

THE ARGONAUT

Friday, January 19, 2007

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CLOUD BOUND

"It's a rush. I mean, it feels cool to be so high up and to see these clouds below you. From where we were sleeping, our tent, it looked like you could have taken six or seven steps and you would have been just walking on cotton."

How one UI law student scaled Mount Kilimanjaro

By Tara Roberts
Argonaut

Chase Martin sat in the tiny prop plane as the pilot announced they were cruising at 19,000 feet. A nervous pang shot through Martin — soon, he'd be almost 400 feet higher, and he wouldn't be in a plane.

Martin, a third-year law student at the University of Idaho, flew to Tanzania on Dec. 27, his 28th birthday, to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. An enormous, inactive volcano, Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the tallest freestanding mountain in the world.

The trip was a surprise for Martin and his brother Sean from their stepfather, Paul Stoltz, who had introduced them to climbing as children.

"We were together over the summer and we decide that we need to do what we call a 'Dad and Lad Trip,'" Martin says. "My stepfather surprised my brother and I by saying the three of us are all going to climb Kilimanjaro together, and it's going to be over the Christmas holiday."

Getting there

With just six months to prepare for the hike, Martin began training. He focused on cardiovascular exercise by hiking on Moscow Mountain, biking and running. For some unconventional exercise, he and a friend played 18 holes of golf four times a week. Cardio is essential to preparing for such a trip, largely due to the extreme altitude, Martin says.

"Truth is, there's no way you can prepare for that type of altitude here," he says. "There's no mountain big enough to get you ready to stand on 19,000 feet."

Because of the mountain's altitude, Martin also had to purchase a variety of new climbing gear. Climbers on Kilimanjaro pass through climates including rainforest, alpine bogs and the icy peak. On Martin's trip, the lower rainforest was about 55 degrees Fahrenheit, while the summit was about 10 below zero.

"You needed really everything,"

vital facts:

KILIMANJARO

Location: northeastern Tanzania, Africa

Type: stratovolcano

Highest point: Uhuru Peak

Height at summit: 19,340 feet (5,895 meters)

Nearest major city: Arusha, Tanzania

Titles: Africa's highest point, world's highest free-standing mountain, one of the world's largest volcanoes

he says. "You needed shorts, you needed, like, light weather hiking pants, heavy duty hiking pants ... under-layers, kind of an expedition-type parka, rain gear."

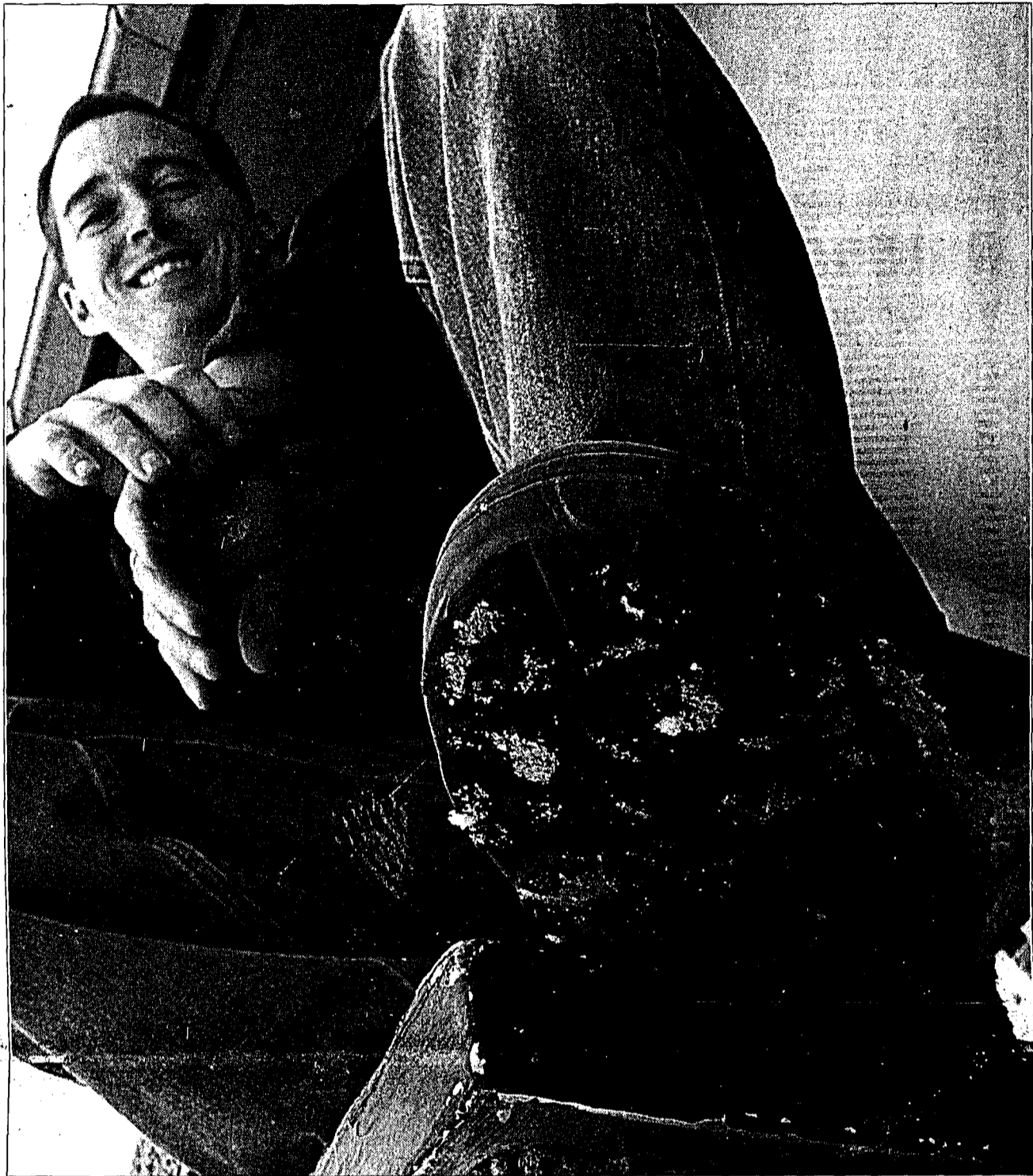
When Martin and his family landed in Arusha, the city near the base of the mountain, the impending altitude and physical challenge were on his mind. Kilimanjaro was still a mystery at this point — unusually rainy weather covered the mountain in cloud cover.

"We knew that sort of in this great, gray area, there was a huge, huge mountain out there somewhere, but we didn't know where, so we just used our imaginations," Martin says. "And I think that since we couldn't see it, it made it even more intimidating."

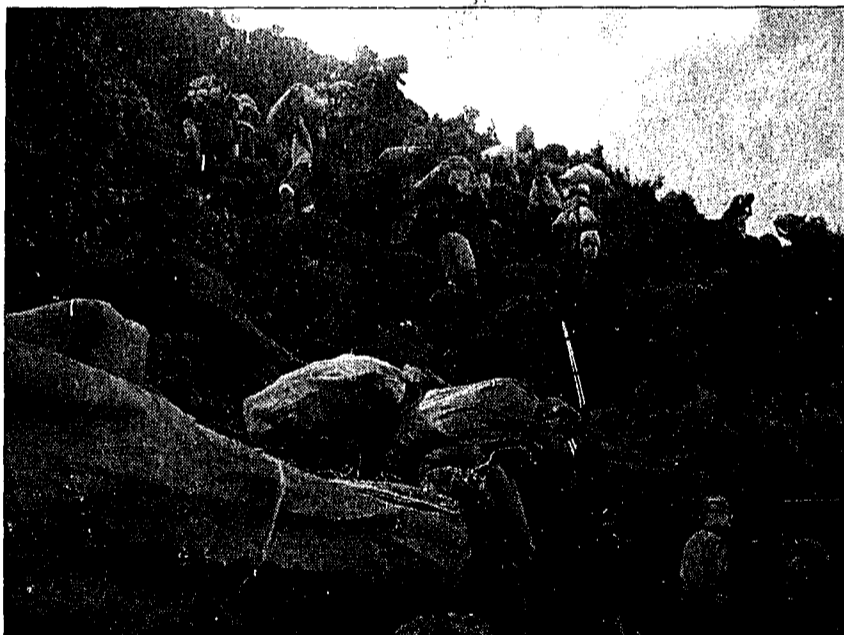
Day 1: Stuck in the mud and rain

After a day in Arusha National Park, Martin and his family were ready to tackle the mountain. But just getting to the trail was the first challenge. The rains had turned the access roads to thick mud, and washed some out. The men and their guide, Nickson Moshi, piled into a 1960s Land Cruiser and attempted to make it up the roads, but became hopelessly stuck about four miles from the trailhead. They gave up and started to walk when what Martin calls "a uniquely African moment" happened — another vehicle appeared, swerving wildly up the road behind them. The driver turned out to be a friend of Moshi's and invited them to hop in.

See CLOUD, page 3



Lisa Wareham/Argonaut (top) Third-year law student Chase Martin sports his hiking boots on the porch of his home Thursday morning. Martin climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa during Christmas break. He says going back to Africa brought back good memories of his two years in the Peace Corps in South Africa.



Courtesy Photo (left) The group climbing Mount Kilimanjaro with law student Chase Martin scales the Barranco Wall while another group descends.

Friends, family memorialize deceased cheerleader



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut Leah Schwisow, left, comforts Jessica Gudgel at Angie Cabrera's memorial service Wednesday evening at St. Augustine's.

By Shanna Stalwick
Argonaut

Angie Cabrera's family referred to the 19-year-old as a "princess in training."

When friends and family went on to describe Cabrera as an addict for salacious celebrity gossip adorned in oversized Jackie Onassis-esque sunglasses, it only brought more validity to her title. The University of Idaho freshman communications major and Spirit Squad cheerleader was pursuing a career in magazine or broadcast journalism to fulfill her appetite for the latest celeb dirt.

"She truly was unique," friend and UI Spirit Squad teammate Janelle Gemberling said at Cabrera's memorial service held at St. Augustine's Church Wednesday night. "And you didn't have to be her best friend to know that."

The UI Spirit Squad, friends, faculty

and family comforted one another during the service. Somber faces streaked with tears were interrupted with laughter as memories were shared about their charismatic teammate, friend, student and loved one they had lost.

Angelina "Angie" Cabrera died Jan. 4 in a car accident just outside her hometown of Payette.

"We are still in complete and utter shock, hoping that when we wake up the next morning it will all have been just a bad nightmare," Gemberling said. "But unfortunately, it isn't."

According to the Idaho State Police report, UI freshman Katelyn Dillon, 18, was driving a 1998 Jeep Wrangler when she lost control of the vehicle on the ice-covered Interstate 84. The Jeep slid across the median and flipped over just after 2 a.m.

Along with Cabrera and Dillon were two other passengers, Bobbie Davis, 18,

and Kasandra del Valle, 18. Davis died at the scene and del Valle is recovering from serious injuries.

Dillon was also injured in the crash and taken to West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell where she was released later that morning.

Along with being members of the UI Spirit Squad, both Gemberling and Cabrera lived in the Theophilus Tower, where they became friends after their resident assistants suggested they meet one another.

Gemberling's most memorable moments with Cabrera included "going out and, as Ang would say, 'getting down with our bad selves' ... and watching our boy Flavor Flav find 'true love.' ... and most importantly, sitting in that room together without saying anything."

See CABRERA, page 4

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a look
INSIDE

ARTS&CULTURE

Seattle-based band The Bradbury Press comes to John's Alley and a UI graduate student shares experiences as a poet.

OPINION

The editorial board thinks Congress could do more for students and Frank takes on the Bible.



SPORTS&REC

UI men's tennis and track and field teams head on the road this weekend to open their seasons.

on the
WEB

Read stories, comment on blogs and browse our (nearly) full archives at

www.uiargonaut.com

WeatherFORECAST

Today Evening Snow Hi: 32° Lo: 28° Saturday Snow Shower Hi: 33° Lo: 24° Sunday Part Cloudy Hi: 29° Lo: 26°

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

Campus Recreation M-TH: 6am-11:30pm Friday: 6am-9pm Saturday: 9am-9pm Sunday: 11am-11pm

Outdoor Program

- Silver Mountain Day Trips- Feb. 3 & 17 Lookout Pass Day Trips- Jan. 27, Feb. 10 & 24 Snowshoeing- Jan. 27 Wallowas Backcountry Ski Trip- Feb. 9-12

Wellness www.campusrecuidaho.edu/wellness Check out the new Spring Wellness Schedule! All your favorite classes and more! Cycling Pilates Hard Core Yoga

INTRAMURAL SPORTS DEADLINES

- RAQUETBALL (S) DUE JAN. 25TH RAQUETBALL (D) DUE FEB. 1ST POWERLIFTING DUE FEB. 1ST TABLE TENNIS (D) DUE FEB. 8TH WALLYBALL DUE FEB. 15TH

Sport Club Federation Start a Club • Join a Club • Get Involved

Spring sports are just around the corner. Email ggresch@uidaho.edu or stop by Campus Recreation for more info!

Campus Recreation Office 885-8381 Recreation Hotline 885-1212 www.campusrec.uidaho.edu Bring your valid Vandal Card Fitness & Wellness - Intramurals - Outdoor Program - Sportclubs - Student Recreation Center

UniversityAVE.



CampusCALENDAR

- Today 'UI Voices' UUTV-8 7:30 p.m. ASUI Senate meeting UUTV-8 8 p.m. Saturday Relay for Life kick-off Palouse Mall 2-3 p.m. Sunday Faculty recital: William Wharton, cello, and Jonathan Mann, piano School of Music Recital Hall 3 p.m. Monday Vandal Vision 2007 Red Lion Hotel on the Falls, Targhee/Bonneville Rooms 475 River Parkway, Idaho Falls 7 p.m. Bellwood Lecture with senators Alan Simpson and Gary Hart UUTV-8 8 p.m. Gritman Medical Center Advance Diabetes Education Conference Center 8 a.m.-noon Gritman Medical Center Smoking Cessation Third floor boardroom 6:30-7:30 p.m.

LocalBRIEFS

Dance with your Valentine at Dahmen Barn

A "Post Valentine Dance" for all ages will be held at Artisans at the Dahmen Barn in Uniontown from 7-10 p.m. Feb. 17. Music will be provided by Sidetrack, a five-piece band from the Spokane area. The group's tracks are an eclectic blend of original and cover tunes. Their songs are influenced by various musical genres ranging from country and rock 'n' roll to folk and swing. The cost is \$5 per person at the door. Information about this event and others held at the barn can be found at www.ArtisanBarn.org or by calling (509) 229-3414.

'Compassionate Communication' workshops to begin

Two one-night workshops will explore "Compassionate Communication" this month. "Compassion in Community" will be offered tonight, followed by "Parenting in Peace" Jan. 26. Both workshops will be held from 7-9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse located at 420 E. 2nd St. in Moscow. The cost will range from \$5 to \$15. A 12-week "Compassionate

Communication" class will be offered beginning Jan. 30. The class will meet at 414 E. 2nd St. in Moscow. Call Veronica Lassen at 882-2562 to enroll. Cost is \$150 with no one turned away for lack of funds.

In addition, a 10-week "Peace-filled Parenting" class starts Jan. 31 and will be held every Wednesday at the Community Action Agency located at 428 W. 3rd St. in Moscow. The cost is \$150 with no one turned away for lack of funds. Contact Debbie Grieb at 882-3460 to register.

For information visit the Compassionate Communication Network of the Palouse's Web site at www.palousecc.org.

Idaho LEADS announces new student workshops

The Idaho Leadership Education and Development Series continues this spring with new workshops and a new format.

The programs are free and open to all students wanting to develop their leadership potential. Interested students are invited to an Idaho LEADS introduction session to be held Jan. 23 from 12:30-1:20 p.m. in the Idaho Commons Clearwater Room and Jan. 25 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Idaho Commons Horizon Room.

For information about Idaho LEADS contact Jennifer Moore at 885-1020, jmoore@

uidaho.edu or visit www.studentactivities.uidaho.edu/LEADS.

Former slave to present at Martin Forum Jan. 30

UI's Martin Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution has chosen Michelle Slattery, a former slave who is now a nurse in Massachusetts, as keynote speaker for the Martin Forum on Jan. 30.

The event will be held in the Student Union Building Ballroom at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Janie Kiser, a 2003 UI graduate and program director of the American Anti-Slavery Group, will assist Slattery.

For information, visit www.iabolish.com/speakers_bureau/index.html and www.martin.uidaho.edu.

Nuthouse Improvisational Comedy performs in Uniontown

All ages are invited to come and enjoy an evening of audience participation and fun Feb. 9 at Artisans at the Dahmen Barn in Uniontown at 8 p.m. Nuthouse Improvisational Comedy is a student-created and performed improvisational group from WSU. The performance is a benefit for the renovation of the Dahmen Barn into a performing and visual artisan

center. The cost is \$5 per person at the door.

Artisans at the Dahmen Barn presents a wide variety of performances such as concerts, dances and theater. Classes are also available for both adults and children, and visitors may watch artists at work in their studios and purchase their creations. The Shop at the Barn has items for sale made by more than 80 artisans from around the Inland Northwest region.

Go to www.ArtisanBarn.org to see a full calendar of events and a roster of resident artisans or call (509) 229-3414 for information. Open hours for the facility are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

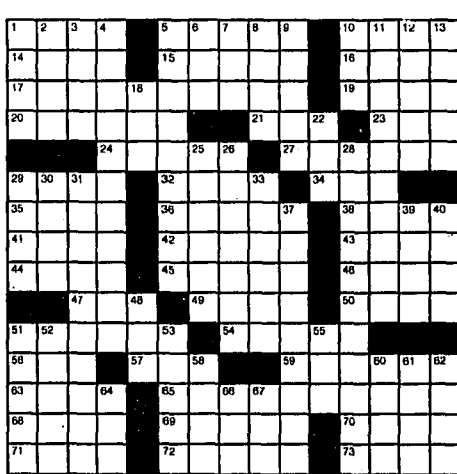
UI Vox hosts 'Choice and Faith Forum' Jan. 25

UI Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood, in conjunction with several other groups, will host "Choice and Faith Forum" to address issues surrounding religion, reproductive choices and abortion. The event will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 25 in the Bundy Reading Room in Avery Hall on the WSU campus. Speakers include Vincent Lachina, the Planned Parenthood Public Policy Network of Washington Chaplain and Jane Lear, UI Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood adviser.

This event will be held to celebrate the 34th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade.

CrosswordPUZZLE

- ACROSS 1 Luxuriant 5 Part of MGM 10 Whip stroke 14 Zone 15 Despise 16 Austen novel 17 Noted muckraker 19 Bird of the Nile 20 Gesture of respect 21 Years and years 23 Swiss peak 24 Newton or Stern 27 Kissers 29 Togo's capital 32 Slovenly one 34 Municipal vehicle 35 Alibi (excuse makers) 36 More docile 38 Viscidly drained 41 Part of UAE 42 Last in a series 43 Wield a blue pencil 44 Prego 45 competitor 46 Pine product 47 Colorful horse 48 Mess up 49 Warbled 50 'My Friend' 51 Grandiloquent 54 Biblical poem 56 Hostelry 57 Tram cargo 59 Upright walkers 63 King boaters 65 1991 Traci Lords movie 68 Impetuous 69 Tag line from Aesop 70 In the mail 71 Church recess 72 Entangle 73 Seth's boy



Solutions from 1/17

- 6 Back flow 7 Definite article 8 Part to play 9 Ship's lowest deck 10 Aloha gift 11 Top diplomat 12 Photographer's prompt 13 Metal fasteners 18 Fool 22 Crux 25 Los __, NM 26 Arises 28 Overlay 29 Tale spinner 30 Gumbo need 31 Lean condition 33 Commences 37 Sounded familiar 39 'Schindler's List' star Neeson 40 Slight from Messina 48 Roberto's river 51 Jeweled coronet 52 Remove the cover from 53 Apothecary weights 55 Burning 58 Type of collar 60 First garden 61 Rabbles 62 Hardens pat 64 Cow or hen 66 Novelist Levitt 67 Deface

SudokuPUZZLE

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

Solutions from 1/17

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

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

The Argonaut

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UI STUDENT MEDIA BOARD

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



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UI reacts to potential change in loans

By Sean Garmire
Argonaut

Students digging themselves into holes of debt may have been handed a step stool Wednesday.

A bill passed by the House of Representatives would halve interest rates on need-based federal college loans incrementally over the next five years. The change would apply to loans made after June 30, 2007.

The House voted 356-71 in favor of the College Student Relief Act of 2007, which will affect more than 5 million students across the nation.

"This is going to be a very positive step for (University of Idaho) students, in that it'll lower the cost of student loans," said Dan Davenport, director of admissions and financial aid.

Davenport said the bill will also serve to slow down the profits for student-aid lenders by increasing fees for corporations like Sallie Mae, Student Loan Corp. and Nelnet, which provide federally guaranteed student loans.

"They're making hundreds of millions from students, and the House is saying, 'We're going to slow down these profits,'" Davenport said.

The White House is opposed to the

legislation, arguing that decreasing loan interest will force a rise in university fees. Democrats say more needs to be done to make college more affordable, and say reducing student loan rates is a significant step toward tuition relief.

The loan cut has come at a crucial time for many low-to-middle income undergraduates. In Idaho, the State Board of Education approved an increase in student fees of 9.5 percent in 2006. Tuition rates have risen steadily at UI, 116 percent in the last 10 years, and nationally tuition at four-year universities has seen a 41 percent rise — after inflation — since 2001.

Karina Hernandez, a UI senior majoring in child development and family relations, sat in line in the Student Financial Aid Services Office with her 3-year-old daughter. She has been attending the university since 2001 and has one more semester before graduation.

Hernandez is hopeful about the interest cuts.

"I have one more semester before I have to pay (my loans) off," she said. "I have a family now, and this means I won't be paying as much."

The legislation, if enacted, will cut interest rates from 6.8 percent to 3.4

percent from 2007 to 2012 in five steps: from 6.8 percent to 6.12 percent, 5.44 percent, 4.76 percent, 4.08 percent and 3.40 percent. The cuts will save student borrowers, with an average of \$13,800 in need-based student loan debt, \$4,400 in interest.

According to an AP report, the legislation would cost taxpayers about \$6 billion which a proposed House bill may aim to reduce by reducing the government's guaranteed return to lenders that make student loans, cutting back the amount the government pays for defaulted loans and requiring banks to pay more in fees.

CLOUD from page 1

"We piled in the back of (the car) with about seven or eight other guys in the back of this really tightly crammed area with all of our backpacks and all our other gear, and he hauled us up to within a quarter mile of the trailhead," Martin says.

Finally on the trail, Martin and his family were joined by seven porters who helped carry their extra equipment. Though the packs had straps, the porters' traditional method is to carry climbers' gear on their heads.

The group passed through the rainforest, which lived up to its name.

"The trail was basically a little mini river. It was slippery, and we got really muddy and dirty the first day," Martin says.

After about 10 miles of undulating trail, they stopped at the first camp to rest. There were many miles ahead along the Lemosho Route, which winds along the western breach of the mountain.

"At the end of the first day I was wet and sweaty and our sleeping bags had gotten damp," Martin says. "When I was laying awake the first night I was thinking, 'I have seven more nights out here.' That's a lot of time."

Days 2-3: Kilimanjaro is revealed

Martin and his group emerged from the rainforest into a colder, tundra-like area the guides called the moorland. The swampy, treeless landscape was filled with scrub brush, leaving the hikers exposed to the 35-45 degree temperatures.

They camped that night at 10,000 feet. For the first time, the clouds cleared and the summit of Kilimanjaro came into view.

"We were sort of around all this rocky, green, low-lying area, and you look up and you see this giant, white, shining mountain. It was beautiful," Martin says. "It was an inspiration, and it was also all the more daunting, because it looked so far away and it looked so big that it didn't even seem feasible that we could make it in the number of days we were going to try to get there."

Day 4: The perils of altitude

They approached Lava Tower, a huge column of volcanic rock at 15,000 feet. It was the highest altitude at which Martin had ever been, and the pressures of altitude were growing.

"The day we hiked up the Lava Tower, we saw someone being carried out on a stretcher. It definitely made it a lot more sobering. It made it very real," Martin says. "At that point I didn't feel that I had to go back or that I ever wanted to go back, but seeing the person carried out on the stretcher definitely made me think that I needed to be aware of what my body was doing, kind of start recognizing the signs of some altitude-related illnesses."

Possible illnesses on the mountain range from headaches to pulmonary or cerebral edema, sometimes-fatal conditions in which the lungs or brain accumulate excess fluid. When the trail dipped into a valley after Lava Tower, Martin began feeling ill.

"At 15,000 feet, I felt really pleased with myself, not that I had done anything, but that I was feeling really healthy," Martin says. "But at 12,000 feet later that night I started to get a headache, and it was one of those really annoying, nagging headaches kind of back at the base of the head. I couldn't get comfortable. I wasn't sleeping."

Thankfully, this was Martin's only experience with altitude sickness. Stoltz had been taking ibuprofen and avoided headaches, so Martin and his brother took some and were ready for the next leg of the hike.

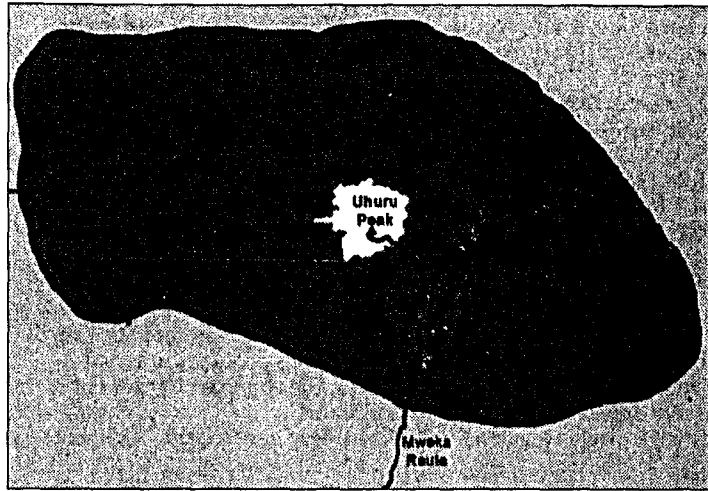


Image Courtesy of Zara Travel

This map shows the routes Chase Martin's group took up and down Mount Kilimanjaro. The climbers scaled Uhuru Peak on their seventh day on the mountain. The trail out, Mweka, took just two days.

Day 5: Above the clouds

The next day brought another challenge, the nearly vertical Barranco Wall. Though Martin calls Kilimanjaro a "hiker-friendly mountain" in the sense that climbers need no ropes, the Barranco Wall is a technically difficult leg of the journey.

"The Barranco wall is a fairly sheer face that has ... in some places some very narrow footing that you kind of shimmy across on, and it's hand-over-hand up, like to certain stops where you can stop safely," he says. "Since we were over, at that point, 13,000 feet, by that point I was feeling the altitude from the exertion. ... You could only go a few steps of pulling yourself and your backpack up."

After three-and-a-half hours of hauling themselves up the wall, the group completed five more miles and found themselves above the cloud line. Martin had seen pictures of such heights in backpacking magazines, but had always dreamed of reaching one himself.

"It's a rush. I mean, it feels cool to be so high up and to see these clouds below you," he says. "From where we were sleeping, our tent, it looked like you could have taken six or seven steps and you would have been just walking on cotton. So it was pretty awesome."

Day 6: A snowy decision

The snow was continuing heavily around the summit, and as Martin's group entered Barafu Camp, they had to make a decision.

"Our original plan had been

to climb up and over the rim of the volcano and go down to 18,000 feet and camp in the crater of the volcano, which would have been so awesome," Martin says.

But the camp, which is next to Kilimanjaro's famous Arrow Glacier, had been snowed in. Reaching it would require hiking through seven feet of snow, so Martin and his family changed their plans, deciding to summit the next day.

Summitting, however, was not going to be easy. Groups coming off the mountain had passed Martin's, and most had not made it to the peak because of the weather.

"I'd say maybe only 5 percent of the people who were out there actually made it to the top," Martin says. "But the fates sort of smiled on us a little because the weather system moved out for one day, and when we woke up at 4:30 the moon and the stars were out."

Day 7: Summit by moonlight and sunrise

Martin was ready to reach the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. The group had brought headlamps to aid in the early morning climb, but a full moon lit the way instead.

"There was this mountain, bright and shiny white in the moonlight, and the stars kind of illuminating it, and we had a one-day break in the weather to try to make our attempt on the summit," Martin says. "Since we were so high up, there was no kind of atmospheric disruption, you know, so we got this unrestrained moonlight guiding our path."

The sun rose over nearby Mawenzi Peak when the hikers had been on the trail about three hours. They had reached almost 16,500 feet, and the effects of altitude forced them to move slowly. At about 9:30 a.m., Martin, Sean, Stoltz, Moshi and Moshi's brother Godlize reached the summit.

Atop Mount Kilimanjaro, there is a weathered sign welcoming climbers to Uhuru Peak, Tanzania, at 5,895 meters, or 19,340 feet. Martin stood at the summit and looked out across the sky. He felt relieved, lucky that the weather had cleared for them and amazed. Around him was an ancient glacier, and below him was the curve of the earth. He was astonished by a sudden impression of how round the planet is, and how small he is.

"You just got this sense that you're at the top of this thing, and you feel so small in the grand scheme of things," he says. "This ancient mountain you now stand on is kind of bracing you, letting you climb it for this brief second in time, and you're just tiny in comparison to everything around you."

Coming down

After the summit, the rest of the hike dashed by. Martin's group went down to about 13,000 feet after reaching the top, camped for the night, then hiked the rest of the way out in eight hours the next day on the Mweka Trail.

"Up is so much more laborious because you're worried about your altitude and your breath and your breathing, and

you want to go slow so you don't get out of breath and you don't get hurt," Martin says. "Down, on the other hand, ... you practically take it at a run because it's so steep."

At the trailhead, the Land Cruiser had miraculously become unstuck and was waiting. Martin, Sean and Stoltz shook hands with their porters, then got a special farewell.

"We got back down to the bottom and our porters and guide had had a really great time with us since we were a small group, and they sang for us some kind of traditional songs in honor of our ascent," Martin says.

They left Africa on Jan. 9 and Martin went back to school and his job as ASUI attorney general Jan. 10. He's still tired from the hike and the long trip home, and his legs still "feel the mountain a little." He has-

n't had a chance to tell his story to many of his friends because they've been so busy with the new semester. Martin says his wife, Katie, might have climbed too but is pregnant. She jokes that he's crazy for taking on Kilimanjaro.

But for Martin, the climb was entirely worthwhile. It's inspired him to take outdoor adventures more regularly — next on the list is Mount Rainier. It was also a chance to grow closer with his dad and brother, exactly what the "Dad and Lad Trip" intended.

"It kind of netted us closer together, and we have this neat experience we all share now that was hard, and we had to kind of rely on each other and motivate one another," he says. "We try whenever we see each other to make it a special experience. ... This qualifies."

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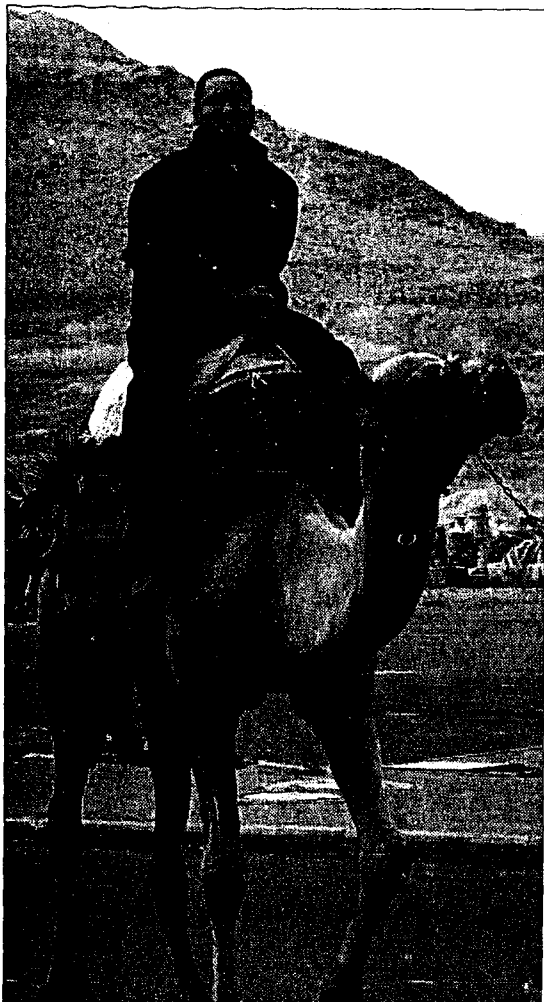
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Courtesy Photo

ASUI President Berto Cerrillo joined several other student body presidents in Tel Aviv, Israel, during UI's winter break.

From Idaho to Israel: One Vandal's journey

By Jeremy Castillo
Argonaut

With student body presidents from around the country, ASUI President Berto Cerrillo took a journey that changed his life.

After a flight he says "felt like forever," the 22-year-old from Lewiston stepped off an airplane in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The climate was more comfortable than one might assume, with temperatures around 40 degrees, Cerrillo said. It did snow, however — a rare occurrence in the Middle East.

He soaked up the surroundings like a sponge in a silent relief after his long trek from Idaho.

Cerrillo's journey started in Spokane on Christmas. From there, he flew to Seattle, then Detroit and got off a plane in Newark, N.J. He then caught a shuttle to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. By then, he already felt the wear of traveling.

"I felt so dirty when I got to JFK," he says. "I just wanted to shave and shower, which I got to do in a bathroom there."

From the Big Apple, Cerrillo hopped on a plane to Tel Aviv and arrived 11 hours later.

Project Interchange, an organi-

zation that introduces "opinion-makers" to Israel, its history and its current affairs, sponsored his trip, he says.

Cerrillo visited the country with student body presidents from colleges in several other states, including Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Utah.

During his trip, Cerrillo says he never thought he was in any kind of danger.

"I felt safe everywhere," he says. "The areas that create the stereotypes are the Gaza Strip, where I didn't go, and the West Bank. But that's more of a media term. Dangerous things have happened there, but it's been safe. There were no men running around with bombs strapped to their chests."

He left the country with several souvenirs. In his office, there is an Israeli map with his travels outlined in blue permanent ink. Posted to his blog and Facebook are several pictures, including him riding on a camel. Perhaps most importantly, he left with a newfound strength and passion.

"(Going to Israel) outlined what's important in this life," he says. "Is it material wealth or finding yourself in God? I also have more devotion to my cause,

personally and as student body president."

The most powerful moment of his trip came at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, the most religious spot in the world for Jews.

"You could literally grab the energy out of the air," Cerrillo says. "It was amazing to see the Jewish people and their devotion. If you're not religious, or even if you are, it's something to see people act like that toward something bigger than they are. I've never felt anything like it."

That wasn't the only brush with religion he had while in Israel. He recalls life in Jerusalem coming nearly to a halt on Shabbat.

"There's no cooking, talking about politics or money, and stores are closed," he says. "Even the elevators go into a 'Sabbath mode.' They stop and open the doors on every level so people don't even have to press a button."

Cerrillo was raised in a Catholic family, but spent the past few years figuring out his faith. He says his experiences in the Middle East helped him with that. He is also more concerned with everyday issues such as conserving water — a big problem in Israel — and now does his part to prevent it in the States.

Not every memorable moment

of his trip was serious. One of its highlights came on the shore of the Dead Sea.

"Because the water is 35 percent salt, you just float and have to force your way down," he recalls. "When I tried to jump in, I just skimmed across the surface. It was like when you go downstairs on Christmas morning not expecting Santa to have come, but there are all the presents under the tree. I just didn't think it would happen."

"It was also great seeing all the other student body presidents, who are some of the most serious people you'll ever meet, act like little kids and let down their barriers."

Another outstanding moment during Cerrillo's trip was roaming around Jerusalem with Jay Chicone, University of South Dakota's student president. They went to Old Jerusalem without a tour guide.

"It was so cool seeing life for what it is," Cerrillo says. "I was exhausted and could have used those three or four hours to sleep, but it was totally worth it to see an uncensored version of life there."

The whole experience has motivated him to travel more and he says he might study abroad next year in Spain or Ecuador.

SenateREPORT

Jan. 17, 2007

Open Forum

Katie Noble, Vandal Entertainment lectures coordinator, thanked the Senate for letting her speak. Her topic was the appearance of Martin Luther King III on Feb. 5 in the Kibbie Dome at 7 p.m. She said tickets will cost \$2. Half the funds will go to an ASUI student achievement award for social activism. The other half will go toward a memorial for MLK Jr. in Washington D.C.

Robert Taylor, Faculty Council Board representative, first introduced himself to

the new senators. Then, he wished the new board good luck in the upcoming semester at the University of Idaho.

Senate Business

S07-01, An act providing for the assignment of senators to living groups, passed unanimously.

S07-02, an act providing for the assignment of senators to senate standing committees, passed unanimously.

S07-03, an act providing for the assignment of senators to ASUI standing boards, passed unanimously.

S07-04, an act canceling the Jan. 24 ASUI Senate meeting because of the Legislative Breakfast trip to Boise, passed 13 to 1.

S07-05, an act appointing Brittany Mayson to the position of ASUI director of communications, passed unanimously.

S07-06, an act appointing J.R. Pelkola to the position of ASUI Vandal Entertainment small concerts chair, passed unanimously.

Presidential Communications

First, President Berto Cerrillo talked about the Senate bills that will appoint new people to fill positions and strongly encouraged the Senate to vote in both of them. Then he encouraged all the senators, especially the new ones, to get projects done as soon as possible because spring semester flies by faster than fall.

Jeremy Castillo

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CABRERA

from page 1

UI JAMM department director Kenton Bird recalled Cabrera leaving an impression when she attended the Scripps

Howard Multicultural Journalism Workshop held at UI in the summer of 2006.

The week-long workshop was designed for high school students and recent graduates interested in journalism as a career and required an essay submission.

Bird recalled Cabrera's essay examining the value of diverse perspectives in the news to have been thoughtful and perceptive.

"She had, from the beginning, the curiosity, the energy, the sense of fair play and the interest in pursuing journalism that I wouldn't be surprised if she had immediately leaped into a career in television news," Bird said.

"Angie would have been a great leader in our program and we're so sorry to lose her," he added. "Professional journalism is diminished by her loss as well."

Sara Hansen, a freshman at the UI and friend of Cabrera, recalled the teen's charismatic personality.

"She was full of energy and always knew how to put a smile on everybody's face," Hansen said. "Things will never be the same without Angie around to keep us laughing."

The cheerleading squad, hall-mates and members of the university administration attended Cabrera's funeral Jan. 10 in Payette to pay their respects.

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• Sat-Sun (1:15) Daily (4:00) 7:00 9:50 PG-13

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• Sat-Sun (12:45) Daily (3:30) 6:20 9:00 PG-13

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• Sat-Sun (2:25) Daily 7:20 9:45 R

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• Sat-Sun (1:00) Daily (3:45) 6:40 9:20 PG-13

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OurVIEW

Don't give lip service to students

It's no surprise that Democrats in the U.S. House seem crazed with power. After so many years of being denied a meaningful voice, the chance to finally control the flow of legislation must be thrilling — not to mention the perceived revenge granted by shutting Republicans out of any agenda setting or bill writing.

But Democrats may be focusing too much on getting their names in the papers and not enough on the results of their bills. That's the case with the House's bill halving interest rates on needs-based federally subsidized student loans (see page 3 for the story). The measure, which passed the chamber 356-71 and will cost about \$6 billion over the gradual, five-year decline in the rates, is a nice gesture, but lawmakers should do more to keep students from drowning in debt.

For starters, focus on legislation that will help all students. Needs-based loans are good — if anyone deserves college assistance right now, it's poorer students — but it's safe to say the student-debt problem is bad enough that all students need relief. Raising the amount given under programs such as the Pell Grant, something the Senate is considering, would be a start. A program forgiving a certain percentage of student debt, assuming students meet certain conditions, would be stunning.

One other problem with the bill lies in its time frame. After the five years, the rates go back to today's levels, something Democrats are assuming will just be fixed someday down the road. Delaying having to deal with a problem is in no way the same thing as fixing it.

Whatever happens, the problems facing students should be given proper consideration. This isn't a case of college students whining. The ability of U.S. citizens to put themselves through college is vital to keeping this nation at the forefront of economic and technological success in this century — which is why the \$6 billion price tag is worth it. If Americans cannot afford an education, the consequences could affect our course in history.

—N.P. for the editorial board

Flatbread up, pollution down

I just read an Associated Press article about a tortilla shortage happening in Mexico. Never thought that would happen. Mexico running out of tortillas is like Italy running out of wine. I guess it could happen. We do live in a crazy world these days.

I hate to perpetuate any stereotypes. As an overweight white male, I'm often expected to do just that. Then again, I am a redhead and we all know what that means.

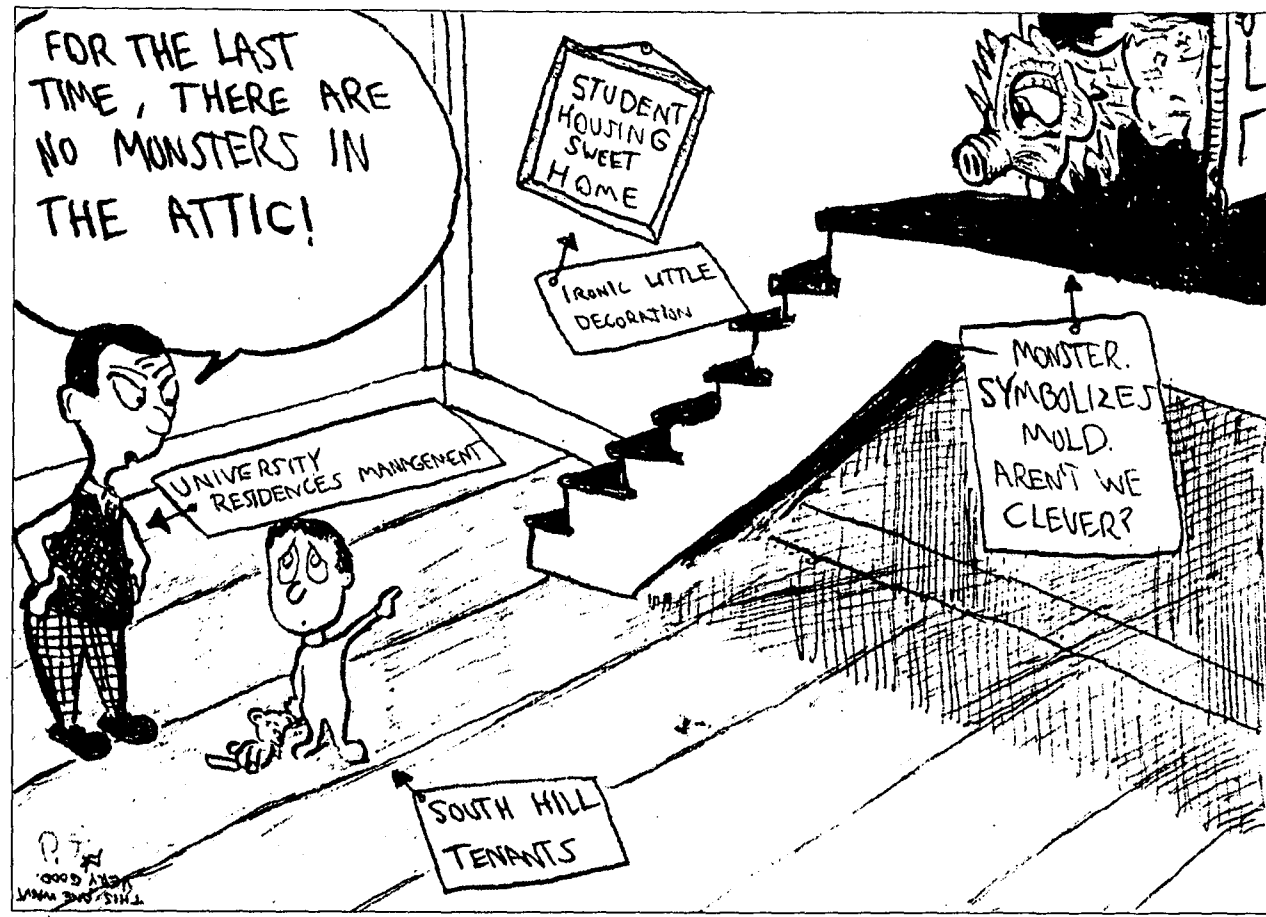
This tortilla situation bothers me. According to the AP article, tortilla prices have jumped 14 percent, which the head of the Mexican national bank has called "unjustifiable." Imagine if the same thing happened to the one item you consider the absolute staple of your diet. Cigarette smokers have felt a similar punch but I've never heard of any incidences of tortilla-related cancer.

The FDA figures show the average price of a gallon of 2-percent milk in Portland, was \$2.80 last August. If that went up 14 percent, milk would cost \$3.19. That doesn't seem like much — a gallon of gasoline was more than that a few months ago. Let's say you relied on milk as your primary food substance and you made \$1.50 an hour. And had four kids to feed.

See COLUMN, page 6



T.J. Tranchell
Staff writer
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu



Paul Tong/Argonaut

Defending the sanctity of swearing-ins

Keith Ellison is a Democrat, a Minnesotan, a congressman and a Muslim — the first Muslim, in fact, to serve in Congress. Ellison, being a Muslim, swore his oath on a Quran, that being the holy book of the Islamic religion to which Ellison belongs. Seems like a reasonable enterprise under the circumstances.



Frank McGovern
Columnist
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

Unfortunately, many tightly-righty pundits didn't see it that way and roared their terrible roars and gnashed their terrible teeth and shook their fists in the air with admonitions that the fabric of our nation was in danger of being torn asunder.

Conservative radio host Dennis Prager (no, seriously, there really are conservative radio talk show hosts and they really do say incredibly stupid things) said "America is interested in only one book, the Bible." I don't know, America seemed to like, "The DaVinci Code" for whatever reason. What about "Jurassic Park?" Didn't that become a movie?

Prager went on to warn, I'm serious again, that a Minnesota congressman taking his oath on the Quran would "embolden Islamic extremists."

I sometimes wonder if there's some Republican phrasebook being passed around to all the poor, unimaginative flat-Earthers that's stuffed with vapid little nuggets of clichés such as "embolden Islamic extremists," "the 'blame America first' crowd," "stay the course," "Islamofascist" and so on.

Can you imagine all of those wallflower Islamic extremists being "emboldened" out of their bashfulness and timidity by the swearing in of a Minnesota congressman and wreaking some sectarian mischief? What a nightmare.

Virginia Republican and genius Virgil Goode Jr. (read this closely, the following quote is actually the precise sound of a cracker cracking) presaged that this might lead to "many more Muslims elected to office and demanding the use of the Quran."

For the love of God, NO! Beverly Schlegel wrote in the Roanoke, Va. Times that the Quran is a sorry substitute for the Bible

because it doesn't promote the separation of church and state and requires Ellison to "wage jihad and create certain political — not religious — institutions, such as sharia law." Hmmm.

What is it with the Virginians and their red-faced, psychotic Muslim bashing? Virginia, remember, is the home state of George Allen, the congressional hopeful who called a dark-skinned young man "macaca."

There's not much to say about Prager's stupidity. The man has a problem with his mind, it's not his fault. And Goode Jr., as a Republican congressman, maybe damaged his brain snuffing up loads of meth during a gay sex binge; that seems to be a conservative hobby of late.

Beverly Schlegel, however, deserves a response.

The Quran does indeed appeal to its adherents to "wage jihad," and every good Muslim tries to. The problem is the definition of "jihad" has been corrupted by its recent, popular Western usage. Jihad isn't a commandment that Islamic peoples wage war against the infidel, it's an Arabic word that translates to "striving for God" and directs Muslims to continually endeavor toward personal spiritual improvement and eventual self-perfection. Oh the humanity, how could they!

Schlegel's assertion that the Quran fails to promote a separation of church and state is an apparent suggestion that the Bible does, a passage I must have missed in Catholic school. I found it though. It's in Ezekiel 23:21 — "And thou shall keep one's religion to thyself and out of the public domain as it has no place in a secular government. And plus, I created the dinosaur bones to test thy faith. Believe in them not." I just made that last part up; Satan created dinosaur bones, everyone knows that.

Back to this though: Ellison actually swore his oath on a Quran that had been owned by Thomas Jefferson, the man who coined the phrase "separation between church and state."

The Quran, of course, isn't perfect, and, like the Bible, is blem-

ished with some antiquated and antagonistic mandates.

For instance, Deuteronomy 21:18-21 commands that if a child is rebellious, his/her parents are obligated to kill their child. In Kings II 2:23-24, Elisha, a prophet of God, uses his God-given powers to summon "she-bears" to maul 42 children to death for calling him "balthead."

Deuteronomy 20:10-14 finds God giving some advice to his Israelite tribespeople: "As you approach a town to attack it, first offer its people terms for peace. If they accept your terms and open the gates to you, then all the people inside will serve you in forced labor. But if they refuse to make peace and prepare to fight, you must attack the town. When the Lord your God hands it over to you, kill every man in town. But you may keep for yourselves all the women, children, livestock and other plunder. You may enjoy the spoils of your enemies that Lord has given you."

Rape, murder, slavery, pillaging and forcible kidnapping — are these the family values our elected officials are striving to uphold when they take their oaths on the Bible?

There are a slew of passages exactly like this one in the Old Testament, and worse. I won't get into politicians breaking the Biblical laws regarding what to eat, their refusal to sacrifice animals, wearing clothing of two different materials and so on.

In the New Testament, Jesus commands Christians half a dozen times outright and many more in parable to give everything they own to the poor — everything.

For some reason, all of our devoutly Christian politicians (not to mention all religious leaders I've met) seem rather reluctant to acquiesce to this core commandment of Christianity.

This isn't meant as a Bible-razzing session, but condemning the Quran as unfit for oath-taking because it's too violent or whatever in comparison to the Bible is an absolute absurdity.

The first Muslim elected to Congress swearing his oath on a Quran that had belonged to Thomas Jefferson strikes me as a beautifully American political undertaking.

MailBOX

Prevention key to unwanted pregnancies

Thirty-four years after the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Roe v. Wade remains a powerful reminder that the struggle to protect women's health and safety continues to this day.

The Bush administration's recent appointment of anti-birth control extremist Eric Keroack to oversee Title X, the federal program that provides family planning and other critical health services to low-income Americans, is a prime example.

Prevention is the key to reducing the need for abortion and to build-

ing strong, healthy families. Birth control is basic health care for the overwhelming majority of Americans, and people who oppose it shouldn't be in charge of it. The Bush administration should replace Keroack immediately with a respected women's health expert who recognizes that family planning is good medicine.

Meg Knight
University of Idaho staff

Funding for Buddhism teaching in trouble

Funding for teaching Buddhism might be disappearing at UI. As the funding for the humanities shrinks, the dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences as well as the chair of the philosophy department

are having to make hard decisions about which classes get cut and it is possible that Buddhism might be on that list. I took this class in the fall of 2005 and found it important and relevant. This is very upsetting to me that we cannot keep great classes like this going at the University of Idaho. We need your support.

Padraig Haney
Junior

Markosky a charming addition to Argonaut

South Carolina's loss is our gain. In addition to bringing us entertaining observations about winter in Idaho, Tecla Markosky just raised the standard for Argo writers.

Mickey Lymgholm
Learning, Skills Specialist/TAAP

Off the CUFF

Quick takes on life from our editors

Fashion police?

Looking around campus, I keep having fashion sightings that bring me back to the days of my youth. My favorite is the headband with ponytail that I myself have recently resurrected from the depths of my dresser drawers. Now, when I was about 7 I tried this one out, but it never seemed to fly with my peers back then. Fifteen years later, though, I read in a magazine's "Do or Don't" section that more than 60 percent of the people polled said it was a "do." So now when I show people my grade-school pictures, I can just tell them I was breaking the way for the future!

— Cynthia

Mmmm ... donuts

To whatever class/professor who left the donut holes and pastries in Nicols 301, there are people in History of Ancient Rome who thank you. Not sure who left the treats, how old they were, if you wanted them back or if they were poisoned ... I didn't eat one because I'm paranoid, but several people did. So for them, thanks.

— Tara

Where's Pauly?

I know that there are a lot of you out there that wonder what has happened to Pauly Shore since his "glory days." Well, his most recent movie, "Pauly Shore is Dead," is all about how he falls from glory and ends up faking his own death. Hmmm... Also, I heard he was on YouTube, getting punched in the face. Maybe I'll have to check that out. It could be his best moment on film to date.

— Miranda

Stupid Macs

I don't care what trendy Mac-loving nerds say, I hate Macs. They really aren't any better than PCs, just more expensive. People say they don't crash, so when it turns off and erases my work without warning, what should I call it? They are a waste of time, a waste of money and just plain infuriating. The worst part is arguing with silly people who think Macs are cool for no good reason but the fact they're trendy. I think they just don't want to admit they've been ripped off when they spend a crazy amount of money on a Mac that is a piece of junk.

— Ryli

Case for censorship

As much as I believe that brutal events should not be watered down in the media, recent shockwaves of the Hussein execution have made me reconsider at least the appropriate venue for the ugly truth. To date at least four children have killed themselves in what are believed to be imitations of the widely broadcast video.

— Alec

Wishful thinking

Because everyone is so hopeful about Robb Akey's skills as a football coach, the football players were recently measured for bowl game rings. Talk about the power of positive thinking. You know, I haven't had a date in almost two years, but I think I'm going to go pick out a wedding dress tomorrow, because I am just so hopeful about that guy in my psych class...

— Savannah

It's never too late

A man in Michigan recently returned a late library book — 47 years after it was due. He apparently checked out the book for a ninth-grade assignment in 1960. He recently found it in his attic. I feel bad for returning books a week after they're due. Even if he's embarrassed, I imagine the library doesn't mind — they received a check for \$171.32.

— Melissa

Don't be lame

I bought my plane ticket for Spring Break today. It's always scary spending that much money, in one shot but my nerves were eased with the thought of the warm, sandy beaches of Rhode Island. I am strong believer in lots of experiences in college, including new destinations for Spring Break with new people, but that's only if it were my way. Consider it, that's all I'm saying.

— Mackenzie

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 sensible need to reclaim faith

The crazies are out in force again. Reports surfaced last week that the school board in Federal Way, Wash., quashed a class viewing of "An Inconvenient Truth" — Al Gore's slideshow, as I read it described once — so the superintendent could make sure the film didn't violate district policy. The decision predictably aroused the ire of scientific types in the region, and the district has apparently been deluged by criticism.

Concerns about district policy are all well and good, but the "policy" inspection loses any validity when one looks closer. Turns out it was sparked primarily by an e-mail from a concerned parent whose arguments included the "facts" that global warming is a sign of the end times written about in the Christian Bible and science taught in public school is pretty much fabricated by liberals.

And that's really what I'm concerned about today. When did science become a "liberal" set of facts? Why is it that any time scientists of any political persuasion announce their findings on global warming — or any other

issue — they are discounted as propaganda?

I'm not a scientist, I admit, but the fact that so many scientific institutions agree that global warming exists is convincing enough for me.

For some reason, whether it be the current administration, the rise of religious conservatives or some other factor, the arena of public opinion and politics has devolved into religious conservatives versus scientific liberals.

I know it's not that simple. But apparently God now supposedly trumps everything else, even for those who aren't Christian.

That's really the major change: Leaders of the Christian majority now seem to view themselves as leaders of a country where everyone is Christian, even if they don't know it yet. Notice I said "leaders." This is by no means the fault of the majority of Christians.

I'm a Christian. Methodist, actually. I believe in a higher power. I believe that God created Life, the Universe and Everything. But I don't believe that science cannot fit into scripture. (Take time — 10,000 years for us may be

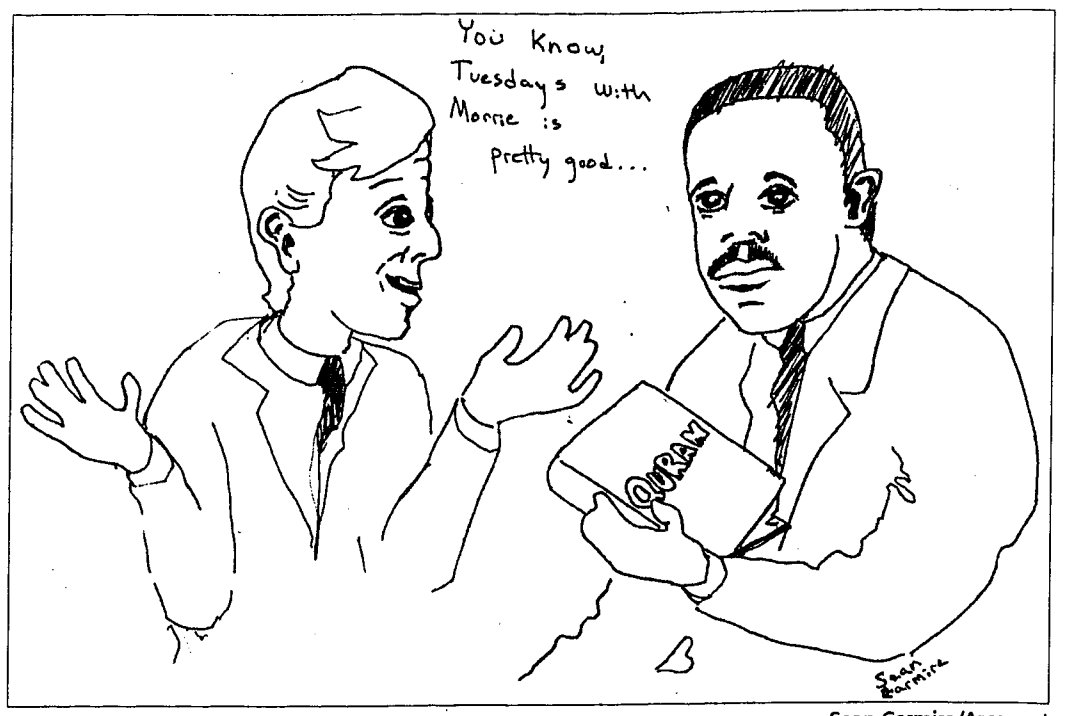
completely different for God.) And while people learning about God is a good thing, people being forced to ignore scientific consensus — to not even learn about it — because they're told they have to conform to beliefs they do not share is intolerable. It's been going on for far too long. Time to stop it now.

So, back to Federal Way. I can understand why a docu-drama made by a die-hard Democrat could make some people nervous.

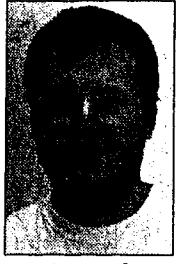
However, Gore's findings are backed up by a broad consensus of a majority of scientists — not every scientist, but then name one controversial issue that all scientists agree on. The board should see the documentary's value as a starting point for classroom discussion and turn its attention to more important issues.

And the concerned parent, if he's seriously worried that one documentary will destroy his child's tenuous grasp on religion, should either enroll the kid in a private Christian school or, more appropriately, change how he's sharing his faith with his offspring.

True religious faith is solid enough that an ex-vice president shouldn't be enough to destroy it. In fact, the two might just end up getting along.



Sean Garmire/Argonaut



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Learn to roll with life's little punches

I never wanted to come to the University of Idaho. Ever. At all. In fact, I use to rant and rave about how it would be a cold day in hell before I ever enrolled at UI.

Well, I'm pretty sure it's not snowing on Saddam right now, yet here I am. And many people have asked me about how exactly this came about.

My road to UI was a windy one. It started with me attending a different school altogether. I was all set to book it down to Joplin, Mo. and attend Missouri Southern State University. I even left Coeur d'Alene, where I'd been attending North Idaho College, for Missouri in July.

I do realize that refusing to attend UI for some podunk town in Missouri, where it reached more than 100 degrees in August, seems crazy. And I do appreciate Idaho's charms. But I've been enjoying North Idaho winters and North Idaho attitudes for 21 years now and I was definitely ready for something new, even if it involved huge bugs, accents and tornadoes.

So, with my car packed to the rims, one pissed-off kitty in the backseat and my brother to keep me company, I hit the road for the center of the country.

We made it to Missoula. In Missoula, we received one of those heart-stopping phone calls you always pray you'll never get.

My stepdad, Buddy, who had been struggling for 18 months with pulmonary fibrosis (a debilitating and usually fatal lung disease),

had died. Through her tears, my mom told me not to come back. She understood how badly I wanted to leave.

Yeah, right. Like anyone would find out a parent just died and keep going! We turned around. And no one has ever driven from Missoula to Sandpoint that fast in all of history.

Faced with the decision to drop out of school or find a place closer to home, I came here. There was no way I was going to be five states away from my mom during the most difficult time of her life.

So, here I am. And let me commend UI staff on the great lengths that some of you undertook to get me here. I enrolled, found an apartment and moved here less than two weeks before classes started.

I found everyone I encountered during the enrollment process to be ridiculously helpful, encouraging and supportive.

And I've never looked back. Maybe UI wasn't my first choice for an educational institution, and, honestly, it wasn't even my last choice. As far as I was concerned, it was never an option.

And yet here I am, and I'm having the time of my life. Yeah, I think Moscow sucks. I'm not a club-hopper or into the bar scene, so it's been a stretch to find stuff to do, but I've met some awesome people here and learned a lot about myself.

I don't know why you're here or if you want to be here, but you are here. You have the choice to be bitter about the circumstances that brought you here, or to embrace them. And grow from them.

And to anyone who ever heard me say I would never come here — stuff it.

COLUMN from page 6

Starting to feel the pinch? Let's look at this gasoline-to-tortillas comparison. This is more valid than you might think. What would it take for you to stop driving? \$5 a gallon? Even then, would you stop eating?

See, the blame for this rise in tortilla prices IS gasoline. Rather, it is the search for fuel alternatives spurring the increases.

According to the AP and their sources in the Mexican government, the reason for

increased tortilla prices is the increased demand by the U.S. for corn to be made into ethanol, an increasingly used and studied gasoline replacement. Instead of exporting the white corn preferred for tortillas, farmers are selling to ethanol plants.

How is that for a slap in the face? Someone comes up with a good idea about how to conserve gasoline and decrease pollution but it causes a problem for someone else.

Right now, there is a voice in my head screaming, "Why can't they grow their own corn?"

They do, but most of it is the yellow variety that is used to feed livestock.

You wouldn't eat chaff when you can have wheat, would you?

What it comes down to is sacrifice. Everyone gives up something. There have been plenty of tortillas up until now. If we continue to pollute the environment like we have been, no one will be able to grow any corn anywhere.

Maybe if the face of Jesus appeared more often on tortillas, we wouldn't have this problem. It wouldn't solve hunger but it might make people happier.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Job Located in: Moscow

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

Sales/Lab/Seasonal/Manager-in-Training Positions Job #255 Sales of photo equipment and cameras; lab involves C41 processing and some digital editing - other duties as needed. Previous sales or photo lab experience a plus. \$7.50/hr + commission. 15+ hrs/wk. Multiple positions available. Job located in Moscow.

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Announcement # 26006008119 Mail Room Attendant/Night Time Assistant, University Residences
Announcement # 22040018939 OnSite Computer Technician, ITS-Administrative Technologies

EMPLOYMENT

Nursery Garden Technician Job #256 Will aid the Watersheds Program through administration of daily activities and special events in the Native Flora Nursery; will also aid the Green Living Program through administration, maintenance and promotion of the community gardens; will help mobilize, train, and organize volunteers to promote community involvement in native plant propagation and community gardening. See application packet for complete job description. Must have excellent communication & personal skills; good computer & writing skills; willingness to work weekends; 18 years or older by completion of term; U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident; hs diploma or equiv; commit to full term of service; work in harsh field conditions. Complete list of qualifications available in application packet. \$10,900 annual living stipend. 40 hrs/wk. Job located in Moscow.

Job # 300 House Keeping Assistant Perform basic house keeping including dusting, vacuuming, mopping, maybe some ironing. Own Transportation/ Preferred: Cleaning experience. Rate of Pay: \$8.50/hr. Hours/Week: 8-10 hrs/wk Times flexible Job Located in Moscow

Job # 301 Preschool Assistant One-on-one interaction with children, cleaning, changing diapers and assisting teachers. Reliable transportation, valid DL, experience and/or education working with children. Rate of Pay: \$5.50/hr. Hours/Week: variable Job Located in Moscow

EMPLOYMENT

Job # 266 P/T and F/T Janitorial Positions Most of the positions are in the evenings so it is perfect for students. Vacuum floors, sweep and mop, clean restrooms, lockers, breakrooms, take out trash, other duties as assigned. 18 years of age or older, no felonies, valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Rate of Pay: \$7.50/hr in Idaho, \$7.95/hr in Washington
Hours/Week: various schedules available
Job Located in Moscow and Pullman

Job # 292 Computer Technician Over the telephone assist customers with connectivity, email and other technical problems. Must be computer literate, have excellent oral communication skills, able to problem solve, previous customer service experience preferred
Rate of Pay: \$8.50 per hr
Hours/Week: 15-25 hrs/wk evenings and weekends
Job Located in Moscow

Job # 298 Grocery Manager Oversee all aspects of grocery department in natural food store from personnel and customer service to product purchasing, promotion and display. Supervisory, purchasing and merchandising experience; excellent verbal and written communication skills; competency with computers; ability to handle multiple demands and enthusiastic to learn.
Rate of Pay: \$8.50/hr. DOE
Hours/Week: 40
Job Located in Moscow

Announcement # 22040018939 OnSite Computer Technician, ITS-Administrative Technologies

EMPLOYMENT

Job # 305 Bartender Bartending experience preferred but will train the right person. Must be at least 21 years of age. Requires completion of Washington State "Tips Class" which is paid for by employer if not previously completed. Rate of Pay: \$7.75/hr, plus tips
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MOSCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT #281 MHS has the following spring coaching positions available: Assistant Baseball Coaches, Assistant Track Coaches, Assistant Softball Coaches. Starting date: February 23, 2007. Open until filled. Human Resource Office, 650 N. Cleveland, Moscow, ID 83843-3659. (208) 892-1126. www.sd281.k12.id.us EOE

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The Argonaut



Student excels with poetic justice

By Brandon Macz
Argonaut

At the University of Idaho, students are given the chance to prove that great people can come from small places. Joe Wilkins is from Melstone, Mont. and his graduating class consisted of eight other students.

At 28, Wilkins has established himself as a poet whose works can be found in many journals including California Quarterly, Burnside Review and The Georgia Review. He will read of his poetry with fellow student Lucas Howell 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at BookPeople.

Wilkins writes free-verse poetry

about the places he's been and his life growing up in rural Montana and Mississippi, where he taught high school math.

"I write just about anything that excites me or makes me think a second time," he said.

He began his college education at Gonzaga, where he was studying to be an engineer. There was room in

his schedule his senior year so he

"I've sent a lot and been published some. For every acceptance I get, I get quite a few rejections, as well."

Joe Wilkins
UI Student

took a poetry writing class. "I've been reading it and writing it ever since," Wilkins said.

After moving to Mississippi to teach he returned to the Northwest as a graduate student in creative writing-poetry at UI three years ago.

Wilkins' said his favorite poets are James Wright, B.H. Fairchild and Richard Hugo,

who once said that if a writer can't take rejection then maybe they shouldn't write.

"I've sent a lot and been published some," he said. "For every acceptance I get, I get quite a few rejections, as well."

Wilkins is working on his thesis and trying to change forms to discover new directions in writing. He said he loves teaching and has applied at a few schools to be an entry level professor. "I'm definitely going to be a teacher but I'm definitely going to keep writing," Wilkins said.

He writes every day for two-three hours and takes between one-two months to complete a poem.

He spent four years writing "Letter to Paul from Sunflower," which will be published by the journal Silk Road.

In the three years he has lived in Moscow, Wilkins has worked with Oregon poet Charles Goodridge and others from annual workshops.

He is currently challenging himself to write longer poems in his technique of non-fiction class.

He will also see three of his poems published in Boulevard Magazine with whom he has won their "Emerging Poets" award and a prize of \$1,000 that will go toward a spring break with his friends in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Keeping it simple at the movies

By Ryli Hennessey
Argonaut

Once in a while a film to numb the mind is good, junk food for the brain, as some might call it, and that's the only recommended reason for watching "My Super Ex-Girlfriend."

Sure, it might be total big-budget Hollywood crap, but it is kind of entertaining and a great movie to put in when you don't want to think.

Uma Thurman plays G-Girl, the hot female superhero. Luke Wilson plays Matt, a goofy, but loveable, bachelor ready to get back into the dating game. Sound familiar? Well it should because everyone follows the fabulously overdone Hollywood boy meets girl cookie-cutter character guidelines. Well, except for the superhero thing.

But who cares, you already know the characters and, as for the story, it's pretty basic too. Your mind won't even have to work. There's no pondering complex issues, or tackling difficult or risqué concepts just good old fashioned brainless entertainment.

At first Matt thinks G-Girl is fantastic, he has to keep her secret but wants desperately to tell his friends he's banging G-Girl. Later, he realizes she is completely crazy and he's really in love with a coworker. After breaking it off with G-Girl, she goes totally crazy and tries to ruin his life.

At least it's a slightly original spin on the romantic comedy. The superhero thing is fun and the crazy ex thing is actually pretty funny.

Thurman is, as usual, funny, charming and totally hot in a way-too-tall kind of way and Wilson has a cute enough personality, even though he looks especially bad in this film.

During award season people seem to get especially serious about movies, watching long, and often times, boring but critically acclaimed films. A fun DVD like "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" is exactly what people need to get away from the seriousness of "award worthy" films. Who cares if it's a bit low brow? At least it's not over-hyped and an hour and a half too long.

People will actually have fun watching this. It's light hearted, simple and cute. Film is a serious subject and should be respected, but there is no reason we can't all zone out and watch a film like "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" after a long day of school.

It's also a great movie for a date. The guys will love the superhero action and the hot G-Girl action and the women will enjoy the love story and the hot Luke Wilson action.

It's not so bad that you'll feel like you've lost 90 minutes of your life. That's right it's only 90 minutes long! But it's not so great that you'll be thinking about it for days.

Sometimes a simple movie can be the perfect movie, it's just not recommended that these are the only kinds of films you consume.



The Bradbury Press will play at 9 p.m. Friday at John's Alley.

Courtesy Photo

Seattle-based band travels Western states

By Lauren Lepinski
Argonaut

Most bands travel the country on a bus, but The Bradbury Press, a native Seattle group may be the only ones that travels in a bus named Shelly.

"We needed something we could all pile into and keep our gear in when we started our Northwest tour," drummer Greg Garcia said. "Our first trip through Montana we took two cars, and that wasn't much fun. And it cost a lot."

In each city, the band invites fans onto Shelly to sign their names or leave any messages they want.

"People tend to be naturally curious about her," Garcia said. "It's pretty interesting to try to read what a lot of the drunken

see the SHOW

The Bradbury Press will play a show 9 p.m. Friday at John's Alley in Moscow.

people write." Shelly got her name from an ex-girlfriend of Bradbury Press guitarist David Brewer.

"She named Shelly after a turtle she wanted," Brewer said.

The band's unique name was inspired by a store in their hometown of Seattle, not the writer Ray Bradbury, as some think.

"We really just liked the logo and the name of the store," Garcia said.

The group is difficult to categorize into just one genre. The band calls themselves acoustic/rock/country.

The Bradbury Press has been touring for the last three years and members say they understand that they have to work hard to keep a band going.

"A lot of bands want to tour. They realize when they get out there that they can't get along, or their grand ideas of making all this money and playing to tons of people every night was nothing more than a dream. I think the four of us are pretty grounded and practical people," Garcia said.

The band has been said to have grassroots ethics — members have put a lot of time and effort into personalizing the band. The band promotes itself

and relies on the support of its listeners. The members hand out flyers themselves, contact local papers, play free shows on college campuses and respond to fan e-mail on their Myspace site.

"It's a do-it-yourself project. We don't have anyone else to make us successful. It's really up to us," Garcia said.

The band has been noted for their easily relatable lyrics. Golden and Brewer do most of the writing and the lyrics all relate to personal experiences and real life stories.

"We have never been a band to write about things that aren't true. I think we write about what everyone else is going through, like changes in life, and

See SHOW, page 9

The devil returns to country music

By T.J. Tranchell
Argonaut

Not since Charlie Daniels sang about the devil losing a fiddling contest has Satan had this much play in country music. And none other than Hank Williams III, son of Hank Jr., and grandson of legendary Hank Williams, summons up the slandered one.

"Straight to Hell," a two-disc set, is the third album with Williams III's name on the sleeve. His first two discs were underground sensations that didn't generate any airplay. Then something strange happened.

Fans of heavy learned that this southern-drawling,

whiskey-slinger was friends with Phil Anselmo. In fact, Williams III plays in two different groups with the ex-Pantera front man, much to the chagrin of his record label. The problems between the label and the artist even caused the formation of a pseudo-label for the release of "Straight to Hell."

There's a brief history lesson, now for the music.

Make no mistake, "Straight to Hell" is a country album. Acoustic guitars, fiddles, banjos and that classic twang dominate both discs. Lyrical subjects range from too much drinking to going to prison for shooting a spouse. What distinguishes this from the current trend of country is just how

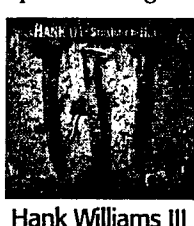
much it sounds like something out of Nashville's hey-days of the 1950s and 60s.

But that is the point. Williams III takes a huge exception to today's "pop country" in songs like "Dick in Dixie." You'll have to listen to it because the lyrics aren't suitable for print here.

Those lyrics are another bone of contention between Williams III and the country establishment. Ironically, Hank Williams, Jr sang a song with Kid Rock called "The F word Doesn't Belong in Country."

Williams, once just as much a country rebel as his son, is most famous for the "Monday Night Football" theme song and the outlaw country classic "Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound."

While it may seem that Williams III completely lacks respect for those who've gone before him, in reality the opposite is true. Track four on "Straight to Hell" is an homage to artists he admires, called "Country Heroes." Williams III references not only his grandfather but Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash and Merle



Hank Williams III
"Straight to Hell"
★★★★ (of 5)
Available Now

Haggard. He is also quick to praise less well-known country pioneers as George Jones and David Allan Coe.

The highlight of the set is on disc two. With only two tracks — only one of which is titled on the outer sleeve — this second disc features a cover of the Hank Williams song "I Could Never Be Ashamed of You" and the murder ballad "Louisiana Stripes." The mournful samples of locomotives only add to the overall motif.

Things do get weird when the vocals slow down until they are unintelligible and just plain creepy. The tracks featuring this effect sound like something one would find on the

soundtrack of a Rob Zombie movie. As much as this is a country album, Williams III can't resist throwing in his heavy metal influences as well.

"Straight to Hell" is an album for anyone who wants to hear what country music would sound like without prairie princesses like Carrie Underwood and most every thing else shown on CMT.

The language gets graphic but that is why there is a parental advisory sticker on the front.

And when was the last time there was one of those on a country CD? Hank Williams III's CD "Straight to Hell" is now available from Bruc Records.

ArtsBRIEFS

Film series begin this weekend

ASUI begins its various film series in earnest this weekend, beginning with the independent films and followed by the blockbusters.

Independent films show at 7 and 9 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursday in the Borah Theater.

The highlight of the semester will be a double feature of "Overnight" and cult-favorite "Boondock Saints" March 7-8.

The Blockbuster Series begins this Friday and Saturday with "Superman Returns."

Originally scheduled last semester, "Superman Returns" will only have one showing each night due to length.

Also on the schedule for this semester is current Oscar favorite "The Departed," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson. The Martin Scorsese-directed film is set to run in mid-April.

Tickets for all ASUI films are \$2 for students and \$3 for everyone else. To see the schedules for the Indie and Blockbuster Film Series, as well as schedules for other series, visit <http://www.sub.uidaho.edu/Movies>.

Pacifica Quartet comes inland

The Auditorium Chamber Music Series welcomes the Pacifica Quartet at 7:30 p.m., Thursday inside the

University Auditorium. Pacifica Quartet last visited UI as part of the 2003 chamber music season.

During 2006, the four-piece group performed as part of the Lincoln Center's Great Performers series and won the Avery Fisher Career Prize.

The group will also participate in the Palouse Chamber Music Workshop.

Tickets are \$8 for students, \$15 for seniors and \$18 for the general public and can be purchased at BookPeople, at the door the night of the performance or online at www.auditoriumchamber-music.org.

French film invasion at Borah

Put away the soda and popcorn, instead breakout the cheese and wine. The Tournées Festival of New French Films comes to the Borah Theater March 27-31.

Five recent French films will rotate showings over the five day festival with each film screening twice.

Included in the festival are comedies, dramas and mysteries. Each film has won awards ranging from BAFTAs to prizes at the Cannes Film Festival.

The movies are: "Aaltra," "Delwende," "Cache," "Look at Me" and "The Beat That My Heart Skipped."

Individual tickets are \$2 for students and \$3 for the general public. Passes to see all five films will be available at \$8 for students and \$12 for everyone else beginning March 26.

For a complete program of

the Tournées Festival of New French Films, visit <http://www.sub.uidaho.edu/FrenchFilms>.

Food, music, crafts at 1912 Center

Heart of the Arts Inc., a non-profit group formed to support arts and culture programs in Moscow will sponsor its third Winter Market Saturday at the 1912 Center at Third and Adams, across from Moscow High School. Doors to the Great Room on the center's plaza level will open at 10 p.m. and the market will run until 2 p.m. Live music by the Sesitshaya Marimba Ensemble will begin at 11 a.m. on the balcony overlooking the Great Room. Almost two dozen vendors are expected to participate and markets in November and December attracted more than 100 visitors.

Association presents Chinese music

The Palouse Asian American Association will hold an open meeting on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Moscow 1912 Center. The program will be A Musical Trip to China with discussion of and performance on the ancient Chinese musical instrument Gu-zheng, which is similar to the Japanese koto, by Youngchao Xu. For information, contact association secretary Joann Muneta at 882-3648.

Teaching through taste

By Michael Howell Argonaut

Shows like "Survivor" and "Fear Factor" feature contestants eating pig intestines and bugs for shock value, but for members of the World Cuisine Club, food items like this aren't disgusting, but a chance to connect with cultures outside of America.

"I was visiting relatives in the Czech Republic," Lauren Svejcar said. "There was a dish they served that was made from cow intestines chopped up into a soup. For people in Eastern Europe, it's just another meal."

Svejcar, who is the president of the World Cuisine Club, said that the fascination with food from other cultures came to the group out of a love for traveling.

"Between us, we've traveled to a bunch of different countries," Svejcar said. "When a person travels, one of the first things they experience about a culture is its food."

Svejcar said that she has even eaten bugs before.

"My family is the ranching type," Svejcar said. "I've always just been prepared to eat whatever it takes in order to survive. What may seem

gross to an average American may be delicious to someone in another part of the world."

Svejcar also admits to having close to 50 different cookbooks in her apartment. Other members of the group share the same passion for cooking.

This love for cooking prompted the first meetings of the World Cuisine Club last semester.

"We were all from different majors and had diverse schedules," Svejcar said. "When we could though, we would get together to just cook."

While the members of the World Cuisine Club have eaten some strange things from other cultures, they also had the privilege of being exposed to some great foreign dishes.

"The vice president and I went to Ecuador recently," Svejcar said. "In Ecuador, you could go into just about any restaurant and for the equivalent of about a dollar get a dish that was diced chicken, rice and French fries on top. It just showed that while cultures may be different, they are also more similar than people think."

This first-hand knowledge of different foods and how they are important to various cultures is what Svejcar said

the club hopes to bring to the University of Idaho.

"We have been preparing to put together booklets to distribute to students," Svejcar said. "We were thinking of doing one on how to prepare certain Ecuadorian foods and what their importance is on the Ecuadorian culture."

While on the trip to Ecuador, Svejcar was able to get a lesson from a widely known chef of the region.

"We didn't know how popular he was in Ecuador until after he had shown us some techniques and recipes from the region," Svejcar said. "After we found out who he was, we knew we had to include his methods into our cooking."

On the group's list of things to do is to distribute more food booklets on various topics and cultures, set up a web site that students can visit and hold a gathering in which students can sample dishes from all over the world. Svejcar hopes this will be the first steps in bringing cultural knowledge to UI.

"Food is the one thing that connects all the people of the world," she said. "No matter who you are, you need to eat."

'Lost' looks to find an end

By David Bianculli New York Daily News

PASADENA, Calif. — ABC's "Lost" will return to some of the storytelling methods that made the mystery-laden series popular in the past, the producers said Sunday.

For instance, the rest of the season will be more like the show's first year, focusing on relationships among the familiar (but, in this season's first six episodes, largely missing) characters, the producers told members of the Television Critics Association.

Jack (Matthew Fox) and Juliet (Elizabeth Mitchell) will be prominent, as will Charlie (Dominic Monaghan) and Claire (Emilie de Ravin). Jack, Sawyer (Josh Holloway) and Kate (Evangeline Lilly) will escape from the other island — and,

perhaps most intriguing of all, the producers are in discussion with ABC to decide when to end the series, so they can plan accordingly and intentionally.

"It's time for us to find an end point to the show," executive producer Carlton Cuse said, comparing it to J.K. Rowling's decision to announce well in advance that "Harry Potter" would stop after seven novels.

The decision to revert to tried-and-true methods comes as the show has faced stiffer competition in the Nielsen department and lost some of its earlier buzz.

Cuse also referred to "The X-Files," calling it "a great show that probably went two seasons too long."

The answers to the show's biggest questions, he and series co-creator Damon Lindelof said, would be held until the end, but they don't want to stretch "Lost"

thin just to keep going.

"None of us want to be doing the show that is the stalling show," Lindelof said. "You know: 'We're building sand castles this week!'"

To those judging the entire current series of "Lost" based on six episodes shown in the fall, Cuse warns against making premature assessments.

"If we only showed you the first six episodes of last year," he said, "you'd probably think, 'What? Has the show just become about the tail section people?' And those characters are basically now all dead."

"By time we got on through the entire season last year, we feel like we covered everyone's stories. And I think the same will be true when you see the third season in its totality. You'll have a much better sense of what everybody's been doing."

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SHOW

from page 7

relationships. It's just stuff everyone can relate to. I think people want to hear something they can relate to. So many bands today don't write about that stuff," Garcia said.

At this time, the band's main goal isn't to become more popular and mainstream, but to play their music to entertain others and support themselves.

"Having control over what we do, and how we do it, is a very nice thing to have," lead singer Darren Golden said.

Garcia, the newest member, joined the band four years ago. He had previously been in another Seattle band called Bijou, who performed with The Bradbury Press frequently. Garcia was looking for a new band at the same time The Bradbury Press was looking for a new drummer.

"I have always wanted to be in a band since I can remember. My older sister, Kryss, really got me into music when I was a kid. We watched a lot of MTV in the '80s when they actually played videos. I blame the '80s hair bands for making me want to join a band," Garcia said.

Museum creates an artistic green space

By Lisa Pemberton
McClatchy Newspapers

SEATTLE — It's about the Northwest and its mountains, salt water, clouds and forests.

And it's about art — art that is alive, that seemingly changes with every snowflake, sunbeam and soft breeze.

After nearly a decade's wait, the Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park is slated to open to the public Saturday, with a packed schedule of family activities, tours, art-making opportunities and dozens of music and dance performances.

The \$85 million, 9-acre park — a former contaminated industrial site — zigzags from the upscale Belltown neighborhood to a driftwood-covered beach along Puget Sound. Its architectural design and landscaping make it almost impossible to tell that portions of the park are suspended over the bustling Elliott Avenue and a set of heavily used Burlington Northern railroad tracks.

"We aspired to create a sculpture park at the intersection of the city and the water, and to define a new model for bringing art to the public," said Marion Weiss of Weiss/Manfredi Architects, a New York-based firm that designed the project. "Our intent is to establish connections where separations existed, inventing a setting that implicitly questions where the art begins and the park ends."

The project, funded through a massive capital campaign, features more than 20 pieces, including works from the museum's collection, sculptures commissioned for the park, loaned pieces and changing installations.

Prominent works include the nearly 40-foot red "Eagle" by Alexander Calder, and the titan-size "Wake," a series of five monumental pairs of curved steel forms by Richard Serra.

Each of the 10 plates used to build "Wake" weighs nearly 30,000 pounds. The rust-colored panels were fabricated in Germany, and eventually they'll turn dark amber in color, Serra said.

The minimalist sculptor — who has created large public art pieces in New York, San Francisco and elsewhere — said it was an honor to be involved in the park's inaugural event.

Traditionally, art has only been accessible to a particular class, but efforts such as the Olympic Sculpture Park help make art more available to the community, he said.

"I think the opening of this park is a historic moment," Serra said during a tour of the park last week. "There's nothing else like this in the United States."

From native plantings in its gardens to salmon restoration efforts along the beach, the environment played a huge role in the development of the park, museum officials say.

From 1900 to 1975, the site was a fuel

transfer and distribution center for Union Oil Co. of California. It took almost a decade for the company to remove nearly 120,000 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil from the property and treat millions of gallons of groundwater under an agreement with the state Department of Ecology.

The museum paired up with the conservation group Trust for Public Land to acquire the property, which a developer had hoped to turn into condominiums, office space and a hotel.

"When we first saw these two brown lots, we had to have a lot of faith to buy them," said Jon Shirley, chairman of the museum's board of trustees.

Designers incorporated native plantings such as fir, cedar, hemlock and coastal flowering shrubs and trees throughout the park. A newly-created grove of aspen will someday tower amid the artwork. And park officials hope juvenile chinook salmon, migrating from the Duwamish River to the Puget Sound, will find some much-needed protection along the park's newly repaired seawall and restored shoreline.

Sending a message Environmental messages also are evident in several pieces of the artwork.

For example, one of the park's pieces, "Neukom Vivarium," is a combination of sculpture, architecture, horticulture and environmental education.

Artist Mark Dion created the piece, which includes a greenhouse that houses a

60-foot-long "nurse log." The moss-covered log is from a 150-year-old tree that fell during a 1997 windstorm in the Green River watershed. Visitors can use microscopes and magnifying glasses to watch the log's ongoing decay and support of other life such as ferns, moss and bugs.

"One of the ingredients of this piece is time," Dion said.

Museum officials have joined with several groups, including the Audubon Society and Woodland Park Zoo, to organize a variety of environmental education programs at the park.

Named after the snow-capped peaks that seem within reach of the park, at least on a clear day, the Olympic Sculpture Park offers views of the Space Needle, several Seattle skyscrapers, the Port of Seattle's shipyards and Mount Rainier. It's Seattle Art Museum's third site — joining Volunteer Park's Seattle Asian Art Museum and the downtown Seattle Art Museum, which is undergoing a major expansion as well, scheduled to be completed in May.

The park also is Seattle's last and largest waterfront property.

Seattle Art Museum director Mimi Gates described the sculpture park as "transformative." Not only has it turned a former industrial site into green space, it's also creating a cultural legacy for the region.

"Generations are going to grow up living with this art," Gates said.

'Battlestar Galactica' awaits a major change

By Maureen Ryan
Chicago Tribune

Speculation about a major character death has been rampant in the "Battlestar Galactica" world of late. (By the way, stop reading if you don't want to know more about upcoming "Battlestar" plots.)

Rumors abound that a character will die in the second half of the Sci Fi drama's third season, which kicks off Jan. 21. And much of the "who will it be" speculation centers on hotshot pilot Kara "Starbuck" Thrace.

In an exclusive interview, executive producers David Eick and Ron Moore say that a "profound" event involving Starbuck does occur in a pivotal Season 3 episode called "Maelstrom," which is scheduled to air March 4. In fact, Moore says it "will be one of the

most surprising things that's happened in the history of the show so far."

What happens to Thrace "will jump out and grab you," Moore says.

The producers confirmed what Katee Sackhoff (the actress who plays Starbuck) said in a recent interview: that as of the March 4 episode, she had completed her work on the show's third season, even though three more episodes air after "Maelstrom."

So the actress finished her work on the season early, and something major and surprising happens in the last episode that Sackhoff filmed. But Eick and Moore don't want to use the word "death" when describing what happens to Starbuck in "Maelstrom."

"I think people will have to watch that episode and judge

for themselves what happens," Moore says. "I can say that Galactica will suffer a shocking loss in that episode, and Kara is a key member of the crew."

Just to add fuel to the fire of "Galactica" bloggers, Moore adds that after the March 4 episode airs, the name of a major cast member will disappear from the show's opening credits. They won't say whether Sackhoff's name is the one that goes that's missing. But they do make clear that what happens to Starbuck points the way to a major shift in the show's direction.

"It's a fundamental and permanent change in the makeup of the show's cast and of the show itself and how the show operates and what the show is about. It's a very dramatic change of direction," Moore says.

"What we're doing with Kara Thrace is profound and is major, and yet it doesn't necessarily translate as simply as you might think," Eick says. That makes sense when you consider that in the world of "Battlestar Galactica," the Cylon characters, who are locked in an epic battle with the humans, are able to die and be reborn, or "downloaded," into new bodies.

Of course, Moore won't say whether Thrace is a Cylon and if she gets downloaded. Eick and Moore also won't say if Gaius Baltar, a canny survivor who's spent time with both the Galactica crew and with the Cylons, is in fact a Cylon. But they will say Baltar's character undergoes a trial for his crimes against his fellow humans, and they add that a photo that surfaced online of Baltar in a Cylon resurrection tank is from a

dream or fantasy sequence and not something to be taken literally.

"Some of the speculation (regarding Starbuck and others) sounds so cut and dried, 'Oh, this is going to happen and that's that,'" Moore says. "And it's really not that simple. There are different layers that we're trying to protect and that we want to be able to deliver to the audience at the appropriate time."

Eick and Moore confirmed that they are developing a two-hour stand-alone "Battlestar Galactica" film, which may be released between Seasons 3 and 4. If there is no Season 4, then the film, which would be released on DVD and air on Sci Fi, would not go forward.

In any case, the DVD movie would not be a conclusion of the show's third-season cliffhanger

finale, which they say will once again take the show in a shocking new direction.

"If you think about the end of Season 1 and the end of Season 2, both of those cliffhangers — they weren't just of the 'Who shot J.R.' ilk. They actually turned the storytelling in a new direction," Eick says. The end of Season 3, he says, will be no exception. "So what we're doing at the end of this year, which involves Kara Thrace and others, is (taking the storytelling) in a different and unique direction from what's come before."

"Whether the fans of the show like what we do at the end of this year or find themselves aghast at what we do, they can rest assured it's not what they're expecting," Eick says. "Whatever they think is going to happen, think again."

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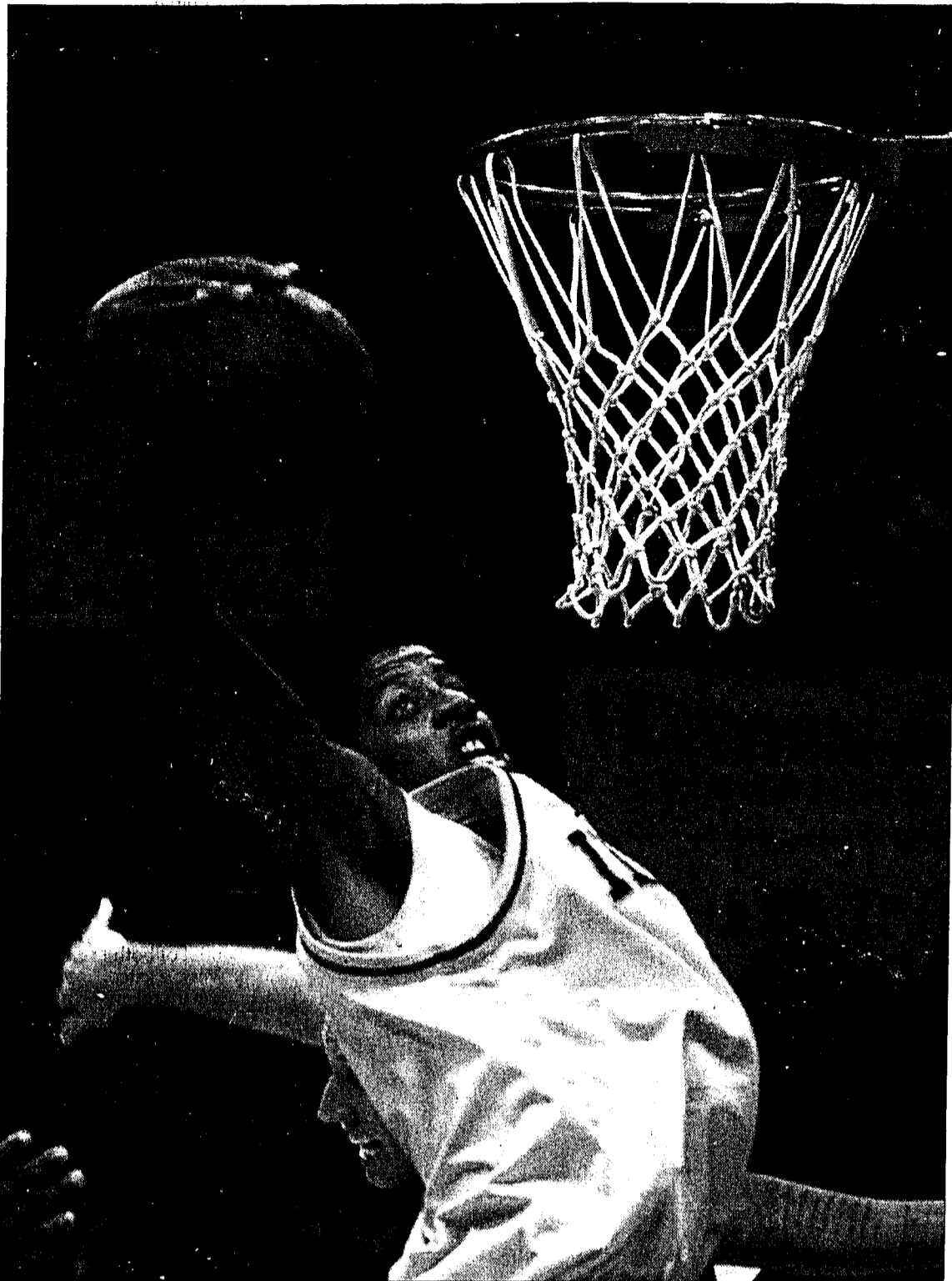
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Junior forward Clyde Johnson jumps for the rebound during the second half of the Vandal's game against the Hawai'i Rainbow Warriors Thursday night.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Buzzer beater gives Vandals first WAC win

By Nick Heidelberger
Argonaut

University of Idaho's Clyde Johnson's 3-point shot with nine-tenths of a second left gave Idaho a one-point victory over Hawai'i (10-8, 1-4) 76-75 Thursday.

Idaho (3-14, 1-4) used an 11-of-28 first half shooting performance including 5-for-10 from 3-point distance to go into halftime trailing 40-35.

A back-and-forth second half saw the Vandals still down by five at 62-57, with less than five minutes to play. However, Idaho outscored the Warriors in the final five minutes 19-13 for the 76-75 victory.

Idaho guard Keoni Watson led the Vandals in scoring with 16 points and Darin Nagle added 15 points, eight rebounds and three blocks. Johnson played 24 minutes for the Vandals and had 15 points including the game-winning three.

The Rainbow Warriors were led by Dominic Waters who had 18 points. Matt Lojeski also added 17 points and 9 rebounds for Hawai'i.

The Vandals finished the game with seven turnovers, compared to 12 for Hawai'i. Idaho was out-rebounded by Hawai'i 48-39, including 18-14 offensively.

UI finished the game shooting 25-of-62 from the floor, including 7-for-17 from 3-point range after shooting a season-high 33 3-pointers in a 10-for-33 3-point shooting effort in their 74-56 loss to Utah State on Jan. 15.

Vandal's coach George Pfeifer said he didn't think Hawai'i's travel would have an affect on their performance. The Rainbow Warriors arrived in Moscow on Monday to prepare for Thursday's game. Pfeifer said Hawai'i practiced more times at the Cowan Spectrum than the Vandals did this week, due to NCAA rules requiring a day off after a game day.

The Vandals will play their third game in six days on Saturday when Louisiana Tech visits the Cowan Spectrum. The Bulldogs are currently in third place in the WAC, but if the Vandals can overcome their recent offensive woes, they can challenge Louisiana Tech, who is 5-12 overall.

"We have to make baskets," Pfeifer said. "We spend time on getting our guys ready to defend, but we need to spend more time figuring out how to score because we are not getting that part done. We have some ownership from the coaches to the players to get better at learning how to execute what we do. And then, when we do get those shots, we have to make them."

The Bulldogs have six seniors on their roster, compared to just two on the Vandals. However, one of Idaho's seniors, Watson, is third in the WAC in scoring during conference games, and is in the top 10 in the conference in steals, field-goal percentage, 3-point percentage and 3-point field goals made for the season.

The game will be Idaho's eighth home game of the season, after playing just five of their first 14 games at home. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. in the Cowan Spectrum.

"... We need to spend more time figuring out how to score ..."

George Pfeifer
UI men's basketball coach

FOOTBALL

Akey already making his mark

By Ryan Atkins
Argonaut

When University of Idaho football coach Robb Akey was hired just less than a month ago, he knew he had his work cut out for him.

He had a coaching staff to assemble, recruits to sway and a fleet of Vandal fans to convince he was the right man for the job.

So far, Akey's done well with his coaching staff and players. He finalized his coaching staff last week and made ground on his roster.

His high energy and fiery demeanor convinced Idaho players he is the right choice for UI, and junior linebacker David Vobora is one of the many who has become an Akey supporter.

"The transition has gone smoothly and it has definitely united our team," Vobora said. "Guys have come together and guys are excited. Our team meeting went really well the other day and Robb is a coach that has a lot of charisma. And he is a guy that is fired up and excited to be here."

Idaho Athletic Director Rob

Spear also commented on the support he received from the community since Akey's hiring.

"Robb has a focused energy, really able to channel in the most effective way, and the community has been very supportive," Spear said. "We have received a lot of positive feedback from alumni, boosters and the community."

But winning over the current Idaho players and the community was just the first step, as Akey was still crunched for time to decide on his coaching staff.

Spear said he was impressed with the new coaching staff and how Akey went about his business.

"He assembled a great staff, and it has been impressive to see him operate," Spear said. "He took his time and he was very thorough, he interviewed multiple guys and at the end he has assembled a great staff. It is a combination of experience and maturity with young and hungry guys."

With the community behind him, Akey's first hiring was that of friend and former boss Steve Axman to become Idaho's new

offensive coordinator.

Axman spent last season as quarterbacks coach at the University of Montana, and in the past has coached Troy Aikman and Neil O'Donnell.

Joining Axman on the Idaho staff is Mark Criner, who will take over as defensive coordinator.

Criner's career includes stops at Minnesota, Middle Tennessee State, Cincinnati, Las Vegas Outlaws (XFL), Portland State and Utah State.

Akey's other hiring included Patrick Libey as safeties coach, Al Genatone as linebackers coach, Luther Carr as offensive assistant, Dave Finn as offensive line coach and Roderick Pluntmer as special teams coordinator.

From last year's staff, Akey kept Johnny Nansen as defensive line coach and Jonathan Smith as quarterbacks coach.

"We have a coaching staff put together and I am excited about that. We have a great group of guys that are excited about being here," Akey said. "They are enthusiastic about the opportunity we have

here and it is a good blend of age and experience mixed with youth and exuberance."

Veteran running back Jayson Bird said the new group of coaches has instilled a new atmosphere around the team.

"These coaches are a lot more personable than the previous group," Bird said. "They are a little more energetic and personable and we are all very excited about the new staff and eager to learn a new system."

Vobora, who led the Vandals in tackles last season, echoed Bird's sentiments.

"Yeah, I am excited. I think they definitely reflect Robb and his style of coaching," Vobora said. "These are guys who know how to get it done. It is a very quality staff and it will be very good for us as a team."

And while his staff is complete, Akey has been and will continue to be busy with recruiting.

Akey's first two recruits as Idaho's coach came via California, as Fullerton College's Marcus

See AKEY, page 12

SpeakOUT

How do you feel about Dennis Erickson's decision to leave?



"He has always done it. He is the type of guy who wants to better his own situation and doesn't care about the team he is coaching."

-Alex Howard
sophomore,
business management

"I think it is bull—. He says he was going to stay and retire here. He has already made enough money from the 49ers. I'm not a big football person, but it seems you should have some class. Plus, I have been told over and over again people only come for the marching band! Go Vandal marching band and go Vandals!"



-Jessi Linder Golde
sophomore, general studies



"I just think the athletic department receives too much funding, especially when other departments are struggling from lack of funding."

-Dawn Sprague
sophomore,
elementary education

"I think that Erickson was using Idaho's nostalgia of having him coach before and also having such a big name to get back in the coaching scene. If you look back, that is his reputation; doing what is best for Erickson."

-Scott Lockner
junior, business management



Do you have an opinion about Erickson's departure? Let us know by writing a letter to the editor.

TENNIS

Men open season this weekend at UW

By Nick Heidelberger
Argonaut

It turns out Robb Akey isn't the only new coach on the University of Idaho campus this year. Jeff Beaman is also fresh on the court.

Beaman is in his first season as coach of the UI tennis team, and the men hit the road this weekend to take on the University of Washington in its first match of the season Saturday.

Beaman took over as coach after a 1-22 season a year ago, and hopes that opening the season against a team like UW will be a positive thing for the team. The Huskies enter the season ranked No. 18 in the country.

"They're a good team to start the year against because they are a great team," Beaman said. "We won't have a ton of pressure but we can have guys go out and compete. It's not a conference match, it's not a do-or-die match, it's great competition, and we'll see where we have to go from there."

Sophomore Paulo Miranda believes that this year's team will be much better than last year.

"I'm pretty sure we're going to have a really good team this semester," Miranda said. "We've got some new players, and last year we had four freshmen so now everybody has more experience."

Beaman also expects to have a better team this year.

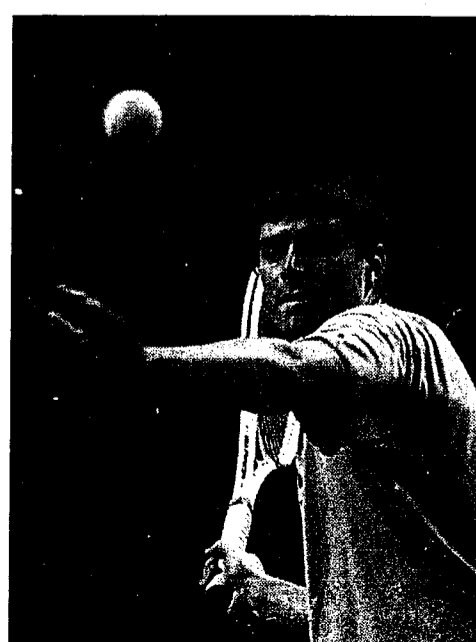
"Last year, I think they won one match," Beaman said. "This year (our expectations are) to compete against the regional opponents that we should be competing with in Division I and to beat all the non-Division I opponents we play."

Beaman said that the Western Athletic Conference schedule is tough, with Boise State, Fresno State and Hawai'i ranked in the nation's top 70. However, Beaman said, it's Idaho's own facilities that could be limiting the Vandals' potential.

"We have the Kibbie Dome as a multi-use facility," Beaman said. "You have ROTC repelling down the back, you have kids trying to play challenge matches and you're sharing it with track and football, and all the teams do a good job of sharing it, but sometimes you don't have access to practice and that makes it tough. We really need to work on getting an indoor tennis facility."

Miranda said he is not only confident in getting new facilities, but in what Beaman can do with the program in the near future.

"When we get some new facilities, I think we're going to have a top 10 program in the country," Miranda said. "Just give some time to this coach."



Senior John Hieb winds up to hit the ball during tennis practice Wednesday afternoon.

Coaching carousel: this ride is making me sick

At the risk of sounding completely naïve, I've got to ask this question — what the heck is going on in the college football coaching profession? Coaches are jumping ship faster than Billy Zane in "Titanic." Lying, deceiving, conniving — they're all present in the NCAA of today. While players are forced to serve under unbelievably stuffy rules regarding their behavior as representatives of their school, the men that are supposed to be serving as role models are switching allegiances more often than contestants on "Survivor."

Here in Moscow, we're all too familiar with this current trend. When he was named head coach of the football team last February, Dennis Erickson waxed poetic about his intentions to retire as a Vandal. He was in it for the long haul. He had enough of the limelight and was only looking to reinvigorate a struggling program that was close to his heart. Fast forward to December — actually that time span is so short the fast forward button isn't really necessary. Erickson is romanced

by Lisa Love. No, not a late-night pop psychologist or relationship doctor on the radio, but the Arizona State University athletic director, and he's off to the greener pastures, or I guess, sandier deserts of Tempe.

This month it's gotten even worse. Bobby Petrino, ironically enough, another with Vandal coaching ties, was, until Jan. 7, the head coach of the Louisville Cardinals. His team just finished a 12-1 season and won the FedEx Orange Bowl. Now he's headed to the NFL's Atlanta Falcons to fill the void left by recently fired Jim Mora. This doesn't sound like such a big deal. The guy is just moving up to the highest level of competition he can. Except for the fact he was in the first year of a 10-year, \$25 million contract with Louisville.

This isn't even the first time Petrino has been involved in an attempted Jeffersons style "movin' on



Jon Bobango
Columnist
arg_sports@subuidaho.edu

up." There was the rather embarrassing, clandestine meeting he had with Auburn officials that took place without any permission from his current employer, or without any discussion with the guy who already held the head coaching position, Tommy Tuberville. In the past couple of years, Petrino's name has been linked to jobs at Louisiana State and the Oakland Raiders. Apparently he figured his coaching stock couldn't get any higher in the college ranks and decided it was time to cash in.

Former Miami Dolphins head coach, Nick Saban, was exasperated by reporters' repeated questions regarding his candidacy for the head coaching vacancy at Alabama. He even went as far as telling reporters, "I'm not going to be the Alabama head coach." Evidently what Saban meant to say was "I'm not going to be the Alabama head coach ... today.

After that who knows?"

In a two-week span, Saban went from denying any interest whatsoever in coaching at Alabama to saying in a press conference that he plans on retiring after he's done with the Crimson Tide.

This isn't the only coach Alabama has lured into a game of he-said, coach-said this off-season. In fact, West Virginia hadn't even finished its season when coach Rich Rodriguez was offered the Alabama job. Of course, that offer came only days after Rodriguez called into a local sports radio talk show to deny he was even thinking about leaving Morgantown. Eventually, he declined the offer but I bet it took every bit of integrity in his body to do so.

I can only wonder: What if every employee treated their job and contract as frivolously as college football coaches? Imagine, this press conference: "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States of America."

"I have scheduled this press conference today to announce that I am leaving my office as the President. I have decided to accept the offer made by the Royal Family to become the next King of England."

At this point George W. Bush removes his USA baseball cap and replaces it with a hat bearing the British flag.

"This is just an opportunity that was too good to pass up. I wish nothing but the best for my old country and its citizens and look forward to the challenge that lies ahead. I can honestly say I plan on retiring as the King of England."

I understand this profession has developed into more of a business than anything else, but even the business world has rules and regulations regarding their movers and shakers. It is what it is but for those college coaches who see themselves as commodities rather than role models, I might recommend a University of Idaho academic offering — Philosophy 103: Ethics.

TRACK & FIELD

Vandals set to begin indoor season this weekend at WSU Open



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

Part of the women's track team run cool-down laps at practice in the Kibbie Dome Wednesday. The track and field team will take part in a track meet in Pullman on Saturday.

By Ryan Atkins
Argonaut

The University of Idaho track and field team will begin the 2007 indoor season this weekend when they take part in the WSU Indoor Open in Pullman, and the Pole Vault Summit in Reno, Nev.

The men's team will be led by two-time All-American thrower Russ Winger.

"We are absolutely ready to get going," Winger said. "It is still early but it will be nice to get out there and get everybody going with a good mark."

Last season, Winger took second in the shot put at the NCAA Indoor Championship and he is ranked fourth in the event heading into the indoor season.

Winger said he has high hopes for the season with individual and team goals.

"This weekend, I would like to set a couple of personal bests in both

events, which isn't out of the question," Winger said. "The team, I think, can absolutely win the WAC, every year we have a chance, but this year I think more than years past."

On the women's side, the team was expected to be led by distance runner Dee Olsen, who finished third in the mile at the NCAA Indoor Championships last season. However, Olsen will now redshirt the indoor season before her senior year in the fall.

That doesn't have the team lowering its hopes however, and runner Bevin Kennelly expects big things from the women's team.

"I think the women's team is capable of a lot. There is a lot of potential as long as everyone can stay healthy," Kennelly said. "As long as there is lots of support going on the whole time, we will have a pretty successful year."

As for this weekend, Kennelly said the opening event offers a great

opportunity for the Idaho team.

"It is pretty exciting to get started. It is a little nerve-wracking at the same time but it's always nice to get the first race out of the way so we can focus on the rest of the season," Kennelly said. "It is going to be a nice way to have a low-pressure opener to help everyone get their confidence back for the season."

UI coach Wayne Phipps echoed the sentiments of his athletes regarding the potential of both teams.

"We are very excited about this weekend. So many of these athletes, all they have been doing is training, so they are ready to go," Phipps said. "I am excited to see them get started and to see how everybody is doing."

And while Phipps was confident in the women's team's ability to succeed this season even without Olsen, it is the men's team that really had him talking.

"We feel like on the men's side we can be a top-20 type team in the nation," Phipps said. "We weren't put in the top 25 to start off with, but I think in a week or two you might see us sneak into the top 20 or top 25."

"I think the women's team is capable of a lot"

Bevin Kennelly
runner

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The Department of Biological Sciences would like to present:

Spring 2007
Randall Seminar Series
Women in Science at the University of Idaho

Seminar presented by
Dr. Claire Fraser-Liggett,
President of The Institute for Genomic Research.

January 23, 2007

"The Impact of Microbial Genomics on the Definition of Microbial Species"
Seminar presented by Dr. Fraser-Liggett

3:00 pm
UI Student Union Building, second floor, Silver/Gold Room

"Career issues for women scientists"
Roundtable discussion with Dr. Fraser-Liggett

11:00am- 12:30 pm
UI Student Union, second floor, Chiefs Room

Refreshments will be served at both events.

All faculty, students, staff and postdoctoral fellow are welcome!

SportsCALENDAR**Today**

UI track and field at Vault Summit
Reno, Nev.

UI track and field at Washington State Open
Pullman

Saturday

UI men's basketball vs. Louisiana Tech
Cowan Spectrum
7 p.m.

UI swimming at Oregon State
Corvallis, Ore.

UI men's tennis at Washington
Seattle
2 p.m.

UI track and field at Vault Summit
Reno, Nev.

UI track and field at Washington State Open
Pullman

Sunday

UI women's basketball vs. Louisiana Tech
Cowan Spectrum
7 p.m.

Intramural singles table tennis play begins

Monday

Intramural basketball play begins

Intramural co-rec volleyball entries due

Tuesday

Intramural co-rec volleyball play begins

Wednesday

UI women's basketball vs. New Mexico State
Cowan Spectrum
7 p.m.

UI men's basketball at New Mexico State
Las Cruces, N.M.
6 p.m.

Intramural indoor soccer play begins

AKEY
from page 10

Pedro and Cerritos College's Corey Rhoane committed to play football at UI.

Pedro, a 6-foot-1, 270-pound defensive end, is expected to compete for a starting job next season, while Rhoane, a 6-foot-4, 215-pound receiver, adds depth to a depleted receiving core, an area Akey expects to continue to bolster.

"At receiver, I think Corey is a great addition for us, but I think you will see more receivers come on board," Akey said. "But really, we need a little bit of everything in this class, and we would like to improve the depth in a lot of places." Akey has just more than

two weeks to complete his recruiting class, which he said will consist of 17 more recruits.

"We are going to be selective in who we bring here. Obviously we want to improve the talent level, coach the guys up that are here and bring in the best players we can," Akey said. "And we have less than three weeks to finish getting this thing put together."

Still, so much work in such little time hasn't dampened the high hopes Akey has for the Vandals.

At the team's first meeting last week, Akey had a ring company representative show up to the meeting to measure each of the players for a bowl game ring.

"I want them to understand to set your goals high, and they need to. We have

to learn how to win and part of that is expecting to win and expecting to have success," Akey said. "I want them to understand this is where we are going, I want that in their mind right now, and I want to make it a reality for them."

The team's first step toward a bowl game next season is a daunting matchup with USC on Sept. 1, but Akey's hopes remain high and his belief in the Vandals real.

"You have to remember they are probably going to be the No. 1 team in the nation when we play them in the fall," Akey said. "But I guess it would be one hell of a way to break in. Upset the top team in the country, there would be a lot of people excited about Vandal football."

WSU's b-ball players wear flip-flops

By Jerry Brewer
The Seattle Times

It's been a flip-flop college basketball season in this state.

Washington State has flipped. Washington and Gonzaga have flopped. Up is down; down is up. Hot is cold; cold is hot. Halle Berry is ugly; Ugly Betty is pretty.

When the 15-3 Cougars host the 11-6 Huskies on Saturday, they can accomplish something they haven't done in a decade: Beat both Washington and Gonzaga in the same season.

Back during the 1996-97 season, the Huskies were ambling through the Bob Bender era, and the Zags were a year from replacing Dan Fitzgerald with Dan Monson. Though the Cougars split two games with UW and beat Gonzaga that year, they finished only 13-17.

The difference now is WSU can do more than beat its in-state peers. It can truly own the state, at least for a season.

The Cougars currently possess the best men's basketball team in Washington, their excellence wrapped with a fascinating zero-to-hero tale. Still, the season just passed the halfway point. Their challenge is to maintain. If they do, please FedEx all coach-of-the-year awards to Tony Bennett's office in Pullman.

Meanwhile, UW can't win a close Pac-10 game and, at 1-5 in the league, stands closer to the NIT than the NCAA tournament. And Gonzaga, which suffered only 12 defeats in the previous three seasons, has seven in its first 19 games this season. On Monday, Saint Mary's snapped the Zags' 30-game winning streak against West Coast Conference foes.

If you're into RPI, college hoops' geeky stat aimed to compute the best teams by

considering opponents' strength, consider these rankings: Cougars 23rd, Gonzaga 59th, Washington 80th.

It's possible the Cougs could be the state's only NCAA tournament representative.

Who envisioned that scenario? If you did, you either have John Wooden's feel for the game or wear too much crimson.

Taking a broader view, it could be a wonderful thing for college hoops around here if Bennett has some Lorenzo Romar in him. Washington and Gonzaga have stumbled, but both will be fine long term. If Bennett will stick around and make the Cougars consistently good, the state could become hugely influential on the national scene.

Is the state big enough for three good teams? Right now, the state has a nice developing story. And this chapter has provided a most unexpected twist.

WSU's best players are a group of guys who've been around the program at least three years and suffered the defeats and disrespect that come with Cougars basketball. It proves how much experience matters. It proves how worthwhile struggles can be. In that sense, the Huskies and Zags definitely should be looking up to the Cougars.

The season figured to be an intriguing one in these parts. If you include the entire Northwest, then you have Oregon battling Washington State for thrills. Meanwhile, the region's two most stable programs struggle.

In a year this weird and unpredictable, you must ponder everything. So to assure the Cougars are never underestimated again this season, it's time to ask about one possibility. Cougars in the Final Four?

Hey, nothing about this college hoops season qualifies as silly.

UI struggles against Rainbow Wahine

The UI women's basketball team had no answer for the taller, more experienced inside presence of the University of Hawai'i Rainbow Wahine. Hawai'i kept the Vandals winless in the WAC, as they won, 71-61, Wednesday at the Stan Sheriff Center at Honolulu.

The Vandals fall to 3-13 overall and 0-5 in the WAC with the loss, their ninth-straight.

"We do five or six right things in a row then we forgot how to do them. We do three things that work and get us points and then we go away from what works. There is no

quit in this team though, they will get down by a bunch and they fight back and get themselves right back in it."

Four Vandals were in double digits on the night as Liz Witte and Sara Dennehy each had 15 points to lead the way. Katie Madison had 13 points in the game and a team-high nine rebounds. Hannah Wells also hit 10 points exactly in action off the bench.

Idaho returns home to continue its conference season when Louisiana Tech comes to the Cowan Spectrum Sunday night. Tip off is 7 p.m.

National/BRIEFS**Schottenheimer will stay put**

Chargers team president Dean Spanos announced Thursday that head coach Marty Schottenheimer will return next season.

The announcement comes just three days after the Chargers 24-21 playoff loss to the New England Patriots.

Despite the vote of confidence from the team owner, Schottenheimer turned down the team's offer of a one-year extension through 2008.

Speculation had been growing following the team's loss on Sunday, that Schottenheimer might be fired, but a 14-2 regular season proved enough to save Schottenheimer's job.

Schottenheimer is the most successful coach never to reach a Super Bowl, and his most recent playoff loss dropped his career playoff record to 5-13.

Phoenix Suns win 11th game straight

The Phoenix Suns won their 11th straight game Wednesday night, dispatching

the Houston Rockets 100-91.

The Suns trailed by 15 points in the second quarter, but rallied to overcome the Rockets, who were without Tracy McGrady.

Steve Nash had 21 points and 14 assists for Phoenix while Amare Stoudamire continued his recent streak of dominant play with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

The win moved the Suns to 30-8, the second best record in the NBA, behind the Dallas Mavericks (32-8).

Hawai'i's Brennan passes on NFL

University of Hawai'i quarterback Colt Brennan will be returning to school after all.

Brennan withdrew his name from the NFL Draft Wednesday, and will return for his senior season at Hawai'i.

Brennan led a high-powered Hawai'i offense last season and he set an NCAA record with 58 touchdown passes.

He also led the nation in passing yards (5,549), passing efficiency (186) and completion percentage (72.6).

Brennan finished sixth in the Heisman Trophy voting and is expected to be one of the front runners for the award next season.

International Experience Fest
January 24th 2007

www.webs.uidaho.edu/ipo/abroad/

Where:

UI Commons - Clearwater, Whitewater, and Wellspring Rooms

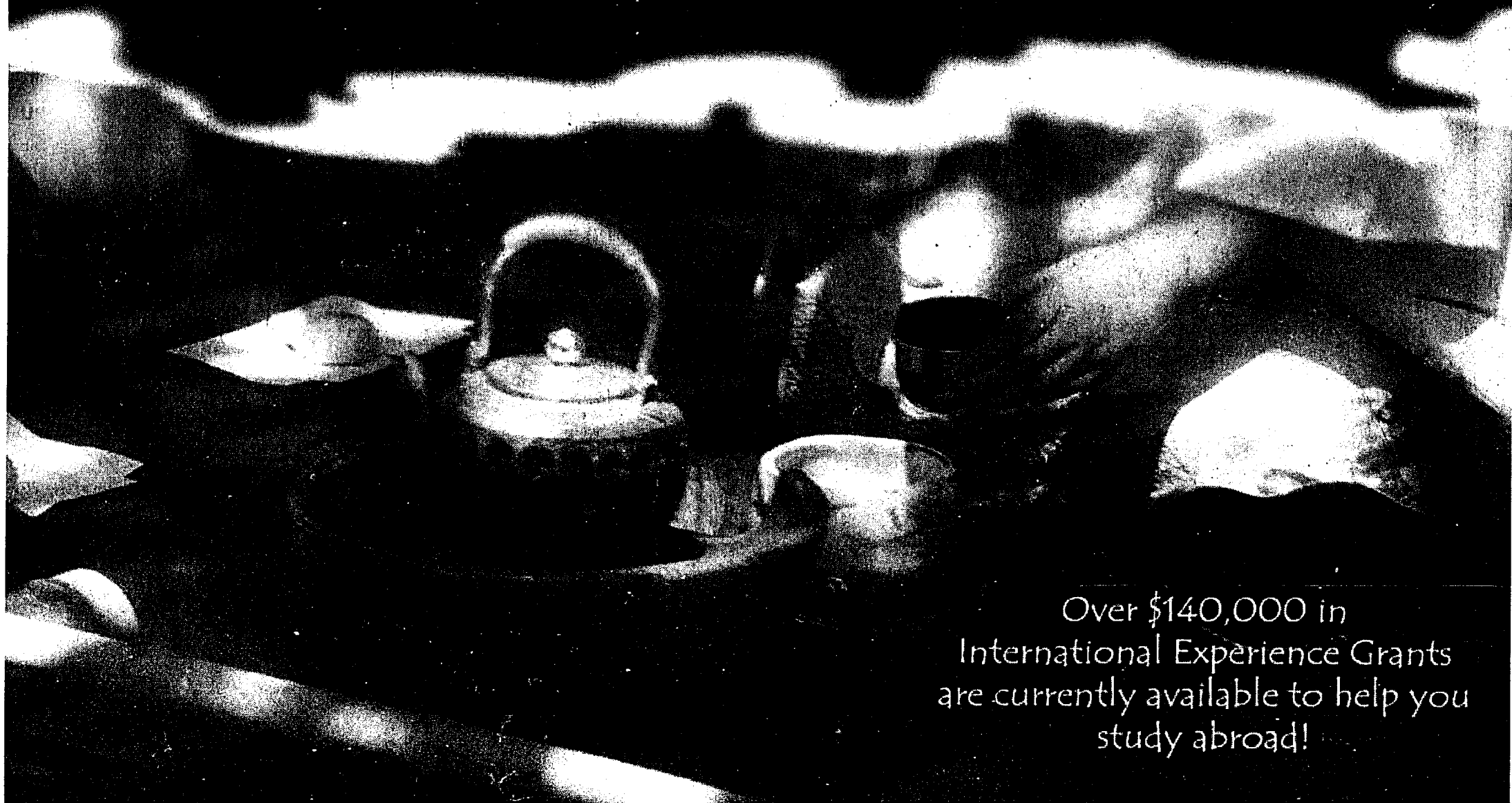
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