UNIVERSITY I D A H O O F HE ARGONAUT The Vandal Voice Since 1898

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

University refutes Tackett's claims

By Cynthia Reynaud Argonaut

The University of Idaho has denied whe majority of allegations made by a ... university employee who filed a lawsuit against it in December.

In a response filed Tuesday with the 2nd District Court, the university, represented by Bentley. Stromberg of Clements, Brown and McNichols, P.A. of Lewiston, addressed several complaints made by Judy Tackett, a technical records specialist in the Office of Development.

Tackett, who is being represented by Charles L. Graham of Landeck, Westberg, Judge and Graham, P.A. of Moscow, alleges that she was unlawfully placed on disciplinary probation after reporting concerns about her workplace to the university.

Her reports included safety concerns and violations of safety rules, which she reported to the UI safety office, and concerns about fiscal management and nepotism in the Advancement Services unit, which she reported to the universi-ty's internal auditor. Tackett also alleges she contacted the university's ombud's office regarding problems with her supervisor, Assistant Director of Annual Giving Linda Williams.

Tackett was placed on probation June 15, 2006. She claims the probation was not in accordance with the university's procedures for the discipline of classi-fied employees and alleges that UI violated the Idaho Protection of Public Employees Act and breached its obligations under the Faculty-Staff Handbook as it relates to disciplinary procedures, right of appeal and retaliation.

In its response, UI confirmed that Tackett was placed on the probationary leave, but denied Tackett's reasons for her probation.

In UI's response, it said the university executive director of development issued a memorandum to Tackett which placed her on 90-day probation for insubordination and added that she was informed that any reports of further inappropriate behavior or insubordination would be grounds for immediate disciplinary action, up to and

Volume 107, No. 39

A son's mission

Martin Luther King III appeared on campus to deliver his speech "My Father's Dreams, My Mission" Monday night at the Kibbie Dome. His speech focused on how his father's ideas of peaceful resistance and civil disobedience could affect today's political situation.

Civil rights activist Martin Luther King III shares how he continues the work his father began

By Cynthia Reynaud Argonaut

Martin Luther King III called his audience to take action Monday at his talk "My Father's Dream, My Mission.

More than 2,000 people filled the Kibbie Dome for the lecture that King III, the son of civil rights movement legend Martin Luther King Jr., said he informally renamed "My Father's Teachings, Our Challenge."

In a press conference before the III addressed how students at the University of Idaho may take on the challenge of making a difference and standing up for peace at the university and beyond. "The first thing is we need to develop our basic foundation of values," King III said. He gave credit to his mother for teaching him his own values -'Love of ourselves, love of community and love of God," he said, adding how important love of community is. 'Instead of condemning we need to understand how to live with all the people in society," said the

founder of the nonprofit organiza-tion "Realizing the Dream" and former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization his father co-founded in 1957.

King III expanded on this ideal in his talk, explaining how people must be nonviolent as individuals and as a nation in order to achieve peace in the world. 'I say you will never be able to

fight terrorism by terrorizing others," he said. He continued to condemn the var in Irag throughout his talk. prompting mixed responses from the crowd. After several comments, King III received cheers of support from the audience, but there were also those who walked out of the auditorium. 'My father's dream for America was part of his global mission," he said. "He .talked about creating a beloved community where all could live in harmony. ... He believed the beloved community is not a place on the map, it's a state of mind."

Iraq and how else it could have been spent, one way being paying teachers more money.

"Its outrageous we invest more in Baghdad than here on the shores of our nation.... I'm not suggesting we should abandon it to the wolves ... we should stay involved on a demo-cratic level," he said.

He added that the United States needs to deal with its own problems of equality for all before trying to solve others'.

"We should set an example by cleaning up or own system of democracy. ... If we clean up our own house, only then can we set an example that other nations can observe and emulate," he said.

"You can start the movement," King III said. "Let's bring America back home."

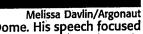
King III concluded with words from his father.

"Be ashamed to die until you've tried to make a difference," he said in a booming voice that echoed throughout the dome. Many students exited the audito-

rium feeling a renewed drive to take action and stand up for what is right. "I really thought this was a really

positive message and I hope it opened up a lot of people's eyes to what's going on in the country," said UI senior Larkin Brown.

"I hope he has an influence on some people who may not have agreed with him," added senior Amanda Wiebush. "It inspired me to go out and continue making a difference." ASUI Vandal Entertainment put on the event, which was the conclusion to a series of events held at UI and Washington State University recognizing the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King Jr. All the money from the \$2 admissions will go to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial currently being built in Washington D.C. and a new ASUI Student Achievement Award that promotes diversity and social activism.



The response denied that the probation and other actions related to the case constituted an adverse action against Tackett within the meaning of the Idaho Protection of Public Employees Act. It also denied breaching its contractual obligations under the Faculty-Staff Handbook.

At the end of their response, UI presented four affirmative defenses, which limit or excuse a defendant's civil liability, even if the plaintiff's allegations are admitted or proven.

See **RESPONSE**, page 4

PROUD HERITAGE



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut Kellen Patterson, a member of the WSU's Black Women's Caucus, performs at Shades of Black Seturday night at the Student Union Ballroom.

King III listed an array of statistics about how much money the United States has spent on the war in

But the good news is that people have the power to change the policy, he said.

He commended Americans for "speaking out" on Nov. 7 with their votes and encouraged students to take charge in the nonviolent way his father did in the 1960s. He listed six steps to achieving this: gather infor-mation, educate about the issue, personal commitment to the issue, negotiation with others and, if necessary, nonviolent confrontation. He encouraged students to dive into a new movement with mass marches, sit-ins and even lockouts.



By Shanna Stalwick Argonaut

There couldn't be a more opportune time for the State Department of Education to appoint an Indian education coordinator,

according to Rodney Frey. "What I find exciting is the timing because we're basically trying to do the same thing and get our ducks in order at the University of Idaho with two new native positions," said the UI professor of American Indian studies and anthropology.

As applicants are in review to fill the Indian education coordinator position to oversee American Indian education in all Idaho public schools, so are those in pursuit of the Native American Student Center director position and tribal liaison for UI

The liaison will interact directly with the tribes and the state Indian education coordinator to improve curriculum and retention at UI.

Frey, who is also one of the search committee chairs, said both positions should be filled by this summer, or at the latest, this fall.

One notable need for the representative comes from American Indian students consis-

tently ranking as the "lowest-performing stu-dents in the state of Idaho," said Bryan Samuels, chair of the Idaho State Indian education committee and principal at Lapwai High School.

Frey said he feels the infusion and recognition of Indian heritage and cultural curriculum combined with language and educational competencies; such as addressing the No Child Left Behind Act, is one way to increase the success rate of American Indian students finishing high school and seeking higher levels of education.

"When the education system can integrate both successfully, you're going to have a lot higher rate of graduation and successful students coming out of high school and going on to college," Frey said.

Julian Matthews, a graduate student and a leader with UI's Native American Graduate Student Association, said he recognizes why many American Indian students choose not to oursue a college degree, or for some, finish high school.

'I see these things because it's a part of me," said Matthews, who is Nez Perce and Irish.

Matthews said that going to college is often an automatic assumption for children grow-

ing up in middle-class families. For American Indian children, this is not always the case. A large emphasis is placed on nuclear and extended family, many of whom work on the reservation and did not attend college.

'The tribe is really close-knit," Matthews

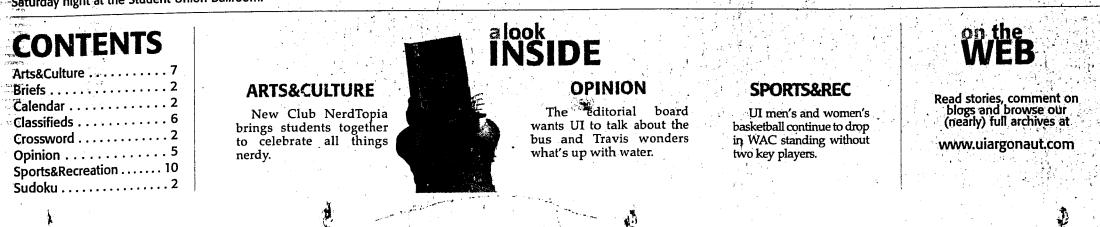
In return, American Indian children often get jobs after high school working on the reservation to stay near the tribe and their core family.

Today, Samuels and the committee will meet with Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna to review the applicants in consideration. The candidate pool was developed in part with the help of Idaho's five recognized tribes: the Nez Perce, Kootenai, Coeur d'Alene, Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute.

Samuels said the Indian education committee has been pushing for an American Indian education representative since the early 1990s, and hopes to have the position filled by July 1.

"It's not something generated overnight," Samuels said. "It's something we've been

See EDUCATION, page 4



Page 2

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

by Paul Tong/Argonaut

Correction

In Friday's story "Wheatland seeks new funding," Valley Transit's operating area was misstated. Valley Transit operates in Lewiston, Clarkston, Asotin and Moscow, and there is a shuttle between Moscow and Lewiston.

<u>Weather</u>FORECAST

Today Wednesday Thursday Mostly Rain/ cloudy snow Hi: 42' Hi: 42 Lo: 33' Lo: 26



& Student Union

Of the 13 million children growing up in poverty, about half won't graduate from high school. Those who do will perform, on average, at an eighth-grade level.

YOU CAN CHANGE THIS

Teach for America Application Deadline is **FEB. 18th!**

> For more information visit www.teachforamerica.org or the ASUI Center for Volunteerism & Social Action, Idaho Commons Rm 301



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Idaho Commons Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7am-12am Friday: 7am-8pm Saturday: 9am-8pm Sunday: 12pm-12am

UniversityAVE.



Campus CALENDAR

Today

Snow

shower

Hi: 34*

Lo: 22*

Idaho LEADS: Technology Etiquette Leadership lunch Commons Clearwater Room 12:30 p.m.

University Interdisciplinary Colloquium 'The Ecology of War' **Commons Whitewater Room** 12:30 p.m.

'Classical Mythology 211, L10: Hermes' UITV-8 5 p.m.

'Classical Mythology 212, L10: Medea's Revenge UITV-8 6 p.m.

Loca/BRIEFS

Refreshments at post office Monday

The Moscow Post Office has proclaimed Thursday as "Post Office Customer Appreciation Day." The community is encouraged to visit the post office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and enjoy refreshments and meet the staff.

In addition to celebrating customer appreciation, the post office will host a passport fair and provide demonstrations of the clicknship/Netpost services. The Moscow Post Office was recently recognized by the Spokane District as being the best post office in Idaho as measured by the National Performance Assessment program.

Fight heart disease at Red Dress Run

Gritman Medical Center is sponsoring a 'Heart Healthy Event' Feb. 17 at the Palouse Mall. The event will include an indoor walking event, an out-

Foreign film series: '500 Years Later' SUB Borah Theatre 7 and 9:30 p.m.

'Outstanding Young Artists Concert - Vol. II, 2006' UITV-8 8 p.m.

Wednesdav

Haueter Commons Aurora Room 4:15 p.m.

'Classical Mythology 211, L11: Hermes and Pan' UITV-8

Run/Walk, a guest speaker, blood pressure checks and several booths to provide information on preventing and controlling heart disease.

Free T-shirts will be given to the first 100 participants. The event will consist of an outdoor 5k run/walk and an indoor walk around the Palouse Mall. The outdoor event will start at 7:30 a.m. at the Macy's west entrance. The indoor event will start at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance to Ross, followed by the guest speaker at 10 a.m. at that location. Blood pressure checks will be available before, during and after the run/walk.

UI priority FAFSA deadline is Feb. 15

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Pre-Application Worksheet is available for students to download on the UI Student Financial Aid Services Web site at http://www.students.uidaho.e du/finaid. UI financial aid applicants filing electronically should file by 9:59 p.m. (PST) on Feb. 15 for Idaho's priority consideration for the 2007-08 school

5 p.m.

'Classical Mythology 212, L11: Thebean Tales of Heracles' UITV-8 6 p.m.

'Mostly Moscow' UITV-8 7:30 p.m.

Borah Symposium: 'An Individual's Responsibility' UITV-8 8 p.m.

Thursday

renewal

ho.edu.

MMBB Seminar TLC room 032 12:30 p.m.

LEADS: Finding Idaho Meaning Part I - The Journey

To reapply for financial aid

FĂFSA,

visit

using an existing PIN to access a

www.fafsa.ed.gov. To retrieve a

missing PIN or request a new

cial aid services or application questions visit http://www.stu-

dents.uidaho.edu/finaid, call

885-6312 or e-mail finaid@uida-

Learn farm liability

Rural Roots, with the support

of UI Extension and the Western

Center for Risk Management

Education, will host a workshop

on managing the liability risks

on a farm or ranch. The work-

shop will be held from 9 a.m.-5

p.m. Friday in the Commons

Crest Room with registration

beginning at 8:30 a.m. for

"Everything you ever wanted to know about farm liability, but were afraid to ask."

The workshop brings togeth-er officials from the Idaho and

Washington departments of

labor and health, an attorney

familiar with farms, experts on

food processing regulations and

at Rural Roots

For information about finan-

one, visit www.pin.ed.gov.

in College Commons Horizon Room 3 p.m. 'Classical Mythology 211, L12:

Apollo' UĨTV-8 5 p.m.

'Classical Mythology 212, L12; The Twelve Labors UITV-8 6 p.m.

Festival of New Works featuring Patty Duke in 'Billion Dollar Baby' Hartung Theatre 7:30 p.m.

'Outstanding Young Artists Concert - Vol. II, 2006 Festival' UITV-8 8 p.m.

world of farm liability firsthand. The \$20 registration fee includes lunch and a copy of Protecting Your Farm or Ranch Assets.

To register for the workshop contact Sara Foster at sara@ruralroots.org, call the Rural Roots office at 883-3462 or visit www.ruralroots.org.

Nuthouse improv troupe performs

All ages are invited to come and enjoy an evening of audience participation and fun Friday at Artisans at the Dahmen Barn in Uniontown at 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. 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.

Open forum with budget director candidate Clark



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Future of Moscow ice rink on thin ice

By Alexiss Turner Argonaut

The future of the Moscow Memorial Veteran's Rotary Pavilion Ice Rink is unsure after a cease-and-desist order was filed for violation of its Special Use Permit.

The order was appealed and the rink will still operate until the season ends in April. In light of this event, other problems have surfaced.

- As of now, the rink operates along with the fairgrounds in an R3 zone, or duplex zone. Therefore, the rink must obtain a Special Use Permit for operation. The permit dictates the guidelines to which the rink must comply. One of these guidelines involves the parking lot, which has been incomplete since the construction of the rink.

"We are_some 17 places short," said Alan Brown, executive direcfor of the rink.

In a workshop held at Moscow City Hall Thursday, Mayor Nancy Chaney and representatives from the Moscow City Council, Fair board and Rotary Club agreed that a change needs to be made.

"No one wants to see the rink shut down," Chaney said.

According to Steve Bush, president of the Moscow Rotary Club, the main problem is the special permit itself, which must be renewed regularly. Bush said this is a difficult process that takes months to prepare for and even longer to obtain.

In addition, the rink can only operate from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in order to comply with noise regulations. Brown said this offers little time for public skating because most of the time is booked for hockey or figure skating. It is possible the rink could be

moved to another location. In this case, the rink could be expanded. One of the locations is the Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center. There has already been discussion of building an addition to the Center. Dwight Curtis, director of Moscow Parks and Recreation, said there are some issues with space, but a new fullsized rink could be built there without upsetting the plans for the new addition.

Marty Anderson has been play-ing hockey at the Moscow ice rink regularly for five years. He said he would like the rink to be moved to a different location so that a bigger rink could be built. Anderson said the rink offers a great alternative activity to many children. He also worries about how changes may impact his routine.

"It is a threat to me," he said. "Hockey is my life."

Bush said he would rather see the rink stay at its fairground location. He said a full-sized rink built within the fairgrounds could be used year-round. The facility would not have to house ice during the summer months and could be used for other activities.

A task force was created during the workshop Thursday under the guidance of Chaney. Moscow City Council member Linda Pall will direct the group.

"I want to see a permanent facility so they can get on with their programs," Pall said.

The task force will include two members of each of the organizations present at the meeting. Pall hopes to meet within the next week



Ice skaters make casual laps during public skating hours Saturday afternoon at the Palouse ice rink.

to discuss a permanent site as well weeks.

"I look forword to the possibilidecision is to be reached within six ties," Chaney said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon looks to return to UI campus

By Christina Lords Argonaut

Members of Sigma Phi Epsilon, the largest fraternity in the nation, want to reestablish their chapter at the University of Idaho.

An open house will be hosted by members of Sig-Ep Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Clearwater Room in the Idaho Commons to answer questions or to learn more about the fraternity

" "Right now we're making a push for people to know that we're back on campus," said Greg Contreras, vice president of communications for Sig-Ep.

The fraternity's chapter opened on the UI campus in 2001, but due to lack of members and financial issues, the chapter left campus last year. The chapter reestablished itself in November, and recently became re-affiliated with the Interfraternity Council.

Contreras said certain aspects of Sig-Ep differ from those of other fraternities, including recruitment methods for new members. "The Sig-Eps were the first fraternity to

implement the Balanced Man Program," Contreras said. The program was the first recruitment method for fraternities to eliminate the pledge process completely.

'Balanced Man runs on a non-pledge, no hazing and equal voting rights program," Contreras said. "It strives to get a person to achieve a sound body and a sound mind. We want them to be a better man after the program.'

The biggest challenge currently facing the fraternity is finding a place for the members to come together and live, Contreras said.

because of the large Greek system and our unique university, it would really help," Contreras said.

as funding for the rink. A definite

He said the members of the fraternity are currently looking at strong housing options, including housing on or near the UI campus, and living together in core groups. "The Sig-Eps are really in a start up phase ...

and wanted to let us know that they were back on campus and looking to gain more recogni-tion," said Neil Clark, the Interfraternity Council president.

Clark said that while Sig-Ep does not pay dues to the IFC, the council will still offer to help them gain fraternity status at the university.

The UI chapter of Sig-Ep is the only existing chapter in Idaho. Washington State University's

of physiques doesn't

scare her and she

says she looks for-

ward to getting to

know them as well

as others outside the

two projects, Cochran

is spending her time

now learning the ropes from other

Aside from those

Greek system.

"We don't need a house to recruit, but Sig-Ep chapter was recently restarted. The fraternity has approximately 260 chapters nationwide

"We're really looking for well-rounded, but not perfect individuals," Contreras said. "We're a very social frat, with an emphasis in community service. We're passionate for high standards.

Contreras said the fraternity isn't just looking for athletes, architects, leaders or scholars, but men who share some or all of these quali-

We want a man of character, a man of service, which goes back to the Sig-Eps founding principals," Contreras said.

Sig-Ep currently has 13 members, with an average 3.02 GPA.

For more information about Sig-Ep, contact Contreras at cont5290@uidaho.edu.

New ASUI senator strives to aid university advising

By Jeremy Castillo Argonaut

Cochran has a

the freshman Delta Gamma the semester to get to know from Kimberly wants to tackle is problems with academic advising. She hopes to improve its efficiency and the whole ASUI process

"I don't think it's effec-tive," she said. "It's not enough, not very good and New ASUI Senator Ashley they're not connecting with

students. Cochran nas a smile as bright as the future she hopes for with the Senate. The big issue SENATORS The big issue

each other and create more interaction.

She also wants learn how get advisers more involved. works and to help the Senate

there." "out

One way is by visiting her living groups. Aside from the Pi Beta Phi sorority, she's also in charge of two men's halls: Lindley and Borah.

"It'll be interest-ing," she said. ing," she said. "When I walked in there the first time, everyone looked at me like I

was in the wrong place



Ashley Cochran

ASUI senators. "Michelle (Kido's) helped me learn how to approach

But the difference my living groups and what they made me want to get physiques doesn't to do during my office more involved." sare her and she hours," Cochran said. She got a chance to get

Other than Michelle, Cochran cites Sarah Kido and Crystal Hernandez as not only her mentors, but her inspirations for running for ASUI as the three girls are all members of the Delta Gamma sorority.

"Some of the girls in my house are in ASUI," she said. They said it was fun and

She got a chance to get right in the thick of things late last month, during, the Senate's trip to Boise.

"It was a great experience being able to talk to the Senate in a group setting," Cochran said. "I am looking forward to spending time with them all over the next semester.'

National BRIEFS

Governor orders vaccine for Texas schoolgirls

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas is poised to become the first state in the nation to require 11- and 12-year-old girls to be vaccinated for the sexually transmitted virus that causes cervical cancer. Gov. Rick Perry on Friday ordered state health officials to enforce the rule requiring girls entering the sixth grade to be vaccinated for the human papillomavirus, known as HPV. Parents who have religious or conscientious objections may opt out of the requirement, which is sched-

uled to take effect at the begin-

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ning of the 2008-09 school year. "The HPV vaccine provides us with an incredible opportunity to effectively target and prevent cervical cancer," Perry said in a statement. "Requiring young girls to get vaccinated before they come into contact

with HPV is responsible health and fiscal policy that has the potential to significantly reduce cases of cervical cancer and mitigate future medical costs."

Perry's order tracks the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has advised that the vaccination be given to all girls ages 11-12. The Atlanta-based centers estimate that 3,700 women in the United States died of cervical cancer in 2005.

In his statement, Perry said HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the U.S., with about 20 million people infected. Texas has the second-highest number of women with the virus. About 400 Texas women died of cervical cancer last year.

The order was met with harsh criticism from one of the Republican governor's most conservative allies and with praise from organizations that have often criticized Perry's policies.

Planned Parenthood of North Texas supports efforts to make the vaccine required.

But Cathie Adams, who heads the Texas Eagle Forum, said she was "very sad" that Perry issued the order and warned that state health officials and executives with Merck & Co., the pharmaceutical company that manufactures the vaccine marketed as Gardasil,

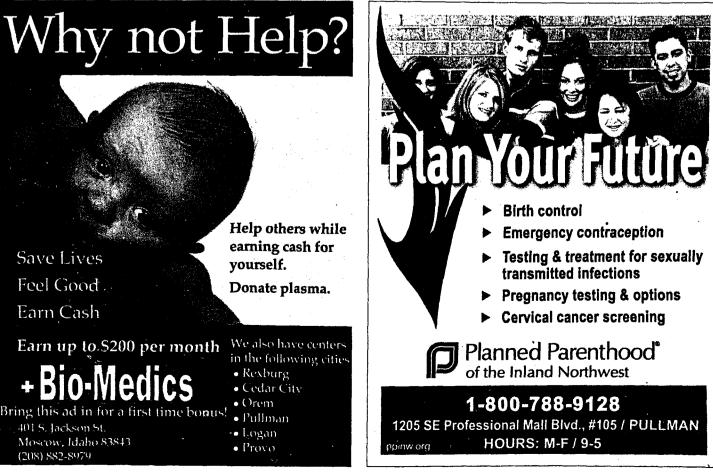
are usurping the role tradition-ally played by parents.

I am absolutely opposed that Merck and the state government are planning to inject young girls with a cancer-caus-ing virus," Adams said. "Parents who want to should be able to opt in on behalf of their children; no one should be forced to have to opt out."

Some conservative and religious organizations have expressed concern that ready access to a vaccine aimed at a sexually transmitted disease might promote promiscuity, but Adams said such fears are secondary to the health and parental-rights issues: "Sure, there's a moral con-

cern," she said. "But as a parent and a grandparent, my biggest concern is what the state is planning for our children."







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Wallace RAs put on historic charity drive

awareness," said Chris Chandler, co-chair of the War

on Hunger. "Any event on

campus related to our cause.

We'll help as much as we can." Another organization that

made an appearance that night

was the UI chapter of Amnesty International. Its president, Matt Petersen, handed out liter-

ature to inform people of his cause: ending social injustice

"We're trying to get more people to take pamphlets, write letters and get more involved with other groups," he said. Petersen said the group is working with the Palouse Peace Coalition to take care of issues affecting the Pacific

issues affecting the Pacific Northwest, as well as interna-

held accountable for their crimes," he said. "Things like funding illegal weapons being sent to Africa and the oppres-sion of South American activists. They're committing

more harsh crimes to get their

Away from the booths, hunger was still being fought.

Tables were decorated with gold tinsel, bead necklaces, toys and plastic plates with

hunger facts taped on them,

such as "More than 850 million people in the world go hun-

Elias got the idea while

shopping for party decora-

tions. He chose to serve statis-

tics instead of food to avoid

Corporations are not being

and torture.

tional affairs.

product."

gry.

By Jeremy Castillo Argonaut

For one night, University of Idaho students went on a journey through history for the sake of charity.

Vandals from several living groups poured into the SUB Ballroom Thursday for the Wallace Time Machine, a dance party across the decades.

Throughout the night, cos-tumed partygoers dropped their three non-perishable food items, the price of admission, at the front tables manned by Wallace resident assistants.

"It's been awesome so far," said Jake Taylor, resident assistant of Education Hall. "Lots of people are bringing in cans ... and having fun inside."

Paying with food instead of money was a popular decision among students and seemed to be a reasonable trade.

"It was a good idea," fresh-man Kelsey Williams said. "They probably could have done more if they wanted to. Maybe ask for five cans or something.

Both the time machine party and the method were the brainchild of junior Rainier Elias.

"Initially, (price of admission) was going to be only one can," he said. "But that wasn't feasible. It's easier to cover costs with food. Besides, how can you put a price on awareness

Charity was one of the main reasons for the event. All food

tion of public employees.

comment.

UI's War on Hunger had a table the main focus is to raise

"We got involved because

student's low academic performance levels.

students in need of academic steps it takes to be successful.

Chris

hypocrisy. "If this is a hunger awareness event, why should we have a bunch of food to waste at the end?" he said. "Obviously people wouldn't eat it all and it doesn't fit with the whole philosophy of the event."

Originally the Wallace Time Machine wasn't a charity event, but a dance exclusively for Wallace residents. As planning evolved, so did the event. The change served the event well as students from the Living Learning Community, Ethel Steel House, off-campus and the Greek community attend-

"A friend of mine invited me," said Austin Mathis of Theta Chi. "I came because I wanted to help people and to improve relations between Greeks and dormies."

Francie Comstock from Gamma Phi Beta attended along with the rest of the freshmen from her house.

"It's a fun idea to get people together," she said. "We thought it'd be fun to see what everyone dressed up as." Comstock had the right idea,

as many at the Time Machine were decked out in clothes from many decades. Some dressed up as flower-power hippies, others donned hippies, others Renaissance-age knight costumes or Roman Empire togas. The most popular era was the '80s.

The dance floor was flooded

with attire from the decade of excess: faded Guns N^\prime Roses tees, button-down shirts with loosened cuffs and popped collars, snakeskin pants, and workout leotards a la Olivia Newton-John with belts to complete the ensemble.

Mitch Freeman, a freshman in Carter Hall, was dressed in a pink-and-white L.A. Gear sweatshirt, white forehead sweatband, aviator sunglasses

and neon-orange shoelaces. "It's totally tubular, brah," Freeman said, imitating Spicoli from Fast Times at Ridgemont High. In his normal voice he added, "This is an awesome cause. ... A friend of mine didn't want to come but I told him to because if you don't stay,

you're still helping someone." Throughout the night, Freeman and other people in the SUB danced to a medley of songs throughout American history.

One minute "Love Shack" by The B-52's pumped through the speakers. The next, nearly everyone line danced to a Rednex remix of "Cotton-Eyed Joe.'

Elias said he was very pleased with the event's turnout, in terms of both cans and people, and hopes it will become a tradition for the Wallace halls.

"I think it was amazing," he said. "This was planned for about five months. I had no clue it would be this big. (It) exceeded all expectations.





event helped collect canned food for the Lewiston Food Bank.

donations went to the Lewiston set up as well.

Food Bank, and inside the SUB,

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OPINION

OurVIEW Let's talk about the bus

n November, the University of Idaho announced it may allow its contract with Wheatland Express to expire in August. Lately, word has spread among 'bus riders, and they're not happy. There are many reasons the bus system is beneficial to the community: It allows people who work, do research or take classes at the two Palouse universities an inexpensive (free, in the case of students) and easy commute. This helps increase collaboration and communication between UI and Washington State University. Plus, fewer people in individual vehicles means less traffic and pollution.

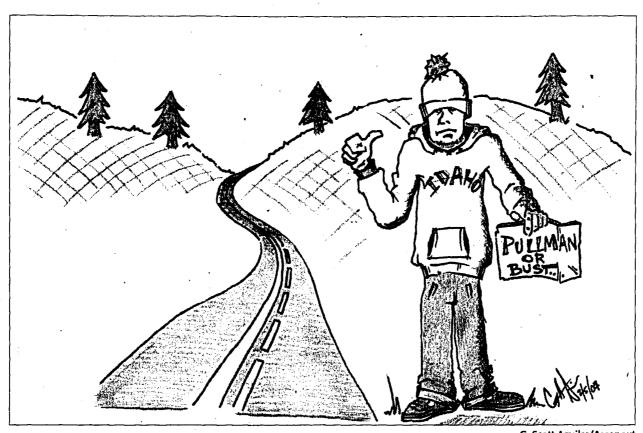
The list could go on — if you want to know how the bus is beneficial, just ask anyone who rides it regularly.

Now that people are stirred up, it's time for action. The first step in saving the bus is dialogue.

If you support the bus system, you must let UI officials know why it needs their money. You can contact the university directly via phone, e-mail or letter. The primary spokesperson for the potential cut thus far has been Lloyd Mues, UI vice president of finance and administration. His email is lmues@uidaho.edu, and his office's number is 885-6174.

To Mues and other university officials who will be a part of this decision: please listen. Yes, the bus funding is expensive, but people are telling you it's worth it. Look at the evidence — a November survey showed that students accounted for 300 rides daily. A survey also says 89 percent of riders in 2006 were affiliated with UI or WSU. Realize that cutting this system has the potential not only to upset people, but also to damage the link between UI and WSU and to put people's daily transportation at risk. Act with this in mind.

It's good to see so many people eager to talk about this situation and find a solution. Many options



C. Scott Aguilar/Argonaut

What's going on at the Statehouse?

Idaho, water — and the rights to it — is a huge issue. For years water rights has been an item that the state Legislature can't quite rid itself from.

What's the big deal with water, anyway? Well, it turns out that a considerable portion of the state's economy is dependent upon agricultural production. Farming and such is all well and good, but it uses an enormous amount

Travis Galloway of water. In some regions of the Columnist state, such as the Palouse, arg_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu agriculture is easy thanks to climate and geography. However, in other areas the climate is quite inhospitable to growing, and farmers are reliant on irrigation

and giant sprinklers. The problem is there are so many fields in the parts of the state that require irrigation, the water supply is starting to run low. Or in some cases, like Moscow's water supply, the water is slowing running out completely. This means that water must be allocated somehow. The "somehow" part of the equation is proving difficult to decide.

A funny thing about the state Legislature is the number of legislators that happen to own water

Water, the simple essential for liv-ing that we all take for granted. In a meager 12 weeks out of the year, and they have to spend it arguing over the same unresolved issues from last year. Considering the

amount of time the Legislature has spent cumulatively not resolving the issue, the people of this state should be a little upset.

The problems of the state aren't limited to water. Water is among a number of things that are put off regularly. The state has annually reviewed but failed to act on solutions to its growing problems.

Water is a serious prob-lem, but so is the rate at

which we're filling our prisons. Schools all over the state are falling into disrepair. There aren't enough properly educated teachers available to teach the classes necessary to raise graduation requirements. What is going on at the

Statehouse? I spent a little time in the Statehouse last year as a student lobbyist. It nearly drove me crazy.

The Legislature is almost as funny as it is frustrating. It's quite quirky. For example, the House Education Committee has members that never attended college. Legislators spend more of their time on the floor using the phone than debating bills. There are good legislators, though there aren't many of them. The horrible truth of politics is that although a politician may mean well, not everyone's perspective on the common good is the same. Idaho, as far as I can tell, is in a

state of change, and doesn't have a widely accepted sense of common public interests. However, the electoral districting within Idaho creates a disproportionate balance between rural and urban representation in the legislature. This spread of representation was intentionally created in a time when the state was much different.

Much of the design of the state government is formulated to accommodate geographic and ideological biases of late nineteenth century. This is why the University of Idaho is located in the northern portion of the state. It was a political concession to appease the disgruntled residents of North Idaho.

The government isn't broken, it's just out of tune a bit. A little more attention to the growing needs of a larger urban population is a good start. In some cases, such as water, accepting the realities of the future and planning according has been something the Legislature fails to follow through with.

It's kind of worrying that, although the state appears to be doing fine, it has several impending issues which need to be resolved quickly but just keep getting put off till next year. Some of which are probably going to cost a lot of money, and will cost progressively

more the longer we wait to fix them.

Off the CUFF

Quick takes on life from our editors

Just in

Only 62 more days of school. Sorry I missed the update last week. It was a bad week, a very bad week.

- Mackenzie

Page 5

Jammies at WinCo

Glad to see all the other paja-ma-clad people at WinCo bright and early Sunday morning. It makes me feel good about life to know there are so many people comfortable enough with themselves to wear sweatpants in public. Someday, I'm determined, I'll be able to wear my jammies wherever, whenever I want!

- Tara

Naked Sunday?

A gym in Amsterdam is plan-ning on instituting a "Naked Sunday." Every Sunday, anybody who would like to can come to the gym to work out in the nude. Why? They just wanted to try something different. Personally, I think this is a terrible idea. I am all about being comfortable with your body and everything, but some people don't even like to sweat in front of others, let alone sweat naked in front of others. – Miranda

Valentine ideas

For anyone who needs a good idea for a Valentine's Day present I suggest buying your sweetheart "A Date With John Waters." No, not a real date, but the new compilation album by John Waters. Nothing says I love you like a love song CD put together by the "Prince of Puke." The songs range from punk rock to Tina Turner. I'm so excited.

- Ryli

A minute of silence

America lost a journalism icon this week. Long-running columnist Molly Ivins lost her fight against cancer Wednesday, and Americans lost a distinctive voice in their newspapers. Sure, the more conservative among us may not have appreciated her message, but even they have to admit her frank, Southern style of writing was unique in today's media and her absence lessens that institution's intelligent debate.

- Nate

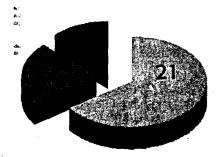
Too much iPod

I'm a sucker for most of Apple's arketing campaigns, esp those dancing-silhouette iPod hipsters. The new batch of white-earbud-wearing color splotches may have taken the concept a little too far, though. Everytime I get a popup of the seizure-like dancing, I get the impression that Apple is now making white, ear-drum piercing tazer-gun wires.

nave been osed to help UI better afford the bus. The one that seems most promising so far is raising student fees just slightly. WSU students pay a \$15 transit fee that helps fund their university's portion of the bus system, as well as the Pullman Transit system. For just a few extra dollars a semester, UI students could ensure that the bus keeps running. Even students who don't use the bus regularly should be willing to pay. It's a small price not much more than you'd pay for a large pizza — for a great community service. Besides, who knows when you may find you need a ride?

So, everyone, let's start talking. Together, we can find a solution. - T. R. for the editorial board

Last week: What do you think of the new graduation ceremony?



I can't believe they're doing this: 21 Looks good to me: 7 I wasn't going either way: 4

This week:

What would you like to see happen to Moscow's ice rink? Vote at www.uiargonaut.com

rights themselves. When the Legislature sits down to have its annual water rights battle, everyone knows how the outcome is going to be tilted. Sometimes the varying interests of the parties involved can cause a great deal of friction. The whole damn thing is so

Schools are burning down and school funding is an ongoing unresolved issue. Hopefully this is not a sign of bad times to come. My personal prediction is that the state will somehow loaf its way through the troubles ahead. I'm pretty sure that's how we've always done it.

Racism not the issue in gangsta parties

My beloved motherland of Carolina is in the news again for its second-most popular state sport after spittin': racism.

A group of dippy fun-seekers at

Clemson University recently hosted a Black Person Party on the eve of Martin Luther King Jr. day. Decked out in "gangsta wear" and playing Edward Forty-hands (forties duct-taped to their fists) the knuckleheads got krunk at the expense of mocking a minority.

Oh boy. These crackers are in hot water. Paula Zahn got word of the story. Now these Clemson kids are the poster children for cultural insensitivity.

Now there's no hate like Clemson-hate for this Gamecock girl. Disdain for the orange and purple circulates deep in my veins along with the usual flow of salt water and Jim Beam. I routinely leap at any chance to make fun of Clemson and all of its cow-patty infamy. But dangit, this one is too far, even for me.

Themed parties are de rigueur on campuses these days. Rednecks, pimps and hos, tennis pros, the decades. You name it, we've gotten blitzed in its honor. To compound the issue, white-ass college kids across the nation are infatuated with black culture. A themed party in the flavor of hip-hop is a natural fit.

As details of this particular party surfaced, the media swarmed faster

than fire ants. These Clemson crackers put aluminum foil on their teeth to make "grills." They decked themselves out in chains and oversized clothes. One particularly bright

young man painted his body black. Now, my experiences chomping down on tin foil have all been terrible. It's a pain like none other and if these dimwits want to submit their dentition to a night of agony for the sake of looking like nothing like P-Diddy, by all means. And for the painted "Sambo" ---albeit in poor taste --- was far from original.

Paula Zahn's tufty head is spinning so fast with typi-

cal media questions: What does this mean? Has racism completely penetrated the college scene? How does this incident make us feel? Shoo, Paula, and take the hair with you. Any time a news story is anchored on feelings rather than on fact, I. want to barf. I'm really not interested in how an event made anybody feel.

The pictures from the night are stupid. The tin foil was stupid. Everything about the night was doggone dumb. But the license for stupidity, whether Paula and her media clowns agree, is valid in America especially when you're an under-graduate. These cats are in college! The media needs to go away.

I'm not gonna get my knickers in a knot over this one. We can pretend like this is a national indicator of

racism as it was suggested, but it's not. At the very most, it's a national indicator of how silly college kids can be.

Was the decision to throw the party in bad taste? Yes. Was it culturally insensitive? Perhaps. Is it newsworthy? Hell no.

By bringing it up, I realize I'm perpetuating the hype of the inci-dent. However, I want to make one thing very clear: The minute we stop acknowledging, discussing and laughing about our differences, we have a far more serious problem on our hands. The second I can't make a crack at my Polish heritage or my gravely horizontally challenged best friend is a moment I never want to see. Humor is humor, even if it's illaimed. And when it comes to humor and minorities, the same principles apply. How can groups that have fought so long for equal treatment now ask for separate protection from the occasional poor-taste joke? Spin it around and tune into BET, which is by far television's epicenter for all that is politically correct in the nation's group relations. Psych.

Paula the Puffball and the rest of the nation need to loosen up. It was a jokel

Boozing college kids show good judgment akin to that of an acorn. And when it comes to breaking news or racial relations, we must keep things in perspective. Lumps in your breasts and lumps in your grits: both lumps, only one is a real problem.

- Alec

Loving Big Sky State

Every time I meet a fellow Montanan, I must admit, I'm quite surprised. You would think that because we are less than five hours away from the Montana border, there would be a few more of us here in Moscow - but that is not the case. I have met more Alaskans in my time here than people from Montana, So I say us Montanans must bond together and represent the greatness of the Big Sky Country. Oh, and the university should work on its recruitment efforts over there as well.

– Cynthia

What's going on?

So Friday was the big day — I showed up for my Vandal Fitness Challenge testing session. The tests? Sit-ups, push-ups and how long you could hold a wall-sit and plank.

I am not fit.

More importantly, I'm also confused. When am I supposed to turn in my fitness and food logs? The Internet just says "weekly." ' Is that at the end of the week or the beginning of the week? And is anyone going to teach us non-athletically inclined people how to use the fancy weight machines? I've got the eliptical down, but I'm afraid to go upstairs and pump iron by myself.

I think this fitness thing is a great idea, but I'd like to see ASUI get a little more informative about the whole thing.

— Savannah

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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.

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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.

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Letters Policy

typed.

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

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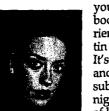
 Letters should focus on issues, not on personalties.

• 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.



Tecla Markosky Columnist arg_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu

Moscow ice rink benefits students, community

As a long time Moscow res-ident, a UI faculty member and a B League Hockey player, I have come to not only use but also love Moscow's ice rink. During winter months, I find myself playing at least a few games a week at the rink. During the last two seasons of playing hockey, I've had the chance to exercise and reaffirm old friendships and create many new friendships, and these friendships make Moscow a much richer town.

There is talk of shutting this rink down due to a variety of reasons. Some of the major ones, as best as I can tell (I'm just a hockey player and not on the board for the ice rink), is that the parking lot was not paved and because there are permit issues. Also, as far as I can tell, the reason there are permit issues is because the wrong dates were put on the permits by someone other than rink personnel.

If the ice rink were to close, this would be a terrible thing to have happen to Moscow and the Palouse region. Why?

Because the rink serves

contradict story

campus forum on Jan. 31,

tary that can viewed at:

My_Town.htm.

22, 2006).

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In a University of Idaho

Christ Church pastor Douglas

Wilson offered a response to the documentary "My Town," a locally produced documen-

www.notonthepalouse.com/

Not surprising for the slip-pery fellow that he is, Wilson's

comments that evening dif-

fered from those in the film

and in a front page story in

the Spokesman Review (Oct.

denied that he was a Neo-

Confederate. Instead, he

called himself a "Paleo-

In the Spokesman article he

Confederate," which supports

Confederacy: "agrarian living,

opposition to a strong central

these ideas of the Southern

MailBOX

about 6,000 skaters a year. That's about a quarter of Moscow's population.

Because 84 people are in the Learn to Skate program, meaning that nearly 100 people are learning how to skate for the first time ever, and next.year we'd have another 84 people, and the year after.

Because for the first time, there is an A Hockey League (about 60 skaters), a B Hockey League (about 60 skaters) and arg_opinion@sub. a new C Hockey League (about 30 skaters). This new C League introduces skaters to hockey and gives a whole new populace a chance to learn how to play hockey. Along with the 84 new

attracting and involving more and more people in hockey. Not only is the community involved, so is the University of Idaho, which has 42 students participating in a skating class.

skaters, the ice rink is also

■ Many people come from Pullman and Genesee and other surrounding communities to skate or play hockey.

Our ice rink is one of only eight rinks in the state and one of three north of McCall.

We need to keep this rink open so that these people — and future skaters — are able to skate and play hockey. The ice rink serves too big of a niche in the community to be done away

with. But an even better solution for the community is to enclose the rink. With an enclosed sheet of ice, we'd be able to:

Have four times the amount of ice time available and therefore the potential to serve four times as many community members.

Alleviate concerns by the few nearby residents who com-plain about hockey noise or ice skating music after 9 p.m. Provide the 40 college

admits that "Confederate flags

In his self-published book

"Angels in the Architecture,"

Antebellum South as "the last

Christendom," and he predicts

that by God's will "the South

will rise again" (pp. 203, 205).

Save the bus, save

UI/WSU programs

I am currently attending

and Washington State Union as a JD/MBA joint-degree stu-

dent. The bus system has facil-

itated this opportunity. The JD/MBA program was in exis-

tence a few years ago, and has

been re-initiated this year. The

program plans on bringing in

a few students each year. The

program is important for both

universities and should be

both the University of Idaho

UI department of philosophy

Nick Gier, Moscow

Professor emeritus,

have adorned office and

school walls at times."

Wilson describes the

nation of the first

and high school students who skate nightly and without music a more attractive, music-friendly, alcohol-free skating venue. With music, we could increase the amount of students who receive an alco-

hol-free environment to enjoy. ■ Begin holding ice hockey tournaments (see below for benefits).

Allow Idaho's only collegiate hockey teams, the Vandal's men's and women's non-varsity teams, to play games and tournaments in Moscow.

Of course there must be a downside, right? Money always seems to be the downside. Here's a brief rundown on the costs associated with the ice rink:

The ice rink costs the county and the city nothing. I'll repeat that. The ice rink costs the county and the city nothing. The ice rink supports itself. If there is a loss for the year, the rink takes out a loan and pays back that loan.

The fairgrounds earns \$5,000 for rent from the ice rink, meaning that not only

continued.

The nature of the program

requires commuting back and forth to both universities throughout the day. Without the bus system this would be extremely difficult and expensive. This added cost and hassle may discourage students from joining the program in the future. Therefore, please save the bus to save this program.

Trent (T.J.) Oram Third year law student

Help support family caregivers

I would like to take the time to thank and honor the hundreds of family caregivers in the Palouse area who sacrifice much of their life to provide care for a chronically ill, elderly or disabled loved one.

To the family caregivers of the Palouse, you are not alone. One in five Americans, more than 50 million, are family caregivers and I want to encourage

does the rink not cost anything, but it also provides income to the county.

In comparison, the aquatic center costs around \$50,000 per year. That is a loss on the city. Of course, we want to keep the aquatic center. But if we can keep the aquatic center for \$50,000 a year, can't we keep the ice rink if it costs nothing to the taxpayers?

If the rink were enclosed, the city, the county and the region would see other benefits:

For every hockey tournament held for youth, college or adults, approximately 90 motel rooms would be rented out for two nights. And all those families will be eating out at restaurants and shopping downtown. So rather than costing Moscow anything, the ice rink would give back not just a place for youth and adults to skate and play hockey but also give back a revenue stream and an

increased tax base. The ice rink could offer more hockey and skating times, thereby earning more

them to acknowledge their essential role in our society and seek available assistance.

Family caregiving can be very rewarding, but it can also be emotionally and physically draining. Family caregiving is not only an individual issue, but a nationwide, public matter.

The Jay Rockey Chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America at Washington State University is currently participating in the national Bateman competition and conducting research on family caregiving. I am com-pletely moved by the dedication and strength of the men and women who selflessly and continuously provide care for

their loved ones. As a community we must empower family caregivers and arm each other with the necessary support and assistance needed to carry out caregiving tasks. For information on available aid please visit www.familycaregiving101.org/team64. Monica Rodriguez

WSU student

money since they can serve more skaters. Plus they could stay open year round. The Moscow Ice Rink is

located right in Moscow, on the Fairgrounds property. Please, do all you can, including contacting your city and county representatives, to keep the rink open into the foreseeable future. And please work to enclose the rink for the future. This rink costs Moscow residents nothing, while it provides many, many people with so much enjoyment.

If you want to contact the city council or the mayor, their e-mail addresses are available at this Web site: www.ci.moscow.id.us.

The county commissioner's emails can be found at this Web site:

http://www.latah.id.us/Dept /BOCC_Main.htm.

Sean Prentiss is a member of the English faculty at the University of Idaho as well as a Blue Ribbon Bruisers hockey player for the Moscow B League.

Hey!

Got something to say? Write a letter to the Argonaut!

Send your 300 word letter to arg_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu.

Hey!

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MAY '07

CLOSE TO CAMPUS

2 br. W/D, large eat in

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government, (and) voting based on property ownership. . . ." Wilson's arguments

A scene from the film clearly shows Wilson and his close friend Steve Wilkins, a founding director of the Neo-Confederate League of the South, agreeing with the proposition that only propertied males should vote.

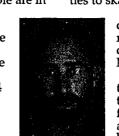
On Jan. 31 Wilson disassoci-. ated his Paleo-Confederacy from anything having to do with the historical Southern Confederacy. He now says it is simply the original American republic with senators being appointed by the states.

He also said that he never believed that women should not have the vote, but he did think that students should not vote unless they owned property.

Ôn Jan. 31 Wilson also stated that the Confederate flag has never been displayed in any of his institutions, but in the Spokesman article Wilson



Tuesday, February 6, 2007



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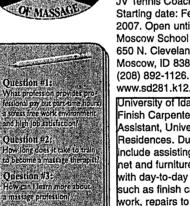
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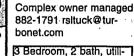
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ARTS& CULTURE

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

H. S. C. W. Mr. Strategy

The hidden secrets of NerdTopia By T.J. Tranchell

Argonaut

There isn't a pocket protector in sight and the only person wearing glasses is not a part of the group. Four men have come together to form NerdTopia, a new student organization geared toward all things geeky.

You've probably seen some of NerdTopia's members sitting in the Idaho Commons food court, hovering over their laptop computers, engaging in conversations ranging from a Dungeons and Dragons game to the newest in anime from Japan. While these are integral components of the group, there is more to NerdTopia than first meets the eyes and ears.

Taylor Evans, a blond d bearded Virtual and Technology and Design major, is the group's first president. If you look at NerdTopia's Facebook group, you will see his name

followed by "High King." "No one actually calls me that," he says. Other members of the group concur. Those other members include Michael Beery,

NerdTopia's Webmaster, or Web Troll as listed on the Facebook

page. "Our Web site is still being done,' Beery says. "There is a lot that still needs to be put up."

Like its Internet presence, NerdTopia is still a work in progress, right down to its club constitution.

"We've written it to allow for change and to accommodate a larger group," Evans says. The group's beginnings were

humble as well, according to Evans. "Last semester, I was talking with

a friend and he suggested we start a club. So we went for it.'

Officially, NerdTopia became a club on Nov. 28, and group members say many students are still unaware that such a club even exists. "We've had trouble getting the

Beery and two other NerdTopia members, Jay Dearien and Josh Ingram.

Page 7

"I just stepped in and started writ-ing down the things we settled on, reminding everyone that we should vote on certain things," Dearien says. His official position is secretary no other funny title.

'No, just secretary," Evans says. Ingram, the final member of this quartet, busily worked during the interview, rearranging and inputting code to a portion of the group's Web site. Currently, he is the acting vice president until a more permanent officer can be voted in.

"Don't do 19 credits, run two Web sites and become vice president of a club all at the same time," Ingram advises.

One of these four men, ranging in age from 18 to 40, is also known as Naganth, organizer of the Moscow Assassin's Guild. Under the cloak of secrecy necessary to the game, Naganth's true identity cannot be revealed. The Guild is just one of the many off-shoots of NerdTopia.

The Assassin's Guild is just that, a game. Participants are given a pseudonym and sent the false name and photo of another player. The goal is to take out your given target using safe and fake weapons. The last partici-pant left "alive" wins.

"I heard about this on the East Coast," Naganth says. "There was one

story of a person going into a classroom, walking up to the professor, eliminating his target and walk-ing right back out. I'd love to get that level of involvement here.

"We tried to get it going last semester, but everyone knew who everyone else was. They were roommates or classmates and the game

didn't last very long." "The person with the most overall kills might not win," Naganth says.

See NERDTOPIA, page 9

NerdTopia is not the first group of this kind on the University of Idaho

group.

Photo illustration by Bruce Mann/Argonaut

"We're going to contact them," ans says. "Perhaps we can pool our Evans says. campus, however. Beery mentions resources.

The word "assimilate" was thrown around with a laugh from Evans,

sighting fliers for another D&D

A club with initiative



By Brandon Macz

but is currently playing as a bar-

word out," Evans says. "We'll be at the spring involvement fair and will be doing a five-minute presentation in the Commons. We're making some posters and fliers, too."

Visual art, NerdTopia style

By Michael Howell Argonaut

Video and printed animation have become a profitable business. Comic books have been around since even before the 1920s, but it wasn't until recently with the success of movies like "Batman Begins," the "X-men" franchise and "Spider-Man" that comics have become more popular.

Anime and manga from Japan have become popular recently as well. Almost 60 percent of the printed literature sold in Japan is manga. With the manga sections of most bookstores growing larger every week, manga is becoming popular in America.

Aaron Ritchey, a founding member of the student group NerdTopia and one of the group's biggest visual arts nerds, has his own opinions on the popularity of manga and comic books. "There are multiple reasons why

visual art like that is so popular right now," he says. "Sometimes it can be the art, sometimes it's the writing and sometimes it can be just the cultural significance of the work."

Aaron admits that he isn't as caught

11

up on American comics as he is in manga and anime.

'Ánime and manga spread out their fan base a little more," he says. "Most of the mainstream American comics try to appeal to children up through young adult. Manga, on the other hand, has titles directed toward all different types of people."

Ritchey says one type of visual art in Japan will be targeted toward housewives and another toward the elderly.

"The range of what publishers in Japan put out is amazing," he says. "It's wonderful for that demographic of people who are weird or unusual. Publishers also have no limits. Whatever they imagine, they can publish."

Ritchey says American art has a tendency to find something that is popular and use it until it becomes tired.

Despite these differences, Ritchey says that comics from American companies have been working their way to becoming as big in America as manga is in Japan.

This love for visual art is something that is here to stay," Ritchey says. "Every week there is a new anime or bring us together."

£

manga title in the local bookstore. There is a comic shop here in Moscow that is making a lot of money."

Ritchey also says this growth of fans is what inspired him and the other members to include visual art into their group.

"We would see people reading comics or carrying something around that has to do with anime," he says. "And it just dawned on us that this was something that we could include that would bring more people together."

Taylor Evans, the president of NerdTopia, says that by including visual art into the group, they've managed to open a lot of doors between people of similar interests.

"It isn't just comics," he says. "Video games, movies and board games as well. There are people who might share those interests, but they never have a chance to meet. With NerdTopia, they can be into those things and the group helps them arrange meetings.

Ritchey puts it another way.

"Us nerds needs someone to help

Argonaut

There is a club looking for people out to gain experience. Experience is not enough, however, considering new recruits will have to fight for wisdom, strength and even dexterity. It will be helpful if new members know how to roll a pair or sometimes more than a trio of dice.

Among the list of clubs at the

"Nerds have

become kinda

cool again ...

Not 'cool' cool.

of course."

Evan Thompson

senior, art and design

find NerdTopia, a club whose sole mission statement is ...to study today's international and domestic culture through the reading and watching of what is popular among our peers."

A branch of NerdTopia plays what is popular in the realm of role-

playing games (RPGs). semester marks the This first NerdTopia Dungeons and Dragons campaign, an RPG that incorporates storytelling, rolling dice to increase character abilities and battling foes.

In D&D, players create charac-ters found in special books that go with the game. They build their characters on a sheet of paper that lists their abilities and helps them track their skills. Those increase as the game advances.

The leader of the game's story is called the Dungeon Master or DM. Taking the charge is senior art and design major Evan Thompson.

"I began playing pen-and-paper RPGs when I was in sixth grade," Thompson says. "Mostly I was in it for the chicks.

Thompson was brought to NerdTopia by club president Taylor Evans, who was looking for a DM for D&D hopefuls.

"I prefer to act as a player as a general rule," Thompson says. "DMing is something I've only picked up in the last few years as I've felt like doing something

more challenging." Taking on the challenge of playing D&D for the first time as a part of the group is journalism and mass media major Brian Daggett. He says he hasn't had time to pick a favorite character

barian whose tongue was cut out while he was a prisoner of war.

"It's a chance to spend time with people and hang out and sort of get away from the stress of university-related items. We're just starting. We're still level one."

Daggett says a typical night consists of a three-hour battle. Thompson recorded the longest session as six hours. The club name, NerdTopia, implies a sense University of Idaho, students will of nerddom that both players

accept to be factual in spirit.

"Nerds have become kinda cool again," Thompson says. "Not 'cool' cool, of course."

The main "initiative" is to play a game and to develop a story with characters created by individuals, but Thompson agrees

with Daggett on the social impor-tance of D&D.

"Once everyone has arrived, there is the usual grace period of talking about the latest movie or a good book someone has read," he says. "We will spend a few minutes complaining about how easy it is to lose dice, and then play will begin."

Whether the game runs three hours or six, Thompson says the sessions consist of talking, gathering information from game characters or environments and "dodging other player's dice when combat gets going."

It is possible in the realm of D&D for a gamer's character to die, and in certain circles that means the player is out. In NerdTopia's D&D campaign, if a player's character dies, he or she has the option of creating another character but at a lower level than the previous character. "People have passed out, but

they haven't officially, 100 percent, kicked the bucket," Daggett says.

Thompson hopes to incorporate other RPGs into NerdTopia. Daggett is hoping the club will have a "homegrown, 'Mystery Science Theater 3000' experience" where everyone dubs over old, terrible movies.

To find out more about NerdTopia and its activities, search for it on the student organizations page of http://www.uidaho.edu.

ji ka

Photo Illustration by Lisa Wareham

Out with the old, in with the 'New'

By Joel Slocum Argonaut

Sure, it's about showcasing new plays. But the New Works Festival is about so much more.

The festival, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and continues through Feb. 17, is the culmination of a serious of changes in the University of Idaho's Theatre Department.

The changes that have begun and will continue have spurred the blossoming of one of the strongest programs in the nation. Whether it's the relatively new master's in dramatic writing program and its success at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the collaboration with the virtual technology and design program for adaptive scenery, or Patty Duke (otherwise known as Anna Pearce) as the prospective newest addition to the theatre department's faculty, the department's prospects seem as bountiful as ever.

The New Works Festival is the first of its kind at the University of Idaho and was prompted by the recent success of the relatively new MFA in dramatic writing program. The program currently has six participants, all of whom were selected by Rob Caisley, a UI professor and the festival coordinator.

"The work we are doing in class and in the process has really been rewarding," Caisley said. "We're really starting to see some rich dividends."

According to Caisley, it is impor-tant for students to see their works in action so that they can develop their skills.

"The future of American theater is reliant on developing new talents,' Caisley said. "Developing these new voices is what the future is all about."

The festival allows them to do this. "It reinforces the belief that I had in these writers when I welcomed them into the program," Caisley said.

A variety of works

In this spirit, the festival showcas-es five plays, three of which have been written by MFA students, and all have received some form of national accreditation. The three student works include "Option," "Myth Of Maria The Virgin" and "By Design." The first two will be showcased again later this month at the Regional Festival in Ellensberg, Wash., while the latter won last year's first place award at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Each of these plays takes a fresh look at a past issue and through ingenuity looks to shed new light on predisposed relationships and concepts.

"Option" by Ginger Rankin and directed by Grechen Wingerter focuses on the inherent quest for identity through the protagonist, Jennifer, who years had given up her child for adoption.

Lisa Wareham/Argonaut Patty Duke rehearses "Billion Dollar Baby" Friday night at the Hartung Theatre.

with every intention of fighting, a discussion unfolds in which both of their preconceived notions are questioned. In turn, the two discover the value of unanswered questions.

Caisley is sincerely pleased with the work the students have produced and this showcase highlights that. "The work we are doing in class

and in the process has really been rewarding," Caisley said. "We're really starting to see some rich dividends."

Caisley, who is directing two of the productions, will also present his piece "Santa Fe" as one of the programs. Directed by Grechen Wingerter, it tells the fictional story of two men whom Caisley encountered on an elevator.

"It is one of those plays that I overheard a piece of dialogue as I stepped out of an elevator," Caisley said. "There were two men in business suits and I heard one of them say to the other, 'I met this girl in Santa Fe.' I would have loved to hear the rest of that conversation.

comes from Jensen's need to address a new perspective.

According to Jensen, the theater has a long tradition of having young people take over the old.

"Killing the dad to become the king is classic," Jensen said. "It is time to look at an older person's point of view as they address the younger."

Jensen pulls this notion from her own life in which many of her female friends have had their daughters give up successful careers to pursue family life.

"When these women, who have their Ph.Ds and every damn degree, all of a sudden quit their job to focus on their 3-year-old child, they resort to utter madness," Jensen said. "Every society does this one joke in one form or another and this version is so funny, so over the top and so overly serious that it hasn't been done before. It hasn't been said."

The play, which has Duke playing three characters (grandmother, mother and child) focuses on the viewpoint of the grandmother, who has definite opinions about her daughter's conspicuously consumerist childrearing style.

see the SHOW

The New Works Festival begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and will continue until Feb. 17 in the Hartung Theatre. The festival will focus on the progress made by the UI Theatre Department.

with their participation in the project. "Jere (Hodgin) is one of the best directors in the country," Jensen said, "and when they got Patty Duke into the role it was great." Duke who has never stared in a

one-person show was just as excited by the opportunity "Billion Dollar Baby" provided. The only difficulty the seasoned actress encountered was the sheer volume of the piece of work. "While it has been superlative, it

has been the hardest job in one way memorizing 60-something pages of words," Duke said. "Everything has been heaven except for learning all those words. It's not hard learning them actually - rather I am having a difficult time retrieving them." Even so, Duke has just a few days

before the first opening performance to nail her lines. In the meantime, she has been focusing on getting into her character. After just reaching 60 herself, she has been able to mesh her grappling of the concept into the character of the play.

"The main character is a woman in her 60s. I just reached 60 and in a strange way it is a whole new ball-game," Duke said. "Some folks say to me 'Oh, it's just another day.' But it isn't.

"It is recognizing time is finite and some of us chose to live comfortably as we have lived and some of us. chose to take a few last risks. And my character — she is taking risks."

Later this spring there is to be an official announcement that Duke will be joining the professorial staff.

Duke, who has lived in Coeur d'Alene for the past seven years, was approached by Hodgin and Caisley in the fall of last year to join the staff. This of course took backseat to her performance in the play, but it is something that everyone, especially Duke, is looking forward to.

"(Acting) is a completely wondrous facet of life for me," Duke said. 'I think what I have to bring to the table is my utter adoration of young people. And to be able to impart some of the history and skills and tricks will be an absolute joy."

Liquid scenery

Another risk being taken within the department is the use of "liquid scenery," or animated backdrops, which has been used to replace the rudimentary PowerPoint presentation slides that simply showed the titles of the various performances.

"liquid

'Arugula' an epic tale of gastronomy

By Tara Roberts Argonaut

Imagine a world with no bagged green salads, no American sushi bars, no celebrity chefs. This world existed not long ago. Then came the foodies. In "The United States of

Arugula: How We Became a Gourmet Nation," journalist David Kamp explores the everexpanding

fancy food

culture in

America

DAVID KAS "The United States of Arugula"

cal eye and a knówl-David Kamp edgeable palate. He takes read-

ers on a decades-long journey through the world of microgreens and soufflés, begin-ning with the stories of three patron saints of food: Julia Child, James Beard and Craig Claiborne.

Kamp interweaves the sto-ries of these food giants with the advent of French cooking in America, which he argues builds the basis of gourmet culture. Child (as famously depicted on "Saturday Night Live") is the warbling, PBS-friendly author of "Mastering the Art of French Cooking," and is credited with bringing gourmet ingredients and techniques into kitchens more accustomed to Jell-O molds. Beard was a big, awkward Oregonian man obsessed with food who came out to New York City and became a sort of guru for all things gour-met. The final of the Big Three, Claiborne, took food journalism to a level beyond handy kitchen tips by becoming the first male food editor at The New York Times, guiding the wealthy and culture along the road to "gastronomic revolution."

While Kamp creates an ..., interesting narrative with the Big Three, he spends so much attention on them that much of the rest of the book feels rushed. He spends a good amount of time on the fascinating local-food, small-farm movement in Berkeley, but hardly does justice to newer





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"She is now coming to terms with that decision later on in life," Caisley said. "It's the classic confrontation between mother and daughter.

The "Myth Of Maria The Virgin" by Ulrike Rosser, directed by Robert Caisley, takes place in an otherworld-ly garden in which the two characters, Maria and Jason, debate romantic intentions.

"The story resembles that of Persephone," Caisley said.

It progresses through a crescendo dialectic, in which Maria announces her desire to reclaim her virginity. In turn, the world she knows unravels.

"By Design," the last of the student works, written by David Eames-Harlan and directed by Audrey Wax, focuses on the inherent conflicts between science and religion.

"It takes that controversial topic of intelligent design theory and places it into a science professor's office," Caisley said.

It is in this office that the play juxtaposes the conflicts through two characters, a student and professor. When the student and professor meet

From this line, the story begins in a cantina where two traveling salesmen contemplate the course their lives have taken over a bottle of expensive tequila. The story has the men confessing to their feelings of being trapped within the "American Life" they are leading. They delve even further — as the bottle empties — to the regrettable mistakes from their past, which one of them, at least, resolves never to repeat.

Duke joins the show

The fifth piece in the New Works Festival is the one-woman show "Billion Dollar Baby," written by Julie Jensen and directed by Jere Hodgin. It is to be the highlight of the show, star-ring Academy Award-winner Patty Duke as the sole performer. Duke, who won the award at the age of 16 for her role as Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker," has since acted in numerous roles from the stage to the silver screen to primetime and back again.

The story of "Billion Dollar Baby"

Jensen believes that the play also stems beyond the confines of parenting to a more global aspect.

This is also a play about our connection to the world. When we spend \$800 on a stroller, which we do, with 10,000 levers and switches it says the same thing about driving a Hummer to go to school," Jensen said. "It says we don't give a shit about the rest of you. An \$800 stroller is not the best way to spend your money or use your resources or be a part of a greater community."

Jensen goes further to point out the connection to America's increased need for safety and the superfluous measures we go to. "Since 9/11, we've gotten this con-

ception of safety and it's all directed towards families. Homes have thousands of security devises and for what? It's a waste of money and just plain silly."

It is Jensen's hope that Hodgin and Duke will be able to bring this concept to life and is thoroughly pleased The first attempt at "liquid scenery" was last year when the Theatre Department put on the DNA Festival, a collection of 27-28 onepage plays. The plays, which lasted anywhere from 20 seconds to 3 minutes, required speedy turnover and cost-effective staging. Thus the con-cept of "segasodes" a mixture of a segue and episode, was created.

To make "segasodes" a reality, Caisley approached the VTD department to help in the creative process.

"Normally we sit around a table with a group of designers and we talk about things we can feel," Caisley said. "Now we are talking about digitally working scenery, but more so an incorporation of the two. One is the tangible design and one is the virtual design."

Design started earlier this year to make sure things run without a glitch.

"Now we started the 'liquidscenery' design before the tangible design. We started early and will actually for the first time be working with them (during tech rehearsals) in accompaniment with the actors on stage," Caisley said.

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phenomena such as Whole Foods Market and the Food Network.

Despite uneven pacing, "The United States of Arugula" is lively and full of Kamp's analytical but snarky voice. His metaphors might surprise or even shock readers, but they sure do pull their weight. Example - in a discussion about chickens, he describes chefs' beef with large farms: "...Tyson and Perdue, massive, high-volume operations whose pen-raised chickens, like San Fernando 💡 Valley porn, offered consistency and enormous breasts but little in the way of lasting satisfaction.' Kamp describes incredible

dishes, dishes on the behindthe-scenes gossip of the food world's most powerful faces and drops names of a few of his personal foodie friends, proving that he's not just an observer of gourmet culture, but a participant. The man is pals with Mario Batali, for pete's sake! And after all the details are done, he brings the whole epic story to a powerful point: It's great to be gourmet, but we're moving in a bad direction. Kamp rails on famous chefs for being snobby and insisting that all Americans should eat like them while refusing to find ways to make good food affordable. Why get angry that WalMart is selling organic food? Why complain when a celebrity chef shells for a higher-quality-than-usual Burger King sandwich? Why mock the Food Network for simplifying complicated techniques for a TV audience? If good food is going to the masses, he argues, it will go through means with which the masses are familiar. If better food means a better life, why not make it easier for everyone to access? Kamp predicts that Americans of all walks of life will soon be wandering the gourmet road. And for the already-dedicated foodies as well as the curious, "The United States of Arugula" is an educational, entertaining



Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Second Life: The next MySpace?

By Cary Darling **McClatchy Newspapers**

So I show up, first time in the place, and this fox is speaking to me.

Not talking here about the way-old-school slang for a beautiful woman but something closer to Animal Planet than the Playboy Channel. Bushy tail. Canine features. The works.

Can't remember exactly what the conversation was - a mere exchange of passing pleasantries before it walked off — but the whole thing left an unsettling feeling, like this could really get weird. Like I'd fallen through the looking glass and Alice definitely was-

n't living here anymore. That's because it was my first foray into Second Life, the buzzed-about and controversial online, role-playing and social-networking site that's being hailed as the next YouTube, the next thing to bedazzle the tech-savvy and befuddle the technophobes.

Sort of a combination of My Space, The Sims and Monopoly with the three-dimensional touch of Star Trek's holodecks and the videogame "World of Warcraft," Second Life is not a competitive pursuit — even though it's technically what's called a "massively multiplayer online game" — as much as an alternative state.

Users choose a fictional name and create an avatar, an animated version of themselves that can walk, run and dance, and then are dropped into a landscape where they interact with others' avatars, including those of real-life friends who are also "in world," buy or sell Second Life land, set up busi-nesses, build houses, buy clothes, work a job, go bar-hop-ping, make art and, yes, even some NC-17 activities. It's free to join but potentially expensive - in the site's made-up Linden dollars or in real currency — if you want a super kickin' SL lifestyle. Just like real life.

And if that doesn't sound all that much different from everyone's first life, it's their life buffed to perfection. You can be whomever — or whatever — you want. You can fly. You can teleport. No taxes. No politicians. No war. No terror. No War on Terror.

But there is plenty of hype. Hatched in 2000 by a San

Francisco company called Linden Lab, which didn't make the site publicly accessible until 2003, Second Life includes eBay co-founder Pierre Omidyar and Amazon pioneer Jeffrey Bezos as backers. Major companies and organizations — from Dell and MTV to the American Cancer Society — are flocking to the site to set up "islands," worlds within the world dedicated to their products. Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner and Sun Microsystems have held press conferences in Second Life. Reuters news agency even has a reporter "embedded", in Second Life full time. Although most of the site's 2 million-plus residents conduct their commerce in Linden dollars, some are raking in real money. Last fall, Linden Lab CEO Philip Rosedale estimated that \$1.5 million (in actual currency) changes hands through Second Life monthly. In November, a German woman named Ailin Graef — known on the site as Anshe Chung — reportedly became the site's first real-life millionaire, buying and selling Second Life real estate. " Second Life is the brain-storm of Rosedale, 38, a former chief technology officer at RealNetworks who helped develop the streaming technol-ogy that is the lifeblood of Second Life.

"He had a great idea: to create a collaborative online space where people could do things together," says Linden Lab marketing director Catherine Smith. "I don't think anyone knew how it would evolve."

One of the ways SL is being used is for education. Anne Beamish, a professor in the raduate program in Community and Regional graduate Planning at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Architecture, has had her students utilize SL to envision ideas about public space.

"There are a lot of smart, creative people in Second Life," says reporter Adam Pasick, dubbed "the Reuters Second Life bureau chief" who has been stationed in-world since October. "Some are there to start a business, some are here to create art or write software, and some are in it for purely the social nature."

For all the glowing talk about community, sharing and a bright, shiny, happy future — an anarcho-libertarian paradise of unfettered creativity and commerce — there's a potential downside to Second Life. As the world becomes more populated and subsequently moves away from being just a high-tech monkey bar for early adopters - it can become more prone to crime, hacking and inappropriate behavior, just like real life. Second Life is no less sus-

ceptible to the same elements that have haunted the Internet since its inception — people not being who they say they are --- than the often-criticized MySpace. Meanwhile, in September, Linden Lab's system was hacked into, forcing the company to contact the FBI and mandate that all residents change their passwords. There also have been cases of online

harassment, called "griefing." On top of that, the government may start to take a closer look at the tax responsibility of those making money on so-called "unreal estate" through sites like Second Life. Economist Daniel Miller, whose congressional Joint Economic Committee has been investigating virtual gaming since October, is due to deliver a report early this year. "Congressional and IRS interest in this issue is simply a matter of time," he was quoted as say-ing in The Weekly Standard.

"If you take money out of Second Life, then you're responsible for claiming that income, like eBay," says Linden Lab's Catherine Smith.

Pasick points out that the site has been the victim of more mundane issues. "As with any new technology, there are a fair amount of glitches," he says. "The whole grid will go down periodically. That's been compounded by the fact that it's growing so quickly ... I get the sense they're constantly putting out fires to keep the thing running. "It's not very user-friendly, and for those who aren't technologically savvy, or their graphic card isn't up to speed, they may just get confused and never come back.' For now, though, there's not lot of bad news for Second Life. With a virtual land mass four times the size of Manhattan but with only 2 million inhabitants — and with generally around 20,000 online at one time — there's room for growth. Many "islands" are empty, real estate just waiting to be bought, traded or populated. Certainly, there seems to be a lot of smiles at the privately held Linden Lab. Profit figures aren't released, but Rosedale told the Chicago Tribune, "We're very close to profitable. The business itself, on an operating basis, is very profitable."

The Argonaut

Sheet music display at Prichard Gallery

ArtsBRIEFS

The work of William Kentridge will be exhibited from Friday through April 1 at the Prichard Art Gallery.

Kentridge, a South African artist, began filming his charcoal drawing process which then led into short animated films. He has worked in a variety of media and much of his work has featured the characters Felix Teitlebaum, the artist's alter-ego, and Soho Eckstein, an archetype of a South African capitalist. Kentridge has also addressed the reign of apartheid in his country.

Showcased in the Prichard exhibit are reproductions of sheet music featuring Kentridge's artwork. The sheet music was provided by The Lionel Hampton School of Music and the International Jazz Collection at UI and the Institute of Jazz Studies at **Rutgers University**.

Prichard hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sunday. The gallery is closed Mondays.

Borah catches fire

"Catch a Fire," starring Tim Robbins and Derek Luke will screen as part of ASUI Vandal entertainment's Indie Film Series at 7' and 9:30 p.m.

NERDTOPIA from page 7

"Just because you are the best at taking out other targets doesn't mean you'll be the best at survival."

Approved weaponry includes Nerf guns, spoons labeled as knives and paper throwing stars. A list of "safe havens" is also part of the game.

"A lot of us have laptops, so squirt guns probably won't be used as much as in other places," says Beery, who, like his four compatriots may or may not be Naganth.

Something like this takes a critical mass of people for the most enjoyment," Dearien says, also concealing whether or not he is the Guild organizer.

Most of the events NerdTopia has in

Duking it out at Wednesday and Thursday. The 2006 movie is set in John's Alley South Africa and follows a man outside of the political

For those who need to rock during the week, John's Alley has the answer. From 10 p.m. 2 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday, The Dukes of Ted will bring their hard-working Humboldt County rock and roll to Moscow.

The band, which began touring with their dog "The Dude" only two years ago, met in the music department of Humboldt State University in northern California and has been on the road since.

Citing rock, jazz, funk and world music as influences, The Dukes of Ted have forged their own unique sound incorporating both complicated compositions and improvisation.

The show is 21 and over and a cover charge is to be announced.

To hear The Dukes of Ted, head to www.dukesofted.com.

Poster contest ends Saturday

Entries for the Moscow Renaissance Fair poster contest must be dropped off at BookPeople of Moscow no later than noon on Saturday. Judging will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, and winners will be announced at 4 p.m.

The winning poster will be displayed on all Moscow Renaissance Fair advertisements and the designer will receive \$200. The second-place

mind will benefit from a greater number of people, but not all of them.

out

visit

The highlight of NerdTopia's spring will be attending Sakura-Con in Seattle. Sakura-Con is the pre-eminent Northwest convention for fans of anime and manga, two widely popular forms of entertainment in Japan that have found a more than accepting audience here in the U.S.

"We have maybe nine members set to attend but it is something not everyone is going to be able to go to," Evans says.

Cost for the convention includes transportation, hotel accommodations and registration fees.

"Plus," Beery says, "it's over Easter weekend and that causes problems for some people."

The shared love of anime/manga almost had NerdTopia choosing another name.

"We wanted to call it OtakuTopia,"

poster will appear on the pro-gram cover and the designer will be awarded \$100.

Entry guidelines are available at www.moscowren fair.org.

Russian ballet at **Beasley Coliseum**

The Saint Petersburg Ballet will take the stage at 3 p.m. Feb. 11 at WSU's Beasley Coliseum.

Dance and Festival Performing Arts brings the Russian professional dance group to the Palouse as part of the year's focus on diversity. Performances in the series will include East Indian and Mexican groups as well as local performances in order to highlight dancing fróm around the world.

"The Russian Ballet is astounding on many levels: the artistry, the sheer artistry, the sheer talent, the magnitude of perfection," Cindy Barnhart, Executive Director of Festival Dance and

Performing Arts, said. Festival Dance and Performing Arts is a non-profit community organization dedicated to making the per-

forming arts accessible. Tickets for the Saint Petersburg Ballet range from \$16-\$25 and are available at the Beasley box office, the Kibbie Dome ticket office, through TicketsWest outlets, and at the door. Tickets can also be purchased through Festival Dance by calling (208) 883-DANS.

Visit www.festivaldance .org for more information.

Dearien says. "No one would have got it." Otaku is a Japanese word that rough-ly translates as "anime fan" in English.

"We have a lot more work to do,", Evans says. "The constitution is in progress and we'd like to get more people involved. Eventually, we want to have our subgroups having their own meetings, with the heads of those

groups getting together for overall planning. Evans, Beery, Dearien, Ingram and whichever one of these four is Naganth have big plans for the future of NerdTopia. They just hope people decide to join them. Together they hope to defy the negative connotations of the word "nerd."

There are a lot of qualities of the 'nerd' counterculture the rest of the world could do well to emulate,' Dearien says. Naganth agrees.

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HEALTH DIRECTORY The Argonaut's Official Medical Guide

Page 9

world around him until cir-

cumstances find him becom-

entirely in Africa, is rated PG-

13 for thematic material

involving torture, abuse, vio-

lence and brief language.

ho.edu/Movies.

Kenworthy

duties, too.

the show.

River.

the

River at 7 p.m. Friday.

The film, which was shot

For a complete schedule of

the Indie Film Series as well as

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River runs through

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www.mistyriverband.com.

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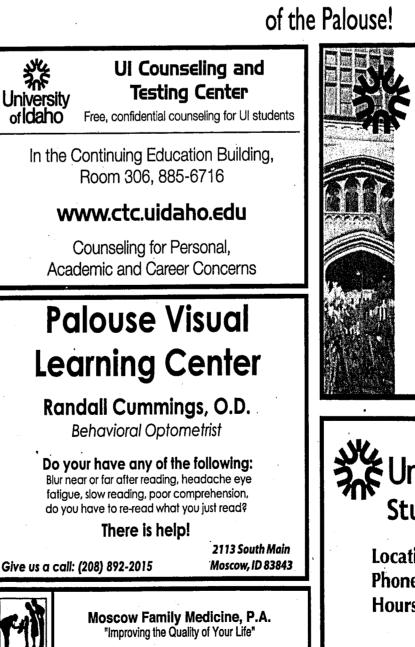
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SPORTS&RECREATION Page 10

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

UI suffers overtime loss again

By Nick Heidelberger Argonaut

Without Keoni Watson, University of Idaho's leading scorer, the Vandals men's basketball team fell 72-70 to Fresno State in overtime in the Cowan Spectrum Saturday.

Watson didn't dress for the game. Idaho coach George Pfeifer said it was an academic issue.

"Keoni lost his academic pathway," Pfeifer said. 'Hopefully, he'll find his academic pathway and re-join the

team Monday." The game started with a 10-2 FSU (16-7, 5-5) run, but the Vandals responded with a 14-2 run of their own, to take a 19-15 lead with about 14 minutes to play in the first half. By halftime, Idaho led 35-34.

The Vandals (3-19, 1-9) shot 13-of-27 in the first half, including 6-for-14 from 3-point distance. Michael Crowell hit three of those 3-pointers, and led the Vandals at halftime

with nine points. The second half stayed tight, and with six minutes to play, the score was tied 49-49.

The Bulldogs pulled ahead on a pair of free throws moments later, and with less than a minute to go, they still led by three.

UI's Trevor Morris missed a 3-point shot that would have tied the game with 18 seconds left, but was fouled, and sank all three free-throws to send the game into overtime.

With the score tied in overtime, FSU's Ja'Vance Coleman hit a deep three with the shot

clock winding down, and Idaho would never recover. "It's another one-possession

game that we lost," Morris said. "It came down to heart." The Bulldogs got their first road win in Western Athletic

Conference play, while Idaho fell to 0-4 when leading at halftime.

"After the game, I told them, "Tonight, it was really enjoyable to be your coach," Pfeifer said. "I thought we had some tough breaks tonight without question, but we battled."

The Vandals finished the game shooting 24-of-64 for the game, including 10-for-31 from 3-point range. Idaho out-rebounded the Bulldogs 48-39. The Vandals turned the ball over 18 times.

Morris led the Vandals in scoring with 16 points and added five rebounds and four assists before fouling out in overtime. Michael Crowell and David Jackson also scored in double figures for the Vandals with 15 and 14

points, respectively. The Buildogs were led by Dominic McGuire, who scored 21 points and had 14 rebounds. Quinton Hosley added 14 points for FSU.

The Vandals hit the road next for a rematch with Boise State on Wednesday. The first time the teams met, Idaho took an eight point lead into halftime, but the Broncos came out strong in the second half and took a 75-57 win home.

The Vandals return home on Saturday when they play Utah State.

Lisa Wareham/Argonaut Idaho junior forward Darin Nagle shoots the ball at the Vandals' game against Fresno State Thursday at the Cowan Spectrum.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Another one bites the dust

By J.R. Conrow

Argonaut

The University of Idaho women's basketball team continues to drop in Western Athletic Conference standing, while sending more play-ers to the injured list.

The Vandals lost 75-53 to the Fresno State Bulldogs Saturday, while UI junior Sara Dennehy was taken from the game with 14 minutes remaining because of a foot injury. Her injury status is unknown at this time. She finished with 11 points, five rebounds and one steal.

"She (Dennehy) was missed a lot in the second half," UI coach Mike Divilbiss said. "We just can't take any more injuries."

The Vandals have been plagued by injuries this season. The lone senior on the team, Karly Felton, will not return after tearing her ACL in late November. Junior Ticey Westbrooks also tore her ACL during a triple-overtime win against New Mexico State on Jan. 24.

Saturday night, Fresno State went on a 6-0 run in the first five minutes of the game before Dennehy hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 6-3.

The Vandals narrowed the score several times throughout the first half but were never able to get a lead on Fresno State. The offense for both teams would exchange shots for the remainder of the half, with Idaho trailing 32-26. "We got tired in the second half," said

Divilbiss after Saturday's loss. "We were only six behind after the half. We did a great job keeping them off the boards in the first half and they did not score any second chance points, which was good for our play.'

Koppen hit a three to start the second half to bring Idaho to 32-29, but that would be as close as the Vandals would get. Fresno went on a 10-4 run in the first four minutes of the second half to lead 42-33 and the Vandals could not recov-

Idaho freshman Katie Madison, who is first in the WAC in scoring, led all Vandals with 15 points and seven rebounds. In the first half, Fresno kept Madison in check, as she scored seven points.

Freshman Molly Malone, from Cedarburg, Wis., got some playing time late in the second

See WOMEN'S B-BALL, page 11



File Photo

UI wing Sara Dennehy dribbles past a Fresno State defender at the Cowan Spectrum on Jan. 4.

Rugby hits the field without full squad

By Andrea Miller Argonaut

The University of Idaho Men's Rugby Club didn't wait for spring to get back in action.

"We've started practicing," UI junior Creighton McCarthy says. Three times a week in the Kibbie Dome."

The UI Men's Rugby Club president says with the experience from the fall season the team is well underway in the spring season. Last fall, the club completed its first season in the Northwest Rugby Pacific Football Union, a conference in the Rugby Collegiate II division. Gonzaga University, Montana State University and Eastern Washington University are also in the conference.

"We were 1 and 3 in the division and 3-5 overall," McCarthy says. There are 24 members in the

club but it's not enough for training purposes, according to McCarthy. A rugby match has 15 people on the field per team, so

during practice, club members can't field a defense when practicing offense or vice versa. Therefore, the team is currently

recruiting players. The club has men of all skill and expertise on the team. McCarthy joined the club his freshmen year with only the curiosity to play the game and no real rugby experience.

'My suitemate freshman year was a rugby player and asked me if I wanted to become involved,"

McCarthy says. Now, McCarthy says he has learned the game and was elected as club president. He played in the prop position when he started playing, but has now moved to the fly-half position on the team. A fly-half is comparable to the quarterback of a football team. The ball goes to him and he calls plays for the team.

And while the weather is still cold, the club stays inside running drills and practicing basic rugby skills. "We haven't started full prac-



Lisa Wareham/Argonaut

The rugby team practices Saturday evening on the lower forty.

tices yet," McCarthy says. "We'll start outside when the weather gets warmer, probably late February."

Once the guys move outside, they start the rough side of rugby. At a typical practice, they will go through passing, tackling and

rucking drills.

Rucking is when someone is tackled and goes down with the ball, the two teams pile up and push for the ball.

See **RUGBY**, page 11

track team for Washington

UI meet preps

By Ryan Atkins Argonaut

It was the first home meet of the indoor season for the University of Idaho, and the team gave fans something to cheer about.

At the McDonald's Collegiate Invite, Idaho's Melinda Owen won the women's pole vault, while teammate Breeana Chadez won the women's high jump.

The 60-meter distance was a success for the women's team, as Meagan Garcia and Stefani Patten took first and second, respectively, in the 60meter dash and Heather Bergland, Christie Gordon and Molly Burt swept the top places in the 60meter hurdles.

UI junior Mandy Macalister won the 3000-meter run with a strong finish, but will mostly likely redshirt the indoor season along with teammate Dee Olsen in order to set the Vandals up for a run at conference next year.

We want to keep everyone together next year so maybe we can win indoor conference," Macalister said. "But I still think they will have a pretty solid team this year." The team proved Macalister right on this day

with strong performances in numerous events.

On the men's side, Kevin Pabst had an outstanding day with a win in the 400-meter dash and a second-place finish in the long jump.

Mike Carpenter finished second in the pole vault while Marcus Mattox and Beau Whitney fin-ished second and third in the weight throw, respectively.

The Idaho men were without their top two throwers who were in Nebraska for the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational.

Against tougher competition in a more competitive environment, Russ Winger and Matt Wauters still shined, each posting strong throws.

"You try to go into all meets with the same mindset," Winger said. "Going into local meets, there's not as much of a competitive atmosphere, so it is hard to get a competitive mindset." Winger won the shot put with a throw of 19.86

meters while Wauters finished fifth in the event.

Wauters finished second in the weight throw with a throw of 20.89 meters while Winger finished fifth.

"I wasn't disappointed," Winger said. "I felt like I could have thrown farther, but I wasn't too far off what I have thrown before, so I'm not disappointed at all."

Winger currently leads the nation in the shot put, while Wauters currently ranks fourth in the weight throw.

Idaho's next meet will be the Husky Open Feb. 9-10 at the University of Washington.

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Tuesday, February 6, 2007

RUGBY from page 10

They also practice line outs, which occur when the ball is in bounds and the people in the prop positions (generally bigger guys, according to McCarthy) throw the lock player (typically a tall guy) up into the air and they fight the opposing lock for the ball in the air.

"It's not usually dangerous," McCarthy says. "Some guys get excited and drop the lock, but that doesn't happen much."

The sport of rugby is often

associated with being extremely dangerous, but McCarthy sees it differently.

Although he dislocated a rib last spring during a tournament in Lewiston, McCarthy thinks there is a difference between being hurt and injured. He recognizes that it hurts tackling and fighting against the other team without pads or protection, but says there is a toughness factor involved with being a rugby player "and a little crazy."

McCarthy says concussions happen every once in a while and two members of last year's team tore their ACL and

MCL in their knee but they haven't had serious injuries yet this year.

The club has at least eight matches scheduled for this spring along with tournaments in Spokane and Lewiston. Their participation in the PNWRFU has allowed the club to compete in more matches.

"Rugby is growing,' McCarthy says. "Before it (their matches) didn't show for anything, now it does."

The UI Men's Rugby Club is open to anyone and practices Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Kibbie Dome.

go get it," Divilbiss said. "We absolutely have to block out because we are undersized and we did

tonight because of their athleticism. They would

play just far enough off someone to make them

think they were open and then rush them and

had 15 rebounds, a game high for her ninth dou-

ble double of the season. Junior Liz Witte had 22

for the Vandals and Lindsey Koppen finished

dropped out and I got pretty open so I was able to

hit. We haven't given up this year, it hurts not

and led the team with seven boards. Alisha Hicks

scored 13 and Myosha Barnes had 11 points for

the Spartans. Idaho built a 33-28 halftime lead but

the Spartans opened the second half as Powell hit

a layup to cut Idaho's lead to 33-30. Madison con-

tinued to keep the Vandals in front for the rest of

the game. The Vandals went on a 14-6 run to close

out the game, and all 14 points scored came off

Cowan Spectrum. The women take on Boise State

Idaho returns home for two games at the

Madison led the Vandals with 24 points and

"The win feels good," Witte said. "The defense

Brittany Powell led the Spartans with 24 points

"(San Jose State) had three blocked shots

a nice job of that tonight.

block the shot or hurry it."

having Ticey and Karly playing."

with 10 points.

free throws.

WOMEN'S B-BALL from page 10

half and scored her first two points of her career in the conference.

"They did a good job of trapping us on the perimeter and making it hard for our girls to shoot," Divilbiss said. "The defense also did a good job of keeping the passes out of the post."

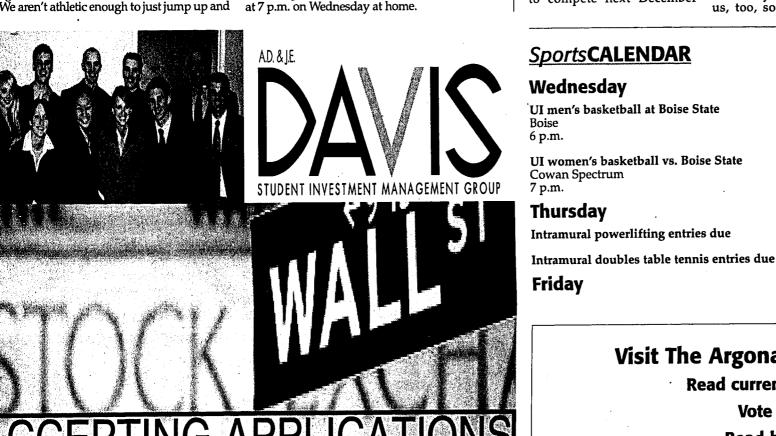
Three Fresno State players finished with double-digits. Chantella Perera led all scorers with 16. The Bulldogs outrebounded the Vandals 52-31. "This game was a tough turn around for us," Divilbiss said. "We had to play Thursday night at San Jose (State) and then play today, while they (the Bulldogs) had a week off before we came to play. We aren't complaining though and we will keep scratching our way through.

Thursday, Idaho led the entire game, defeating conference foe San Jose State 72-64. SJSU is 2-21 (1-8 WAC). It was the first time this season the Vandals have maintained a lead for 40 minutes.

"The team played very well," Divilbiss said. "This is a quality win. Every win in the WAC is a quality win. They are all tough, especially on the road."

In particular, the Vandals battled strong inside with Madison's 15 boards paving the way to a 42-40 edge.

"We aren't athletic enough to just jump up and



Sports BRIEFS

Stanley Franks is NCAA champion for interceptions

The NCAA made it official Friday: UI cornerback Stanley Franks is the national interceptions champion. Franks, who will be a sen-

ior this fall, intercepted nine passes for an average of .75 per game to finish ahead of San Jose State's Dwight Lowery with .69. His efforts earned a tie for Idaho's single-season lead, while his return yardage of 220 is a Vandal record for a singleseason. He finished the year ranked third on Idaho's yards-per-return (22.4) for a single season.

His totals include a twointerception outing against Idaho State and a 98-yard return for a TD against Utah State. His 98-yard return is third-longest in school history.

A transfer from Long Beach City College and a native of Downey, Calif., Franks is eight interceptions shy of Idaho's career record and 37 yards short of the career interception return yardage mark.

Cameron transfers to Idaho

Merritt Cameron, who played high school basket-ball with UI women's basketball's Katie Madison, has transferred to UI to play next season.

Cameron has enrolled at UI and will become eligible to compete next December

Friday

after completing her NCAA-mandated year of residency. After she becomes eligible she will have two-and-a-half years of eligibility remaining.

Cameron, a 6-foot-3 center, transferred from Concordia University in from Portland, Ore.

"Merritt played high school basketball with Katie Madison and had a lot of success there," UI coach Mike Divilbiss said. "We are really excited to have her in the program, she understands the work ethic and wanted to be a part of the program because of the high level of expectations within the program."

"I had narrowed my deci-sion to transfer to WSU or Idaho," Cameron said. "But WSU felt more like a factory, like it was just graduating students, Idaho seemed like it cared about everyone. I like the atmosphere around here too. There are more trees and the town feels more like home."

Men's basketball draws UC Riverside

The UI men's basketball team has drawn former Big West Conference foe UC Riverside in the fifth annual O'Reilly ESPNU BracketBusters field.

The Vandals will host the Highlanders Feb. 17 at the Cowan Spectrum and will travel to Riverside, Calif., next season.

"We like our match up," Idaho coach George Pfeifer said. "We think that's a good match up for us. It gets us to California next year. I'm sure they were hoping for us, too, so we are probably

both happy."

The Highlanders currently are 4-17 this season and 0-12 in road contests. They are led in scoring by Larry Cunningham at 10.5 points per game. Idaho holds a 7-2 series record over UC Riverside dating back to 2002 and has won seven of the last eight meetings between the teams.

College Sports Television comes to Moscow

Time Warner Cable has launched CSTV: College Sports Television, the No. 1 destination for college sports, providing fans throughout the Moscow and Pullman with the broadest and deepest coverage of the world of college sports. CSTV will be available on a digital sports tier. However, Time Warner Cable will be providing all classic cable customers with a free preview until March 11 on channel 70.

Robb Akey to introduce staff

UI football coach Robb Akey will introduce his new staff and also announce the 2007 Vandal recruiting class at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Kibbie Dome preceding the UI women's basketball game. There is no admission charge. Everyone attending the LOI/meet the coaches reception will receive free admission to the 7 p.m. UI women's basketball game.

UI women's tennis vs. Montana State Kibbie Dome

UI track and field at Husky Open Seattle

Saturday

UI women's basketball vs. Utah State Cowan Spectrum 5:30 p.m.

UI men's basketball vs. Utah State Cowan Spectrum 7:30 p.m.

UI track and field at Husky Open Seattle

Intramural powerlifting play begins

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ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

INFORMATION SESSION

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APPLICATIONS DUE Eriday, Feb. 23 at 5 pm Mario Reves, Alb. 301F

www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~davisgrp/ Andrea Walker: Walk1370@uidaho.edu

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Vandal Football Letter of Intent Signing

Wednesday, February 7th 5:30pm Prior to the Vandal Women vs. Boise State **On the Kibbie Dome Floor**

Free Pizza and Pepsi

Help coach Akey welcome the 2007 recruiting class as they sign their official letters of intent to join the Vandal Football team.



Support Your Vandals at Upcoming Events!

Women's Basketball	Wednesday							
versus Boise State	February							
Cowan Spectrum	7th at 7 p.m.							
Women's Tennis	Friday							
<i>versus Montana State</i>	February							
<u>Kibbie Dome</u>	9th at 1 p.m.							
Women's Basketball	Saturday							
versus Utah State	February							
Cowan Spectrum	10th at 5:30 p.m							
Men's Basketball	Saturday							
versus Utah State	February							
Cowan Spectrum	10th at 7:30 p.m.							
much for Vandals								

Meet your Vandals: Trevor "Clutch" Morris

When you were a kid on your AAU basketball team, you'd practice free throws by putting ridiculous imaginary pressure on yourself. You'd imagine no time left on the clock, your team down by three, and you're on the line shooting three. Even with fabricated pressure, how did you do?

Trevor Morris didn't have to imagine any more pressure for himself. He stood at the free throw line with the hopes of his team and every one of the 2,000 fans in the Spectrum rid-ing on his shoulders. With With heroic concentration, Morris hit each of his three free throws and gave the Vandals a chance to come back in overtime. Though the Vandals fell in a two point overtime loss, Morris proved he's got the stuff to be a clutch player.

A Missoula, Montana native, Trevor Morris spent one year at Miles Community College before becoming a Vandal. There he averaged 18 points a game and nearly 4 rebounds. He was an all conference selection and shot over 40% from the three point arc.

"Every program needs an individual who would be



classified as a sniper when it comes to shooting the ball. Trevor is our sniper. What we like, besides his ability to knock down the shot, is how it gets out of his hand quickly. He does not need much time to set up prior to letting it fly. The other promising perk is Trevor is a one-year Junior College transfer. He will have three years donning a Vandal uniform. We are all depending on Trevor to make large contributions from behind the 3-point arc."



WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Overtime	proves	too	much	for	Vanda	Is

Ja'Vance Coleman hit just one field goal in Saturday's contest, but he made it count.

Coleman nailed a heavily contested 3-point field goal with 1:09 remaining in overtime to give Fresno State (16-7, 5-5) a 65-62 lead that the University of Idaho men's basketball (3-19, 1-9) team could not overcome in falling by the final score of 72-70.

Trevor Morris, who started his second game of the season, sank three free throws with 18 seconds remaining in regulation and Darin Nagle defended a missed lay in by Dominic McGuire at the buzzer to send the Vandals into overtime for the first time

EXTRAVAGA

this season.

The teams traded points to begin the overtime period before Coleman hit his shot. Coleman then sank two free throws to increase the margin to 67-62, but Nagle nailed a 3-pointer to bring the mar-gin to two points. Kevin Bell helped the Idaho cause by missing 1-of-2 free throws on the next possession and O.J. Avworo hit both of his free throw attempts to bring the score to within one at 68-67 with 27 seconds remaining. Idaho fouled to send Coleman to the line again, where he hit both attempts and Avworo's off-balance floater missed with 15 seconds remaining. Quinton Hosley was again successful on two free throws to put

Fresno State ahead 72-67 and Miles Webb hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to bring the final score to 72-70.

"This game was not about what we didn't have, it was about what we did have," Idaho coach George Pfeifer said. "A couple of games ago I told our team I couldn't be more disappointed with what we did in the second half. Tonight, I told them it was really enjoyable to be their coach. I thought we had some tough breaks tonight, but we battled."

Morris led the Vandals in scoring with 16 points and grabbed a career-high five rebounds before fouling out in overtime. Michael Crowell hit 5-of-7 shots to

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score 15 points and David, Jackson added 14 points and eight rebounds. Avworo fine ished with five points, but grabbed nine rebounds and dished out eight assists both career highs.

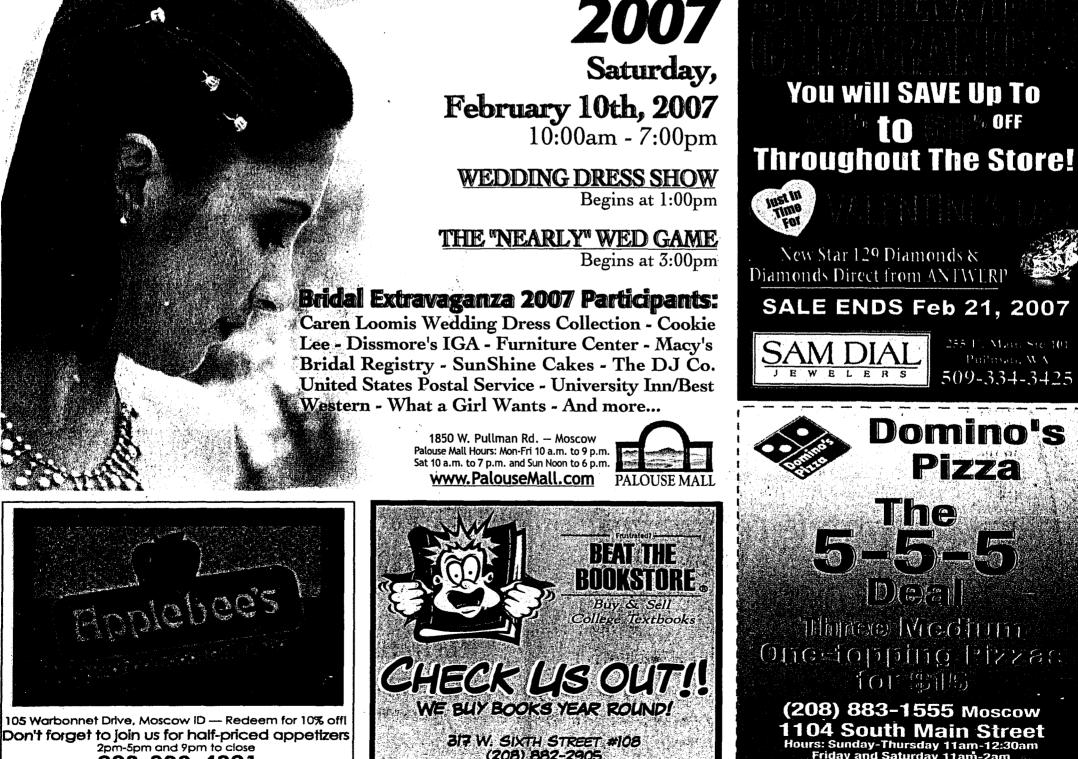
"We had some good looks at the basket (in the second half) and if we could have knocked one or two done it would have given us a little bit more of a gap. feel bad for the players because they played extremely hard tonight and tried to do the right thing and we came up short. This game is not always about equity," Pfeifer said.

Idaho will hit the road for its next contest at Boise State Wednesday (Feb. 7).

‱ OFF

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