

THE ARGONAUT

The Vandal Voice Since 1898

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Volume 107, No. 41

ASUI attempts to save Wheatland

By Jeremy Castillo
Argonaut

The ASUI Senate is working to prevent public transportation on the Palouse from becoming history.

At last week's student fee proposal hearing, ASUI President Berto Cerrillo asked for a \$3-per-student increase next semester to support Wheatland Express and Moscow Valley Transit.

If passed, the hike will generate \$50,000 — roughly one-third of the systems' operating costs.

Recently, the University of Idaho proposed to stop annual payments made to the Wheatland Express bus system, which would in turn affect the funding of Moscow Valley Transit. The transit system receives "soft-match" federal grant dollars for every dollar UI and Washington State University spend in funding

Wheatland Express.

UI decided it could no longer help fund the bus service, which was created in part to accommodate students who travel between UI and WSU, last year after a review of its general budget. The university made payments to the service through Aug. 24, and has put into review the question of whether it wants to continue funding the service for the final year of the contract.

If it decides to discontinue

the payments, Wheatland Express and Moscow Valley Transit will need new sources of finance if they are to continue.

Cerrillo said cutting the bus systems will cause problems for UI students, especially those who live off-campus.

"Not everyone owns cars or wants to drive to school, so the Valley Transit system is the best way for them to get around," he said.

However, the proposal is

not cast in stone.

"We want to make a good-faith effort to let this system continue to run," Cerrillo said. "But if our offer doesn't have anyone else come forward to match it or help pay the total costs, then we'll pull it off the table prior to April 19, the day we present to the State Board of Education. We hope people in the community and other users help to make the Valley Transit stay alive."

ASUI Sen. Michael Barker

was originally against student fees paying for the bus system. But after talking with Cerrillo, he now considers the proposal a necessary step to keep public transportation on Palouse roads.

"As the situation dictates, the student fees are an incentive to get other sources, such as Moscow City Council, involved," Barker said.

"Hopefully, in the future, we can

See ASUI, page A4

Valentine's Day secrets they don't want you to know

By Brandon Macz
Argonaut

Though the climate of the Northwest is cold, temperatures have been rising steadily. Perhaps this is because the highly commercialized and over-emphasized Valentine's Day is quickly approaching. For women, this means high expectations for romance, and for men, it means being broke for the next week. In order to help make this Valentine's Day special, here are a few suggestions on how to spend the holiday.

The high-rate date

For those with enough money to inject into the only holiday that challenges a couple's affections, there is always the expensive meal or the diamond rings. For those who want to enjoy more than digesting \$100 worth of delicacies and an unintentional proposal, here are some ideas to consider.

Dinner while moving

The problem with expensive restaurants is that no matter how good the food is, people are paying to be placed at a table next to a bunch of loud and strange patrons. This is college, so any meal better than ramen and soda will be fine. The important part about a meal should be the setting. So, take that \$100-plus that would have gone to unpronounceable dishes at a French restaurant and put it toward an hour limo drive in the countryside. Bring a picnic and eat it on the way. This is sure to impress, but this idea is not meant for a first date or the always possible Valentine's Night Stand.

Escar-a-go-go

For spur-of-the-moment romantics, this means reservations were not made and many restaurants are full of happy non-procrastinators. Local hot-spot restaurants like the Red Door and West of Paris are booked solid for Valentine's Day, but there are walk-in possibilities later in the evening, unless someone proposes and invites the rest of the diners to join in the joyous love festival at Table 9.

Breaking and entering the heart

This idea is being proposed only for those who have been dating long enough to have personal access to the other's residence. If this is the case, buy a slew of flowers and balloons and create a surprise love-party for two. Roses have commonly been considered the romantic flower — however, women tend to have a favorite flower that is not of the thorny persuasion. Find out what that flower is and use it. It's likely that it will save you money.

The love shack

Being in college usually means roommates. For that reason, couples agree that they are not as uninhibitedly romantic as they would like to be. Well, save the home-buddies the mental scarring and get a hotel. This is for couples only. In a first-date scenario, this type of action will probably end in harassment charges.

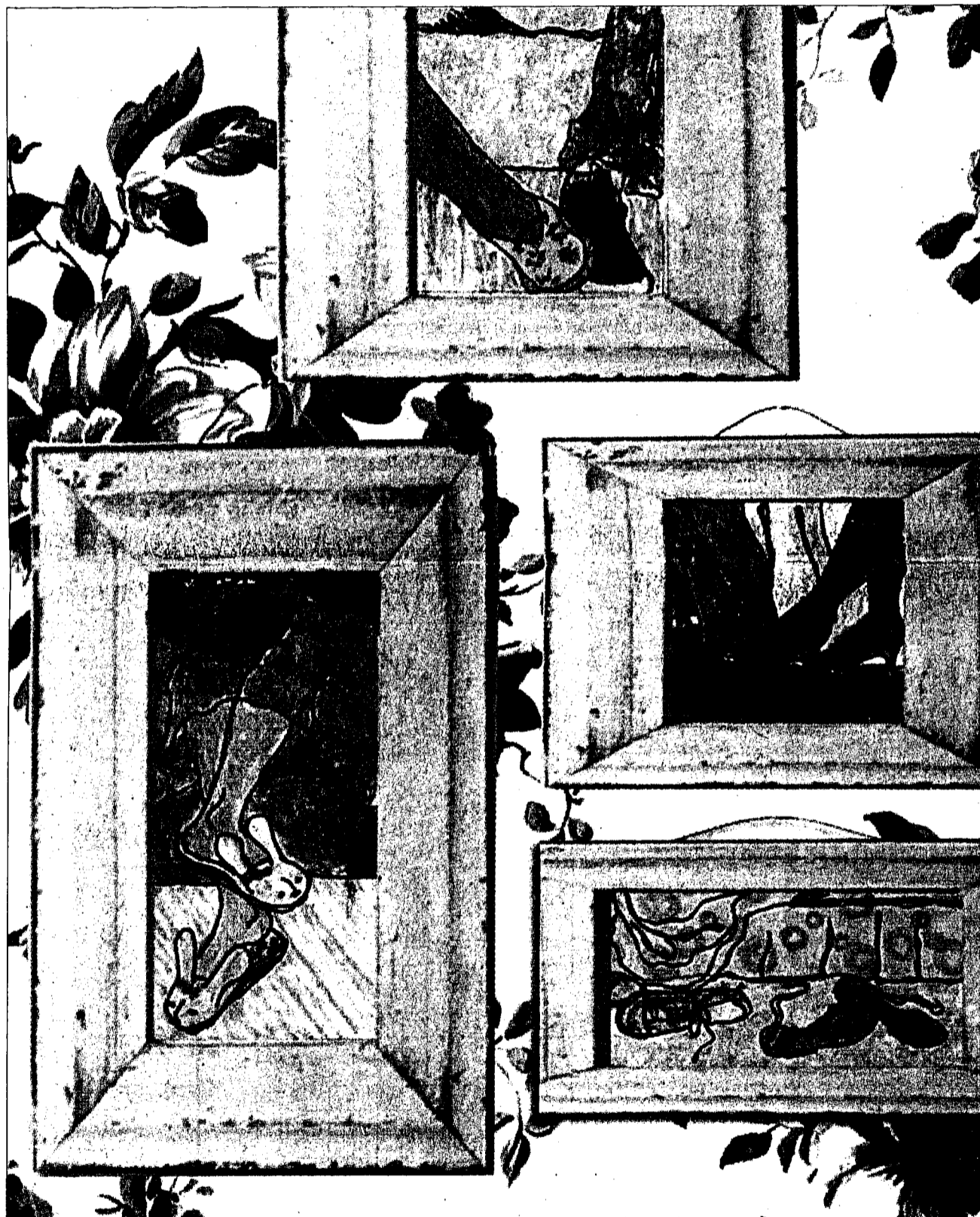


Illustration by Joel Slocum

Shop with your heart

When people want to give their loved ones what they want but haven't gotten enough hints, suspect that it might come from their favorite store. Buying gift cards isn't usually romantic, but it puts a limit on spending. So, give your loved one a gift card with a pleasant amount on it and take your date shopping where you can laugh at the solo shoppers desperately trying to remember what to get. No one likes to go shopping unless it's for them. Showing your commitment to pleasing your loved one by taking your date shopping makes for a good impression. Your date will get what your date wants and be even happier because you were there to help pick and pay for it.

Dates for meaning, not money

Remember being a kid, when all the

gifts given were usually made in a classroom and consisted of a few tasteful elements — glitter, glue, pasta and finger-paint? Maybe it's time to give your loved one something your date can put on the fridge. These dating ideas are for couples who realize money won't buy romantic happiness. If debt is escapable, these tips will be of benefit. Expensive meals and concerts are great, but a date that took a lot of thought will garner extra points. Women love cute. Cute is a dangerous word for men, but take it as a compliment and consider these ideas.

Get creative, quickly

The computer age is wonderful because it allows those artistically challenged to still produce some fascinating gifts. Take a picture of your sweetheart and Photoshop it. This isn't a suggestion to change your date features. That will end in painful separations. Make your date feel like art,

however, and that will end in pleasurable connections. Why not put your date in an artistic setting, like lying down over the Sistine Chapel or put your date's face over the Mona Lisa?

If your Photoshop skills are lacking, use a video-editing package. Final Cut Pro is expensive, but Windows Media Player usually comes with the OS version and it is quite easy to use.

Use the pictures to make a slide show with special effects and a soundtrack behind it. Watch the movie over a bottle of wine and see if that doesn't do the trick. Unlike expensive flowers or meals, these gifts carry a higher romantic longevity because they won't wither or digest.

Take a trip down memory lane

Women are relationship historians. They remember every good, bad and ugly moment. During celebrations, memories of first dates, first kisses

and first commitments will be floating like sugar plums in their heads. Remind your sweetie of how it all started by recreating the first date. Play your first song or sing it to her. Rent the movie you paid \$30 to see in a theater but never "really" finished.

If your sweetheart is a sentimentalist, go old school by giving your date a note, one where they can't respond verbally, like in class. Make it say, "Do you love me?...yes...no...maybe," and watch their heartstrings snap. It will remind them of those awkward days in childhood when a crush was a full-time occupation. See how you feel when you get the response back.

A meal with meaning

What isn't seen in a restaurant is the effort that went into making the meal. Having any culinary skills in college can be of great advantage. Surprise your sweetheart with a thoughtful meal that you know he or she will like.

Fifty percent of the meal is presentation. Arrange the food on the plate with gourmet flare and light a few candles. Exchanging little gifts over a homemade meal will be as romantic as it is practical on a budget.

Valentine's Day solo

Not everyone has a special someone to celebrate with on V-Day. This doesn't mean bitterness can't be fun. Here are some suggestions for those far-from-being-lonely singles. Things they can do on the festive day while everyone else gets in accidents because they're too busy staring into someone's eyes.

Have a party

Get a pizza and get friends together for a single's party. Papa Murphy's has heart-shaped pizzas. There is nothing better than watching a bunch of single people ritualistically sawing up a love symbol. Try a morbid romance movie, such as "Sweethearts" or "If Lucy Fell," a movie about a group of friends who promise to kill themselves if they are not married by 30. Live up the night and forget about the two-party system.

Time to spare

Go bowling. Bowling is the only supposed sport where people can laugh at their own inability to play. Take the eight-mile drive to Pullman and go to Zeppos. Then, after losing face at bowling, you can lose money at the slots they have there. Bowling is a game for venting frustrations when singles are knocking down those happy united pins.

So-called friends

If some of your friends are celebrating V-Day in its truest fashion that doesn't mean you can't retaliate. Give your "friend" a couple prank calls from a phone not on their contacts list and make every answer of that phone count. If their date was going bad or going nowhere, at least you made it more memorable. If you live with these people, make fun of their relationships by running out to the couple as they get out of the car. Then, stop at a good 3-foot distance and begin throwing dry rice at them and saying, "Congratulations." Make them

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look INSIDE

ARTS&CULTURE

Poet Robert Wrigley talks about his new poems and the new Hannibal movie disappoints viewers.

OPINION

The editorial board explains accreditation and Travis has an alcohol-induced revelation.

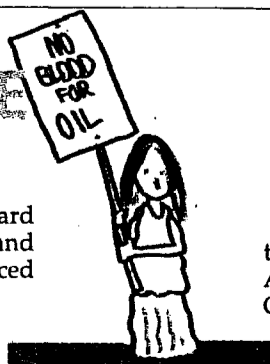
SPORTS&REC

The UI swimming team heads to San Antonio for the WAC Championships.

on the WEB

Visit the blogs for our food critic's first review and the opinion editor's take on the Vandal Fitness Challenge at

www.uiargonaut.com



Correction

In Friday's Argonaut, the College of Education was incorrectly labeled as "on probation." The college is "accredited with conditions," according to Dean Paul Rowland.

WeatherFORECAST

Today Mostly cloudy Hi: 37° Lo: 31°	Wednesday Mostly cloudy Hi: 38° Lo: 35°	Thursday Showers Hi: 41° Lo: 39°
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UniversityAVE.

by Paul Tong/Argonaut



CampusCALENDAR

Today

UI Black Student Union presents 'Malcolm X: Make it Plain' Commons Food Court Noon

Idaho LEADS: Your Core Values leadership lunch Commons Clearwater Room 12:30 p.m.

Interdisciplinary Colloquium 'Novel Magnetic Nanoparticles and their Global Applications' Commons Whitewater Room 12:30 p.m.

Fireside Chat Commons Cedar Grove Room 1 p.m.

Brown Bag Series 'He's Just Not That into You' Women's Center Lounge, Memorial Gym, Room 109 5 p.m.

Architecture in the Latent World Lecture Kenworthy Performing Arts Center 6:30 p.m.

Foreign Film Series 'The Tiger and the Snow' SUB Borah Theatre 7 and 9:30 p.m.

'Outstanding Young Artists Concert - Vol. III, 2006 Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival' UITY-8 8 p.m.

Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Concert Administration Auditorium 8 p.m.

Wednesday

Find Funding and Write a

Competitive Proposal Commons Crest Room 3 p.m.

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

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

Borah Symposium: 'Collapse: How Societies Choose to Succeed and Fail' UITY-8 8 p.m.

Thursday

UI Black Student Union presents 'Toni Morrison: A Writer's Work' Commons Food Court Noon

University Retirees Valentine Luncheon

University Inn-Best Western Noon

MMBB Seminar Series 'The Protein Interaction Reporter Strategy' TLC Room 032 12:30 p.m.

Spring Leadership Conference SUB 4 p.m.

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

'Outstanding Young Artists Concert - Vol. III, 2006 Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival' UITY-8 8 p.m.

Jazz student concert and the Jeff Hamilton Trio School of Music Recital Hall 8 p.m.

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at the Idaho Commons & Student Union

BE REWARDED FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
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Applications due Friday, March 2nd in the ASUI/Student Activities office, Commons Room 302.

www.asui.uidaho.edu/awards



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

Student Union Hours:

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

Look for the spring issue of BLOT in April!

Wolves in Idaho, Moscow as a "college town," album recommendations from KUOI Djs and a whole lot more!

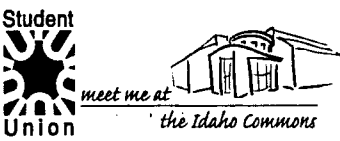
Begin your leadership journey today...

Idaho LEADS

Leadership Education and Development Series
Technology Etiquette
Today, 12:30-1:20 p.m.
Commons Clearwater

Finding Meaning: The Journey in College
Thursday, Feb. 8, 3-4:30 p.m.
Commons Horizon

For more details, please visit www.studentactivities.uidaho.edu/LEADS or contact Student Activities, Leadership and Volunteer Programs at 885-1020 or IDLEADS@sub.uidaho.edu



ICSUcomments@sub.uidaho.edu

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<http://www.sub.uidaho.edu>

Local/BRIEFS

FASFA priority deadline Thursday

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Pre-Application Worksheet is available on the UI Student Financial Aid Services Web site at <http://www.students.uidaho.edu/finaid>.

UI financial aid applicants filing electronically should file by 9:59 p.m. (PST) Thursday for Idaho's priority consideration for the 2007-08 school year.

To reapply for financial aid using an existing PIN to access a renewal FAFSA, visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. To retrieve a missing PIN or request a new one, visit <http://www.pin.ed.gov>. The FAFSA requests income information from 2006 tax filings. If current tax returns are not completed, students should provide estimated incomes on the FAFSA file by the Feb. 15 priority date and make a cor-

rection to the FAFSA with actual figures when available. This will ensure consideration of applications for all available aid programs, even those with limited funding.

For information about financial aid services or application questions visit <http://www.students.uidaho.edu/finaid>, call 885-6312 or e-mail finaid@uidaho.edu.

Reception honors 'Doc' Skinner

The 2007 Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival marks a milestone Feb. 21-24 as it celebrates its 40th year of bringing jazz to UI. The festival will honor Lynn "Doc" Skinner, who retired as executive director of the festival after 31 years.

The community is invited to the "Doc" Skinner Community Appreciation Party from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 21 at both the Prichard Art Gallery, 414 S. Main St., and across the street

at the Hoffman Building, the former Goodwill store, at 504 S. Main St.

The reception features food, refreshments and performances by students from the UI Lionel Hampton School of Music. A formal program begins at 6:15 p.m.

The cost for jazz festival ticket holders is \$7 and \$10 for non-ticket holders. Tickets are available at the door. Jazz festival tickets can be purchased at the event.

For information on the 2007 Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival concerts, workshops and student performances visit www.jazz.uidaho.edu.

Fight heart disease at Gritman fun run

Gritman Medical Center is sponsoring a 'Heart Healthy Event' Saturday at the Palouse Mall. The event will include an indoor walking event, an outdoor Gritman Red Dress Run/Walk, a guest speaker, blood pressure checks and sev-

eral booths to provide information on preventing and controlling heart disease.

Free t-shirts will be given to the first 100 participants. The outdoor walk consists of a 5k run/walk, and the indoor walk includes a course 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.

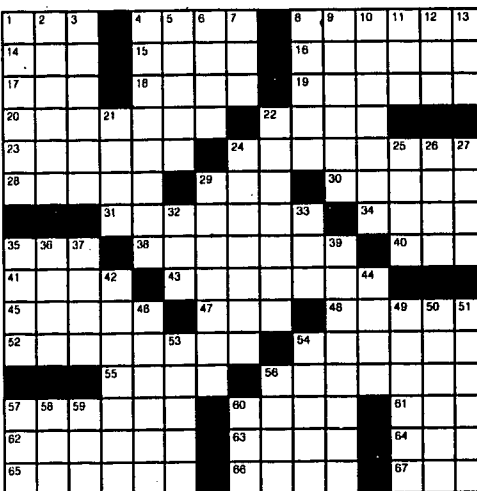
Swing dance at Dahmen Barn

Hog Heaven Big Band will perform at the monthly swing dance beginning Feb. 24 at Artisans at the Dahmen Barn in Untontown.

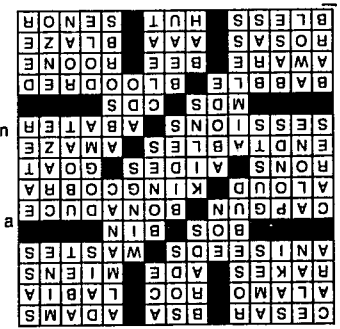
Swing dancing is offered at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of every month. The cost is \$8 per couple and \$5 for a single.

CrosswordPUZZLE

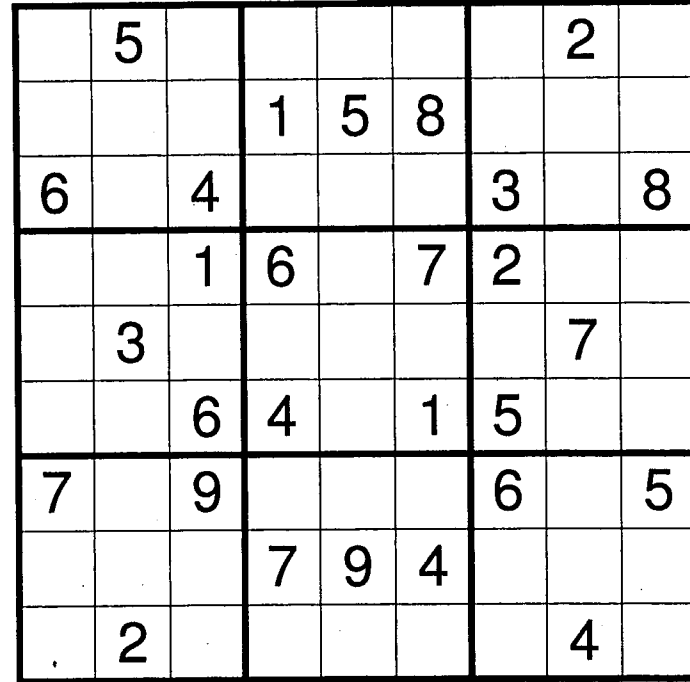
- ACROSS
1 GP group
4 Talon
8 Wake of a scythe
14 Sodom fleer
15 Bad financial situation
16 Hiding places
17 In favor of
18 Good gracious!
19 Kitchen tools
20 Active involvement
22 Possess
23 Warnings
24 Tending to correct
28 Family car
29 Prohibit
30 Ziegfeld Follies, e.g.
31 Christmas burner
34 Satisfy fully
35 Period
38 Adds up
40 Also not
41 Actress Miles
43 Arizona's _____ Desert
45 Watery swelling
47 Quilting event
48 Falls to win
52 Bad 'uns
54 Waterborne
55 Always
56 Worn ornaments
57 Humiliated
60 Bombay wrap
61 S dispenser
62 Therapeutic
63 Jannings or Ludwig
64 Greek X
65 Contents of a will
68 Cain's victim
67 Storm center
- DOWN
1 Greek letters
2 Group's level of optimism
3 Made amends
4 Fleddish-brown horse
5 Corporate IDs
6 Greenspan or Ladd
7 Married
8 Go away quickly
9 Delerment
10 Gives consent
11 Delirious article
12 'I Saw Again Last Night'
13 Double bend
21 Sturdy cart
22 Female lead
24 Recovers from a setback
25 Land of tennis
26 Model T, e.g.
27 Sly look
29 Harp on
32 Track circuit
33 Obtain
35 12/24 and 12/31
36 Decorate again
37 Region
39 Stubborn determination
42 Loss of memory
44 Pineapple brand
46 Arrival
49 Consolation
50 Hearty and natural
51 Thwart
53 Marsh grass
54 Lofty nest
56 Doorway part
57 Hole-in-one
58 Public conveyance
59 Knack
60 Aegean or Caspian



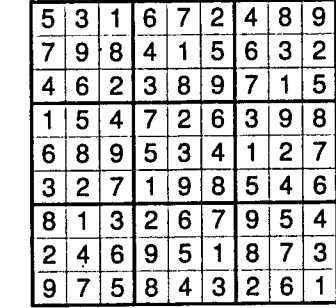
Solutions from 2/9



SudokuPUZZLE



Solutions from 2/9



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

The Argonaut

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UI STUDENT MEDIA BOARD

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

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DangerZone posters stir trouble in Neely Hall

By Jeremy Castillo
Argonaut

When Garrett Allen opened his door in Neely Hall to leave for class, he expected to see an empty wall. Instead, he got a glimpse of an anti-gay poster.

The flyer announced the first meeting of the DangerZone, a club for straight people only. His first reaction was to simply ignore it.

Even at the sight of a second poster, one listing "anti-gay" views, duct-taped to his door, Allen chose to take the passive approach.

He stuck to his guns until rumors began spreading around the all-male hall in Theophilus Tower. That's when he decided to let others know about the posters.

"I thought the student body should be aware such things actually do occur," Allen said. "I think they took it too far. If it was word of mouth, it would have been fine. But the posters went a little too far."

The meeting never took place — rumors around the Tower are the flyers were a practical joke pulled by Neely residents — but the act didn't leave many people laughing.

Allen credited his Core class, Sex & Culture: Women and Men in the 21st Century, for making his own views on this controversial topic more clear.

"Before college I was undecided what my position (about gay relations) was," Allen said. "After taking that class, I decided I support them. ... There's nothing wrong with it. To see the posters made me think 'Wow, people actually are opposed to it.' I've heard of groups that are against certain controversial issues, but I didn't think I would be near anything like that or think I'd see it."

Allen isn't the only one harboring those feelings.

Larissa Edwards, resident assistant of Neely Hall's all-female floor, said she was disappointed after seeing the posters, calling them "immature and hateful at the same time."

Others say they aren't bothered by the flyers, such as Sam Horack, Neely Hall resident and open homosexual. Despite his sexual orientation, Horack is keeping a moderate standpoint on the issue.

"I think the posters are ironic," he said. "I'm gay. I have a boyfriend. But I think both parties are in the wrong."

Horack said he disagrees with using the hall's name because some of its residents wouldn't agree. However, he thinks punishing those involved would be wrong because "we have something called freedom of speech. Or at least I hope we do."

Horack keeps a DangerZone poster

taped to his door. He also wrote on it the following quote by Voltaire, "I may not agree with what you have to say but will defend to the death your right to say it."

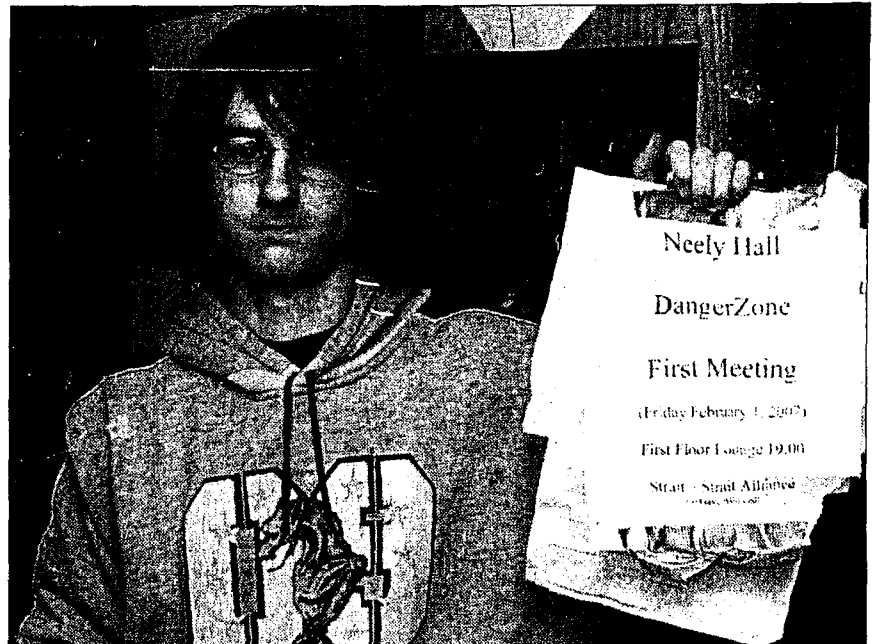
While Horack's attempt to turn hate on its head may be his way of coping, others think it's counteractive to the plight of acceptance.

"I understand that 'right back at you' attitude and using humor in that way," said Rebecca R. Rod, program adviser for the Women's Center. "But if the University Residences' policy is going to be taken seriously, then it works a little bit against that process. Even if it's a gay person saying it's funny."

Rod found out about the posters the day after a SafeZone presentation in Neely Hall on Jan. 31. A male student, whose name she wouldn't disclose, brought the flyers into her office the next day.

"I was shocked," she said. "I felt we had gone there and felt the material was fairly well received. Or maybe it was just the pizza. ... My understanding was it was a group of male student instigators along with a couple kids who went along for the ride."

"Some of us could think it goes with that 'boys will be boys,'" said Rod, an open lesbian. "On the other hand, if you think of the student in their room, dealing with classes, try-



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut
Freshman Garrett Allen holds "Strait - Strait Alliance" flyers that he promptly took down after it was posted in Neely Hall on Jan. 31. The group is not a registered ASUI student organization.

ing to get grades, dealing with if they're gay or not gay, it's a pressure that builds up. And something like this could make them feel unsafe."

However, Rod said, some positive comes from situations such as these.

"The good thing about it is that it brings these issues to the forefront," she said. "In a way, it works for us because problems become more visible and people become more aware. Not that I'm encouraging it, but it is a silver lining."

Holbrook wants to build bridge between Senate and residence halls

By Jeremy Castillo
Argonaut

Senator Garrett Holbrook's main goal in ASUI is to build communication between the Senate and resident hall students.

A former resident of Snow and Gem Halls, Holbrook said he is aware of the negative perceptions coming from the residence hall inhabitants' side of the fence.

Before running for the Senate last November, the University of Idaho junior heard time and again that he couldn't win because ASUI was run by Greeks, for Greeks.

"That was the perception that had been burned into my mind," Holbrook said. "Since I've been elected, (I've found) that's not true. There is a good number of Greek students up here but the perception is wrong."

And with that discovery, Holbrook found his goal: breaking the mindset that fraternity men and sorority women run the ASUI.

"Members of the Greek system may outnumber students from the residence halls," he said. "But that doesn't mean they're up there working for their own agenda. They're here to work for the students. ... I don't know how

many students believe that, but a good majority believes wholeheartedly it's a Greek system. But that's wrong. It's just wrong."

Holbrook said he could name several senators who don't fit that stereotype: Jennifer Mousseau, Justin and Jeffrey Kempf and John Adkins.

meet your SENATORS

"Adkins is a great guy," Holbrook said. "I love talking with him because he'll give you his opinion. Whether you like it or not, that's what it is. He is really working for the benefit of the students. Seeing his willingness to work with every student no matter where they're from changed my opinion very quickly of the work ASUI does up here."

Last November was a different story. Before the elections, the negativity toward the Senate was still firmly planted in the Quilcene, Wash., native's mind.

"Coming from the residence halls, the perception is you don't have a chance," he said. "Upperclassmen when I was a freshman would always tell me, 'It's ASUI. You're from a residence hall. You've got little chance of get-

ting involved or winning an elected position.' And that made me nervous, having that perceived block."

Those feelings came to the forefront last November as the elections drew closer.

"I was worried a lot because there wasn't a whole lot of promotion," Holbrook said. "I was worried that would drive turnout down. Most of the campaigning I did was with people I knew, on Facebook and people in my living groups. I didn't know if I was doing enough."

On the day the results were being tallied, Holbrook's anxiety hit its apex.

"I honest to God thought there was no way I was going to win," he recalled. "I figured I was going to be that person who was going to lose by 10 votes. I went and sat up in Alice's Room up in the Commons and stared outside the window for a half an hour trying to calm myself down."

Luckily for him, the worrying was all for naught. Not only was he elected into ASUI, but he also got more votes than two of the Greek senators.

"I was relieved and I was excited that I would get the chance to be involved in an organization

that impacts so many students," Holbrook said. "I didn't know everything the Senate did but I knew there was some good they could do. There was some way I was going to be involved in the decisions."

One of the benefits he said he sees in having roots in the residence halls instead of a fraternity is the number of people he interacted with on a daily basis. Being in close quarters with so many other students got his name and face out there in ways he never expected.

"Someone who I'd met came up to me at Wal-Mart and told me he voted for me and asked me questions about ASUI," he said. "He was someone I had seen before but I didn't actually know him."

Now that he's in the Senate, he gets the chance to reach out to students through his living groups, Education and Whitman Halls.

"Because I'm not a Greek student," Holbrook said, "I want to tell students we're all here for them, there is no bias and they can come up here and ask ASUI to work on something. That is essentially what I want to do: change the perception so maybe more people from the dorms will be less afraid to get involved. I know it was very intimidating trying to get involved and thinking I had no chance."

Orientation leaders introduce new students to Vandal life

By Shanna Stalwick
Argonaut

The New Student Orientation program is accepting applications for orientation leaders to help incoming freshmen adjust to college life this fall.

"Folks who have a lot of Vandal pride are great candidates for this position," said Elizabeth Higgins, coordinator of orientation and judicial affairs at the University of Idaho.

New student orientation leaders are intended to guide incoming students housed in residence halls or off-campus through their initial days on campus.

Higgins said orientation leaders are similar to sorority recruitment counselors. Both aid in providing a comfortable transition into college life for new students by introducing them to other students and the UI campus.

Groups of roughly 20 new students are paired with an orientation leader who serves as their mentor and guide for four days prior to the start of school.

Group members are generally organized by where they live so new students can meet their neighbors. Off-campus students are grouped with

those who live on the same street or in their same apartment complex, and students living in residence halls are grouped by a particular floor or building.

Last fall around 800 new students signed up for the orientation program, and Higgins said she expects the number to continue rising.

Higgins estimates that about a third of the 60 orientation leaders that participated last fall will return this August, which leaves roughly 40 positions to be filled.

"This has become a much more prestigious position," Higgins said. "It's a great position for someone who wants to start to develop their leadership skills."

Participants can build their resume while developing interpersonal and managerial skills, she added.

Orientation leaders receive a \$200 stipend and are required to attend a week-long seminar similar to a training camp to prepare them for their position and ensure they're knowledgeable about the campus.

Sophomores and juniors are preferred for the orientation leader positions, but Higgins said she and the orientation

advisory team will consider freshman candidates that exhibit leadership experience and strength.

Senior Dan Wheeler has been a part of the New Student Orientation program for the duration of his college experience, but as a freshman moving into Borah Hall in the Wallace Complex, Wheeler had several obstacles to overcome.

Not only did Wheeler consider himself to be shy, a trait he said he found to be "very debilitating," but he also suffered from a broken jaw he sustained in a biking accident a couple weeks earlier.

"It was very hard for me when I came to school," he

said. "I had quite a few physical set backs."

Wheeler attended orientation, but said he felt removed from the process because he was in so much pain.

The following year, Wheeler decided to apply to be an orientation leader and help those similar to him.

"I wanted to help (new students) take down some of their barriers," he said.

Freshman Katie Kinsey lives in Theophilus Tower on-campus and said her orientation experience left a lasting impact that allowed her to get involved on campus, find volunteer work and meet people she may have otherwise not had the chance.

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Application submissions are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 23 to the Office of Orientation, Dean of Students Office in TLC 232 or by e-mail to ehiggins@uidaho.edu.

Applications and orientation registration information can be found at the UI New Student Orientation Web site

www.uidaho.edu/nso.

Orientation registration for new students begins March 1.

Apply to be an orientation leader, help new students adjust to college life, residence halls and off-campus living

"Being a part of it is an honor," Kinsey said. "It really establishes your beginnings on campus."

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A HELPING HAND



Melissa Davlin/Argonaut

Sophomore Kim Castelin assembles hygiene kits to be sent to developing countries Monday morning in the SUB. The kits, which include toothpaste, soap and combs, are being assembled by Students for Humanitarian Aid and can be purchased for \$3 at their booths at the TLC and the SUB through Thursday. "I feel very strongly that, as citizens of a developed nation, we need to help others in need," Castelin said.

National BRIEFS

New breast cancer campaign unveiled

DALLAS — The pink ribbons will still adorn everything from teddy bears to yogurt lids. But now, Susan G. Komen for the Cure is also taking a more provocative approach with its familiar symbol.

New billboards across the nation feature the organization's logo and a woman's upper body in a T-shirt that reads: "We only focus on one thing. Or, depending on how you look at it, two."

A separate print ad features a woman in a tank top with a message promising to pummel breast cancer "until it's good and dead. Not just horror movie dead but really, truly dead. And then we're going to tie a pink ribbon on it."

The agency also recently printed a number of shirts for celebrities and friends of the organization that read: "If You're Going to Stare at My Breasts, You Could At Least Donate A Dollar to Save Them."

The ad campaign is one of several new steps the Komen organization is taking on its 25th anniversary to move its efforts to a new level.

Mom's milk fuels fight

By Blythe Bernhard
The Orange County Register

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A woman who was forced to throw away her breast milk at an airport this month is fighting to change the way nursing mothers are treated in the changing world of high-security travel.

Airport security agents in Las Vegas earlier this month banned Rachel Popplewell of Capistrano Beach, Calif. from bringing her breast milk on a flight to California because she didn't have her baby with her.

Popplewell, who says she followed all the rules for bringing liquids on a plane, sent a written complaint to the Transportation Security Administration, which oversees airport screening.

"You should be allowed to carry it, and you should be treated like a human being who is feeding your child," Popplewell said.

A spokesman for the federal agency said he had not seen a record of the incident.

"If she had exactly what was required, I don't understand what happened," Nico Melendez said. "It should not have happened. Please accept our apology."

Popplewell, a marketing director, flew to Las Vegas for a one-day business trip to a footwear trade show. While there, she used her breast pump to collect 6 ounces of milk, which she planned to bring home to her 9-month-old son, Mason.

Popplewell divided the milk into two 3-ounce bottles and placed the bottles in a zip-top plastic bag, as stipulated by security regulations. But when Popplewell, 40, told a screener at McCarran International Airport what was in the bottles, she was forced to throw her milk away.

The Transportation Security Administration has restricted carry-on liquids since summer after an incident in England alleged to have been a terrorism plot involving liquid explosives. Liquids

must be in 3-ounce containers, which must be in plastic bags.

"If you put your liquid in your 3-ounce container, then you meet the requirements of transporting," spokesman Melendez said. "It could be shampoo, toothpaste or breast milk."

The agency will let a parent carry a larger container of breast milk or baby formula if the parent is traveling with a baby or a toddler.

But Popplewell was told — incorrectly, according to Transportation Security Administration officials — that she needed to have her baby even to carry on 3-ounce bottles of breast milk.

The agency's Web site states that to carry breast milk on a plane "you must be traveling with a baby or toddler" but leaves out the fact that anyone can carry the milk in the appropriate small bottles, with or without a baby.

Popplewell says that if she had her baby with her, she wouldn't need to bring bottles at all.

The confusion has breast-feeding advocates criticizing the policy, which they say creates more headaches for a mother traveling without her child.

"That is probably one of the unfortunate circumstances of this liquid ban," Melendez said. "There's no way for us to know what it is, or to verify that specific need, if there's not a baby with the person."

Popplewell, who has breast-fed all three of her children, said she was heartbroken and outraged at having to throw away her milk. Her meticulous planning, she said, made the loss even more frustrating.

Before leaving on the trip, Popplewell bought a battery pack for her pump and consulted a lactation specialist on how to pump and carry milk while traveling. She then confirmed with John Wayne Airport security officials that she was doing everything the right way.

"I got the feeling that it depended on

the TSA person you encountered," she said. "Anybody who knows anything about pumping knows this is ridiculous. A man must have written the rules or something."

At least one working mother says the rules create additional barriers to breast-feeding, which is recommended by government health experts for a baby's first year.

"It's the world saying you can't have it all. You can't breast-feed your kid and go on a business trip," said Lindsay Sterling, a food writer from Maine who wrote about having to throw away her breast milk before a flight in October.

"It felt worse than throwing dollars in the trash," she said. "You have to work really hard for that milk. That breast milk is a symbol of your connection to your child."

It's unclear how often the breast-milk rules prompt complaints. Melendez said his Western region received one complaint before hearing about Popplewell.

Nursing mothers who are away from their babies need to pump and collect milk at regular intervals to maintain their milk supply and prevent pain and swelling.

While many working mothers continue to pump, returning to work is cited as the No. 1 reason mothers stop nursing.

Studies have consistently shown that breast milk is superior to formula because it offers protection from infections, among other benefits. Long-term studies show that breast-fed babies also have lower rates of obesity, diabetes, allergies and asthma.

Breast milk should receive the same exemptions that apply to blood or bone marrow, advocates say.

"If you are allowed to bring life-sustaining liquids on a plane, then breast milk needs to be considered in that category," said Kristie Holt, president of the Orange County Breastfeeding Coalition. "It's not like throwing away a Coke."

ASUI
from page A1

make the bus a self-sufficient program. (But) without this, the bus would be dead in the water."

Another transportation cost Cerrillo asked for was a one-time \$1.50 increase to buy two new vans for the Outdoor Program ASUI sponsors.

"They need to replace 15-passenger vans (because) they are no

longer safe and the university will no longer be using them," Cerrillo said. "Unfortunately, that means the vans the program uses now have to be replaced. One van was going to be replaced anyway because of its mileage. We need to find money to replace it so the Outdoor Program can continue to provide its service to students."

Another portion of ASUI's proposal was \$6 to fund Alternative Service Break projects.

Of that, \$3 would be allocated to ASB's domestic volunteer efforts.

Cerrillo said this increase was necessary to cover the influx of interest in the ASB program. Enrollment has grown consistently since 2002, from 12 to 101 people.

"As we get more participants, it costs more to send people to places," Cerrillo said. "Previously, (ASUI) had \$20,000 to subsidize the costs. This \$3 would add to that dollar amount and provide \$375 for up to 200 students. That makes a trip like what we're doing this Spring Break (cost the students) about \$100 to \$150, which is reasonable considering that they're flying almost three-quarters across the United States. It pays for food and any registration or housing. So it's a fantastic experience for a very modest price."

ASUI Senator Ashley Cochran will participate in this year's trip to New Orleans. She's never visited The Big Easy, but chose to volunteer there instead of going home or partying in Mexico with friends during Spring Break.

"I was talking about it with Steve Janowiak (ASUI's Assistant Director of Student Activities)," Cochran said. "I wanted to see what happened with Hurricane Katrina and experience it firsthand instead of watching it on the news."

With the other \$3, Cerrillo

wants to develop the ASB Global Initiative, a project funding student volunteer work in foreign countries.

"With more students participating, they're beginning to want to do more in more places," Cerrillo said. "If we have the chance to go abroad to areas that have poverty and hunger issues, we'd like to be able to make those experiences available to students as well as improve the quality of life in the places we'd travel."

"We tried to have that happen during this past Winter Break. Unfortunately, the trips cost too much and we couldn't make them near affordable for any number of students to go. We want to make that happen, so the \$3 would subsidize 50 students per year for up to \$1,000 to travel abroad and work on service projects."

Such projects could include building orphanages in South America, helping to build homes in Ireland now that the IRA has turned in their guns and helping African communities with health and poverty issues, Cerrillo said.

The final portion on ASUI's proposed fee increases is 50 cents per student for the Senate itself. Depending on enrollment, the total comes to roughly \$8,000.

One-fourth of that money would fund retreats to better the senators as a team.

"What we want them to do is to take \$2,000 and put it toward their retreat budget," said ASUI Vice President Travis Shofner.

Right now the allocation for retreats is \$500 per semester, which Shofner said is not nearly enough.

"Most of that gets eaten up in meals and gas and renting vehicles," he said. "They are limited in where they can go, what activities they participate

in and how long they can stay. It's usually a day-long thing because obviously they can't stay overnight anywhere."

Other people may not consider that expense a big deal, but it's crucial senators get together to work on their leadership skills, Shofner said.

"We haven't been able to do that over the last couple years because the money doesn't allow us to facilitate any kind of meaningful retreat for them," Shofner said.

The other \$6,000 would allow the Senate to fund programs at their discretion. A recent example is the Women's Center's Step and Stroll Program, which the senators voted to help pay for at last week's meeting.

If this part of the proposal is passed, then the Senate would have more of a bankroll to give events and activities.

"Every semester groups say 'We need \$500' or they need this or that," Shofner said. "Other examples are people who want to go to conferences that wouldn't fit in other areas on campus, so they don't have the funding options others would have."

"When individuals come to the Senate, it doesn't have a fund where they can pay for these things to help students realize their goals. This would give (the Senate) a little bit of flexibility without dipping into other budget areas or the General Reserve."

The General Reserve already gets a fraction of fees — \$67.65 per student, along with 50 cents for ASUI activities. Student fees also pay for athletics, operations of facilities such as the Idaho Commons and the Kibbie Dome and Health Services.

Last year, student fees increased to \$1,984 from \$1,816 in 2005. Time will tell how much Vandals will pay come August.

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Obama enters 2008 presidential race

By Christi Parsons
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Sen. Barack Obama officially entered the race for president Saturday in the Illinois capital, urging Americans who hear "destiny calling" to join him in "the unfinished business of perfecting our union," then headed out to start campaigning in earnest in the battleground state of Iowa.

Against the backdrop of the Old State Capitol where Abraham Lincoln once served in the state legislature, the Illinois Democrat launched his campaign surrounded by thousands of supporters who traveled from around the state and country and braved freezing temperatures to witness an event many of them described in historic terms.

Sounding themes of hope and common purpose, Obama invoked the memory of Lincoln in calling for an end to the cynicism he says cleaves the nation, so that a united America can confront its problems at home and abroad.

"People who love their country can change it," Obama

said. "That's what Abraham Lincoln understood. He had his doubts. He had his defeats. . . But through his will and his words, he moved a nation and helped free a people."

But as Obama departed immediately for Iowa, the raucous crowd and frenzied applause of the morning quickly gave way to difficult questions. Voters at a town hall meeting quizzed Obama about everything from the Iraq war and North Korea to education funding and race relations.

A seasoned electorate known for its careful vetting of candidates in the early presidential caucuses, voters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, responded enthusiastically but with much more restraint.

"A small percentage of people here are supporting Barack Obama," said Steve Sovern, a former state senator and local Democrat who moderated the meeting at the Kennedy High School gymnasium. "Voters here take the caucus seriously and they measure candidates carefully. They'll be back to hear Obama and other candidates many times before they make up their minds."

It was a dose of reality Obama said he was expecting would come as soon as he announced his candidacy. The competition for the Democratic nomination is heating up more each day, with Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York raising the bar for campaign fundraising and a host of candidates crowding into the field.

Voters will want to "check under the hood and kick the tires" now, Obama said Saturday afternoon.

"The novelty's going to wear off," Obama said. "People are going to be (thinking), 'Aw, it's Obama, he's coming through town again' . . . People are going to be able to ask me some questions you couldn't ask me this time out."

The heavy presence of security around Obama was also a silent reminder of the change that took place with the announcement. Michelle Obama, the candidate's wife, acknowledged it in an interview to air on CBS's "60 Minutes," in which she was asked if she fears for her husband's life as a black candidate.

"I don't lose sleep over it because the realities are that . . . as a black man . . . Barack can get shot going to the gas station," observed Michelle Obama in the interview, set to air Sunday night. "You can't make decisions based on fear and the possibility of what might happen."

In Springfield, a crowd of police estimated at 15,000 or more began to gather in the early morning around the stage erected on the lawn of the old Capitol. Supporters crowded inside the fence around the building and spilled out onto surrounding streets, clutching hand-made signs and cups of coffee to brave a single-digit wind chill factor.

Obama took the stage with his wife and two young daughters, as strains of the U2 song "City of Blinding Lights" blared over loud speakers. Sharpshooters watched from the tops of several buildings overhead while Obama delivered an address now familiar in its condemnation of political cynicism and its gauzy description of a better America.

Though acknowledging what he called the "presumptuousness" of running for office after only two years in

the Senate, Obama spun his lack of experience in national politics as a good thing.

"I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change," he said. He extolled the benefits of his history as a community organizer in Chicago, a state lawmaker and civil rights lawyer, and called for quick action to end the Iraq war and bring home American troops, as well as to provide quality health care for all and to end America's dependence on foreign oil.

Repeatedly, Obama invoked the memory of Lincoln, who delivered his famous "House Divided" speech in the building that served as his backdrop.

"It was here, in Springfield, where North, South, East and West come together, that I was reminded of the essential decency of the American people," Obama said, referring to his time in the state legislature that now meets a few blocks away in the new state Capitol. "That is why, in the shadow of the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln once called on a divided house to stand together,

where common hopes and common dreams still live, I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for president of the United States."

Listeners in one corner of the crowd had a hard time hearing Obama because of the loud chants of protesters objecting to Obama's support for abortion rights. Obama spoke in an even tone and didn't appear deterred by them, though their presence was a not-so-subtle reminder that his future as a presidential candidate won't be as easy and light as the months leading up to it.

Republicans also injected a bit of skepticism to counter the months of celebrity that Obama has enjoyed since his 2004 address at the Democratic National Convention.

"His speech could have been given by any candidate, Republican or Democrat," Illinois GOP party chairman Andy McKenna said of the morning announcement. "He's very popular, but will he embrace some ideas that distinguish him? It remains to be seen."

More pilots bring guns aboard

By Ken Kaye
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Five years after the Sept. 11 attacks, a growing number of U.S. airline pilots are packing heat, prepared to use lethal force to protect the cockpit. Soon, they will carry badges, bringing them even closer to being bona fide law enforcement officers.

"Every cop has that metal badge to flash," said John Mazor, spokesman for the Air Line Pilots Association. "It is a valid recognition signal between law enforcement officers."

Officially known as federal flight deck officers, these are the airline pilots who keep side arms handy to provide one more layer of security and a last line of defense.

About 8,000 pilots now tote government-issued guns on a voluntary basis, or about 8 percent of the nation's 100,000 pilots, according to the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, a grassroots organization that advocates increased cockpit security. Two years ago, about 3,000 pilots were armed.

Although there have been no reports of pilots drawing their weapons since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the federal government has granted pilots slightly more leeway in how they take guns on board planes.

Notably, pilots now can lock their guns into holsters, which are then placed in an unassuming bag. After pilots are in the cockpit, the holsters are removed from the bag and latched onto their belts. Previously, the guns had to be transported onto planes in a heavy steel box.

To further fold pilots into the police community, the federal flight deck officer program has been placed under the Federal Air Marshal Service, an arm of the Transportation Security Administration. Last month the marshal service approved issuing badges to pilots so they are more easily identifiable.

"We're a law enforcement agency, so we understand the culture they're trying to develop as federal flight deck officers," said Conan Bruce, air marshal service spokesman.

To become flight deck officers, pilots undergo six days of intense training at a federal complex in Artesia, N.M., including weapons handling and close-combat techniques. Most importantly, they learn "how to use the appropriate level of force," Bruce said.

In one exercise, they are placed in a simulated, darkened cockpit. Then intruders attempt to overpower them. The pilots must decide whether to draw guns or confront the

attackers physically, Bruce said.

"It can be anything from a lethal force scenario to an intoxicated passenger," he said.

After graduation, the TSA issues the pilots a Heckler & Koch .40 caliber semiautomatic revolver.

Yet some pilots feel the federal flight deck officer program has a long way to go.

One problem is that a tedious enrollment process discourages pilots from applying, said David Mackett, president of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance. The process includes, among other things, a psychological evaluation and a background investigation.

Then, pilots must pay for transportation to the training site and usually end up forgoing \$3,000 to \$4,000 in pay during that week, he said.

Another problem: Many pilots object to rigid rules governing how the guns must be handled. For instance, during a flight, pilots are not allowed to take guns out of the cockpit to go to the restroom. Yet that is when the cockpit is most vulnerable to attack, said Mackett, a captain for a major airline.

"The moment the cockpit door is open, that federal flight deck officer doesn't have a weapon on him, and that just makes no sense," he said.

As a result of such restrictions, he said about 50,000 pilots have declined to volunteer for the program. In turn, he said, only about 4 percent of domestic flights have an armed pilot.

Pilots are not allowed to carry weapons on international flights because the United States has yet to win approval for the program from other nations, Bruce said.

Dean Roberts, an Orlando, Fla.-based pilot with a major airline, said he was rejected by the federal flight deck officer program because he voiced criticism of how it was managed.

Roberts, who is a member of the Airline Pilots Security Alliance, said he has no desire to try again because the rules imply the government doesn't trust pilots with guns.

As an example, he said a pilot riding as a passenger in the back of the plane is forbidden from using a gun if a passenger becomes dangerous. "It's rules like that — just-because-we-said-so rules — that keep a large percentage of guys from participating," he said.

Bruce, of the Federal Air Marshal Service, disagreed, saying that most classes are full. About 50 pilots are trained each week.

HPV vaccine reviewed

By Judy Peres and Bruce Japsen
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Seven months after the U.S. government recommended that all preteen girls be vaccinated against the virus that causes cervical cancer, at least two dozen are struggling to decide how to make that happen.

One option would be to add the vaccine to the list of shots required for admission to school, which the governor of Texas did on Feb. 2. Proposed legislation in Illinois and 17 other states would mandate immunization; other bills would require the state to pay for the vaccine or force insurance carriers to do so.

The topic is controversial because the virus — human papillomavirus, or HPV — is sexually transmitted. Conservative groups, who concede that the vaccine should be available, vehemently oppose making it mandatory because they believe it implicitly encourages premarital sex.

Some other critics point out that HPV, unlike measles or chicken pox, cannot be transmitted through casual contact. Others note that the HPV vaccine is expensive — \$120 for each shot in a required series of three, compared with less than \$20 for a flu shot.

Proponents agree that any mandated vaccine should be free to anyone who can't pay. Those with good private insurance are expected to be covered, and Illinois provides free vaccines to uninsured children and those on Medicaid. But about 10 percent of children are thought to have insurance that won't cover the vaccine.

"If we're going to consider

requiring it, the more important question is, 'Is it so valuable that we collectively are going to put together the resources to make sure the underinsured have an equal opportunity to be protected?'" said Jerry Stermer, president of Voices for Illinois Children.

Members of the Illinois General Assembly are considering two separate bills on the issue. The House legislation, sponsored by Rep. Naomi Jakobsson, D-Urbana, would apply to all girls entering 6th grade and take effect in August 2008.

The bill sponsored by state Senate Majority Leader Debbie Halvorson, D-Crete, would phase in a requirement for all 11- and 12-year-olds entering any grade. The deadline to be vaccinated would be August 2009.

"We're giving it two years to work out the kinks," said Halvorson.

Her bill also would require the state to provide free vaccine to the estimated 18,000 11- and 12-year-olds whose vaccination would not be covered by public or private insurance, which she said would cost up to \$4 million a year.

Under both bills, the state would develop a campaign to increase awareness of HPV. And both would allow parents to opt out of the vaccination on medical or religious grounds, but only after being informed of the link between HPV and cancer.

According to a recent study by the National Cancer Institute, only 40 percent of U.S. women have heard of HPV, and less than half of those were aware of the virus' connection to cervical cancer.

Stacie Geller, who chairs the state's Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force, said

the panel had hoped education would be enough to achieve a high level of vaccination coverage, or "herd immunity." But the committee is rethinking its position.

"Mandating the vaccine for school-age children is probably the ideal long-term strategy" to achieve broad immunity and guarantee universal access, Geller said.

The committee has yet to submit its recommendations to the Illinois Department of Public Health, where a department official said the state has no position on mandating the HPV vaccine.

Geller said she favors phasing in the mandate over a couple of years.

"It needs to be explained that in many ways this is a vaccine like other vaccines that we give to healthy children. You want to protect against cervical cancer and not get caught up in the mode of transmission," she said. "If we told people you get HPV by coughing, they'd be in the doctor's office in a minute. But nobody wants to think about their daughter having sex."

The vaccine, Gardasil, protects against four common strains of HPV that cause 70 percent of all cases of cervical cancer. It was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in June. A few weeks later, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended the vaccine be given to all girls ages 11 and 12 and said it could be given as early as 9. A vaccine for boys is not yet available.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the U.S., infecting about 20 million people. It is responsible for virtually all cases of cervical cancer, which kills 3,700 American women a year.

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OurVIEW

Students need info about COE

There are a lot of rumors going around the University of Idaho's College of Education. The COE is in the process of having its accreditation criteria reviewed by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education after being given accreditation with conditions in 2004. While Dean Paul Rowland stated in The Argonaut Friday that he anticipates that status will be lifted, potential graduates of the COE are still scared.

The Argonaut is here to help set the record straight.

According to Rowland, even if the COE loses its teacher education and school personnel accreditation, students enrolled in the program will still be able to graduate, receive their degrees and be certified to teach in Idaho and other states.

"(Students) are certified with or without accreditation status," Rowland said.

OK everyone, you can stop panicking now.

Accreditation is a confusing subject, mostly because of its varying definition across campus, even within colleges. The COE has several different programs that are accredited by different professional organizations. And accreditation has varying degrees of significance for different programs across the university. For example, many law and engineering firms require employees to have attended an accredited university, while it is less of a concern for students in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

The important thing for students in the COE isn't accreditation, it's certification. UI is a certified institution by the Idaho State Board of Education. The COE is an approved program by the state, which inspects the program and makes sure it meets standards and adequately trains students.

To ease fears even more, here's this: Idaho is a part of a national set of agreements, Rowland said, that allows transferability of certification from one state to another. Because the COE is a state-approved program, he said, graduates can get certified in about 40 states across the nation.

"To the best of my knowledge, (accreditation) doesn't have any impact on employability," Rowland said.

So why are people all fired up about accreditation if it doesn't affect students? That's easy: It looks good. If UI loses accreditation, it will become the only university in Idaho to have an unaccredited teaching program. At a university facing enrollment difficulties, losing accreditation could be problematic. If students think that UI isn't a good program because it's not accredited, they will go elsewhere.

But for those of you who are already here: breathe easy. You can still graduate, get your degree and get a job in Idaho or a different state. If you are still concerned about the effects accreditation will have on your future, talk to someone. Don't spread uninformed rumors. Talk to your adviser. Rowland said he is willing to talk to anyone who is concerned. You can e-mail him at paulrowland@uidaho.edu or make an appointment with the COE at 885-6772. For information about the NCATE's standards and accreditation process, visit its Web site at www.ncate.org.

— S.C. for the editorial board



C. Scott Aguilar/Argonaut

Intoxication brings on political epiphany

On Saturday I awoke to a phone call from a friend of mine. He wanted to do something rather odd: drive to a town called Genesee and tailgate a crab feed. I, of course, had to play devil's advocate on the phone to figure out what the point of going to another town to drink was.

OK, so it's a crab feed, a charity or fundraiser of some kind. Except the town suspends open container laws and everyone drinks in the street beforehand. I figured why the hell not, it's Saturday.

I got into the car with a group of friends and headed down to Genesee to see what it was all about. To my surprise, the non-enforcement of open containers was extended to the bars as well.

It was when I was jay-walking across the town's main thoroughfare with a well vodka tonic in one hand, a can of PBR in the other and a bottle of Canadian whiskey in the chest pocket of my jacket (which I had taken from a friend that "drank enough already"), I realized something quite profound. I just might be a Libertarian.

America, for a country that claims to be a free society, has way too many laws. The overall lack of laws being enforced on Saturday was very comfortable. Taking advantage of the

lack of open container laws made me realize a great deal of our laws are unnecessary and contrary to the idea of America.

This country was founded under the guise of dissatisfaction with certain legal constructs at the time of the Revolution. The original design of American law was intended to be open and flexible. But, somewhere along the line, idealism was apparently replaced by some other mantra.

The people of this country don't bother themselves with thinking about the general foundations of their society, let alone our approach to controlling our own society. The rule of law is a non-negotiable aspect of America. This is something I agree with. What ruffles my feathers is the broad scope of law in modern America.

As a democracy, the people of this country make laws for one another. Take for example the consumption of alcohol in public places. Some people like drinking, some people don't. Some people like drinking in public, some people don't. Some people are offended by other people drinking in public so they make a law prohibiting it. Some people continue to drink in public and get tickets for doing so because some a-hole made it illegal.



Travis Galloway
Columnist
arg_opinion@sub.
uidaho.edu

MailBOX

Thanks for improved food at the Commons

I would like to say "thank you" to Mike Thomsen, Jerry Curtis and the rest of the campus dining and food staff for the great improvements to campus dining this semester. Students asked for changes and those changes were realized nearly immediately. For those of you who are not aware of these changes, let me explain.

In the Commons last semester, it seemed it would take a long time between ordering and actually receiving your food. Once you did receive your food, it was rare you could get a meal (entrée, side and drink) for less than \$6. Also, the variety of foods available never changed and eventually the Commons became a house of boring foods and high prices.

Now, the Commons is actually becoming a place where students can eat well and do so on a tight budget. Each day there is a different budget item that is usually 99 cents. Small deli sandwiches, hamburgers, rice bowls and pepperoni pizza are examples of what's on the 99 cent menu. Also, the vegetables being used taste better and include more variety than before.

The speed of the service has increased. For those students who use debit or credit cards, as long as the purchase is under \$25, we do not have to wait for a receipt to print so we can sign it. We can just slide our cards through and move on with our day. For those who use cash, there are now more cashiers to go to than before.

Lastly, I attended the Caribbean Night at the Wallace Food Court and I have to say that it was good food with good fun. The atmosphere was appropriate with treasure, pirate movies, crab cakes and other types of Caribbean food that is usually not

on the menu. It was a great change-up to everyday dining as well as a way for students to meet the people who are working so hard to make their culinary experience enjoyable.

Thank you again to Mike, Jerry and the rest of the staff that have made these changes possible. We are noticing them and we appreciate your work in making UI dining better everyday.

Humberto M. Cerrillo, II
ASUI President
Senior, international studies,
economics and Spanish

Blame publishers for high book prices

I am a UI bookstore employee. I'm not in management, nor am I involved in any decision-making processes at the store. I do, on the other hand, deal directly with customers (read "students") who provide never-ending gripes about the prices of books. I agree with these gripes, for the most part. Before we begin pointing fingers, though, we should make sure that we are pointing them in the right place.

The University of Idaho bookstore is a retail business, just like any other. Well, actually, there is one major difference: We buy and sell to both our students and our suppliers.

Let's follow just one book: A professor says "I want my students to use this book," so we buy a certain lot of these books. We sell them, new and used, to the students. At the end of the semester, assuming we buy these books back, we have our pile of them. If we aren't going to use them next semester, we have to sell and ship them back to the supplier. This is, in fact, where most of the money we make goes: shifting books back and forth between the bookstore and our suppliers.

I have to assume that some of these gripers believe the store gets the books for next to nothing and

then sells them for outrageous fortunes. I beg our students to pour over this for a minute, and then throw it out. It doesn't happen this way. Publishers charge large amounts of money and are constantly producing new, updated editions.

And, of course, you can buy your books and never read them, just as you can enroll and never go to class. It's your education, and you're paying for it. None of this is the bookstore's jurisdiction: We simply provide you with the books your professor told us to. What you do with them and your money is up to you.

Sean Quallen
junior, mechanical engineering

Clemson party clearly involved racism

First and foremost I just wanted to start off and say that I do respect Tecla Markosky's opinion, but I honestly feel that her writing her opinion on this issue did an injustice to the whole situation ("Racism not the issue in gangsta parties," Feb. 6).

The incident that happened at Clemson was clearly racism. On top of that, this is not the first time an incident like this has been covered by the media. Two white students at Texas A&M made a mockery video of a slave master beating his black slave (a white student painted black) and posted it on YouTube. The idea that Miss Markosky painted of the whole situation as being just a joke and not racism definitely falls under the concept of "cultural hegemony."

The fact of the matter is that the civil rights movement did not accomplish everything. Blacks are still being treated differently from whites and not looked upon as equals in every marginal scale in America, from higher interest rates to cheaper wages and even discrimination on a campus that is dominated by whites.

See MAILBOX, page 7

Off theCUFF

Quick takes on life from our editors

Lovely rhino

The art of rhinoceros prints in William Kentridge's exhibit at the Prichard Gallery right now are some of the most amazing pieces of art I've seen lately. Kentridge is a master of simplicity — he can make a few quick lines into something dynamic and surprising. The exhibit is up until April 1. Don't miss it.

— Tara

True (pet) love

There is a woman in London who loved her pets to a point that I can't really understand. She took the ashes of her deceased cat and dog and compressed the carbon into a diamond ring. It cost her just over 3,200 pounds (\$6,200). Now, I love my pets dearly, and they're definitely part of my family, but I think it would weird me out (and not really be worth the money) to wear my pets around on my hand. But maybe that's just me.

— Miranda

Tsk, tsk

I'm sure UI athletes appreciate the continuous support of the UI pep band. However, I'm requesting a bit more thought and respect from the band members. It's great the band cheers during the game and encourage Vandal fans to be more interactive during the games. During Saturday's game against Utah State, I heard band members yell several offensive remarks at the women's basketball team. For example, I heard a band member say, "Have my babies, Sara," referring to Sara Denney, a UI women's basketball player. It was quite rude and inappropriate. I guess all I'm saying is remind yourselves that you are representatives of the university and the students. Please don't give anyone any reason, to ever question the respect you have for fellow students.

— Mackenzie

Anna Nicole fantasy

Not to beat it to death, but the Anna Nicole Smith paternity story is so good, you couldn't come up with a better one. I'm just going to put my vote in the mix for who I am hoping the father will be. I'm hoping that Prince Frederic von Anhalt, husband of Zsa Zsa Gabor, will come out as the winner. I can't even imagine how beautiful it would be to see Gabor and von Anhalt accepting the Anna Nicole love child into their family and raising her as their own. I'm crossing my fingers.

— Ryli

Buy your own flowers

It's been a few years since I've had a Valentine's Day date, so I've taken it upon myself to use this holiday as a chance to expand my cultural experiences. Last year, I took in an Italian opera in Rome that was beautiful and amazing, but not really an option every Valentine's Day. Lucky for me, the Palouse has some events to offer as well. This year, I celebrated a little early and went to the Russian ballet in Pullman Sunday. And although the smell of hot dogs was not quite the same as that of the perfumed Venetian merlot I have impressed into my memory, I still was able to forget that I was near Moscow, Idaho, and for a moment, thought I was actually in Moscow, Russia. So for all you single women out there on Valentine's Day, don't begrudge this "Hallmark Holiday" — as many of us refer to it. Instead, embrace it and use it as an excuse to splurge a little on yourself.

— Cynthia

Burned out on Anna

Why are we still talking about Anna Nicole Smith? Sure, it's sad that she died, but 41 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq just this month. Where are their individual tributes? Let's start focusing on people who actually contribute to society.

— Melissa

This space is MySpace

The powers-that-be at Myspace announced Monday that they will be experimenting with video filtering technology to keep copyrighted materials off of the site. This will not in anyway protect children from sexual predators, mind you, just keep them from watching music videos. But wait, what if it's an R. Kelly video?

— Alec

Editorial Policy

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

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

Letters Policy

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

- Letters should be less than 300 words typed.

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

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

Racism a reality in most of North Idaho

I couldn't help but laugh at the first few lines of the staff editorial on Feb. 2 ("Take advantage of cultural events"). Not that it wasn't correct — Hayden Lake doesn't have the raging Nazi-heads anymore — but the discussion of Idaho's less than stellar background in the minority rights category was what made me smirk.



Ryan West
Guest columnist
arg_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu

I moved from southern California to North Idaho when I was in high school. Looking back on my time there some four years later, I can't help but wonder if the Aryan Nations leaving the area even made a difference. I can remember hearing about the parade protests and the people angry that they were getting hate-literature in their mailboxes. I can remember being shocked when we got our first piece of hate mail.

I also remember going to school and not seeing a single African American person for over a year. I remember my high school history teacher being shocked to hear that, where I grew up, whites were the racial minority. He was shocked so much, in fact, that he questioned the validity of a paper I wrote on that very subject.

I remember coming out to some of my peers up there too, and losing what I thought was the closest knit group of friends I had ever had based on a sexual preference. I remember hearing the words "n—r" and "f—t" used in every other sentence by male and female students (and some staff in passing, too). I remember my younger siblings wondering why mom and dad said it was okay for their big brother to be gay when their

peers and people out on the streets didn't.

I know that some people will read this and think "Well I grew up around there, and I never experienced that type of behavior." That's fine. They're either

fortunate or oblivious. But when I go home for the holidays and hear my younger brother make a racist joke without batting an eyelash, or hear the lady in front of me at Starbucks make a snide comment to her friend that some "damn Mexican" is working the register I think to myself

that I can't just be in all the wrong places at the wrong times.

There are no coincidences, just unfortunate moments where you realize that certain parts of certain places have gone through little cultural progression in the past 50 years. North Idaho might be expanding and becoming more modern, but the heart and soul of that area remains the same. And it frightens me sometimes.

I hope that as many people as possible visit the Office of Multicultural Affairs once in a while and punch their friends in the arm when they're playing Xbox and say "Dude, that joke was NOT cool."

I am fortunate to have truly found friends and coworkers that embody this new idea of open spaces and open minds. How many people can say the same?

Has Idaho really changed? Maybe. At least some of it has. But I'm still waiting for other parts of it to catch up.

Ryan West is a junior journalism major at the University of Idaho. He also works for Blot! magazine.

Houston, we have a problem

A female astronaut lost her mind recently. I'm sure you've heard. It's an interesting tale of adult diapers, love and outer space. It's about psychotic episodes, bad decisions and a BB gun. It's a deeply human story and it's very sad.

Space exploration is a national priority. Take-off is always a proud moment for the American people; our eyes mist, our anthem plays, we touch our heart. Astronauts are our winners, our best and brightest. We encourage our kiddos to shoot for the moon because of them. We lace our astronauts up into two-zillion-dollar space coats and launch them into the abyss. It's a patriotic thing, space exploration. America didn't get to colonize much, so here we are, shooting our buckaroos into the Milky Way. It's the last frontier and our astronauts are our conquistadors, our tough guys in bazillion-buck ships.

So naturally, being so doggone brainy and all, when something goes wrong, it really goes wrong.

Astronaut Lisa Nowak gets into her car and drives from Houston to Orlando to kidnap a female co-worker for messin' with her man. Everything about her actions is utterly bizarre and it's sensational news.

Society's position on ballsy moves is quite clear. When men attempt to do something bold, it can be considered romantic, desirable, calculated. When women do it, dear Lord, the poor wench is always desperate and psychotic. We shower her with judgment, call her a loon and send her back inside.

It's a stretch to call this one ballsy. Nowak's decision was no help in lifting this stereotype. What the hell was she thinking?

What she did was amazingly irrational and she got busted. There's little dispute except for the question of what now?

The name of our justice system's game is judgment. And judge her it will; they'll move her through, scrutinize her, sentence her. Shake their long, terrible fingers at her. Call her a bad mother and a crazed lunatic, stupid. She'll lose her job. Her marriage is toast.

And that's the lighter part. What the justice system will do pales in comparison to what the world will do.

Reserving judgment, as Fitzgerald once put, is a matter of infinite hope. If we define our lives by our autonomy, our professional prowess and our interpersonal relationships, this woman's life is over. She might do jail time and she might not. Either way, she'll be treated as a prisoner in the public's eye for the rest of her life. Nowak proves the potency of one really poor decision.

I think of how easily I make poor decisions. I do the dumbest damn things every day of my life. Most are goofy, standard-grade, having to do with the hazards of domesticity; some are self-inflicted, involving alcohol and other judgment elixirs. When I act like a bonehead, the consequences usually just affect me.

Nowak made a mistake, but it's different. When leveling with Nowak, we can't

call it lack of brains; our astronauts are the village whiz kids. Can't say it's age or experience, she has both. She's been cleared medically and mentally countless times for her tours around the moon.

It appears that a pulse of that day — albeit it's a hell of a pull from Houston to Orlando — she made a series of super bad decisions.

We learn early that making mistakes is a part of life and it's OK and learning is everything and when all else fails, contrition is cool and good, the earth's still spinning and the sun also rises so we dry our eyes, mend our egos, pull our knickers up and move on. We learn how to bounce. It's lickety-split, baby, sorry 'bout that.

And then there are moments when lickety-split won't do. There are mistakes so terrible that they'll change your life. Where there ain't no bounce.

This woman's lawyer might get her charges knocked down to something manageable. If she's very lucky, she'll still have a hand in the raising of her three children. But even so, in the court of public opinion, she's doomed.

That's when compassion kicks in. We will never know what she was thinking. Many of us will never be in such a bind. It's hard to relate.

So what now? The Buddhists say that compassion is everything. This is a sad story. It appears that we only get one shot on Earth and she may've lost everything. There's no room for judgment here. It doesn't cost anything to be kind. In matters of lunar cycles and lunacy, despite adult diapers and poor choices and the public opinion, we must look at this woman with compassion, to infinity and beyond.



Tecla Markosky
Columnist
arg_opinion@sub. uidaho.edu

Leaving aside for the moment the statement that undergraduates aren't smart (because everyone gets in college, right?), leaving aside the insinuation that what is hip-hop is what it is to be black, what bothers me the most is

the dismissive attitude of Tecla Markosky's column. Yes ma'am, this is newsworthy. This is something that needs to be talked about. Not so much because of the tasteless nature of the party, but because of what it means: These kids can get together for a night and pretend to be real G's from the hood, but at the end of the night, they get to go back to being white. They don't have to deal with any of the negative consequences of being black in America.

Instead these undergrads get to go right back to enjoying those things in our society inherently geared to benefit whites.

That's what's infuriating about this situation. They are

just pretending to be black, while at their core they're still benefiting from being members of the dominant group of this nation. They're not experiencing the societal and institutional costs of being nonwhite in America. I would guarantee that almost all of them don't even recognize it as such either. That's the core of it; that's the hegemonic process of white dominance at work.

We need to talk about race again, as a nation. And it's going to take more than the 300-odd words I'm allowed here. So I say this is something we need to talk about, and not dismiss as "boozing college kids."

Matthew VanZeipel Senior, political science

MAILBOX from page 6

Caucasians are born with an advantage over any other race in society just because they are white and there are facts and studies to prove it.

To touch on another point, humor is not humor! What is funny to you might not be so humorous to the next and I do not know what world people live in, but in today's society how many people will go up to another race and tell a joke about that individual's race to their face? These students went as far as painting themselves in "black face." Black face began around 1828 and

was used to mock blacks in a stereotypical and racist manner. So the idea of throwing a party the day before a civil rights leader's birthday in black face and so-called "gangsta wear" is disrespect like no other!

Thomas E. Quarles Junior, justice studies

'Gangsta' party is newsworthy

Leaving aside for the moment the statement that undergraduates aren't smart (because everyone gets in college, right?), leaving aside the insinuation that what is hip-hop is what it is to be black, what bothers me the most is

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Matthew VanZeipel Senior, political science

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Hours/Week: 15-40+
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AM Baker Job #369
Prepare a variety of baked goods and perform associated tasks like cleaning and prepping. Must be available 5am to 1pm Thursday through Sunday. Experience preferred but not required. Rate of Pay: \$7.50/hr
Hours/Week: 32 hrs/wk
Job Located in: Moscow

EMPLOYMENT
Garden Center Associate/Garden Center Cashier Job #364
Provide quality customer service, accurately and efficiently stock merchandise in assigned area and prepare store for closing. Will train. Rate of Pay: \$7.70/hr + DOE
Hours/Week: 15-40 hrs/wk
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Provide quality customer service, accurately and efficiently stock merchandise in assigned area and prepare store for closing. customer service experience preferred - will train. Rate of Pay: \$7.50/hr + DOE
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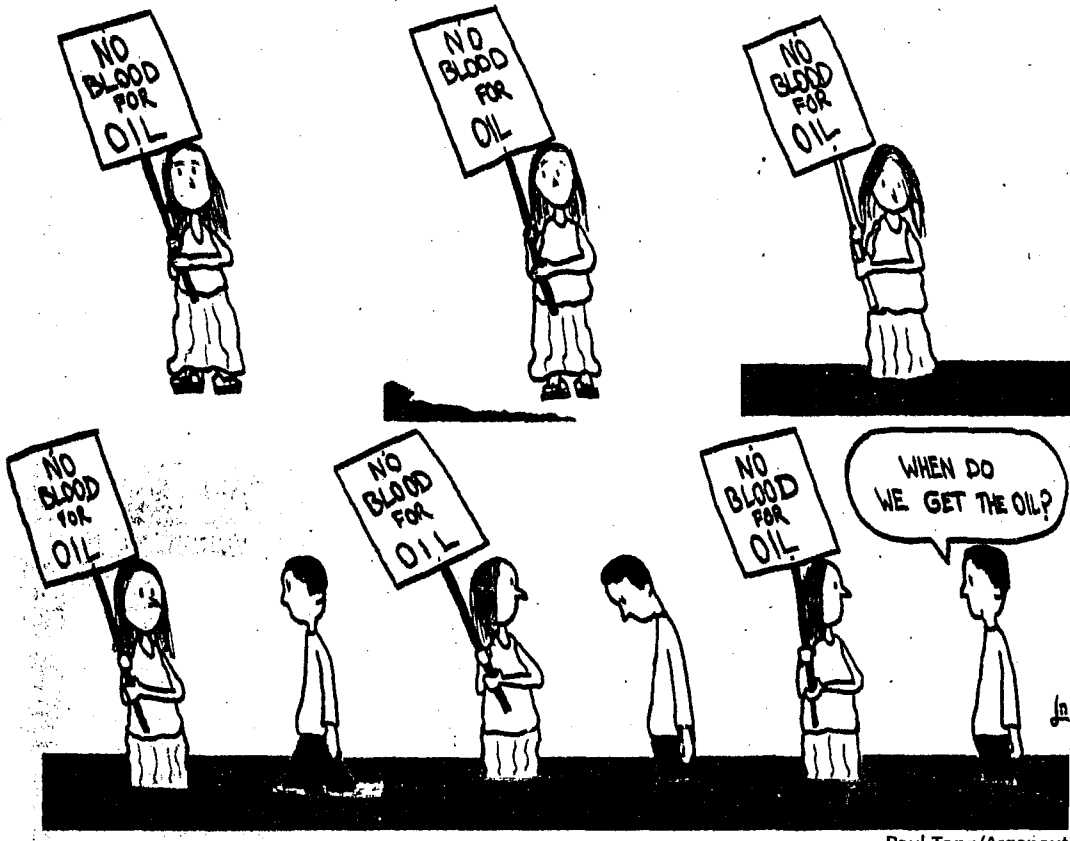
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The Argonaut





Paul Tong/Argonaut

It's great to be Greek

The term sorority is a word that boasts Latin roots and was coined nearly 480 years ago. According to Webster's Dictionary, a sorority is merely "a society or club of women or girls."

study habits, most sororities have quiet study areas and an academic plan to help raise their overall GPA. In addition, sorority women have the ability to collaborate with others in the house that have similar majors or class schedules, making studying in groups particularly easy.

encourage their members to seek activities outside of their house to positively impact the community and become well adjusted individuals.



Becki Graff
Guest columnist
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

With such an innocent definition, it is difficult to see why this word has such a negative connotation attached to it. Sorority life has been an integral part of the University of Idaho campus since the foundation of Gamma Phi Beta in 1910. This is over ninety years of achievement, service, and outstanding academic records. Even with somewhat of an unpleasant aura that surrounds its name, sorority life at the University of Idaho helps create a positive living experience based on scholarship, community service, and overall campus involvement.

Along with academics, sororities place the utmost importance on community service. Throughout the duration of the school year, every sorority plans and participates in a philanthropic event benefiting a charity of their choice. The events are supported by an entry fee that other sororities or fraternities pay to take part. This commitment to service is one of the pillars that sorority systems nationwide are based.

Although many people have a common misconception about what it means to live in a sorority, essentially, a sorority is a home where a college woman matures, learns valuable life lessons, and gains direction. Perhaps sorority life at the University of Idaho is best summed up with an anonymous quote found on one of the countless sorority Web sites: "People ask why I am in a sorority and I try to explain all the things a sorority is that they cannot see. A sorority is more than letters on a sweat-shirt, I say. More than traditional songs, a gold pin, rituals, an obligation, or a way of life. A sorority is learning about people, a sorority is giving without expecting a return. A sorority is earning respect from others, as well as for yourself. A sorority will not solve all your problems, but I have made good friends and found confidence there to help me take life one step at a time."

Becki Graff is the Panhellenic VP Public Relations for the University of Idaho.

Congress doesn't have power to set wage

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that, in my opinion, would hurt American businesses and the very people the legislation purports to help. I'm referring to the bill that raises the minimum wage. Equally bad, the bill prescribes an action that simply can't be justified under the U.S. Constitution.

We all want our fellow Americans to live free and experience the American dream. Why wouldn't we want to see the lowest wage earners in society earn more? I do. You do. But I don't have the power to raise wages, because Congress doesn't have that power. It's not in the U.S. Constitution. What's more, it is wholly impossible for Congress to pass a law and expect the free market to simply dance to the government's tune. If it were possible, why stop at \$7.25 an hour? Why not raise the minimum wage to \$15 or \$20 an hour? For that matter, why not mandate the price of housing? After all, what good are higher wages if you have to

pay upwards of \$200,000 for a new home, especially when Congress has the power to set the price at \$80,000?

Outrageous, you say? Well, then why is arbitrarily deciding the wages of millions of workers any less outrageous?

That was the crux of my Jan. 10 debate on the floor of the House of Representatives. If we believe Congress has the power to determine wages, where do we go next? Why isn't Congress using its authority to bestow more goodness upon the American people? Because it would be unconstitutional. Because it would be impossible. Because it would put us down a rather dangerous road — one that erodes our rights in the name of economic justice.

There's another good reason why we should avoid government-mandated wages. Most small businesses operate at a very slim margin. A mandate

to increase wages invariably costs hundreds of thousands of jobs — mostly belonging to entry-level employees. Some businesses will simply choose not to hire. Still others will simply close up shop.



Bill Sali
Guest columnist
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

There are about 131,000 small businesses in Idaho. They are the lifeblood of Idaho's economy. For them to be compelled to raise their pay scales by 41 percent is to invoke economic hardship on many family businesses in Idaho and all across the country.

Let's talk about real solutions that are within Congress' ability. Let's lower taxes. Let's reduce government regulation. Let's help small businesses stay in business. Then we won't need to compel business to give raises to their employees. We'll already have done

Bill Sali is the representative to the U.S. House for Idaho's District 1.

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iPods ruin treadmill hook-ups

I feel comfortable describing myself as athletic, but would never attest to being an athlete. Maybe this is why certain habits around the rec center confuse me.

to have idle and naked chitchat with friends in a locker room. Maybe it's because these are the same types who frown on homosexuality, but feel that sharing crotch-shots is fine as long as weights are involved.

scious. For those who have muscle to spare, it will cause them to make some of the funniest faces you'll ever see.

The ones with arms bigger than their legs have this wonderful way of looking at their biceps as they curl and then back at their biceps. Then, if you look close enough, they will do this approving nod and smirk as if to say, "You like that, me?"

Stepping out of the rec center, in the Kibbie Dome are eight racquetball courts. To use these racquetball courts, one has to go to the front desk and present his Vandal card and get a court assigned. This is a rule. So, to whomever I saw who brought his entire extended family and enough kids to make a Mormon blush, and ignored this rule, stop it. Coming back to MP3 players, they are useful on some occasions. Like when leg-arm guys try to test their limits with weights and all you can hear is a lot of grunting and breathing out the nose. I'm a big fan of not having to hear that.

Coming to a serious point, I am very grateful that there is a place to work out frustration and maintain a healthy lifestyle. These are all simply humorous observations, some of which I do as well. It's spring semester and resolutions are hanging on our heads. The rec center is a good place to be if yours is to get in shape.



Brandon Macz
Staff writer
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

The gym should be a social experience as well as physical. When health concerns first prompted people to flock to gyms in the '80s, they were practically breeding grounds for men and women and for obvious reasons. You knew right off the bat that the person would be healthy and active.

With all this dangling flesh around, many women are probably thinking (whether they'll admit it or not) are the stereotypes true? From my experience as a part-time gym nut, I feel the need to shine light on the subject — it's dim. Honestly, it really depends on the person.

If doesn't seem necessary, but I'll make mention anyway: Speedos are a terrible idea, and for the minority of those who wear these anatomy-conforming pants, stop before you lose all sensation below the belt altogether.

Now, we have iPods shoved in our ears, completely eliminating our ability to flirt with fellow gym enthusiasts. I am just as guilty, but I have an excuse — I'm taken. But that shouldn't stop the rest of the lot from weighing their options.

However, there are some who are more athletic than I who have developed a great cardio exercise that consists of walking with friends behind women on treadmills and admiring the latest in exercising fashions as the ladies focus on their workouts. One upstanding gentleman was heard to say, eyes locked on target, "Let's do another lap." The woman in question didn't hear anything; she had an iPod.

The locker room is a place I like to get in and out of quickly. There seems to be no need

There are two levels in the rec center, but the free-weights section is the only area filled with mirrors. This is a double threat when it comes to arms, possibly the most coveted, visible appendage a man has. For those who lack muscle, mirrors will make them self-con-

Got something to say?

The Argonaut is always accepting letters to the editor and guest columns. Submit one on the topic that gets you fired up to arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Guest columns must be accompanied with a mug shot. Please include your name, major, year in school and contact information with all submissions.

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195/65HR-14	45.99	215/55HR-16	59.37	225/45VR-17	87.27	225/40ZR-16	118.24
215/65HR-14	50.01	225/55HR-16	66.19	215/45VR-17	92.27	235/40ZR-16	127.17
185/55HR-15	46.82	185/55VR-15	60.17	215/45VR-17	97.27	245/40ZR-16	130.81
195/55HR-15	49.82	195/55VR-15	63.12	235/45VR-17	100.73	215/35ZR-16	118.43
205/55HR-15	51.70	205/55VR-15	65.25	245/45VR-17	106.73	225/35ZR-16	131.13
215/55HR-15	54.44	225/55VR-15	71.24	245/45ZR-18	144.83	255/35ZR-16	173.91
175/65HR-13	34.99	185/55VR-16	57.08	205/40VR-16	87.10	265/35ZR-16	163.34
185/65HR-13	36.99	205/55VR-16	61.05	215/40ZR-16	79.19	225/35ZR-16	160.81
195/65HR-13	41.13	185/55VR-16	62.87	225/40VR-17	76.29	235/35ZR-16	206.96
205/65HR-13	45.58	205/55VR-16	70.33	215/40VR-17	92.48	245/35ZR-16	209.23
215/65HR-13	48.50	225/55VR-16	73.62	235/40VR-17	95.38	245/35ZR-20	157.04
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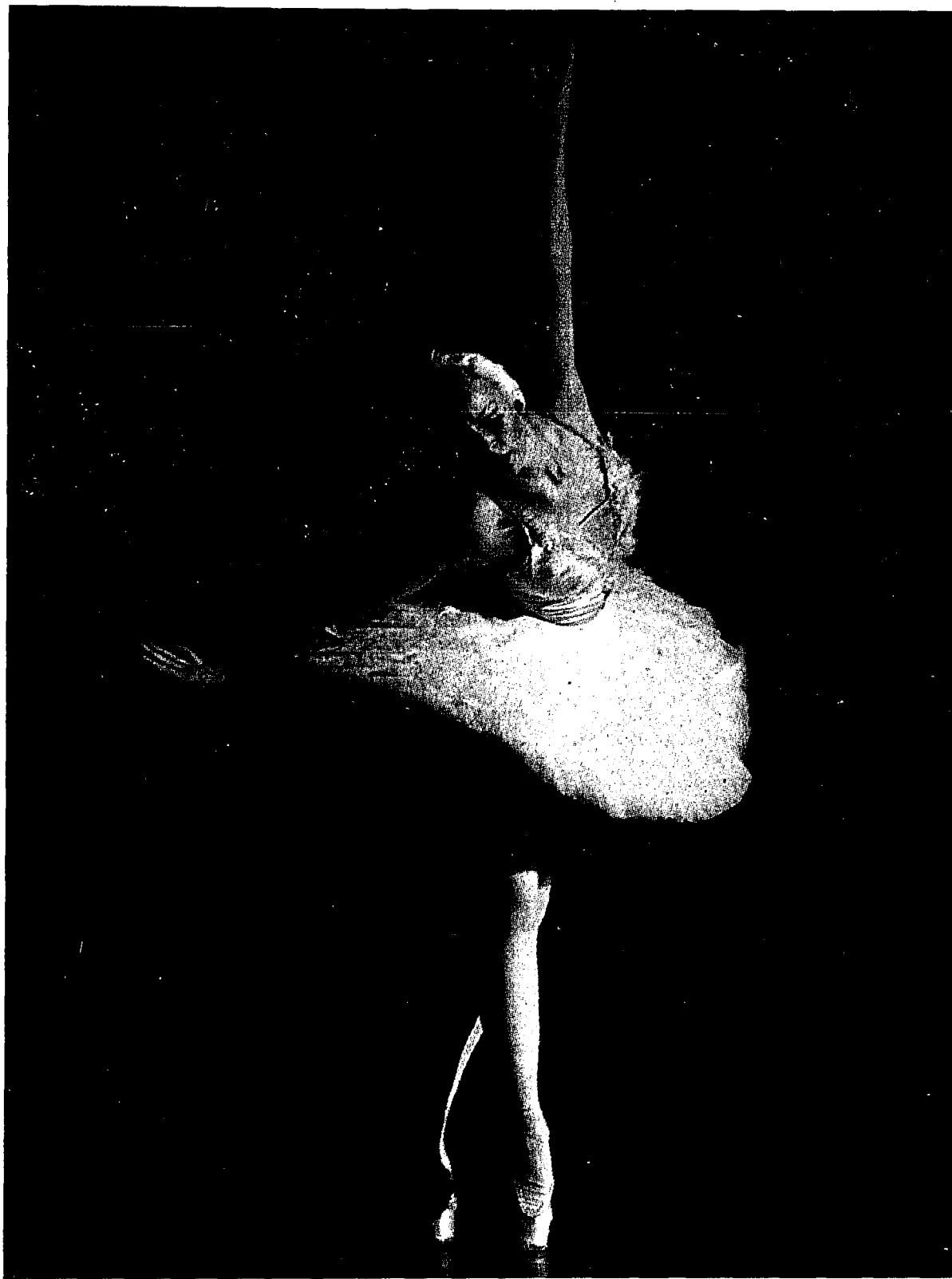
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Svetlana Alexeeva performs "The Dying Swan" during the Saint Petersburg Classical Ballet Gala at Beasley Coliseum in Pullman on Sunday. Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

Wrigley recites

UI professor to read selections from seventh collection at UI Spring 2007 Reading Series

By Lauren Lepinski
Argonaut

Not many poets achieve success within 10 years of when they start writing, if ever. Robert Wrigley is one of the lucky and talented few — he's published seven collections in about six years.

The next step for Wrigley is promoting his new collection, "Earthly Meditations: New and Selected Poems," by reading selections of it for the UI Spring 2007 Reading Series.

Wrigley is the first to read in a series of six writers over the next several months. He will read at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in the UI Law School Courtroom.

"The creative writing committee picks writers from all over the country to read at UI, but we local writers usually read only on special occasions — like a new book, or some sort of celebration," said Wrigley, director of the UI graduate creative writing program.

Wrigley is set to read several new poems.

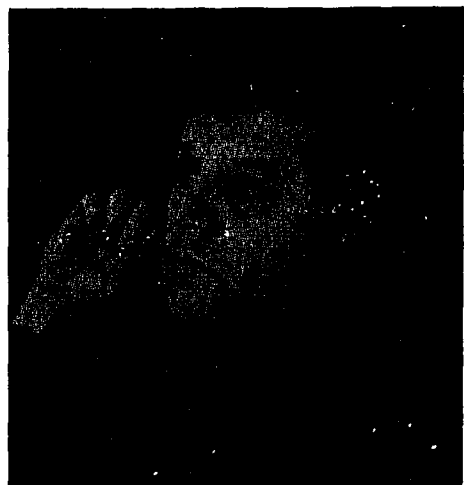
"They're about life, love, sex, time, death, animals, politics, need, want, war, peace, trees, writing, oysters, car crashes, photography, truth, beauty, accidents with power tools — the usual subjects," Wrigley said.

Wrigley first started writing poetry in January 2002 in a class at Southern Illinois University, thinking it would get him effortless credits.

"Up until then I did not, quite honestly, care much for or about poetry. I took the class because I thought it would be some easy credits. It wasn't. It was quite difficult, but in the process of just 'getting credits' I actually fell in love with the art and became a poet," Wrigley said.

He did not plan on being a poet; instead, he wanted to be a novelist.

"Years ago, before I took that fateful poetry writing class, I knew I wanted to be a writer, but I thought I'd write novels," Wrigley said. "I thought I'd write bestsellers, live in the south of France, drive an Aston Martin DB-4 and date supermodels. But then I dis-



Courtesy photo
Robert Wrigley will read at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the UI Law School Courtroom.

covered I was really a poet, so I write skinny books, live on Moscow Mountain, drive a Subaru and am married to a beautiful writer."

Even though Wrigley's life isn't as glamorous as he earlier hoped, he still has a lot to write about.

"A lot of what I write about comes from what I see and do. As I like to say, all my poems are based on personal experience, whether I've had it or not," Wrigley said.

Wrigley doesn't have a preference for any of his work. He is proud of it all.

"This new book is my seventh. It would be hard to say which is my favorite, sort of like picking one's favorite child, though there are a couple of them that I'm especially fond of. The fact is, my aim is always this: that the next book I write will be one that I prefer to all the others," Wrigley said.

As he continues to publish books, Wrigley will stay in his preferred medium of poetry.

"I think like a poet," Wrigley said. "I write in lines. I'm captivated by having a right hand margin completely under my control, not that of the word processor. I like poetry's way of compressing a very great deal into a small space."

Animation and art

South African artist William Kentridge's work will be displayed at the Prichard Gallery through April 1

By Rebecca Bujko
Argonaut

William Kentridge is known as a leading artist working today. His primary works are charcoal drawings with limited touches of pastel color, and he has become famous for turning some of his drawings into animated films.

Kentridge uses a simple technique of drawing — filming a few frames, erasing and drawing more to create the illusion of his paintings coming to life.

Roger Rowley, director of the Prichard Art Gallery, said the films are fascinating.

"They are much more involved with the struggles of black South Africans and more racial issues, but also a lot of it deals not just with indictments of apartheid. It's not overt in that kind of way. A lot of it has to do with the psychological

reverberations that stem from a system of oppression — as much on the oppressor as the oppressed," Rowley said.

When the animation is complete, the drawing is not changed and is put on display.

Kentridge has also worked on theater and opera set designs as well as large-scale outdoor sculptures.

His work can be found in significant international art exhibitions and numerous major museums exhibitions as well.

The work in the exhibit at the Prichard Art Gallery includes original drawings, small prints and etchings as well as large-scale prints. Rowley contacted several lenders to acquire a wide variety of Kentridge's work.

"All but one person that I approached to loan work said 'yes,'" Rowley said. "When I was sending out those letters I

see the
EXHIBIT

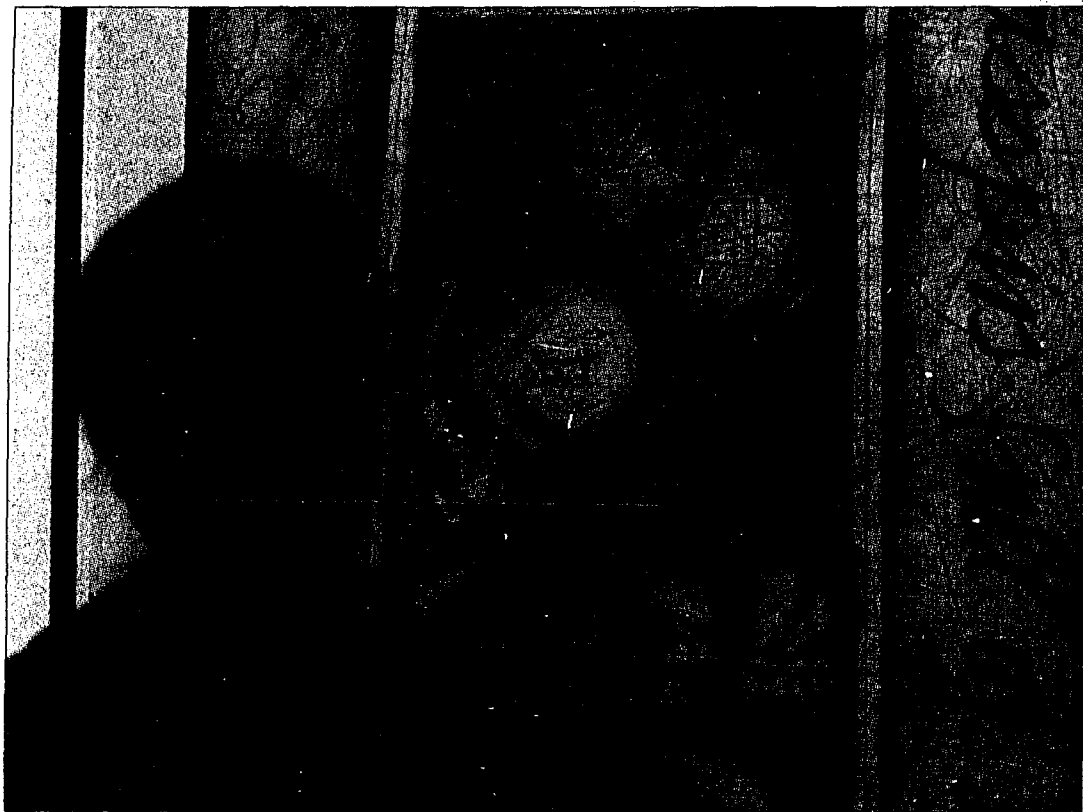
"William Kentridge: Works on Paper" will be on display from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Feb. 9 through April 1 at the Prichard Art Gallery.

was certainly nervous."

To help with the funding for the exhibit, the gallery, for the first time, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for \$10,000 but the total cost for the exhibit was around \$20,000. The other half of the funds came from the Challenge America program, the Biennial Prichard Benefit Auction and through the support of the Friends of the Prichard Art Gallery.

Rowley said he is excited to have an exhibit of this magnitude in Moscow.

"We are afforded an opportunity to see work by really one of the most fascinating and well-known artists today so I would certainly encourage



Physics senior Erin Casey looks at William Kentridge's "Casspirs' Full of Love" print during the opening reception at the Prichard Art Gallery on Friday. The exhibit runs until April 1. Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

(people to come)." In the balcony galleries are reproductions of sheet music covers from 1915 to the '50s.

There will also be clips of the music so they can be listened to while being viewed.

Michael Taraboulski from the

international jazz collections said the music covers were selected for their social significance and their artistic merit.

'Hannibal Rising' a disappointing addition to the series

By T.J. Tranchell
Argonaut

The monster you don't know or don't see is always scarier than the one you do know or can see. Hannibal Lecter was much more frightening back when we didn't know anything about him.

As it is, novelist and first-time screenwriter Thomas Harris has told us everything we need to know about Hannibal the Cannibal in the December-released book "Hannibal Rising" and the film version that opened this weekend.

Unfortunately, what is behind the mask — "Behind the Mask" being the working title for both the novel and film — is much less intriguing than one could have hoped for.

When news of this was announced,

it came in the form of a small press release by MGM, the studio that holds the rights to the Lecter character.

Basically, the studio said they were going to make the movie, call it "Young Hannibal" and that was that. Harris, the author, told them they weren't doing it without him and without a book to base it on.

Harris ended up writing the book and the screenplay at the same time, feeding pages to the filmmakers as he finished them. For anyone who ever complained about a movie ruining a book, this idea might seem like a god-send. It would be, except that the book and film are mediocre products, showing the strains of forced work from a man whose shortest span between books has been six years.

The bright side is that, yes, the movie is a near word-for-word

adaptation of the novel. One could almost read the novel and follow along with the film. At a mere 323 pages, the novel takes about six hours to read. If you skip the parts that are cut for the film, the book comes even closer to the film's 117 minute running time.

So, why are both the book and movie so poor? Gaspard Ulliel does a fine job as the young medical student out for revenge against the men who ate his sister. (Yes, that is Lecter's first exposure to cannibalism. It leads to other things, but those other things aren't presented in any way interesting enough to even spoil. If you see the movie, you'll know this twist a good hour before it happens. If you read the book, it is about 50 pages.), but the lack of Anthony Hopkins is noticeable. One

can give credit to Ulliel for not trying to do a Hopkins impersonation, but he just isn't cold enough toward the climax to truly convince the audience that the guy is nuts.

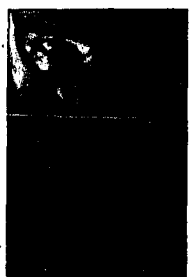
The same can be said for the character in the novel. While it is an attempt to explain how Lecter became the monster we (sort of) know and love, the reasons don't resonate with any power. The events of young Hannibal's life are traumatic, but along the way he meets others with similar experiences and they never eat people. While the same can be said for many real-life psychopaths, Harris just doesn't come across like he knows what he is doing. Maybe he needs more practice.

"Hannibal Rising" is only his fifth published novel since his 1975

debut "Black Sunday." Between Harris and Harper Lee, they might be the only American authors to have every one of their novels adapted by Hollywood.

For fans of the books, especially "Red Dragon" and "The Silence of the Lambs," there is one other thing missing: Lecter's extra finger, the one surgically removed in the novel "Hannibal" and creatively removed by Hollywood since "Manhunter," is never mentioned once in "Hannibal Rising." It is almost as if Harris the novelist became the victim of the requirements placed on Harris the screenwriter.

Both sides suffer for it. Neither suffers more than the audience. Movie fans might not be so hard on him. They expect these things to happen. Followers of Harris' written works might not be so kind. He is capable of so much more than this book, which amounts to nothing more than a novelization of a screenplay.



"Hannibal Rising" (the movie)
★★★ (of 5)
Gaspard Ulliel
Now playing



"Hannibal Rising" (the book)
★★½ (of 5)
Thomas Harris
Available now

Festival of New Works shows off promising new plays

By Michael Howell
Argonaut

The Festival of New Works, which had its initial run last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, showed some of the more promising new stage works from the University of Idaho's best theater and film students and faculty.

Also included in the Festival of New Works is the first reading of a new play in progress by nationally recognized playwright Julie Jensen titled

"Billion Dollar Baby." Jensen's playwrighting experience, which includes critical favorites like "Dust Eaters" and "Last Lists of My Mad Mother," shines a little more in her work than the other works at the festival.

To credit the other works, they didn't have an Academy Award-winning actress starring in their plays. Patty Duke read "Billion Dollar Baby," in which a grandmother recounts various times when she has butted heads with her son and daughter-in-law over the ways they raise their 4-year-old daughter.

The play itself was hilarious, showing many of the differences in how people choose to raise their children in today's society. UI professor Jere Hodgkin did an excellent job directing the play and Duke was an amazing dramatic performer. Though she was reading from the script, she still had

enough professionalism to perform the play as though it was opening night on Broadway.

Other plays included "Myth of Maria the Virgin" by MFA student Ulrike Rosser and directed by UI professor Robert Caisley. In it, two characters at a costume party, one dressed as Jason of the Argonauts and one as a fallen angel, Maria, go against each other as Jason tries to seduce Maria and she tries to gain her virginity back. It starts out with a light-hearted tone but quickly turns dark.

Students Kimbre Lancaster and Peter Beard show good chemistry and stay true to the tone of the play throughout. "Santa Fe," written by Caisley and directed by MFA student Grechen Lynne Wingerter, was a hilarious play about two men in a bar who tell stories of their lives that both seem to be about the pitfalls of too much freedom.

The play comes close to "Billion Dollar Baby" in terms of its humor. James Napoleon Stone and MFA student Richard Wallace have great comedic timing and do a great job of carrying this character-driven play.

The play "Option," written by MFA student Ginger Rankin and also directed by Wingerter, was the most dramatic play in the festival. The play tells the story of a woman by the name of Rachel, played by Britt Heisel, who is dying from a suicide attempt. She meets with her birth mother and adoptive mother played by Sally Eames-Harlan and

see the SHOW

The Festival of New Works will show at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday at the Hartung Theater. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students.

Elizabeth Friedrich and an angel-like character named Lucius played by Peter Aylward. During the course of the play, she discusses with her mothers why they were never there for her when she needed them. Heisel took her character to new heights and stood out above all in the play.

The final play, "By Design," written by MFA student David Eames-Harlan and directed by MFA student Audrey Lauren Wax, is about a biology professor and a student that argue over a grade, which becomes a large argument over intelligent design versus evolution. MFA student Bridget Esterhuizen and Kristen Haller finish the festival out with solid performances.

All the plays except "Billion Dollar Baby," were composed by UI students and faculty. The Festival of New Works was overall a great way to see some of the hard work being done by the UI theatre department's students and faculty. The performance of a hilarious play by Patty Duke was icing on the cake.

ArtsBRIEFS

Dance to aid worldwide disaster relief

"Culture Shock," a campus event featuring music from around the world will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 26 in the SUB Ballroom.

The event is hosted by Students for Humanitarian Aid. All proceeds from the event will be used to help distribute food hygiene kits internationally. Kits will contain items such as toothpaste, soap, towels and other basic necessities.

"Culture Shock" is open to everyone and tickets can be purchased at the door for \$2.

For more information, contact Students for Humanitarian Aid at humanaid@stuorgs.uidaho.edu.

Explore the nature of music

As part of the Interdisciplinary Colloquium, composer Davis Bukvich will present "Beat It," an exploration of the nature of music. The presentation is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Administration Building Auditorium. The lecture is free of charge.

"Beat It" will delve into areas concerning rhythm and percussion as well as exploring what makes music what it is.

To see a schedule of other lectures in the Interdisciplinary Colloquium, visit www.class.uidaho.edu/uic/slate.htm.

Folklore society sponsors workshop

Ever wanted to learn how to play the penny whistle? Saturday is your chance.

The Palouse Folklore Society is holding a community arts workshop, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Russell School.

The event will feature free music, dance and art workshops. In addition to penny whistle lessons, there will be Irish fiddle and bluegrass workshops, plus plenty of music jams and dancing.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

If that isn't enough for you, join the society at 8 p.m. in the 1912 Building for contra dancing. Instruction begins at 7:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Potatohead.

Check out the Palouse Folklore Society at www.palousefolklore.org.

Book your booth for the Ren Fair

Applications for booths at this year's Moscow Renaissance Fair are now available. Space is limited to 20 food booths and 135 artisan-vendor booths.

The fair will be held May 5-6 at the East City Park.

The Renaissance Fair maintains a high standard for booths, and each application undergoes a juried screening process.

Only original work designed and crafted by the artisan may be sold and there are special distinctions made for crafts and services.

Food vendors must be non-commercial and non-profit and only the most creative and distinct booths will be chosen for the limited spots.

For booth guidelines and applications, or if you have any questions, visit www.moscowrenfair.org.

'Velveteen Rabbit' auditioning

Is there a young actor in your midst or a teen with an interest in technical theater? If so, Moscow Community Theatre wants to meet them.

All cast and crew for M.C.T.'s production of "The Velveteen Rabbit" will be between the ages of 10 and 18.

Auditions for actors will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 and 6:30 p.m. March 1 at the Fellowship Hall of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 1036 West A St. Actors only need to attend one audition.

Crew interviews will also begin at 6:30 p.m. March 1, as well. Applicants should bring a pen or pencil and paper with them and a calendar of evening commitments for March 5 and March 26-May 5.

Audition pieces are available to read at the Moscow Public Library and Troy Public Library until Feb. 27.

For information contact director Roger Wallins at rwallins@moscow.com.

Book club reads 'Joy School'

Join others to read Elizabeth Berg's "Joy School" at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Moscow Public Library.

"Joy School" follows 13-year-old Katie as she deals with an occasionally abusive father, the death of her mother and the perils of relocating. Things change for her when she falls through thin ice and meets an older, married man.

Berg was a critical-care nurse and mother of two before taking up writing. "Joy School" is her fifth novel and was published in 1997.

The Moscow Library Book Club is free and open to the public. For information, contact Chris Sokol at 882-3925 ext. 16 or chriss@latahlibrary.org.

Get jazzed up at Jazz Fest

Volunteers are still needed for the 2007 Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival February 21 - 24.

The festival is looking for students and community members to get involved in the biggest event of the year. Volunteers greet guests, announce groups, host stu-

dent performances and drive VIPs, all while earning concert tickets and prizes.

This year's line up includes Jane Monheit, John Pizzarelli, Roy Hargrove, Roberta Gambarini and many more. This year's festival will thank Dr. Lynn "Doc" Skinner for his 31 years of direction, and welcome new Artistic Director John Clayton.

For information or to volunteer, visit www.jazz.uidaho.edu, call 885-0115 or visit the Jazz Festival office in the SUB.

Above the Rim displays variety of work

The work of four artists is on display at the Above the Rim Gallery. The work includes pen and ink drawings by Lorraine Ashland and watercolor paintings by Donna Bradberry, Flip Kleffner and Malcolm Renfrew. The exhibit will run through April 8. The Above the Rim Gallery is located at 513 North Main St. in Moscow, upstairs in Paradise Creek Bicycles.

Hamp's Gala kicks off Jazz Fest

Outstanding music students in the Lionel Hampton School of Music will be featured at Hamp's Gala at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Administration Building Auditorium. The concert is the traditional start to the university's Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival, which runs Feb. 21-24.

Student music groups scheduled to perform include the wind ensemble, Jazz Choir I and Jazz Band I. Outstanding soloists selected by the music faculty will also be showcased.

Tickets are available at the door and cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

'Crush On You' spurs more than the casual footsie

By Joel Slocum
Argonaut

One of the newest compilations to hit Starbucks' stands, "Crush On You" is sure to have just the right song for any listener this Valentine's Day. It plays the heartstrings in as many musical genres as there are tones of love.

Whether your looking for something to dance to, laugh to, cry to — there is just the right song. Each one has its own unique charm and distinct sound, making it refreshing. The only problem, perhaps, is that this creates an inherent downfall.

At times, the transitions seem awkward and choppy. With so many highs and lows, it's hard to get a vibe from listening to the album straight through. This is primarily directed toward the beginning tracks which are so up and down you don't know whether the compiler was taking Prozac or Ritalin.

Even so, the bumpy rollercoaster mellows out around the middle of the track list and becomes a rather enjoyable experience. Then again perhaps this was the intent—to create a journey through the highs and lows of love wellbefore everything matures into something cohesive.

The CD starts out deep and demure, with an ever-so intellectual Leonard Cohen droning out a slightly dreary "Suzanne." The song, which focuses on relinquishing fear through the trust of another, suggests that the only hand you can trust is that of your lover.

The next track picks up quickly to progress the compilation as Sarah McLachlan sings of ice cream, chocolate and of course, love. More importantly, "Ice Cream" discusses the complexities of breakups and the overall benefits of love over insatiable sweets.

The next two songs mesh well as they both rely heavily

on simple acoustic melodies. That said, they do so in drastically different ways. The first, "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight" by Bob Dylan is steeped heavily in country twang while Mindy Smith's "Edge Of Love" is reminiscent of Sheryl Crow's more laid back tracks from her later work.

Miles Davis serves as the turnaround for the album which, from this point forward, works rather harmoniously. "My Funny Valentine," the sole instrumental piece, is an emotion track with just the right mix of being sullen and

chipper. From this point the rest of the compilation is primarily Jazz infused with vocals from Sarah Vaughan and Frank Sinatra.

It's not until Nina Simone's overly obvious sexual innuendo "I Want Some Sugar In My Bowl" do listeners get the opportunity to hear something a little less cliché.

Madeleine Peyroux and Dean Martin add in two more rat pack tracks, though Peyroux croons a gingerly subdued version of Sinatra's "The Summer Wind."

Just as mellowed as the past few tracks, Hem comes in with "He Came To Meet Me," which is rather playful in melody and in turn has the ability to lift the spirits — just as meeting your crush has the ability to do.

The closing track is from a relative no-name, Serena Ryder. She belts out a contemporary rendition of the 1951 hit "My Heart Cries For You." There is great body in her voice and a unique perplexity about it. It's the perfect closer to the album with its blatant emotion of the longing for love.

All in all, "Crush On You" is what is to be expected from a Starbucks compilation: complex, enjoyable and fresh, it's a relatively dependable album with few drawbacks.



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Oscars host Ellen DeGeneres will 'do what I think is funny'

By Richard Huff
New York Daily News

As the rest of Hollywood worries about what baubles and bustiers they're going to wear to the Academy Awards, Ellen DeGeneres is only concerned with the jokes.

DeGeneres is the host of the 79th annual awards show, the biggest night of entertainment on TV — and around the world.

"The humor will come from something everyone will relate to," DeGeneres said, adding that the bulk of the jokes can't be too specific. "Not everybody watching will have seen every single film, so you don't want to just play to the industry."

It's a job that puts the host dead center before millions of viewers, but it's also one that has left some big-name stars big-time bad fits afterwards.

Remember David Letterman? His disastrous outing as host in 1995 still stands as a low watermark for the Academy Awards telecast.

"I'm going to go out there and do what I think is funny," said DeGeneres. "I want to be perfect, and fantastic, but that doesn't mean I'm going to please everybody."

While she's an Oscar rookie, this is not DeGeneres' first time as the host of a major awards show. She's already done two Grammy Awards, and she presided over two Primetime Emmy Awards, including the twice-postponed 2001 outing, which was held as the country was

wracked with grief following the terrorist attacks of 9-11.

DeGeneres and her writing team, which includes brother Vance, had already invested four weeks of work on the Academy Awards show before the nominees were announced.

Her monologue is well on the way, and some of the jokes will definitely come from the hip as the show goes on.

"Nobody's wanting me to censor myself in any way, and they trust me not to do anything inappropriate," she said. "I'm going to have my monologue ready. And, you're praying for something, not necessarily to go wrong, but when you have Jack Palance doing a one-arm pushup or a stalker, as a comedian that's when you have the most fun."

DeGeneres said they'll encourage winners to be brief in their speeches, but the band won't embarrass anyone by playing music mid-chatter. Likewise, there will be a backstage component where winners can thank the people they forgot online.

"They can thank all the people we don't care about," she said. "We just want to see the heartfelt, passionate response to an award."

But don't expect any song and dance numbers, a la Billy Crystal. DeGeneres is planning to just be herself.

"While you're doing it, it's a thrill," she said of hosting a major awards show. "If you can stay in the moment, which is what your goal is, it's a thrill. It's really a thrill when you finish it because you've taken on something not a lot of people

do. I just don't ever want to be too comfortable."

DeGeneres has made a career out of speaking to regular people.

Born in Metairie, La., in 1958, DeGeneres broke into the entertainment field first as a standup comic. She got her big break in 1986 on the "Tonight" show.

She parlayed her observational style of comedy into an ABC sitcom in 1994 and then in 1997 made headlines by announcing that she — and her character on the show — were lesbians.

The sitcom ended in 1998. After her public split from actress Anne Heche in 2000, she bounced back on CBS in 2001 with "The Ellen Show," a critically acclaimed series that lasted just a season.

She launched her eponymous daytime talk show in 2003 with raves from critics and a big fan following. At the time, DeGeneres said she found the perfect job, adding that she probably wouldn't do anything else until she retired.

But she's rethinking that stand. "I should have learned by now to try and not chart my life out," she said. "There's a few things I'm working on now, we'll see, this (talk show) is definitely taking me through 2010. Then we'll see what happens."

DeGeneres, who now dates actress Portia de Rossi, says she misses the energy of standup and may do more comedy in the near future. "I miss that immediacy of being on stage," DeGeneres said.

There's nothing more immediate than the Oscars.



Andrew Eccles/ABC/MCT
Ellen DeGeneres, pictured December 9, 2006, prepares to "razzle dazzle" as host of the 79th Academy Awards telecast, which will air on February 25, 2007.

Viewer Discretion Advised

By Bill Gibron
PopMatters.com

Now that the NFL has finished having its way with the populace, paltry Pro Bowl — the only thing left on the pigskin schedule before six months of football-free entertainment, it's a good time to turn back to the premium pay movie channels. Indeed, this week, there's a decent amount of cinematic goodness to spare. Between a powerful family drama, a glorious drive-in delight from one Tom Laughlin, and a sneak peek at Alfonso Cuarón's early directorial genius, the main movies featured themselves will provide a tantalizing trio of palpable motion picture possibilities. Toss in a few of the additional choices, and the week beginning Feb. 11 is looking mighty fine.

Premier Pick

"The Squid and the Whale"
In one of the more intriguing moves of 2006, Entertainment Weekly columnist Stephen King (yes, THAT Stephen King) picked this film to top his year-end best-of list. But this is not some Kaiju inspired monster movie. Instead, writer/director Noah Baumbach drew on his own childhood and the divorce of his literary minded parents as the foundation for this deeply heartfelt film. With its perfect performances from Laura Linney and Jeff Daniels, and the unapologetic way it deals with familial strife and subtext, Baumbach has resurrected the kind of interdependent drama that hasn't been rele-

vant since Ordinary People took home the 1980 Best Picture Oscar. Baumbach even snatched his own nomination, proving that there was more to this movie than one man's memories. (9 p.m. Feb. 14, Starz — all times listed ET)

Additional Choices

"Final Destination 3"
The third time is definitely not the charm for this initially inventive horror franchise. While the bloodshed and body count is still very high, the series has definitely moved from suspenseful to schlock. After the opening rollercoaster gag, it's more of the same old "cheating death" dopiness that actually made the first two films feel fresh. (11:15 p.m. Feb. 12 or 8 p.m. Feb. 15, HBO)

"Saw II"

For those wondering what happened to the original "Saw's" perfectly planned puzzle box conceits, the answer is director Darren Lynn Bousman. Arriving with his own designs, and a craving to concentrate on murderous machinery instead of intricate storylines, he almost destroyed a brilliant horror legacy. Thankfully, the original "Saw" guys were around to set the circumstances straight. (9:30 p.m. Feb. 15, Showtime)

Outsider Option

"Born Losers"

Before Billy Jack, his Trial and his trip to Washington, filmmaker Tom Laughlin introduced the famous half-breed hero in this biker gang gone gonzo exploitation classic. Using the same

revenge-oriented narrative he would employ throughout his turn as the titular character, Laughlin imbues his emotionally wounded Vietnam vet (this guy has a chip on his soldier the size of Montana) with enough martial arts moxie to overcome some of the story's sloppier aspects. Thanks to a stellar supporting cast including Jeremy Slate as the head motorcycle maniac and a group of bad guys with names like Gangrene and Speechless, Laughlin shows his ease with this material. It's gratuitous gold that would serve him well in the '70s, when his Mr. Jack became an enigmatic cultural icon. (5 p.m. Feb. 15, Flix)

Additional Choices

"Cactus Flower"

It's incredibly dated, what with its forced free love mantra, and offers the unusual sight of Walter Matthau as a swinging, sex-obsessed dentist. But there is more to Gene Saks adaptation of the silly French farce than meets the idea. It won "Laugh-In" loon Goldie Hawn an Oscar, more or less legitimizing the creative value of the counter-culture. (8 p.m. Feb. 13, TCM)

"Creepshow"

In a flawless homage to the twist-ending eeriness of the old EC Comics, Stephen King and George Romero deliver one of their best collaborations. Spread out amongst the five excellent examples of storytelling and scares, look for early fright flick turns from Ed Harris, Ted Danson, Leslie Nielsen and Hal Holbrook (7:50 p.m. Feb. 14, ThrillerMax)

From Amazon to TiVo to you: Users can download movies, videos

By Monica Soto Ouchi
The Seattle Times

It's suddenly getting cozy in the living room.

Amazon.com said Wednesday it would soon offer TiVo subscribers the ability to play movies and television shows either rented or purchased on its site — a day after Wal-Mart muscled its way into the movie-download business.

Amazon's service — "Amazon Unbox on TiVo" — will offer thousands of TV shows and movies from CBS, Fox Entertainment Group, Lions Gate, Paramount Pictures, Universal Studios and Warner Bros to the more than 1.5 million TiVo subscribers with high-speed Internet connections.

Amazon is testing the service with a select group of TiVo subscribers. The TiVo.com site asked customers to sign up for notification of the service.

The major Hollywood film studios have faced increasing pressure to sell movies online, as box-office receipts decline and peer-to-peer networks offer illegal movie downloads free.

But the studios have been slow to loosen licensing restrictions that would give consumers the ability to unshackle content from desktop computers.

When Amazon unveiled "Amazon Unbox" in September, technology analysts widely panned the movie-download service for not offering the ability to burn movies to DVD for play on a television set — an issue they said would prohibit mass adoption.

With Wednesday's announcement, Amazon has solved part of that dilemma — hot-to-play digital content on television sets — but only for TiVo subscribers.

TiVo, which charges \$69.99 or more for a TiVo box, plus a \$12.95 and up monthly subscription fee to digitally record TV shows, will compete with other high-profile devices.

Apple Computer recently introduced Apple TV, a \$299 device that wirelessly receives movies from a PC or Mac. But the device centers on movies purchased through Apple's iTunes video store, which features limited titles from

Disney's movie arm, Buena Vista Home Entertainment.

Microsoft, meanwhile, launched a video-download service for its Xbox 360 game console Nov. 22, allowing users with a broadband Internet connection to download content from Xbox Live Marketplace and store it on the console's hard drive.

If all these services allow users to play content, Amazon faces fierce competition when it comes to selling movies and TV shows online.

Wal-Mart on Tuesday announced its own movie-download service, the first backed by all the major film studios and featuring more than 3,000 movies and television shows.

At Wal-Mart, most new releases cost between \$14.88 and \$19.88.

Amazon's service charges between \$9.99 and \$14.99 for most movies. Rentals start at \$1.99.

The downloads are priced from \$1.96 for episodes of television shows, to up to \$19.88 for new movies.

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Feb. 26, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Dine With Style Etiquette Dinner

Feb. 28, 5-8 p.m.

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The Grammys: What you didn't see on TV

By Jim Farber
New York Daily News

LOS ANGELES — What you saw Sunday night at the Grammys might have seemed long, loud and bustling with big names. But you don't know the half of it — or even the tenth of it.

Backstage there brews a far more elaborate, deafening and boldfaced affair. Every year no more than one-tenth of the awards are forked over on the show. The bulk of the Grammy iceberg melts s-l-o-w-l-y off-camera in what amounts to a 9-hour marathon, during which more than 90 of those golden prizes are read off and received. And we're not just talking about the "nobody-but-their-mom-carees" categories like Best Surround Sound Album (that one went to Steely Dan's Donald Fagen, incidentally) but legit biggies like Best Alternative Rock Album.

During this heady endurance test, an unending conga line of winners, presenters and loudmouths present themselves to the press to be grilled on their feelings, their upcoming projects and the back stories behind what got them there in the first place. With luck, they might even offer some swipes at the competition. (Bad sports are rewarded in this arena.)

Given the Dixie Chicks' key wins, it's no surprise that politics became a recurring subject Sunday night. The result made some of the talk seem less like the Grammys and more like The MacNeil-Lehrer Report.

Here's a sampling of what the stars blabbed, dished and gushed about:

• Natalie Maines, lead singer of the Dixie Chicks, admitted that their win had to do with more than music. "People had different motivation behind voting for us," she said. "To win five of five (awards), is unbelievable. And it is people using their voice. This is the greatest awards experience I've ever had — on a multitude of levels."

Added the group's Marti McGuire, "What happened to

us really drove us to make an album that said a lot. It had a political stance and I think people identify with that. (If that's part of the success, we'll take it."

• John Mayer, who bagged multiple awards, said he was particularly proud of the Dixie Chicks' wins. "It's hard enough to make a record when you're just chasing the ghost of your last album, but they were running from a lot of ghosts. And to stay that subtle and just write great songs. That's all the weapons you need," he said.

• Speaking of his own music, Mayer addressed his split musical interests — between singing and acting as a guitar hero. "I prefer playing the guitar," he said. "I've thought of this many a sleepless night on the bus. If I had to give one away, I know I could sing on my guitar."

• John Legend, who took a pair of prizes, and sang his anti-war song "Coming Home" on the show, commented on the evening's topical motif. He called his war-torn song "something that needs to be heard. A lot of us care about the soldiers and what they're going through. And a lot of us believe that what got us into this thing is a misguided policy. I sang about it tonight and I know a lot of other artists feel that way, too."

On a career note, Legend admitted that winning this time, as opposed to his first triumphs, for his debut, wasn't quite as exciting. "It's not the same," he said. So much for the second time around.

• Carrie Underwood, the former American Idol who won Best New Artist, giggled nervously when asked about how she feels about the Dixie Chicks giving the finger to country radio. After all, Underwood has become a country radio darling. She said, "next question, please. I don't like to talk about anybody giving fingers to anybody."

But she did talk about her win, saying she thought it proves that "American Idol"

can transcend the talent show category. There's great talent on that show that just couldn't get noticed doing what they were doing on their own. ("American Idol") certainly worked for me."

• Mary J. Blige came in with eight nominations and ended up with three wins. But she said that was quite enough for her. She also said the wins were a vindication, since her record company didn't want to put out her album at first. "They said 'Mary's washed up, Mary's finished,'" she recalled. "It was like a valley. But in the valley you find out who you really are. That's why we have a peak right now."

• Anthony Keidis, of the Rock Album-winning Red Hot Chili Peppers, fielded the inevitable crank Anna Nicole Smith question. When someone asked if any of this party-hearty band would claim to be the father of her baby, Keidis said "I am Anna's baby."

They also commented on how many awards the Chicks won. "I'm surprised they didn't win Best Rap," quipped bassist Flea.

The band's Chad Smith had also played drums as a guest on the Dixie Chicks album. "I was happy for them," said Smith of their many wins. "But I was kinda hoping that they wouldn't win Album of the Year." That's because the Chili Peppers were up for that one, too.

• Asked why he finally cut his famous long hair, Best Rap Album winner Ludicris said it had to do with age. "I did not want to go over 30 years old with cornrows in my hair," he said.

• When the hit rapper T.I. was asked how he plans to celebrate his two awards, he deadpanned: "I'm going to drink myself into a stupor."

• Robin Troup, who found out she had won the "My Grammy Moment" contest to sing with Justin Timberlake during the show, said of the experience, "It was just a blur. I just tried not to cry. I thought, 'These people will kill me if I mess up my makeup.'"

The Houston native turned 19 Sunday. Now she's signed to Timberlake's production company.

• Tony Bennett, who got two prizes, picked out those modern stars he expects to have the Herculean staying power he has: "Sting, Michael Buble and Beyonce" were his top trio. He also promised that his next album will be "different." He didn't elaborate. Rap, perhaps?

• Who says you have to actually do something to win a Grammy? All four members of the Red Hot Chili Peppers got prizes for the "Limited Edition Package" of their "Stadium Arcadium" album. Backstage, the art director on the project, Matt Taylor, was asked if all the guys really toiled on the snazzy cover. "Actually," he admitted, "Anthony Keidis and I were the two. He was the band's representative." In other words, the three others did nada.

• "Surprise, surprise," yawned presenter/actress Lynne Redgrave when polka icon Jimmy Sturr won what she called "his eighth millionth" Grammy. Sturr seized the statue, and politely corrected her. It's "our 16th," he said.

• Thom Zimmy, who won for Best Long Form video for "The Making of (Bruce Springsteen's) Born to Run," said the thing that stood out most about the story behind that historic album was "the intensity of the recording session." He also said that working with Springsteen now on this project that he hasn't changed. "He's that same guy" from 1975, he said.

Asked if there were any legal, or social, problems working on a project that had to involve Springsteen's old manager, Mike Appel, who had become Bruce's nemesis at that time, Zimmy insisted that now "they're all friends. Time has passed."

• A somewhat skeptical press asked "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson what he was doing backstage. He seemed a bit taken 'back. "Unlike Simon Cowell and



Amanda M. Parks/MCTCampus
Emily Robison, from left, Natalie Maines and Martie Maguire, of the Dixie Chicks, won Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal and Best Country Album at the Grammy Awards.

Ryan Seacrest, I don't go for the limelight," he shot back. He pointed out that he put together the song that won "R&B Duo or Group with Vocal" (a multi-star remake of Sly Stone's "Family Affair").

He also fielded some jabs over the fact that Jennifer Hudson was axed early on from "Idol" a few years ago. Jackson insisted that her elimination wasn't his fault "She was my wild card pick that season," he said.

Jackson also took the time to crow over "A.I." graduate Carrie Underwood's multiple wins Sunday night. "These kids validate what we do," he said.

• New Orleans legend Irma Thomas said she didn't mind if it took a catastrophic flood and hurricane for her to win the first Grammy of her long career. "Honey, I don't care what it took. I got one. This is my 49th year and it is wonderful. Twice nominated, third time, a winner."

She added that those in her hometown "were all rooting for me. I'm sure my e-mail is just out of the world."

Though the singer has not yet been able to move back home, she said it's coming soon. And added that she'll also be on hand to play New Orleans Jazzfest this year.

• Ricky Skaggs was surprised to win the bluegrass album prize, given that his

album was all instrumental. "There are so many albums in the category that had such great lyrics," he said. "I'm amazed."

• Hard Rock Album winners Wolfmother were asked, in a nice way, about why their music keeps referring back to music we all know from the '60s and '70s. "Back then no one had written the book on how rock 'n' roll should be made," explained lead singer Andrew Stockdale. "That freedom is attractive. And there's an experimentation in that music that I find creatively inspiring."


• Singer Nancy Wilson was particularly tickled about winning her second consecutive Grammy in the "Jazz Vocal Album" category because now, she says, "finally my grandsons understand — oh, you're THAT Nancy Wilson"

• There was a "funny, you don't sound Jewish" moment Sunday night: The Hebraic music band the Klezmatics were overjoyed to win their Contemporary World Music Prize for an album that had English lyrics by Woodie Guthrie. "People could actually understand what we're singing about," they said. "Usually we sing in Yiddish."

Yet, they still found their "World Music" category a bit puzzling. "I kept wondering what world we represent," said their leader.

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A Texas showdown

The UI swimming team heads to San Antonio for its third Western Athletic Conference championships

By Ryan Atkins
Argonaut

For the University of Idaho swimming team, the season-ending Western Athletic Conference Championships can't come soon enough.

The Vandals have worked toward this moment the entire season, training their minds and bodies for the all important conference meet.

"It has been a really long season and we are definitely ready," junior Paige Lee said. "I am very much ready to get up and race. Tom (Jager) has prepared us for it all year so we know exactly what to expect."

Even with the season-long preparation, the long break from the team's final regular season meet until the start of the WAC Championships on Wednesday has proven to be a mental challenge.

"I think this is the hardest time mentally. We are built to work hard but you have to train yourself mentally to get up and race," Lee said. "If you believe you can win then you will win, and if you believe you will be successful you will, so success at this point is very, very mental."

For some, handling the mental challenges that come with the long break can be difficult. Junior Sara Peterson uses her own unique style to remind herself of how far she has come this season.

"I have had to be really strong mentally, and I remind myself how hard I have worked," Peterson said. "I remind myself by making little notes and putting them around, and I know the girls understand that they personally deserve this because they have been working hard as well."

While the hard work will soon be over for the Vandals, the team will have to push itself for one more week if they hope to continue building on their success over the past season.

Idaho enters the meet as the lone school without a diving program, making its score solely dependent on swimming performances with no diving score. It is a difficult proposition for the team and the team members understand their focus must remain on the swimming portion of the competition.

"We aren't just this little team going in who is trying to catch all these people. We are right together so it's going to be a race to get fourth through seventh, and hopefully we wind up on top," Peterson said. "Without a diving program that will be

hard, but if we can do it without diving, imagine what we could do with it."

And with the continued improvement of the Idaho swimming program, Lee said the team members understand they are no longer being underestimated by the rest of the conference.

"It is different this year than it was the last two years. We can't say we are the new team anymore," Lee said. "We are a team people are going to be looking to run down. And so we are being chased instead of doing the chasing, so it's a little different perspective heading into the meet."

With teams looking to knock off the Vandals, key factors for Idaho will be smart swimming and strong finishing — things the team has been working on during their training.

"It's a long meet so we have to keep within ourselves. We have to maintain our composure and our energy," Lee said. "For all of us, the day is Saturday. That is what we train for because that is when other teams fall apart, so it is about maintenance and keeping yourself in check and swimming smart."

Last year, Idaho broke three school records on the final day of competition, securing its fifth-place finish.

But the team understands in order for a repeat of its success, they will have to enjoy their moment and everything they have worked for.

"I know we are all really excited and I feel we all have a really strong mentality going into it. We want to go in and race fast and just have fun," Peterson said. "We have worked so hard throughout the year. We want to go in and have fun with everything we have been working on."

According to Idaho coach Tom Jager, the team has tapered its swimming over the past weeks in preparation for the meet.

By resting his swimmers, he said the mental side of things should take care of themselves thanks to the break from high-intensity training, and everybody appears to be healthy and rearing to go.

"Fortunately, we had our sicknesses go through a couple weeks ago and I think we will be ready to go," Jager said. "Our distance program and our stroke kids are just

See SWIM, page B7



Senior Kate Miller warms up during practice on Monday afternoon at the UI swim center.

Melissa Davlin/Argonaut

Scaccia still a kid at heart

Newcomer Justine Scaccia gives a jump start to Vandals at just the right time — before conference

By Ryan Atkins
Argonaut

The University of Idaho swim team had its best season since reinstatement this year, but the team got even stronger last month with the introduction of newcomer Justine Scaccia.

After taking a year off from swimming while attending Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., Scaccia decided this year was the time for a return to the sport.

"I took last year off from swimming completely. I just didn't want to see the swimming scene anymore," Scaccia said. "I was getting tired of it, but then I realized during the summer that I missed swimming."

Scaccia transferred to Idaho in the fall and said she is thankful for the opportunity given to her by Idaho coach

Tom Jager.

"I really did start to miss swimming and I am thankful Tom gave me this great opportunity," Scaccia said. "Everyone here is really accepting. I love them."

Despite being ineligible due to residency requirements until the Vandals meet against Northern Arizona on Jan. 12, Scaccia showed just how much she appreciated the opportunity by making her mark against Boise State University.

In her second career collegiate meet, Idaho's newest member finished first in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:01.92.

And while the victory was an exciting moment for Scaccia, the meet was about more than just winning.

"It was pretty cool winning, but I just missed competition so much I could have come in dead last and been happy about it," Scaccia said.

For her coach, the win was also exciting, but he knows there is more to come as the future looms bright for the young swimmer.

"She is a great talent and this year is just the start," Jager said. "It takes a while to get back into it after taking time off, and next year I think she will really develop."

Jager has been familiar with the Kalispell, Mont., native since he coached in Montana prior to his acceptance of the Idaho job.

"I think I actually coached her officially one day. I was on my way to take this job and she was moving into the area," Jager said. "I tried to recruit her last year but she was just tired of swimming and she was pretty upfront saying she wasn't interested."

However, Scaccia did become interested and the wait has proven to be worthwhile for all involved.

See SCACCIA, page B7

Owen breaks own record again

By Ryan Atkins
Argonaut

Melinda Owen continues to show why she will be a force to be reckoned with at the national championships next month.

For the second straight week, Owen, the defending Western Athletic Conference champion in the pole vault, broke her own school record, clearing 13-5 3/4 inches to clench her spot as the top collegiate finisher in the women's pole vault.

"She is awesome. Our vault coach has done a great job with Melinda. They just work so well together," University of Idaho coach Wayne Phipps said. "She is getting more and more consistent at the higher heights, which I think bodes real well for the national championships."

Owen's mark at the Husky Invite was a NCAA provisional qualifying height, and Owen has just under a month to prepare for her ultimate goal.

"I am definitely aiming for the national title," Owen said.

"I know I am capable of it and I want to do it."

But even with her second school record in as many weeks, Owen said she wants to jump higher.

"I don't think that I am close to where I should be yet," Owen said. "So it's frustrating and it's exciting, but it is early. I am hitting some good heights but I want to hit some higher ones."

As for the rest of the women's team, members set 10 personal bests at the meet.

"I think it went pretty well. Nothing ever goes perfectly but we had a number of personal bests and I feel we are in pretty good shape for conference," Phipps said.

Freshman Rhea Richter ran a personal best 17 minutes and 22.81 seconds in the 5000-meter run which is the top mark in the WAC this season.

Four Vandals also hit personal bests in the mile run, led by junior Breanna Chipney, who finished the mile in 5:00.18, the third-best time in the WAC.

Redshirt freshman Mykael Bothum won her flight in the shot put, tying a personal best with a throw of 46-8.

The Vandal men also put on a show in Seattle, setting 14 personal bests, and hitting two NCAA provisional marks and one NCAA automatic qualifying mark.

"I don't want to say the men's team is the favorite in the conference, but we are cautiously optimistic with everything," Phipps said. "I can't complain about the way things have gone so far, we are healthy and we are putting things together at the right time."

Russ Winger, who is No. 1 in the nation, continued his dominance in the shot put, tying his personal best with a throw of 65-2, an automatic qualifying mark. Winger won the event by more than six feet. Winger also hit a provisional mark in the weight throw with a personal-best throw of 65-7.

Idaho distance established new WAC-leading times in the 800-meter run, the mile run and the 3000-meter run.

Senior Benjamin Mimoun set a personal best in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.97, third fastest in the WAC.

It was Mimoun's first 200-meter run for Idaho after being sidelined with hamstring problems early in the season.

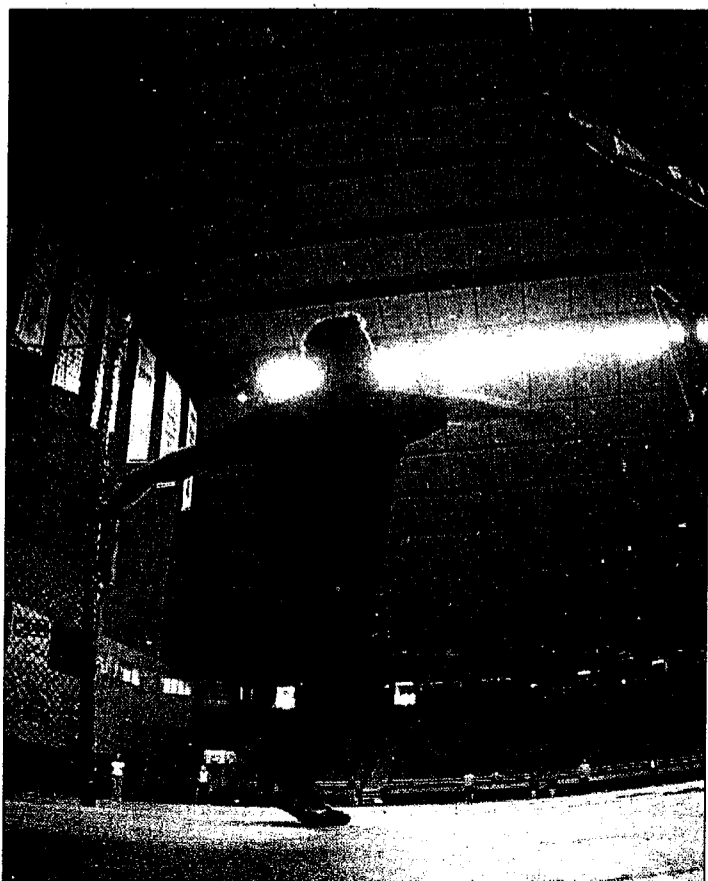
"It was Benjamin's first time running for Idaho in his real event, and I look for him to be a serious contender to win the 200 at conference," Phipps said.

UI Sophomore Kevin Pabst leaped a personal best 23-6 in the long jump, which is the second-best jump in the conference this year, while WAC weight throw leader Matt Wauters took third in the event with a NCAA provisional qualifying mark of 66-3 3/4.

Still, the Vandals aren't quite at full strength, something Phipps hopes to remedy by this weekend.

"We are two guys away, two of our best guys away from putting our full team out there," Phipps said. "So it is

See TRACK, page B7



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut

Senior Marcus Mattox throws a disc at the McDonald's Collegiate Invite Friday at the Kibbie Dome.

Utah State owns Cowan Spectrum

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By J.R. Conrow
Argonaut

The University of Idaho women's basketball team struggles to find an answer for the answer. In the last three games, the women have been outscored 202-146.

The Vandals' lost 57-53 Saturday in the Cowan Spectrum to the Utah State Aggies in a game that saw 47 turnovers.

Idaho is 5-18 (2-10 Western Athletic Conference) and on a three-game losing streak since its last win at San Jose State on Feb. 1.

Junior Sara Dennehy, who had been out of the line-up since Feb. 3 with a foot injury, practiced on Friday. She said she felt good and played Saturday for the Vandals.

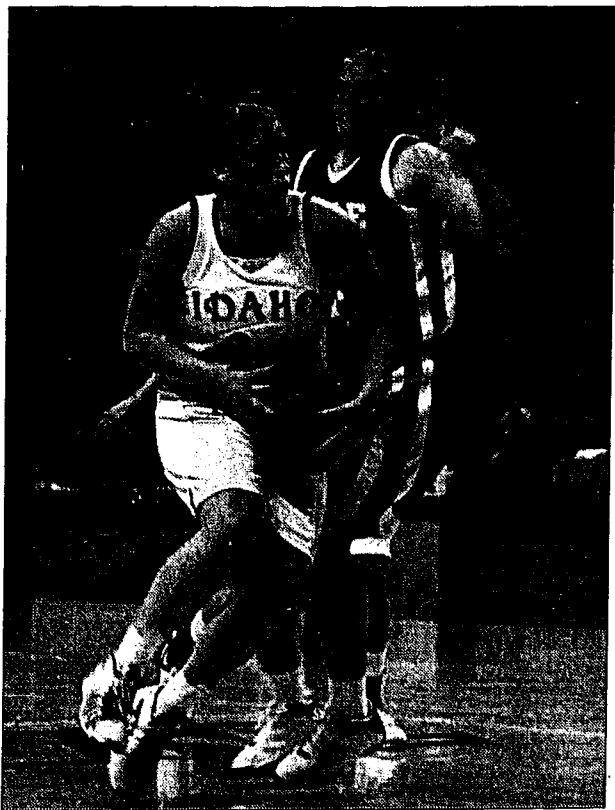
Freshman Katie Madison led all scorers with 12 points in the first half and would go on to finish with her ninth double-double of the year. She finished with 28 points and 10 rebounds.

"I don't have any bit strategy (against Utah State)," Madison said. "I just work my way inside and make some good shots."

Madison has played well against the Aggies this year. In the Jan. 11 encounter in Logan, Utah, Madison finished with 25 points and 12 boards.

"I don't want the program built around one kid, but Katie plays very consistently for a freshman," UI coach Mike Divilbiss said after Saturday's game. "You almost start to expect a double-double from her every night and she is a freshman."

The Vandals scored points here and there in the first half, but allowed



Kentaro Murai/Argonaut
Freshman Katie Madison goes past Michelle Hessing for a layup during the basketball game against Boise State Wednesday at the Cowan Spectrum.

Utah State to get back in the game. Idaho scored 19 points in the first 12 minutes; they scored only four in the last eight and would trail 27-23 at the half.

Utah State started the second half on a 4-0 run to lead 31-23. Madison hit two free throws with 17:19 left to bring Idaho within six at 31-25. The Vandals went on a 10-4 run in the next seven minutes to tie the game at 35, after junior Liz Witte hit two free throws. Idaho would tie the game one more time at 45 after a layup from Madison with five minutes to go, but the Aggies would not give up the lead.

"We had more shots than they did," Divilbiss said. "We took better care

of the ball than they did. We did a better job on the offensive boards than they did. We just couldn't make a basket when we needed one."

Along with Madison's double-double, Dennehy had eight points and five boards and Wells had seven points and four rebounds.

The Vandals went 15-of-25 from the foul line, while Utah State had just eight attempts on the night. UI's offense went 18 of 57 in field goal attempts and two of 18 from the 3-point line.

Idaho starts a two-week road trip on Saturday, when it plays the Lady Techsters of Louisiana Tech in Ruston, LA. Tip off is 5 p.m. PST.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

By Nick Heidelberger
Argonaut

The Utah State Aggies used a 19-of-27 (.704) first half shooting performance to build a 20-point half-time lead en route to a 75-66 win against the University of Idaho men's basketball team Saturday.

Hot 3-point shooting gave the Vandals a chance in the second half, with Miles Webb and Keoni Watson shooting 5-for-9 from the 3-point line for the game, but Utah State's Jaycee Carroll always seemed to have an answer.

So, what went wrong for Idaho that put them down by as much as 23 in the first half?

"That's the million-dollar question," Webb said. "Nobody really knows why we come out the way we do sometimes. We're not going to give up. We're still going to fight until the last game of the season."

Idaho took a 2-0 lead early in the game, and that would be the last time the score was in its favor. The Aggies nailed their first six shots, and nine of their first 10, to put Idaho away early.

Utah State's Arvydas Vaitiekus surpassed his previous season total of eight points with 10 in the first half, and 12 for the game.

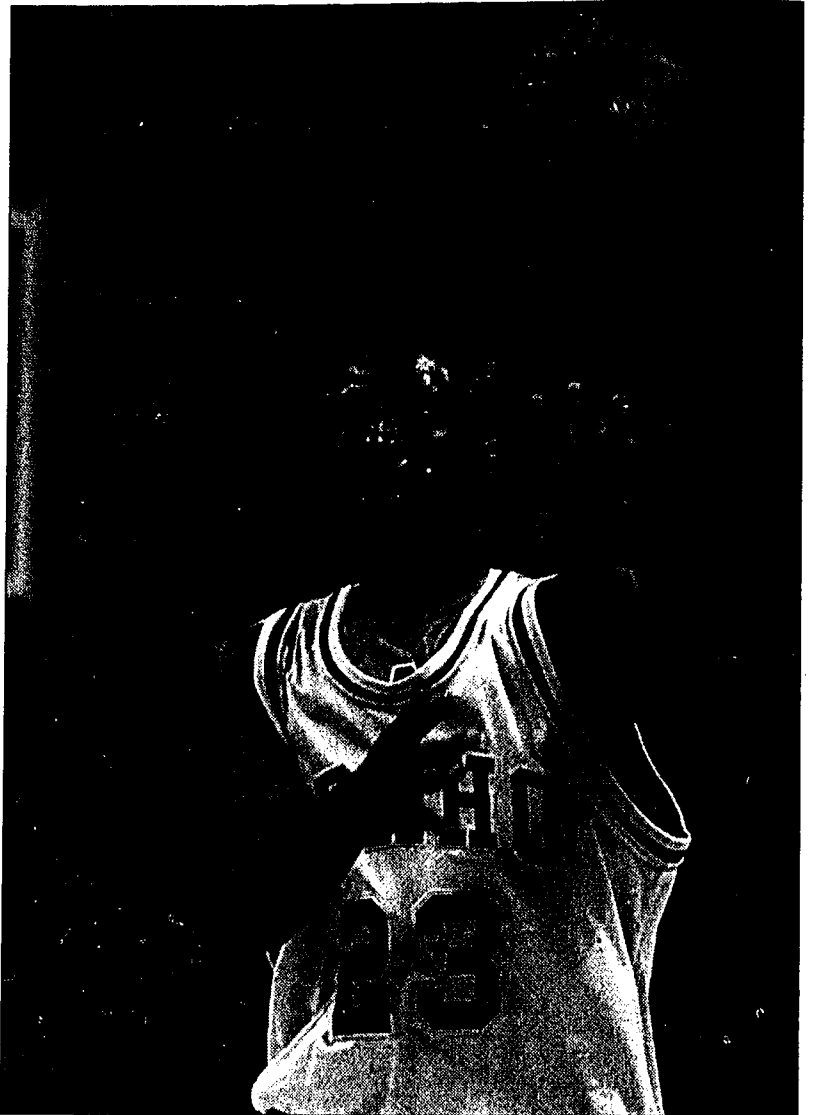
Idaho made a run in the second half, and pulled to within 10 on two occasions but was never able to pull ahead.

"We thought if a couple shots go down, we'd be right there, with a chance to win," Webb said. "We were happy for a second, everybody was into it, but couldn't pull it out at the end."

One main reason for that was Carroll. He led all scorers with 28 points, and added eight rebounds. He was awarded WAC men's basketball Player of the Week for his performance in Saturday's game.

"They are a tremendous shooting team," Idaho coach George Pfeifer said. "Utah State is a hard team to play because they run their stuff very well, they have a lot of experienced players, and then they have the Carroll factor. They are a tough team for us to play."

Watson led Idaho in scoring with 24 points, and Webb added 18 off the bench for Idaho.



File Photo
O.J. Aworo passes the ball during the Vandal men's basketball game against San Jose State on Feb. 1 in the Cowan Spectrum.

"I knew I was going to get an opportunity to play today, and I just wanted to make the most of it," Webb said. "I would have really liked to get a win."

Watson started his first game since missing Idaho's game against Fresno State on Feb. 3 for academic reasons.

"That week killed me," Watson said. "I hope that never happens again."

Watson said he was in the stands, and watched the Vandals lose in overtime to FSU

in overtime. "It wasn't a good feeling," Watson said. "Especially a game that close, with a couple of pieces, we could have won it."

The Vandals were without Michael Crowell, who has started 19 games for Idaho this season. Pfeifer said Crowell had a sore back that kept him sidelined.

Idaho hits the road to take on Louisiana Tech Wednesday, before returning home for its Bracketbuster matchup against UC Riverside on Saturday.

National BRIEFS

Mickelson wins at Pebble Beach

Phil Mickelson finally got his season on track, winning golf's Pebble Beach National Pro-Am by five shots.

Mickelson closed with a 6-under 66 to tie the 72-hole tournament scoring record and claim his 30th career victory.

It was an all-around performance by Mickelson, as he finished in the top five in driving accuracy, greens in regulation, putting and driving distance.

With the victory, Mickelson became just the third player in PGA Tour history to surpass \$40 million in earnings.

Kevin Sutherland finished second at 15-under and John Mallinger finished third, one shot behind.

Davis Love III and Greg Owen rounded out the top five, respectively.

Riley to return after All-Star Break

Miami Heat coach Pat Riley is expected to return to the sidelines Feb. 21 following the NBA's All-Star Break.

Riley left the team on Jan. 3 due to ongoing hip and knee problems, both of which

required surgery.

The 61-year-old Riley left the team with a 13-17 record, but assistant coach Ron Rothstein has led the Heat to six wins in their last seven games, and improved the team's record to 25-26.

The Heat will send three players to Las Vegas for the All-Star Game, with Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal playing in the game, and Jason Kapon taking part in the 3-point shootout.

Duke drops out of coaches' poll

Duke's fourth straight loss Sunday dropped the Blue Devils out of the college basketball polls.

It marks the first time in the nine-year history of the ESPN/USA Today poll that Duke has not been ranked, and it is the first time since the end of the 1995-96 season that Duke fell out of The Associated Press poll.

The Blue Devils had been in the media poll for 200 straight weeks, the second longest streak behind UCLA.

Duke's fourth straight loss came against unranked Maryland, and the 72-60 defeat was the team's most lopsided loss of the season. Duke now sits at 5-6 in ACC play.

At the top of the polls,

Florida (23-2) was the unanimous No. 1 receiving all 31 first-place votes. The Gators beat Kentucky 64-61 Saturday to push their winning streak to 16 games.

Ohio State (22-3) sat behind the Gators in second, with Wisconsin (24-2), North Carolina (22-3) and Pittsburgh (22-3) rounding out the top five.

AFC wins Pro Bowl

The AFC needed a last-second field goal to hold off the NFC for a 31-28 victory in NFL's 57th edition of the Pro Bowl.

Nate Kaeding kicked a 21-yard field goal as time expired to cap a drive led by game MVP Carson Palmer.

The NFC trailed 28-14 with three minutes to play before Stephen Jackson scored on a fourth-down touchdown run and Ronde Barber recovered an onside kick to set up Anquan Boldin's 47-yard touchdown catch from Tony Romo.

Palmer passed for 190 yards and two touchdowns, but was aided by a 39-yard pass interference penalty on the game's final drive which put the ball near the goal line for the AFC.

NFC starter Drew Brees played just two series before dislocating his left elbow, while Tiki Barber scored a touchdown in his final game as a player in the NFL.

SportsCALENDAR

Wednesday

UI men's basketball at Louisiana Tech
Ruston, LA
5 p.m.

UI swimming at WAC Championships
San Antonio

Thursday

Intramural walleyball entries due

UI swimming at WAC Championships
San Antonio

Friday

UI men's tennis vs. Northern Colorado
Las Cruces, N.M.
9 a.m.

UI swimming at WAC Championships
San Antonio

Intramural 3-point shootout competition

Saturday

UI men's basketball vs. UC

Riverside
Cowan Spectrum
7 p.m.

UI women's basketball at Louisiana Tech
Ruston, LA
5 p.m.

UI men's tennis vs. Northern Arizona
Las Cruces, N.M.

2 p.m.

UI women's tennis at Lewis Clark State
Lewiston

UI swimming at WAC Championships
San Antonio

Intramural walleyball play begins

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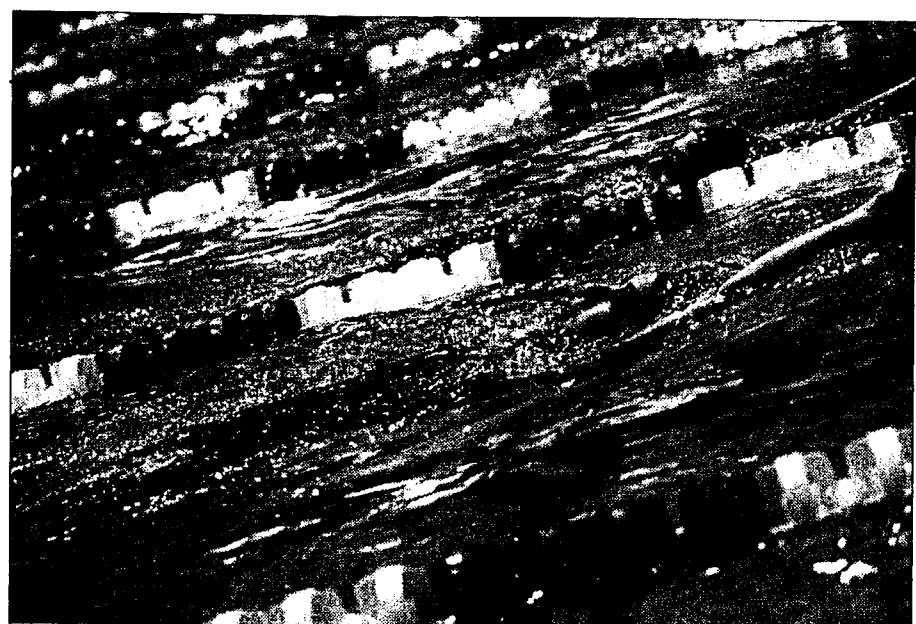
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Melissa Davlin/Argonaut
Justine Scaccia warms up during practice Monday afternoon at the UI swim center.

SCACCIA from page B5

One of the reasons for her early success is the laid-back attitude that has helped her bond with her teammates. "I guess I am a child at heart. I am just a big kid. I like people who can make funny jokes. I like 'Dumb and Dumber.' I am just goofy. I don't really care about what other people think. I am just kind of laid back," Scaccia said. That attitude includes a lust for a certain delectable treat — chocolate chip cookie dough. But even with her laid-back style of living and serious sweet tooth, Scaccia still knows the most important meet of the season looms for the Vandals, and she doesn't want to stop with the hard work now. "I want to drop a lot of time for conference and I think I will," Scaccia said. "It has been hard this season, but I am feeling really strong in the events I chose."

TRACK from page B5

there," Phipps said. "So it is nice to be on paper one of the favorites without two guys who can score a lot of points for us." Diego Guzman Moreno, a distance runner from Peru, was unable to run due to sickness. Phipps said he is one of the favorites in the 3000-meter and 5000-meter runs. Phipps did not name the other team member. "Diego is one of the favorites in the 3000 and the 5000 and I don't think many people know about him in the rest of the conference which could be a surprise," Phipps said. The Vandals return to action this weekend at home with the Vandal Indoor Friday and the McDonald's Open Saturday in the Kibbie Dome.

SWIM from page B5

swimming great. It's fun to watch. We are in great shape. We had great training, but that is only half of it so now we will see how tough our kids are mentally." Even with good health and impressive training, improved competition throughout the conference will mean a tough test for the Vandals, and Jager said he expects a battle. "We want to swim well. We want to hold our position at fifth from last year, but that is going to be really hard this year," Jager said. "We are building toward the future, but if our kids swim well, we will be fine."

Roddick seeks to close gap

By Darren Sabedra
San Jose Mercury News

Shortly before last month's Australian Open, Andy Roddick was assessing his chances of beating the big bully of the men's tennis tour, Roger Federer.

"There's still a long way to go," Roddick said, "but I'm a lot more optimistic."

Roddick didn't come close to conquering Mount Federer in Australia. In fact, the 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 outcome was worse than expected.

But as Roddick, 24, returns to San Jose, Calif., this week for the SAP Open, two questions loom: Might the Federer debacle ruin Roddick's year? Or will the United States' top-ranked player keep building on the progress he has made since tennis legend Jimmy Connors started coaching him last summer?

The answers should begin to emerge when Roddick steps on the court at HP Pavilion. His opening-round match Wednesday will be his first on the ATP Tour since Federer crushed him in that Australian Open semifinal Jan. 26.

"I don't think it's back to the drawing board for Andy at all," said Jim Courier, who was ranked No. 1 in the early 1990s. "Andy didn't play his best tennis. Roger played incredibly well. It would be way too soon for Andy to panic based on one match."

Pete Sampras isn't so sure about that. Like others, Sampras said he thought Roddick was on the verge of beating Federer after relatively close losses at the U.S. Open and the year-ending Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai.

But now Sampras suspects Roddick might have taken a step back.

"I think Roger wanted to set the record straight that he is clearly the best player," said Sampras, who won a record 14 Grand Slam tournaments. "Roddick does have a big game, but he seems uncomfortable playing Roger. They play similar games, but Roger is that much better at it. Roger has that extra gear to impose his will. Roddick really doesn't."

That said, Roddick has played better under Connors' tutelage. He is coming to the net more. He uses his backhand with more power and precision. And, except for when he plays Federer, he is winning again.

In two Grand Slam tournaments with Connors on his side — last year's U.S. Open and this year's Australian Open — Roddick has reached a final and a semifinal. In the four Grand Slam events before Connors arrived, Roddick failed to advance beyond the round of 16 and lost in the first round twice.

Not surprisingly, Roddick said of Connors, "It's just great having a mentor and adviser who has been there before, who kind of gets what you're going through a little bit."

Connors, 54, hooked up with Roddick last July in Los Angeles. Soon thereafter, Connors, who spent a record five consecutive years at No. 1 from 1974-78, was in Roddick's hometown of Austin, working with his pupil.

The week in Texas had immediate results. Roddick won his next tournament, in Cincinnati. It was his first title in nearly a year and set the wheels in motion for a run at the U.S. Open.

"I'm proud of him," Connors told the New York

Times during the Open. "The way he's playing and the way he listens and the way he goes about his practicing, you don't find someone who's had his success to be willing to continue to do that."

But for everything Roddick has achieved in the sport, he has won only one Grand Slam tournament (the 2003 U.S. Open) and is 1-13 against Federer.

It's anyone's guess if Connors — who shares coaching duties with Roddick's brother, John — can do anything about either. If not for Federer, Roddick might have won the past two Grand Slam events. Instead, Roddick is still searching for answers.

Connors was unavailable for comment for this story. But, after Roddick's loss to Federer at last year's U.S. Open, he told the Times, "I'm going to give him a game, no matter who he plays. This is not building a game from the ground up. This is tinkering here and tinkering there to give him the opportunity to beat Roger Federer."

During his playing days, Connors was as feisty as anyone. He won eight Grand Slam tournaments, including five U.S. Opens. In 1991, Roddick was in the stands when Connors made his legendary last stand, a dramatic run to the U.S. Open semifinals at age 39.

Rekindling the stories must be great, right? Well, if they are, Roddick wouldn't know.

"I don't remember one time where he's been talking about his matches, what he did," Roddick said. "That's probably the part that's surprised me the most. I ask him a lot of questions about it. (But) he kind of focuses on what I have to do."

So, what are the workouts like? Extremely vocal?

"It's weird," Roddick said, "because he's not as loud and boisterous as you all might think. He's pretty demure. Very straightforward, very involved with the whole process."

Connors doesn't travel with Roddick to every tournament, so it's unclear if he will be in attendance this week. It also was uncertain if Connors would make it to Australia last month because his mother, the woman credited for making him a champion, had just died. But Connors was there, in time for Roddick to outlast Marat Safin in the third round.

"For him to be here in the flesh, we're really happy," Roddick said at the time.

Time will tell if Connors, Roddick's fourth coach since 2004, is the man to lead him to consistent greatness. Because in today's tennis, consistent greatness means only one thing: Finding the key to beat Roger Federer.

A thinning surgery

By Celeste Katz and Julian Kessler
New York Daily News

Radical stomach-shrinking surgery safely helps obese teens drop an average 100 pounds — and could soon be an option for the nation's overstuffed kids, a landmark new study shows. Gastric banding, known as a "lap band" or "belly band," is performed on teens in only a handful of hospitals, but the study's success means kids across the country soon could get skinnier with surgery.

"The band is going to be the way to go," said study co-author Dr. Evan Nadler, director of minimally invasive pediatric surgery at New York University School of Medicine. "In our hands, the band is safe and effective for teenagers."

The New York Daily News reported last month that the Food and Drug Administration is allowing three hospitals to try the operation on adolescents: NYU, the University of Illinois at Chicago and New York-Presbyterian's Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, which already has opened a potentially lucrative weight-loss sur-

gery center just for teens.

The FDA is still two to three years away from giving its okay for other hospitals to perform the surgery on the high school set.

Nadler and his colleagues tracked the progress of 53 of NYU's teen patients and found the average patient's weight plummeted from 297 pounds before surgery to 204 pounds a year later — an average loss of 93 pounds of flab.

Lee Glover, 17, of Corona, Queens, N.Y., underwent a lap-band operation at NYU in early December and has already dropped about 65 pounds from his 400-pound body.

"I'm feeling fine. It's going good so far," he said. "I would recommend it to other people. It's working for me."

In the procedure, an adjustable band is tied around the top of the stomach to shrink how much food it can hold. It was approved for adult use in September 2001 — but its use in teens remains controversial, with critics calling it a copout for fat kids with poor lifestyle habits.

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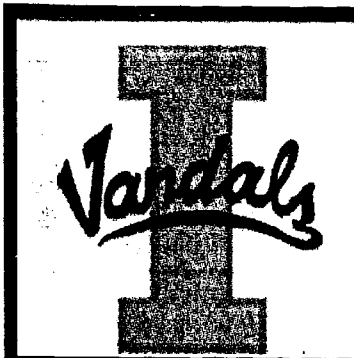
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Nationally Ranked Track Team Triumphs

Russ Winger won the men's shot put to lead a strong effort by the Idaho men's track team Saturday at the Husky Classic that included 14 personal bests, two NCAA provisional marks and one NCAA automatic qualifying mark.

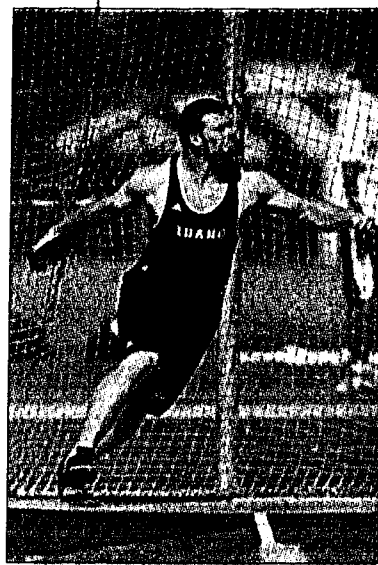
Winger tied his personal-best in the shot put with a toss of 65-2, which is an automatic qualifying mark, to win the event by a six-foot, four-inch margin. Winger also hit a provisional mark in the weight throw, taking fourth with a personal-best toss of 65-7.

The men's distance team made a strong statement, with every competitor hitting a personal best. Vandal runners also established new WAC-leading times in the 800m, mile and 3000m. Junior Bastien Tardy ran a personal-best 1:53.59 in the 800m, senior Mike Thompson ran a personal-best 4:16.92 in the mile and sophomore Kevin Friesen ran a personal-best 8:21.75 in the 3000m to take the leads in the WAC.

Kevin Merkling (4:17.23) and Jeremiah Johnston (4:18.05) turned in the second and third best times in the WAC. Senior Kevin Potter finished the 800m in 1:55.70 to give him the third-best time in the WAC this year. Sophomore Matt Racine finished sixth in his heat of the 5000m run with a personal-best 15:03.29, which is the third-best WAC time this year.

Senior Benjamin Mimoun finished second in his 200m heat with a personal-best 21.97 to give him the third-best WAC time in the event this year.

The Vandals were solid in



the field events, as well. Freshman jumper Jonathan Marler finished fifth in his flight in the high jump with a personal-best leap of 6-47. Freshman Mike Carpenter took fourth in his flight in the pole vault and improved his personal best to 15-17. The vault is the third-best in the WAC this year.

Sophomore Kevin Pabst leaped a personal-best 23-6 in the long jump, which is the second-best jump in the WAC this year.

WAC weight throw leader Matt Wauters took third in the event with a NCAA provisional qualifying mark of 66-37. Sophomore James Rogan won his flight with a personal-best effort of 55-9 in the event.

The Vandal men head back home for the Vandal Indoor on Feb. 16 and the McDonald's Open on Feb. 17 in the Kibbie Dome.

Madison scores 28, but Vandals fall to Utah State

Katie Madison scored 28 points for the University of Idaho women's basketball team, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Utah State Aggies. Utah State edged Idaho, 57-53, Saturday night at the Cowan Spectrum.

With the loss Idaho falls to 5-18 overall and 2-10 in the Western Athletic Conference. Utah State improves to 9-13 overall and 5-5 in the WAC.

"I don't want the program built around one kid, but Katie plays very consistently for a freshman," Idaho coach Mike Divilbiss said. "You almost start to expect a double-double from her every night and she is a freshman."

In addition to her game-high 28 points, Madison had a game-high 10 rebounds.

"We had more shots than they did," Divilbiss said. "We took better care of the ball than they did. We did a better job on the offensive boards than they did. We just couldn't make a basket when we needed one."

Idaho jumped out to an early 12-4 lead in the game's first three minutes. Madison had two layups in the opening stretch. Charlotte Otero also got on the scoreboard early with a 3-point basket from the corner.

"Let's be realistic our two freshman are our point guard and our post. I have always believed that is where you build a program," Divilbiss said. "We have a post that is a legitimate

threat in the box and can rebound. The things she needs to improve are mostly within the system, and also knowing where the double is coming from, but she is already pretty good at that. Charlotte needs to be more of a threat offensively, but she is leading the league in assists."

The Aggies didn't fold their tents under the Vandals onslaught and began to claw back into the game. A jumper from Jamelah Brown, at the 10:34 mark of the first half made the Vandal lead 17-11. Brown's jumper began an Aggie run, which saw Idaho held scoreless from the floor until there were just 16 seconds left in the half. Madison hit a layup at the 16 second mark to cut the Aggie lead to 23-27, where it would stand as the teams headed to halftime. From Brown's jumper through the end of the half Utah State outscored Idaho 16-6.

Idaho's shooting struggles continued into the second half and the Vandals were held scoreless from the floor until Hannah Wells hit a layup with 15:40 left in the game.

Madison had 16 of her points in the second half but the Vandals couldn't overcome the Aggie four-point advantage, falling 57-53.

Idaho returns to action when it faces Louisiana Tech at Ruston, La. Tip off is set for 5 p.m., PST.



Support Your Vandals at Upcoming Events!

Vandal Indoor Track and Field Kibbie Dome	Friday February 16th at 6 p.m.
Men's Basketball versus UC Riverside Cowan Spectrum	Saturday February 17th at 7 p.m.

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