

THE ARGONAUT

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Looking inside the Core

Discovering what works: A look at the Core Discovery Program

By Cynthia Reynaud
Argonaut

The first year of college is one of discovery for freshmen.

For years, the University of Idaho has tried to make this process easier — most recently through the development of the Core Discovery courses.

But has it worked? With questions about funding and effectiveness of the program, UI is taking another look at these courses.

Beginning and developing Core

"The Core Discovery classes are meant to help everybody be successful at the university," said Core curriculum director Wesley Chun.

The Core Discovery courses are made up of 16 100-level classes that are intended to explore contemporary issues and expose students to the diversity surrounding them.

As part of the university's Core program requirements, students must take seven credits of these three-to-four credit courses.

"I think people see the Core Discovery classes as the centerpiece to this program," said Gary Williams, chair of the University Committee of General Education and UI English professor. "The goal is to teach the process of critical thinking — to basically bring people into college level thinking around a general topic."

The program was conceived in 1999 when former university President Bob Hoover called upon the university to develop an integrated program that placed greater emphasis on diversity, foreign cultures and international programs and that would form a part of students' entire undergraduate careers, Chun said.

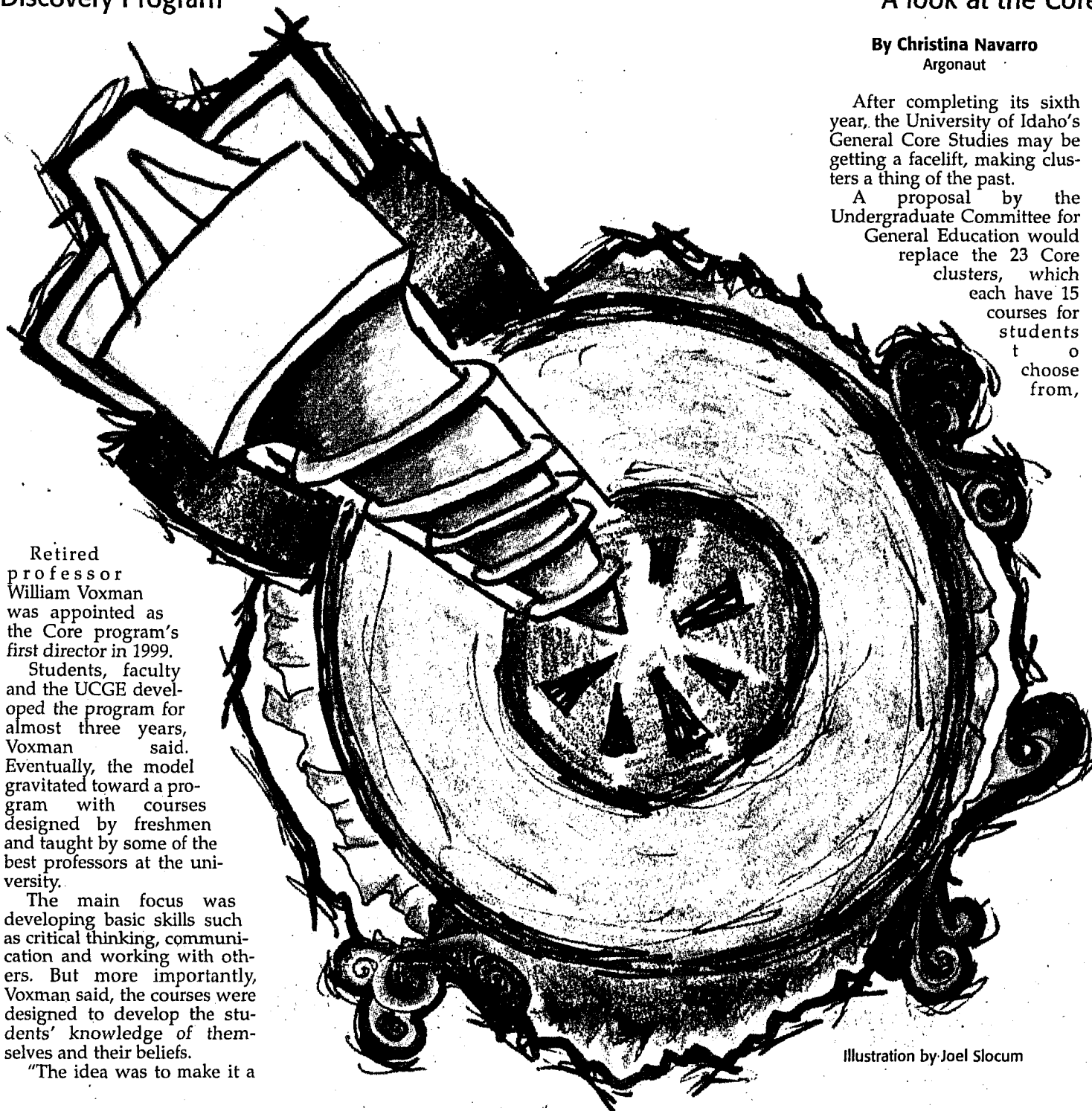


Illustration by Joel Slocum

Retired professor William Voxman was appointed as the Core program's first director in 1999.

Students, faculty and the UCGE developed the program for almost three years, Voxman said. Eventually, the model gravitated toward a program with courses designed by freshmen and taught by some of the best professors at the university.

The main focus was developing basic skills such as critical thinking, communication and working with others. But more importantly, Voxman said, the courses were designed to develop the students' knowledge of themselves and their beliefs.

"The idea was to make it a

See **CORE**, page A4

Un-clustering the courses: A look at the Core Cluster Program

By Christina Navarro
Argonaut

After completing its sixth year, the University of Idaho's General Core Studies may be getting a facelift, making clusters a thing of the past.

A proposal by the Undergraduate Committee for General Education would replace the 23 Core clusters, which

each have 15 courses for students to choose from,

with a general category of 400 courses.

Once reviewed and approved by the University Core Curriculum and faculty, the change would appear in the fall 2008 catalog.

The clusters help fulfill the required 18 credits of General Core Studies which also include Core Discovery, international courses and General Core electives.

Gary Williams, chair for the UCGE and UI English professor, said the change would make it so there would be no thematic connection between selected electives. "The system will seem, on the outside, much less complex than how it is now," Williams said.

Wesley Chun, director of the Core Curriculum, said the current Core model was developed to provide a comprehensive learning experience that would contribute to academic success, improve personal growth and provide opportunities to intellectually explore the world.

"The whole idea behind the cluster was to get people out of their major," Williams said.

He said some students and faculty may see clusters as a limitation instead of an exploration of a different path of study, as it was originally intended.

"I don't think students really understood the reason for a cluster anyway," Williams said. "The clusters try to break people off that line to explore other disciplines or areas of study."

Williams said each cluster wasn't directly related to any specific Core Discovery class. "There wasn't any real building on the freshman Core experience," Williams said.

See **CLUSTER**, page A4

Nepal's first actress visits campus

Mother of UI student travels to Idaho for graduation

By Caitlin Rice
Argonaut

Sheela and Sheetal Chand came to Moscow to learn about "real life."

Their lives as full time students with part time jobs on campus are a far cry from the Paris-Hilton-like lives they led in Nepal.

The sisters are known everywhere they go in the small capitol city of Katmandu as the daughters of Bhuwan Chand — the first actress of Nepal.

Their mother's fame has put them in tabloids and in movie magazines and gives them cause for taking precautions, they say, so that nothing unpleasant shows up in the paper the next day.

"Back here, I am just Sheetal Chand, who goes to UI and works," Sheetal said. "Back home it was different. ... You are pretty and rich and go to clubs and hang out with friends — not a care in the world — that was my life."

Their mother, Bhuwan Chand began her career in 1964 as a child actress. At the age of 4 she battled Nepal's social norms and the

expectations of a woman's role. "I faced a difficult time," she said, "but that didn't prevent me. I struggled a lot and fought against society and this is how I began my career ... but now times have changed — the Nepali people have begun to understand what a woman can do."

She starred in the first movie ever made in Nepal, "Aama" (Mother), a patriotic film and love story that explored the political philosophies of Nepal and the people's strong pride for their motherland.

Bollywood filmmaker Hira Singh Khatri was invited by then-ruler King Mahendra of Nepal to direct the film and "Aama" became an instant success.

It played for months in the Jai Nepal Cinema Hall, but the Nepali people couldn't get enough of it. Tickets sold out, moviegoers waited in long lines and bought tickets in black.

"I became a star overnight," Bhuwan said, "and the government recognized me as the first-ever Nepali film actress."

Though the whole concept of a movie industry and female stars were new, she found an exuberant audience in the Nepali people and received fan mail and press coverage from all over the coun-



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut

University of Idaho students Sheela and Sheetal Chand stand with their parents Michael and Bhuwan, who are visiting from Nepal. Michael is a senior editor of His Majesty's Government of Nepal Radio Broadcast Service and Bhuwan is an actress who has performed in several movies in Nepal.

try, as well as in India.

King Mahendra awarded her a medal recognizing her work, charisma and style in her performances, and she was honored by various societies both nationally and internationally.

The following year she took another leading role in "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," but she says the film industry at that time was not a continuous one so she focused on her theater career.

Since then she has acted in three dozen films as well as in numerous theater productions

and remains active in the career she began 52 years ago.

Her unconventional life as a full-time actress and a mother of three daughters was made possible by her husband, Michael Chand, who has also had his share of publicity as the senior English news broadcaster for Radio Nepal.

The actress and journalist duo supported one another in their work and balanced home life and childcare with their demanding

See **NEPAL**, page A7

UI custodian linked to Dome thefts

By Hartley Riedner
Argonaut

A female custodial employee of the University of Idaho was charged with burglary and the attempted possession of a controlled substance as a result of an undercover operation conducted by the Moscow Police Department.

The individual was discovered taking items from a locked office in the Kibbie Dome on Nov. 16 and Nov. 17. She was not arrested but will be summoned into court to face the charges at a later date.

The individual also admitted to prior thefts of other controlled substances taken from the Kibbie Dome earlier this semester. A probable cause affidavit will be filed at the Latah County Courthouse next week disclosing the suspect's name and further details of the investigation.

This year the Kibbie Dome has experienced an abundance of thefts, ranging from stolen laptops and electronics to missing medications. The Moscow Police Department is currently investigating several property thefts that occurred in the Kibbie Dome this semester, with no leads to report.

So far in 2006, nine reports of theft in the Kibbie Dome have been filed as compared to only three reports of theft in the facility filed in 2005.

"It's a concern for everybody in the department," UI Athletics Director Rob Spear said. "We need to have it stop."

Throughout the semester, items have been taken from a variety of places, Spear said, including locker rooms and locked offices.

The athletics department has been working with the police since the summer in an effort to end the crimes.

See **THEFT**, page A5

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a look INSIDE

ARTS&CULTURE

Festival Dance presents "A Christmas Carol — A Story in Dance," and we guide you to cheap gifts for student budgets.



OPINION

The editorial board applauds the possible demise of Core and Frank examines the war in Iraq.

SPORTS&REC

Recent speculation says Dennis Erickson is talking to the Arizona State University football program.

ON the WEB

Read stories, comment on blogs and browse our (nearly) full archives at www.uiargonaut.com

WeatherFORECAST

Today Saturday Sunday
Mostly Cloudy Cloudy Snow
Hi: 39° Hi: 37° Hi: 37°
Lo: 31° Lo: 33° Lo: 34°

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

Campus Recreation
www.campusrec.uidaho.edu
885-PLAY

SRC Giving Tree
The SRC has partnered with "Christmas for Kids" to sponsor 10 local children.
Please help make wishes come true for a special child this holiday season!
Please contact Campus Recreation for more information
885-PLAY

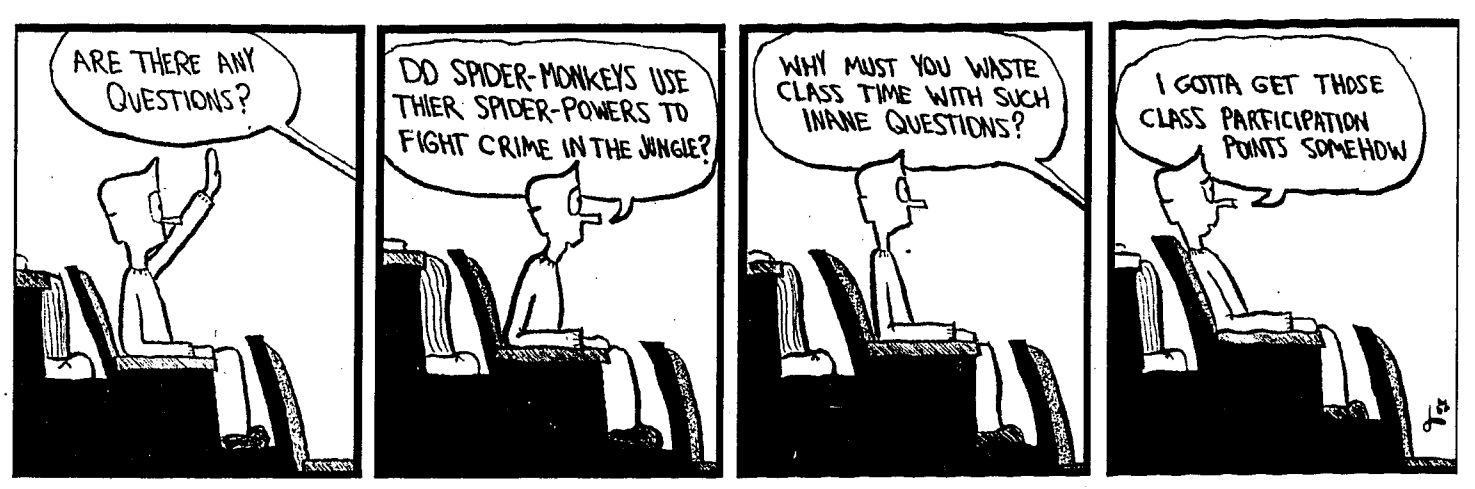
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SRC Winter Break Hours
December 2006
January 2006

Campus Recreation 1000 Paradise Creek Moscow Idaho 83844
885.1212 www.campusrec.uidaho.edu

UniversityAVE.



CampusCALENDAR

Friday
Alumni Award for Excellence banquet
University Inn Best Western Noon.
Dissertation: Wendy Ellyce Williams, education
College of Education, second floor conference room. 9 a.m.
Prichard Art Gallery reception
Prichard Art Gallery 5-8 p.m.

UITV-8 8 p.m.
Saturday
Bookstore holiday celebration
University Bookstore 9 a.m.
December commencement
ASUI Kibbie Activity Center 1 p.m.
'Cars' SUB Borah Theatre 7 and 9:30 p.m.
'Fuddy Meers' Kiva Theatre 7:30 p.m.
Holiday concert
ASUI Kibbie Activity Center 8 p.m.
ASUI Senate

Monday
Dissertation Defense: Jacqueline Maximilian, natural resources
SUB Silver Room 9 a.m.
UI Vandaleers: 'The Joys of Christmas' (1990)
UITV-8 7 p.m.
'Jazz Choirs Holiday Concert' (2001)
UITV-8 9 p.m.

Local/BRIEFS

Moscow Parks holds holiday event

The annual Winter Wonderland Candy Cane Hunt, hosted by Moscow Parks and Recreation, will be 2-4 p.m. Dec. 16 at East City Park's main stage.

'Idaho to Italy' show at gallery

Bill Voxman will show his photographs at the Reflections Gallery in the Commons from Dec. 11 to Jan. 6.

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.

Don Burnett, dean of the university's College of Law, will provide the December commencement address. Burnett recently earned the Idaho State Bar's Professionalism Award, considered to be one of the highest honors a lawyer can receive during his or her career.

Marketplace celebrates Christmas

The Eastside Marketplace Merchants' annual Home for the Holidays celebration is set to begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday with a showing of "The Polar Express" at the Eastside Cinemas.

During and following the movie, children can play games, make crafts and eat a complementary lunch.

The event is sponsored by Moscow Parks & Recreation, Safeway and First Step Internet.

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.

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.

After the gala the Blue Ribbon Tea Company folk band will play at 7 p.m. Donations for the concert are \$5 at the door and will benefit the barn.

The Dahmen Barn is located at 419 N. Park Way in Uniontown, on Highway 195 behind the fence of 1,000 iron wheels.

Movie to be shown at Christian center

There will be a free viewing of Christmas comedy, "Elf" on the Campus Christian Center big screen TV at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

CrosswordPUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Storage structure, 5 Fix firmly, 10 Short beep, 14 Filament, 15 Captain Nemo's creator, 16 Additional, 17 Cease, 18 Comment to the audience, 19 Incite anger, 20 Dog's bane, 22 Mini-warehouse, 24 Wood eater, 26 Keno city, 27 Garden blooms, 29 Pile of snow, 33 Life's work, 36 Not so much, 38 Mineral matter, 39 Supervising, 40 Turn inside out, 42 ERA or FBI, 43 Rainbow band, 44 Early garden, 45 Landed manor, 47 Wear away, 49 Food sampler, 51 Cosmo rival, 53 Regards highly, 57 Money man, 61 The Divine Bernhardt, 62 Gymnastic maneuver, 63 Was concerned, 65 "Auntie", 66 Having the skill, 67 Silly, 68 Morales of "Bad Boys", 69 Separation of birthdays, 70 Ruhr industrial city, 71 Escritoire.

SudokuPUZZLE

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

SudokuPUZZLE

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

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

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GDI Week ends but poster controversy remains

By Jeremy Castillo
Argonaut

Although GDI Week was officially over on Tuesday, a controversy stemming from its promotional posters remains.

It all started early this semester with a simple string of letters.

Four UI students in Graham Hall of the Theophilus Tower spelled out the word "BOOB" in their windows with red rope lights.

The lettering was big and bright enough to be read from as far as the Idaho Commons.

Reaction to this was immediate. Students in the dorms could be overheard expressing their feelings, both negative and positive, about the letters.

However, the word wasn't meant to be used in a sexual way.

When discussion of GDI (Gosh Darn Independent) Week started, Hays Hall's president Amanda Beacham suggested the slogan "Bringing Out Our Best" and the acronym BOOB. The planning committee passed the idea and flyers were printed.

"During about the second week of school, we got the idea to make (Graham Hall) stand out," said Jeff Wax, resident of the room that displayed the first B. "Our president wanted to do something crazy to make people aware of the eighth and ninth floor, so we went with some-

thing ambiguous."

Three days later, Kerie Kushlan, president of Gault Hall, sent out an e-mail to all the hall presidents expressing her dislike for the acronym's use with the slogan.

Kushlan was not the only person who had such strong opinions on the matter.

A female student visited the UI Women's Center for help with lodging a complaint. She didn't know the proper steps, which is why she sought guidance from the center, Women's Center director Jeannie Harvey said.

In response to the negative feedback, the GDI Planning Committee created new flyers with the same slogan, but without highlighting the acronym.

"I and the RHA Executive Board decided to change the posters because we believed doing so wouldn't remove anything from their quality," said Damian Ball, Residence Hall Association vice president of marketing and communication.

Even F.L.A.M.E. — the only feminist group on campus — weighed in on the poster issue. On Wednesday, the organization sent a letter to Dean

of Students Bruce Pitman saying the GDI acronym was "intolerably sexist, all arguments for its harmlessness withstanding" and mentioned the lights in Graham Hall.

Some female students disagree that the lights were derogatory towards women.

"Everytime I walked past (the Tower), I would usually smile," said Allison Bahn, a UI sophomore. "It wasn't that hilarious, but I never felt offended. Nothing against the fem-

nists, but I don't think it's offensive towards women. Boob is just a word."

But in the end, just like the GDI committee, the students in the Tower compromised as well by changing the word in their windows.

Originally, the letters changed because the person in the fourth room moved out.

With only three windows available for display space, two Os were put into the same window, forming a Venn diagram sandwiched by the two Bs.

After threats to be taken to the university's court system, the students behind the display compromised and took an O away, changing the word completely.

"Nothing against the feminists, but I don't think it's offensive toward women. Boob is just a word."

Allison Bahn
sophomore

feminist flyers, the letters in the Tower have been taken down. Now fluorescent bulbs and Christmas lights are the only visible illumination in the building.

"(The posters) are a definite over-reaction," Wax said. "I think it's funny at how people are offended by the word 'Boob.'"

Students with opposing opinions are being just as vocal.

Several groups have been made on Facebook supporting the lights or opposing the Feminists Busting In group's posters.

Jimmy Robnett created the "Fight Real Issues: Boob is a funny word" group.

"I thought it was silly to protest when we have actual problems in the world: Darfur, the war in Iraq, and actual sexism," Robnett said.

The group was created just last week but had 172 members at press time.

"It shows a lot of people feel the same way I do and I feel good about that," Robnett said.

Ball said the RHA is staying neutral on this issue but wants to promote civil and healthy dialogue between students.

"RHA continues to support and strongly believes in the right to free speech," he said. "We wish to extend an open invitation to those who may feel this issue has not been resolved to share their feelings with the RHA Executive Board."

Sharing the knowledge: Students send old books to Africa

By Christina Lords
Argonaut

Instead of throwing away books the university won't buy back, students are encouraged to pass them on to others.

Students can donate their old textbooks to the Books for Africa Drive beginning this afternoon and running through Dec. 18.

ASUI is sponsoring the drive, which allows students to give their used textbooks and general reading books to the charity. The organization

that actually distributes the used books is Better World Books, which has a partnership with the Books for Africa organization.

"It's a simple project for us. We place boxes and bins anywhere around campus where Buybacks are taking place, including the Bookstore, the SUB and the Commons," said Nathan Hand, coordinator for the volunteer program at the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Activities. Hand also said books can be donated for the drive at Beat the Bookstore

on West Sixth Street.

Better World Books attempts to sell some of the donated textbooks back to U.S. citizens before sending them on to Africa in order to pay for the shipment of the used books, according to Sarah Kaufmann-Fink, the Northwest regional director of Better World Books.

"We know they sell a few for shipping costs, selling a small percentage back, but it's not a sneaky way to make money," Hand said.

The organization sorts through the books by subject matter and distributes them

by who and where needs them the most, Hand said. ASUI volunteers ship the books to Better World Book's main office in Indiana, and from there the books are distributed to Africa.

"We feel like they're a pretty good, legitimate organization," Hand said.

"Some bookstores didn't want the project in their store because it can be a type of competition," said Larry Martin, associate manager and head of the book department of UI's Bookstore.

Because Better World Books attempts to re-sell some

of the donated books, it can take away from a bookstore's profit, he said.

"At Buyback, we accumulate a lot of books from students that we can't buy back," Martin said. "We used to have them just throw the books in a box and let people go through them and take what they wanted."

Prior to the Books for Africa Drive, the unwanted used books would be picked up and be recycled by a recycling center.

"Students seem to like to throw their old books in there knowing it'll go to a good

cause," Martin said.

"If it's not a book in a student's major, we encourage students to donate the books that they won't ever use again," Hand said. "Hopefully, they won't need to be reading that algebra book for the rest of their life."

Hand said the drive has been going on for at least five years. He said two years ago students donated 28 boxes for the drive. Last year the drive topped out at 40 boxes.

"If we stay on track, we're hoping for 50 boxes for this year," Hand said.

The College of Natural Resources congratulates

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Jonathan C. Anderson
Derek A. Craig
Curtis D. Kvamme
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Alonzo Z. Mandanna
Denise K. Schremser
Gavin J. Tyler
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CORE from page A1

very active learning. To make sure it was interdisciplinary, the courses had to be developed by faculty members from three different disciplines," Voxman said.

The idea drew national attention and the university was given a \$430,000 Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education grant. The grant was used to pay the initial faculty and bring in speakers, Voxman said. It also allowed each class to have a student mentor in addition to the professor.

It was with this money that the program was able to start a trial run in 2000. By 2003 the program was fully implemented.

Although the initial plan was to use the grant money to help train teachers in ways to create a more interdisciplinary course, budget cuts mean most of the money has gone solely toward staffing the courses instead, Provost Doug Baker said.

According to Williams, Core Discovery courses cost the university approximately \$350,000 per year. So by last year, all of the grant money from FIPSE had been used and the university had to come up with another means to fund the program.

Money recouped from the University Place project lawsuits in addition to \$125,000 the university sets aside annually for the program was used to pay for this year's courses. But as the lawsuit money is only a one-time thing, next year the university faces a big question of how the program will continue to be funded.

Balancing the load

When the Core Discovery program was implemented, it wasn't part of the job description, Williams said. Rather, it was an add-on for professors. One cost-cutting suggestion that has been made by the UCGE is to make teaching the Core Discovery courses part of professor contracts with the university.

Currently, the Core Discovery courses serve about 1,800 students in 46 sections taught by 35 instructors.

Although the original idea behind the classes was to have them taught by tenured faculty at the university, this has slowly been pushed aside, Williams said.

"The idea was the burden would be shared by all tenured faculty. That has not tended to happen," Williams said.

Of those teaching, only 13 are tenured, two are staff and the rest

a closer LOOK

Core Discovery course objectives

- Exploration of contemporary issues
- Creating an awareness of the diversity of humankind
- Fostering intellectual curiosity for knowledge outside the students' current frames of reference
- Experiencing the richness of campus culture
- Developing effective communication skills
- Developing the ability to think critically
- Developing the ability to gather and synthesize information from different disciplines and sources
- Accomplishing tasks through group work
- Developing the academic skills necessary for success
- Providing an atmosphere in which differing opinions are exchanged and respected
- Stimulating interactions with faculty and other students
- Facilitating the adjustments to and orienting students toward college life and academic demands
- Fostering conversations with students who differ in beliefs and values

Source: Wesley Chun

are some form of untenured faculty.

All instructors who are not full-time at the university get paid an additional salary to teach the courses, which has been a factor in the expense of the program, Williams said.

"(Provost) Doug Baker wants to reinstate responsibility from all faculty," Williams said. "General education should be perceived to be in reality a shared responsibility with all faculty. ... We need to create an environment where it's not just a responsibility, it's a delight."

The concern for some in the administration, though, is being able to spare faculty who also teach several classes in their own colleges.

College of Science Dean Judith Parrish said that in her college, the departments come up short on faculty every fall semester because of the constant changes in enrollment.

"I think given that there aren't any excess teaching resources,

part of the discussion is going to have to be 'What are our priorities?'" she said, adding that there are inevitably going to have to be trade-offs throughout the university. "We need to be responsive to all of the teaching needs that exist at the university. I hope students get involved in this discussion of prioritization."

Williams said he knows professors have a lot on their plate and it can be a challenge to teach both their major courses and the Core Discovery.

Williams taught Core Discovery courses when they first began. The department has continued to make some sacrifices in order to teach in the Core program.

"In the English department, it's meant we're not offering as many upper-division classes as regularly as we used to," he said.

Kathy Aiken, dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, said the college has committed to staffing half of the Core Discovery sections.

"We're committed to Core Discovery and our record speaks for itself," Aiken said, who herself taught sections until last year.

"The question right now is whether all the deans can create this time to give to the Core," Williams said. "It's a question we're all waiting with great interest to see the answer."

Mixed Reactions

In the classroom, students seem to have mixed views about the importance of the freshmen-gear courses.

"I think it's absolutely ridiculous," said Christy Butler, a freshman majoring in physical education. "I've learned all this stuff in high school. I think it's a waste of money and time."

Others said they would take the course even if they weren't required to.

"I like it a lot," said freshman Nicole Strunks, a marketing/advertising major. "It's different from my other classes. We talk about controversial topics, but everyone's pretty open about it. They don't judge the person."

Some said the course helped them to adjust more easily to life at college.

"At the end of this class, I feel like I know my classmates better than in any other class," said freshman Daniel Madel, a wildlife major.

Chun said one of the goals of the Core Discovery classes is to help students feel more at home at UI and give them a mentor who will be with them through

their entire freshman year.

"It's nice to know people are there for you. There are some people who teach because it's a chore, but our Core teachers teach because they enjoy interacting with others," Chun said. "This is an adjustment for a lot of people. Sometimes it's good just to have someone there you can talk to."

Juan De Leon, the instructor for Core 107: Cultural Encounters: The Latino Story, said he still gets students who come back and ask him questions about various topics they discussed in class.

"Once you make that tie with them, it's a strong one," De Leon said.

He said he sees change daily in his current class as well.

"I've definitely seen them grow. ... They're beginning to look at the world through a different lens."

Those who do not see the importance of the Core Discovery courses may just need time to realize it, Williams said.

"A lot of students feel general education is something they just need to get out of the way," he said. "It's hard for freshmen to assess what they're doing while they're doing it. You don't really see the value until the experience is well behind you."

Senior MMBB major Zev Kronenberg said his freshman Core Discovery course, Bioethics, taught him the level of work professors are looking for in college.

"It was hard but I think I got a lot out of it," Kronenberg said.

On the other hand, senior sports science major Megan Rush said she does not remember much from her Race, Ethnicity and Diversity course.

"It didn't relate to my major," she said. "There was a lot of discussion maybe it will help later on ... I probably wouldn't take it if I didn't have to though."

A survey conducted last year among graduating seniors shows there was a 5-10 percent increase in how students rate their own ability to perform basic skills among students who participated in Core Discovery courses. Another assessment is planned for the spring, Baker said.

"They'll always be opposition no matter what you do. It's healthy," Voxman said.

De Leon said he hopes to be involved with the program for many years to come.

"I hope that the culture that is known as Core survives," he said.

CLUSTER from page A1

He said many students fulfill their cluster requirements without even knowing it.

"Part of our goal with the second level of the General Education requirements is to have people realize what they're taking," Williams said, "instead of not being aware that by fulfilling their Humanities or Social Science requirements, they are also unknowingly falling into a specific cluster."

He said practical considerations kept that from getting fulfilled and some faculty and advisers were dismissing the cluster idea so that students would remain on the right track.

Williams said that while many faculty members supported the clusters and were in favor of the program, some may feel their primary responsibility is to make sure students are getting everything they need for their major.

Another change would be reducing Core Discovery credit requirements from seven to six credits.

Although students in universities across the country are required to fulfill a form of General Education or Core requirement, there are ways students in Idaho can get out of having to choose courses within a cluster.

"What we are seeing more and more is students evading core requirements," Williams said. "People have found ways around the Core, rather than embracing it."

Students who transfer credits from a school in Idaho will need to fulfill the State Board's General Education requirements, but not the University of Idaho's. For example, if a student transfers Boise State credits to UI, they are exempt from UI's Core requirements.

Sophomore biology major Jessica Hartley took college courses in high school through the College of Southern Idaho.

It was after transferring her credits to UI that she realized she didn't need to take any clusters.

She said none of the clusters actually applied to her biology major, and fulfilling the UI Core clusters would have taken up more time.

"I'm glad I didn't have to do it," Hartley said. "The State Board Core is a lot more general and easier to fulfill."

Stephan Flores, associate professor of English and director of the Honors Program, said Honors students are not restricted to cluster courses, but must fulfill humanity and social science electives within two different disciplines.

"Students in the UI Honors program can elect to use eight to nine credits in Honors-designated courses outside of any Core Discovery sequence to satisfy the cluster requirement," Flores said.

Before proposing the list to the UCC, courses from different departments will be selected toward General Education.

Williams said he doesn't think the proposal to replace clusters will cause any cost issues.

"Departments will be asked to offer courses that they can deliver to at least 50 people at least once a year, but with no additional faculty," he said. "So I expect they will offer courses they already deliver."

He said advising will seem easier after the change.

"Departments will be relieved to lose the perceived complexity of the clusters, and glad to propose courses they think should be part of a general education," Williams said.

a closer LOOK

State Board of Education requirements vs. UI Core requirements

State:

Communications 2 cr.
English composition 3 cr.
Social Science 6 cr., 2 disc.
Humanities 6 cr.
Math 3 cr.
Natural Science 7 cr. 1 lab

Current UI Core:

Core Discovery courses 7 cr.
Communication 5-7 cr.
Math 3 cr.
Clusters 9 cr.
Natural or applied science 7-8 cr.
International course 3 cr.
Humanities/Social Science 14 cr.

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Brad Rogers

Bachelor of Science Wildlife Resources

Kara Butler
Robert Douglas
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Kate Lambert
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Cody McKee
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Bachelor of Science Fishery Resources

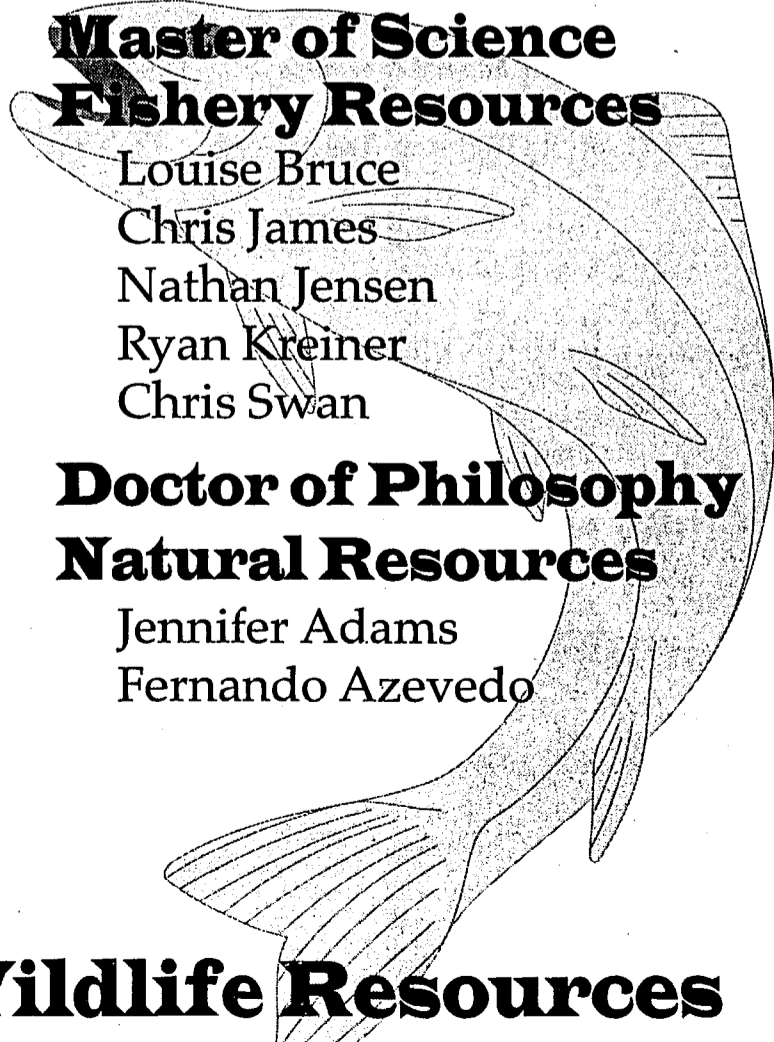
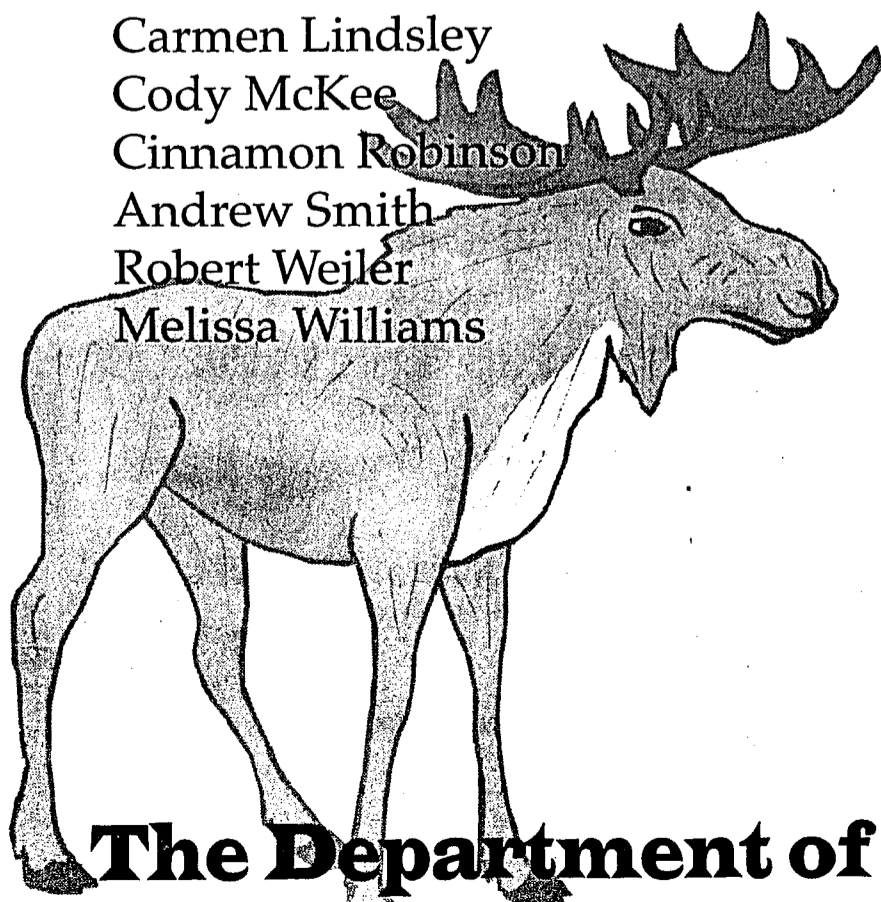
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Proudly Announces Fall 2006 Graduates!

Learning Spanish rápidamente

New hybrid course offers two semesters of Spanish in one

By Jessica Mullins
Argonaut

A new hybrid Spanish class now provides students the opportunity to get credit for Spanish 101 and 102 in one semester.

The class is targeted for students who have Spanish experience, like those who took classes in high school, but don't feel comfortable skipping Spanish 101, said University of Idaho Spanish instructor Ruth Anne Keenan.

Keenan will teach the pilot course next semester. The course, Spanish 204, will cover all 10 of the VISTAS textbook chapters regularly covered by both classes. The course is a 100-level course but titled "204" because it was the only number available. The course will be more intense and accelerated, Keenan said.

"We will probably spend a little less time on everything," Keenan said. "The chapters will feel quick."

But when students complete the course, they will have started from scratch and gone through Spanish 102, Keenan said.

"I think it will be beneficial," Keenan said.

Language is learned more efficiently

when taught in an intensive format, the way this course has been planned, she said.

International studies and Spanish double major Audra Krislock said she can see the class appealing to other students.

"Some people can learn really fast and when they have to go through 101 and 102 it can be tedious," Krislock said. "When they go through one semester they can learn fast and get the credits out of the way."

But Krislock, who took Spanish 101 and 102 her freshman and sophomore year, wouldn't have been interested in the new course because she likes having more class time.

"Spanish is interactive and the more time you have (in class) the better it is," she said.

The Spanish department received a technology grant from the State Board of Education for the course. The grant will cover all costs of the course, including textbooks for each student next semester. The textbook can be used for Spanish 101, 102 and 201.

The new course will be intense, but will hopefully avoid boredom by giving students other options besides Spanish 101, Keenan said.

The entire textbook is online in an interactive format. Students can view animated lectures and videos, take quizzes, record their oral homework and send it to Keenan for feedback. The class will meet three hours a week. Class time

for more INFO

For information about SPAN 204 or to sign up, contact Ruth Anne Keenan at Rkeenan@uidaho.edu.

will be spent on communicative practice, Keenan said. The rest of the work for the course will be done online and outside of class. The students will be expected to come to class with questions, she added.

"I'm interested in seeing what will happen," Keenan said.

The new course will allow the teachers of Spanish 101 to put more focus on the students who have never taken Spanish before, Keenan said.

Spanish 204 students will do present tense, preterit tense and imperfect tense, Keenan said.

The course goes down as four credits and students can apply for an extra four credits, she said.

The class meeting times next semester are from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 8-9:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. About 14 students are currently signed up. Each section will cap at a range of 15 to 20 students. Keenan must be contacted by each student wanting to sign up so she can remove the block.

SenateREPORT

Fall Meeting

Open Forum

Madolyn Duclos, chair of ASUI Vandal Entertainment, said the SUB movie schedule for next semester is set. Four small concerts are planned for the upcoming semesters. More money was spent per concert, which is why there are fewer events. She also said The Shins, Better Than Ezra or Jack's Mannequin might be appearing on campus next April as part of Finals Fest.

Student Gitau Munge said he found some hypocrisy in the Senate, stating some senators said they support one thing during the meetings, but would say something else to their Greek living groups. He also said he was happy to have off-campus students represented in the Senate and would work through Winter Break to have this living group have its voice heard.

Eric Everett, ASUI vice president adjutant, addressed the election results. He said the voter turnout was disappointing and asked the Senate to contact him with ideas to generate more participation for the next time around. He said he enjoyed working with the outgoing Senate members, even only in the "limited capacity he has."

Shawn Cothren, ASUI chief of staff, thanked the senators for their contributions to the 'Round the Clock publication. He also said the Vandalizers have done a wonderful job in boosting support at Vandal sporting events. He announced that there will be a pool table and foosball table placed in the Idaho Commons over Winter Break, along with some board games to accompany the Xbox 360. He concluded by saying he looks forward to the incoming senators.

Presidential Communications

First, ASUI President Berto Cerrillo talked about his meeting about on-campus sledding. He said the policy can't be changed due to the extra finances from the extra wear-and-tear on the land from sleds and other equipment, along with the liability and insurance matters.

Next, he congratulated the new senators and wished the outgoing ones the best in the future and thanked them for the time they worked together.

Unfinished Business

F06-02, a resolution in support of the University of Idaho starburst logo, passed with a vote of 13-1.

New Business

Resolutions to honor outgoing ASUI Sens. Caroline Souza, Sara Kido, Chase Carter, Liz Welte, Zack Vincent and Karla Hatfield all passed, as did F06-09, a resolution congratulating the outgoing ASUI Executive staff.

Spring Meeting

Open Forum

There were no speakers.

Presidential Communications

Cerrillo said the mood and attitude of the Senate changes every semester. He looks forward to seeing what the new senators bring. He said next semester will be fast-paced and wished the new senators luck.

New Business

Jared Zook was elected as the new senate president pro-tempore.

ASUI Vice President Travis Shofner dispensed with reading the bills and sent them all to Ways and Means. The bills dealt with assigning senators to living groups, standing committees and standing boards.

-Jeremy Castillo

THEFT
from page A1

"It's in the hands of the Moscow Police Department now," said Becky Paul, assistant athletic director for media relations of the athletics department.

While the Moscow Police are investigating the other crimes, Lt. Paul Kwiatkowski commended the campus and detective divisions of the Moscow PD on their success in the undercover operation.

"They really did an excellent job," he said.

Kwiatkowski advised those who work or frequent the Kibbie Dome, as well as everyone on campus, to protect themselves against theft by keeping valuables locked up or at home. He also suggested writing down serial numbers of expensive objects, like laptops or iPods, which are very useful in recovering the item if it is taken.

Despite the increase, Spear is optimistic that the crimes in the Dome will decline: "In cooperation with the Moscow Police Department, we will resolve this issue over time. I'm confident of that."

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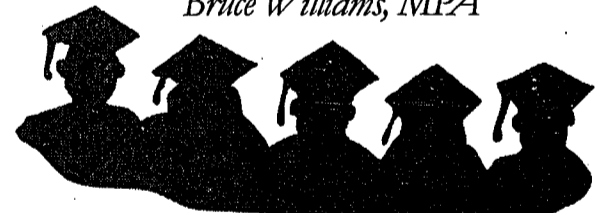
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Have a great break and drive home safely!

From The Argonaut

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UI switching students to Microsoft e-mail system

By Savannah Cummings
Argonaut

University of Idaho students will be seeing a change to their UI e-mail accounts next spring, but it won't be an unfamiliar face that greets them when they log-on to their school accounts. UI is updating its e-mail program with software from Microsoft, effectively turning VandalMail into Hotmail.

UI is partnering with Microsoft in converting the e-mail accounts for both faculty and students, said Chuck Lanham, ITS director. Faculty and staff will be receiving a new program called Microsoft Exchange, which has expanded e-mailing and calendar abilities. Students will receive a new program called Live@edu, which gives UI the ability to use the Hotmail

program for its students, but give it a UI interface.

"It'll still be VandalMail, but it will look different," Lanham said.

The change was caused, in part, because UI is dissatisfied with the current system, a program run by Sun Microsystems, which costs the university thousands of dollars annually to upkeep, Lanham said.

"We're having to work really hard keeping that system up and running," Lanham said.

When UI first purchased the system about five years ago, Lanham said Sun Microsystems was promising upgrades to the programs that appealed to the university. Those promises haven't been met, he said.

"The features never came to be," Lanham said. "That company is not growing the product."

Changing to the Microsoft system cost the university about \$20,000, Lanham said, approximately half the cost UI pays yearly to upkeep the current e-mail. While the program is free, UI purchased a server and some software from Microsoft that allows the ITS Help Desk to manage student accounts — for example, to change or delete an e-mail account.

"It was money well spent," Lanham said.

The switch to the Hotmail-style e-mail brings many benefits to students, Lanham said, most notably a large increase in e-mail storage capacity. With the present system, students are allotted 25 megabytes for e-mail. With the new system, students will be given 2 gigabytes of storage space.

The new program will be the latest version of Hotmail, which few stu-

dents have seen it. It will also allow students to do with their VandalMail everything they can do with a normal Hotmail account, including have a calendar they can share with other users, use their e-mail address as a screen name for MSN Messenger and MSN Spaces and access their e-mail on their cell phone.

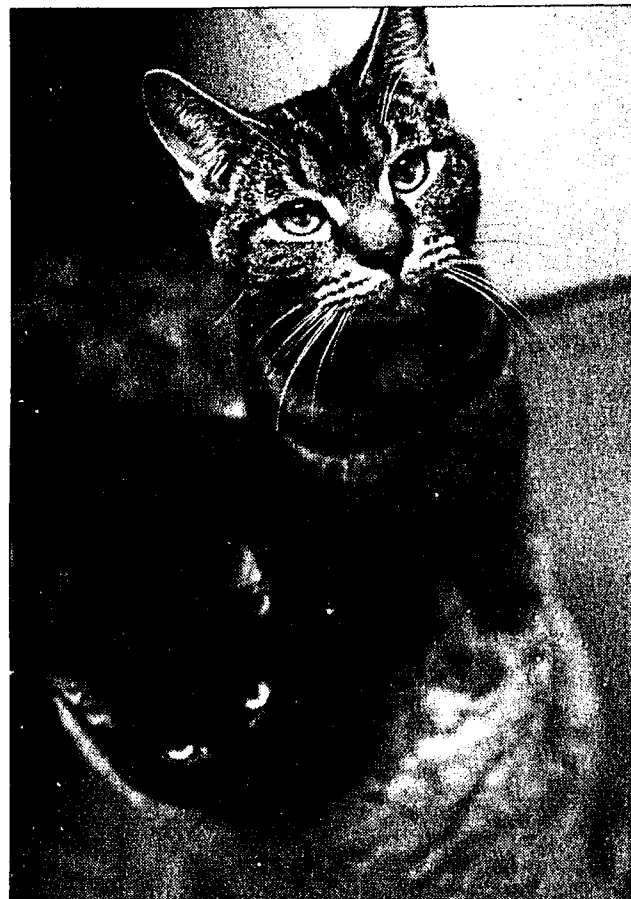
The program will also give students the ability to choose, to an extent, their e-mail address. Instead of having the first four letters of their last name combined with the first four numbers of one of their Vandal numbers, students will be able to select from a variety of name-based e-mails, Lanham said. When first logging in, students will be directed to a page that allows them to select from a variety of combinations of their first, middle and last name. In order to prevent inappropriate or offensive e-mails,

students will not be allowed to create their own e-mail address.

Also, instead of an e-mail being @uidaho.edu, student e-mails will now be @vandals.uidaho.edu.

While Lanham expects the switch to take place this spring, the exact timing is not yet set. The ITS department is still working out the best way to transfer students to the new system. Most likely, Lanham said, there will be a period of time in which both the old and new VandalMail systems are running, giving students the opportunity to save important messages into their new inbox.

In addition to changing the student e-mail, Lanham said the alumni office is looking at changing their alumni e-mail service, idahovandals.com, to the new system, which could allow students to maintain their e-mail address after graduation.



Moscow's feline facilities too full

By Melissa Davlin
Argonaut

Homeless cats usually fill the cages at The Humane Society of the Palouse. This year, however, there are more cats than ever. One-hundred forty-five cats overcrowd the shelter, about 80 more than the building can comfortably accommodate.

"Right now, we're extremely over capacity," said Tara Wimer, dog technician.

To relieve the problem, the cat adoption fee is being temporarily reduced from \$60 to \$30. The discounted price will be continued until Christmas.

Although HSoP is a no-kill shelter, the cat overpopulation problem still affects its operation. The shelter has no room to take in additional homeless cats. Cat owners who can no longer take care of their pets can't drop them off at the Humane Society anymore and have to find new homes for the animals themselves.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, an estimated 3-4 million cats

and dogs are euthanized in animal shelters across the country every year. Euthanization is unfortunate but necessary to prevent overcrowding in shelters and provide humane housing conditions for animals that remain in the shelter, HSUS says.

"A lot of people in this area think it's OK for animals not to be fixed."

Tara Wimer
Humane Society dog technician

The HSoP building, originally meant to accommodate nine cats, has been expanded to comfortably facilitate 60 cats. Donations allowed the Humane Society to add cages and build a "cat porch," an outdoor enclosure connected to the "cat rooms."

Despite these additions, the Humane Society is still 80 cats over capacity.

HSoP attempts to fix the problem by spaying and neutering cats immediately after they come under their care. The Animal Clinic in Moscow spays cats at its facility and employees donate their time to neuter male cats at the Humane Society.

Along with help from The Animal Clinic, HSoP runs mostly off donations, Wimer said. Adoption fees and funds from the city of Moscow and Latah County also help pay for operating costs.

for more INFO

Humane Society of the Palouse offers financial assistance to help pet owners pay for spaying and neutering their pets. For information on the Spaying and Neutering Assistance Program, call the Humane Society at 883-1166.

Fundraisers such as CJ's Mardi Gras and the Beach's Halloween in July also help alleviate costs.

Because Latah County thinks students are the biggest contributors to the large cat population, Wimer said, the money contributed by the county can only be spent on dogs.

The real problem, Wimer said, is cats that aren't spayed or neutered.

Educating the community about the importance of spaying and neutering their pets is essential to reducing the cat population, Wimer said.

"A lot of people in this area think it's OK for animals not to be fixed," Wimer said. "They think coyotes will take care of kittens."

Getting home safe isn't hard

Argonaut staff

As always, students can probably expect icy roads and less-than-desirable conditions when driving home for the holidays. With a few precautions, those roads shouldn't pose a threat.

Here's what the Idaho Transportation Department suggests for those traveling during winter:

- Plan ahead: In Idaho, dialing 511 on any phone or visiting <http://511.idaho.gov> will connect drivers to the state's Traveler Services department. Students can look ahead at road conditions anywhere in the state and plan their trips from there. Washington, Oregon and Montana also have 511 service.
- For students who want to be home by a certain time, leave a little early. There's no telling how conditions might change, especially during a long drive.
- Drive safely: Wear seat belts. Don't speed, especially in areas that might contain black ice. Keep at least two car lengths behind snowplows for every 10 mph, and never pass them — the force of the spray can knock a car out of control. And please don't drink and drive.

watch the ROAD

For information on winter driving and road conditions, visit these Web sites:

- <http://511.idaho.gov>
- <http://itd.idaho.gov>
- <http://wsdot.wa.gov/traffic>
- <http://www.tripcheck.com/Pages/AT511.asp> (click on Road | Weather)
- <http://mdt.mt.gov/travinfo>

- Be prepared for winter hazards: Make sure car tires and brakes are in good working condition and check battery and fluid levels. Clean snow and ice off of windows, mirrors and lights before the trip. Use chains when needed, and make sure to pack emergency supplies such as a flashlight, first aid kit, blankets and extra clothing, a small sack of sand for traction, booster cables, rope, maps and other ideas. And be sure any cell phones are fully charged.

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VAN WILDER

DAILY 6:45 9:10 | Sat-Sun (4:50) (12:05)

DÉJÀ VU

DAILY 4:00 7:00 9:45 | Sat-Sun (1:15)

TURISTAS

DAILY 9:25 | Sat-Sun (2:30)

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DAILY (3:40) 6:50 9:50 | Sat-Sun (12:40)

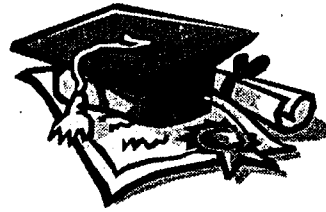
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A different side of video gaming

By Caitlin Rice
Argonaut

Negative stereotypes in the video and computer game culture portray an isolated, basement-dwelling nerd absorbed in violence and graphic images for 22 hours a day.

It is this image that spurred two video gamers to create an organization called Child's Play that would show a different side of gamers.

"The media seems intent on perpetuating the myth that gamers are ticking time bombs just waiting to go off," said co-creator Mike Kraulik, in the original news post for Child's Play launch. "I know for a fact that gamers are good people. I have had the opportunity on multiple occasions to meet hundreds of you at conventions all over the country. We are just regular people who happen to love video games."

So in 2003 Mike Kraulik, along with Jerry Holkins of the online comic strip "Penny Arcade," decided a Christmas toy drive for Seattle Children's Hospital might be a way for gamers to give back to society and show that they aren't bad people, said Kristin Lindsay, a member of the Child's Play staff.

Both Kraulik and Holkins came from Spokane and were in their early 20s when they started Child's Play. As such, they represented the top of the age group of the typical gamer, Lindsay said, and the audience they wanted to reach consisted of peers. They live in Seattle now and work full time for "Penny Arcade," an online comic strip and media company.

"Child's Play presents an opportunity every year for gamers to get involved with a charitable initiative that benefits sick children, in their local communities and all across the

globe," Lindsay said.

And that is a reward in itself, the creators said.

Child's Play began by donating gifts to one hospital in Seattle but now has 25 recipient hospitals and has gone global, delivering gifts to sick children as far away as Australia and Egypt.

The initial response was overwhelming, Lindsay said, and last year Child's Play raised more than half \$1 million in cash and toys.

Child's Play has been supported by gamers all over the country who also want to see a change in how the world looks at gamers.

Colleen Hannon, a.k.a. "Mommager," writes for online gaming website gamedad.com and also works for Child's Play. She said the gaming culture has changed for the better in recent years.

"One way gaming has developed and grown is that it used to be a source of isolation — hun-

king down in your basement — but now you go, 'Wow, there are 7 million people out there gaming with each other. ... It's a way of connecting and interacting.'"

Also, Hannon said, the populous of gamers has become far more diverse than in earlier years.

"Mostly it was the high tech, stereotypical geeks — the guys in 1991 who owned a computer. ... Now the jocks are gaming, the preps are gaming, it's more of a universal spread."

Video gaming in her own family has been a positive way to share a common interest with her kids and keep in touch, she said.

"As far as with the family you have to have something to talk about, especially as the kids get older," she said. "I have a 19 year-old son who will sit down and play a game with my 15-year-old daughter — that just doesn't happen otherwise."

what you CAN DO

"If you look at our events page you will see most are on-campus activities," said Kristin Lindsay, a member of the Child's Play staff.

"Fraternalities and clubs and other campus groups are our biggest supporters in doing fundraisers."

"Students are Child Play's most active supporters," Lindsay said. "We are really appreciative of them."

They feel a great civic responsibility to create awareness about gamer image, she said, and because they are often socially active in their university they have the ability and connections to make a difference.

"Students don't have a lot of money, that's never

going to change," Lindsay said, "but college students have been great heralds of that. ... There are free ways that they can encourage someone who does have the money to donate."

If you would like to give a toy to a sick child this Christmas, go to www.childsplaycharity.org to select a hospital from anywhere on the map. Select items such as books, CDs and video games from each hospital's wish list and order it right there through Amazon.com. The gift can be shipped directly to the hospital.

Or give a cash donation through PayPal or send it to the Child's Play headquarters. Cash gifts will benefit all Child's Play hospitals.



Courtesy Photo

Bhuwan Chand shot to fame in 1964 for her role in "Aama," Nepal's first movie. Chand played Sani, the female protagonist.

NEPAL from page A1

careers. Michael says this model, not common in Nepal, was one he experienced while working outside the country.

"Ever since I went to Germany and saw the lifestyle, I knew this (in Nepal) was wrong," he says.

So, while Bhuwan worked on films, Michael stayed home and took care of the children.

"I did the most menial work that other husbands wouldn't do," he said, "but it showed my dedication and love. ... I saw it as my duty, and accepted it."

With her husband to support her, Bhuwan says she hasn't faced any conflict with her career and family life and that life feels normal.

"The lifestyle was quite normal," Bhuwan said, "but the media was, and is, always there."

In fact, the very day the Chands left Nepal to come to Idaho, the headline "Nepal's first actress tours the U.S." ran in the "Nepal Samacharpatra" and described the graduation of her daughter as the reason for the trip.

Though the Chand family enjoys the good life, they haven't forgotten where they came from and they want their daughters to understand what it means to work for a living.

"The most important thing is that they should see the world a bit and see what life is really like," Bhuwan said.

While going through the procedures to send their daughters to the United States, the embassy required documents describing why they wanted to come to the United States.

"I wrote a statement that said I am sending my daughter to the U.S. not to earn money, not to have an outstanding living or drive in smooth cars," Michael said. "They are coming to America to steal something. They should steal a good education and come back with it."

So how did the Chand family select Moscow, or even know where it is on the map?

"UI is well known in Nepal for its quality of education," Michael said. "Saan College in Katmandu has a direct link with UI and Sheela came through that program."

Sheela also applied to California State University but wanted to come to UI to be with a friend.

The life at UI has provided many challenges for the two sisters who have worked to provide for themselves far from home and family, but they say it has paid off.

"Life isn't about fun and living a dream or building castles in the sky," Sheela said. "My first semester here I was like, 'do you hate me or something?' But now I've matured and I'm glad they sent me."

"When I look at a dollar and say, 'That's my money,' it feels good," says Sheela, "I never would have learned these things in Nepal."

Bhuwan and Michael are proud of their daughters' efforts to carve out a life for themselves in Moscow.

"My first impression was that maybe they had

december 2006 GRADUATION

Ceremony and reception information:

The Processional will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Kibbie-ASUI Activity Center.

All degree candidates are asked to meet with their respective colleges on the east end of the Kibbie-ASUI Activity Center floor at 12 p.m. to start line-up procedures and receive instructions.

The President's Reception will be held immediately following commencement on the northeast end of the Kibbie Dome floor. Family, friends and faculty are invited to enjoy refreshments with President Tim White and the new graduates. College banners designate gathering areas and provide photo opportunities.

a very modest living now," Michael said, "But we came and I am overwhelmed with how they are living ... so I said, 'Children, well done.'"

Sheela will graduate Saturday with her bachelor's degree in business finance and marketing.

RU 4 Real?



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WWII internment camps protected with bill

By David Whitney
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Congress completed action Tuesday on legislation to preserve and protect the remnants of one of the darkest chapters in American history: the internment camps and gathering centers that were used in the roundup and forced detention of Japanese American citizens during World War II.

The voice vote in the House of Representatives came two days short of the 65th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. That tragedy stirred such fear and anger in the United States that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 three months later, ordering the roundup. The Supreme Court later upheld the directive on the grounds of "pressing public necessity."

Congress issued a formal apology in 1988 and offered \$20,000 apiece in compensation to the survivors of the camps, who lost their freedom and property without any formal legal

proceedings. Lesser numbers of Alaska Natives, Germans and Italians also were ordered detained.

On the West Coast, the Japanese Americans drew a strong public reaction. They were removed from their homes with very few possessions, taken to processing centers and transported to the internment camps, in remote corners of seven states, where they lived behind barbed-wire fences for most of the war.

Ten relocation centers were built to house them, and two — Manzanar and Minidoka — have been turned over to the National Park Service. With money from the legislation, what remains of the others can be restored and operated by local sponsors to keep the memory of the camps alive. President Bush is expected to sign the bill.

"By preserving these sites we will be demonstrating our commitment to equal treatment under the law," said Rep. Michael Honda, D-Calif., who spent time as a child in the Granada War Relocation Center near Amache, Colo.

The legislation authorizes up to \$38 million in federal grants to help preserve the camps and gathering centers. The money must be matched by local communities. It can be used to buy land, restore what remains of the centers and construct interpretive centers.

The chief author of the legislation is Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., who choked with tears last November when the measure first came to the floor and passed, also on a voice vote. Thomas, the stern and acerbic chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, is retiring, and his bill could be his final legislative victory after 28 years in the House.

"The understanding of this period in our history is essential," Thomas declared. "It has to do with the fundamental rights even of native-born citizens in a time of war."

Thomas' interest in the plight of the Japanese Americans at the camps dates back to his service in the California legislature, when he roomed with former state Sen. Floyd Mori, who's now the acting head of

locations of CAMPs

JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT CAMPS:
Manzanar (California)
Tule Lake (California)
Poston (Arizona)
Gila River (Arizona)
Granada (Colorado)
Heart Mountain (Wyoming)
Minidoka (Idaho)
Topaz (Utah)
Rohwer (Arkansas)
Jerome (Arkansas)
Source: War Relocation Authority

the Japanese American Citizens League.

Honda praised Thomas for his "passionate dedication" to preserving the sites, saying the Japanese American community "is overjoyed to be part of the final act of your illustrious career in Congress."

An estimated 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans were rounded up under the executive order. Almost

two-thirds of them were U.S. citizens. Many never recovered their confiscated property.

"The internment of thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II is a painful part of our nation's past," said Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Calif. "The memories of the time when so many innocent Americans spent in stark and isolated camps continue to resonate today."

Matsui was born in the Poston Relocation Center in Arizona, where her parents met while in confinement. Her late husband, Rep. Robert Matsui, had spent a brief period in California's Tule Lake War Relocation Center near the Oregon border before being moved to an Idaho camp. Tule Lake was the center where the most troublesome detainees were sent, many simply because they refused to sign loyalty pledges.

"Let us pass it today so that those who come after us will know of the places where their ancestors struggled for freedom in the country that they loved," said Matsui, a co-sponsor and leading proponent of Thomas' bill.

Ohio adopts one of the strictest anti-smoking laws in the country

By Tim Jones
Chicago Tribune

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Smoking in Ohio is about to undergo a major change.

Starting Thursday, forget about smoking in Ohio bars, restaurants, bingo halls and private clubs. Even the last bastions of smoke-filled heaven, bowling alleys, will be off-limits for smokers. Ashtrays have effectively been outlawed.

This is the thrust of one of the toughest anti-smoking laws in the nation, approved by voters last month, making Ohio the first state in the Midwest to go smoke-free and the first tobacco-produc-

ing state to enact such a ban.

But the practical effect of the new law may reach far beyond Ohio. Supporters of smoking prohibitions in the workplace and entertainment facilities see the vote in Ohio as a possible tipping point, an indication that years of resistance to smoking restrictions in the so-called Heartland have been futile and that other states may follow.

"If Ohio can do it, any state in the country can do it," said Shelly Kiser of the American Lung Association of Ohio. "This movement is not going to stop here."

While that is only a prediction, there is growing evidence that the decade's old

anti-smoking campaign has gained new footing nationwide. Eighteen states — mostly in the northeast and west — currently have smoking bans, and three more were added as a result of public votes last month in Arizona, Nevada and Ohio.

Significantly, voters in Arizona, Nevada and Ohio rejected competing Nov. 7 ballot measures backed by the tobacco industry that were intended to weaken or negate the proposed smoking bans. In Ohio, 58 percent of voters approved the statewide ban, while only 35 percent endorsed a competing tobacco-friendly measure backed by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

"I think Ohio is a beachhead in the Midwest and a bellwether in the country," said Daniel Smith, president of the American Cancer Society's Action Network, which organizes legislative activities to pass smoke-free laws. "If you're smoke-free in the heart of the country, that suggests there is growing acceptance of the movement."

Hawaii went smoke-free on Nov. 16. Nevada's smoking ban will go into effect Friday and Louisiana's ban on workplace and restaurant smoking will be enacted Jan. 1. Arizona's ban takes effect May 1.

"I never thought I'd see the

day," said Vickie Thompson, co-owner with her husband Ralph of Brown's Grill and Bowling Lanes in Cleveland. The six-lane bowling alley has been in continuous operation since 1912 and is one of the oldest in the nation.

"I figure 60 percent of our customers smoke," said Thompson, adding she is not sure how to accommodate the smokers. "I expect there to be a little bit of fall-off (in business) but what are you going to do? It's not as if you can go down the street. We're all in this together."

For the next several months, the Ohio law will be kind of a work-in-progress because specific rules imple-

menting the new law are being developed and will be in place no later than June 7. However, the intent of the law is clear. Nearly every business in the state will be a smoke-free workplace and is required to post no-smoking signs. Beyond private residences and free-standing retail tobacco stores, there are few exemptions.

Employers and operators of a public place or place of employment may not allow smoking outside of their buildings or in areas that are directly under their control. They have to make sure that tobacco smoke does not waft into entrances, windows or ventilation systems, the law says.

In New York state, which went smoke-free in 2003, smoking bans resulted in more people smoking on sidewalks.

"We're going to follow up on complaints," said Kristopher Weiss, spokesman for the Ohio Department of Health. First-time violators will receive a letter of warning. Subsequent infractions can result in fines ranging from \$100 to \$2,500 per violation, the law says.

Thousands of restaurants are preparing for the new law, according to the Ohio Restaurant Association.

"We expect our members to abide by the law," said Mark Glasper, the association's spokesman. "There won't be any smoking and there won't be any ashtrays inside, and we'll have the international no-smoking sign posted."

Glasper said it's difficult to project the impact of the ban, but he did not seem worried.

"I expect the public to go out and eat," he said, "whether they can smoke or not."

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Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

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Conni Jeannette Carson
Kevin Joseph Church
Ryan K. Dobler
Sarah Eileen Haddock
Holly Catherine Jacobson

Doctor of Philosophy

Micheal John Aldape
Joshua Rennie Branen
Kyle Rosenke
Haiqing Sheng

Master of Science

Pranesh Narayanaswami

UI: Class of 2006

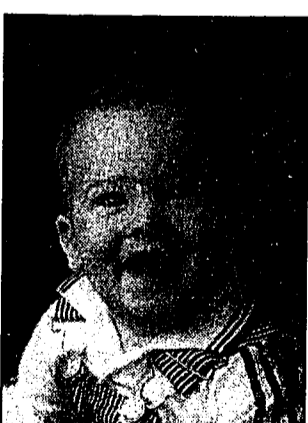


Amy E.
Steele

You are a dynamic woman whose choices are limitless. God bless you on your next challenge.

Love,
Mom & Dad

UI: Class of 2006

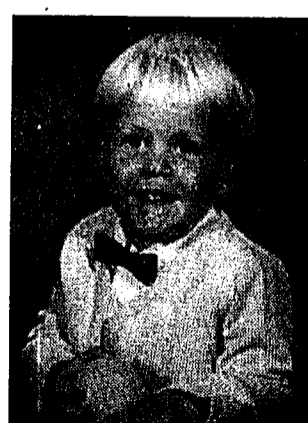


Cody James
Horsefeathers
McKee

What a fete! Your accomplishments amaze us, as you always have. We are extremely proud!

With love and
God's Blessings,
Mom, Dad
& Family

UI: Class of 2006



Don
Bloomquist

Congratulations!
The world needs engineers like you. We're proud of your UI success and achievements.

Love always,
Mom and Dad

UI: Class of 2006



Lindsey
Rose
Avelar

Lindsey Rose —
We are so proud of you. You did it!

Love,
Dad and Lisa

UI: Class of 2006

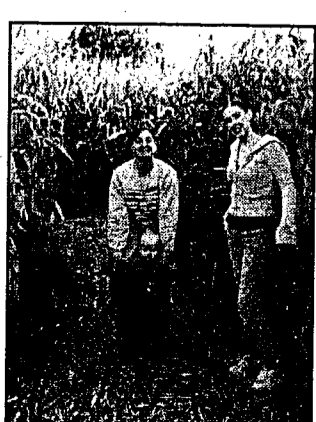


Matthew
Albert
Bell

Wow a B.S. in Computer Science!!!
Way to go!!!
Congratulations, you did it!

Love you,
Mom, Dad,
Lindsey,
Christie, Kelley

UI: Class of 2006



Nancy
Haack

We are so proud of you!

With love from
your family,
Annette, Jennifer
& Devon (and
Erick up in
Heaven)

Supreme Court agrees to hear 'Bong Hits 4 Jesus' case

By Stephen Henderson
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — It was a high school prank that surely got laughs but quickly drew the ire of a Juneau, Alaska, principal.

Joseph Frederick's "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" banner also inspired a constitutional argument, however, and the Supreme Court will decide whether the school's principal violated his rights when she suspended him for two weeks after he unfurled the message at a school-sponsored event.

It's a case that plunges the justices back into a familiar exercise in careful line-drawing, one that asks them to define the boundaries between student free speech and educational order.

The principal "was enforcing a school policy against displaying messages that promote illegal substances," lawyers for the Juneau school district wrote in their brief to the high court. The district's lead lawyer is Kenneth Starr, the former

federal judge who investigated President Clinton during the Whitewater scandal.

"For that entirely appropriate action, she faces the potential for ruinous liability," the brief continued.

A federal appeals court in California ruled earlier this year that Frederick was entitled to go ahead with his suit, reversing a lower-court decision that had dismissed his complaint.

The National School Boards Association and several anti-drug advocates are backing the principal, Deborah Morse, and the Juneau school district. They want Frederick's suit dismissed.

"The question comes down to whether a school may, in the absence of concern about disruption of educational activities, punish and censor non-disruptive, off-campus speech by students during school-

authorized activities because the speech promotes a social message contrary to the one favored by the school," wrote 9th U.S. Circuit Court

of Appeals Judge Andrew J. Kleinfeld.

"The answer under controlling, long-existing precedent is plainly 'No.'"

The case began in early 2002, when students at Frederick's school were excused from class to watch the Olympic torch pass by on its way to Salt Lake City.

As the torch passed, Frederick and some friends revealed a large banner with "Bong Hits 4 Jesus" on it. The banner was caught by television cameras at the event.

Morse confronted Frederick, asking him to put down the banner. When he resisted, saying he had a First Amendment right to display the message, she confiscated it and later suspended him for defying her and for having the banner.

Frederick appealed the suspension through the school system, then sued when his efforts were turned away.

The 9th Circuit opinion said the school's actions violated Tinker v. Des Moines Independent

Community School District, a landmark 1969 Supreme Court decision that permitted schools to censor student speech only if it interfered with school operations. That ruling prohibits schools from quashing messages that merely conflict with school policy.

But other rulings permit schools to censor student speech when it's obscene or lewd, or can reasonably be perceived as school-sponsored because it takes place at a school event. The appeals court found that Frederick's sign met neither of those criteria.

The 9th Circuit also found that because the law in this area was well established and widely understood, Morse didn't have the personal immunity that most government officials receive when they act in an official capacity. She could be sued personally, the court said.

The high court will have to sort out several issues to decide the case.

The justices may need to decide what Frederick's sign actually meant. Was it an endorsement of

illegal drug use? Or was it a political message? Was it harmless?

The 9th Circuit concluded that the sign "may be funny, stupid or insulting" but wasn't offensive.

Starr, in his brief to the court, said the 9th Circuit got it wrong. The sign did carry a pro-drug message, and the lower court's acceptance of it "renders long-standing, common-place policies against pro-drug messages unenforceable."

The high court also will have to determine how disruptive Frederick's banner was.

Was it tantamount to wearing a T-shirt with a pro-drug message to a pep rally? Or was the torch-watching event sufficiently unrelated to school activity that Frederick was free to display any message without it being associated with the school?

The court is expected to hear arguments in Frederick's case as early as February. A decision should come by the end of June.

Joseph Frederick's is a former University of Idaho student.

Scientists find possibility of recent water flows on Mars

By Mark K. Matthews
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Recent changes on the surface of Mars resemble the effects of a flash flood, researchers said Wednesday, raising the likelihood that there is water bubbling up to the surface of the red planet.

The findings offer hope that Earth's neighbor once supported life in some form — and still may.

"Life on Earth is very tenacious," said Ken Edgett, one of the scientists involved in the research. "On Mars, if life ever existed in water and the water has stayed liquid, then life also could be hanging out where

the water is."

Edgett and others analyzed a series of Mars photos taken between 1997 and 2006, looking for changes in the terrain. Among these nearly 100,000 images were two areas in southern Mars where they found new, but dry, water channels.

After comparing the sites to earlier pictures taken by the Mars Global Surveyor, the scientists concluded these new channels were carved out by the brief flow of liquid water, enough to fill as many as 10 swimming pools, they estimated.

It may not be a smoking gun, but "it's a squirting gun," said Edgett, who works for a

private company that contracts with NASA. The announcement at NASA headquarters coincides with an article on the findings in the journal Science.

Where the water originated is still unknown, although some scientists theorize that it spurted from underground reservoirs beneath the surface. Also unknown is how much liquid water is on Mars, and whether it would be acidic.

But astronomers were excited that the possibility could pave the way for more answers about the fourth planet from the Sun, especially because finding water increases the possibility of finding organisms similar to those on Earth.

"The source of this water is a wonderful scientific debate," said Phil Christensen, who researches interplanetary geology at Arizona State University.

While researchers Wednesday said they thought the water came from underground aquifers, some other scientists think it could have come from melted ice.

Liquid water on Mars has intrigued scientists since early astronomers first trained their telescopes on the red planet. Mars has ice caps similar to Earth, and it was believed the presence of ice at the poles hinted at unfrozen water elsewhere.

Mapping missions to Mars

during the 1970s revealed dry riverbeds on the surface — evidence the planet once had water above ground. Subsequent trips also confirmed that frost blanketed parts of Mars during its winter.

The search for water intensified in the early 2000s with visits by a new generation of spacecraft. In 2002, the Mars Odyssey, an orbiting science lab, used scanners to locate reservoirs of frozen ice just below Mars' surface.

Two years later, a robotic rover on the surface found rocks that scientists think were once covered in water. Tests of Mars' atmosphere have shown the presence of trace amounts of water vapor in the air too.

But evidence of liquid water has remained elusive.

"The Holy Grail for us has been modern, liquid water," said David Beaty, at top scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The California-based institute oversees robotic exploration.

Beaty said NASA could take a couple of steps to confirm the findings, which were made by Malin Space Science Systems. Among them would be the use of high-resolution cameras and a special radar that can detect the presence of shallow water.

However, NASA cannot send either of its Mars rovers to investigate. The terrain is too rough and potential water sites fall under strict, planetary protections — similar to a wildlife refuge.

The concern is that rovers could bring Earth bacteria to sites where Mars' organisms may live, potentially corrupting future data from these protected sites.

"Basically it means that (robot or human explorers) could discover bacteria from Florida, rather than Mars," said John Rummel, senior scientist for astro-biology for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

NASA has a method of disinfecting interplanetary equipment to prevent this contamination, but neither rover underwent this cleaning.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CONGRATULATES ITS FALL 2006 GRADUATES!

BSME	MEME
Danielle E. Ator	Elliott C. Boyd
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Ryan C. Capell	
Ryan B. Colver	
Nathan D. Cropper	
Jonathan D. Dumais	
Timothy D. Eddy	
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Jack L. Hompland	
Kameron K. McKeehan	
Timothy N. Miller	
Brandon J. Naddell	
Scott D. Nedrow	
Douglas M. Overholtzer	
Matthew M. Reznicek	
Jessica D. Sampson	
Vaughan A. Schiweck	
James Sessa	
Nicholas R. Tebbe	
Jason K. Thomas	
Joshua M. Werner	

MSME

Tina M. Klaisle
Isaac S. Kodavaty
Justin B. Lanier
Stanley B. Loughmiller
Guarav Madhok
Michael R. Maughan
Matthew J. B. Robson
Wesley T. Smith
David W. Willett

Congratulations!
FALL 2006

Bachelor of Arts

Jill Lynn Aiman	Rachel Marie Mulder
Andrea Star Arnold	Jennifer Lynn Ouellette
Kimberly Ann Bauer	Barbara Jean Sabo
Lucas John Brown	Jared J. Smith
Matthew Donald Haller	Kali Emma Smith
Russell A. Meine	Brien M. Steen
David Asa Morris	Dan Woods

Masters of Arts - TESL

Julie Elizabeth Baumgartner	Yu-Chen Guo
Ming Ming Chok	Emily Amanda Holzmer

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OurVIEW

Kudos for killing clusters

Six years after the creation of the Core Clusters program, the University of Idaho is willing to admit defeat.

The clusters were designed to force students to diversify their education. As freshmen, UI students choose a cluster of about 15 similarly themed courses (such as "Beyond the workplace," "Conflict in public and private life" and "Living in the global marketplace"), and have to take eight credits in it to fulfill part of their humanities requirements.

While a good idea in principle, the clusters have been ineffective, limiting student options instead of expanding them, confusing students and advisers about the system and its requirements and failing to build on the freshman Core Discovery program.

We applaud the Undergraduate Committee for General Education for making the effort to evaluate the Cluster program and change it.

The proposed changes eliminate the cumbersome clusters and give students more control over their education: Instead of being limited to 15 choices, students will have about 400 options to fulfill their general education requirements.

If this idea is approved, it will go into effect for fall 2008. And it should be approved.

While forcing students to choose a cluster that may hold little interest to them seems as if it is expanding their intellectual boundaries, what it is really doing is limiting students. Opening up the field allows students to diversify even more, learning multiple disciplines rather than just one. Plus, the simplified range of choices will make interpreting the online degree audit much easier.

As students, we are paying for our education and deserve the right to take whatever courses we desire, not be limited to a pre-selected cluster.

S.C.

Correction

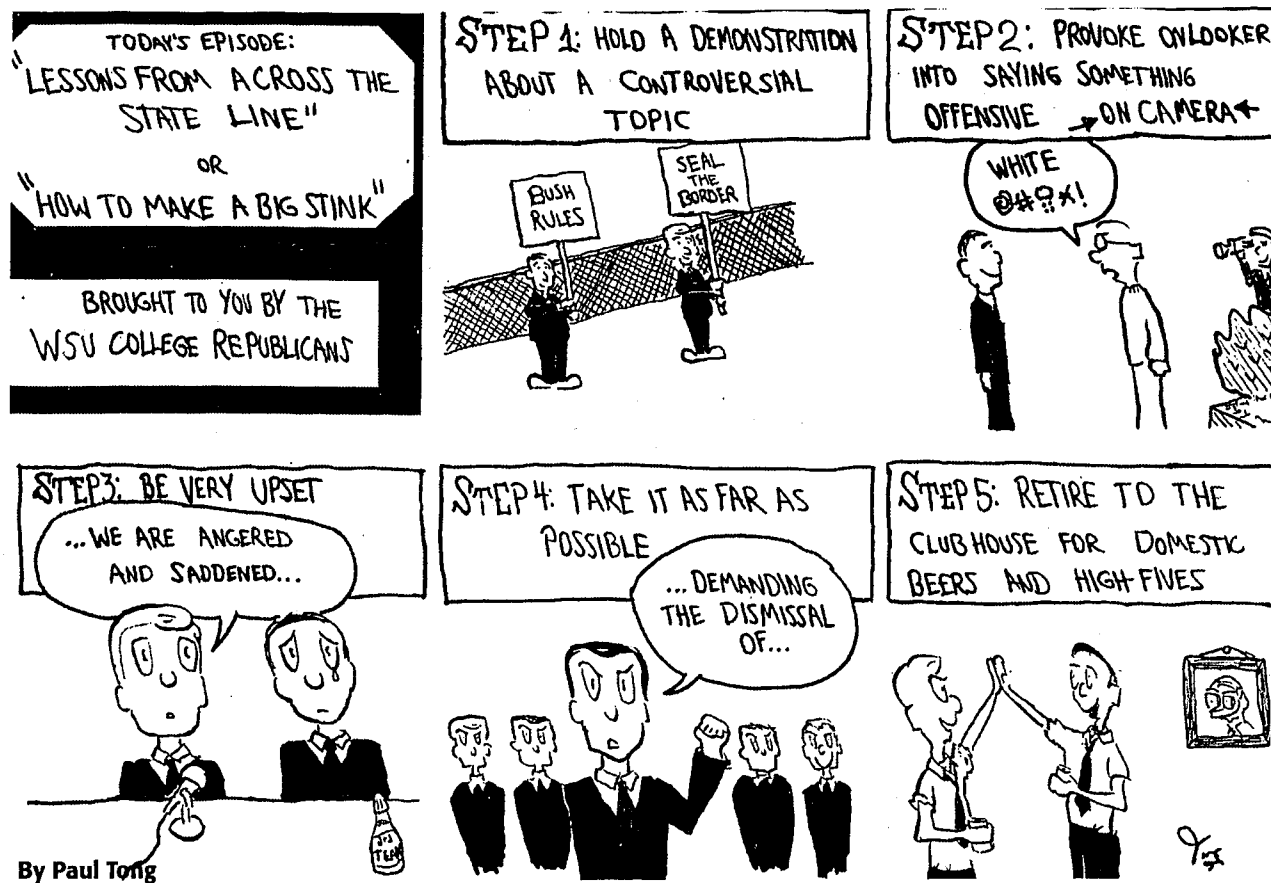
Tuesday's editorial, "Don't blame students for vote turnout," accused ASUI of not informing The Argonaut of the ASUI fall election in time and not providing its own candidate bios soon enough. The accusation was made due to inadequate communication within the Argonaut office, and we apologize for our role in the low turnout for the election.

**Are you opinionated?
Do you think your thoughts matter?**

Write a letter to the editor or guest column for The Argonaut!
Submit your letter or column to arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu.

Letters must be 300 words or less.

Let your voice be heard!



By Paul Tong

Euphemisation for the fatally deluded

Just so you know: Operation Enduring Freedom is staying the course as no timetable for a drawing out of our peacekeeping forces has been set. Except for strained rhetoric and sepia-toned Republican fantasies, there are a lot of differences between WWII and our current conflict in Iraq. One of these differences, a trend borrowed from Vietnam, a much more comparable "police action," is a commitment to euphemizing the realities of war. This is sometimes referred to as "lying" by the layman.

The obnoxious habit of sugar-coating trauma isn't the only thing borrowed from Nam either. Bush is actually going to Henry Kissinger for advice, the term "Domino Effect" was dusted off and trotted out, and maybe most importantly, it's a hellish and unnecessary guerrilla clash between American armed forces and an indigenous population that is REALLY pissed off. At first, I couldn't understand why the Bush administration was seemingly going out of its way to link Iraq and Vietnam, but now I've developed a theory. You'd have to ask a Freudian about this (if you can trust them, I'm having trust issues after the crap my shrink said about the banana-cigar dream I had) but my suspicion is that the Bushies are honestly attempting some sort of jingoistic, muddled attempt at some kind of meta-revisionism or re-creation in an attempt to salve the sting off our burn in Southeast Asia. "We'll get 'em this time, boys." Now, a document written by Rumsfeld (shortly before he was unceremoniously dumped on his Rove) regarding our Iraqi options has been "leaked" to the press. In an old-school shout-out to LBJ (word) the leaked Rummy-report paints a much brighter picture of the situation than is accurate,

an application of rhetorical concealer that will hopefully hide the black eye (which I call a "Raq Eye").

The document is indicative of the impending right-wing flip-flop concerning our accomplished mission of liberation. Apparently, the U.S. strategy we tried out (was that "Shock and Awe" or "Enduring Freedom"?) was "not working well or fast enough" and "needed a major adjustment." Staying the course, however that is accomplished, has now fallen out of favor among Republicans. Rumsfeld proposes "drawing down" most of the coalition forces. Thank God he didn't say "withdrawal" as that would be cut and run rather than stay the course, which is unpatriotic. He also suggests punishing "bad behavior" in Iraqi provinces by cutting their reconstruction funds and troop numbers. So Joe Q. Iraqi in Karballah better make darn sure that there's no bad behavior being perpetrated by some naughty sectarian death squad in his neighborhood or he will have to go to bed without dinner, by God. Or maybe shelter too, or anyone guarding him from the roving gangs of whatever his ethnic subgroup isn't. The gist of the report was that American troops should begin drawing down and handing sovereignty over to the "fledgling" Iraqi forces.

This, of course, does raise a couple of awkward questions: So now that 3,000 Iraqis are dying every month (lucky them, that's like twelve 9-11s each year! They must feel very patriotic) due to our obliteration of the one reasonably stable, secular infrastructure in the Middle East, we're going to hand the rule of this hellscape to a green and volatile non-government? What was accomplished again? Oh yeah, we got rid

of all those weapons of mass destruction that Saddam could have strapped to his scud-ICBMs and launched at us had we not pre-emptively struck him.

The non-set, shifted-strategy timetable for drawing down and the handing over of liberation will ensure that America does not "lose" this war, according to Rummy. As support for the war stays the course on its downward spiral, many right-wingers are feeling the pinch and conciliatory-ness has become the order of the day. Bill O'Reilly pointed out that if the Iraqis refuse to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and just knock that genocide and civil war crap off we'll be left with no other options but bailing and leaving them to it. Serves them right, ungrateful Iraqis.

Rumsfeld's replacement, Robert Gates, is very popular with the Democrats (with only Rick Santorum and some other Republican lame-o voting against him), the recently released Iraqi assessment report helmed by Bush-buddy and fellow AWOL-er James Baker makes it perfectly clear that our only doable option at this point is withdrawal and now even the White House is beginning to pretend that all this troop-removal talk is "not a repudiation" of their Iraq plan. I swear to God, they're saying that now. Despite the obvious bifurcation of tongues they're afflicted with, drawing down being wormed into their strategy is good news, in a really sad sort of way. Since "stay the course" lost its magic dash of patented Bush steadfastness and the goal changed in October to "winning" the Iraq war, the power transfer is considered victory. Wow, close one, dodged a bullet there. So don't fret remaining alive citizens of Iraq, we are well on our way to winning the war and handing power over to some faction or another; still, you'd better hope that you're part of it.



Frank McGovern
Columnist
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

It isn't used, it's previously owned

Right here is where you are expecting me to go off a tirade about the bookstore and how they only wanted to give you \$5 for the book you bought in August for \$50.

I have some news for you. The bookstore is not your enemy.

I have a unique perspective on this. I used to work for a campus bookstore back in the days when having a "real job" was a priority. I was also a student at the same time.

Twice a semester, the voices of rage and turmoil rained down upon my sensitive ears, attempting to destroy the pleasure of ending one semester or beginning a new one.

Twice a year, I heard every synonym for crook you could think of. "You charge too much!" "You don't give back enough." "You #%&\$ing liar, you told me they were using the same book next term!"

Yes, I heard it all. Bookstore employees learn fast to be nice to

people who aren't being very nice to them. Especially this time of year, when students are trying to sell back books.

I have a question for all of you out there, reading this on your way to trade in some books for cash. How many businesses do you know actively attempt to give you money back for something you bought four months ago? How many profit-oriented organizations do you know of that want to buy something from you that you highlighted, dog-eared and spilled coffee on?

Think about that for a moment. To be fair — and I'm all about fair — bookstores do make a larger profit from selling used books. On average, they will purchase back a book for 50 percent of the current value. If you bought a used book and are selling that back, you get 50 percent of current used-book value, not the new book value.

The store then sells the book they bought from you for 25 percent less than the current new book price.



T.J. Tranchell
Staff writer
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Isn't math fun?

If you aren't a math major (more specifically, if you are an English major like me and barely made it out of "math for life") ask your math friends to do the equation for you.

Bookstores do make a profit. That is what they are designed to do. The bookstore, however, is not your real enemy.

The real enemy, if you don't know already, is the publishing business. They make the most money. More than the stores, more than the textbook authors.

You want something to get really mad about? Guess where some of that profit goes?

Ask your professors if they can name the last time they paid for a textbook used in class.

If they said, "When I was a student," congratulations. You at least have an honest instructor.

If the answers aren't quite like that, well, we are here to learn, aren't we?

As my old boss at the bookstore used to say, "If they don't ask questions, don't offer to explain."

Off the CUFF

Our editors tell Santa what they want for Christmas this year

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year, and unless you look out in the woodshed, you can't find anyone who would say otherwise. For Christmas, all I want is a Red Ryder BB Gun. Unless that would trap me in a bizarre family classic where I'll have to freeze my tongue to a pole, in which case I'll settle for money for a car.

- Nate

Dear Santa,

As easily cliché as it would be to ask you for peace on earth and goodwill toward men, I'd rather have a couch and a box full of \$100s. However, realizing that a couch would be a difficult thing to slide down my non-existent chimney, this year I would be satisfied to receive an anonymous donation to my bank account. You know, and if you've got the time, that peace on earth thing...

- Savannah

Dear Santa,

This might sound entirely cheesy, but all I want for the holidays is to be able to spend lots of time with my family, having a good time. In a (for the most part) warm place (most likely in the rocking chair in front of the fire (reading a book)). That's pretty much all I need to be happy.

- Miranda

Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year, I would really like a very small polar bear. Not a baby polar bear — I mean a tiny facsimile of a full-grown bear. Maybe about the size of a badger. And the bear should have pointy teeth but not so pointy that it will hurt if it bites me.

- Tara

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is three weeks off from school, two plane tickets to Italy and a partridge in a pear tree.

- Cynthia

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas this year is enough money to survive the break. When I leave Moscow I will have about \$75 in my pocket and that's before gas and gifts for my family. So unless I can magically come up with some odd jobs over the break I'm pretty much screwed.

- Ryli

Dear Santa,

Even with your twinkly eyes, dimply cheeks and little belly that looks like a bowl full of jelly, I have my doubts. I've been hearing lately that you might not actually be real. So prove it! And bring everything on my list:

Coal — just to see if you have the balls to do it.

Pretzels — because everyone in the office eats mine.

Dennis Erickson — please don't let him go. We love him.

Thanks dude!

- Mackenzie

Dear Santa,

I used to make fun of my mother's Christmas wish list. I couldn't comprehend why she'd ask for boring things like Salad Shooters and vacuum cleaners when she could get awesome presents like video games or toys.

Now that I'm older, however, I find myself asking for equally domestic (and equally boring) gifts like crock pots and sewing machines. I'm becoming my mother.

Christmas just isn't as exciting anymore now that I'm getting old.

- Melissa

Dear Santa,

For the winter-gift-holiday this year, I'd like to forgo the usual request for peace on earth, a clean-burning fossil fuel alternative and every Nerf product ever made. If you could somehow swing it so that everyone who's hyped up about campus politics, the word "boob," and IBC laptops could see past that to how unique and awesome our little college town is and still have an awesome holiday season, that would be sweet.

- Alec

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.

The quote board

In the spirit of Christmas and good humor, (and for your general amusement), we bring you the official Argonaut Quote Board, quotable little tidbits from our editors, adviser and staff.

On food:

"I would pretty much sell my children for cheesecake." - Tara
 "I would kill someone in front of their mother for cheesecake." - Nick
 "I don't have that face covering, I might have to get a baklava." - Nick on winter attire
 "I want a bagel. I want carbs. I want extra padding around my middle for the winter." - Tara
 "It's coming out the butt, not the top." - Carissa, about a malfunctioning taco
 "I'm going to get a steak the size of a small baby." - Carissa

On animals:

"This jungle is so circular!" - Alec, regarding animals in zoos
 "Monkeys could do math if you had a lot of them." - Miranda
 "Did you know that grizzly bears and polar bears are mating in the wild now? Grizzly bears I like to call them. So we're pretty much screwed." - Alec
 "I love hairless kitties! They're so soft, it's like petting peaches." - Tara
 "If I were a cow, I'd be grazing right now." - Shawn O'Neal, pacing in Denver International Airport

On sex:

"Miranda's trying to enter you!" - Tara to Carissa regarding hotel keys
 "I'm going to kick you in the vagina." - Miranda
 "I haven't coupled in a while." - Savannah about layout
 "Miranda's got an oral fixation. Pass it on." - Tara
 "He won't know it's misogyny." - Shawn, regarding his young son and a Hooter's T-Shirt

"Peace on Earth. Peace on my boobs, actually." - Tara discussing her T-shirt
 "It's not somebody's weewee. It's art." - Melissa
 "Do you think I should strip?" - Cynthia discussing page layout with Nate
 "Because no one's going to put a bomb in lube!" - Tara contemplating airline regulations
 "Did it raise awareness about prosthetic airline breasts?" - Nate, also on airline regulations

On life:

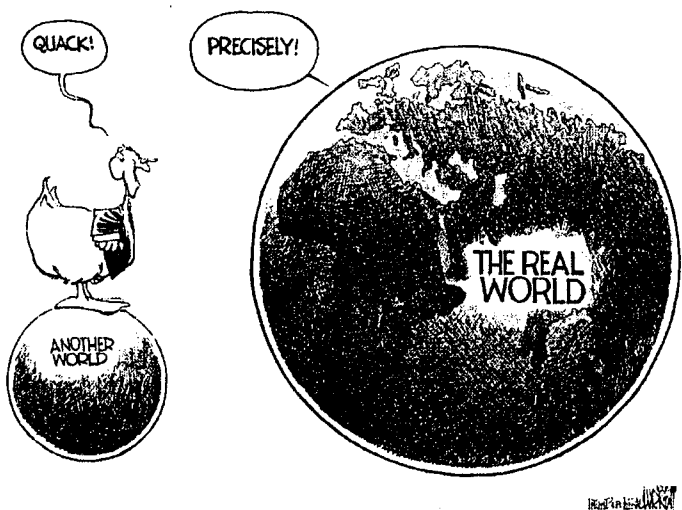
"I'm just going to blow a hole in my head so all the snot will run out of my head." - Mackenzie, while sick
 "You're the Dick Cheney to my George W. Bush." - Tara to Nate
 "I've got headphones that will take me to another world!" - Joel
 "Is butt-load one word?" - Mackenzie
 "It's embarrassing how nerdy we are." - Alec, after a College Bowl victory

On style:

"If a b-y gay man isn't selling me my cosmetics, I just don't feel comfortable." - Ryli
 "What I need is a good make-up remover. When the weekend's over, it's over, you know what I'm saying?" - Alec
 "Your pants are so functional!" - Melissa to Mackenzie
 "I love eye patches so much. I don't like, want to lose an eye, but I totally want an eye patch." - Ryli

WTF?:

"I just want a little girl smoking a cigarette!" - Mackenzie
 "I look at her lips and I think they came from her ass." - Shawn O'Neal, on Angelina Jolie
 "I will cut people's feet off. And then I'll leave ... Feet aren't that important." - Miranda



Bad advising is a two-way street

By Karen Gillespie
 Guest column

I appreciate that there is publicity regarding advising, however, it was frustrating to read all of the negative press in the "Stopping the poor advising" article Tuesday. This article implied that all advising at the University of Idaho is poor. It did not mention any of the positive aspects of advising here on campus.

Successful advising requires a responsible joint effort between the student and the adviser. Advisers need to stay current with degree-related curriculum, core requirements and professional advising issues. Students need to realize that accountability does not lie with their advisers alone and that they should also take advantage of other UI resources.

Advisers have many students to be responsible for, while students have only their own welfare to look out for. Students need to be proactive by reviewing their degree audit and curriculum requirements before meeting with their adviser. Then, this information can be reviewed during their advising appointment. By coming to an appointment prepared there can be more time to discuss other issues, such as internship opportunities, job placement, study abroad possibilities and other issues.

Degree audit has proven to be a successful advising tool. Degree audit can be accessed from the student menu in Vandal Web. It lists the adviser's name, catalog year, grade point average and much more. This program tracks course progress and degree requirements throughout the duration of the student's academic career. All students should be aware that degree audit exists.

Another excellent resource on campus is the Academic Advising Center (ACC), which provides quality service for general academic curricular questions and encourages all students to become more knowledgeable and involved in planning their academic programs. ACC

advises general studies majors, but their doors are open to all faculty and students with general questions. ACC offers a variety of workshops for advisers and their staff is willing to make presentations to individual departments/colleges upon request. Apparently, this resource is not being taken full advantage of.

Furthermore, the university is providing a training tool for faculty, staff and students. In October, UI-ACADA (UI Academic Advising Association) hosted the third annual advising symposium, which students, faculty and advisers were encouraged to attend. The theme was "Tools of the Trade: Efficient and Productive Advising," and this event was very successful.

The presentations were designed to educate faculty, staff and students about current advising issues. Contacts were made with ASUI representatives and Argonaut staff members requesting an article that would feature the symposium and to promote attendance by both students and advisers on campus; no such article materialized. A student workshop entitled "How to Prepare for Your Advising Appointment" was scheduled for students. This workshop was offered at two different sessions and three students attended. Over 100 advisers from Washington, Oregon and Idaho attended, unfortunately attendance by UI faculty and students was minimal.

The symposium was funded by donations and off-campus registrations. ASUI was invited to join in sponsoring this event and was asked to participate in a poster session for advisers to share information about resources/activities for students. ASUI chose not to accept these invitations.

There is always room for improvement with any program. However, success depends upon all participants taking responsibility.

Karen Gillespie is an academic adviser in the College of Business and Economics.

MailBOX

Stop spreading recycling myths

On Nov. 15, I was invited by the University of Idaho Environmental Club to help celebrate National Recycle Day. Being the manager at Moscow Recycling I thought that this would be an excellent opportunity to help promote recycling and waste reduction on campus.

At one point, two students approached my table and said that one of their professors had told them in class that the materials that are dropped off at Moscow Recycling are just landfilled and that they were wasting their time when recycling. This was not the first time I heard this from students at UI. I reassured the students that this indeed was not the case, and when it was time to pack up and leave, I returned to Moscow Recycling and decided to address this issue by writing a letter to the editor of The Argonaut.

I don't consider myself a militant recycler. Recycling is a choice. I provide individuals with information so they can make educated decisions. I don't expect that every individual I speak with will decide to recycle.

I have found that people justify not recycling for many reasons. What I don't understand is how a university professor, who I would assume studies a topic before coming to a decision, would, knowingly or not, disseminate false information. If this professor wants to justify not recycling based on a false assumption, I really have no problem with that. What I do have a problem with is spreading a falsehood to students in a classroom environment.

I would be happy to meet with this professor and discuss the benefits of recycling and what exactly happens to materials dropped off at Moscow Recycling. Until that time, I would ask that this professor stop spreading an assumption that is blatantly false.

Andy Boyd
 Manager, Moscow Recycling

The importance of sustainable forestry

Some might have you believe that in order for us to "save" the forests we must leave them intact without human interference while still doing whatever we can to prevent or stop disturbances to the forests, including fires and insects that kill trees. This simply is not the case.

A disturbance is defined as the simultaneous destruction and creation of habitats.

Think of the reason why farmers burn sections of their land year after year. By burning the grass the nutrients are released back into the soil and the crops the following year will grow back faster; the same is true for forests.

Forests are being locked down by environmentalists preventing any harvesting, and as a result, they are growing thick and becoming almost claustrophobic by how close the trees are together. Fires are inevitable and when they occur in these thick, locked-down forests, they burn large sections fast.

The point I'm trying to make is that small forest fires are fine, and there are methods of tree harvesting that help the odds that a forest fire will burn out on its own without destroying hundreds of thousands of acres first. One of these methods is sustainable forestry — harvesting trees at or below the growth rate of a forest. There is no harm in this type of harvesting and an additional benefit is that lumber prices don't take a hit as much compared to locked-down forests.

Environmentalists should be concerned about the overall forest acreage decreasing and deforestation as a result of human interference, not the thinning of forests by harvesting through sustainable forestry.

Chris McKahan
 Junior, Econ. finance and info systems

Grad school worth the effort it takes

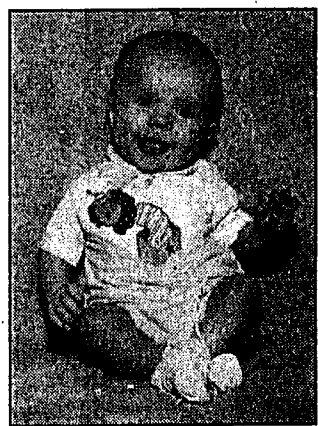
Savannah's Dec. 1 letter to The Argonaut (Off the Cuff, "I quit") indicated you had decided not to go to graduate school because you were intimidated by one of our current graduate students (Shannon).

Savannah, if it's hard it may be worth doing! Graduate school provides a wonderful opportunity to follow your passion and make real contributions.

You will undoubtedly make more money, too, although I don't think that is the best reason to go. Your letter also mentioned that not going to graduate school would save you a fortune in loans. Many graduate students obtain teaching or research assistantships, scholarships and fellowships to attend graduate school. Talk to your faculty members (they've been through it) or any of us at the College of Graduate Studies (Morrill Hall Room 104). We are always happy to meet with prospective graduate students.

Margrit von Braun
 Dean, College of Graduate Studies

UI: Class of 2006

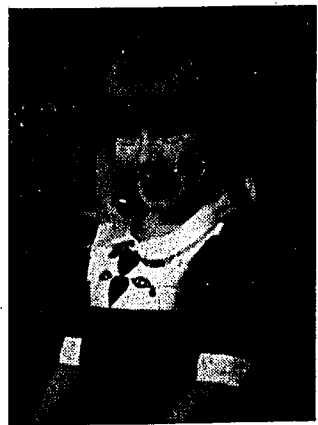


Robby Pierce

Yea! You did it! We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad and Lyndsay

UI: Class of 2006

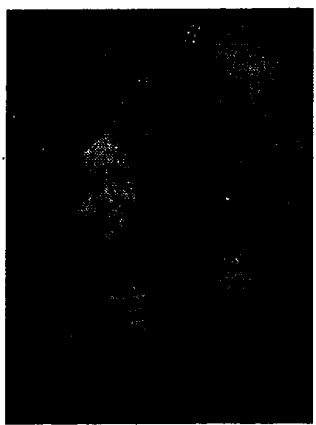


Sara Price

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

Love you, Your family

UI: Class of 2006



Robert Weiler II

Robert, To the little boy who grew up and followed his dream. Congratulations. I'm so proud of you.

Love, Mom

UI: Class of 2006



Sarah Allison Keller

So-Proud! "It takes an athlete to dance, but an artist to be a dancer."

Love you, Mom & Padre

UI: Class of 2006



Zacharia David Keeney Olson

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Grand Theft Playstation: Consoles inspire violence

Not to sound like an ass, but isn't it funny that all the unofficial censors of the world don't even have enough time to criticize the violence of new video games anymore when the consoles themselves are causing real death and injury?

The Playstation 3 and Nintendo Wii are out now and if you own one, hopefully you're packing more than the NES Duck Hunt gun at your edifice because there are people out there who would kill to touch your Wii ... or PS3.

What is this fascination with video games that would cause such deviant behavior in otherwise gentle gamers? The truth is, it's not really about the games, graphics or bragging rights with friends during D&D Friday, it's about cold, stinky Mr. Franklin Money.

When the PS3 came out, it could be purchased on eBay for up to \$1,800. With the supply limited due to the fast-approaching holiday season, people will actually purchase them. So, with this in mind, it must be a combination of demand and a criminal response to supply.

What is wrong with this world when the ambition to rise to the next level of slothful and unproductive entertainment warrants people being shot, stabbed and maybe even drowned and strangled to profit off of obsession?

There are those who are now proud owners of the Wii who would say that their system gives its user a real work-

out because they will stand and do sports games, etc. Can you imagine being beaten to death with a Wiimote while your friend's 3D character is flailing its right arm at a graphically artistic tree troll? It would be awesome, but illegal.

Surely the actual playing of the game will not incur violence in anyone. But there is always this hype for a new system that will drive people to riot. First, they will wait outside stores days in advance. Under bias, a day before really isn't bad anymore. Young and impressive, these people are

robbed with hundreds of dollars in their pockets to buy these systems. In some incidents on the wire, people

were shot for not relinquishing said dollars. Jesus Christ!

The fact that the Playstation 3 only initially released 175,000 consoles in the US, six in Moscow, would have something to do with this. That the PS3, which sells for \$499-\$599, could have a 260 percent increase and still sell on eBay because gamers would rather pay more than pay later is mind-blowing.

Ethical scenario: If on the day of its release, you saw a man bleeding to death and holding a PS3, would you: A) Call for help and hold his PS3 until the police arrive. B) Find a payphone and call the paramedics anonymously with an \$1,800 black box under your arm. C) Take the PS3 and let the guy take the ultimate "Game Over."

Scoring: A) You sucker. B) A busi-

nessman and humanitarian, how sickening. C) There isn't a word to describe how disturbed you are.

So, we can see where a PS3 would appeal to the deviant mind. That is why two Elk Grove, Calif., GameStop employees are being honored for their criminal pacifism today. These guys stole four PS3s and then reported them as having been stolen by armed robbers. They are currently being detained.

When the PS4 comes out in 2010, hopefully these eager shoppers who are dying for their entertainment will have the sense to wear a Kevlar vest and limit their deaths to a head shot, which will be worth 500 points on the future release of Playstation Slaughter, made possible by a corporation that encourages it if you're going to get it first.



Brandon Macz
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Why is race still an issue?

This week the Supreme Court will begin to hear arguments on one of the most important racial issues of yet: whether race can be a factor in determining where children go to public school.

The decision deals with the intersection of race and opportunity. Incidentally, it will affect millions of kids across the nation.

The cases are really just follow-up questions to a 2003 ruling regarding public education — how long will we need to make distinctions based on race and to what extent?

In 2003, the Supreme Court ruled that affirmative action could be used in determining law school admissions with the famous University of Michigan ruling. It said that an automatic advantage given to minority students with their admission applications is an acceptable policy for the school's admissions standards. The majority opinion found affirmative action to be constitutional and in the majority opinion, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that benefits flow from a diverse student body.

O'Connor's words and the

ruling of the Court said that in the context of education and opportunity, a distinction exists based on minority status alone.

When should we stop using race labels to structure our public schools? Right now.

To distinguish the ability of a person to excel by the color of their skin is an insult. Using a two-race system to make decisions regarding our public schools, like the system of schlepping kids across town in tomorrow's proceedings, is just as unconstitutional as segregation. The time to identify on the basis of race has eclipsed. If we continue to set up roadblocks on the basis skin color, we set ourselves back 30 years.

Fostering a racially-diverse student body with the intention of giving "everyone a fair shot" held for a while, but now it's over. The question of whether "minorities can do it" without any special treatment has a crystal-clear answer: Of course.

For 11 days in 2001, Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell ran our nation. Rice and Powell are two of the

sharpest diplomats ever to step foot in the White House. They are both black, but that makes no difference to the fact that they are two of the sharpest diplomats ever to step foot in the White House.

One of the wealthiest and most powerful women in America is being called a "racist." Ice Cube recently joined other Hollywood thugs and accused Oprah of snubbing black hip-hop stars by not inviting them on her show. The fact that Oprah doesn't allow these slouching hip-hop invalids on her program does not make her a racist. It makes her middle-aged.

As a nation, we have finished making distinctions based on race. We now make our distinctions based on accomplishment. Oprah reserves the right to determine who merits an appearance on her talk show. Condi



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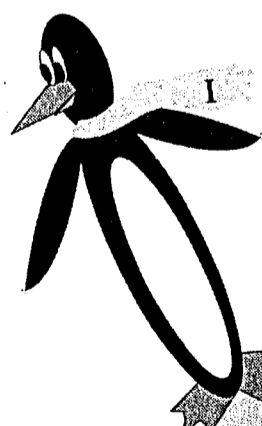
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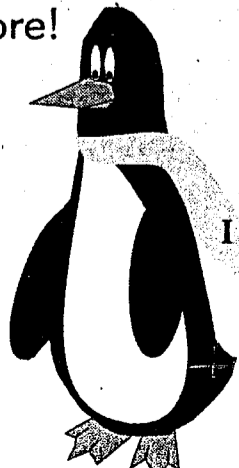
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'A story in dance' spreads cheer

see the SHOW

Festival Dance will perform "A Christmas Carol - A Story in Dance" at the University of Idaho Hartung Theatre for four performances: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16 and Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Festival Dance and Paradise CDs in Moscow. Prices are \$18 for adults, \$15 for students and \$12 for children under 12.

By Rebecca Bujko
Argonaut

Community members will have a chance to relax this holiday season by attending "A Christmas Carol - A Story in Dance," produced by Festival Dance and Performing Arts.

"If you are feeling the stress of Christmas, then you need to come and see the show to relax and see what Christmas is all about," said Cindy Barnhart, executive director of the production.

This will be the third year of the "Christmas Carol" production, which was also performed in 2003 and 2004.

"People should know we change it each year," said Micki Panttaja, the theatrical director of the show.

Panttaja said this year there is new music, new choreography and new parts that have been written in for the dancers. Panttaja has been a professional playwright for 20 years and is currently the marketing director of the UI Theater Department.

"I have to use everything I have learned in theater to do a show as large as Christmas Carol," Panttaja said.

Festival Dance's version of the story is somewhat different than most. Tiny Tim is replaced with Tiny Tess, a young girl, barely able to walk, who dreams of being a ballerina.

"It is such a wonderful twist on the story," Panttaja said.

There are more than 60 dancers and actors involved in this production ranging in age from 3 to 70. There are also more than 660 costume pieces that Barnhart said are of professional quality.

"There is a huge sense of pride that every last person in this production is local," said Barnhart.

Panttaja said since the story is told without words, the dancers have to find other ways to communicate. She said music and movement tell the story. Although the dancers don't speak there is a narrator who comes on stage during different scenes to update the plot.

"A lot of people think if there are no words, it is not clear what is going on," Barnhart said. "But if it is done well you can follow it."

Barnhart said one of her favorite scenes is in the toy shop where Katie Cole, a Moscow High School junior, plays a mechanical ballerina doll.

"She is so beautiful and her outfit is enchanting," said Barnhart.

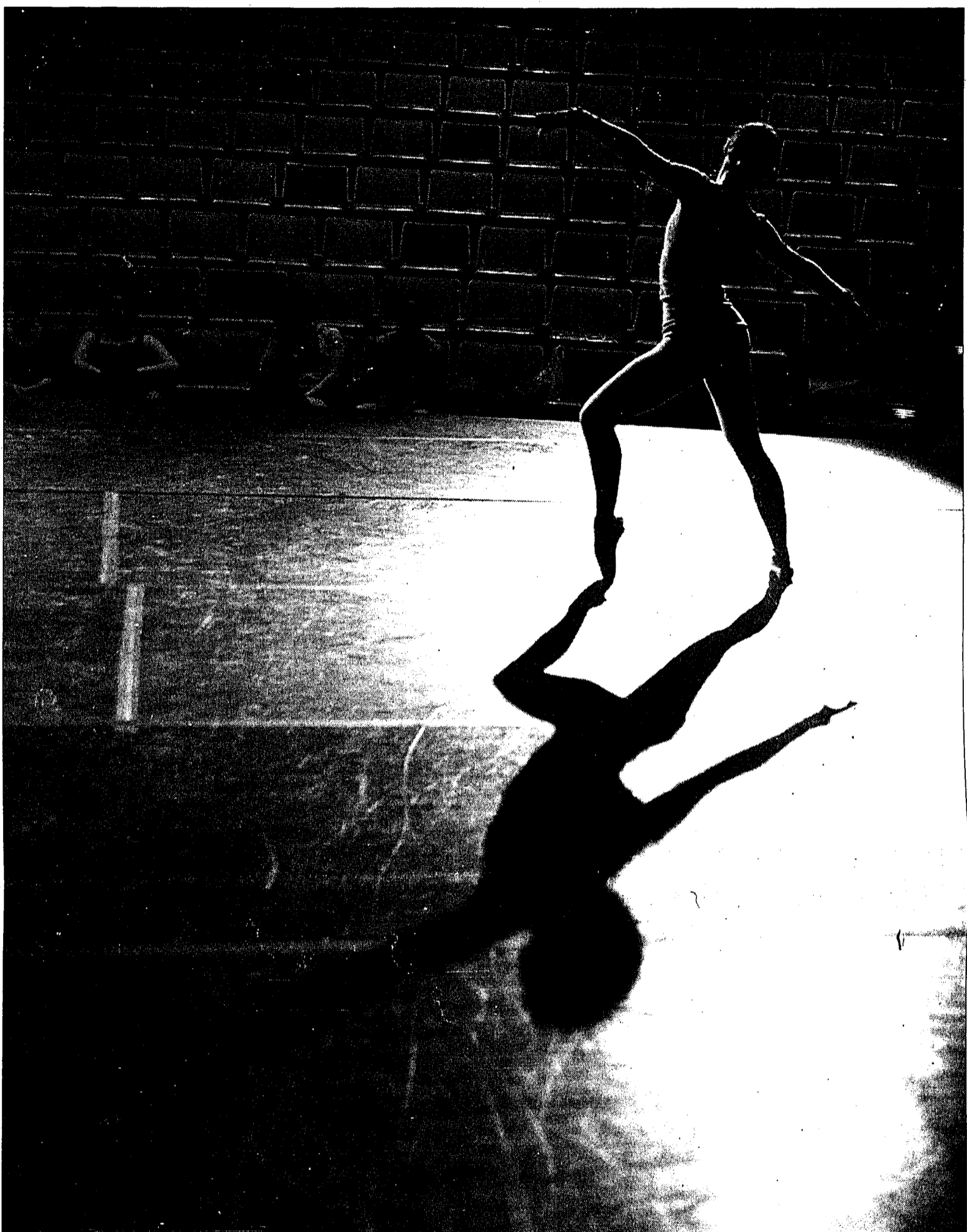
She said Cole comes across as a real mechanical ballerina doll.

"Since I am playing a doll it is hard not to use facial expressions," Cole said. "I enjoy getting really into a part and bringing out the little nuances in a character."

As a preview for the show there will be a "living" holiday display with live characters between 4:45 and 5:45 Saturday and from 5:30 to 6:30 Thursday in the Moscow Chamber window.

Panttaja said people should expect to see a truly great performance.

"It is incredibly uplifting to know that there is so much talent on the Palouse that we can put on a show of this magnitude with this many people," she said.



Moscow High School student Sarah Nielsen practices "The Angel" for the Festival Dance and Performing Arts production of "A Christmas Carol" Wednesday at the Hartung Theatre. The play runs Dec. 15-17. Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

New game consoles show their stuff

I said to myself: What a wonderful Wii

By Nate Poppino
Argonaut staff

Nintendo really has become the wacky, alcoholic uncle of the video game industry.

While other console-makers play it straight and narrow, focusing on graphics

REVIEW

Game Console

★★★★ 1/2 (of 5)

and becoming the media hub of your living rooms,

Nintendo seems bent on coming up with any new gimmicks it can to make its product different.

The company's newest console is a direct successor to the interactive approach it took with the DS, the handheld featuring a touch screen and stylus. The Wii, so named because Nintendo wanted a viral marketing campaign made up of confused gamers, features wireless, motion-sensitive controllers that can be used to mimic anything from swinging a baseball bat to firing a gun. Cheaper and with less of a visual punch than its competitors, Microsoft's Xbox 360 and Sony's PlayStation 3, Nintendo seems to be hoping that the

odd new controls will shift the market in its favor this holiday season. So far, it seems to be working, but whether that's just a byproduct of Sony's manufacturing problems remains to be seen.

Unless you've already stood in line for 24 hours in the cold, it's unlikely you've set hands on the Wii. But that doesn't mean you won't find one this holiday season. Here's what you can look forward to:

The system:

If you thought the GameCube, Nintendo's last console, was small, wait until you grab the Wii. The console itself only measures about 8.5 inches by 6 inches by 2 inches and comes with a stand, fitting snugly about anywhere you need to put it. It comes with a power cord, composite video cable and the sensor bar for the controller. This last piece seems a bit flimsy, but as it shouldn't be moving at all there isn't much risk of breaking it.

Along with the newer games made for the console itself, the Wii comes ready to play the entire GameCube back catalog and games from older systems available

See Wii, page B4

★ THE ARGONAUT PRESENTS ★

SONY PLAYSTATION 3

★ ★ VS. ★ ★

NINTENDO Wii

IN

THE VIDEO GAME CONSOLE FIGHT OF THE YEAR

Photo Illustration by Bruce Mann/Argonaut

PS3: The one to control them

By Brandon Macz
Argonaut

The Sony PlayStation 3 was released in the United States Nov. 17, causing mass hysteria among hardcore gamers across the country.

That morning at the Moscow Wal-Mart, Jeff Barnhart made a mad dash to secure his 20 Gigabyte console. He had been haunting the store's doors since the night before.

"I thought I'd be one of three people, but everyone else had the same idea," he said.

By morning, over a hundred hungry gamers had assembled. Barnhart said the Wal-Mart manager told the console campers at 5:45 a.m. that they would have to leave the entrance until he gave the signal to storm the corporate castle.

There were only four 60 GB and two 20 GB systems in stock that day. Barnhart sold his PlayStation and PS2 systems a year prior to the PS3's release.

"I love the PlayStation. I've played all the systems except the Wii," he said. "I always wanted a PS3 since I heard it was coming out."

Barnhart waited patiently on the bed of a friend's truck until the manager started the PlayStation race. There was a clean path all the way to the door, which, he said, was extremely lucky. Some fell, but no one was trampled. One would-be consumer tried to do a militaristic crawl under the other patrons' legs, but was subsequently put into a headlock and thrown out, Barnhart said. When the panic subsided, Barnhart was third in line. The first-place spot-winner was dropped off outside the entrance by his girlfriend.

Barnhart didn't keep his place long, however. The man in front of him let another cut, putting Barnhart in fourth. Some were let ahead because the manager knew they were the ones there since last night. Barnhart remembered two incidences, one about a mother waiting to purchase the console for her son, and the other a

See PS3, page B4

Art to brighten the darkest of days

By Christina Navarro
Argonaut

Although the Earth may be closer to the sun in January than it is in June, Dec. 21 will mark the shortest day of the year.

Today, a group of 20 local artists share what the winter solstice means to them at the Moscow Arts Commission's sixth annual Winter Solstice Exhibit.

This is Louise Barber's fourth time entering pieces in the annual exhibit. She currently works exclusively with cotton fabric and fiber art such as appliqué and batik, but is beginning to revive an interest in photography.

She said most of her work is based on nature and the Palouse, and her featured work embodies the feeling of a winter sunset — cold, dark and distant.

"It has a dark feeling to it," she said. "I love the theme 'winter sol-

stice' — it's a wonderful trigger."

Although it is considered a day of darkness, Barber said she believes the winter solstice is deeply associated with light.

"The next day begins with more light," she said.

With the solstice comes change, which is something Barber values day by day.

"I'm pleased to live in a place where there are seasons," she said. "I think it's kind of exhilarating."

Barber, who is not a fan of heat, enjoys winter, but looks forward to the change of seasons. It is the abundance of light that draws her to summer's long days.

"In the wintertime, I can hardly get myself out of bed in the morning because there is no light," she said.

Barber also said although people primarily aimed their work toward the theme of winter, she sees the winter solstice as a special day of the year because of the prolonged darkness.

"As I've gotten older, the whole business of the light throughout the year is very significant to me," Barber said. "I think animals and people are very subject to light."

With families traveling during the holidays, the exhibit has a chance to showcase different artists on the Palouse.

"It's a great opportunity to show local art to out-of-town guests," she said.

Barber also said it's great to have a lot of these pieces up during this time of season.

"For someone like me who is not considered one of the more prominent area artists, this is a great opportunity," Barber said. "I think it's different for everyone, prominent or not, to get pieces into shows."

Cat Sentez, the interim arts director of the Moscow Arts Commission said the exhibit will feature pieces by new and returning local artists including

retired University of Idaho professor Malcom Renfrew, Judy Brand, Bill Blair and Louise Barber.

"I'm excited because there are a number of new artists that contributed this year, such as artists including those new to the area," Sentez said. "(The event) is one of our larger openings."

She said for certain artists, their pieces are part of a series, so she accepted up to three pieces per artist.

"I like the variety each artist provides," Sentez said.

She said nine out of 32 pieces are watercolors, and the exhibit will feature a steel Christmas tree sculpture series, submitted by artist Jennifer Rod.

Sentez said she thinks the event was started so that Moscow would have a holiday event to serve the community for the season.

"It fills the void as an event for the community that appeals to everyone,

but is a part of and celebrates the season," Sentez said.

She said in the past, the event has drawn many people including children, who really enjoyed it.

"It's family-friendly," Sentez said.

She said a lot of previous visitors enjoyed pieces that were non-literal representations of the season, such as jewelry, instead of, for example, a snowman.

"I think people are impressed with the talent that we have locally," Sentez said.

Retired UI professor of chemistry and artist, Malcom Renfrew started painting while at the university and is a returning artist to the exhibit.

"This Winter Solstice show brings out a number of interesting paintings that I enjoy seeing," Renfrew said.

The public is invited to attend the exhibit and opening reception from 5 to 7:30 p.m. today at the Third Street Gallery.

The broke student's guide to gifts

By T.J. Tranchell
Argonaut

The Challenge:

Buy Christmas presents for a family of four — father, mother, brother, sister — and spend less than \$50.

As college students, money is a scarce commodity, but that doesn't mean we can't get cool gifts for the people we love. Hence this challenge. Can one purchase gifts that don't suck for four people and only half a "c-note?" There are various ways to accomplish this. Finding free stuff on the Internet is just one of them — like the piano sheet music my own mother is getting. (Shhh, don't tell her.)

Let's see how we did for our hypothetical family.

Mom:

Our hypothetical mother is between 35 and 45, enjoys the holiday season a little too much and grew up during the hair metal days of the mid-1980s. She has also been playing Christmas music since Thanksgiving dessert.

What is the perfect gift that won't break your bank?

"Christmas Eve and Other Stories" by Trans-Siberian Orchestra. It's Christmas music with a metal edge. Purchase this for

\$9.99 plus tax at Hastings.

This is a great CD, especially at the sale price compared to the regular price of \$16.99.

\$50.00 - 10.59 = 39.41.

Dad:

Dad is a couple years older than Mom and really doesn't like paying bills, especially your college tuition. He does it because he loves you and will appreciate your attempts at frugality. Then again, Dad has that new giant home theater system, doesn't he? So what do you buy dear old Dad?

Stay inside Hastings to find Dad's gift, too. With a large selection of used DVDs, you are sure to find something that falls in line with Dad's interests.

"Die Hard with a Vengeance" starring Bruce Willis. This used copy only costs \$7.99 plus that great Idaho sales tax.

\$39.41 - 8.48 = 30.93.

Brother:

So your little brother is going to college next year? Now is a great time to help him look ahead to the next step in his life, but before that comes the senior trip. Remember how you had to use Dad's old college luggage for your senior trip? You don't want that to happen to your bro, do you?

Get him this expandable, 28-inch duffel

bag from Wal-Mart. It comes collapsed so when it's wrapped it will look nothing like what it actually is and at \$9.82, you are still well under your budget.

\$30.93 - 10.41 = 20.52.

Sister:

This might be the most difficult person in the family to buy for. She is still in her teens, which means you may not know what trend is popular what day. You don't want to buy her something she will simply toss out in late January. What to do? You could take the easy route and use your last 20 bucks and get her a gift certificate to the mall. But that isn't any fun, is it?

Thank goodness for the Hot Topic clearance shelves.

A My Chemical Romance T-shirt features the art from the band's previous album. By wearing it, not only will little sis be up to the times, but can claim she liked them before this year.

\$20.52 - 9.52 = 11.00.

Look at that! You still have \$11.00. What will you do with your savings? If you are smart, you'll pocket it and save it for a rainy day.

Or you could buy wrapping paper. Challenge met.



Photo illustration by Lisa Wareham/Argonaut

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Celebrating with jazz

By Michael Howell
Argonaut

The school of music will celebrate the holidays with a huge jazz concert. Not just huge, almost Jazz Fest huge.

UI music professor and program head Dan Bukvich has seen many of the previous year's holiday concerts and still is sometimes taken back with how large they are and how well they come together.

"The Kibbie Dome has literally been turned into one giant concert hall," Bukvich said.

The setting of the concert isn't nearly as incredible as how large the performance is going to be.

"To put into context how large and how great the event will be," Bukvich said, "the men in charge of the lighting have a huge booklet of lighting commands that they will follow. The lights are just an afterthought we came to when planning the concert."

He said that this means the concert will be amazing in terms of organization and size.

Bill Cole, another UI music professor and the program coordinator, is also taken by the large amount of people involved.

"There will be around 750 performers in this concert," Cole said. "We have 13 high school choirs from eastern Washington and north Idaho. We also have the UI Jazz Choirs, one of the jazz bands and others."

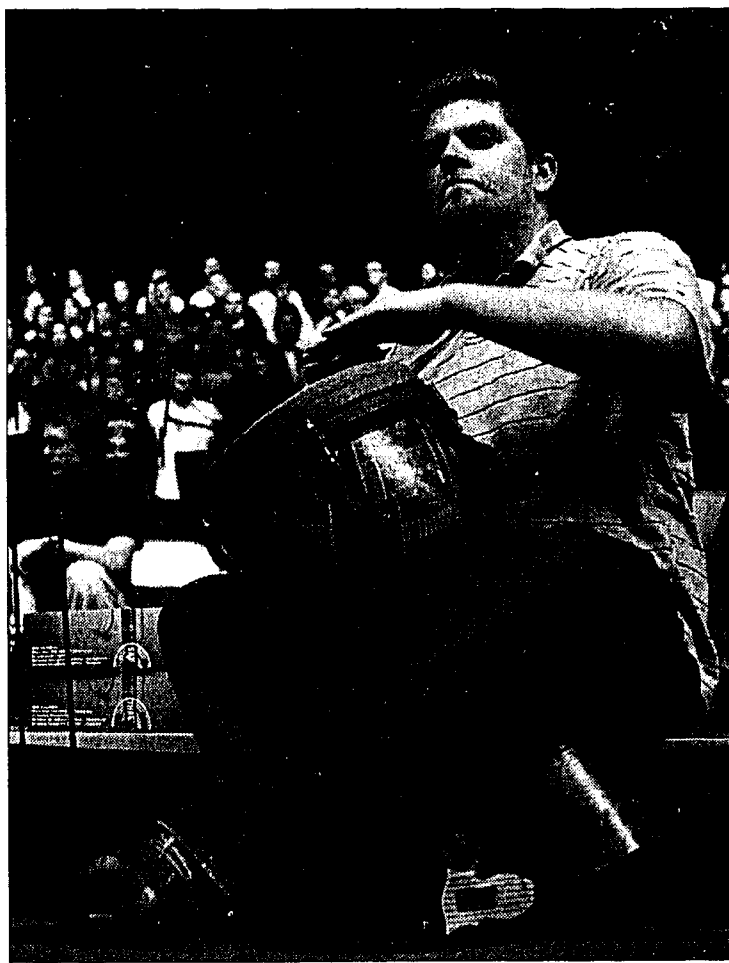
Though the concert is being billed as a holiday concert, there isn't a lot of traditional holiday music on the play list.

"It's more of a jazz concert that the university is giving to the community for the holidays," Bukvich said. "There will be a couple of traditional songs performed, but a lot of the music is jazz."

Bukvich said one reason is that there is little holiday music that hasn't been done before, as opposed to a vast collection of jazz music.

"There is a holiday-related medley of music within the concert," Cole said. "And there is even a traditional African piece. But a lot of the music is jazz related."

Along with different choirs from around the area performing



Music junior Zach Freeman plays the djembe during the Dec. 8 holiday concert soundcheck Wednesday in the Kibbie Dome.

their own selected pieces, there will be three pieces that all the choirs will come together to perform. The thing that will make these performances special is the fluidity of the concert.

"There is almost no break in between choirs," Cole said. "One group finishes and quickly another group will go to take their place and perform their next piece. It serves to keep the audience engrossed with the performances."

All this is because of the strong dedication by many UI music faculty, the leaders from the various schools, and sheer luck.

"There is no one person in charge of the concert," Bukvich said. "Each different choir has its own leader who takes them through it. We also have different members of our faculty who

see the SHOW

The concert will be at 8 p.m. today at the Kibbie Dome. Admission is free.

donate their time to work with the different sections."

The final product is one that Bukvich is proud of.

"They practice hard at all together, but they still seem to come together well," he said.

Along with choirs, some of the UI music faculty will perform individually. It is definitely going to be a concert for the holidays.

"This is what we figure to be about the 20th annual concert," Bukvich said. "And I think it is probably one of the best we've ever had."

The College of Business and Economics would like to congratulate...

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ArtsBRIEFS

Winter Market at 1912 Center

Holiday shoppers will be able to attend The Heart of the Arts, Inc.'s second Winter Market of the season from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the 1912 Center. The market will showcase a variety of gifts and delicacies for the season. For more information about the market, contact Mary Jo Hamilton at mhamilton@vetmed.wsu.edu.

LHSM and Chorus concerts at the school of music

The Greater Palouse Youth Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the Lionel Hampton School of Music Recital Hall. The University Chorus and Vandaleers will perform at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Administration Building Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door and cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

Dark comedy 'Fuddy Meers' plays at the Kiva

University of Idaho Department of Theater and Film presents "Fuddy Meers" at 7:30 p.m. at the KIVA Theatre Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets are available through TicketsWest outlets including the UI Ticket office at (208) 885-7212.

Faculty art, Hummel exhibit at the Prichard Art Gallery

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

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 nine projects by Charles Hummel.

Additional information is available at www.uidaho.edu/galleries.

'Cars' plays as part of Blockbuster Film Series

Blockbuster Film Series presents "Cars" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. at the SUB Borah Theater Dec. 8. Tickets cost \$3 for general admission and \$2 for undergraduate students with Vandal ID.

Palouse Folklore Society 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 McInturff 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 information visit the society's Web Site at www.palousefolklore.org.

'OKLAHOMA' auditions today

Auditions for Rogers & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! will take place today 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.ui-theatre.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 on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the UI Physical Education Building room 212. Dancers wanting to audition should also link to www.uitheatre.com to sign up for an audition time.

For information e-mail stage managers Cyndil Markert at mark0199@uidaho.edu or Heather Willey at will8259@uidaho.edu.

<p>ON SALE TODAY AT 10 AM!</p> <p>TAN WILDER</p> <p>TAJ</p> <p>FEATURING everclear</p> <p>WITH SPECIAL GUESTS JONNY LIVES!</p> <p>THU. 2-1</p> <p>BIG EASY</p>	<p>BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS</p> <p>WITH RECKLESS KELLY</p> <p>ON SALE TODAY AT 10 AM!</p> <p>FRI. 3-2</p> <p>BIG EASY</p>	<p>SHOWS COMING SOON TO THE BIG EASY CONCERT HOUSE</p> <p>GOSLING/STRATA FRI 12-8</p> <p>SEBASTIAN BACH SAT 12-9</p> <p>SMOOTH JAZZ SAT 12-9</p> <p>DANCE FACTORY SAT 12-9</p> <p>ROCK THE BELLS MON 12-11</p> <p>SIN TUE 12-12</p> <p>RE-MIX WEDNESDAY WED 12-13</p> <p>CLUB U THU 12-14</p> <p>LATINO NIGHT FRI 12-15</p> <p>DANCE FACTORY SAT 12-16</p> <p>PUBLIC ENEMY MON 12-18</p> <p>PAJAMA PARTY FRI 12-22</p> <p>DECK THE HALLS BALL SAT 12-23</p> <p>CLUMSY LOVERS SAT 12-30</p> <p>NYE PARTY SUN 12-31</p> <p>WALLERS WED 1-10</p> <p>AUGUSTANA TUE 1-16</p> <p>RISE AGAINST WED 1-17</p> <p>TECH 99ME THU 1-18</p> <p>BIG HEAD TODD FRI 3-2</p>	
<p>GOSLING</p> <p>FRIDAY!</p> <p>VILLAGE GREEN</p> <p>THE LOOK</p> <p>ROCK 99</p> <p>FRI. 12-8</p> <p>BIG EASY</p>	<p>SEBASTIAN BACH</p> <p>SATURDAY!</p>	<p>PUBLIC ENEMY</p> <p>WITH ORIGINAL MEMBERS CHUCK D, FLAVOR FLAV AND PROFESSOR GRIFF</p> <p>X-CLAN</p> <p>THE BANNED</p> <p>96.9</p> <p>MON 12-18</p> <p>BIG EASY</p>	
<p>PAJAMA PARTY!</p> <p>21+</p> <p>\$10 cover or \$5 if you are dressed in your pajamas</p> <p>DJ spinning Top 40 / Hip Hop / R&B</p> <p>FRI. 12-22</p> <p>BIG EASY</p>	<p>DECK THE HALLS BALL</p> <p>21+</p> <p>FRI. 12-23</p> <p>BIG EASY</p>	<p>NYE</p> <p>3RD ANNUAL MASQUERADE BALL!</p> <p>THE BIGGEST NEW YEARS EVE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST!</p> <p>LIVE MUSIC BY SMASH HIT CARNIVAL</p> <p>ALSO FEATURING DJ DECIBEL AND DJ CHRIS WOODS</p> <p>Free Masks and Party favors</p> <p>Doors open at 8pm</p> <p>21+</p> <p>Reserve a table! Call 244-3279 ext. 8 for more information</p>	
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Tickets to all shows are available at all TicketsWest outlets, online at TicketsWest.com, or by calling 325-SEAT. All Big Easy shows are all ages, full bar with Id. Unless noted.

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Wii
from page B1

through the company's online store. (More on that later.) Pop open a couple of hatches and ports for the 'Cube controllers and memory cards are revealed. Though games can be saved to the console itself, it also has ports for SD memory cards (like those used in cameras) just in case gamers need more space.

The controller:

Despite Nintendo's best efforts, the remote controller-derived main controller for the system has been forever labeled with the name "Wiimote." It's the essential part of the controller free-for-all the company has unleashed. The company's sensor bar technology works smoothly, and though it stutters here and there and doesn't always register all movements in some games, it always gets the job done. The Wiimote runs off of two AA batteries.

The other commonly needed piece has been dubbed the "nunchuk" and connects via a cable to the Wiimote. It also sports the motion-sensing tech and provides the joystick for the system, just in case two methods of movement aren't enough.

It might take experienced gamers some time to adjust to the new button placements. Things are simple enough in a game such as "Wii Sports," where most actions are based on moving the controller. Switch to a game like "Marvel: Ultimate Alliance," though, and the multiple trigger buttons and remote-like shape of the controller will lead to frantic button-pressing until the right one is found. Don't worry, though — after a few minutes in each game, I was just as comfortable with the new controller

setup as with any of the systems I'm used to.

Games:

The system's launch titles seem heavily skewed toward the younger age group, but that's nothing new for Nintendo. The company is trying to court older and younger non-gamers with this machine, which may turn some of the college age away from it. The games I've been able to try have been nothing but fun.

For the first time since the SNES, Nintendo made the wise choice of packaging a launch game with the console. "Wii Sports" isn't a graphical powerhouse and doesn't feature the hyper-realism of most sports games, but it serves as a great party game and an excellent tutorial system for the new controller. Players can choose from tennis, baseball, golf, bowling and boxing, and all but the last one can be played with the Wiimote alone (two-handed boxing requiring, of course, two controllers). One safety note — you should make sure to clear space around your playing area in case swinging the controller around becomes a bit too exciting.

"The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess" makes good use of the new controller as well, linking it largely to the act of swinging the hero Link's sword during battle. The two forms the character takes each provide their own approach to puzzles and enemy encounters, and the wolf form has enough special powers and uses to make it a worthwhile addition.

"Marvel: Ultimate Alliance" may be what the Wii sees from now on in terms of multiplatform, third-party games. While the graphics aren't as flashy as the other two next-gen systems, the plot and gameplay

remain intact, pitting Marvel's greatest superheroes against its greatest villains. The game can be buggy, and special attacks tied to the motion controller don't always go off. But it's not bad enough to get in the way of giving Dr. Doom a good thumping.

Online:

Nintendo has finally seen fit to give the console a way to access the Internet, though for now it only works on a wireless network. Connecting to the Web provides product updates and new "channels" such as the upcoming weather and news feeds. Most importantly, it provides access to Nintendo's Shopping Channel, where players can purchase — for \$10 or less — many games that appeared on all of Nintendo's home consoles before the GameCube and even some from the Sega Genesis and TurboGrafx16. Though it took me a few minutes to connect to the store, I was able to buy and download "Super Mario 64" fairly easily and the game plays just as it did when it first came out. For those of you with a GameCube, the controllers can be used to play the retro games, saving the \$20 needed for the Wii "classic" controller.

I'm not much of an online gamer, so Nintendo's continued hands-off policy in that area doesn't bother me too much. But I can see how it might handicap the system, especially if it connects to the Internet already anyway. And unlike Microsoft's successful Xbox Live, the Nintendo software upgrades take forever to download and install. Hopefully with time, Nintendo can fix that problem.

Other consoles:

So how does the Wii stack up? At \$250, it's definitely the cheapest of the three next-gen systems. But like Sony's new machine, it's hard to find right now, and if you're looking for realistic graphics, this isn't your console; try the \$300-400 easy-to-find Xbox 360 or the \$500-600 Playstation 3.

But the motion-sensitive gimmick seems like a winner so far. The success of this console rests in the hands of Nintendo and other game developers. If they can keep making games that find new, creative uses for the controller, it should flourish. Otherwise, the console may end up a busted experiment.

PS3
from page B1

man who was fearful of the other gamers' convictions.

"He was afraid that he was going to get pushed through the glass door," he said. "He was like, 'Forget it.'"

By the time the order had been managerially corrected, he was in the eighth spot for six systems. The four 60 GB systems went fast and, luckily for Barnhart, a few customers ahead of him wouldn't settle for 20.

He considered selling it on eBay, which had 25,000 consoles before the end of the release date with the price dropping to a steady \$1,800. Extra credit may be due to a few business majors Barnhart met, who had the same ambition.

Idaho had it easier than many states. At an Oregon Wal-Mart, there were several robberies by gunpoint. A North Carolina college student was shot and killed Dec. 1 by police officers while holding a PS3 controller when they stormed a house he was sharing with three roommates. He had been accused of stealing two consoles from another student. He died minutes after pausing his Tiger Woods video game. A police dog was also fatally shot.

"That was probably the craziest thing I've ever been a part of," Barnhart said of his casu-

alty-free purchase. "I was actually kind of scared that I'd get shanked walking out of the store."

Worth it? "The quality of the system is unbelievable," he said. "You can just tell the power it has."

In the two games he owns ("Madden '07" and "Resistance: Fall of Man"), the graphics are so powerful, Barnhart said, that he can see the lines on the foreheads, the crinkle of noses and the individual hairs on the characters' heads.

Another impressive feature of the PS3 is the Blu-Ray player, Barnhart said. He has movies but no high-definition television to fully experience the difference. The 20 GB PS3 is selling for \$499 without tax and is a good price, according to Barnhart, considering what you get. Until the price goes down, he believes the PS2 will still sell better this year, considering that there are also more of the consoles around.

The next step to realizing the full potential of the system is to buy an HDTV, Barnhart said. The PS3 is also presumed to have an edge in speed and he has heard that "Call of Duty 3" in surround sound is the equivalent of holding a real machine gun next to your ear and firing it.

The 24-year-old marketing major said he is completely satisfied with the Playstation 3 and intends to pick up a few more well-reviewed games when they come out, including "Motor Storm" and "Grand Turismo HD."

"The quality of the system is unbelievable. You can just tell the power it has."

Jeff Barnhart
PS3 owner

Marriage on his mind

John Stamos looks to get married for many reasons

By Luaine Lee
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

PASADENA, Calif. — John Stamos may have a famous face, but it doesn't help when it comes to meeting women, he says.

The actor, veteran of the hit series "Full House" was divorced last year from model Rebecca Romijn, and is flung back into the dating game.

"Unless it's a setup dinner, I'm really clumsy about walking up to a girl and talking," he says. "I don't go out very much, so it's a little difficult. It's difficult anywhere, probably. People say it's hard to stay married in Hollywood. I think marriage is hard for anybody and you look around and everybody in this country (has problems). Everybody wants a fast way out of everything, everything is so instant. It's difficult for anybody anywhere," says Stamos.

"It's all balanced," he shrugs, resting his neck on the back of his chair. "I'm not complaining about it. My life is really great. The key is — and what I've been working on — is just being a really good person, being in a good place, being happy with myself, setting up a nice, good quality life for myself, and the right woman will come along when it's time."

Marriage is on his mind today, admits Stamos, who's seated in a judiciously decorated lounge of a hotel here, because he's starring in "Wedding Wars," a romantic comedy due Dec. 11 on A&E.

This role flips 180-degrees from the unshaven intern he plays on NBC's "ER," or the jaunty New York publicist from "Jake in Progress."

Stamos plays a gay wedding planner in "Wedding Wars" — a first for him.

"In the show my brother and I have always had a contentious relationship because my character's gay. His brother is getting married to the governor's daughter, so to make things nice, he hires me to plan the wedding. And a week before the wedding the governor comes on television and says he's against gay marriage. My character is very childlike. He says, 'If my brother can have a lollipop, why can't I?' And he acts out like a kid. He says, 'I'm going on strike.' It's fun," he smiles.

"It's an important topic, a hot button one at the moment, but I think it's a good way to present it. It's kind of funny, a romantic comedy."

Stamos, 43, is particularly adept at romantic comedy, dating back to his eight years as the long-haired party animal on "Full House" and his two most recent (and underrated) series, "Jake in Progress" and "Thieves."

"I was walking around the set the other day and I was saying, 'I've been on television for 25 years, don't tell me what's funny.' I was sounding like Walter Matthau. I'm a vet now," he chuckles.

Stamos, who is of Greek extraction, says he always wanted to be an actor, even when he was little. "I studied and got on 'General Hospital'

when I was 18. I went through high school and my mom would take me to acting classes and I would drive myself as soon as I could drive and get

lost all the time ... I still lived at home when I was working on 'General Hospital.' I still even worked for my father who had a restaurant. And my dad made me work, even when I was on 'General Hospital' during the week. And on the weekend I'd go flip hamburgers for my dad."

When the popular soap turned him into a teen idol, he didn't know what was happening. "I literally overnight went from being the guy flipping hamburgers to these girls chasing after me in a mall one day. I said, 'What the hell ...' I didn't know who they were screaming for, and it was me. That was so strange."

Suddenly finding yourself a teen idol can be upsetting, says Stamos. "I think there was a time after that where I got a little full of myself. And I remember my family — everybody kind of slapped me back down to the ground. That was a life-changing thing, which I, hoped I've stayed on that path."

His dad died five years ago at 65. It marked a turning point for Stamos, who says he's still ambivalent about marriage. "It's different every day. Some days it's, 'Ah, I'm dying to be in love and get married again.' And other days I love dating. The bottom line is I think I really want to be a father so I'm looking forward to that."

"The bottom line is I think I really want to be a father."

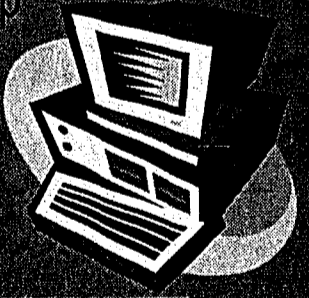
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Lee Abbott - Politics, Parents and Pot

By Bill Gibron
PopMatters.com

Lee Abbott's resume bears testament to his versatility. Not only has he worked as an editor, director, actor, writer and producer, but he's done so in a variety of contexts and mediums. He's shown up on the big and the small screen, in shorts as well as in a feature-length. The majority of his work falls under the comedy genre, but he also has credentials in reality and sports television, and he directed, co-wrote and acted in the dramatic short Rain.

Abbott's latest project is the soon-to-be-released "National Lampoon's Totally Baked: A POTumentary." He's the film's director, and also makes an appearance playing what else but a director. The title is about as self-evident as it gets, but don't let that fool you. From the looks of things, this just might be the most intense, the most politically controversial, "stoner-comedy" you'll ever see. Abbott talks to PopMatters about the development of "Totally Baked."

PopMatters: How did "Totally Baked" first come together?
Lee Abbott: It first came together

because of (Narrator/executive-producer) Craig Shoemaker's kid. Craig was in his house singing Steve Miller: "I'm a joker, I'm a smoker, I'm a midnight toker," and his little 6-year-old goes (in little kid's voice), "Daddy, what's a toker?" (Laughs) That's literally how it happened. Because then he was like all embarrassed, like he didn't know how to answer, like, "Uhhhhh..." and he was like, well, why? You know? He's even sober, so, 'Why do I not want to — why would I say a beer's a beer or a cigarette's a cigarette but I won't say that a joint is a joint?' You know?

PM: Right.
LA: That's kind of where it came from. For me it came together because I was trying to work with Lampoon on some other stuff, and then they put us together. They said, "You know what? We think you guys would be good together."

PM: Speaking of the "topic": There have been several so-called pot-based comedies in the past. Of course all the Cheech and Chong movies first come to mind, but more recently there have been movies like "Half Baked," "How High," "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle," among others.

LA: Mhmm
PM: However, it seems as if this movie not only aims to make the audience laugh, but also (aims) to make them think and to possibly help foster serious discussion on the issue of drug prohibition.

LA: Mhmm
PM: And I was wondering, first of all if you thought that was a fair assessment, and if so, if you think that juxtaposition is going to be a difficult thing for a comedy to successfully achieve.

LA: Well I think it's a very fair assessment, and in fact when I was asked to do the project I said that that was the only way I would be interested in doing it. Because, I mean, how can you reinvent Cheech and Chong? I mean, like, how can you try to — they've done it and it's gorgeous and it is what it is, you know? And there's a lot of really, really funny marijuana movies out there and just, kind of like, you know, pot subculture movies, and they're all a lot of fun...But I think, in much more of a vein of Bill Maher or George Carlin is what we were aiming for. Because I don't think it's a problem at all to put serious thought and discussion with

comedy.
PM: Right.

LA: I mean, Will Rogers said, "You get them laughing and then that's when you stick in the knife." You know? And I really believe in that. I think shows like "The Daily Show" are where our best political commentary is able to come from. It's kind of like in a straight political environment — you watch CNN and Crossfire and things like that, it looks like two opposing camps just kind of being snide to each other and just kind of yelling at each other. Or, it seems like, you know, whatever administration, especially the current administration, is in power, they're able to, you know, loophole their way out of anything. You know? It's like they have an excuse for everything and they make it sound polished and great, it's like, but, not really talking about the big white elephant in the room. You know? Like what's the obvious thing, you know? It's like...it's like they come up with what their hypothesis is, or what they want to prove, and then they go find the information to fill up that, versus following the information to its own organic conclusion. So, again, you

watch Bill Maher, and you laugh your ass off and you're left thinking about, "Yeah — what he said — Yeah, why is that?" You know? Same thing with "The Daily Show," they do commentary on something and you go, "Yeah. Hey, yeah, why is that?!" So I think that's what we were trying to say. Because, you know, I grew up in Southern California and to me, you know, marijuana is no different than beer. You know?

PM: Mhmm
LA: I mean, either one can be abused and either one can be harmless. And I think it's an adult's choice to choose. And also on the medical marijuana issue, I think that is a really, very important one; I have a friend who is HIV positive and the medication he has to take makes him ill. You know, makes him nauseous, and so the marijuana helps him to eat. So the whole hypocrisy of the pharmaceutical companies, the current administration, the "War on Drugs" all that stuff over pot is such a joke. It's ridiculous and I don't think anyone of our generation, whether you're a pot smoker or not, believes that it really should be as heinous of an offense as heroin (laughs). You know?

Romantic comedies: a love affair grows cold

By Moira Macdonald
The Seattle Times

We need to talk. This relationship just isn't working for me.

I'm talking about romantic comedies over the past few years. Time and time again, I've sat popcorn in hand at the start of a big-studio rom-com, waiting to be swept off my feet by some movie-star chemistry or charmingly witty repartee. And what I usually get, these days, are bathroom jokes ("You, Me & Dupree," "Two Weeks Notice"), vomit scenes ("Fever Pitch"), inane plots ("Failure to Launch," "The Wedding Date"), ill-conceived star pairings ("Rumor Has It," "Maid in Manhattan") and overlong, sporadically funny sex jokes ("Wedding Crashers," "The 40-Year-Old Virgin") — not to mention so-called romantic comedies ("The Break-Up") that aren't romantic or funny at all.

Now, as audiences await the holiday season's only major romantic comedy ("The Holiday," due Friday, in which Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet house-swap and, perhaps, man-swap), I have to wonder: Where did all the romance go? What happened to the concept of a date movie? (Well, it turned into a raunchy satire called "Date

Movie" and was in theaters last winter.) Does nobody know how to write funny, flirty dialogue any more? Am I going to have to spend the rest of my days watching old Hepburn movies (Katharine or Audrey, take your pick) when I want a rom-com fix? In other words, what happened to what should be the warmest and happiest of genres?

As always in the movie business, part of the answer lurks in the box office. If you look at the list of the top 50 U.S. blockbusters of all time, you'll only find one romantic comedy — and it didn't come from Hollywood. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," the runaway hit of 2002, was made without big-studio money and without big stars. (Its star and screenwriter was the then-unknown Nia Vardalos.) The warm, if somewhat sitcommy story of a Greek-American woman's romance and ultimate marriage to a non-Greek man, it opened in a handful of theaters in April 2002 and was still in theaters nearly a year later, earning more than \$240 million.

"Wedding," in theory, should have kicked off a new wave of romantic comedy, the way the success of "Chicago" ushered in a new mini-era of movie musicals. But instead it stands alone

in its genre: the only romantic comedy in history to make more than \$200 million. (Only a handful have made even half that, and those tend to be formulaic star vehicles: "Hitch" for Will Smith, "Sweet Home Alabama" for Reese Witherspoon, "Runaway Bride" for Julia Roberts.)

Instead of learning that perhaps audiences are hankering for romantic tales of real (or real-ish) people, told without the showy flatness most big-budget rom-coms employ, the studios seem to have decided that "Wedding" was a fluke. Audiences don't line up for romantic comedy the way they do for comic-book movies and blockbuster book adaptations (hmm, could that be because the movies have been so lousy?), so Hollywood has more or less abandoned the genre. Most studios release no more than a couple a year, throwing together a star from List A and one from List B, spending as little as possible and seemingly thinking even less.

Which leads us to another problem: chemistry. Watch Myrna Loy and William Powell in "The Thin Man," Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn in "Roman Holiday," Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy in anything, and you'll see a

spark, a pop, a whole that's greater than its individual parts. (It's a mistake, though, to think that vintage romantic comedies are by definition superior to their contemporary counterparts. Hollywood made plenty of clunkers back then, too — we just don't see them, because they've appropriately faded away.)

Chemistry is a mysterious thing, and sometimes it turns up where you're not expecting it. Watch "Four Weddings and a Funeral" and note that Hugh Grant sparks much more off Kristin Scott Thomas than the lovely, but sometimes wooden Andie MacDowell; his smile gets naughtier, and you wonder about the story the movie hints at but never tells. Or consider how Drew Barrymore seems to spark with everyone — Adam Sandler, Jimmy Fallon, Ben Stiller, that guy in "My Date with Drew" — but when you look closer, it's because she's doing all the work.

Too often, though, romantic comedies can seem cast by committee, with little thought of how the two might sync up. (Consider, for example, the casting meetings for "Maid in Manhattan," which concluded that it would be a fine idea to unite the fans of Ralph Fiennes and Jennifer Lopez.) Or, having

shot their wad on a mega-star, studios cast someone less vivid — and, needless to say, cheaper — as co-star. (Those go-to "Sex and the City" alums John Corbett and Ron Livingston — cast, forgettably, opposite Kate Hudson and Brittany Murphy of late — come to mind.) Or a movie ends up featuring an off-screen couple, like Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn in "The Break-Up" — and there's nothing on screen that convinces you that the two have ever even met. Or, in a true rom-com cop-out, they just cast Meg Ryan ("Kate and Leopold"), and

call it a day. And then there's the writing. Admittedly, it's difficult to think of something new to do with the boy-meets-girl story. (Recent boy-meets-boy and girl-meets-girl art-house releases — "Another Gay Movie" and "Imagine Me and You," respectively — haven't been much better.) But it's not necessary to think of some bizarre plot contrivance, such as parents hiring a woman to urge their son to move out of the house ("Failure to Launch"). All that takes is a little wit, charm and invention — now, is that so hard?

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Heath Ledger takes a risk

A MELTING WINTER

By Mark de la Vina
San Jose Mercury News

He was in line to become Hollywood's next top romantic lead, a blossoming hunk primed for mainstream superstardom.

Australian actor Heath Ledger seemed positioned as next "it" boy after such box-office hits as "The Patriot" in 2000 and "A Knight's Tale" in 2001. But when most of his contemporaries were struggling with college midterms, Ledger was doing the unthinkable: abandoning a surefire film career for one dotted with commercially risky roles.

This conscious change in course perhaps culminated in "Brokeback Mountain," for which Ledger received a 2006 Oscar nomination for his portrayal of a ranch hand secretly in love with a bull rider (Jake Gyllenhaal).

Now Ledger, 27, has taken on another audience-testing role in "Candy," a dark memoir about a young couple locked in a death tango with heroin. The film also stars Geoffrey Rush and Abbie Cornish.

"I think it was more or less the time I decided to take my career into my own hands," Ledger says in a phone interview from a New York hotel room. "I felt like it was a little out of my control. I'm happy I

made that choice. I feel less like a product and more like someone who is kind of devoted to telling stories about all walks of life."

In "Candy," Ledger plays Dan, a poet who falls for a striking young art student (Cornish). Their passion for one another becomes entangled with an all-consuming need for heroin, which inevitably envelops their relationship.

Co-star and fellow Australian Rush is familiar with embracing such edgier parts. Along with playing Barbosa, Johnny Depp's bane in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series, he plays Casper, Dan and Candy's impish dandy of a drug mentor.

By working on "Candy," a small Australian film that has only a limited release in the United States, Ledger continues to bravely buck industry expectations, Rush says.

"He was kind of taken on as a bright new face and branded as a certain kind of matinee idol," Rush says. "I'm very much aware that he wants to deepen the experience of his curriculum vitae. And I think he's been quite radical in laying down some pipe work for a healthy, unpredictable but interesting career."

Ledger chose to work on "Candy" not only because it

plunged into territory of such unfamiliar darkness; the movie, shot in Sydney, also gave him the rare opportunity to make a film in his homeland. As a result, it was his first film in eight years where he didn't have to affect an accent.

But there were unexpected challenges in shooting such a bleak film.

(Spoiler alert! The following two paragraphs give away a key scene in "Candy.")

About a month before Ledger began working on "Candy," he learned that girlfriend and "Brokeback" co-star Michelle Williams was pregnant with their daughter, Matilda. Such happy news suddenly turned unnerving when the actor filmed a scene in which Dan cradles the bloodied body of his stillborn baby.

"I just kept running back and calling Michelle," Ledger says. "It was horrible. I feared I was jinxing our own birth. I felt so freaked out holding this prosthetic bloody dead baby in my hands."

Ledger says Matilda, who celebrated her first birthday in October, "is just this brilliant little person who's so full of life and so smart and so happy."

Within two years of catching the attention of American audiences in "10 Things I

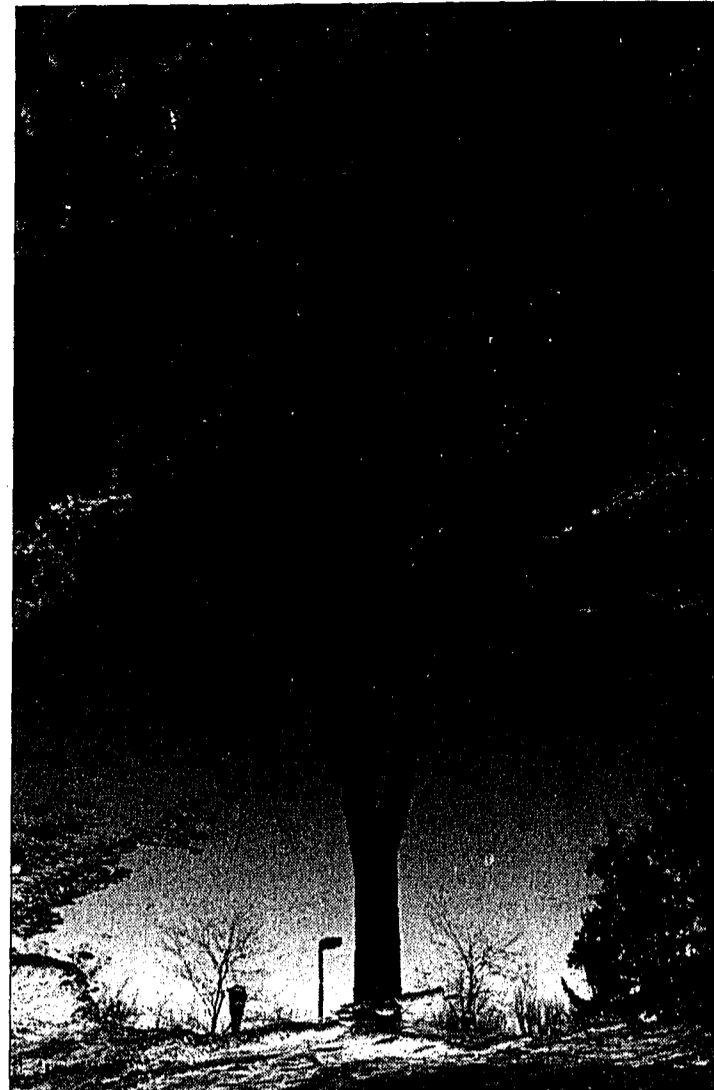
Hate About You" in 1999, Ledger's performance in the racially charged "Monster's Ball" set the tone for his choices in often offbeat, art-house movies. Such films as "Ned Kelly" and "The Brothers Grimm" followed suit.

In his next film, Todd Haynes' "I'm Not There," he plays one of seven characters who embody an aspect of Bob Dylan's life and work — hardly the stuff of multiplexes.

Though he appears to be following singing songwriter Neil Young's career path of forsaking the middle of the road for the ditch — leading to the rougher but far more interesting ride — Ledger hasn't completely turned his back on popcorn movies. He will play the Joker in "The Dark Knight," Christopher Nolan's follow-up to "Batman Begins," which begins shooting in March.

The actor says that in spite of the box-office potential of "Knight," he's intrigued more by the role, which he describes as a "pure anarchist."

"I still feel like it's a character I've never done before," he says, "and I'm going to be donning a mask. I'm not really thinking about the commercial consequences. Maybe I should be. But at this point, it's just an exciting next step."



Lisa Wareham/Argonaut
The temperature high was 40 degrees on Wednesday melting much of the snow. Scenery on Sixth Street is reflected in a puddle in the Student Union Building parking lot.

Some say Rosie O'Donnell has seen enough of 'The View'

By George Rush
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Is Rosie O'Donnell looking for a room without "The View"?

The funny lady is already thinking about bolting the chat show she joined in September, according to some TV insiders.

"Rosie could be gone within six months," said one well-placed source. "She's grown tired of the daily dramas with her co-hosts and the crew. She wants to spend more

time with her family."

O'Donnell, who replaced controversial Star Jones on the show, sparked a ratings surge. But some observers contend that Barbara Walters and co-hosts Joy Behar and Elisabeth Hasselbeck feel the opinionated comic dominates the conversation.

"She's turned it into her show," the source said. "The others resent it. But if she goes, they'll play it as a 'mutual decision.'"

Cindi Berger, a spokeswoman for O'Donnell and Walters, flatly denied

any trouble.

"Rosie is having a great time," said Berger. "Everyone is getting along. She's gone out to dinner and to the theater with Elisabeth. And she and Joy have been friends for over 20 years. There's no animosity."

Walters told the New York Daily News' Richard Huff last month: "I think everyone on the program is better because Rosie's on. She's brought out the best in us."

On Tuesday, O'Donnell told audience members on "The View" that she has been offered her own sitcom

on FX — a spinoff of "Nip/Tuck," in which she'd play plastic surgery clinic owner Dawn Budge.

Berger insisted that O'Donnell, who has a one-year deal for "The View," is only "in discussions" with FX. "If she did the show, it would be during her summer hiatus from 'The View,'" Berger added.

Berger acknowledged that O'Donnell had been "frustrated" recently when she wasn't given a hand-held microphone to introduce a guest on "The View." But Berger maintained, "That's not catastrophic."

Meanwhile, O'Donnell confirmed Wednesday that she's parting with longtime ICM agent Risa Shapiro.

"I have enormous respect and affection for Risa Shapiro, who helped me guide my career up to this point," O'Donnell said. "But given that my career is now more rooted in television, I decided to move with Nancy Josephson (at the Endeavor agency). I am already struck by Endeavor's energy and innovative approach across many platforms."

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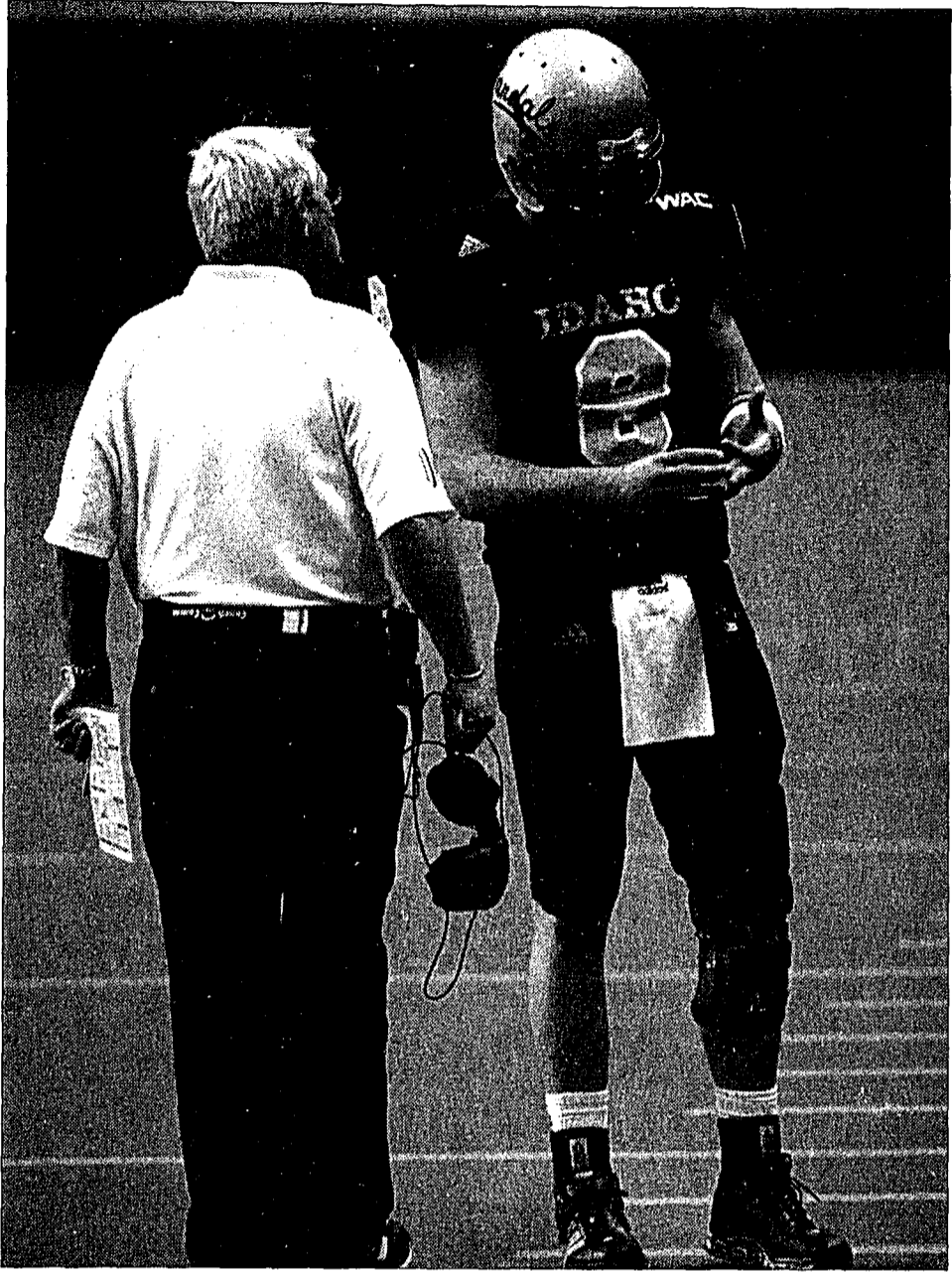
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SPORTS & RECREATION

Friday, December 8, 2006

Page B7

Coach rebuts reports



UI football coach Dennis Erickson coaches former quarterback Steve Wichman after practice earlier this month. Speculations arose Tuesday that Erickson and ASU were talking.

UI football coach Dennis Erickson denies talking to Arizona State Tuesday

By Alec Lawton
Argonaut

Like a scary noise in the night or an ominous lump under the skin, the slightest whisper of another school contacting a cherished coach conjures fears for the worst.

A sports column printed in The Oregonian regarding talks between Pac-10's Arizona State University and Idaho football coach Dennis Erickson prompted just that reaction among Vandal fans on Tuesday. However, reports from Idaho's staff said the rumors were false.

Oregonian columnist John Canzano reported that ASU contacted Erickson regarding its open head coach position, which came on the market after Arizona State dismissed former Boise State coach Dirk Koetter.

Assistant UI Athletic Director Becky Paull said Thursday that ASU had neither contacted Erickson, nor the University of Idaho Athletic Department staff.

Erickson was quoted by the Idaho-Spokesman Review saying that he wouldn't be surprised if Arizona State did contact him.

"I don't know where he (The Oregonian columnist Canzano) is getting his information," said Erickson on Tuesday, who is in California recruiting. "I think they're just beginning with that (ASU's search). I wouldn't be surprised if somebody did call, but I haven't heard anything."

Furthermore, Erickson said he would at least listen to what they had to say.

"I'd probably take a look at it," Erickson said.

The 2006 season was Erickson's first year at Idaho. He coached the Vandals to a 4-8 record in their second season in the Western Athletic Conference. Erickson also coached at Oregon State and Washington State, which are Pac-10 schools.

A couple of 68'ers

Two additions to the UI academic athletic support staff seek changes

Editor's note: This feature is Part 2 of a two-part series. The first part about Matthew Leituala ran on Tuesday.

By Joel Slocum
Argonaut

Chris Dyko has an estranged relationship with the University of Idaho. While initially looking to attend UI, Dyko was swayed by a coach to attend Washington State University. That persuasive coach was Dennis Erickson.

"It's funny because coach Erickson recruited me," Dyko says.

Ten years later, after a career in the NFL and several adviser positions, they are on the same team working together to better Idaho athletes.

Dyko was hired in October as the interim associate director for the Athletics Academic Support Services Department. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in education with an emphasis in education leadership in 1996 at WSU.

Dyko ensures that the student-athletes meet NCAA standards. As freshmen, student-athletes are required to pass 24 credit hours. In the following years, their progress in school is tracked by percentage values.

"By the end of second year, they need to have 40 percent of their degree completed. After that 60 percent and then 80," Dyko says. "Ultimately, I help them graduate."

But the numbers in the NCAA reports show that graduation rates are down.

"They could be better," Dyko says. "A lot of the students don't even know about their degree plan."

For that reason, the percentage breakdown is so important to his position. It is one of the many things that helps Dyko make sure the students know what to do to graduate. Beyond knowing their percentage requirements, Dyko aids in the areas that most first-time students have problems with.

"I help them know of all the opportunities the campus provides. I make sure they know each syllabus and help them break things down," Dyko says. "I even make sure that there is no conflict with travel and schoolwork."

He also helps student-athletes meet the demands of college life as Division I athletes.

"We really help them work on time management," Dyko

says. "Many times, it is their first experience with time management and we prepare them to get ready for every aspect of their college career."

A different playing field than most

After Dyko's own college career, he was drafted to play for the Chicago Bears. Through his NFL experience, he was exposed to a higher level of sports that few athletes ever see. He played there for a year before he was transferred to the Seattle Seahawks.

"I also brought that to the table," Dyko says. "A lot of students ask me what it was like (to play in the NFL) and I have the knowledge and perspective to let them know."

What he tells them is simple — the average NFL career is two and a half years. Therefore, it is important for student-athletes to finish their degree.

"That is why we direct them to get done," Dyko says. "So that they can have something to fall back on when their career is over."

Personal experience has shown Dyko this.

"You know, I just got cut from the Giants when I go, 'Where do I go now?'" Dyko says. "I started playing for the world league but then it folded. Not too long after, one of my best friends just got his neck broken and was placed in a wheelchair. To say the least, I was out of options."

Dyko turned back to school where he began work on his master's. He was focused on school, but within the year he was getting phone calls from the Canadian Football League.

"At first I told them no," Dyko says. "But then I thought to myself, I am not done with this. I am not done playing football. By about the fourth phone call, I finally agreed, but under one condition — they had to pay me the amount I requested and pay for the rest of my schooling. They considered it a pretty good deal."

After his stint with the CFL and after he had gotten his degree, Dyko was back to the drawing board, trying to decide what to do next. Finally, it dawned on him.

"I was sitting there thinking to myself, 'Who do I talk to? What do I do?'" Dyko says. "Then, I thought maybe with my experience I can help others learn what they can do to get back on their feet from

See **COUPLE**, page B9

Roberts presses to world title

By Andrea Miller
Argonaut

For Ashley Roberts, being banned from playing high school basketball turned out not to be so bad for him after all.

"I couldn't play my senior year," Roberts says. "But that's when I got into lifting." Power lifting, that is, and it ended making him a world champion.

Roberts, a University of Idaho senior, is from South Hampton, England, and has lived in the United States for five and a half years. He was recruited under the guise of a student exchange to play basketball in Ion, Ore.

"I didn't know I was recruited," Roberts says. "But after I got there, there were complaints and the Oregon School Activities Administration ruled that I was ineligible and I couldn't play my senior year."

After being banned from basketball, Roberts became more focused on power lifting.

Roberts participated in his high school's weight lifting club.

His friend's mother, a power lifter, suggested to the weight lifting club that its members try power lifting. Roberts was the only one out of the club that did and found almost immediate success.

"I've always been strong," he says.

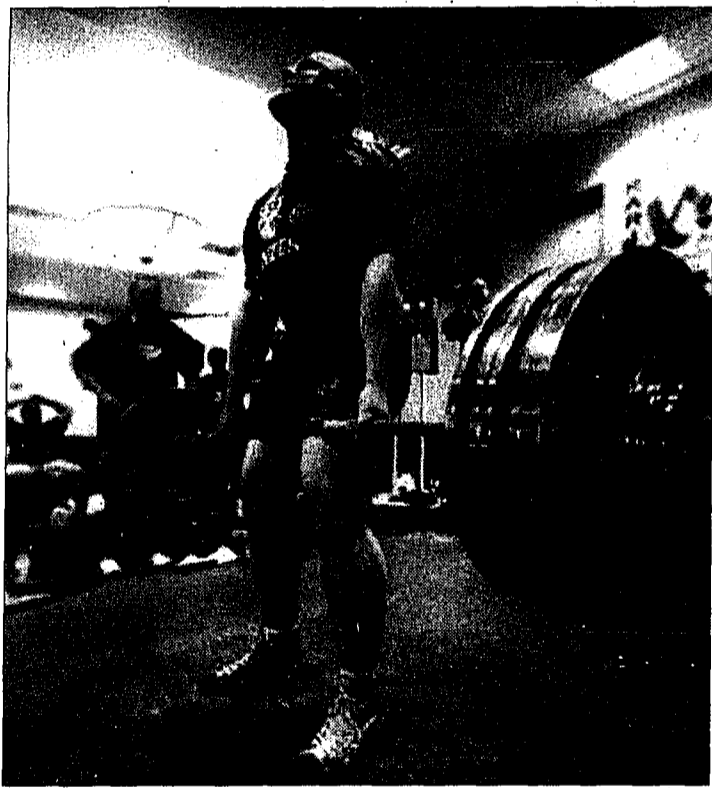
Roberts won his first competition as a senior in high school by dead lifting 500 pounds and he has never looked back.

Roberts intended on returning to England after graduating high school, but looked at UI at the last minute to play football as a walk-on under former Idaho coach Tom Cable.

"I wanted to be at a Division I school and wanted to play for Cable," Roberts says.

Roberts had trouble with his entry paperwork and was never cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse but came to

See **PRESSES**, page B10



Courtesy photo

UI student Ashley Roberts is a world power lifting champion.

SWIMMING

Idaho to face strongest conference foe so far in Nevada

Looking to continue their strong swimming, the Vandals travel south to face off against a tough conference foe

By Ryan Atkins
The Argonaut

The University of Idaho swim team will travel to Reno, Nev., this weekend to face off against the Nevada Wolf Pack in the team's final meet before a one-month break from competition.

The Vandals are coming off a successful trip to the University of Washington for the Husky Invite last weekend, but Nevada-Reno will provide a tough challenge for UI coach Tom Jager and his hungry young squad.

"They're a swimming great," Jager said. "But we need to make some inroads against them this year and probably get some seconds and thirds, maybe win some events."

The Wolf Pack has gotten off to an incredibly hot start this season, amassing a 13-0 record so far this year.

Last season, Nevada-Reno beat the Vandals 191.5-101.5, and they finished second at the season-ending Western Athletic Conference Championships.

And while Jager expects a strong performance out of his team, he knows this time of year can be difficult for swimmers.

"At this time of the year the girls are all over the board. Some girls react well to hard training

and swimming fast, and other kids react poorly," Jager said. "So in these next couple meets, some girls are going to be fine while others are going to be really tired. I just have to read the individual and make adjustments."

Jager also said the upcoming meet will be important for swimmer Jojo Miller, who returned to action last week at the Husky Invite.

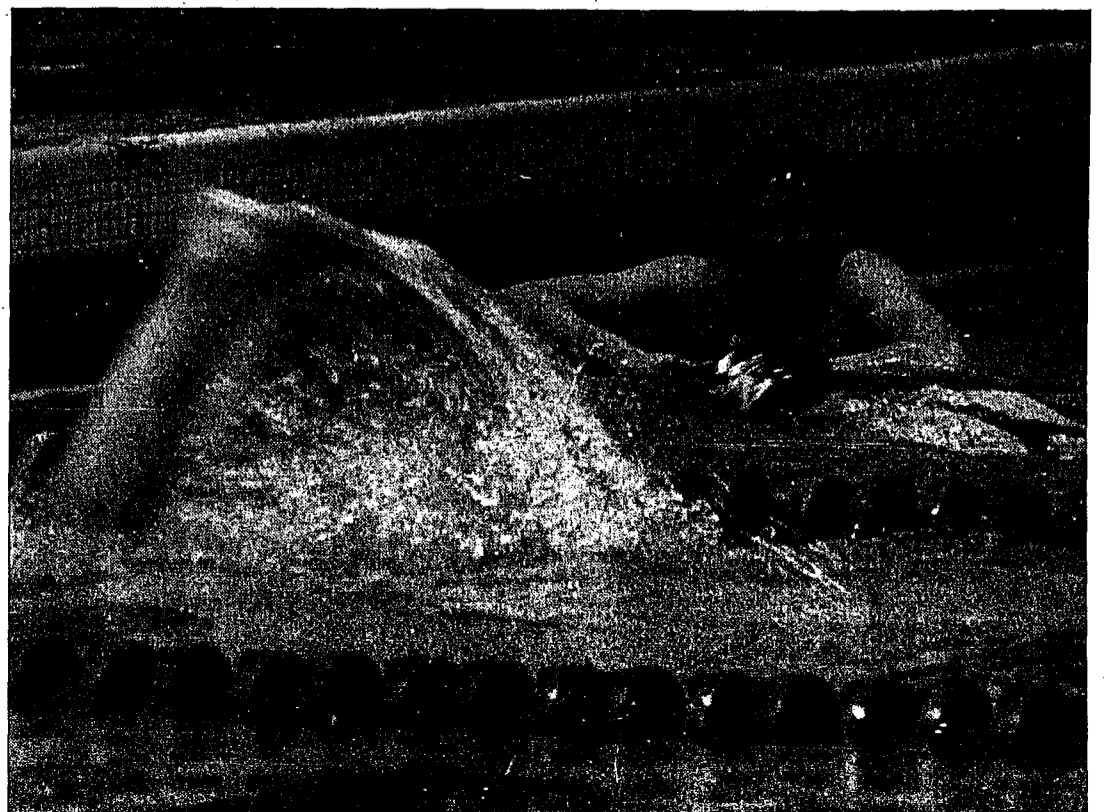
"When you get injured, the hardest thing isn't necessarily the physical comeback, it is the mental comeback," Jager said. "There are a lot of questions mentally to think about so that's mainly what we will be working on before she goes to Christmas. So when she comes back, everything will be normal."

Miller also expects a strong performance out of the Vandals, and she said performing well against the Wolf Pack will be important for the team heading into the long winter break.

"I think it's important for morale just to end on a good note and train hard through Christmas break and come back strong," Miller said.

Following the event, Idaho won't swim again until Jan. 12 when they welcome Northern Arizona University to the UI swim center.

To help combat the long break, the team will have training in Moscow over winter break.



Kylie Pfeifer/Argonaut

UI swimmer Kacie Hogan takes a breather during swim practice on Thursday, Nov. 30.

UI basketball home in double-header

By Nick Heidelberger
Argonaut

The University of Idaho's men's basketball team continued to struggle Wednesday in a 21-point loss to former Big Sky rival Idaho State in Pocatello.

The score was 82-61 and the sixth straight loss for the Vandals, who fell to 1-7 for the season.

Idaho State (3-5) used an 8-11 first half 3-point shooting performance to build an insurmountable 22-point half-time lead. However, Idaho senior guard Keoni Watson scored 20 points in the second half to narrow the deficit. Watson was benched for the first half due to a technical foul in UI's last game against Southern Utah.

ISU's guard David Schroeder set a Holt Arena record of seven 3-pointers, ending with 27 points for the night. Twenty of those points were scored in the first half and Watson held Schroeder to 7 points in the second half.

As promised, coach George Pfeifer brought changes to the Vandals' line-up, starting Andrew Madsen, O.J. Aworo and Trevor Morris for the first time, while Watson, Desmond Nwoke and Michael Crowell came off the bench.

"We've given this dynamic more than a fair shot," Pfeifer said. "If I'm sitting there on the bench and I'm watching and I'm going 'Gosh, I think I can do this,' well OK, here you go, we're going to give some people some shots."

Aworo, who averaged 14 minutes per game before Wednesday, played the entire game against ISU, led the Vandals with five assists and added nine points.

"I was really impressed with O.J. tonight," Pfeifer said. "He came in and played 40 minutes and gave us the best effort from that position all year."

Ten different players saw minutes for the Vandals, who shot 1-6 from the free throw line and were out-rebounded by the Bengals' 35-21. However, Mario Mackey did not make the trip.

The Bengal's 3-5 record may be a little deceiving, with two of their losses coming from top-20 teams in Marquette (No. 17) and Texas A&M (No. 10).

"The teams that we're going against in the non-conference, they're really, really good, they're good basketball teams," said Pfeifer. "It's not like we're running around out there playing somebody and you go 'Oh gosh, they're pretty easy to play.' That's not in our deck of cards right now."

Idaho State is now 2-0 on their home floor.

"Pocatello has never been kind to a lot of people," said Pfeifer. "You go all the way back to when Idaho State beat UCLA back in the day, that would be the defining moment for them down there."

The Vandals play again today, against Washington State. The game will be part of a double-header with the UI women's basketball team. It is scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m., or 30 minutes after the conclusion of the women's game against Montana. Both games are in the Cowan Spectrum.

The Cougars (8-1) are coming off an upset win over No. 18 Gonzaga on Tuesday, and under first-year coach Tony Bennett are off to their best start since 1997.

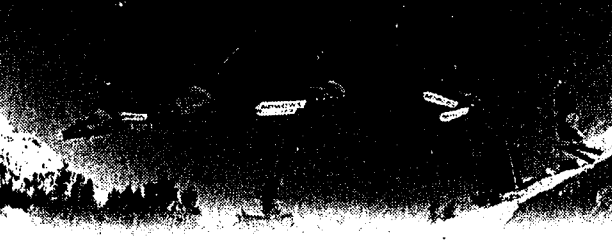
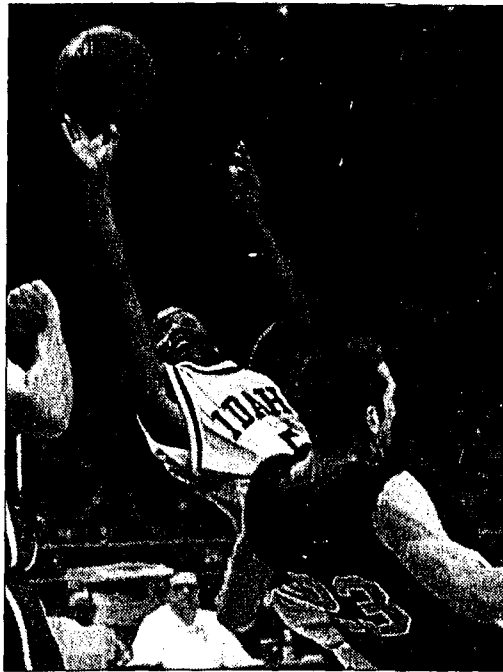
"Washington State is really good," Pfeifer said. "What

they do is hard to prepare for. They have a bunch of players that are juniors that have been doing that system, 365 (days) for three solid years now. You're not going to throw them any curveballs. They've seen it. They know how to handle it."

Bruce Mann/Argonaut

(right) Senior Keoni Watson throws up a shot against Southern Utah on Saturday at the Cowan Spectrum. Watson lead the Vandals with 13 points against the Thunderbirds.

(bottom) Hannah Wells (right) guards Charlotte Otero during drills on Thursday in the PEB.



By Shanna Stalwick
Argonaut

The University of Idaho women's basketball team looks to defend its perfect 2-0 home record Saturday night when it plays University of Montana in the

first game of the men's and women's double-header.

The women's game begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Cowan Spectrum. The men's basketball team will play Washington State 30 minutes following the women's game.

The Vandals' first two victories at home this season came from Sacramento State University (57-48) and Eastern Washington University (73-60).

Idaho (3-4) will look to even its record against the Big Sky Conference's Lady Griz (6-1), but the competition looks to be much greater

than what the Vandals have seen so far this season.

"Montana is very experienced," Idaho coach Mike Divilbiss said. "They are the best team year in and year out in the Big Sky and it isn't close. They are also one of the best teams in the Northwest. ... They are returning four of five starters, and will be a well coached, skilled opponent for us."

This season marks Montana coach Robin Selvig's 29th year coaching the Lady Griz. In the past 28 seasons, he has led Montana to 26 winning seasons with

over 600 wins.

Selvig's longevity is vastly different from the young and new faces on Idaho boasts.

"This team for all intents and purposes has eight freshmen, in terms of mentality and understanding the system," Divilbiss said, referring to all the players new to the team regardless of whether they transferred to Idaho from a junior college. "We need to do a better job even in terms of how we warm up. We have 27 games so we have 27 chances to work on offensive fundamentals."

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PEDAL POWER



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut

Sophomore Chelsea Gruver pedals a stationary bike to power the lights on a Christmas tree in the Student Recreation Center Thursday morning.

National BRIEFS

Klinsmann says 'No thanks'

After premature reports of his hiring, Juergen Klinsmann withdrew his name from consideration to become the next U.S. men's national soccer team coach.

It was reported on several sites that Klinsmann, the former German national coach, had been hired to replace Bruce Arenas as the next U.S. coach.

Those reports proved to be false, however, and the U.S. team is now left scrambling to find a name as credible as Klinsmann's.

The American team has

two matches scheduled for early 2007 and it is in question whether the team will have a coach in place by those times.

Winter meeting action underway

Major League Baseball's winter meetings have seen major moves take place for numerous teams.

Free agent catcher Mike Piazza agreed to a one-year contract to become the Oakland Athletics' new designated hitter.

Starting pitcher Ted Lilly signed a four-year \$40 million contract with the Chicago Cubs, while Jason

Schmidt, one of the prized free agent starting pitchers, signed a three-year \$47 million contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In the biggest trade of the meetings, the Chicago White Sox sent former Seattle Mariner Freddy Garcia to the Philadelphia Phillies for pitcher Gavin Floyd and minor leaguer Gio Gonzalez.

Other deals saw Tom Glavine re-sign with the New York Mets, the Braves sent Horacio Ramirez to the Mariners for Rafael Soriano and Gil Meche signed a five-year \$55 million contract with the Kansas City Royals.

SportsCALENDAR

Friday

UI swimming at Nevada-Reno Reno, Nev.

UI men's basketball vs. Washington State Cowan Spectrum 9:30 p.m.

Saturday

UI women's basketball vs. Montana Cowan Spectrum 7:30 p.m.

UI swimming at Nevada-Reno Reno, Nev.

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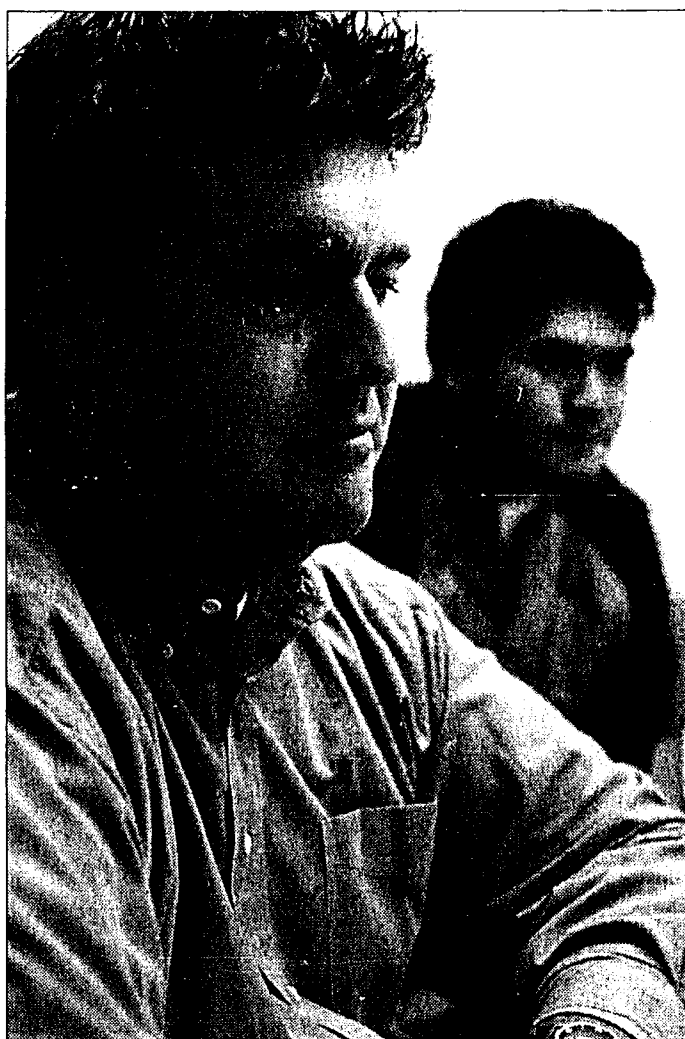
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Kylie Pfeiffer/Argonaut

New athletic employee Chris Dyko reviews academic records with football player Mike Lupati Monday in his office.

COUPLE from page B7

hard times."

From Arizona to Michigan State and Houston, Dyko has been sharing his story and the stories of others.

"I tell them the sad stories about those who went to the NFL and how they now work in a warehouse. Or there are those who want to coach but we can't do anything for them because they don't have a degree," Dyko says. "Basically, I say you need to get your degree. Your degree opens doors but it doesn't close them. It will help you achieve a better quality of life."

On the up and up

By working with at-risk

student-athletes at UI, Dyko has added another dimension to the athletics academic support staff.

At-risk student-athletes include first-generation students or student-athletes with low SAT scores. Matthew Leituala has even suggested a definition of at-risk student-athletes.

"Matt has referred to them as students that are kind of deficient in one or two areas and need help or assistance there," Dyko says.

He does that by helping the students establish good habits and upholding them.

"I don't think there is an impossible situation in terms of helping athletes succeed," Dyko says. "They already have that motivation from their competitive nature."

Dyko suggests that certain

athletes can get involved in certain situations where they just can't say no.

"And that is a part of my job," Dyko says. "To get them into a structured lifestyle and get them doing what they need to be doing."

A plan to do so includes a special program involving the university-issued student planners. Dyko raves about them and will make it mandatory that his students use them. He also hopes to help with freshman orientation and implement testing for learning disabilities at the beginning of each semester.

The goal is to catch learning disabilities before they become a problem. These can then be reported to Disability Services, which can aid student-athletes even further.

Thus far, Dyko has received support across the board and campus for his ideas.

"The people here have been great," Dyko says. "When you have professors come over here and tell us that they are concerned about an athlete that is great. It shows the support from the academia."

The concept of communication is as important to Dyko as it is to Leituala.

"We try to establish connections and a network," Dyko says. "That is what is important in life and that is what I tell students. To succeed they need to network, in both life and athletics."

Dyko uses an analogy of a village to explain it. He says that to raise a child in a village the whole tribe works together. From birth they foster healthy relationships and communication.

"That is the same thing necessary on campus," Dyko says.

Just as in the metaphorical village, Dyko works to play an integral role in the development of every student he works with.

"It's nice to see these people grow," Dyko says, "and when they leave the nest you feel a sense of accomplishment as you have had a hand in helping them grow."

The Department of Psychology and Communication Studies Proudly Announces Its Fall 2006 Graduates

Psychology, Master of Science

- Wesley Miles Hubbard
- Roger Thomas Lew
- William Andrew Schaudt
- Shawnee A. Williams
- Cynthia Lynn Wulff

Communication Studies, Bachelor of Science

- Ridade Seden Bayik
- Leslie Jane Bushnell
- Allhea Jean Flegel
- Raylene Smith French
- K'Lynn Wilda Kennedy
- Esteban Alejandro Roybal
- Rosalynn Dawn West
- summa cum laude
- Shawna Marie Wright

Psychology, Bachelor of Science

- Courtney Marie Bean
- cum laude
- Kari Arleen Branson
- Jennifer Lynn Breier
- magna cum laude
- Nadine Marie Burgemeister
- Leslie Jane Bushnell
- Erin Brianna Carroll
- Nichole Lynn Chapple
- Katrina Ann Coffman
- Chelsey Ferguson
- Stephen Roy Goodson
- Daniel L. Hawks
- Cody Lawrence Hatch
- Christina Marie Head
- Tracy L. Hofius
- John Alan Jones
- Melissa Kay Jones
- Christopher William Markley
- Tamara Lynn Matej
- Chelsea Rebecca McLaughlin
- Jennifer May Mercado
- Christina Louise Meyer
- Nathaniel Benjamin Moe
- Joseph Michael Oliver
- Bryn Elise Parker
- cum laude

- Ryan Thomas Reeder
- Erin Kristen Rice
- Michael Francis Scorcio
- Melissa Marie Silva
- Mariko Suzuki
- Jace Noah Thayer
- Melanie Renee Thomas
- cum laude

- Carly Yvonne Vanderschaaf
- cum laude
- Daniel Robert Wheeler
- Virginia Lee Williams
- Heather Ann Ybarlucea

Psychology, Bachelor of Arts

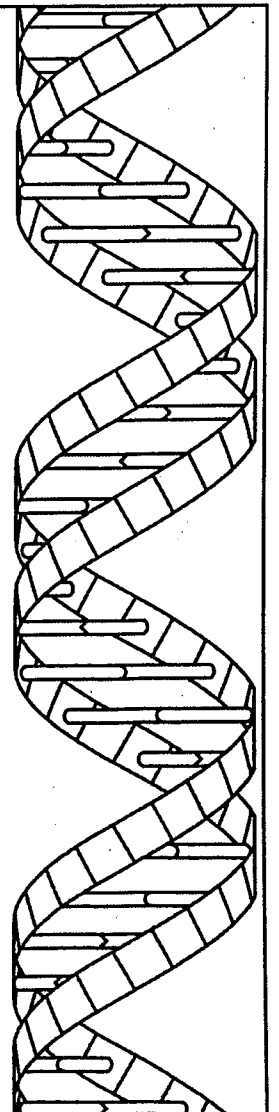
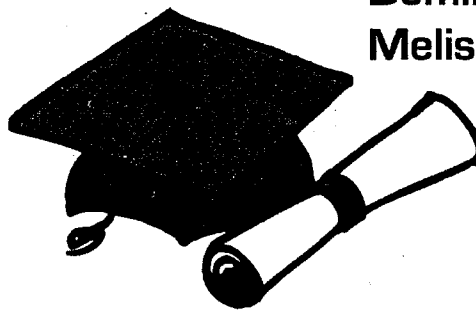
- Rachael Marie Mulder
- Monica Gayle Privette
- Fernando Valde



The Department of Biological Sciences congratulates...

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- Melissa Goodpaster
- Collyn Larson
- Anthony Little
- Holly Paddock
- Katherine Quinn
- Rosanna Satterfield
- Bonnie Waldemarson
- Dominic Wells
- Melissa Williams



PRESSES

from page B7

Moscow anyway. Instead of walking-on to the football team, Roberts interned in the varsity weight room.

"It's fun to work with different athletes and watch them develop," Roberts says.

Roberts is also a house director on campus in charge of four Living Learning Community buildings and oversees eight resident assistants. He has been in the resident assistant program for three years now.

After coming to Moscow, Roberts found Brent Mikesell on the Internet, contacted him, and has been working with him ever since. Mikesell, a former WSU weight lifting coach, used to hold the world-record in the squat at 1,141 pounds.

"He kind of took me under his wing," Roberts says. "He saw my potential and guided me and he's been doing it ever since."

Mikesell lives in Spokane and Roberts used to travel there to meet with him. But Roberts and about six other guys built a gym in a Pullman garage, where they can work-out together.

"I have kind of a little team down here," Roberts says. "It's pretty cool."

Roberts works out four days a week. He has a light and heavy day for his legs and the same for his arms.

Workouts typically take two to three hours.

"We do low reps and heavy weight," Roberts says. "And we take longer rest periods in between sets so our bodies are ready and recovered to go again."

Roberts competes in the World Power Lifting Congress and American Power Lifting Federation sanctioned events.

"That's where the best lifters in the world lift," Roberts says.

He also says he chose to lift in the level with the most competition, so he can compete and win against the best in the sport.

"You're never going to be the best unless you compete against the best," Roberts says.

And the best is what Roberts has become. In all of his competitions he has only placed lower than first twice, both times have been at national competitions.

At competitions, power lifters are scored in three different lifts — squat, bench press and dead lift.

Each lifter gets three chances at each lift. The heaviest weight they lift from each category is added together to determine the winner.

"The total of the three (lifts)

works because you can compensate for a bad lift in the other two (lifts) and kind of push yourself harder," Roberts says.

In 2005, at his first national competition, he placed 17th in the 275-pound division.

"But I set all personal best lifts at that competition," Roberts says.

Roberts says his competition was a lot older and more experienced at that meet but he still pleased with his performance.

Then last June, Roberts placed second as a member of the Iron Gladiators Team at a national competition in Las Vegas.

"I didn't have a great performance," Roberts says. "One thing would go well, then another wouldn't."

Throughout the competition, Roberts performed double duties as an athlete and a coach.

"I kind of helped coach at nationals," Roberts says. "It was a lot of fun."

Placing second at Nationals earned Roberts a spot at the world competition. The World Power Lifting Congress competition was held Nov. 1-5 in Lake George, N.Y. Only five men competed in the 308-pound open division.

"Two Europeans didn't show," Roberts says. "And most countries only send one or two athletes, for financial reasons."

That didn't matter to Roberts, who won the competition, being the only man to finish all three lifts.

"Worlds were a different atmosphere. People tried to go higher (in weight)," Roberts says. "But I went in with a set game plan."

Roberts injured his hamstring three weeks before Worlds, which limited his training going into the competition. But he opened the competition by squatting 880 pounds.

"I went for 951 (after 880), my best, but three weeks out of the injury I didn't get it," Roberts says.

Afterward, he opened his bench press at 660 pounds and jumped up to a personal best of 700 pounds.

Roberts was the only eligible competitor in the dead lift, the competition's final lift. He opened with 400 pounds, light because of his hamstring. He then tried for 705 pounds.

"I missed it on my second try but got it on my third," Roberts says.

The 700-pound bench press and 705-pound dead lift were Robert's personal bests. His best in the squat is 950 pounds.

Roberts will graduate from UI in the spring with a degree in sports science. With the excitement of graduation, starting his career, and an early-August wedding date with fiancée Jamie VandeenBrink, Roberts only plans to compete at Nationals and the world competition next year.

He also plans on slimming back down to 275 pounds to compete in the 275-pound

division and win that next year.

"More people compete in the 275 division or the heavy-weight division," Roberts says. "The 308 division doesn't have the numbers of the other ranges."

Roberts has been lucky enough to find sponsors who have helped him through his competitions. He has been sponsored by irongradators.com for three years, ATP Wrist Straps for a year and a half and At-Large Nutrition for the last year.

Roberts pays for his plane ticket to each competition but his sponsors take care of everything else.

"I am really lucky to have sponsors," Roberts says. "I am definitely fortunate compared to most athletes in the sport."

Roberts hopes his luck stays with him next year, too. He plans to move to Coeur d'Alene or Spokane and open up his own sports training center.

"It will be for younger athletes up to the collegiate level," Roberts says. "With a NFL combine program for college graduates."

Roberts has continued his work in the UI varsity weight room for the last three years and has overseen workouts for many different teams. He believes there is a huge gap in the development of younger athletes. He says he has seen athletes at the college level who can't perform basic body weight lifts correctly.

"I'd like to educate young athletes and develop the industry so kids can go right to college and lift correctly," Roberts says.

SportsBRIEFS

Rec Yoga starting

Moscow Parks and Recreation is offering yoga classes January-April. Parks and Recreation offers full sessions (\$70), two half sessions (\$40), or walk-ins (\$5). Classes will be held at the Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center. Registration is due Dec. 19. For more information or registration, contact Moscow Parks and Recreation at 883-7084.

WAC.tv offering season tickets

Season tickets for viewing WAC men's and women's basketball games are now available on WAC.tv. The season tickets are available for each sport and each ticket consists of over 70 games, many of them exclusive. The men's basketball season ticket contains more than 75 basketball games and will be available for \$75. The women's basketball season ticket has more than 70 games and is available for \$60.

WAC.tv is the Internet-based distribution system of WAC content. WAC.tv streams video with accompanying audio from the home team at a bit rate of 539 kilobits per second. This bit rate is the equivalent to cable television resolution.

For more information on WAC.tv and the season ticket packages, go to www.WAC.tv.

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Smith, Heisman Trophy favorite, gets life together with Ohio State

By Marla Ridenour
Akron Beacon Journal

Troy Smith's first trophy from the Glenville A's peeewe football team was for perseverance.

Living in a drug-plagued neighborhood of eastern Cleveland, Smith earned that award when he was 9 because he had lost his family. His father left when he was a toddler, and that season his mother, Tracy, had to give him up so she could get her life in order.

Irvin White Jr., the coach who with his wife, Diane, took in Smith for four years, still has all of Troy's hardware. White boasts that the rest are either for leadership or as team MVP.

Continuing that trend, Ohio State's senior quarterback is expected to receive the nation's highest college football honor Saturday night. He is the overwhelming favorite to capture the 72nd Heisman Trophy at the Nokia Theater in New York.

The bronze statue represents an achievement far greater than Smith's first little plastic award. But they both could have the same word emblazoned across the bottom.

Through problems at home, getting tossed out of Lakewood St. Edward High School, little playing time at OSU and a two-game suspension for taking \$500 from a booster, Smith "stayed the course," as he put it. Now 25-2 as a starter, he will lead the top-ranked Buckeyes against Florida in the BCS National Championship Game on Jan. 8.

While Smith excelled at Ohio State, White wasn't afraid to let him have it after he took money from a booster and was suspended for the 2004 Alamo Bowl and the 2005 season opener.

"OSU was being investigated in basketball. It was under a microscope and Troy got caught by that microscope," White said. "I told him he was wrong, taking pay for work he had not done. Troy slipped. But it's difficult for young men to turn down \$1,000 or \$500. One day a restaurant offered him a free meal and Rod had to go and pay for the meal."

"It's like being a metro policeman getting free coffee and doughnuts or when a celebrity comes into your restaurant, you're just so happy to have them there. The NCAA says you can't do that. Boys have to understand the seriousness of what they're doing."

Smith's performance in 2006 may have been enough to make Heisman voters forget that transgression. Smith's special season doesn't surprise White in the least. The

Heisman does.

"Being the Heisman Trophy winner is being in the right place at the right time, on the right team, the right record, the right coach. That's like hitting the lottery," said White, a retired insurance salesman who helps run his wife's window-treatment business.

White said Smith had received a scholarship offer from Ohio State before he went to Glenville for his senior year, but it was Ted Ginn Sr. who helped Smith navigate the maze of recruiters and end up in Columbus.

Ginn had known Smith since he was 7 and fought for his eligibility when the state banned him from all high school sports after the St. Edward incident. Smith had elbowed another player in the head and knocked him out. He told Sports Illustrated the other boy, who is white, was taunting him with a racial slur.

"I know his life. I know where he came from," Ginn said. "You can't hang kids from the tree for one or maybe two mistakes. When we're in the business of saving children. We understand these things."

The two became closer when Smith went to Ohio State, where Ted Ginn Jr. followed two years later. Smith has a key to Ginn's house and calls him "Dad."

Smith needed "Dad" plenty in the days to follow.

Smith was angry that OSU labeled him as an "athlete" when he was the last player to sign with the Class of 2002.

"I knew he was a quarterback," Ginn said. "We can call you whatever we want to call you."

He said Smith had to figure out: "I've got to be a quarterback. I've got to learn how to think with my head and use my arm."

Smith was also upset with his role as a kickoff returner in 2003, which Ginn said had nothing to do with Smith's involvement in a fight outside a campus dorm.

"Tress (coach Jim Tressel) said, 'We need to give him something to do because (Craig) Krenzle is still here, so we're going to have him return kicks so the field won't be a shock to him,'" Ginn said. "Troy took that wrong. I knew everything that was going down with Troy."

Ginn believes Smith would have become the starter even if former Parade All-American Justin Zwick of Massillon hadn't gotten hurt in the sixth game of 2004.

"In order for Troy to be the quarterback at Ohio State, Troy had to mature," Ginn said. "Once he decided, there wasn't any doubt. I think Tress was fair in how he went about the quarterback controversy. It

was up there for whoever was going to do the work and whoever was the best athlete, whoever we could win with. It was going to happen."

In the midst of Smith's frustration, Ginn said, he told Smith to ask for a transfer and suggested he go to Nebraska to run the option offense.

"I said, 'If you don't go to that film room and learn the game, you'll be (only) a great college quarterback. I don't know a great college quarterback who made any money in the NFL,'" Ginn said.

Ginn said one of the turning points in Smith's life was his suspension from the Alamo Bowl. Smith watched the game with a buddy in Ginn's basement.

"That was rough," Ginn said. "He felt he let his teammates down. He let himself down. He let the university down. Troy loves hard. I don't care how he sits up and tries to show you he's a big strong man, Troy's got a good heart. He probably loves people who love him real hard. He loves his teammates. He loves Ohio State. He was embarrassed for that."

Smith was changed by looking at Ginn's basement shrine to Glenville stars Ginn Jr., Pierre Woods (Michigan-New England Patriots), Donte Whitner (OSU-Buffalo Bills) — and Smith.

"I'm watching TV and looking at all the things we have all done. I really, really got it in my head that there wouldn't be a situation like this again," Smith said in August. "I (knew) my team is first in everything. Running out the field with my guys is something I'll never take (for granted) again. That's probably the best feeling in the world."

Another turning point came in 2005, after a 17-10 loss at Penn State. Smith played poorly in OSU's second loss, which ended the Buckeyes' national-title hopes.

Ginn was in his ear afterward.

"It was along the (lines) of, 'You see how it feels. Now it's time to do your 180, turn everything around. You have to start being the best quarterback you can,'" Smith said this summer.

"I had it set in my mind I didn't want to feel that again. I really preyed on the film room and stayed in the film room. Now I ask the coaches to sit down with me even when they don't want me. It's a hunger and a thirst that I hope can't be matched nationally."

Ginn now hears those who say Smith can't succeed in the NFL because he's only about 6 feet tall, and he smiles.

"Another chapter in the book," Ginn said. "He couldn't be the quarterback at Ohio State, either, could he?"

Buck O'Neil awarded Presidential Medal

By Matt Stearns and Steve Penn
McClatchy Newspapers

This is bigger than the Hall of Fame.

Kansas City icon Buck O'Neil — famously denied election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame this year — has been posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, the White House announced Thursday.

O'Neil, the longtime Kansas City monarch, worked tirelessly to ensure that the Negro Leagues were respectfully remembered decades after the playing fields fell silent. Along the way, he became a stout-hearted, storytelling treasure.

He died in October at age 94.

"John 'Buck' O'Neil represented excellence and determination both on and off the baseball field," read the White House news release. "He was a talented player and manager in the Negro Leagues, became major league baseball's first African-American coach and was a co-founder of and inspiration for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum."

The distinction places O'Neil in a pantheon of greats who have received the medal: From actors John Wayne and Jimmy Stewart to astronaut Neil Armstrong. From civil rights legends Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., to comics Bob Hope and Lucille Ball. From playwright Tennessee Williams to former Presidents John Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

And Britain's Margaret Thatcher. And Egypt's Anwar Sadat.

"This kind of honor would have been the pinnacle for him in many respects," Bobby Kendrick, marketing director of the Negro Leagues museum in Kansas City, said at a news conference announcing the award.

"There was no one prouder to be an American than Buck

O'Neil," Kendrick said, recalling the importance that O'Neil placed in singing the national anthem at Negro League games. "Despite the hardships that were occurring as a result of his skin, he refused to accept the fact that he was anything less than American."

O'Neil will be among 10 honorees recognized Dec. 15 at a White House ceremony.

The others are historians David McCullough and Paul Johnson, bluesman B.B. King, human-rights activist Natan Sharansky, columnist William Safire, politician Norm Mineta, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Joshua Lederberg, Xavier University President Norman Francis and literacy activist Ruth Johnson Colvin.

President Harry S. Truman established the Medal of Freedom in 1945 to recognize meritorious wartime service. Kennedy re-introduced it in 1963 as a civilian award. The medal has been bestowed on more than 300 luminaries in medicine, the arts, journalism and politics, among other endeavors.

Kendrick recalled the day in 2000 when presidential candidate George W. Bush toured the Negro Leagues museum with O'Neil. Like any other baseball fan, Bush hit it off with the affable ambassador.

The White House would not say how O'Neil had been selected or whether the White House was responding to the uproar that followed the announcement that O'Neil had been denied entrance to the baseball hall. A spokesman deferred all such questions until President Bush conducts the award ceremony.

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, a Missouri Democrat, who knew O'Neil for years, commended Bush because "Buck O'Neil had a lot of lessons for us. He never grew old, and we cannot allow his memory to grow cold."

Cleaver also joked: "It turns out, even in death, you can't stop Buck O'Neil."

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Hours/Week: variable
Job Located in: Moscow

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EMPLOYMENT

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Rate of Pay: \$8-9.25/hr DOE
Hours/Week: part-time during school year, 3/4 to full time in summer
Start: after December 15, 2006
Job Located in: Moscow

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The Argonaut

NFL kickers are on the mark more than ever

By Daniel Brown
San Jose Mercury News

In 1966, hours after missing a 23-yard field-goal try that would have given the Buffalo Bills a victory, kicker Booth Lusteg took a dejected walk home. Along the way, some Bills fans recognized him. They hopped out of their car, roughed him up and drove away. Team officials later asked Lusteg why he didn't alert the police.

"Because I had it coming," he replied.

These days, fans are more likely to hop out of their cars to give their kicker a hug. Take last weekend, for example, when Rob Bironas boomed a 60-yarder in the final seconds to help the Tennessee Titans upset the Indianapolis Colts, 20-17.

Later that afternoon, Martin Gramatica of the Dallas Cowboys nailed a 46-yarder to topple the New York Giants.

And, in the nightcap, Josh Brown of the Seattle Seahawks drilled a 50-yarder with four seconds remaining against the Denver Broncos for his fourth winning kick of the season.

They are all part of a wave of ridiculously accurate kickers, the rare set of players demonstrably better than previous generations.

Jan Stenerud, who played from 1967-1985, was the first pure kicker elected into the Hall of Fame, having made 66.8 percent of his attempts. Such a percentage today might not be enough to stay employed. Just ask Mike Vanderjagt, whom the Cowboys booted after he converted at a 72.2 percent rate.

Based on career percentage, Vanderjagt (86.5) is the most accurate field-goal kicker in history. Everybody else on the top 10 list will be in uniform Sunday, with each owning career marks of at least 80.3 percent.

Kickers are not only connect-

ing more often; they also are connecting from farther away.

Sixteen kickers have made at least five 50-yarders in one season. And all but three accomplished the feat after 1990. The exceptions are Fred Steinfort (1980), Norm Johnson (1986) and Dean Biasucci (1988).

Once upon a time, kickers were hardly so valuable — or reliable. They were regarded as flakes, a reputation that would be unfair were it not so deserved.

"It takes a different breed of personality to be a kicker — mentally deficient," said Errol Mann, who completed an 11-year NFL career with the Raiders in 1978.

During the 1950s and '60s, field goals were mostly a side job for position players. Paul Hornung, a halfback, handled kicking chores for the Green Bay Packers, which is how he once racked up 33 points in a game — four touchdowns, six PATs and a field goal.

George Blanda still holds the record for most career point-after tries, but he was better known as a quarterback (including for the Raiders in 1967-75).

Even Lou "The Toe" Groza had another job: He played tackle for 14 seasons, starting in 1946, before serving exclusively as a kicker for his final seven seasons.

But the kicks were a risky venture, even for those Hall of Famers: Hornung hit 47.1 percent of his career attempts, Blanda 52.7 percent and Groza 57.8 percent.

For comparison's sake, Owen Pochman hit 53.3 percent of his attempts for the 49ers in 2003 and was never heard from again.

The first kicking specialist was "Bootin'" Ben Agajanian, who played in 1945-64. "The Toeless Wonder," as he was also known, lost four toes on his kicking foot while in college, but he would become one of only two players (Hardy Brown is the

other) to play in the NFL, the AFL and the All-American Football Conference.

Agajanian's performance as a specialist didn't create an immediate trend. But Pete Gogolak did that when he became the first soccer-style kicker in professional football.

Gogolak was 14 when his family emigrated to America from Hungary in 1957. He made his debut with Buffalo in 1964 and once joked that he should have patented his technique. "I should get 50 cents for every time somebody makes a kick soccer style," he said.

Soccer-style kickers take three steps back and two steps over to attack the ball from the side. Straight-ahead kickers take three steps back and approach the ball from the front.

The straight-ahead style had its moments: Tom Dempsey used it to make a 63-yarder in 1970 (a record now shared by the Denver

Broncos' Jason Elam). But the style would fade quickly after the arrival of Gogolak, Garo Yepremian, Stenerud and others.

The last conventional kicker was Mark Moseley, who retired in 1986. (Moseley, like Dempsey, also fared all right. He hit 20 of 21 attempts for the Washington Redskins in 1982 and became the only kicker to win the NFL MVP award.)

During the years, the rules have changed regarding the use of tees and the placement of the goalposts. But the most dramatic development in the kicking game might be the rise in standards. Players either make the kick — or get drop-kicked out the door.

"When I came into the league, if you made 80 percent of your field goals you were the Pro Bowl kicker," Gary Anderson told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in 2000. "Now, it's changed so much that you almost need to be making 80 percent to keep your job."

Gonzaga's Heytvelt raising his already big profile

By Bud Withers
The Seattle Times

Gonzaga, with all its side dishes, has become a clenched-jaw sort of college-basketball rivalry. But Wednesday, a keen observer introduced some whimsy to it.

"Spencer's got the edge," quipped Rolin Heytvelt, father of Gonzaga center Josh Heytvelt, in reference to the Huskies' 7-foot Spencer Hawes. "His family members played in the NBA, and in college."

"Josh's dad was maybe on a city-league championship team 20 years ago."

No doubt, Hawes has genealogical favor; his dad Jeff played at Washington, and uncle Steve is a 10-year veteran of the NBA.

But in his first 10 meaningful games as a collegian, Josh Heytvelt has shown himself to be DNA-gifted as well. In 26 minutes a game, the third-year Gonzaga sophomore is averaging 17.3 points and 7.9 rebounds.

Even the Zags' Tuesday-night loss at Washington State hardly dulled Heytvelt's profile. He scored a team-high 22 points and seven rebounds, and for much of the second half was just about

the only offense available to Gonzaga.

"I'm tickled he's been able to get out and begin to show what he's capable of," said the senior Heytvelt. "I still think he's very much a work in progress."

Tell that to North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough, a preseason candidate for player of the year. Heytvelt scored 19 points and had eight rebounds, helped hold Hansbrough to nine and nine, blocked two of his shots and simply seemed to stun him into submission.

The 6-foot-11 Heytvelt is proof that players are where you find them, not always in Los Angeles or New York or even Seattle. He grew up in the southeastern Washington town of Clarkston, population about 7,500.

Rolin (about 6-4) and Michelle (5-9) Heytvelt had both attended Western Washington. They moved east in the late 1970s to Clarkston, where he became a fireman and she an elementary-school teacher.

Their two older daughters were good athletes, and then along came Josh, playing every sport available, swimming every summer day, always bigger than his classmates.

"The majority of the kids here are guard-size," said Rolin Heytvelt. "So if

you're going to play pickup basketball, you're going to play like a guard. That's what he grew up with."

That means Heytvelt learned to gun from outside, and still does. It also means he's relatively raw at what Gonzaga really needs—the grimy, low-blocks stuff, as heir to the tradition of Ronny Turiaf and J.P. Batista.

"Josh is one of those guys that's so talented, everybody wants a little more right now," said Gonzaga assistant Tommy Lloyd. "He never had the opportunity to be a role player here. He's been kind of thrust into it."

Two years ago, the Zags had Turiaf and Batista, so Heytvelt redshirted as a freshman. Last year, he was due to complement Batista, but broke a bone when a Connecticut player landed on his ankle during a scrum at the Maui Invitational.

He returned in February to grab a ride on the Adam Morrison train, but was almost an afterthought.

"We were so far along with our season, and in our groove," Lloyd said.

It was the offseason that became a flashpoint in Heytvelt's life. He and another Gonzaga student gave birth to a daughter, Hailey Rose, and everyone agrees that the responsibility

seemed to file off some edges of immaturity in Heytvelt.

"Ever since then, I've definitely changed my work ethic in school and in basketball," said Heytvelt, who has a shoulder tattoo bearing his daughter's name. "It means a lot more to me than it ever has."

Said Lloyd, "He's growing up. He came to me the other day and said, 'You know, I'm going to graduate in four years.'"

Rolin Heytvelt says the experience has seasoned more than just his son.

"I have seen so much growth in him this past year," he says. "Actually, I've seen a whole bunch of growth in myself."

"It's one of those situations ... Josh and his girlfriend are both just great kids. You hope sometimes the cart doesn't get in front of the horse, but they've both been really mature about the whole situation. Hailey Rose is absolutely precious."

"They're two kids, and there but for the grace of God, any one of us could be in the same situation. They've taken the situation head-on."

On the floor, Heytvelt would suggest that he was undersold even when he made some top-50 national recruiting lists three years ago.

"The first time I saw him was at our team camp," said Lloyd. "He was a sophomore-to-be. He went up and about ripped the rim off. You could just see the way he moved — he had a wiry strength about him. We've always known he was going to be special."

Unwittingly, Heytvelt was in the eye of a storm as a junior at Clarkston High, when Gonzaga was one of a handful of schools that turned in UW assistant Cameron Dollar for improper recruiting contacts.

"I was new to the recruitment program," Heytvelt said. "I didn't know what was what, who was who. When they (NCAA investigators) started asking questions, it started scaring me."

"I still have respect for the Husky program. They're really good guys. It's bad that (Dollar) lost what he lost and got fined. But I guess when there's rules you have to follow ..."

Says his father, "For a small-town kid to have all this stuff going on ... there's never really been anybody in this area recruited like that, no one to really ask questions of."

Heytvelt was only 16 then, just a kid. Today, maybe the youth isn't all gone yet, but it's disappearing fast.

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