about the meaning (of the song) than the context which makes it special.

## Trent Becker

senior, agricultural science & technology

*"What Child Is This? (Greensleeves)"*  
"What Child Is This?" is my favorite Christmas song because it is associated with a memory I had as a child. My parents used to have a music box and I would play with it when I was younger. It was just the melody at the time, but I appreciated it. Later, I heard the words and grew a deeper appreciation for it. I've never been all that into the Christmas season, but the song has some sort of warm place in my heart. I can identify with who Jesus was and why he was sung about.

## Chun Tsu

junior, graphic design

*"Jingle Bells"*  
The first Christmas song I heard in

Hong Kong was "Jingle Bells." Once I heard it, it just stuck in my head for a long time. In Hong Kong, we treat Christmas differently because Christianity is not big in Hong Kong. We treat Christmas as a break rather than an opportunity to get together with family and exchange presents. The kids can play games and the adults can do what they want. It is especially like this for the adults. It is hard for them to put their work down. That is why I like Christmas in the states, because it is about family time. We get together and build upon relationships, which I believe is most important. The bonds we forge between friends and family is what makes Christmas so special.

## Jenny Moore

Student Activities Coordinator

*"Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!"*  
I love the song "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!" because every time it snows it pops into my head and I sing it all day long, sometimes even obnoxiously. Snow is what I most associate with Christmas and I think it truly can't be Christmas without snow.

## Jennifer Hasenoehrel

senior, mechanical engineering

*"O' Holy Night"*  
Midnight mass is a Catholic tradition, which takes place on Christmas Eve. When midnight comes, we exit the church to the ringing of bells. They can be heard from blocks away and help to ring in the day of the

birth of Jesus Christ. When Martina McBride sings "O' Holy Night" it makes me think about coming out of church from midnight mass. The bells are always ringing so loudly and I always sing the song.

## Sarah Perez

senior, agriculture education

*"I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"*  
When I was little, I always thought my parents might be Santa Claus. When I got older, I came to realize Santa didn't exist. After hearing the song, I thought it was funny how it related to real life. Besides, I just think the song is cute.

## Jackson Ford

freshman, graphic design

*"Jingle Bells"*  
"Jingle Bells" is a classic. It's the only one I can remember all the words to. Whenever I hear it, I think about my first grade Christmas pageant. It was lame and I was a bad singer.

## Vala Metz

sophomore, history

*"Good King Wenceslas"*  
Every time I hear the song I think of second grade music class where we slogged down to the music room to sing out of old crummy music books as directed by an old and crummy music teacher. But that is not why it's my favorite. The Brits love the song. It's their favorite. I don't really like

Christmas music because it is played like 8-10 times in a row, but "Good King Wenceslas" is never played. Therefore, I can handle the song at least once a year.

## Rada Hristora

freshman, international studies

*"The Christmas Song"*  
The chestnuts roasting song is my favorite because I love roasted chestnuts. They are so delicious when you roast them over a fire. You have to make sure to put a bunch of holes in them though so that they won't explode.

## Ranja Shrestha

graduate student, computer science

*"Santa Claus Is Coming To Town"*  
I am not very into Christmas but I am getting into it. Even so, being from Nepal, the only thing I think of when I hear of Christmas is Santa Claus.

## Alex Joslin

senior, business management

*"Winter Wonderland"*  
I like all those classic Christmas songs like the ones sung by Bing Crosby. But I guess "Winter Wonderland" would have to be my favorite. All that music though, puts you in a good mood and makes you feel good. I pretty much remember the snow and the weather being cold like it is when I hear it. When Christmas comes, we all go home and spend time with each other. We try to make it skiing with the whole year a few times while we're there too.

## Pantloads of fun

It is always good to see a Las Vegas act with some social awareness. Unlike the vapidly of a Celine Dion or the pointless lunacy of Lance Burton, Penn and Teller are trying to make the world a better place.

By using their Showtime program "Bullshit" to expose the hypocrisy of many U.S. citizens, they have angered their share of people. Thankfully, Showtime

has the balls to keep letting Penn and Teller do what needs to be done.

One episode focused on profanity. You know, all the words I want to say right now but can't. They had a woman on the show who, instead of swearing, found alternatives word choices. One of those choices was not to use "Jesus Christ" as an expletive, but instead would swear to Buddha because that "isn't her god, so it isn't as offensive."



If I could reach through the TV I would have bitch-slapped her like she's never been slapped before.

Good thing Penn and Teller were the hosts. They kept their hands to themselves but issued a verbal beating worth listening to over and over again.

- T.J. Tranchell

## Loving 'Sopranos'

I just discovered the joy of "The Sopranos." I'm now on the second season and I'm seriously addicted. There's something awesome about

gangsters who are fans of gangster movies, even doing Michael Corleone impressions. Martin Scorsese makes a small appearances in the first season and a priest asks about Tony Soprano's view on "The Godfather." He likes Part II the best.

- Ryli Hennessey

## A model's life

I never watch reality shows. Emphasis on the word never. I think it is just stupid. I prefer my TV with actors and scripted moments. So it was

really surprising when my girlfriend got me addicted to "America's Next Top Model."

It actually isn't all that bad. What entertains me the most is not the way the girls fight, or even the girls themselves, who look rather plain most of the time. What I enjoy is the look into the modeling world. The girls go to exotic locations, meet great photographers and fashion moguls, get to pose for such cool photos, and then are criticized by top people in their field.

The fact that the show gives

casual viewers a glimpse of what makes modeling so hard is the appeal for me.

Modeling seems easy, it seems like average people like you and I could do it, but it isn't. In the three episodes that I watched, the girls were forced to learn dialogue in a difficult Spanish dialect, learn flamenco dancing, and had to survive an ice cold pool in which one girl almost got hypothermia. Modeling is hell, and this show shows why. That may be why I like it.

- Michael Howell

## Winter has hit the Pacific



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# 'Shepherd' a holiday treat

By Tara Roberts  
Argonaut

Dave Barry, long noted for his colorful columns and even more off-the-wall fiction, tried something new for this Christmas. His newest publication, "The Shepherd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog," is something he's never tried before. In fact, it's a strange enough little book that it's hard to define exactly what it is.

On the surface, "Shepherd" is a funny Christmas story for kids. Doug Barnes is a preteen boy living in Asquont, N.Y., in 1960. His life centers on his family, the red ants his sister accidentally let loose in the car and surviving the annual Christmas pageant at St. John's Episcopal Church. This Christmas, things are bad because while Doug's stuck in a group of misbehaving shepherds, he's pining for the girl playing Mary across from a all-too-perfect Joseph. Things are worse because the family dog is dying.

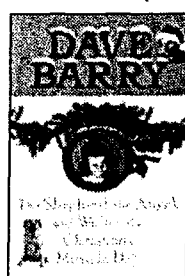
Now, this might be a pretty simple little story if Barry wasn't orchestrating it. But because he is, Doug and company transcend typical holiday sweetness and find themselves in some quirky territory. To shed some light on this: a very large

ball of guano (that's right, bat poo) is a major plot device.

Barry manages to give the story heart while breaking convention. The family dog does not, in fact, survive (that's not a spoiler; it happens early). There are no neatly packaged "very special Christmas lessons," but plenty of lessons in reality. Dogs die. Sad and odd and exciting things happen. Life goes on, and it's funny.

But wait — there's more. "Shepherd" is more than just a story. Barry collected photographs, art and ads from the '60s and used them as illustrations. The photo on the back jacket is Barry himself, about junior high age in thick glasses, lending to the other hints that this story might have some basis in reality. The other illustrations are brilliantly selected as well — the best is the first, an old Lucky Strike Cigarettes ad featuring Santa Claus lighting up.

"The Shepherd, the Angel and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog" is a quick, silly read that's perfect for distracting from too many stressful days. Yes, it's a kids' story told by a kid, but it's meant for grown-ups looking for a little escapism too. After all, there are plenty of adults who hear the phrase "bat poo" and giggle secretly inside.



The Shepherd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Dog

★★★(of 5)

## ArtsBRIEFS

### Contra dance for the season

Following a teaching session at 7:30 p.m., the Palouse Folklore Society will present contra dance and live music by John McInturf and Paul Smith at 8 p.m. Dec. 16.

There will also be a dance and New Year's Eve Candlelight potluck dinner at 8 p.m. Dec. 31. Both events will be at the 1912 Center and tickets are \$4 for newcomers, \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members.

For more information visit the society's Web Site at [www.palousefolklore.org](http://www.palousefolklore.org).

### Art exhibit highlights faculty

The Prichard Art Gallery presents the UI College of Art & Architecture Faculty Exhibition and Honoring Charles Hummel, from Friday through Jan. 27. A public reception will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

Featured faculty and artists include David Bogus, Bill Bowler, Matthew T. Brehm, David

Drake, David Giese, Lynne Haagensen, Mark LaMoreaux, John Larkin, Sally Graves Machlis, Randy Teal, Todd Volz and George Wray.

Work in photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, product design and mixed media will be included. These artists and designers work in a variety of styles that range from representational to abstract and traditions that are modernist to post-modern.

The gallery will feature a display of nine projects by Charles Hummel. An architect for numerous important buildings in the state of Idaho, Hummel will be honored a Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Additional information is available at [www.uidaho.edu/galleries](http://www.uidaho.edu/galleries).

### 'OKLAHOMA!' auditions

Auditions for Rogers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! will take place Friday in Shoup Hall, Room 100. Participants must sign up in advance and will be required to sing one song of choice, preferably music theatre. To sign up, go to [www.uitheatre.com](http://www.uitheatre.com).

Produced by the Lionel Hampton School of Music

and the Department of Theatre & Film, auditions for OKLAHOMA! are open to the general public, however, priority will be given to UI students.

An audition for the dream ballet will be held by the UI Center for Dance and will take place from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday at the UI Physical Education Bldg., room 212. Dancers wanting to audition should also link to [www.uitheatre.com](http://www.uitheatre.com) to sign up for an audition time. Non-ballet callbacks for OKLAHOMA! will be held 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the UI Physical Education Bldg., Room 110.

For more information e-mail stage managers Cyndil Markert at [mark0199@uidaho.edu](mailto:mark0199@uidaho.edu) or Heather Willey at [will8259@uidaho.edu](mailto:will8259@uidaho.edu).

### PCT presents 'Homecoming'

"The Homecoming" is a Depression-era, Christmas-themed family show that focuses on the Walton family. It is based on the book by Earl Hammer, Jr., the creator of "The Waltons" television show. The show will play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday - Saturday and Dec. 15 and at 2 p.m. Dec 16 at PCT's recently renovated Nye Street Theatre.

# A concert in pieces

By Brandon Macz  
Argonaut

Students will have a chance to put some life in their "dead week" 8 p.m. Wednesday as musical composition students present their final projects, original program music in the Lionel Hampton School of Music's Recital Hall.

Every semester, students from Musical Composition 325 and 425 pick a theme for a final concert with their own pieces. This year they chose program music or music that is intended to tell a story, according to instructor Robert Dickow.

One benefit of holding a concert at the end of the semester, Dickow said, is that various music students are often required to attend 10 shows per semester for their courses. An usher stands at the door for these students and punches a hole into their concert cards as proof for their instructors.

Lee Hollingsworth, 20, will tell a story through his two-movement saxophone quartet about watching his sister play hide-and-seek.

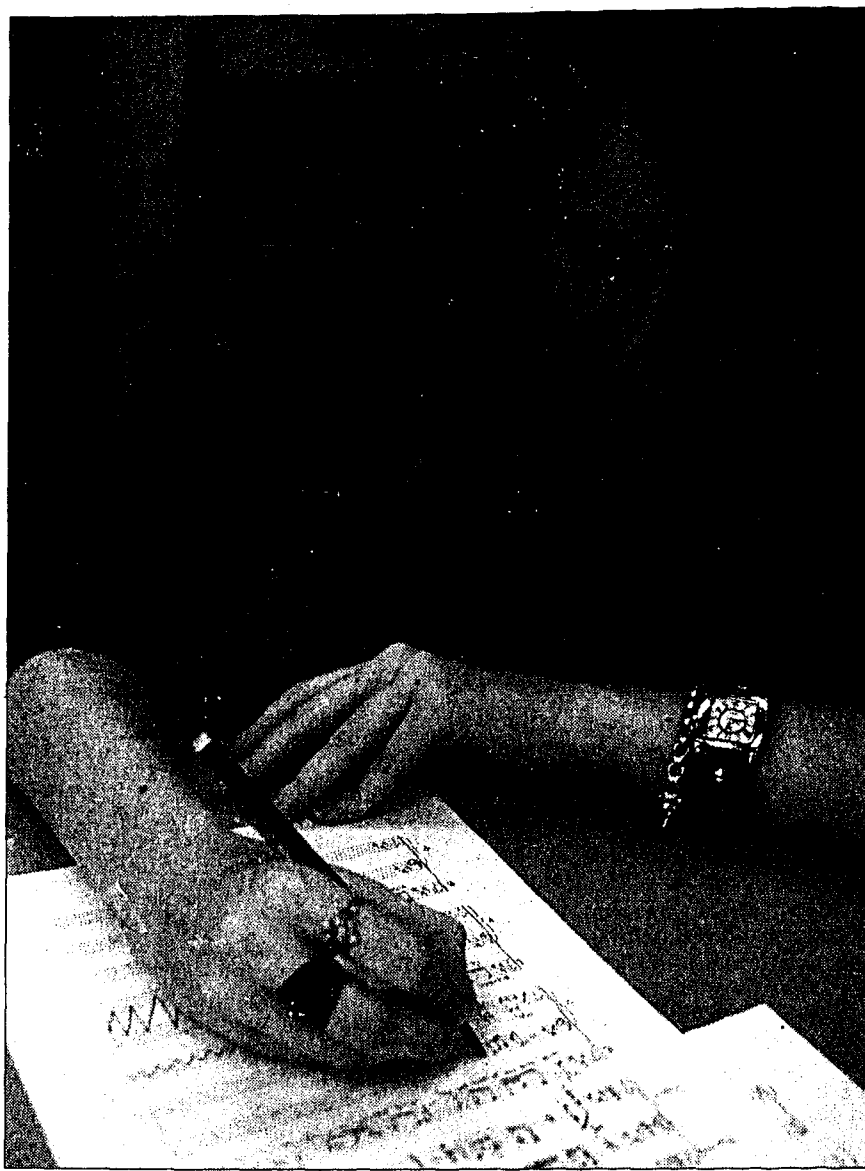
"It's based off children's games, pretty much," he said. "We sit and we write down what we want to portray in our music."

Hollingsworth said the initial content of the piece took him a week with revisions made gradually and some parts changed more than once. The piece has not yet been officially named.

"I think it's going to be 'Hide and Seek' as it's displayed on the program. I might change it later," he said.

As the instructor, Dickow allowed his students a lot of free range, Hollingsworth said, and acted as a filter for ideas and criticism.

"As far as the final project, it's still up to us," Hollingsworth said. "You keep going till you find something that sounds good to your own ear."



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut  
Music senior Lauren Zeck works on "Jack in the Beanstalk" for music composition class Monday at the Music Building. The piece, for baritone voice and piano, is set to premier this spring.

The complication with a quartet, he said, is that it is hard to practice solo and understand how it will sound coupled with three other saxophone parts. He is playing the tenor part of the quartet with Phil Morin on soprano, Teagen Kroon on alto and Kyle Savikko on baritone.

"I just gave (the piece) to my quartet, Friday," he said. "My goal was to make it as least complicated as possible to have it ready by the recital."

Hollingsworth has been playing music for 10 years, but said this was the first time in his college career that an original piece has made it to a performance setting.

In all, there will be eight majors of melody submitting pieces for the student composers concert. Sarah Todd, 22, has submitted two.

Todd is a student in Dickow's musical composition 425 class and has spent this fall semester working on "Dance for Woodwind Trio," a two-piece movement for oboe clarinet and bassoon.

"The Garden O'Bill" is the performance vocal piece from Todd's repertoire that she wrote with a friend in an hour. The name is contrived from the Garden Lounge where they wrote it, and from the name of their friend and bartender, Bill.

Within the song is a quote from famous composer Milton Babbitt's "Philomel."

"Garden O'Bill" is just about a person going to The Garden and the thoughts they experience as the night progresses," Todd said.

Along with her two pieces, Todd will play solo clarinet for her friend and classmate Roy Ishii's "Echoes."

The two classes combined artists will take the sum of their experience to the stage Wednesday, working together to make a concert of variety and originality.

"The class is basically graded by how much output you've put through the semester," Todd said. "It's really fun to hear people perform your works."

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## DIRECTOR from page 8

"That was one of my biggest challenges," said Heath. "Quite frankly I am of the opinion that it would be in the best interest of the arts community if there were a different way of managing it."

Part of the problem came from using tax payers' money without compensating, said Lumin.

"When the Farmers Market started, it was a small, easygoing group," Lumin said, "as the town grew, you had to look at art in the business aspect. It was taking up city resources — parking, electricity, space, garbage, time and energy from the downtown businesses. It was making money and not sharing it with the city."

"When you step into an art group like that they aren't going to be too happy — and they weren't," said Lumin. "She (Heath) got a lot of fire for that."

There are mixed reviews of the job Heath did during her five years as arts director, but she says she accomplished her goal of serving the community.

"My big interest was getting people together and providing the information the community needed," Heath said. "I went away from Moscow with a strong sense of satisfaction of what I tried to do in those five years and a sense of appreciation from the community for what I tried to do."

That is exactly what arts commissioner Mark Beauchamp thinks she achieved.

"Deena was the one who initiated ARTWALK, which is one of the most visible forms of the arts community," he said. "... And that's one of the things we wanted — is someone who can come up with innovative ideas."

"I thought she (Heath) was a fine arts director," Riedner said. "She had great organizational skills."

While the job may demand characteristics not easily found, there are a number of traits the city is looking for in the next director.

"An arts director has to be a multi-faceted individual ... most importantly they must have an appreciation of the arts," Riedner said.

One question raised is whether someone from within the community or from outside can best meet the needs.

This is a common question for any grassroots, non-profit organization, says Ohlgren-Evans, and the strengths of each have to be weighed.

"An insider has a good knowledge of the community needs and available resources and is sensitive about the local political and cultural environment in the town."

But, she said, an insider may come with their own agenda, and already established relationships — both good and bad.

"An outsider brings a fresh prospective objective and skills that maybe someone here doesn't have," Evans said. "But they don't have a history with the community and can sabotage what's been done."

Heath is a native Idahoan. She grew up in White Bird and came to Moscow from Sandpoint when she became arts director. She says there are more important aspects than being an insider or outsider.

"The primary issue should be if the person has a strong background in arts administration, because this job has become a very professional and sophisticated one ... in addition, if they have passion for the arts — whether they are an insider or outsider."

Though the job comes with difficulties, Heath said it is one that displays Moscow's interest in the arts and being a part of that is a reward in itself.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for anyone," she said. "One of those 35 people will be very lucky to get the position."

## Fashion guru Tim Gunn redesigns his life

By Jackie White  
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The answer to one question sealed the deal for Tim Gunn to join Bravo's "Project Runway" as mentor to the aspiring designers.

"Can you make a wedding dress in two days?" the producers asked him.

Gunn, the chairman of the Department of Fashion Design at New York's Parsons New School of Design, is long accustomed to pushing students through deadlines.

He shrugged and said, "Well, sure."

"You're the only person who has said yes," replied the surprised TV producers, who were looking for a consultant.

More than two years later, thanks to the walloping success of the reality show, Gunn is a high-profile personality with major celebrity status.

Last month he drew an admiring crowd estimated at 350 people to Macy's Leawood, Kan., store in an appearance with Angela Kessler, a designer from the recent "Runway" season. Macy's, was a show sponsor, and Kessler created the winning design that was incorporated in its I-N-C line.

Gunn is a gentle, soft-spoken man with graying hair, a stereotypical professorial look and a weakness for Banana Republic clothes. (The first season the retailer supplied his show wardrobe, then took it all back at the end.) At 53, he appears in People magazine's "Sexiest 100 Men Alive" issue along with George Clooney, Bill Clinton

and Harrison Ford.

"I'm having the time of my life," he says. "And it all happened to me after I was 50."

Every season the television show brings together a group of upstart designers. Each has a clear personal aesthetic and distinctive, quirky personality. Each week the group is given specific challenges. For example: create an outfit with materials from a grocery store; dress a dog; design new postal uniforms.

Throughout each exercise, Gunn is their teacher, hand-holder, counselor and time-keeper. He tends to jump-start them with such signature lines as "Carry on," "I am concerned" or "Make it work."

At season's end, four contenders create collections that are sent down the runway during New York Fashion Week. One person is named the overall winner and gets a mentorship and money to start their own line.

Certainly a high point in the show's history came in the first season when it won an Emmy.

"We felt so validated," Gunn says. "It was a non-network show. And we won."

Judges include the host, model Heidi Klum, Elle magazine's Nina Garcia and designer Michael Kors. Guest judges have included Kate Spade, Fashion Week executive Fern Mallis and Teri Agins, a Wall Street Journal fashion writer.

Gunn has no interaction with judges and doesn't hesitate to voice his thoughts when he disagrees.

"I say hello and goodbye," he says. "And then at times I

want to run up to them and shout and scream, 'Are you crazy?'" he told the Macy's audience at Leawood's Town Center Plaza.

He was, for instance, stunned when, in Season 2, Chloe Dao won out over the more creative Daniel Vosovic. As Gunn tells it, after a long session of deliberation, Garcia suddenly launched into a glowing pitch for Dao, and the judges shifted gears.

The judges' comments are decidedly harsh, and the more complimentary observations are usually edited out. But Gunn is the quiet, kindly voice helping contestants polish their visions and pump their egos.

Sometimes the designers rebel like teenagers who don't want to listen to their parents. "There was a time when I was very rude to him," Kessler says. "I felt terrible." He assures her it was a healthy emotional outbreak.

"We are a family," he tells her. "It is much better to get out the anger than let it fester."

His ability to critique in a non-combative way, he says, comes from long years of teaching. It did not come from his own upbringing in Washington, D.C., which he describes as terrible.

"I had a miserable childhood. It took years of psychiatry to get past it." Unhappy with himself, he says, he withdrew, played the piano,

wrote poetry and didn't come into his own until he discovered art.

He studied at Yale and entered the art world at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington. At one point he designed architectural models for four years.

Twenty-three years ago he moved to New York and Parsons to become associate dean. The move was difficult, he says. He was overwhelmed by the contrasts of the polite, civilized Washington with the raw, rough-edged New York.

In 2000 he was named chair of fashion design and is credited with raising the quality and profile of the school. The award-winning design team of Proenza Schouler brought acclaim to the school when, as students, they designed such a successful collection that Barney's, the upscale New York retailer, purchased it.

Gunn's "Runway" experience has been transforming. Always shy and hesitant even in his early teaching days, he says his role on the television show has changed how he feels about himself. He has gained confidence and a better sense of himself.

As for the future of American fashion, observing from his unique view in the classroom and on the show, Gunn says he is optimistic. "I have never seen more opportunities," he says.

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# Showing the clout of die-hard film fans

By Tish Wells

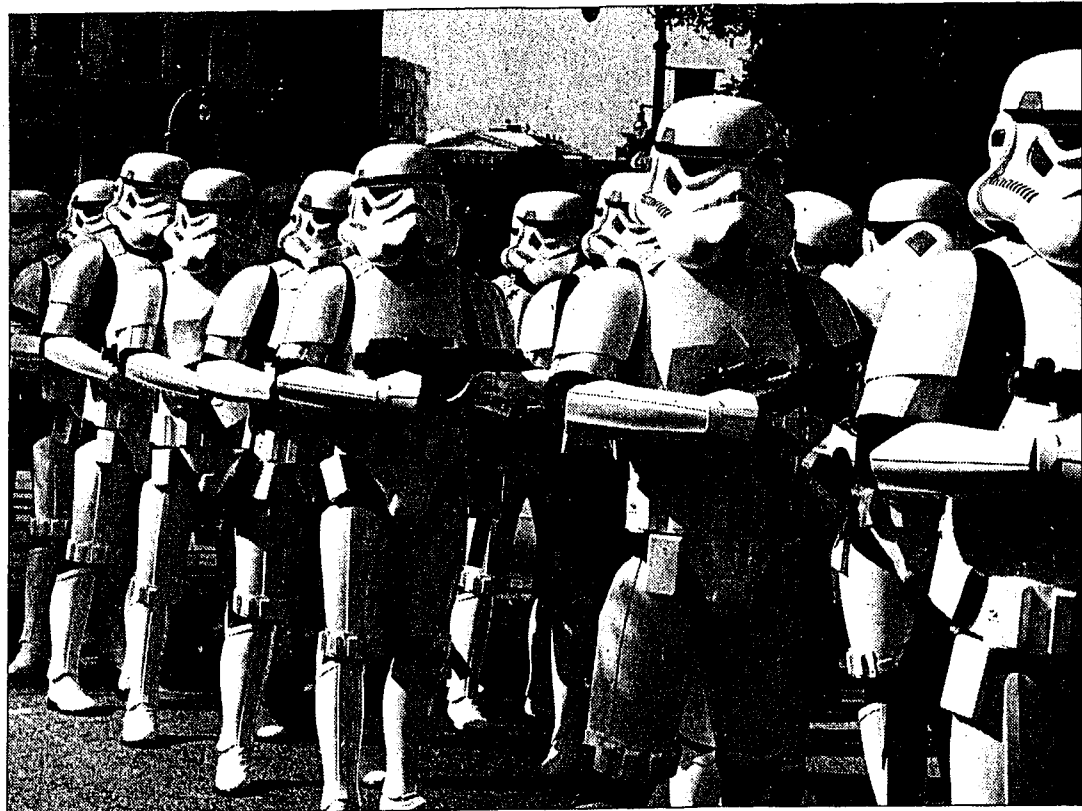
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

WASHINGTON — When more than 200 self-recruited "Star Wars" stormtroopers march in the Rose Bowl parade on New Year's Day behind creator George Lucas, they'll be demonstrating once again that a loyal fan base can complement the power and staying power of the entertainment that they celebrate.

Two newly released DVD documentaries make this point vividly — and with love.

For "George and Me," Internet broadcaster Sky Wilson interviewed "Star Wars" fans in Great Britain and the U.S. and produced a documentary that celebrates their creativity. It's reflected in "Star Wars"-themed charity work, fan films and customized cars rigged out as X-Wing fighters.

Wilson, the creator of the Internet TV show "Inside Report," interviewed a Norwich, England, "Star Wars" club that had started collecting action figures at "car boot" — think "garage" — sales. She questioned fans at the Celebration III "Star Wars" convention in Indianapolis last year. She talked with a pair of British fan film-makers who release their work free on the Internet, asking only for donations to the charity Save the Children.



"Star Wars" Imperial Stormtroopers of the 501st Legion march at Atlanta's DragonCon.

Tish Wells/MCT

The second documentary, "Done the Impossible: The Fans' Tale of Firefly & Serenity," tells how loyal followers of the "Firefly" TV series, called browncoats, saved the day after Fox cut the cult favorite in 2002 after just 11 episodes. They used the Internet and e-mail campaigns

to stoke protest and even took out an ad in Daily Variety to pressure Fox.

Ultimately, creator Joss Whedon, of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" fame, took the project to Universal Studios and made a full-length feature film, "Serenity," which tied up "Firefly's" major plot points.

"Done the Impossible" is the story, told by the show's stars, fans and Whedon himself, of how the canceled TV series became a (modestly) successful movie.

Movies about film fans have been difficult to make since a mocking 1999 documentary titled "Trekkies," about "Star

Trek" fans, made many of them skittish of interviewers. "When we put out a call for 'George and Me,' people initially were very wary," Wilson said.

"We wanted to show the positive effect that 'Star Wars' had on people," she said.

Eventually she was able to convince people to talk to her.

"We interviewed over a hundred people and we took what we thought were most interesting," Wilson said.

Feedback has been positive, she added. "One said, 'It didn't make us look bad.'"

Among the people she interviewed was Albin Johnson, the founder of the 501st Legion "Star Wars" Stormtrooper group, which has more than 3,300 members and chapters in 37 countries. The 501st does lots of fundraisers for hospitals, sick children and other causes and appears at baseball games and now the Rose Bowl. A two-hour documentary about the 501st, "Heart of an Empire," will be released next year.

Other groups, such as Star Wars Chicks, raise money for breast cancer research. Documentaries can be slow and expensive to make. "Heart of an Empire" has taken five years and has cost roughly \$100,000 already. Producer Jay Thompson, a Greensboro, N.C., native, said, "A lot of what we've done is through the charity of other people."

"Done the Impossible" took a little over a year, mostly to create the extensive DVD-ROM extras.

"George and Me" took two years. Wilson said she "poured a lot of money into it."

"Quite a bit of savings," she said. But "we've mailed DVDs to every country: Brazil, Uganda, the Philippines, Australia, the Eastern bloc, Scandinavia."

Well-known Celtic music groups such as Emerald Rose, the Bedlam Bards and the Brodingnagian Bards of Austin, Texas — all fans of "Firefly" — produced an original score for "Done the Impossible." Director of marketing Jeremy Neish estimates that they've sold 5,000 to 6,000 copies and "sales continue to be steady."

Both "Done the Impossible" and "George and Me" are available over the Internet.

The marketing of the documentaries is viral, spread via the Internet, sci-fi conventions and word-of-mouth.

Wilson now is working on a Christmas special interviewing new fan-film-makers and gathering messages from "Star Wars" actors David "Darth Vader" Prowse and Jeremy "Boba Fett" Bulloch. She said a documentary on fans of the four-decade-long British children's drama "Doctor Who" would be out sometime next year.

## Television superhero shows through the decades

By Chuck Barney

Contra Costa Times (MCT)

From caped crusaders and dynamic duos to demon slayers and a geek named Hiro, television long has had a thing for those do-gooders who possess superpowers. With a focus limited to notable live-action shows, here's a quick rundown of the genre's colorful history:

**1950s:**  
• "The Adventures of Superman" (syndicated 1952-57): It's "truth, justice and the American way" — albeit with a tight budget and cheesy effects.

• "Flash Gordon" (syndicated 1953-54): The Mad Witch of Neptune never had a chance against our intergalactic butt-kicker.

**1960s:**  
• "Batman" (ABC 1966-68): Holy purple leotards — what a campy delight! (And Adam West is typecast forever.)

• "The Green Hornet" (ABC 1966-67): We loved Bruce Lee as Kato, along with that souped-up car, the Black Beauty.

**1970s:**  
• "The Six Million Dollar Man" (ABC 1974-78): Part human, part

machine, Col. Steve Austin (Lee Majors) could have whopped even Chuck Norris.

• "The Bionic Woman" (ABC/NBC 1976-78): Popular spinoff gave Jaime Sommers (Lindsay Wagner) a chance to clobber the bad guys.

• "Wonder Woman" (ABC/CBS 1976-79): With those go-go boots, her magic lasso and a bodacious bod, Lynda Carter truly was a wonder.

• "The Incredible Hulk" (CBS 1978-82): Grrrr! Tick off Bill Bixby and he instantly turned into a not-so-jolly green giant who looked a lot like

Lou Ferrigno.

• "The Amazing Spider-Man" (CBS 1978): Let's just say that Nicholas Hammond was no Tobey Maguire.

**1980s:**  
• "The Greatest American Hero" (ABC 1981-83): Believe it or not, this spoof revolved around a schoolteacher and an incredible red flying suit.

**1990s:**  
• "Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman" (ABC 1993-97): Teri Hatcher and Dean Cain heat things up and give the Superman legend a romantic makeover.

• "The Flash" (CBS 1990-91): Mild-

mannered chemist gains superpowers after a fluke lab accident, but never could defeat the Nielsen gods.

• "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (the WB/UPN): This killer show made a star of Sarah Michelle Gellar and put the fledgling WB on the map.

**2000s:**  
• "Smallville" (The WB/CW 2001-): "No tights, no flights" was the early mantra of this young and fresh approach to Superman.

• "Heroes" (NBC 2006-): Save the cheerleader, save NBC! Successful serial saga boosts fortunes of slumping network.

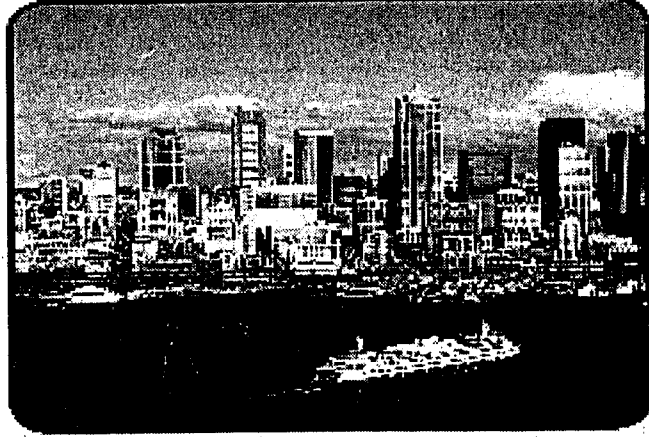
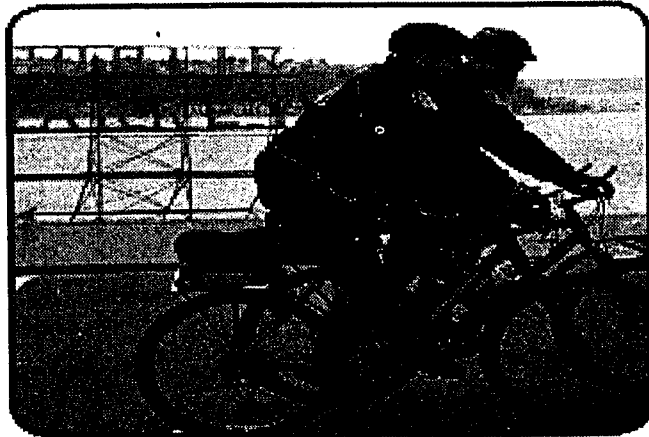


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## A couple of 68'ers

Two new additions to the UI academic athletic support staff look to turn it around

*Editor's Note: This feature is Part I of a two-part series. The second part will feature Chris Dyko on Friday.*

By Joel Slocum  
Argonaut

Three weeks ago, two collegiate football players joined the UI athletic support staff.

Matthew Leituala and Chris Dyko share two things — a common interest in their work and a bond that stems back from before they even knew each other. The bond was forged by a single number — 68.

Dyko played football at WSU and Leituala is a UI alumnus. Both donned No. 68 as they stepped out onto the football field. The field where they displayed their love for the game. The field where they developed lasting brotherhood. The field where

they eventually discovered there was more to the game than the competition.

### The daunting past

Leituala was hired as Director of Athletic Academic Support Services. Since then, he has learned a lot about its past.

The position seems to have a stigma of being short-lived, which has made it difficult to establish healthy relationships with necessary contacts.

"There has been a decline in trust within this department and I need to go out and regain that trust back," says Leituala, a Hawaiian native. "There needs to be someone committed to turning things around."

Leituala says he is that "someone." He is the fifth academic counselor in the past four years. He learned that

fact from his students, with whom he has been trying to connect. When approached by them, he responds in the only way he knows how: with compassion.

"I am sorry," Leituala says, "but I am in this for the long haul."

A major part of Leituala's job is to create a smooth transition for incoming student athletes, including freshman and transfers.

"We help them understand the NCAA rules and eligibility to make sure that they know what they can and cannot do," Leituala says.

Once this is established, the focus turns to the student's education. As a part of the recruiting of student athletes, Leituala helps with core and career selections and to better prepare themselves for the real world.

"If they get the opportunity to play any pro ball, it is just a bonus," Leituala says. "We just want to prepare them for a smooth transition to the real world."



New athletics employee Matthew Leituala works with football player Bryce Sinclair Nov. 30 in the Kibbie Dome.

### Qualifying on a different playing field

In his fifth year of higher education, Leituala faces problems that will need correction before any progress

can be made. "Did I come here with a plan? ... Not exactly, but I do have a vision of what our program needs to be."

See STAFF, page 15

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# UI marks 2nd loss to SUU

By Nick Heidelberger  
Argonaut

Southern Utah had a 28-7 advantage on points-off-turnovers to clench its second win over the University of Idaho men's basketball team this season on Saturday.

The Vandals (1-6) gave up the ball 24 times on Saturday, and 14 of those were in the second half. Four turnovers came in consecutive possessions that aided a 16-0 Southern Utah (6-2) run, which gave the Thunderbirds a 24-point lead.

Idaho started the game strong, but for reasons unknown to the Vandals, they were unable to maintain a high level of play.

"Right now, I have no idea why

we do that," said Idaho guard Keoni Watson, who led the Vandals with 13 points. "We have to play hard for 40 minutes. You can't play hard 30 minutes. You can't play hard 25 minutes. You can't play hard 35 minutes. You have to play hard for 40 minutes, you have to be tough 40 minutes."

On Saturday, Idaho played tough for 15 minutes.

"If the game was 15 minutes long we'd be pretty successful," said Idaho coach George Pfeifer. "But the game is not 15 minutes long. It has to do with our toughness. If someone takes something away from us offensively we put our heads down and

See B-BALL, page 15

# Players stranded in snow after UW loss

By Nick Heidelberger  
Argonaut

The temperature was in the low '20s. The greater part of about a five-hour bus ride lay ahead. And the second 20-plus-point thumping in four days was still warm.

The University of Idaho men's basketball team didn't think things could get any worse after losing to the Washington Huskies on Wednesday.

But they did.

A water hose in its charter bus broke and left the basketball team stranded atop Snoqualmie Pass when traveling back to Moscow after the Husky beating. The team had to wait for another bus to pick them up. Now, things couldn't get any worse.

But they did.

The second bus never showed up, and after waiting for several hours,

the bus driver called the Washington State Patrol, who dispatched three state troopers to assist the team. The troopers were sent to the scene to shuttle the players three at a time to a North Bend hotel.

When the troopers arrived, it became obvious that they wouldn't be able to fit three players in a patrol car.

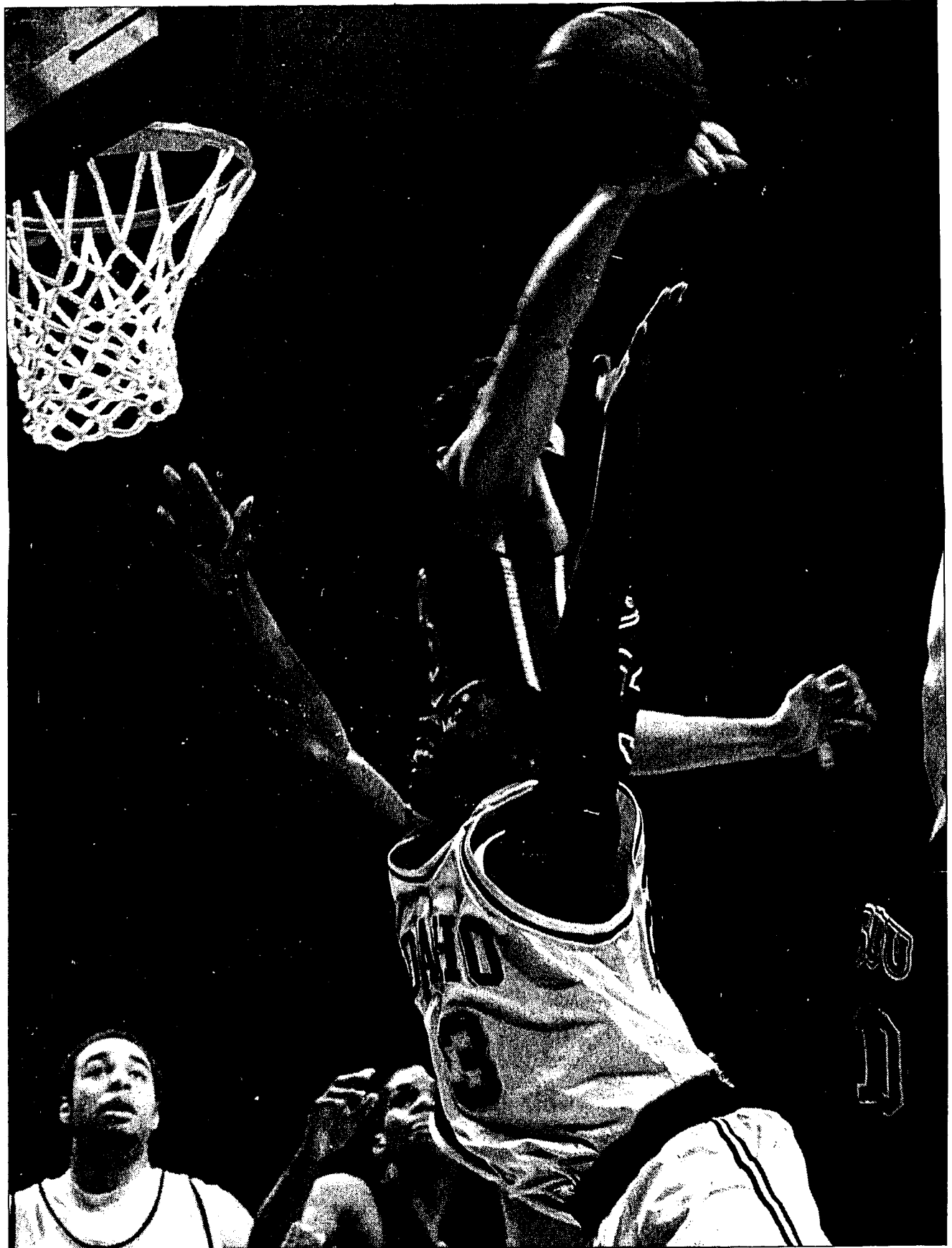
"These guys were gigantic," said trooper Jeff Merrill.

So, two at a time, the team was shuttled to its hotel.

"We have a couple of tall guys, and it just wasn't working," said Idaho guard Keoni Watson. "The police had to make that many more trips."

Watson said the rides were first-come, first-serve.

See SNOW, page 15



O.J. Aworo (23) loses the ball en route to the basket against Southern Utah on Saturday at the Cowan Spectrum.

Bruce Mann/Argonaut

## TENNIS

# Community event tries to boost interest in team

By Ryan Atkins  
Argonaut

In an attempt to gain fan support and community interest, the University of Idaho tennis team held a free tennis clinic Sunday in the Kibbie Dome.

The clinic featured the UI tennis team and coaches to help aid participants in improving their game.

Twenty-seven participants showed up for the two-hour clinic, and those who took part were happy to have the opportunity to shake the rust off of their game.

"This event was a blast," freshman UI student Dan Macy said. "It gave me a chance to freshen up my tennis game."

The event allowed partici-

pants to work on every aspect of their game, from forehands and backhands to volleys and serves. Idaho tennis player Brandon Christopher was glad to have the opportunity to help spread the sport he loves.

"Sunday is normally our day off, but it's not too hard to get us out here because we get to spread the sport of tennis," Christopher said. "We enjoy doing this and promoting the sport within the community."

Participants ranged in age, gender and skill level, but that didn't stop anyone from having fun and learning about the sport.

Scott Stanko helped put the clinic together, and afterward he was pleased with the turnout.

"We had almost 30 peo-

ple, which was great for everybody," Stanko said. "We are going to try and have two more clinics in the spring, and I hope we are able to do that."

Coaches and players alike mingled with the Moscow community members, and prizes, pictures and laughs were shared throughout the two hours, leaving UI coach Jeff Beaman hopeful for future clinics.

"We are just trying to get the word out here to get some interest in the team," Beaman said. "The turnout was great, but the most important thing was that everybody enjoyed themselves. That means we will get people back if we do this again, and hopefully that will translate into people attending home matches."

Assistant coach Seth Banks was also enthusiastic about the results from the clinic, saying the turnout was more than anyone expected.

"This is the third coach we have had in four years, so we haven't had too much of this, but we had more people than we have ever had at anything before. They were never this strong, so it was great," Banks said.

The event also offered the opportunity for the team to spread the word about a potential new indoor tennis facility.

Banks harped on the team's need for new facilities and said community support is a necessity.

"We want community support and we want to be visible," Banks said. "Maybe if

there is enough visibility there will be enough money. One domino hits the next."

For the time being, the Kibbie Dome offers a haven from the snow and ice outside. Currently, the tennis team practices on five courts within the Dome, but the surfaces are fast and unrealistic, something that is difficult for the players.

"Absolutely the indoor facility is something we need. Tennis is a year-round sport. We need to play six days a week, year-round," Christopher said. "These courts are just not a good surface to be training on. A new facility will get us more motivated and we will be ready to play stronger competition right away. I think it's crucial."

Even more concerning for

the team is the possibility of permanent AstroTurf being laid within the Kibbie Dome. That would leave the team without winter practice facilities entirely.

For Beaman, who is in his first year as coach for the Vandals, year-round facilities are extremely important for the team.

"You have to be able to practice," Beaman said. "The athletic department has said it is in their plans to build a tennis facility, so that is where I have really just tried to help out, looking at different options and trying to get support for the team."

Students and community members interested in supporting a new indoor tennis facility should contact Scott Stanko at stan7958@uidaho.edu.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Madison, 5 others named to all-tournament team

By Shanna Stalwick  
Argonaut

Katie Madison of the University of Idaho women's basketball team was one of five players named to the Commerce Bank Wildcat Classic all-tournament team after leading the Vandals to a 76-72 victory over Mississippi Valley State Saturday. She was also awarded Western Athletic Conference player of the week for her performance.

"Any award like this, whether it is coach of the year, player of the year, player of the week, whatever, is really a team award," UI coach Mike Divilbiss said. "We didn't have a player of the week winner last season and this is a validation of what we are trying to do in the program."

Idaho (3-4) shot 46 percent from the field with freshman post Madison scoring 19 points.

Sara Dennehy contributed 16 points and eight rebounds. Jessica Summers had as many boards, along with 10 points and eight assists. Liz Witte rounded out Idaho's top scorers with 15 points.

"We started well and made some good choices with the basketball and really put pressure on them," Divilbiss said. "Good teams fight and get aggressive when they get behind and that is what Mississippi Valley did tonight. The game probably shouldn't have been that close. We missed a lot of free throws and gave up too many second chance points in the second half."

Divilbiss said that not all the effort that goes into a win can be easily spotted and some contributions from players are less obvious.

"Charlotte Otero did a nice job staying ahead of (Mississippi Valley's) pressure," Divilbiss said. "Hannah Wells and Tacey Westbrook also did a lot of little things, making good passes, little things that equaled a win."

Mississippi Valley's sophomore forward Portia Wilson was also named to the all-tournament team after scoring a Wildcat Classic record-high 38 points, more than half of the Devilettes' 72 points versus Idaho.

Wilson also had a game-high 13 rebounds. Wilson and Madison were honored along

with Rasaan Powell of Alcorn State (2-2) and Shalee Leaning of Kansas State (6-1) and tournament MVP Marlies Gipson.

Alcorn State fell 81-41 to Kansas State in Saturday's title game after defeating Idaho 81-62 Friday.

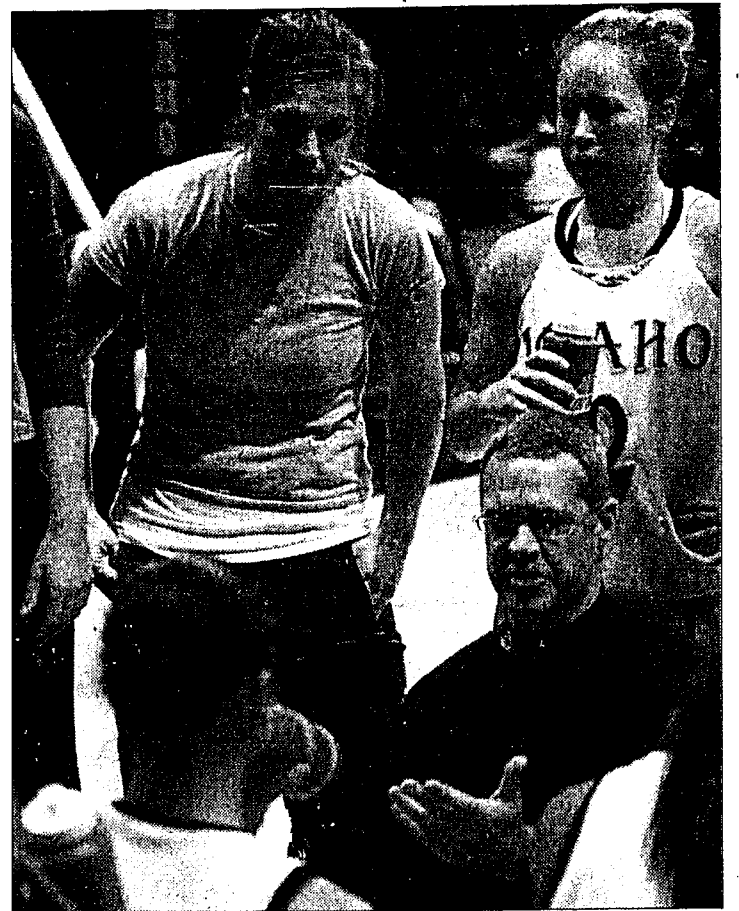
Madison again led the Vandals in scoring with 19 points, along with 11 rebounds.

Powell led Alcorn State with 28 points and 16 rebounds.

"We didn't come out for this game with the fire and intensity we had Wednesday," Divilbiss said of Idaho's 73-60 win over Eastern Washington. "We gave up too many transition baskets and too many points in the paint."

The Vandals prepare to face University of Montana at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the first game of a doubleheader with the men's team in the Cowan Spectrum.

"This is the kind of game you will have when you have eight new kids, there are going to be peaks and valleys," Divilbiss added. "It is a process and we are still learning who we are and how to play together."



Kentaro Murai / Argonaut  
Senior Karly Felton (top left) listens to Coach Divilbiss during a time out during the game against EWU Wednesday evening at the Cowan Spectrum. Felton is recovering from a leg injury she received last week and may be out for the season.

## SWIMMING

# Miller returns to the pool at Husky Invite

By Ryan Atkins  
Argonaut

Returning to action after a lengthy three-week hiatus, the University of Idaho swim team jumped back in the pool at the Husky Invite hosted by the University of Washington last weekend.

The meet didn't count toward the team's statistics, but it did offer plenty of exposure for potential recruits, and more importantly — it helped prepare the team for an important conference showdown this Friday and Saturday against the University of Nevada-Reno.

But perhaps the biggest news from the weekend's action was the return of swimmer JoJo Miller, who has missed the entire season with a foot injury.

Last year, Miller was the Western Athletic Conference champion in the 100 breast stroke. She broke four Idaho school records, and she was the recipient of the Vandal Zone Award for best representing Vandal swimming.

Following the meet, Miller said the return to competitive swimming was refreshing.

"It was really exciting to get back and competing after such a long break," Miller said. "I was pleased with my performance, although I wish I would have gone a little faster, but I am happy with the results."

Miller attempted a comeback earlier this season at the Big West Shootout, but poor results prompted more time off.



Kylie Pfeifer/Argonaut  
Junior Kacie Hogan perfects her kick during practice Nov. 30.

Now that she appears to be back for good, Miller said her performances should only get stronger as the season progresses.

"This is the beginning of my season, since I took so

much time away from competing," Miller said. "Each meet I plan on being a little stronger, and by the end of the season I should be where I want to be."

Several other Vandals also

posed impressive performances, with Paige Lee leading the charge with a new career best of 5:09.42 in the 500 individual medley.

Freshman Amanda Nerbovig also posted the best time of her short career in the same event.

Standout-freshman swimmer Crystal Streight also posted a personal best time, finishing the 400 individual medley in a time of 4:38.14.

UI coach Tom Jager was mostly pleased with how his team performed, and he said the event offered a unique opportunity for the Vandals.

"The Husky Invitational is a good spot for us to get exposure for the recruits, but it is

also good with helping the team learn to swim during real hard training," Jager said.

And despite calling the meet a "glorified practice," Jager said it was important for the team to swim well.

"Some meets are bigger than others and some meets are really nothing more than practice," Jager said. "But it is important for our overall success. For them to do well during this part of the season gives them confidence to do well later in the year."

Idaho's upcoming schedule is light, and the team's meet against Nevada is its final competition before winter break. The team will then

have more than a month to rest before swimming against Northern Arizona in early January.

And with such a long break following this weekend's meet, Jager knows a strong performance is important for his young team.

"Nevada is swimming great, but I expect this team to swim well before break," Jager said. "Nevada is a WAC rival and at some point we are going to have to beat this team. I am not necessarily saying it will be this year, but I think we need to make some progress. If we want to eventually win the WAC, we have to beat Nevada, and this will be one step toward that."

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# Magic endures; sadly, so does HIV

By Percy Allen  
The Seattle Times

Magic Johnson was going to die. He had HIV and he was going to die. That's what I thought. That's what everybody thought, but nobody said it.

For many in my generation, Nov. 7, 1991, was our MLK or JFK day. Just as I remember where I was when President Ronald Reagan was shot, and when the space shuttle Challenger exploded, I clearly remember the day when Magic told the world that he contracted the HIV virus.

He wore a dark suit and stood behind a podium when he should have been on the basketball court directing no-look passes, flashing his famous smile and guiding the Los Angeles Lakers back to the NBA Finals.

But all of that changed after his announcement.

"Because of the HIV virus that I have attained, I will have to retire from the Lakers today. I do not have the AIDS disease, I plan on going on living for a long time, bugging you guys like I always have, so you'll see me

around. I plan on being with the Lakers and the league for a while and going on with my life."

It was a death sentence. That's what my friends and I thought. But what did we know? We didn't know anything. Not about AIDS or HIV.

We knew actor Rock Hudson contracted the HIV virus and he died.

The year after Magic's news conference, tennis great Arthur Ashe made a similar stunning announcement and he died 10 months later.

So Magic had HIV. And he was going to die.

In an interview with GQ magazine, former Lakers coach Mike Dunleavy said: "When I asked about the likelihood of how long he was going to live, nobody said more than two or three years."

Said Lakers owner Jerry Buss: "My feeling when he announced it was that he was saying, 'I'm about to die,' and that was so unacceptable and heavy to me."

Fifteen years later, Magic is still with us. And if the story ended there, it would be a happy ending. But there's more. So much more.

Magic, 47, is not only healthy, he's

thriving. The five-time NBA champion is the father of three children, husband to wife Cookie and has earned significantly more money off the court as an entrepreneur — with a net worth of \$800 million — than he did during his 12-year Hall of Fame career.

"I guess I now get to enjoy some of the other sides of living that I've missed. I will now become a spokesman for HIV."

True to his word 15 years ago, Magic joined President George H.W. Bush's National Commission on AIDS days after that news conference. Citing differences of opinion, however, he resigned 10 months later.

Because of his celebrity, he has been a vocal AIDS activist. But Magic's latest project is perhaps his most ambitious.

Friday on World AIDS Day, which commemorates the more than 25 million who have died because of the disease, the millions who are suffering from AIDS, living with HIV and those who are at risk, he launched a \$60 million partnership with drug company Abbott Laboratories that aims to cut the AIDS rate among African-

Americans by 50 percent in the next five years.

The "I Stand with Magic" venture will conduct testing drives in 10-13 cities each year as well as sponsor educational programs and advertising, financially support grass-roots advocacy programs and provide scholarships for doctors willing to staff HIV/AIDS programs in the black community.

After all these years, he gets it. It's not enough to be the face of HIV, but Magic has to embrace the role and the enormous responsibility it carries. We've always known that he carried the HIV virus, but he didn't raise awareness like many believed he would.

When Magic made his announcement, about one-third of the 200,000 full-blown AIDS cases in the United States were African-American, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Estimating the number of AIDS casualties in this country has always been difficult, but today health reports indicate that blacks account for more than half of the HIV cases and the Kaiser Family Foundation

cites HIV as the leading cause of death for African-Americans 25-44 years of age.

That hits home because that's my demographic, and it makes me wonder how this has happened.

Weren't we listening when Magic urged us to practice safe sex and get tested for sexually transmitted diseases? Didn't we hear him when he said AIDS is not a homosexual problem?

Perhaps we've been fooled because he still looks healthy enough to collect a triple-double. Sadly, I wonder if the AIDS epidemic would be as severe in the black community if Magic had died.

My guess, probably so. He said it best 15 years ago.

"Sometimes you're a little naive and you think it could never happen to you. ... Sometimes we think only gay people can get it, or it's not going to happen to me.

"Here I am saying it can happen to everybody. Even me, Magic Johnson."

I took an HIV test on Friday because Magic said I should get tested.

More people should listen to him.

# Texas Tech's Leach criticizes Tressel's non-vote

By Blair Kerkhoff  
McClatchy Newspapers

Most of his coaching brethren in the Big 12 sympathized with Ohio State's Jim Tressel, who abstained from voting in the final USA Today football coaches' poll. Texas Tech coach Mike Leach did not.

"That's a bunch of sanctimonious bunk," Leach said. "I'm going to be in trouble with Jim Tressel, which I guess I can live with."

Tressel cited conflict of interest for withholding his ballot Sunday. The coaches' poll is one of three categories of the BCS standings that determine the BCS national championship-game matchup.

Florida finished second, putting the Gators in the title game against the Buckeyes on Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz., and Michigan finished third.

Why the hubbub? Entering the week, Southern California was ranked second, Michigan third and Florida fourth. When the Trojans lost to UCLA on Saturday, speculation centered on whether voters in the coaches' poll or the Harris poll of sports media and former coaches and administrators would move Michigan ahead into the important No. 2 position.

But Florida got that spot, with voters apparently saying the Wolverines' loss to Ohio State on Nov. 18 was Michigan's shot at the Buckeyes.

Tressel stiff-armed that controversy and created another swirl when he said he wasn't interested in giving a future opponent extra incentive by not voting for that team.

Most of the Big 12 coaches nodded their approval.

"I don't blame him, I really don't," Nebraska coach Bill Callahan said. "He was going to come under a lot of criticism either way. It was going to be distracting to him and to his team."

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy called it a "crafty move by a veteran coach."

The American Football Coaches Association, which oversees the coaches' poll, said the group will take up the issue at its annual meeting in January.

"This is a unique situation that will be discussed at our Division I-A head coaches meeting," Grant Teaff, the association's executive director, said in a statement. "A policy regarding this issue was not necessary in years past due to the fact our voters' ballots were not made public."

"Prior to 2005, coaches were never faced with the decision Jim Tressel had to make this past weekend. We will have a policy in place for next season."

Perhaps make all 119 Division I coaches vote, instead of 63. Texas coach Mack Brown said he could see that happening, but warns not every

coach may give the poll their full attention.

"Some coaches take it more seriously than others," Brown said. "Some don't have time, some have more access to watching games."

The coaches also talked about factors that went into their selections. Texas A&M's Dennis Franchione voted the Gators second and Michigan third. Florida defeated Arkansas on Saturday in the Southeastern Conference title game. The Wolverines hadn't played since losing to top-ranked Ohio State on Nov. 18.

"Saturday was the first time I really got to watch Florida," said Franchione, a former Alabama coach. "And I watched the Michigan-Ohio State game. I voted (the Gators) No. 2 because I thought they might be better, and I know how difficult it is to survive that league. There was a slight edge there in my mind."

Brown said he asked the pollster whether he could split his vote. Told that he couldn't, Brown went with Michigan second.

"In some ways I wished I had done the same thing Jim did," Brown said. "Both are great teams. Michigan got punished for not having a conference championship."

Leach also voted Michigan second. "My deal on that was basically I had Michigan second to begin with and Michigan did nothing to upset that position," Leach said.

But that was only the beginning of Leach's soapbox, which included a call for a playoff and a swipe at the bowl system, saying he was quoting South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier when he said, "If this bowl thing is such a great idea, everybody should do it."

Leach and Gundy were on opposite ends of the extended-season argument that has been cited as a reason, usually by presidents and athletic administrators, against an NFL-like playoff bracket.

"There was a fatigue factor with our kids playing a 12th game," Gundy said. "We went through the ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th games with nagging injuries, and I think everybody is that way."

Leach said: "It's a joke and a lie. Texas high school football can play 16 games. Division III can play 16 games. Division I-AA, the NFL plays significantly more, and magically Division I-A is not able to do it? Are you kidding me? There are people who buy that, and that's disgusting. If people buy that, nothing is going to be solved because stupid people are making decisions."

"Where the money would go for the extra games, that's where the problem lies."

And don't talk to Leach about one extra game played after the bowls.

"That's insane," Leach said.

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P155R-13

**HAKKAPELIITTA 2**

STUDLESS COMPOUND Dense locking sipes create tremendous grip while providing better handling on dry, wet & snowy roads.

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P155R-114

**CHAINS**

SHIMHA CARBON LINK TIRE CHAINS

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AN ECONOMICAL CHOICE!

LES SCHWAB QUICK FIT™ DIAMOND TIRE CHAINS

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THE LES SCHWAB QUICK FIT™ DIAMOND CHAINS THEY TAKE THE WORK AND IRRITATION OUT OF USING TIRE CHAINS. THEY GO ON AND OFF QUICKLY AND FIT RIGHT TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT TRACTION DURING YOUR WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS.

**OBSERVE**

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STARTING AT

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P155R-14

**LES SCHWAB'S WINTER CHECKLIST**

TRACTION TIRES

SNOW WHEELS

BATTERIES

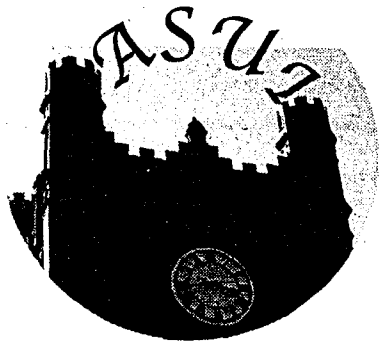
CHAINS

STUDS

2006 LEGAL STUD DATES:  
 California - NOV 1 - Idaho - OCT 1 - Montana - OCT 1 - Nevada - OCT 1 - Oregon - NOV 1 - Utah - OCT 15 - Washington - NOV 1

CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!





# 'Round The Clock

A Publication of the Associated Students of the University of Idaho

Issue 6

Dec. 5, 2006

## My father's dream, my mission

ASUI Vandal Entertainment's lecture series books MLK III for spring 2007 lecture

By Katie Noble  
ASUI Lectures Coordinator

As a member of the Associated Students of the University of Idaho, and on behalf of ASUI Vandal Entertainment, it is my pleasure to invite you all to join us on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2007, in the Kibbie Dome as we present guest speaker Martin Luther King III.

In his speech, "My Father's Dream, My Mission", King III will speak about the importance of civil rights and the long journey in finding them.

He also will speak about the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was co-founded by his father in 1957.

Tickets for this event will be \$2 for general admission with all proceeds donated to the "I Have a Dream Foundation" and to funding a new diversity scholarship within the ASUI.

MLK III

Jan. 23, 2007

Tickets available at the University of Idaho Kibbie Dome Ticket office in January.

\$2 General Admission

This event is open to the public and tickets will go on sale on Monday, January 2nd, 2007 at the UI Kibbie Dome Ticket Office, or by calling 208-885-6466.

For more information about



MLK III stands next to a photo of his father.

Photo by University of Texas

ASUI Vandal Entertainment events, please visit our website [www.asui.uidaho.edu/vandalentertainmentboard](http://www.asui.uidaho.edu/vandalentertainmentboard), our

Myspace page [www.myspace.com/vandalentertainment](http://www.myspace.com/vandalentertainment), or Facebook group "ASUI Vandal Entertainment".

## Hey Joe Vandal, lose the love handle

Registration for the Second Annual Vandal Fitness Challenge will begin Dec. 11

By Adam Thuen  
ASUI Recreation Board

Attention students, the Vandal Fitness Challenge is back! This year the challenge is new and improved with even more great prizes.

There is a \$10 entry fee. Students will receive a body fat check, a water bottle and a T-shirt upon completion. This year's contest is 10 weeks long and students will compete for overall improvement of their fitness levels.

The Vandal Fitness Challenge will consist of two separate divisions: the "Average Joe" and "All Around Athletic" separate categories for men and women with the top three in each division awarded major prizes.

Other prizes will be given for

honorable mentions and drawings for those that COMPLETE the fitness challenge.

The judging will be a composition of a body fat assessment and a standard fitness test which will be given upon or shortly after registration. It will also be scored on a student's proof of progress of positive lifestyle changes in his or her overall wellness. These details will be explained further upon registration.

Early registration begins Dec. 11 and run through the break until the start of the spring semester. Final registration is from Jan. 8-19. The body fat testing and fitness assessment will be the week following final registration.

The 10 weeks period begins upon completion of the Body fat test and fitness assessment. Check the ASUI website for future updates and information or email [athuen@sub.uidaho.edu](mailto:athuen@sub.uidaho.edu) for any questions.



ASUI encourage EVERY student to participate. Every one has a chance to win.

Register early and be prepared to change your life!

## My perspective on the marketing campaign

By Jenny Mosseau  
ASUI Senator

With recent introduction of "Open Space, Open Minds" as the new University of Idaho trademark, various opinions have been described.

Some students are disgruntled because this slogan is so similar to that of Oregon State University ("Open Minds Open Doors"), and others fret over the removal of the U of I Starburst.

Despite the comments I have heard around campus, very few students have responded to the openness of Wendy Shattuck and other marketing personnel.

Feeling that this has been a pertinent issue on campus, particularly with the recruitment and attraction of new students in coming years, I have been looking

See **Marketing**, page 8

*The Catalyst:*  
The official publication of the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action.

Page 4

*Senators discuss elections, reform and life in general.*

Page 2

*The Vandal Ice Bowl, brought to you by the ASUI Recreation Board*

Page 8

### How to contact ASUI

PHONE: (208) 885-6331  
EMAIL: [asui@uidaho.edu](mailto:asui@uidaho.edu)  
WEBSITE: [www.asui.uidaho.edu](http://www.asui.uidaho.edu)  
OFFICE: Third floor commons

## Maybe its time students are held accountable

By Justin Kempf  
ASUI Senator

With the recent push for better representation from the ASUI Senate, let alone ASUI as a whole, it is disappointing to see that when all is said and done, only nine people were in the running for last week's senate race. Everyone is very eager to share their opinions on how horrible of a job they feel ASUI is doing concerning representation, however no one steps up to change that.

A lot of issues were brought up concerning the constitutional amendment and its possibilities for better representation. While it was a fairly close vote, only about 11% of the students voted. As Americans we are some of the luckiest people considering the fact that we can vote on our future. People need to exercise that right.

People often say that they are not represented and are uninformed. Believe it or not, Senators do visit their living groups regularly. The one thing the Senate cannot control however is the fact that

not all living groups require their residences to go to their meetings.

Over and over I hear Senators saying that they went to their living group and only nine or maybe even five people were there. This is mostly true for the residence halls, where, unlike the Greek system, attendance at meetings is not required.

The Senate and ASUI as a whole can only do so much without student participation. Maybe it is time that the students be held more accountable.

## A semester in review: great shows, reform and more to come

By Travis Shofner  
ASUI Vice-President

It has been another roller-coaster ride through the University of Idaho for the Associated Students of the University of Idaho.

What started off as a relatively quiet and calm semester erupted into an exciting debate about the Senate and reform, as well as a special election and a performance from a world-class comedian.

For almost a month the Senate debated the merits of districting with each other and the executive branch.

A variety of options were proposed but in the end the Senate approved F06-32, which would divide the campus into ten different districts, five of which would be residence hall and five would be Greek. Five "at-large" seats were designated as well, with the only condition being that they be voted on by off-campus students.

Even with the Senate's support, the student body voted for the amendment with 61% approval, falling short of the 66.7% requirement.

Senators approved this amendment for a variety of reasons, some thinking that the amendment would be a positive step for the ASUI.

Others disagreed with the amendment, but felt the students should get the final say on their representation. It was a gracious act of the Senate and important for all students to have a chance to decide.

ASUI's Vandal Entertainment Board brought comedian Josh Blue in August, which sold out to an excited and energized crowd. Josh Blue's comedic act continued a string of successful productions put on by the board, which had to turn people away at the door of the Rob Corddry show last spring.

October transitioned to a month of small concerts from the board, bringing acts from all over the region.

Now the board has started actively promoting the biggest lecture ever on the University of Idaho campus: Martin Luther King, III, son to civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr, will give a speech at the Kibbie Dome January 23. The event will be \$2 for the general public. Everyone is encouraged to buy tickets when they go on sale January 2.

Berto and I will be here for most of the holiday break, working on a variety of programs and studying up for the student fee discussions that will be beginning very soon.

## Amendment IV: good idea, bad plan

By Sara Kido  
ASUI Senator

As I stated earlier I was never in full support of the proposed amendment but I can assure everyone it was not due to fear of change but simply because I felt there were far too many questions left unanswered.

However after the very persuasive "description" of the amendment was placed online I thought for sure the amendment would pass. I was extremely surprised when in fact it failed.

To be honest I think that at this time this is for the best. Although the idea proposed had great potential and would most likely have a positive impact on senates to come it had no real plan. In a committee discussion, before the bill hit the floor, many senators asked the authors, President Cerillo and Vice President Shofner, several questions concerning specifics of the amendment and the most common responses we received explained that they didn't really know but would figure it out next semester or

somewhere along the way.

That kind of response to several of the questions made me very uneasy and is the sole reason I voted against the proposed amendment during the meeting.

As I leave the senate at the end of the semester, my suggestion to the senate continuing and those that are new is to work on the amendment and find an answer to many of the questions that were asked and possibly propose the amendment again.

## Equal representation is not a miracle cure

Senator has no problem with change, but students should know what is happening

By Justin Kempf  
ASUI Senator

Recently, with all of the talk about Amendment IV, there has been a lot of finger pointing between living groups, especially on-campus residence halls and Greek houses.

Right now, with the senate dominated by members of Greek houses (12 of the 15 senators are currently Greek) there is a false impression that the decisions that are made and the bills that are passed will be tailored so that they are beneficial to the Greeks. This is not the case.

When it comes to passing bills, one living group is not going to have an advantage

over another just because they occupy more seats on the senate.

The senate does not deal with issues that strictly affect one living group over another. The fact is, almost all of the decisions that are made by the senate have an equal affect on all students, regardless of their living arrangements.

Of the over 40 bills that have gone through the senate this fall, only one may have an impact on individual living groups, bill F06-32, which is now out of the senate's hands anyways.

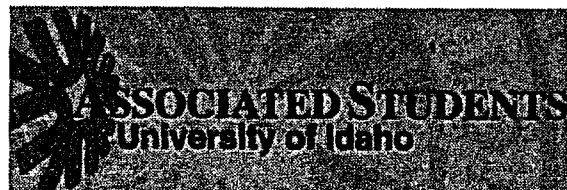
Among the other bills, twenty have dealt with appointing students to different positions within ASUI (positions that are available to all students, no matter what their residence is); ten have suspended rules or amended bylaws; five have transferred money or adjusted salaries; three assigned senators to their living groups, boards and

committees; one changed the date of ASUI elections; and one authorized the senate philanthropy project.

The ASUI Senate is a legislative body which makes decisions that affect the students as a whole, not certain living groups. Thus, changing the number of senators that represent each living group, whether it is by districting or some other form of equal representation, it is not necessarily going to fix anything.

Change can be a very good thing and in no way am I against it; however I feel that it is important that students understand exactly what the senate does before deciding what changes need to be made.

The senate goes in phases, some years there are more Greeks, other years there are more senators that reside in the residence halls; it just depends on who wants to be a senator at the time.



December 2006

# THE CATALYST

A Publication of the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action  
Edited By: Kathleen McGovern

## Who's Doing What for the Holidays?



### The Winter Carnival

This year the Winter Carnival will replace the Student Alumni Relations Board's usual Santa Celebration. The Winter Carnival will take place on December 9 from 10:00-11:30 in the SUB Silver and Gold Room. Activities will include arts and crafts, building ginger bread houses, coloring, and more.

### Palouse Cares

A food drive will take place from 9-12 on Saturday, December 9th. If you are interested meet at Moscow Building Supply at 8:45 a.m. Afterwards, there will be a celebratory BBQ for all participants.



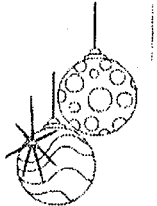
### Giving Trees

Giving trees are located on campus at the SUB Bookstore, the Commons Bookstore, and the Student Recreation Center.

### Christmas for Kids

As a part of its personal holiday giving program, Christmas for Kids, Wal-Mart also has a giving tree. Visit local grocery stores and other community businesses to contribute to holiday-oriented charity opportunities.

For more information about any of these events, please contact the Volunteer Center in Commons 301 or at 885-9442 or contact the event's sponsor.



## The Importance of Social Action

It was supposedly Socrates who stated that "The unexamined life is not worth living." Implicit within this is the necessity of finding the meaning of one's life. Upon introspection, a person can determine what his/her dreams, goals, and primary purposes for his life entail. For some, this process will merely unveil his/her personal attachment to material objects or career success, to name a few, and while these aspirations are not inherently bad things by themselves, they typically do not provide complete satiation.

It has become clear to me,

personally, that what provides my life with the most meaning is helping others. While I have enjoyed some of the most physically and mentally pleasing experiences that are possible, I believe that every event in life is transitory; the experiences with the most meaningful and lasting effects involve helping others.

While I would not attempt to define the meaning of every person's life, I can personally assert that there exists true happiness through the accomplishment of good deeds. Many of the most ad-

mirable characters in history have lived according to this same principle, and currently, the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action exists in order to provide the means necessary for this generation's students to pursue the same goals.

While volunteer opportunities exist far and wide, few young adults today have engaged in social activism of any type. But NOW is the time! As John Mayer sings, "We keep on waiting...waiting on the world to change." But guess what world-watchers...the world does not change by itself.

## Alternative Spring Break

There will be an informational meeting for this school year's Alternative Spring Break on Thursday, Dec. 7. For those curious about ASB, or interested in applying please contact Colin Seeley at colin@sub.uidaho.edu. Also, for students interested in traveling to Waveland, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana; or possibly Erwin, Tennessee to spend Spring Break 2007 serving people in need, applications are currently available in the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action.

## The National NonProfit Congress: What Idaho's Doing

On October 16th and 17th, three employees of the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action attended the first National NonProfit Congress. At this history-making event, multi-state representative of the nonprofit sector gathered to establish the sector's most important goals and unifying principles. As a result of the congress, each of the 47 states' representatives determined three specific action-based goals for the state to accomplish in order to carry out the goals established by the congress.

Idaho's first subsequent event will take place on January 18th. Mark your calendar for the first Nonprofit Day at the Legislature.

On January 17, the Idaho Nonprofit Development Center, INDC, will provide training on how to build relationships with state-elected officials. In addition, a panel of legislators will give an

overview of the upcoming event.

In order to demonstrate the power and diversity of Idaho's nonprofit sector, nonprofits are invited to set up displays in the Statehouse Rotunda on January 18th in order to educate others about their organizations' missions and services. At that time, INDC will also release the latest *Report on the Nonprofit Sector in Idaho* at a news conference at the Statehouse.

It is important to be involved because nonprofit organizations play an often-overlooked but central role in the democratic process. Nonprofits witness and respond to the affects of public policies on Idaho's constituents. Regardless of the cause they promote, the people who compose nonprofit organizations care about their communities and principles and work hard for those beliefs. Nonprofits affect everything from the arts, to the homeless, to politics, and beyond. Nonprof-



Nathan Hand, Katie McGovern, and Amy Huddleston in Washington D.C. for the first National Nonprofit Congress.

its create spaces where people can learn about and give meaning to the decisions that shape their lives. Because of their special role in the community, nonprofits can serve as a bridge between policy makers and constituents. Such open communication and consultation contributes to well-informed

policies and the effective implementation of them.

The INDC has limited funds available for, transportation and housing for January 18th's event. If you are interested in participating, please contact Debbie Bloom at dbloom@idahononprofits.org or call 208-424-2229.

# Volunteerism



Students registering for Make a Difference Day on October 28.

## Volunteer Opportunities

The ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action provides many opportunities of which every student should take advantage. In addition to one-time and continuous volunteer opportunities, students can apply for service-related scholarships through the office. A few current opportunities available to interested students include:

### One-time Opportunities

The Center for Disabilities and Human Development is looking for a Spelling Tutor. If you are

interested contact Matthew Wapsett at 885-3038.

MLK III will be speaking at our campus on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. This is by far ASUI Vandal Entertainment's and the University of Idaho's biggest event for quite a long time. Many volunteers are needed at 5pm to help tear down the Kibbie Dome from basketball practice and help set up the stage. Before, during, and after the actual event, there will be a need for many volunteers for various responsibilities. Volunteers will re-

ceive a free ticket to the event. If you are interested please contact Mandolyn Duclos at 885-6485 or via email at mandolyn@sub.uidaho.edu

### Continuous Opportunities

Meals on Wheels Drivers needed to help deliver meals once a month. Interested students contact Stephanie Emerson at 882-0907.

Volunteers needed to help prepare food from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Monday-Friday. Contact Stephanie Emerson at 882-0907.

For additional volunteer opportunities, visit the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action in Commons 301.

## Social Action

In terms of social action, the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action is a vast frontier waiting for pioneers to explore the world of activism in Moscow (and beyond). If you've got the idea, we've got the resources to help you pursue an action plan. Social action is incredibly important for the welfare of society and will enable students to engage in activism that creates positive change. Why is social action important?

*"In a healthy community, social action promotes the values of social justice and human rights. Individual and systemic advocacy are the tools and the means for social action – that is activism. Activists, as individuals and as part of organized movements, have always led social change. The idea that it is wrong to discriminate against someone based on the colour of their skin is now common sense, but it was a fight that took well over 300 years and that fight continues. The idea that it is wrong to discriminate against women is also common sense, but that fight took well over 100 years and that fight continues. The idea that it is wrong to discriminate against someone based on their poverty or their circumstance is no less an equally common sense idea, but recent history would suggest that we could be losing that fight."* --Cathy Crowe: housing, public health, and social justice activist.

If you see a problem in the world around you and feel motivated to take a stand, please visit the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action (Commons 301, 885-9442), Women's Center (Memorial Gym, 885-6616), Office of Multicultural Affairs (TLC 230, 885-7716), or find social action oriented student clubs and organizations at <http://stuorgs.uidaho.edu>

## Report on Service Learning

On November 2, Dr. Suzanne Martin—research manager for Youth and Education Research—completed a "National Survey on Service-Learning and Transitioning to Adulthood." The survey showed that, when compared with their peers, people who participated in service learning and/or community service projects, were much more likely to do "well" in life. This judgment was based on several criteria including:

- Satisfaction with current status in life.
- Likelihood of discussing politics or community issues and voting in an election year.
- Likelihood of being politically and socially connected to their communities, both as leaders and as role models.
- Understanding of the importance of lifelong learning
- High Aspirations
- Active members of society

Many people find that volunteering is one of the most rewarding activities in which one can engage. Although this is a subjective viewpoint, the empirical data provided by The National Youth Leadership Council in its "National Survey on Service-Learning and Transitioning to Adulthood" supports this notion. For more information on the above article, please visit <http://www.nylc.org>.



# ASUI CENTER FOR VOLUNTEERISM & SOCIAL ACTION

# Social Action

## Club of the Month: The Environmental Club

In order to advocate social action the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action has decided to highlight a University of Idaho club that demonstrates its devotion to social activism or volunteerism each month. December's Club of the Month is the Environmental Club: Its consistent activism is indicative of its members' dedication to protecting the environment.

By: Lissa Firor

The goal of the University of Idaho Environmental Club is to raise environmental awareness and promote sustainability through action-oriented services, educational programs, and goal-oriented campaigns throughout campus and the local Moscow community.

This is a very exciting time for the club because UI's campus is beginning to gain interest in sustainability. A few years ago, it seems as though few UI students even knew what the word "sustainability" meant, and now it has almost become a buzzword. As students' attitudes continue to shift, the Environmental Club plans to be an integral part of the change in educational avenues as well as service opportunities.

The Environmental Club's most recent events have included volunteering at a local permaculture site for Make a Difference Day on October the 28th. It also hosted educational activities for National Recycling Day on November 15th. However, the biggest Environmental Club event of the year was the presentation of Earth Week. Plans for Earth Week 2007 are already underway, and include an Art in Aluminum Can creation contest. The band

Whitewater Ramble, from Fort Collins, Colorado, will also perform a concert.

Another spring semester event includes the end of the year "Household Goods Exchange." The goods exchange is aimed at keeping reusable items out of the dumpsters when students clean out their rooms for the summer. In past years the Environmental Club has set up a successful "junk exchange" near Wallace dumpsters during finals week. During these exchanges students have collected many things including area rugs, kitchen supplies, telephones, shoes, and many bags of clothing. Visitors to the exchange are free to drop off junk or collect treasures; the remaining items are donated to the International Friendship Association and Sojourner's Alliance. If you are interested in helping with a similar exchange in spring 2007, please contact us!

The Environmental Club is constantly growing in size, in enthusiasm, and in diversity. It has members majoring in everything from biology and environmental science to business or journalism. We are a group that believes that the best way to change the world is to get out there and start chang-

See *Environment*, Page 6

## 2006 Election: Changes and Controversies



Jones  
vs.  
Luna



With the turbulence of the political season behind us, it is time to reflect on the outcomes and impacts of the November 2006 elections. With the overthrow of the Republican majority in the House and Senate, we can expect to see some changes. The immediate impacts of these changes on the University of Idaho's community might not occur for a long time, if at all, but there is potentially good news on the horizon.

For example, it is rumored that the Democratic leadership is currently considering an education reform involving tax cuts for college students or dependents' parents. It is difficult to imagine that too many college students will have a problem with this.

On a state and local level, the 2006 elections are unlikely to produce a great amount of change that will influence the University of Idaho. According to long-time Moscow resident Jon Gaffney, "We're probably not going to see much of a change with how the university interacts with the representatives because we have the same state legislators that we've had for the last four years." This year's elections determined new county officials, but because the county does not interact with

the University community very much, there will probably be few changes.

The county interacts with the city of Moscow, and the city of Moscow interacts with the University, but as Gaffney said, "We didn't elect any new city officials this year."

Of course, as with every election there certainly exist controversies surrounding this one. Probably the most contentious election results on the state level revolve around the election of Tom Luna over Jana Jones for the position of Idaho State Superintendent.

The Democratic candidate, Jones, who currently serves as chief deputy of schools, holds a Masters degree in child development, a Ph.D in Education, and years of experience. In addition, she is responsible for having passed legislation requiring the licensure of daycares in Idaho ensuring safe standards for children.

Republican candidate, Luna, does not have a college degree, but served on the school board in Nampa, ID, for one year. He also served as education advisor to George W. Bush despite having no professional training in education.

See *Election*, Page 6

## ASUI Civic Engagement and Social Action Board

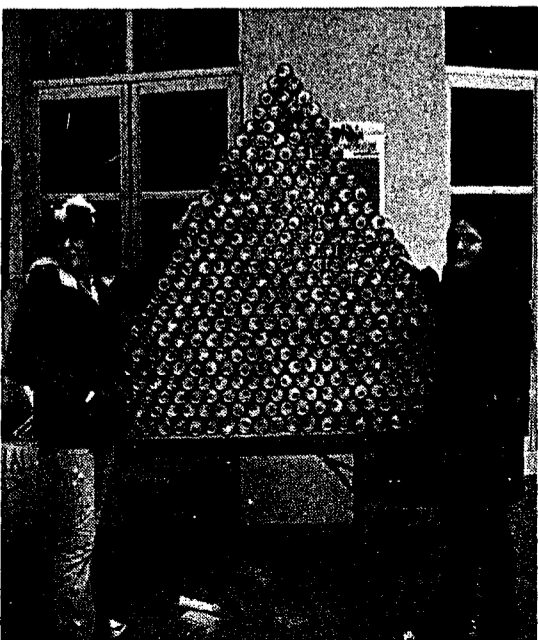
### Blood Drive!!!

The Civic Engagement Board is holding a Blood Drive on December 5th. For more information contact Shannon Hohl at hohl@sub.uidaho.edu.

### Books for Africa Drive!!!

From the end of dead week to the end of finals week, there will be boxes and posters around campus to collect books. If you have any school, reading, or general interest books you no longer need, please consider donating them for children in Africa.

During the month of November, the CEB provided rides to the polls for students. It was very successful. Thank you to all students who took advantage of your right to vote!



On National Recycling Day, the UI Environmental Club organized in front of the Commons. Behind some newspapers was a sign stating "Recycling a stack of newspapers just 3 feet high can save 1 tree!"

Group members Amanda Gray and Christina Lords, left, model the can tower that was also displayed.

# Make a Difference Day 2006: Great Success!

With more than 200 volunteers, this year's Make a Difference Day was the most successful in UI's history. Thank you to everyone's hard work who helped make it happen.



*Election, from page 5*

Jones and Luna disagreed on two major points: the future of Idaho's educational system and Proposition 1.

Luna's campaign focused on promoting the development of charter schools throughout Idaho and rejecting Proposition 1. His primary reason for supporting charter schools was so that children who speak a first language other than English could attend a school specifically designed to develop their English-speaking abilities. Jones rejects this describing it as "segregation."

Luna rejected Proposition 1 (which would increase state sales tax by 1% providing the Idaho education system with more than 200 million dollars) based on the philosophy that citizens should pay as few taxes as possible. Jones took the opposite stance citing Idaho's schools' needs for increased financial assistance.



*Environment, from page 5*

ing it yourself. All our members are encouraged to educate themselves, educate others, and get involved. One important way we do that is through our support for the work of local environmentally-conscious businesses and organizations, such as the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI), Friends of the Clearwater (FOC), the Moscow Food Co-Op, Protect Our Palouse, and others.

For more information about past and future projects or ways to volunteer, please visit our website: <http://stuorgs.uidaho.edu/~envclub/>

### Next Issue: January 2007

- MLK, III: January 23rd
- "Social In-Action"
- Social Action Summit
- Local Grant \$\$\$
- New Programs: how to get involved
- Cold weather volunteering
- Club/Agency of the Month

### Useful Links

#### Politics:

[politics.gather.com](http://politics.gather.com) [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com)

#### Activism:

[idealism.com](http://idealism.com) [activism.net](http://activism.net) [campusactivism.org](http://campusactivism.org)

## One semester down, one more to go

By Crystal Hernandez  
ASUI Senator

As I ran last spring for my ASUI senate position I told students I wanted to raise awareness about safety on campus and also improve communication with students.

Throughout the semester I have reported to my living groups as possible and felt like I actually

made a connection with one of my residence halls. This would be Campbell hall, during the special election they defiantly spoke up.

They always give me there input in one way or another. Recently I have been talking with the Violence Prevention center to get a start on my next project.

I have run few ideas past them and I am ready to get a move on things right after break. Another thing I have done over the semester is attend the North West

Student Leadership conference with other fellow ASUI officers.

The experience was pretty unique I got to know other officers and get some ideas of ways to better our campus.

Overall my experience hasn't really been anything out of the ordinary, but I am ready for next semester.

I have some ideas for next semester's term and I am ready to get started on them as soon as finals are over.

## Recycling in the Residence Halls: It can be done

The res-halls have recycling bins, use them

By Chase Carter  
ASUI Senator

My first semester at the University of Idaho I had the privilege to live in the Wallace Complex, and I have to say my least favorite part of the Wallace experience was taking out the trash.

I usually waited until my trashcan was overflowing. I know what you thinking, gross. It's the procrastinator's way.

When I was attending a hall meeting once, a pair of entrepreneurial students from a neighboring hall came and talked about recycling in the Residence Halls. I'll be honest I didn't really listen.

However, when I walked through their hall one day I noticed a plethora of recycling bins. Full recycling bins. It was a shock to me because I was unaware of any recycling in the Residence Halls.

I went and jumped right on board and started to work to increase recycling in Wallace. I was bewildered why the Residence Life didn't have any recycling bins around the Res-Halls.

Turns out, they do. There are five very large bins in and around the Residence Halls. Two just north of Wallace, one north of the Tower, and two in the middle of the LLCs. All of them just waiting to be filled with your crap.

I know it's lame to walk down the stairs and to brave the cold to take out the trash, and to bring down the recycling too is just that much more lame.

I've been there. But remember, your mother is not here, so clean up after yourself.

## A Senator's look at the past semester

By Michelle Kido  
ASUI Senator

As my first semester as an ASUI Senator is coming to a close, I feel that I learned a lot of useful information to carry on with me through the rest of my college career and life.

It has been hard at times, but that is to be expected with a very diverse group of people. I have met many great and interesting

people through ASUI and my living groups, and have learned from them too.

Even though there have not been many major changes by the Senate this semester, there have been steps in the right direction towards positive change.

Even though the Amendment to district the Senate failed, I feel that some good ideas came from that Amendment that the new Senate can work with next semester.

It was disheartening to see the lack of participation with this semester's election. Last semester 23 people ran for only 8 spots to make the largest election in the history of the ASUI Senate.

This semester there were only 9 people running for 7 spots, but they are really qualified candidates and I'm anxious to see how it turns out.

I wish good luck to all of the new Senators that will be elected this week and I hope we can make some great changes this semester.

## Ideas for fixing broken lines of communication

By Karla Hatfield  
ASUI Vice-President

One of my ideas when I started out on ASUI Senate was to improve communication and understanding among students.

I have noticed that some students are only familiar with certain groups on campus like their living groups or individual colleges.

I thought that this could be because students do not hear what is going on elsewhere on campus.

So to start off I wanted to highlight different student organizations or clubs on campus. This could spark student's interests in organizations they may not have known about.

The original idea was to have a kiosk in or outside the Commons that would hi-light a different organization or sports club each week.

This would require someone collecting the information and then changing out the posting each

week.

I thought instead, to make it easier and more feasible, we could have an organization or club profile in the Round the Clock section of the Argonaut.

I would be willing to write the bios once the information was sent to me from the organizations. This would reach just as many students as the kiosk would and could be great advertising for the organizations.

## Election Results

Special Election:  
Amendment IV

932 votes cast (11% turnout)  
570 Yes (61%), 362 (39%) No

Required 66.7% to pass

## ASUI fall 2006 Senate election recap

By Eric Everett  
ASUI Elections Coordinator

Another ASUI Election has gone by and there are 6 new senators and 1 returning. With a 6% voter turnout, 525 undergraduate students voted in this fall election.

Leading the pack is Chris Shirts, with 46% of the vote.

He is followed by Pedro Garcia (35%), John Adkins (33%), Michael

Barker (32%), Garrett Holbrook (30%), Ashley Cochran (28%), and Tricia Crump (27%).

The senators-elect will be sworn in on Wednesday December 6 at their first senate meeting at 7:45pm in the Commons Whitewater room.

They will join senators Jimmy Fox, Jennifer Mousseau, Crystal Hernandez, Michelle Kido, Chuck Chambers, Jeffrey Kempf, Justin Kempf, and Jared Zook.

As the new senate, their first order of business will be to

elect a new Senate President Pro-Tempore, who will be the administrative head of the ASUI.

Despite a low voter turnout, we are excited about the upcoming year for the senate, who will be lobbying the state legislature, approving a new ASUI budget, and working on projects that serve the student body.

Questions about the election can be directed to erice@sub.uidaho.edu and questions to the senate can be sent to senate@sub.uidaho.edu.

# A rough semester makes Senator Zook Smile

By Jared Zook  
ASUI Senator

It might be an understatement to say that being an ASUI Senator has thus far been an interesting experience.

This semester has been bogged down by our gaping inefficiencies. We have been made aware of this again and again by The Argonaut, our constituents, and worst of all, our fellow senators.

From the yelling in pre-session to the very public vote of

no confidence from the Senate President, the circumstances look grim. A colleague of mine even brought to light the supposed fact that no self-respecting senator hasn't considered resigning.

The ASUI Senate has had the burden and the blessing of not having an identity. Each semester it is born anew and senators are thrown into the mix expecting to change the world.

Not even a month into the semester, the current senate, a body of strict individuals, discovered that it could not get along.

Without teamwork, major scale

improvement and change become nearly impossible. So it is with this mindset that we went into the semester, expecting failure and being dealt it swiftly.

At this point, a few senators are scrambling to go on tirades furthering themselves of all responsibility, and I can only sit back and smile. I'm going to have to say that I have not considered resigning and that; even in the face of adversity I am happy to have had this experience in my life.

Despite pride not being a virtue, I can't help but have the guilty pleasure of Senate Pride. It is short-sightedness that dictates

that things couldn't be worse, that the senate has not had similar problems in the past. We are at the University of Idaho to learn and to grow, and I have done nothing but that in the ASUI.

Engaging in debate and experiencing firsthand the triumph and tragedy of student government is like nothing else.

Districting is not the answer and neither is widespread office gossip, what we need in the next senate is a group of leaders willing to sacrifice obligation and prejudice in order to work together, compromise, and to create something worthwhile.

# Vandal Ice Bowl!

By Adam Thuen  
ASUI Recreation Board

Hello, fellow football fanatics. Are you excited about the big game at the end of the football season?

Everyone loves to go to or throw a big Super Bowl party. ASUI brings you a chance to earn a prize package to throw the ultimate Super Bowl party. How do you win?

### FOOTBALL.

The Student Recreation Board and Intramural Sports are sponsoring a 24 team outdoor flag football tournament. The time and

place will be Jan. 20 and 21 at the SprintTurf Field on the east side of the Kibbie Dome.

The tournament will be a co-ed recreational tournament consisting of an equal amount of guys and girls. Due to extreme temperatures, the games will be strictly scheduled to prevent over exposure to cold weather.

Dress warm, come out, and have fun. The top four teams will receive party packages to host a team Super bowl party. Are you ready for some football?

Check the ASUI website in the future for more information about registration or email athuen@sub.uidaho.edu

# Where is the intensity?

By Chuck Chambers  
ASUI Senator

I probably wouldn't know senate elections were happening if it weren't for the fact that I am a senator. I haven't seen many senators stop by my house and I'm wondering why? Where is the intense campaigning? Lack of interest by the student body reflects the efforts of the candidates. The candidates need to get the students interested. Honestly, Chris Shirts is the only one I have seen campaign. So, unless I've been missing something...

For next semester I plan on introducing a bill that will require senators to submit a plan they will be working on for the semester.

Also, I've got my eyes set on Government Operations and Appointments Chair. The committee has plenty of room for improvement, such as merely showing up on time and giving our committee warning of when we will be meeting. I plan using the committee to investigate claims of whether senators visit their living groups or not.

Those are my goals for next semester. Now, I will go back to my bowl of cereal and reading the candidate bio's and their goals (should they get elected) to lower student fees, improve communication, and address safety on campus. Maybe a candidate will discover our campus needs more lighting. I'm sure nobody ever thought of that for a campaign platform.

From *Marketing*, page 1

into this issue over the duration of the semester. Yet, after meeting with Wendy Shattuck and other key employees, I feel far more confident in the new campaign and its possibilities.

Here is why.

First of all, the pertinence and timing of the campaign are strategically sound.

Following a decade of waning public image through scandal and fraud, a different image of the university is necessary.

According to the U of I Communications Department, this slogan signifies a revival. A new light and new image will be associated with the university promoting its possibilities in the coming years.

This will be necessary because increasing pressures and attractions from rivaling colleges, the U of I to 'up its game' to keep its edge with competition.

Secondly, much debate has been raised about the

discontinuation of the U of I starburst.

Here are a few reasons why it has been discontinued. University of Iowa (similarly UI) also has the colors of gold and black. Such similarities make the gold U of I logo less specifically distinct to the U of I, although it does differ from Iowa's trademark.

Additionally, the starburst was initially designed in the 1970, which, according to today's marketing standards, is far out of date. The starburst also doesn't particularly fit with the tone of the newly revised marketing campaign.

Furthermore, the reason that a replacement for the starburst hasn't been introduced is due to financial expenses involved in the professional design, implementation and replacement of old logos around the U of I and Moscow communities.

Wendy Shattuck and Tim White have mentioned that they are open to suggestions on this issue, and would consider reassessing their

decision as demanded.

It is essential to keep in mind that this campaign is not anticipated to be the final marketing program, but more of a huge step in the right direction. Research will be conducted on target students at the 6-month and 1-year land-mark to monitor the success and effectiveness of the program.

From there, adjustments to the campaign (or even a new campaign if necessary) will be made.

Bottom line, the marketing department is very interested in having student interaction and help on these subjects. With the website in progress and the campaign in motion, there are venues where students can get involved with the program.

Chris Cooney and Wendy Shattuck have been the two people with whom I have most closely worked and I would strongly recommend others interested in the campaign do the same.

*The ASUI Communications Department will be hiring for several positions next semester.*

*To get involved contact the ASUI at:*

*(208) 885-6331  
asui@uidaho.edu*

*or visit*

*www.asui.uidaho.edu*

*or drop by our office on the third floor of the Idaho Commons.*