

ARTS
Festival Dance celebrates Peru
Negro's dance, rhythm and
beats in the Beasley Coliseum

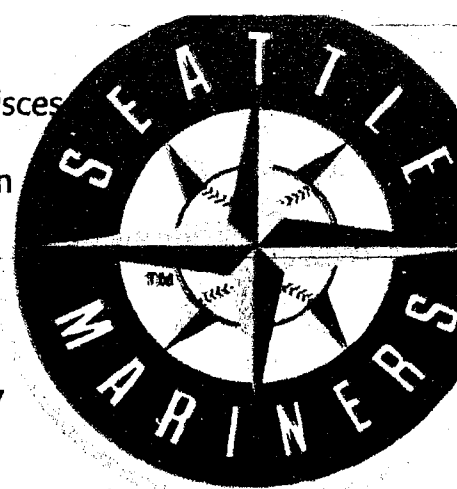
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UI joins four area
schools in commitment
to tribal education

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Johnny Ballgame reminisces
about how he came to
be a Seattle Mariners fan

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UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

THE ARGONAUT

The Vandal Voice Since 1898



It's all Greek to me

Joining Greek system can be intimidating, but well worth it, members say

Cyrilla Watson
Argonaut

Joining a fraternity is what kept sophomore Jeff Stackhouse from leaving Moscow last spring. "Since I became a member of Alpha Tau Omega I went from hating Moscow to loving it," Stackhouse said.

The College of Natural Resources is what brought him to the University of Idaho from California. Stackhouse lived in the CNR building

in the Living and Learning Communities.

He said the CNR building wasn't as involved in the university as he wanted to be. He then looked around at the different fraternity houses and thought the men in ATO were the nicest.

"My parents didn't want me to join a fraternity because of the stereotypes," Stackhouse said.

Stackhouse said everybody wants to party but there is a threshold when the partying stops and the studying begins.

He showed he wanted to be a part of the house by improving his GPA.

Stackhouse said he participated in informal recruitment and was initiated last spring. He became recruitment chair during his freshmen year and is now the president of the fraternity.

"I wouldn't be here if it weren't for the Greek system," Stackhouse said.

Greek adviser Adrienne Loehring said more than 500 students participate in formal recruitment each year and 95 percent of those students join a house. More than 60 students participate in informal recruitment throughout the year.

More than 25 students are given bid cards — an invitation to join the house — for every house, said Tri-Delta member Dani Thaete.

The formal recruitment process for sororities is different than it is for fraternities.

Sorority recruitment is a four day process. Those who want to participate can sign up on the Greek Life Web site. Students will come to the university before school starts in the fall to participate. Next year's recruitment runs Aug. 15-20.

Students stay in the Theophilus Tower during the four day process.

On the first day students visit all nine sororities, get a feel for the house and take note on which houses they like, Thaete said. Dur-

ing the second day, students take tours of seven of the houses and get to know the women in those houses. The third day is known as "philanthropy day." Students visit no more than four houses and learn about the houses' philanthropy and what they are involved in, said Pi Beta Phi member Callie Casher. On the fourth day, also known as "preference day," students visit their two top picks.

After the four days, members of the houses will deliberate and give a bid card to each student they want to join their house.

Thaete said she would describe recruitment as dual selection because both students and sorority members have a say in the final decision.

See GREEK, page A9

Colleges share in earmark money

Associated Press

BOISE — Boise State University will get \$9.4 million and the University of Idaho will receive \$7 million this year as part of more than \$20 million Congress has approved for the state, according to a report by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The money, made available through earmarks, will be used to try to develop a West Nile virus vaccine, design computer memory that can function in outer space, and to share science on managing wildfires, the Idaho Statesman reported.

Also getting money are Idaho State University at \$2 million, College of Southern Idaho at \$709,155, College of Idaho at \$286,899, Eastern Idaho Technical College at \$95,305, Lewis-Clark State College at \$337,000 and Northwest Nazarene at \$430,348.

Besides the \$20 million going directly to schools for specific projects, another \$10 million will be shared by Idaho schools and other groups across the country.

Released Monday, the report showed this fiscal year's federal spending on collegiate earmarks nationally reached a record high of \$2.25 billion, representing nearly 900 projects, four times as many awards than were given in 1998.

Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, who is retiring at the end of the year, sponsored 25 Idaho higher education earmarks last year. Craig serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and some Idaho school officials are concerned the state might not get as much money once he retires.

"We will have to earn our way back up to the stature Sen. Craig had," said Steven Daley-Laursen, dean of UI's College of Natural Resources.

BSU President Bob Kustra said earmarks are helping the school as it tries to enhance its reputation as a research university.

"This earmarking process is the only way

See EARMARK, page A4

Symposium addresses reconciliation

Event will feature former president of South Africa

Hayley Guenther
Argonaut

The former president of South Africa and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient is making the journey to the University of Idaho.

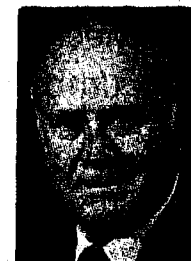
UI's annual Borah Symposium will bring F.W. de Klerk to serve as the keynote speaker. De Klerk was the last state president of the apartheid era in South Africa. His efforts with the abolishment of the country's racial segregation policy in 1993 earned him the Nobel Peace Prize to share with fellow former President Nelson Mandela.

Co-chair for the event, Jimmy Fox, said the university is thrilled to welcome such a prominent guest.

"Everyone is really excited about de Klerk coming to campus," he said. "We get to kind of restart the tradition of planting trees in the Presidential Grove."

The grove is located in the Administration Building lawn and consists of trees planted by all the presidents who have roamed the UI campus. Fox said de Klerk will be the first foreign head of state to leave his mark. The ceremony will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

This year's convention is themed "Reconciliation," following inter- or intra-state divergence, making de Klerk the perfect honorary guest. Fox



F.W.
de Klerk

See CAMPUS, page A6

See BORAH, page A4

More than 3,800 people visiting campus today

Lianna Shepherd
Argonaut

Lloyd Scott has been a part of 12 of the 13 Vandal Fridays.

The director of New Student Services, Scott said that walking through the Kibbie Dome this afternoon is like looking at the future of the University of Idaho.

"If you want to see what being a Vandal is all about, just go to Vandal Friday," he said.

Next to the Jazz Festival, Vandal Friday is one of the biggest events on campus. More than 3,800 people cover the campus to learn about

life at UI.

Students and parents take campus tours, explore the various residence options, and participate in informative workshops.

"Parents love this event every bit as much as the students," Scott said. "It's our opportunity to show what a caring and supportive structure we offer."

For some, the event serves as an introduction, but for many it is an orientation. Vandal Friday allows future freshmen to meet with academic advisers to plan fall course schedules and register early for classes. Many students also take

this opportunity to confirm financial aid and scholarship awards.

"Last year we had 145 students who proclaimed themselves as general studies majors," Scott said. "This year architecture is our biggest school so far."

One of the most popular aspects of the event is the overnight stay on campus. Prospective students are given the opportunity to experience UI's Greek or Residence Hall living first hand.

"Staying over night lets students kick the tires a little bit ... it demystifies the fears and concerns that people have about living on

campus," said Leah Andrews, the recruitment coordinator for University Residences.

Student hosts from the different residences volunteer to share their rooms with visiting students. Students are able to stay both Thursday and Friday night allowing them to try different buildings.

"We want students on campus," Andrews said. "Studies show that when you're living on campus you're more likely to graduate, graduate early and have a higher GPA. Besides, campus does offer a

See CAMPUS, page A6

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ON THE WEB

Keep an eye on the Arg Web site for updates, exclusives and more.
www.uiargonaut.com

Most of us here at The Argonaut have a sense of humor.

Some of us, like Guy in a Monkey Suit, have rather wicked senses of humor.

As such, April Fool's Day is one of his favorite holidays.

The Guy wants to know if you've ever

played a prank on someone and if it was a success. He wants to hear about it.

Send your prank stories to arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu.

Here's one to get you started.

This one time, when Guy was in sixth grade, he had some fake blood and a PE class.

While running his lap, he stopped in a gravelly area and ducked out of site.

He splattered some fake blood on his arm and covered in it dirt and pebbles then ran back to his teacher.

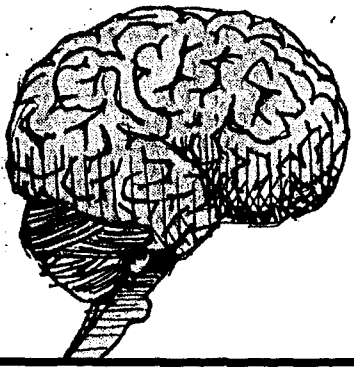
He told her what it was after she said she'd take him to the nurse.

Guy doesn't like medical attention.

PeopleWeKnow

by KRJ/Argonaut

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN:



THIS IS YOUR BRAIN DURING A MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST:



© 2008 KRJ

To become a resident for purposes of in-state tuition you must register to vote in Idaho, pay taxes in Idaho, register your car in Idaho, work in Idaho, bank in Idaho, never leave Idaho, and wear the official "I Heart Potatoes" pin.

CHECK!



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Campus Recreation

Late Night at the Rec Vandal Friday

FREE for U of I students and Vandal Friday guests with student ID! Dodgeball, basketball, wellness classes, and FREE food and prizes!

Intramural Sports Deadlines

Track Meet
Forms Due: 4/10
Play Begins: 4/13

IM Managers Meeting #4
4/10 @ 4pm
in SRC Classroom

Frisbee Golf
Forms Due: 4/17
Play Begins: 4/19

Sport Club Federation

Run by the Students, for the Students

Are you into competitive sports like rugby, skiing, lacrosse, water polo, and many more? Do you want to compete against other universities?

Join a sport club today!

ggresch@uidaho.edu
www.webs.uidaho.edu/sportclubs

Wellness Classes

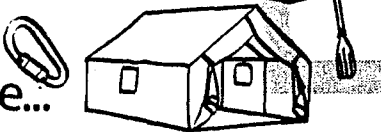
Only 6 weeks left before summer!

Make sure you're ready for it! Come check out wellness classes like Zumba, Gravity, and Cycling!

www.campusrec.uidaho.edu/wellness

Outdoor Program & Rental Center

Everyday is an Adventure...



Coming Soon!

Palouse Climbing Festival
4/25-26 @ the SRC Climbing Wall

www.campusrec.uidaho.edu/outdoor

Campus Recreation Office 885-6381
Recreation Hotline 885-1212
www.campusrec.uidaho.edu

Correction:

The UI Multicultural Center hosted the discussion by Mohamed Adouiane on Wednesday in the TLC, not the Women's Center.

Of the Department of Theater and Film's production, "Festival of New Works," Maaike Davidson wrote "The One," not Luis Guerrero, who directed it.

SudokuPUZZLE

Very Easy

9			2			3		
				7	4	1		
							2	
8	6				2	5		
	4		1		3			7
2		1	8			4		
	1	3		2	8	7	6	
		5	3	1		9		2
9	2		4			8	1	3

Solution

6	1	8	5	4	7	2	6	9	
2	7	6	9	1	8	9	8	7	
9	9	7	8	2	6	8	1	4	
9	6	7	7	9	8	1	8	2	
7	8	2	3	9	1	6	4	5	
1	8	9	2	6	4	7	9	8	
8	2	9	6	8	9	4	7	1	
6	5	1	4	7	9	8	2	6	
4	7	7	1	1	2	2	9	5	6

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



CrosswordPUZZLE

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Hinged fasteners
 - 6 Torn ticket
 - 10 Fixed charge
 - 14 Bandleader
 - 15 Shaw
 - 15 Biblical weed
 - 16 Track shape
 - 17 Rich, creamy dressing
 - 19 Poet Teasdale
 - 20 Seasonal song
 - 21 Bring before the bar
 - 23 Canal or channel
 - 27 Hollered
 - 28 Lotion ingredient
 - 29 Gangster's rod
 - 31 Swollen, fluid-filled sacs
 - 32 Reseal a package
 - 35 Pitcher's bag
 - 37 Lair
 - 38 Chewy candy
 - 40 Lout
 - 43 Italian salami
 - 44 Bank employee
 - 46 Ballplayer
 - 49 Guerrero
 - 49 Mining product
 - 51 Ireland
 - 52 Playwright
 - 52 Eugene
 - 54 Provide restitution for
 - 57 Public disgrace
 - 59 Big rig
 - 60 Pulled apart
 - 61 Classes
 - 66 Toledo's lake
 - 67 Wickedness
 - 68 Add up
 - 69 Ownership paper
 - 70 Dupes
 - 71 Access

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
14					15				16							
17					18				19							
23	24	25				26		27								
28						29		30		31						
32																
					33	34		35		36						
37						38					40	41	42			
46	47	48						49		50		51				
52										54		55	56			
57										58		59				
60										61		62				
66										67						
69																

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03/29/05

- DOWN
- 1 Bad actor
 - 2 Coach
 - Parseghian
 - 3 Porker's pad
 - 4 Early resident
 - 5 Madrid mister
 - 6 German POW camp
 - 7 Mai __ cocktail

- 8 Celestial bear
- 9 Hollywood Noah
- 10 Nobel Prize winner Yalow
- 11 Is of use
- 12 Bull's-eye
- 13 African antelope
- 18 Unused
- 22 Cook's formula
- 23 Bond of Hollywood
- 24 Away from the wind
- 25 Hamlet
- 26 Square-sail support
- 30 Rocky pinnacle
- 33 Ancient
- 34 Play on words
- 36 Drunkard
- 39 Bovine comment
- 40 Medley
- 41 Dynamic intro?
- 42 Barney's Bedrock buddy
- 43 Smeiled broadly
- 45 Shackle

Solutions

A	B	L	I	N	E	S	D	V	S	O	E	E	O					
T	V	I	O	L	T	I	A	E	E	I	R	E						
S	E	I	H	O	E	J	I	V	C	N	B	O	L					
O	O	O	E	X	E	V	W	T	I	E	N	O						
E	R	I	E	E	E	O	O	R	O	E	E	J						
H	E	T	E	L	V	O	N	E	S									
J	V	O																
S	I	S	A	O						E	O	L	V					
O	E	T	E	A						A	V	M	H	E	L	V		
N	O	I	V	H	E					T	E	O	N					
V	H	V	S	E	S	I	V	N	N	O	A	V	W					
T	V	A	O							E	H	V	I	E	I	H	V	
E	I	V	H							B	N	I	S	S	D	S	V	H

- 46 Assigned performance
- 47 Additional
- 48 Sweetie
- 50 Art supporters
- 53 Brogan binders
- 55 Beer barrel
- 56 Overact
- 58 Volcanic output
- 62 Gratitude
- 63 Addams Family cousin
- 64 Corn serving
- 65 Cunning

BEYOND THE SHEETS

Life choices

In life we are faced with many situations in which we have to make decisions. The same holds true when the situation involves sex.

Decisions are made all the time regarding sexual situations. These situations can include, but are not limited to, sexual partners, what activities you want to do with specific partners or even if you want to have sex at the present time. Some of the most important decisions that need to be made are those that involve talking about sex and the choice to have sex or not.

Some of you may think that by talking about sex, I am referring to discussing disease history and status. While that is an important topic, it is not what I am talking about in this situation. Instead I am suggesting the notion of engaging in open discussions about sex and sexuality.

In a collegiate environment, there are many people exploring, discovering and becoming familiar with sex. So, while going through this process, why not discuss it? I am not suggesting organizing a weekly session where dozens of people get together and share sexual exploits. Rather, I suggest finding one or two individuals trusted enough to hear your feelings and keep them private.

I think it is important for sexual beings, such as humans, to have the ability and understanding of their bodies to adequately describe what they are feeling and what they are experiencing. For example, if you have never experienced a climax before, it might be a bit scary; having another person to talk to about it can help you feel more at ease. Find that person and initiate such a conversation. Keep in mind that finding this conversation partner does not have to be difficult.

While it may be slightly uncomfortable at first, you may want to talk to a parent; they have, after all, had sex at least once. Besides, you might be surprised to hear what a parent has to say about sex. Along with that, you may want to institute some ground rules before the conversation becomes too involved otherwise you may hear stories that you do not necessarily want to — I have on several occasions.

Just because you are having this conversation does not mean you have to be having sex. In fact, you can have a very deep, meaningful conver-

sation about sex without ever having experienced the physical act. That is completely valid. While I am not a big fan of the program, I do believe

that the right of an individual to abstain from sex is a valid and respectable decision. I would suggest, however, that if you choose to go that route, you are doing it for the right reasons.

While some things may be great influences in your life, they should not rule

who you are. I am not going to argue against religious attitudes toward sex, nor will I argue that you should be defiant against the wishes of your parents. Rather, I am suggesting that you think about sex and what it means to you. Decide for yourself if you want to participate in the activity or not. Decide for yourself if you want to save your virginity for marriage or if you think you are ready for your first time right now.

Consider your personal morals more than those you have been brought up to follow. If those morals happen to line up with those you have been taught, that is fantastic, but do not be terribly upset if those sets of morals are not completely synched up. You are an adult and as such, you need to make adult decisions in an adult way. Weigh the benefits against the detriments and see which side wins.

After you have made your decision — whatever it may be — do not let anyone tell you that it is wrong and that you made a bad decision. Your parents may not be completely happy with your decision to have sex, but they cannot control your life forever. Your friends may tease you for choosing to remain a virgin, but they are not you and it is not their decision. Again, be your own person and make up your own mind, because ultimately, the only person that has to live with your decision is you. Whatever you decide, be smart, safe and make informed, safe choices.

As a final note, some of you may be wondering why I am choosing to write this column so late in the school year, all I can say is, "Make good decisions and happy Vandal Friday."

Have fun, be safe and happy decision-making.

Have a sex question for Chris? Send it to arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

Chris Bidiman is a junior studying School and Community Health and a Safer Sex Outreach speaker.



Chris Bidiman
Sex columnist
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

Check out The Argonaut online!

www.uiargonaut.com

UI commits to improving tribal education

Five area schools sign agreement to work together to improve American Indian education

Reid Wright
Argonaut

The drumbeats sent pulsing vibrations through the air as the color-guard steadily marched forward clutching eight banners.

The cries of the singers reached to the overcast skies, and tugged gently at the people gathering. Toes tapped and heads nodded. It was difficult, it seemed, to stand still.

Presidents from five area institutions of higher learning gathered Monday at Nez Perce National Historic Park near the Clearwater River east of Lewiston to sign a memorandum of understanding — agreeing to work together to provide improved American Indian education.

"The image of the confluence of rivers was a powerful image to us. ... Just as the rivers and tributaries empty

into the Columbia River — forming a powerful body of water — the people living along those rivers and tributaries of this land have come together in many ways for thousands of years," said Barbara Aston, special assistant to the Provost and tribal liaison for Washington State University.

"As institutions of higher education, we come together from our distinct histories and locations, and join together for one cause: American Indian education," Aston said.

The document was signed by university presidents Dene Thomas of Lewis-Clark State College, Priscilla Bell of North Idaho College, Cheryl Crazy Bull of Northwest Indian College, Tim White of the University of Idaho and Elson Floyd of Washington State University.

"It's going to be important, in the long term, for all the people of this



Tim White

country ... this is one of the ways that they can share resources and not duplicate efforts. I commend the university presidents sitting here on this stage," said Samuel Penny, chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Council.

The MOU calls for the formation of the "Native American Collaborations Committee," which will report to the provosts of the five institutions and be comprised of the institutions' respective tribal liaisons, deans (or representatives appointed by the deans), and any directors of recruiting, support services and special programs involved with American Indians.

"I think foremost what we're celebrating today is the power of opportunity through education," White said. "Where the whole exceeds the sum of

the parts, we create opportunities."

The committee proposed by the MOU consists of three work groups that represent American Indian studies, programs or services relating to American Indians and student services such as recruitment and retention.

"In the years that I have worked with American Indian education, it has always been about that — about our indigenous knowledge, our indigenous experience. I believe the litmus test of good relations with our sister institutions is education access for our students. Wherever they want to go, they should be able to go," Crazy Bull said.

The committee's mission is to enhance existing joint opportunities for American Indians, establish "organizational framework" for accumulating and sharing information between institutions, collaborate on research, instruction and service and work together to get external funding for projects, the MOU said.

"I'm trying to behave myself here,

because you know what happens when us Indians sign things," Crazy Bull said. "Maybe what I'm doing is acquiring some land."

Signing the MOU doesn't actually have any legal commitments.

"This MOU imposes no legally binding obligations upon any party hereto. Rather it sets out terms for mutual cooperation and respect to improve the efforts... to provide educational services and scholarship to and about Native Americans," the document said.

"Participation in programs coordinated by the committee is voluntary. The committee shall have no power to mandate any action or expenditure by and of the agreeing institutions."

"It is the power of commitment of the University of Idaho, it is the power of commitment among all of the educational leaders," White said. "The tribal leaders who have gathered here today are creating a better future for tomorrow."

Residence halls celebrate Spring Fling in time for more snow

RHA says Saturday's tournament will be held rain or shine

Cyrella Watson
Argonaut

While Moscow may have gotten a new covering of snow, that didn't stop the University of Idaho's residence halls from celebrating their annual Spring Fling this week.

"(Spring Fling) is a traditional event to celebrate the spring semester," said sophomore Steve Hanna, Residence Hall Association events coordinator.

He said it is the biggest event for the residence halls during this semester.

Residence halls have scheduled an event called "Vegas, Vandal-Style" at 7 p.m. tonight in the Living Learning Community classrooms. A campus-wide game of capture the flag is scheduled for 9 p.m. Saturday on the Theophilus Tower lawn. Hanna said RHA plans to hold the event despite predictions for snowy weather over the weekend.

"Rain, snow or shine, we're going to have a good time," Hanna said.

Other events planned during the week were a hall banner and skit competition; the hall that won the competition was given a Pita Pit party. On Tuesday, the halls played an ultimate Frisbee game and the winners won a free dinner.

A game night was held on Wednesday in the LLC classrooms, games included Wii Sports, Smash Brothers and a variety of board games. Each year during Spring Fling, the LLC hosts a Global Block

Party where each building chooses a country or region and the residents decorate their building and provide food from the country. This year's block party took place on Thursday night.

"(Spring Fling) is our chance to show our unity because a lot of people don't see it," said Maren Mabbutt, social chair for Campbell Hall.

"It's good to let Vandal Friday students know there is always a lot going on in the residence halls," Hanna said.

It is good to do events that involve all residence halls so they don't become isolated, Hanna said.

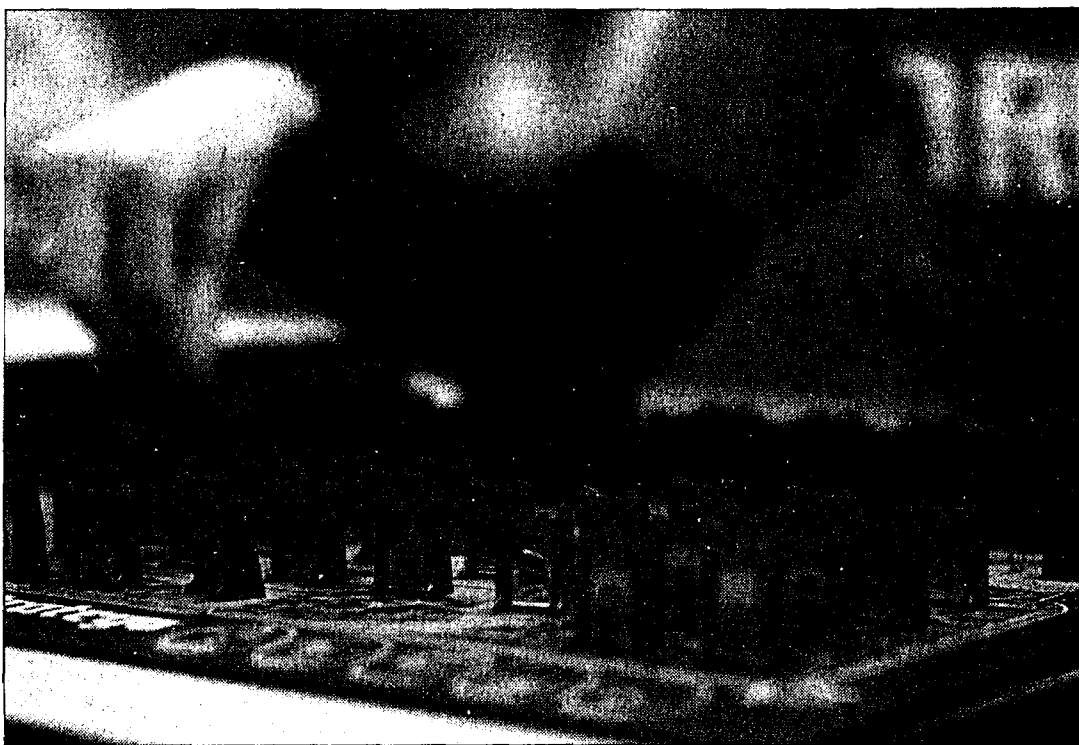
"Spring Fling is a great opportunity to get involved on campus and to have interaction with people you don't necessarily get into contact with," said senior Kyle Evans, social chair for Upham Hall in the LLC.

The events build stronger bonds on campus and it helps the social chairs to be more known on campus, Evans said.

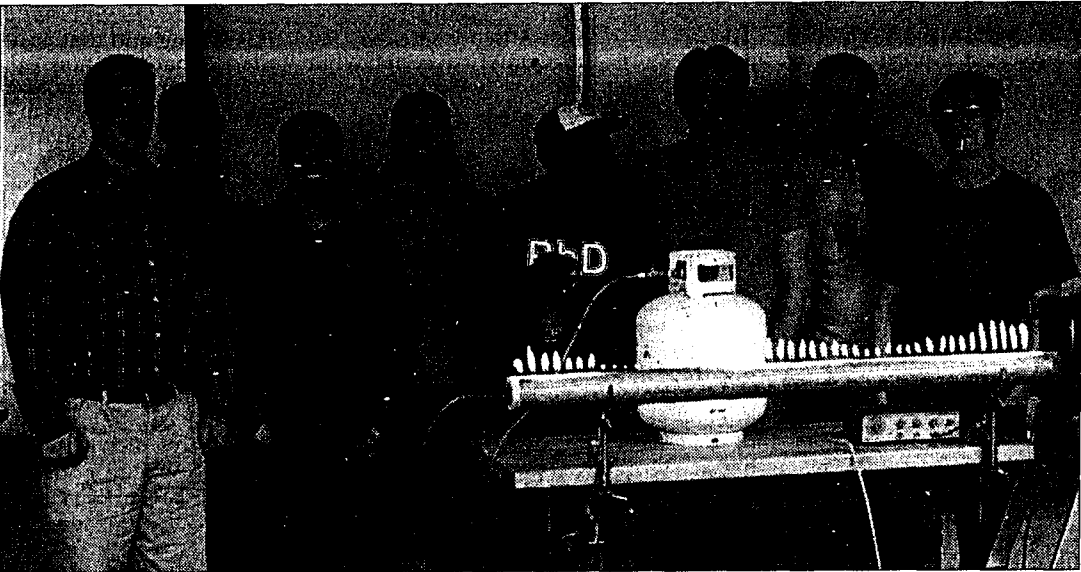
Hanna said living in the residence halls give students the opportunity to live with other people, have a good time and hang out with completely different people.

He said students can develop their own lives but still be involved.

Spring Fling is exciting and it helps bring the residence halls together and is a great way to celebrate the weather, Mabbutt said.



Tyler Macy/Argonaut
Faith Snyder makes her move during an intense game of Stratego during Game Night on Wednesday in the LLC classrooms. The event is part of the residence hall's Spring Fling going on this week.



Perry Hanson/Argonaut

Members of the Society of Physics Students show off one of the featured items prepared for the Community Demo Night happening from 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Saturday in the Engineering Physics Building in Room 122.

Saturday's physics demo aims to demystify science

Alexiss Turner
Argonaut

Physics, the study of matter and its motion, is one of those subjects viewed by students much like math and chemistry — a subject as confusing as it is boring.

This weekend it is the goal of the University of Idaho Society of Physics Students to botch that myth during the SPS Community Demo Night.

Senior Nathan Bridges said the night is meant to intrigue all viewers and present physics as a fun and interesting concept.

"To be interested in physics you have to have some experience where you say 'Oh wow, I really like this,'" Bridges said.

Concepts include mechanics, electricity, magnetism and thermo dynamics. Bridges urges people not to be discouraged by these topics, all demos are designed so any audience can understand and enjoy.

"These are things that happen every day that we don't pay attention to," he said.

Senior James Bowen is in charge of the mechanics demos. Most of the demos he will present focus on the conservation and use of energy and how that affects an object's

momentum. For example, Bowen will illustrate how a swinging pendulum-like bowling ball can only swing as far as the amount of energy put into the ball. This will allow Bowen to stand in front of the swinging ball without being in danger of a bloody nose.

"Just don't lean forward," Bowen said. "That's the key."

Another of Bowen's demos will demonstrate how a spinning object can increase its speed by conserving its angular momentum. Bowen will sit in a spinning desk chair with a dumbbell in each hand, arms out. If he brings his arms in toward his chest while the chair is spinning the chair will move faster because of the energy conserved.

Bowen will host around five demos Saturday. He said people shouldn't be discouraged by physics jargon, he will outline each demo with a clear explanation before beginning. He agrees with Bridges — the main goal is to get people interested.

"We are trying to do things that we hope will impress people," Bowen said. "Our hope is that people take more of an interest and pursue more on their own."

enjoy demo NIGHT

The event will be held from 3-5 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Saturday in the Engineering Physics Building main lecture hall.

Ten interactive demos will also be available to promote audience participation.

"They're cool demos," Bridges said. "People that come to see them will be surprised too."

This year's demo night marks the successful reintroduction of the event as a regular agenda item. The last demo night was held in 2005. Demo night was skipped in both 2006 and 2007 because of dwindling member support in SPS.

William Gitau Munge, a senior and president of SPS said all this has now changed. With the help of other physics students as well as ASUI, both the club and demo night are back to full force.

"Every group has actively contributed with passion and dedication in making this event successful," Munge said.

Ethel K. Steel House for Women

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Friends~Home
Community

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- Located in the old Phi Tau house right off Greek Row
- Quick walk to any area of campus
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- Includes food, utilities, internet, cable, etc.
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- Lasting friendships
- Unique living experience

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Del Hungerford
Alumni Advisory Board President
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NewsBRIEFS

Conservationists gives panda presentation

Given that they are not in close proximity, the life of the panda may not seem crucial for a Moscow resident, but at least one local professor begs to differ.

"The fate of the panda is our own," explained Gary Machlis, professor of conservation at UI.

Machlis has served as visiting chief social scientist for the U.S. National Park Service under both Clinton and Bush, and a consultant for China on management of their international panda reserves.

On April 8, Machlis will present, "So a Panda Walks into a Bar: The Fate of China's Giant Panda," at Science on Tap in Coeur d'Alene.

Starting at 5:30 p.m., the presentation is open to the public and will take place at the Coeur d'Alene Brewing Company, 209 East Lake-side Ave.

Library teaches tricks for selling items online

For anyone interested in learning the best ways to sell items on eBay, the Moscow Public library is hosting an informative session.

"Selling On eBay and USPS.com" will be at 7 p.m. on Monday in the library. Linda Sundstrom, postmaster of the Genesee post office, will explain step-by-step instructions for selling items on the world's foremost auction Web site.

Sundstrom will also cover topics such as packaging and shipping, free package pickup and many time-saving tools. The Moscow Library is located at 110 South Jefferson. For more information visit the library's Web site www.latahlibrary.org or contact Chris Sokol at chriss@latahlibrary.org.

Math and science fields reach out to girls

On Monday, nearly 200 seventh and 10th grade girls will gather at the Idaho Water Center for a day of explo-

ration during the annual Bridges to Careers in Math and Science event.

Statistically, fewer women are choosing careers in fields related to mathematics and the physical and life sciences. The Bridges to Careers event targets girls at a pivotal time in their learning and education to give them insights into the potential for studies and careers in math and science.

The event is cosponsored by the UI College of Science and the Boise School District.

Activities include designing an off-shore oil rig from a deck of cards and creating a marshmallow catapult that can sail the fluffy little gobs into a target area using a wood block, bolts, rubber bands, tape, index cards, wooden sticks or plastic straws.

Scholars explore roads of literature and science

Two visiting English professors will explore the relationship between society and science in an upcoming presentation at the University of Idaho.

Renee Bergland, professor at Sim-

mons College, and Priscilla Wald, professor at Duke University, will give their presentation at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, in the Clearwater Room. The pair are both visiting faculty members in the university's College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

Bergland is the author of "Maria Mitchell and the Sexing of Science: An Astronomer among the American Romantics," a study of how science closed its doors to women in the 19th century.

Wald is the editor of "American Literature," the field's premier journal. At Duke University, her teaching focuses on American literature of the late-18th to mid-20th centuries.

UI celebrates Cesar Chavez's life on Monday

The University of Idaho College Assistance Migrant Program is inviting students and community members to celebrate the life of Cesar Estrada Chavez at 3 p.m. on Monday, in East City Park.

In California it was proclaimed that March 31, the birthday of Chavez,

will serve as Cesar Chavez Day. The celebration commemorates the life of the U.S. labor leader who was also the first American to establish a successful farm workers union.

This year, CAMP will give the Cesar Chavez Distinguished Donor Award to some of sponsors for their continued generous donation.

Christian ideology explored through films

Studying the "Simply Christian" journey is the theme of a video series being hosted by a local church.

First Presbyterian Church will feature its first film at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Weekly video presentations based on the writings of Christian author and Anglican bishop N. T. Wright will be combined with small group discussions led by Pullman psychologist and First Presbyterian Church elder Donna Scott and other church members.

The class is free and open to the public. For more information, call Donna Scott at 334-7205.

BORAH

from page A1

said his extensive experience in dealing with post resolution tensions will make his Tuesday keynote address, "The End of Apartheid and Reconciliation in South Africa," beneficial and educational to attendees.

"(This year's symposium) really focuses on coming together after conflict," Fox said. "de Klerk is someone who has a lot of first hand experience with some serious reconciliation issues. His resolution of racial tensions in South Africa was so impressive. His perspective on this topic is so unique and one everyone should be interested in hearing."

Program coordinator Bill Smith is anticipating a great turnout and response to this year's events. He said the theme is very unique to the long time tradition, and the process of narrowing it down to one was intense.

"Each year we start with a whole list of potential themes," he said. "This idea really appealed to us because we're look-

ing at what you do after peace is reached and how you get to the next stage. We've never done anything like this before."

The symposium will begin Sunday and wrap up Wednesday. The showing of "Encounter Point" at the Kenworthy Theatre on Sunday will be the first opportunity to get involved. The documentary captures the lives of four Israelis and Palestinians who put their lives on the line encouraging a peaceful resolution to their conflict filled nations. The 85-minute film was created by Ronit Avni, the founder and director of the "Just Vision" project. She will be present at the showing and available to answer questions.

On Monday, Fred Cocozzelli, a member of the Department of Government and Politics and St. John's University, will present "Kosovo's Endgame," which will consider reconciliation between Kosovo and Serbia.

The sessions will wrap up on Wednesday with a speech given by Ken Attafuah, executive director of the Justice and Human Rights Institute in Accra, Ghana, and Mason Smith, the acting representative of Fiji to the United Nations. He is set to deliver final thoughts on the topic and

hold a discussion involving the hurdles in the path of reconciliation.

Smith said the Borah Symposium is funded by the university's William Edgar Borah Outlawry of War Foundation, which was established in 1929 to continue the peace efforts of Sen. William Borah. He said the conventions are always about the causes of war and reaching peace, but little has been done on the aftermath of reaching an agreement.

"We thought it would be interesting to focus on the condition for lasting peace," he said.

Smith recommends getting to any of the addresses at least a half an hour early. He said there is "a lot to be learned" through this symposium and messages students can carry with them for a lifetime.

"(Students have the opportunity) to learn through the lessons from any post conflict situation and apply them to their lives," he said. "Anytime you end up with conflict, it is important to solve it and deal with the lingering effects appropriately."

For more information about the events or the symposium, visit www.martin.uidaho.edu/borah.

SymposiumEVENTS

All events are free and open to the public.

Sunday

Film screening "Encounter Point"
7 p.m.
Kenworthy Theatre

Monday

"Kosovo's Endgame"
Noon
SUB Silver and Gold rooms

"Reconciliation around the world"
7 p.m.
SUB Ballroom

Tuesday

"Civic leadership in grassroots organizing in Israel/Palestine"
2 p.m.
SUB Silver and Gold rooms

F.W. de Klerk tree planting and dedication
5 p.m.

Presidential Grove, Administration Building Lawn

"The end of apartheid and reconciliation in South Africa"

7 p.m.
SUB Ballroom

Wednesday

"Ghana's truth and reconciliation commission"
11:30 a.m.
SUB Silver and Gold rooms

"Fiji's reconciliation efforts"
12:30 p.m.
SUB Silver and Gold rooms

"The challenges of reconciliation: A discussion"
7 p.m.
SUB Ballroom

EARMARK

from page A1

some of our faculty who are younger and have less research experience and don't have the research clout can get the fund-

ing to pursue research projects," he said.

BSU, according to the report, ranked 45th out of 848 institutions nationally in the amount of money it received through earmarks. It tripled the amount of money it received this year over previous years.

Mark Rudin, the school's vice president of research, said part of the reason for the increase is that many of Boise State's proposed research projects fit well with the Department of Defense.

Earmark spending raises the ire of some government

critics because those who receive it don't have to compete with other schools for the money.

College officials in Idaho say higher education earmarks go through a vetting process within the schools and among the Idaho congressional delegation.

A \$2 million proposal by UI for a project to improve mine safety was cut back to \$250,000 after the delegation told the school to cut costs, said Marty Peterson, who works with earmarks at the school.

The university ranked 60th nationally in the amount of ear-

mark money it received.

Sen. Mike Crapo sponsored 29 earmarks to lead the Idaho delegation.

"It allows (you) ... to direct some of your federal tax dollars back to your state," said Simpson's spokeswoman, Nikki Watts.



Is your music Legal?

Did you know that makers of copyrighted music, movies and TV shows are actively **pursuing illegal downloaders** right here on the UI campus?

Downloading music, movies, software, or other copyrighted material with peer to peer (P2P) software **can be illegal**. Doing so without the permission of the copyright owner can be equated to shoplifting.

Federal law provides criminal penalties of up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines for first time copyright offenders.

P2P software may put your computer at risk. By default, many P2P programs will share files from your hard drive for the world to see and download, or even allow unknown users to control or infect your computer.

Be safe and only **get your music from legal sources** which benefit the artists: sites like Amazon, iTunes, or Ruckus.

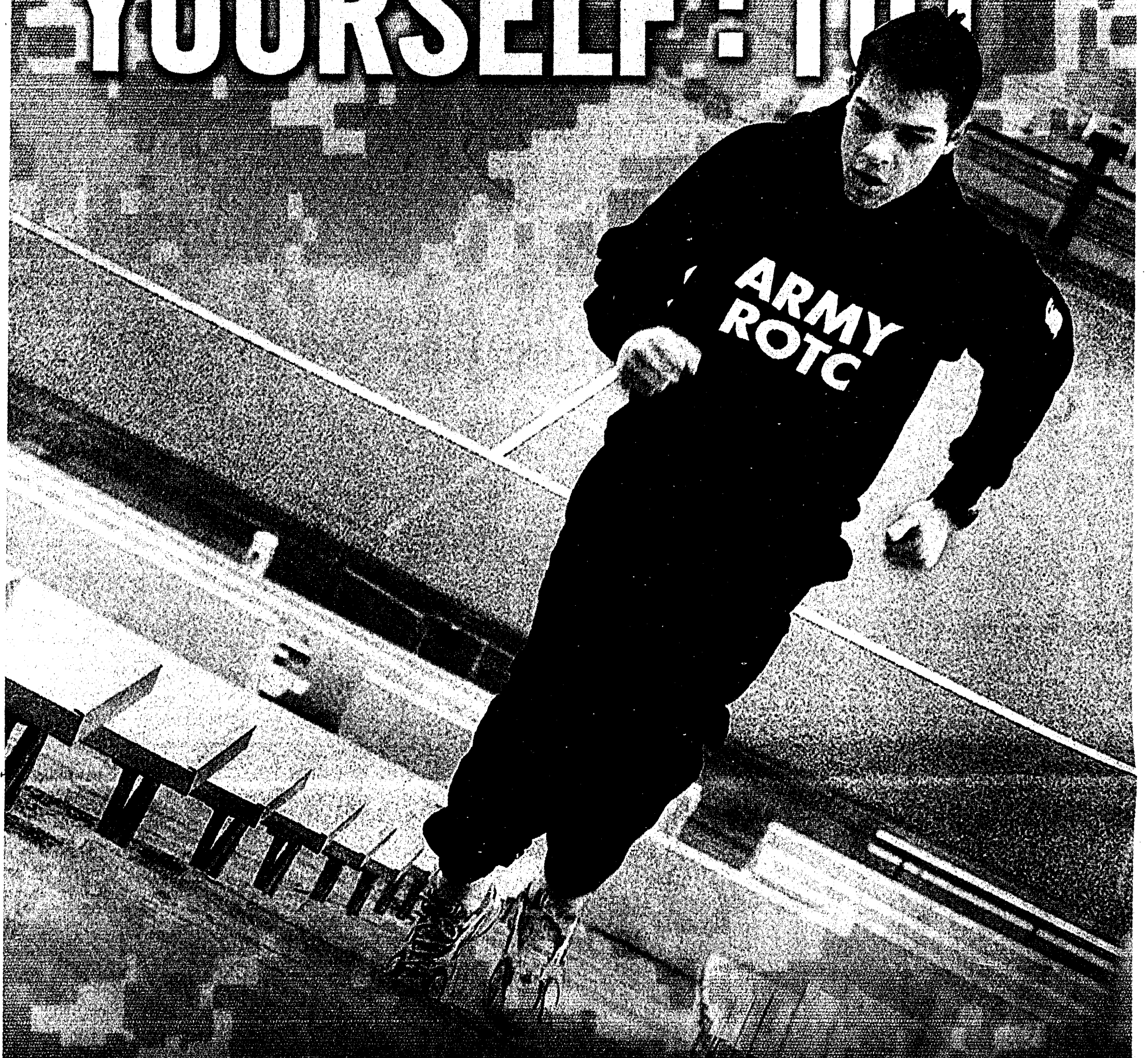
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IDAHO LEGISLATURE

Senate overrides veto of treatment money

Bill gives \$2.4 million to drug treatment; still cheaper than new prisons, senators say

Associated Press

BOISE — The Senate voted 30-5 Wednesday to override Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's veto of \$2.4 million in drug-treatment funding, saying the money is needed to help change Idaho from a state that incarcerates drug offenders to a state that treats addicts so they can return to society.

If the House follows suit with a two-thirds majority override vote, the money will pay for drug courts for probationers and community-based treatment this fiscal year. The House has yet to act on Otter's veto of a separate bill for \$14.4 million for drug-treatment funding in 2009. That would also require Senate action to become law.

Last Thursday, the governor vetoed the full \$16.8 million, arguing that programs it would pay for lacked data to show their effectiveness. The programs were originally started in 2005 with a three-year, \$21 million federal grant, but that money ran out in 2007.

In recent days, Otter had offered a

scaled-back, \$9.3 million alternative. But senators Wednesday said the full amount was needed. The alternative, said Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, would be to spend millions on new prisons and shipping inmates out of state.

"Beds alone, cells alone are not the answer. The answer is drug courts and substance abuse treatment," Cameron said before the vote. "Do you want to maintain the effort we started over the last several years, or do you want to slide backwards?"

Before the override vote, Otter had offered an olive branch in the veto fight. His \$9.3 million alternative included \$560,000 for the current fiscal year and \$8.7 million for fiscal year 2009 starting July 1, according to a draft of his plan obtained by The Associated Press.

Otter said he offered even more, but the Senate halted negotiations prematurely. He said lawmakers were asking to increase state funding for treatment

by more than 800 percent, something he isn't willing to do, especially in a year when our economic and tax revenue projections have forced other state agencies to tighten their belts.

"We are disappointed by the Senate's action," said Jon Hanian, an Otter spokesman. "It is not his intention to stop progress or to diminish the efforts already under taken in the area of drug treatment, but only to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used carefully, responsibly and to the best possible advantage."

House lawmakers said they're still debating what to do.

"I'm hopeful there can be some compromise worked out between the governor's office and the Legislature," said House Assistant Majority Leader Scott Bedke, R-Oakley. "There was an offer. We'll look at it. Maybe there will be a counteroffer."

Senators concluded that even if they had accepted Otter's compromise proposal, more than 3,200 fewer people than under their original plan would go without state help, including access to drug courts for parolees and

probationers and community-based treatment for women and children. At \$57 per day for out-of-state prisons — Idaho lockups are full, so the state is shipping inmates to Texas and Oklahoma — imprisoning all those people would cost Idaho \$67 million annually.

"We have established one of the premier drug court systems in the entire nation, and this veto unfortunately is jeopardizing that," said Sen. Joe Stegner, R-Lewiston. "We know we need to do this."

Senators argued that treatment is still cheaper than building new prisons.

The state has approved adding 1,288 new prison beds in the coming two years, split between a secure mental health facility, new drug treatment prisons and a 324-bed expansion at the Idaho Correctional Center south of Boise. Otter is also circulating a plan to sell 30-year bonds to build a nearly \$200 million 1,500-bed prison.

The 1,288 new beds will cost the state \$56 million annually to run, while a new prison would run about \$50 million, including bond payments and operations costs, according to state estimates.

At times, the veto-override debate

was very personal. Sen. Brent Hill, R-Rexburg, described how one of his favorite nieces became ensnared in methamphetamine use, leading to hollow, haunted eyes and rotten teeth. "Melissa" — that's not her real name, he said — has regained control over her life after her acceptance into a drug court program.

"The physical effects of addiction have not magically gone away, but there's a light back in her eyes," Hill said. "I will always be grateful to the people of Idaho for saving Melissa."

Though five lawmakers voted against the override, most of them said they supported the goals of the treatment programs program. Sen. Lee Heinrich, R-Cascade, said his son who spent more than two years in prison could have benefited from drug courts. Sens. John McGee, R-Caldwell, and Michael Jorgensen, R-Hayden, said they couldn't overturn the governor's veto lightly given that there was still the chance of negotiating a solution with Idaho's chief executive.

"I know what these drug problems do. It's a terrible scourge to our society," Heinrich said. Still, "I'm not personally convinced we have looked at all the alternatives before going to override this veto."

House panel backs road funding bills

Associated Press

BOISE — House lawmakers introduced two new transportation funding bills Wednesday worth nearly \$70 million annually, measures they're hoping will be enough to begin easing a \$240 million highway funding shortfall, but not too much to prompt the unrest that followed Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's now-withdrawn plan to increase car registration fees six-fold.

Otter aides said he backs the larger of the two new measures, which now goes to the full House.

The first bill, backed unanimously by the House Ways and Means Committee, would raise a total of \$68.5 million. It would raise the gasoline tax 3 cents to 28 cents per gallon, generating \$27 million; boost fees for commercial trucks by \$18 million; and increase registration fees on passenger vehicles to as much as \$80 for new cars, raising \$23.5 million.

The second bill would eliminate incentives meant to stimulate development of biofuels, reaping \$1.2 million annually.

With the 2008 session wind-

Two bills would boost funding by \$70 million

Two bills introduced Wednesday in the House Ways and Means Committee would boost Idaho transportation funding by nearly \$70 million, helping to ease a \$240 million annual highway-and-bridge funding shortfall. In addition, a separate bill to raise temporary commercial truck fees by \$1.2 million passed the full House. Here's what the bills do:

- **Going home bill:** A bill backed by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and the Idaho Transportation Department would raise \$68.5 million. Rep. Ken Roberts, R-Donnelly, says its a "going-home bill," because it could lead to the end of the 2008 session.

- It would increase Idaho's gas tax, at 25 cents per gallon since 1996, to 28 cents per gallon, raising \$27 million. It also would raise \$23.5 million a year by increasing state registration

fees on cars. Owners of vehicles over eight years old would pay \$36, from \$24, while fees for new car owners would rise to \$84, from \$48. The bill would raise \$18 million from fee increases on commercial trucks and trailers over 8,000 gross vehicle weight.

- **Biofuel deduction:** For years, Idaho has had a biofuel deduction, to help spur development of the ethanol and biodiesel industries. Backers of eliminating the exemption say the industry is now established; doing away with the deduction would reap \$1.2 million more for the state.

- **Temporary registration:** The House voted 58-8 for a measure already backed by the Senate to raise highway funding \$1.8 million by increasing fees on temporary registration of trucks. It now goes to Otter for his signature.

ing down, House and Senate leaders have said agreement on new sources of money to fix Idaho's battered roads and bridges will be critical before lawmakers adjourn. These bills may represent the limit of what legislators are willing to approve in a single year — particularly when most of the state's 105 legislators are facing re-election in the May 27 primary, then the Nov. 4 general election.

"This is a first step toward a 'going-home bill,'" said House Majority Caucus Chairman, Ken Roberts, R-Donnelly.

While short of Otter's original proposal, the governor has given his blessing to the plan.

"It's a first step," said Clete Edmunson, his transportation policy adviser, adding the 2009 Legislature will likely have to take up the matter again, to raise even more.

Idaho registration fees and the state's gas tax haven't been increased in more than a decade.

Pam Lowe, director of the Idaho Department of Transportation, presented the bill that included the gas tax and registration fee increases to the House panel, another sign momentum is gaining behind this package that was absent from previous proposals. In all, about a dozen transportation proposals have been introduced this year, though few have gained much traction.

Otter "has worked with us on this, including both with legislators and ITD," she said of the \$68.5 million plan. "I think it's got good support."

Backers of the bill to with-

draw the biofuels deductions say it is timely because ethanol and biodiesel are now established, and the rising price of gasoline has made it easier for alternatives to compete. Rep. James Rucht, D-Pocatello and co-sponsor along with Rep. Scott Bedke, R-Oakley, acknowledged the \$1.2 million in revenue that would flow to Idaho roads is just a sliver of what's needed. Still, anything will help, he said.

"If we can just get 200 more of these bills, I think we've got our funding shortfall licked," Rucht said, prompting laughter.

Separately, House lawmakers Wednesday offered a mixed reaction to two additional revenue-boosting bills for the Idaho Transportation Department, killing one and advancing the other.

Lawmakers voted 44-21 against a bill that would have charged an extra \$10 each for the state's 104,000 specialty license plates. They approved, 58-8, a measure already backed by the Senate that would raise highway funding \$1.8 million by increasing fees on temporary registration of trucks.

Rep. JoAn Wood, R-Rigby and chairwoman of the House Transportation Committee, said before the vote that plugging holes in Idaho's transportation shortfall comes down to a simple question.

"Are you willing to help us out in getting more money or are you not?" she said.

CAMPUS
from page A1

great support system."

During their stay, students will be able to participate in a variety of events designed to show them all that the campus has available. This includes a Thursday night Global Block party hosted by the LLC and Vegas Vandal style today.

"We're going to have board games and Vandal Plinko, plus mock-tails for our high rollers," Andrews said. "The purpose behind the mock-tails is to show first year students that you don't need alcohol to have a good time."

SenateREPORT

Presidential communications

ASUI President Jon Gaffney spoke to the Senate on behalf of the bills appointing people to positions on ASUI. He voiced the importance of appointing people to the necessary positions as soon as possible and urged senators to immediately consider the four appointment bills. Gaffney also encouraged senators to continue to work hard throughout the remainder of the semester and to finish strong. There is still a lot to accomplish in the next five weeks and he hopes to push through and get as much done as possible, he said.

Unfinished business

S08-21, an act appointing Rob Chalkley to the position of ASUI Commons and Union Board Lounge Committee Coordinator, was immediately considered and unanimously passed.

S08-23, an act beginning the process to amend the ASUI Constitution, was immediately considered but failed in the Senate. The bill would have placed a referendum item on the election ballot which would have limited the number of senators from a single living group to three individuals, excluding unorganized off campus groups. According to Sen. Kelby Wilson, the bill failed because it could have limited activity and participation in ASUI.

New business

Day of Dance
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Memorial Gym

Festival of New Works:
"The One"
2 p.m.
Kiva Theater

Physics Demo Night
Engineering/Physics Building
3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Room 121

India Night
5 p.m.
SUB Ballroom

Sapatq'ayn Cinema Native
American Film Festival
7 p.m.
Kenworthy theatre

Festival of New Works:
"Tri: With Flute"
7:30 p.m.
Kiva Theater
Peru Negro

Also tonight, the Tower will throw a highlighter party where student use highlighters to draw on T-shirts and then go to a party with a black light.

"What on earth they do is beyond me... but for some reason it's one of our most popular events," Andrews said.

According to Scott, a Vandal Friday takes a great deal of preparation and work, but the end result is an event to be proud off.

"I know I sound like a parent when I talk about this, but if you go anywhere in Idaho and ask about the university, they know about Vandal Friday... that's really something else," he said.

Bills

S08-24, an act amending the ASUI Senate's official meeting agenda, was sent to the Rules and Regulations Committee. The bill was written to allow senators the opportunity to officially report their living, group and committee status to the rest of the Senate and hold them publicly accountable for fulfilling their duties.

S08-25, an act attempting to keep the riffraff out of the Senate office, was immediately considered and unanimously passed. The bill will add a partition to the ASUI Office that will keep the executive branch of ASUI separate from the legislative branch. The bill was written by Sen. Zach Arama. Arama said the bill was written in fun and served as practice for writing a bill. He wanted to add some humor to the meeting to reward senators for their hard work throughout the semester, he said.

S08-26, an act appointing Hannah Rhinehart to the position of ASUI Promotions Coordinator, was immediately considered and unanimously passed.

S08-27, an act appointing Crystal Hernandez to the position of ASUI Elections Coordinator, was immediately considered and unanimously passed.

S08-28, an act appointing Aaron Short to the position of ASUI director of Community Relations, was sent to the Government Operations and Appointments Committee for further examination and will be discussed next week.

— Liz Virtue

RE/MAX Connections

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11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Today

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- **Psychiatry**
- **Campus Dietician**
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IRAQ DEATHS

Mourners remember soldiers whose deaths pushed count to 4,000

Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. — Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Hake began his Army career in a ceremonial unit, serving as an escort during funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and marching in President Bush's 2001 inauguration parade.

But he wanted to do his part in Iraq. So Hake, of Enid, Okla., transferred in 2004 to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart in southern Georgia, deployed to Iraq in 2005 and returned for a second combat tour late last year.

"This deployment, he told me, 'You couldn't pay me to come home early,'" said Peter Hake, the soldier's father. "He was a squad leader and loved his guys that worked under him. He said they would die for each other, and they did."

Hake, 26, and three Fort Stewart soldiers in his squad died Monday from wounds suffered when a roadside bomb exploded into their vehicle the day before. The Army announced the four deaths Thursday, pushing the military's count of U.S. service members killed in Iraq to 4,000.

The military's count varies slightly from an independent tally kept by The Associated Press, which on Thursday counted 4,007 service members killed in Iraq.

Also killed in the explosion were Spc. Jose A. Rubio Hernandez, 24, of Mission, Texas; Pfc. Andrew J. Habsieger, 22, of Festus, Mo.; and Pvt. George Delgado, 21, of Palmdale, Calif.

"He wanted to be known for something, and now he is," said Rubio's wife, Jennifer Guerra.

The four men served in the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, which was among the first Army units to charge into Iraq during the March 2003 invasion. The battalion is part of the 19,000-soldier 3rd Infantry, the first Army division to be tapped for a third tour of duty in Iraq. Their deaths came at a time of celebration on

the Army post southwest of Savannah, where hundreds of troops from the division's 1st Brigade began arriving home this week from a 15-month deployment. The 4/64 Armor, however, was not scheduled to return until early 2009.

Rubio had moved to the U.S. from Mexico with his family at age 4. Edgar Rubio said his younger brother joined the Army in 2006 out of gratitude for the opportunities his family had in America. Before he was killed, Rubio had filled out his paperwork to apply for U.S. citizenship, but had yet to mail them.

In California's Antelope Valley, staff and students gathered during a lunch break to pray for Delgado at Desert Christian High School, where he earned his diploma in 2004.

Devin Thomas, the dean of discipline and incoming principal, remembered Delgado for his "infectious, unique sense of humor."

"From day one, that was his personality — to laugh and to joke and to have a good time," Thomas said.

High school friend Alysse Pernula said Delgado had an adventurous spirit and overall enjoyed Army life.

Despite having been a football star at his Missouri high school, Habsieger had to fight to join the Army in 2007. His mother said the military first rejected her son because he suffered from migraine headaches.

Brenda Habsieger told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch her son longed to enlist after hearing his grandfather's stories of military service. She said he died two weeks before he was to come home from Iraq on leave.

"He was a big-hearted kid and made everyone around him better," said Joel Critchlow, Habsieger's former football coach. "He led through example."

Bush: Iraq making gains despite Congress bullying

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — President Bush said Thursday that congressional critics have bullied Iraq's leaders and ignored political progress achieved at the cost of U.S. lives.

He also praised Iraq's prime minister for making what Bush said was a decisive move to take on Shiite militias despite violent resistance and mounting protests.

Bush's latest defense of the war took aim at a principal frustration in Democratic-run Congress that Iraq's politicians have squandered time while U.S. troops are dying.

"Some members of Congress decided the best way to encourage progress in Baghdad was to criticize and threaten Iraq's leaders while they're trying to work out their differences," Bush told a military audience at the cavernous U.S. Air Force museum.

"But hectoring was not what the Iraqi leaders needed," Bush said. "What they needed was security and that is what the 'surge' has provided."

That was a reference to the 30,000-troop reinforcement Bush ordered to Iraq last year. The step was intended to halt violence so Iraq's leaders could start managing their own affairs.

Bush spoke as Iraqi security forces clashed with Shiite militias in Basra, Iraq's southern oil hub. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged to fight "until the end" against militias tied to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, despite fierce resistance.

"Prime Minister Maliki's bold decision — and it was a bold decision — to go after the illegal groups in Basra shows his leadership," Bush said. The United States sees al-Maliki's action as a turning point in showing that Iraq is taking on more responsibility.

"There's a strong commitment by the central government of Iraq to say that no one is above the law," Bush said, even as he warned of more violence as the operation unfolded.

The slow pace of political reconciliation among Iraq's sectarian groups and the plodding passage of basic laws have undermined public support in the U.S. for the war.

"The president asserts that real progress has been made in Iraq. But if that were truly the case, our troops would be coming home soon," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Bush said Iraq has made remarkable, albeit unglamorous, progress in recent months.

He cited laws to set up provincial elections in October, put a budget in place, allow thou-

sands of former members of Saddam Hussein's ruling Baath party to return to government jobs, and grant limited amnesty to prisoners held in Iraqi custody.

More broadly, Bush gave a portrait of a country enjoying a rebound in civic and cultural life. Democratic leaders in Congress say Bush is painting a far too rosy picture.

Even some of Bush's military leaders have expressed frustration about the pace of political stability, which is what could help more U.S. troops get home.

Some Democratic lawmakers say pulling troops home will give Iraq's leaders incentive to act and free up a strained military to take on other battles.

Bush called that senseless. He said America has no more strategic interest than Iraq, which he called the "convergence point for the twin threats of al-Qaida and Iran."

Reid said Bush is poised to keep as many troops in Iraq by year's end as there were before last year's increase. "Our troops have done their job; it is time for the Iraqi politicians and this administration to do theirs," Reid said.

The president described a rising economy in Iraq, but did not ignore lasting problems.

Iraq struggles with infrastructure, unemployment and corruption. "The Iraqis recognize these shortcomings. They understand what they have to do," Bush said.

The focus on political and economic life is widely overshadowed in the U.S. by a focus on the death toll, which reached 4,000 members of the military last week.

In early April, Bush is expected to endorse a temporary halt in the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, has warned against shrinking the American force so rapidly that the gains in security will be compromised.

Bush again signaled his intentions, claiming dire consequences of a U.S. retreat.

While in Dayton, Bush met privately for two hours with 22 families of troops killed in action. The president also made time to help out Republican candidates.

In Ohio, Bush raised money for the state GOP party, which refused to release financial details about his fundraiser. Later, in Sewickley, Pa., Bush was to raise about \$500,000 for the state's Republican Party at a fundraiser of more than 200 people.

Senator kills bills on child deaths

Associated Press

BOISE — Idaho will remain the only state in the nation with no system for reviewing child deaths after the chairwoman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee blocked legislation.

Sen. Patti Anne Lodge, R-Houston, asked the Senate to return the bill to her committee, where it's now dead. It passed the House on March 17 on a 63-5 vote, and it had previously cleared Lodge's committee on a voice vote after a public hearing.

Lodge said Idaho doesn't need to review child deaths because other states are already doing that.

"We can use the information that they've gathered," she told The Spokesman-Review for an article published Thursday. "If they're already doing it, what could be different in a child death in Utah or Montana that we wouldn't have here? Why reinvent the wheel all the time?"

She said she was also concerned about possible ramifications.

"The concerns mostly were, what could this lead to?" she said. "Could this lead to maybe more usurping of freedoms? Could parents be charged?"

She said that when her chil-

dren were growing up they rode horses without wearing helmets, and that she didn't want parents faulted for allowing normal childhood activities.

The bill was co-sponsored by Rep. Russ Mathews, R-Idaho Falls, and Rep. Margaret Henbest, D-Boise, a pediatric nurse practitioner who works with abused children.

"It means that people don't have to stand up and be counted for taking a stand on how we treat child deaths in our state," said Henbest. "So rather than openly debate and vote against it, pull it back to committee really quietly."

"We talk a lot about family values and children's lives in this place," she said. "I have trouble understanding how that can't be universally valued."

The annual cost of the program to the state would have been about \$43,000.

The child mortality review legislation would have set up a review team of doctors, law enforcement workers and others that would have had full confidentiality, immunity from subpoenas, and be allowed to get all records concerning unexpected child deaths in the state.

Part of the reason for forming the team was that it could

have spotted trends that might have led to actions to prevent future deaths.

Past governors have set up similar teams by executive order, but the state has had no regular review of child deaths since 2003.

Past review panels have helped lead to education programs for Idaho parents to prevent sudden infant death syndrome, new seat belt laws, programs for safe firearms storage in homes with children, a canal safety and fencing program, and education for parents on car safety restraints.

Sen. Joyce Broadsword, R-Sagle, vice chairwoman of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, said she was undecided on the bill.

"Any time a child dies we need to know why and what happened," she said. "I don't know that we need to spend a large amount of money to research that. I think that our agencies are tracking it, we're just not getting the coordination."

A day care licensing bill also died in Lodge's committee.

"For me, it's exceedingly frustrating that when we're dealing with the lives and safety of children, we can't make progress," said Sen. Elliot Werk, D-Boise, a committee member.

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Houses need members to live

Two fraternities closed at UI in last year due to low numbers; no other houses seem at risk

Cyrella Watson
Argonaut

Now that Vandal Friday is here, many fraternities are looking to start the recruitment process so the houses don't close like Pi Kappa Alpha and Phi Kappa Tau did last year.

Greek adviser Adrien Loehring said the Pikes and PKT did not recruit consistently and both the houses closed because of low membership.

"The life blood of the Greek system is recruitment," Loehring said.

Interfraternity Council President Scott Smith said he hasn't seen a dramatic drop in recruitment numbers over the years.

The Pike house closed because of low membership and members stopped participating in Greek life, said Keven Prather, a 1985 PKT alumnus.

The Pikes closed their doors in the fall 2007 semester and PKT closed during the spring 2007 semester.

If he had to point to one factor that led to the Pike house closing, Rob Everett, a 1994 Pike alumnus, said it would be the lack of good senior leadership.

When he pledged in 1989, he said the seniors made sure everyone in the house knew that if you're not a gentleman, you're not going to be a Pike. The little things mattered, Everett said.

"There were a lot of solid leaders you could learn from," Everett said.

"So only those who were focused on the real reason we went to college survived."

"I've always said the fraternity system will enable and accelerate you in the direction you were meant to go," Everett said. "If you're predisposed to watching TV all day, drinking before noon and skipping class, there were certain sophomores that would help you reach your goals. But most of those freshmen never became sophomores, and those sophomores never became juniors. They either dropped out or transferred to Boise State."

Everett said when he took a role on the Pike's housing corporation he learned there were only a few juniors or seniors living in the house.

"We considered giving a scholarship to any junior or senior that had above a 2.5 GPA, and found only one potential recipient," Everett said.

Loehring said the number of women interested in a sorority continues to rise while men's numbers are steady.

Prather said he thinks the success or failure of a house can be determined by the members losing sight.

For any fraternity to be successful, it has to have strong alumni support, Prather said.

Along with Pike, PKT didn't have strong leadership, Prather said. Alumni were getting frustrated with the fra-



Roger D. Rowles/Argonaut
Beta Theta Pi members Kasey Attebery, left, and Patrick Bradbury sit in front of a fire in the Beta House on Thursday morning.

ternity. Over time a fraternity can lose alumni support and when that happens, it's not good, Prather said.

"The Greek system is weakened when you lose a fraternity or sorority," Prather said. "The houses should help one another when they are having problems."

The Pike international fraternity has an exceptional track record of re-colonizing chapters, Everett said.

The national organizations for both fraternities are working to help re-colonize the fraternities on UI's campus, Loehring said. They are helping to recruit and help with the starting over process.

"These are strong national organizations with strong alumni and we have confidence that when they return, they will be strong organizations," Loehring said.

Loehring said it is likely Pike and PKT will be back on the campus in five to 10 years.

The Greek system adds value to student experience, Loehring said.

"I am absolutely devastated the Pike house shut down, and sincerely hope the university and Greek system can change the number of people interested in Greek life back up to the level it was when I attended UI," Everett said.

Smith said no other fraternities are looking at closing. Alpha Theta Omega was close, but its membership increased.

Being in a fraternity is a life long involvement, Prather said. When a member graduates, their experience with the house isn't over. He said he recently helped two fraternity members get into law school.

Within the past several years, Smith said only one other fraternity closed, Tau Kappa Epsilon, which closed spring 2003.

Smith said the closing of fraternities will not be an issue in the future.

"But most of those freshmen never became sophomores, and those sophomores never became juniors. They either dropped out or transferred to Boise State."

Rob
EVERETT
1994 Pike alumnus



Judges inspect the canned food castles the G

Greeks sponsor food, blood drives

Cyrella Watson
Argonaut

The Greek system celebrated Greek Week this week with a concert, ice cream social and blood drive.

The theme for Greek Week is "Greek Olympics" because it is an Olympic year, said Danya Nelsen, vice president of public relations for Panhellenic Council.

Greek week can really demonstrate how fun it can be to be Greek, Nelsen said.

"It is a good way for houses to bond and bring in new members," said Bret Bullard, public relations chair for Interfraternity Council.

The Greek community planned many events throughout the week. They included a chapter pride and dress drive. On Tuesday, Greeks hosted a blood drive in the Idaho Commons. On Wednesday, the houses joined together to clean up campus for Vandal Friday and held a canned food drive.

On Thursday, there was a Greek Week concert, where the band Soul Serene played and students enjoyed an ice cream social in the Sigma Nu parking lot.

At 7 p.m. tonight, jingles and skits will be performed by different chapters in the Student Union Building Ballroom. Saturday's Greek Games event,

which begin at 10 a.m., were moved from the Taylor Street football field to inside the Kibbie Dome because of the weather. The games will include football, kickball, volleyball and other sports.

A sorority and a fraternity will team up for the games on Saturday, but because there are 17 fraternities and only nine sororities, several fraternities will team up with another.

The week gave Greeks the opportunity to show what they have done and what they are about, said Joel Zwainz, IFC recruitment chair.

Greek week and Vandal Friday set the tone for recruitment for the next year, Zwainz said.

"It is the first step in the recruitment process," he said.

Members of the Greek system are hoping for more than 200 students to stay in a sorority house during Vandal Friday and more than 180 in a fraternity, Zwainz said.

Any student who hasn't signed up to stay in a house and who wants to can through the Greek Office located in the Teaching and Learning Center 232.

"We are optimistically hoping for higher numbers

than in past years," Zwainz said.

Being a Greek opens up so many options, including leadership, scholarships and job opportunities and that is what they are trying to show this week, Nelsen said.

Nelsen said she had the stereotypical thoughts about the Greek system, but then saw some of the things they do and did a complete 180.

There is no money earned during Greek Week, Nelsen said.

Nelsen said the planning is a group effort from all the houses. To reserve some of the locations for events, they had to start planning last September.

Students sometimes think the dorms are the only way to live, but then they meet a few Greek students and change their minds, Bullard said.

Greek Week is the biggest and busiest week of the year for the Greek system, Zwainz said.

Panhellenic recruitment chair McKenzie Therrian said she thinks the number of students staying in a Greek house this year is higher than previous years.


"(Greek Week is) to show potential new members how the Greek system is involved," Therrian said.

"It is a good way for houses to bond and bring in new members."

Bret
BULLARD



Samantha Welker and Danielle Boyd, left/right, on Thursday morning.



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GREEK from page A1

Fallon Decker, president of Kappa Kappa Gamma, described her recruitment experience as being a "deer in the headlights." She said she was concerned because she was too quiet and didn't always want to be in a sorority.

Decker said she decided to try it and it turned out well.

Junior Ellen Toevs said she always knew she wanted to be in a sorority, but she said it's better to know nothing about the houses because students will not have a bias toward a certain house. "Don't let people influence you," Toevs said.

During the formal recruitment process, the Greek system requires all pledges looking into a sorority go without their cell phones to avoid outside influences.

"We want every woman to make the decisions for themselves," Loehring said. "We don't want them to talk on it the whole time."

The fraternity process is less formal than it is for sororities.

Fraternalities are able to participate in summer recruitment. Houses send information to incoming students about the house and invite them to participate in formal recruitment.

On the first day of recruitment students are encouraged to visit all 19 fraternities and can choose which house to stay in.

Each night students can stay in different houses, said Interfraternity Council President Scott Smith.

If a student shows interest in a chapter and if the house shows interest in them, they will be given a bid card, which is an invitation to join the fraternity. Offers for bids are available until the end of recruitment. Fraternity recruitment starts Aug. 20 and ends Aug. 23.

Smith said during his recruitment process he found Theta Chi met the expectations he was looking for and he felt welcome.

Not everyone gets accepted into the Greek system. Freshman Theodore McJunkin said he knew he wanted to be in a fraternity when he made his decision to attend UI. He wanted to be a member of Sigma Chi.

After participating in formal recruitment, McJunkin found himself without a bid card.

McJunkin said he really wanted to be in the Sigma Chi fraternity, but he also wanted to be a member of Delta Tau Delta. He found out he wasn't accepted into Sigma Chi, but also found out he wasn't accepted into the Deltas because he had a bigger interest in the other fraternity.

"I wanted to live there because you have a bunch of people around to support you and help with your homework," McJunkin said. "It would be great for parties as well."

McJunkin said he had been accepted into a fraternity, he wouldn't have made the friends he has now, so it worked out.

"(Sigma Chi) are still great guys and I hang out with them every once in a while," McJunkin said.

When looking for pledges, all houses look for a person who has academic excellence, leadership skills, involvement and a good character, Loehring said.

Grades are usually looked at first, Thaete said, but members also look at student's personality to see if they will fit into the house.

Stackhouse said ATO requires students to know the history the National Fraternity.

"The system is pretty efficient," Smith said. "It's a good way to meet people."

"Take the time to look at Greek Life, as it can add so much value to your college life," Loehring said.

Decker said new students interested in living in a Greek house should keep an open mind regardless of what they are planning to do.

Staying the night in a Greek house is the best way to get a feel for it, Thaete said.

Smith said students interested in going Greek shouldn't sign a contract with the housing office because they can be hard to get out of. If a student decides not to join a house, Smith said there is always a room available in the residence halls.

"Don't just rule it out because of what you've heard," Thaete said. "Don't block it out."

Universally freshman year is the hardest, Decker said, because of the transitions and everything that is going on in life.

Thaete said joining a sorority helped with the transition between high school and college. Students are handed 60 or so friends, she said.

"The more interested you are in a house, the more the house will want you," Casher said.

KKG looks for strong women who are comfortable in their skin, Decker said. When looking at students, the sorority looks at scholarships, leadership and friendship.

Anybody who goes into the recruitment process with the right attitude can find a place where they feel comfortable, Decker said. A person who can adapt to other people's personalities will be successful in a house.

In most Greek houses, students share a "day room" with other members. In the day room, there is a desk, closet, dresser and storage space. Members sleep in a large room called a sleeping porch.

There are rows of bunk beds in the porches and it is 24-hour quiet, Thaete said. By each bed there is an outlet for heating blankets or other things.

She said it was kind of weird at first, but she loves the sleeping porch now. There are community bathrooms in the Greek houses.

Decker said there isn't a lot of fighting in the house because everyone has a common goal.

Living in a sorority is like "the 'Real World,' but all girls," Casher said.

"The public puts a bad stigma on houses," Thaete said. "People outside the Greek community look down on us because we are Greek."

The bad is focused on more than the good, she said.

Decker said being in a sorority is not what the movies make it out to be. She said people tend to see sorority girls as people with money, who like to meet guys and go to parties.

"The girly girl exists, but it's not the norm," Decker said.

"The reason we live in a sorority is not because of the social status," Decker said. "We are involved with other activities that get lost in translation."

Studying can sometimes get hectic because there are always people coming and going, Casher said.

There is always someone to hang out with, Toevs said.

The Greek community always has a lot going on, such as Homecoming week where each chapter decorates its house and participates in many different events, including the annual homecoming parade. Each house hosts a yearly philanthropy to help raise money for the different foundations a house chooses.

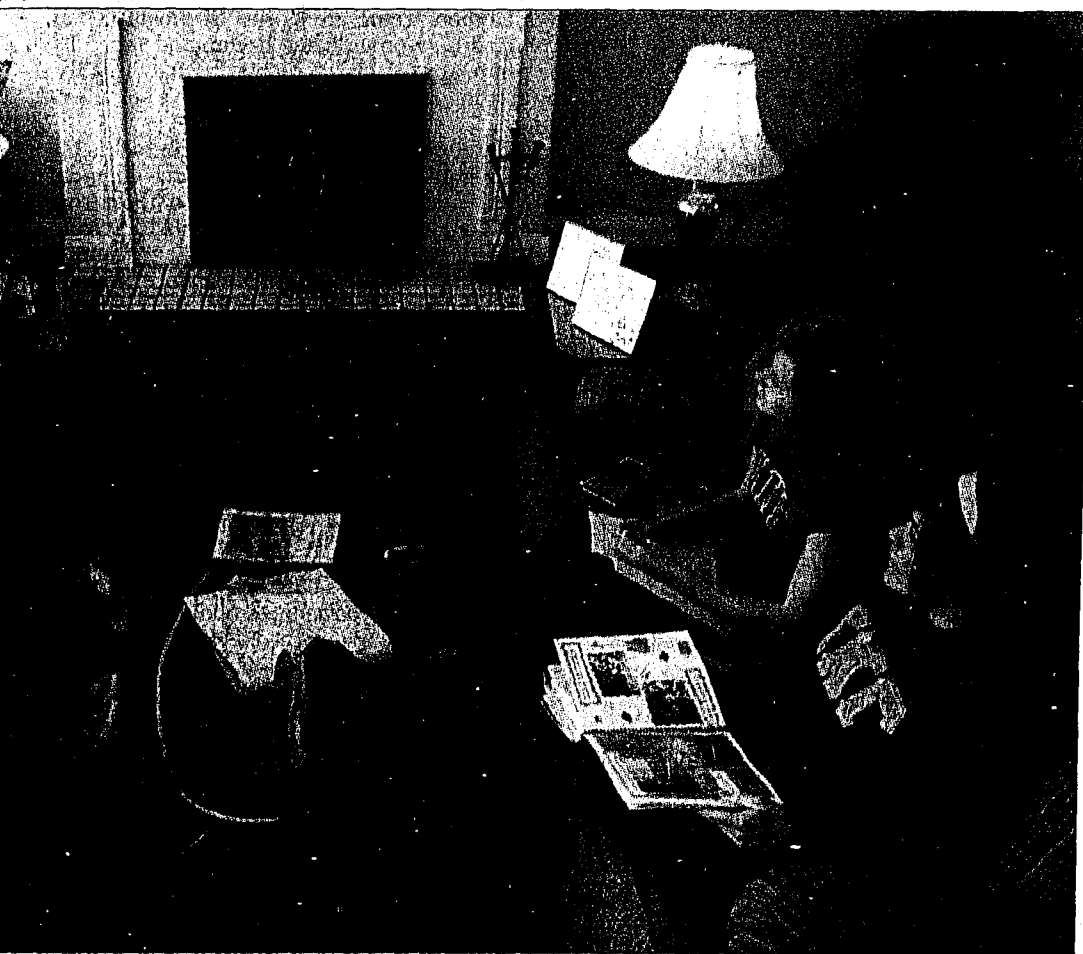
Delta Gamma member sophomore Mattie McLellan has enjoyed her time in the Greek system so far because of the opportunities to get involved.

"If it weren't for me living in a house, I wouldn't be involved in half the things I am now," McLellan said.

For additional information about joining the Greek system, visit www.uidaho.edu/greeklife or contact Loehring at 800-874-7335.



Greek houses put together on Tuesday as part of the Greek Week events. Jake Barber/Argonaut



McJunkin with fellow Kappa Kappa Gamma members Samantha Purcell and Matea Burns in the KKG house. Roger D. Rowles/Argonaut

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Nobel Laureate and former President of South Africa F.W. de Klerk
7:00 p.m., SUB Ballroom

Wednesday April 2
"The Challenges of Reconciliation: A Discussion"
Ken Attafuah, Director, Ghana Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Mason Smith, Deputy Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN
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PROSTITUTION: IT'S NOT JUST SEX

Why the oldest profession still flourishes

Case of former New York governor brings lifestyle to forefront of society

Hillary Rhodes.
Associated Press

High-definition pornography is a mouse click away. Assignations with multiple partners are advertised on Craig's List. And if celebrities are any indication, underwear is strictly optional. Sex, it seems, is everywhere. It's on the Internet, in chat rooms, in "Girls Gone Wild" buses and hotel rooms and governors' mansions. It's come a long way from darkened peep shows and plain brown wrappers.

So in this hyper-sexualized time, one might wonder: What's the point of going through the elaborate, illegal and stigmatized motions of hiring a prostitute?

Eliot Spitzer's alleged choice to partake in "the hobby," as men who solicit prostitutes call it, cost him his governor's seat. Why will some men risk everything for secret trysts with sex workers?

The answer may seem obvious, but experts say it's not just about easy sex. Some might be drawn to adventure. Some are attracted to the level of secrecy they think will come with a paid prostitute. Others are looking for a sense of control.

"It could say that they don't know how to be intimate," says Bev Smallwood, a psychologist in Hattiesburg, Miss. "It could say that they have a sexual addiction, that they have become desensitized to sex within a more appropriate context and they're seeking one more thrill of the chase."

For some "clients," there's a rush in knowing you're doing something you're not supposed to do, experts say.

"There is an appeal to coloring outside the lines,"

said Smallwood. "Certainly (Spitzer) was a risk-taker or he never would've gotten where he got in life. ... But sometimes the thrill of that risk can be extremely destructive."

The difference between merely enjoying sex and having an unhealthy obsession with it is that with addiction, a person pursues something he wants despite the extremely damaging consequences that can come with it, says Smallwood, who wrote, "This Wasn't Supposed to Happen to Me: 10 Make-or-Break Choices When Life Steals Your Dreams and Rocks Your World."

"We all have temptations, but people who are more responsible or conscientious look at a temptation and see it for what it is," she says.

Men who use prostitutes might be drawn to the position of power it can afford in the sexual encounter, according to some experts.

"It's self-serving," says Douglas Weiss, the executive director of the Heart to Heart Counseling Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Himself a former sex addict, Weiss has worked with hundreds of men who use prostitutes — almost all of them married — and says such rendezvous provide clients with "object-related sex," where the man can direct the situation on all levels. "You give her a script, she plays it," he says.

There's little threat of rejection with paid sex. If you want your wife to behave in ways that push certain boundaries, you might get turned down. If you pick somebody up at a bar and try to ease her out of her comfort zone, you might get "partial results," Weiss says. But with a prostitute, generally you get what you pay for.

In some cases, it's more than



Eliot Spitzer

just sex that clients are looking for. Online message and review boards for "escort" services reveal many conversations where customers are seeking

a GFE — a "girlfriend experience" — which can mean anything from showing extra affection the way a girlfriend might to not wearing a condom.

Encounters with prostitutes might be a temporary boon to a man's self-esteem, says Weiss, who wrote, "The Final Freedom: Pioneering Sexual Addiction Recovery."

"You've got the psychological reinforcement," he says. "That message is, 'I want you.' ... Prostitutes know that the male psyche wants to be wanted, and so the prostitute will communicate it during sex. That sends the man through the roof."

A prostitute whom you've never met might give a potential client a sense of security that he won't be found out. If you engage in illicit behavior with anybody in your immediate circle of friends, colleagues or acquaintances, there are more chances of being gossiped about, according to Tina B. Tessina, author of "Money, Sex, and Kids: Stop Fighting about the Three Things That Can Ruin Your Marriage."

"He's, in his mind, protecting his relationship by doing this," she says. Tessina believes communication is the most important way to heal a troubled relationship. Sometimes that means facing facts that are initially unsettling.

"We have to come to terms with who we are as human beings," she says. "We can't pretend it's going to get tame and go away just because we're uncomfortable with it. It's like death. That's not going to go away either, just because we're uncomfortable with it."

Realities of lifestyle far from myths of glamor

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The call girl in the Eliot Spitzer scandal appeared to be leading a glamorous life — staying in an upscale Manhattan high-rise, traveling to seduce powerful men in swanky hotel rooms, making more than \$4,000 in one night. But the reality for most prostitutes is far different.

Many come from broken homes, were homeless at some point, were abused as children and suffer from depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, says Mary Anne Layden, director of the Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program in the Center for Cognitive Therapy at University of Pennsylvania. She says many are not making any money because of a drug habit and a pimp or madam who takes half their earnings.

"The idea of 'Pretty Woman' is a huge lie," says Layden, referring to the hit movie about a man (Richard Gere) who hires a prostitute (Julia Roberts) and falls in love with her. "Most prostitutes spiral downward."

Ashley Alexandra Dupre — the 22-year-old identified as "Kristen" in court documents accusing the former New York Governor of paying thousands for prostitutes' services — doesn't seem to be "Pretty Woman" either. Her MySpace page portrays her as a New Jersey native who left a broken home to pursue a music career in New York.

"I have been alone," she wrote. "I have abused drugs. I have been broke and homeless. But, I survived, on my own."

Prostitution takes many forms, from homeless teens who prostitute out of desperation to women and children who are trafficked from other countries and high-end escorts who drum up business online. This last group, with its seeming hint of glamour, has gotten the most media attention in the wake of the Spitzer scandal.

Former prostitute Norma Hotaling, who walked the streets and worked for an escort service, says it felt glamorous at first.

"I felt an incredible sense of power," she said. "Here's a way I can make money. I can work any hours that I want to work. I can call my own shots. I don't have to take the dates I don't want. It's like, 'I have my own business. Isn't this amazing?'"

But those feelings didn't last long. She was addicted to heroin; she was homeless at times; she was beaten and raped. She began to be horrified that her livelihood depended on sex with strangers on a regular basis.

"It makes it so appealing to think that it's an easy life, and it's not," says Hotaling. "You don't find a whole lot of women speaking out about how glamorous it was."

Melissa Farley, a research psychologist who has been studying prostitution for the last 14 years, estimates that 80 percent of prostitution is done indoors, including massage parlors, champagne rooms in strip clubs, health clubs and hotel rooms. She has interviewed 900 prostitutes in 10 countries. She says about 90 percent say they want to get out.

University of Chicago economist Steven Levitt, of "Freakonomics" fame, recently studied street-level prostitution in Chicago, and estimated there were about 4,400 prostitutes active there in an average week. They made an average of about \$25 an hour, a far cry from the thousands of dollars charged by the Emperor's Club VIP.

The Chicago prostitutes were also more likely to have sex with a police officer than to be arrested by one, and used condoms only a quarter of the time, Levitt found.

On the other end of the spectrum, Sudhir Venkatesh, a Columbia sociologist who collaborated with Levitt, says it is not uncommon to find prostitutes charging \$10,000 per session. Still, he says those women report getting abused twice a year. (Street prostitutes report three times that amount

of abuse.)

Some current and former sex workers who push for legalizing prostitution say most of the data on the subject is flawed because it is based on interviews with street hookers who are arrested, in battered women's shelters, or enrolled in drug treatment programs.

Former sex worker Veronica Monet says she was working in the business world when she decided to become a high-end prostitute. She has never worked on the streets or for a madam. She made as much as \$15,000 a night as an escort, in addition to her own private hotel suite, spa services, dinner and entertainment.

"It's professional dating," says Monet, a sexologist and sex educator. "It's not complicated. People do this all the time for free. We have learned to charge for it."

Robyn Few, also a former prostitute and co-founder of SWOP-USA (Sex Workers Outreach Project) says she has met thousands of sex workers, many of whom are middle-class women who run their business on the Internet and consider themselves entrepreneurs. She advises against street prostitution.

"I can promise you we're not all drug addicts," she says. "We're not all abused. We're all human. We have desires, wants, needs. 'Kristen' has huge desires. She wants to be a singer. She found a way to work towards those goals."

Many prostitutes believe their life is glamorous, says Martha L. Shockey-Eckles, assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice at Saint Louis University, whether they came from lower class or middle upper class or are using prostitution to make money while pursuing another career.

She has interviewed medical school students who said they were only prostituting to pay for school. But they abandoned those aspirations after becoming enthralled with the accouterments that came with the work — she says it's not uncommon for a high-end escort to make \$3,500 to \$4,000 a night.

So in essence those students say, "You know what? I'm already successful," she says.

But that "success" can come at a price. For every Veronica Monet, there are horrific stories that point to the ill effects of prostitution, says Layden. There are stories of prostitutes as young as 13, women being beaten and raped by the pimp, abused by the clients, contracting HIV, committing suicide because they don't see a way out.

"The story you're not hearing being told is the violence in the sex trade, the story of the degradation, the large amount of women who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder on par with returning veterans," says Rachel Durschlag, founder and director of The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE).

There is no bright future in prostitution, says Hotaling, founder of the SAGE Project (Standing Against Global Exploitation), which helps women leave and recover from sex work. Besides the physical and emotional effects, and the risk of jail time, women eventually find it hard to compete with younger and trafficked women. She says they are left penniless (most weren't investing) with no education, social life (most of their friends were in the industry) or life skills (many have never even had a bank account).

Dupre has not commented about her life as a prostitute, except to tell The New York Times she does not want to be thought of as a monster.

She has become a high-profile symbol, both as a victim — a young dropout with a drug problem — and as a woman who defies stereotypes. Madeleine Dash, a sex worker and co-founder of the Sex Workers Action New York, says "Kristen" proves that not all prostitutes are forced into this line of work out of desperation.

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Police say mom killed two kids

Kentucky woman then allegedly took gun to college

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A mother killed her two children and later went to the nearby college she attended and brandished a gun Thursday before handing the weapon to a health counselor, police said.

The threat at the University of Louisville ended with no injuries about half an hour after it began, but police who were then asked by school officials to check on the children found them dead with gunshot wounds.

Gail Lynn Coontz, 37, is charged with murder in the deaths of 14-year-old Greg Coontz and 10-year-old Nikki Coontz, said Louisville police officer Phil Russell.

Gail Coontz was in custody at the University of Louisville hospital but was expected to be transferred to jail, Russell said.

The woman was also charged with one count of terroristic threatening for pointing a handgun at an officer, university police Maj. Kenny Brown said. The woman gave her handgun to a counselor at the health services building, he said.

"When we were able to open the door and go in, the student and the counselor were both sitting on the couch," Brown said.

The children were shot sometime in the past day, Russell said, not citing a motive.

They were probably shot in their sleep, having been found "in the sleeping position" said Jo-Ann Farmer, chief deputy coroner for Jefferson County.

Coontz has been a student in the college of arts and sciences since fall 2006 and had not declared a major, university spokesman John Drees said.

The school sent safety alerts to student phones, cell phones and posted one on its Web site. The campus was not locked down, university spokeswoman Cindy Hess said.

The two-story red brick home where the children were found is in a tidy middle-class neighborhood about 10 miles south of the university. A garden at the home has a statue of two children playing with a bicycle.

Russell and neighbors said Coontz was a widow.

"She was a good mom," said next-door neighbor Sheryl Hayven. "I would have never thought anything, nothing like this would have indicated this to me."

The neighborhood is normally quiet and the neighbors generally know one another, said neighbor Patty Schneider.

Greg would run from the school bus to the house every day, while Nikki would arrive home later, get the mail and stroll inside, Schneider said.

"It just all seems like it's going to be a bad dream and I'm going to wake up from it," said Schneider, who lives directly across the street. "How am I ever going to look out the front of my house again?"

MARS AND VENUS

Scandals provoke discussions

Spitzer's foray into prostitution leaves couples asking each other, 'What would we do?'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Every so often, says Marla Felcher, something happens that makes her realize again that she made a great choice of husband 29 years ago. One of those moments was the Eliot Spitzer sex scandal.

"We talked about it, and realized we were really on the same page," says Felcher, a consumer advocate, author and teacher based in Cambridge, Mass. "These issues don't come up that often, and this gave us a chance to articulate them."

What did the couple agree on? That the line Spitzer crossed with his secret life frequenting prostitutes was unforgivable. That neither of them would have been able to let the other off the hook in similar circumstances. That they couldn't have stood by in silent support, as Silda Wall Spitzer did in those two painful public appearances.

"Maybe some men and some women wouldn't agree," says Felcher, 50. "But this story is like a Rorschach test for people. It was good to know we felt the same way."

In New York and across the country, the still-stunning Spitzer scandal — and the "mini-scandal" it spawned, with revelations of infidelity by the new governor, David Paterson — has had many couples discussing and debating. For some, it's just been the oh-my-gosh-can-you-believe-it talks in front of the TV. For others, it's been deeper discussions of feelings about (or experiences with) infidelity, betrayal, loyalty and the like. It's come up in counseling sessions, too.

"Certainly in my clinical practice it's been mentioned more than a few times," says Jay Lebow, a psychologist and professor at the Family Institute at Northwestern University. "It's stimulating, it's provocative, and it gets people thinking about their own lives. It's prompting an awareness among people that life may be more complicated than they thought it was."

In other words, some people are asking, "Does my spouse have secrets that I don't know about?" Another uncomfortable scenario, Lebow says, plays out with those who've already had painful experiences with infidelity. "This reopens it for them," he says.

Is the Spitzer scandal a Mars and Venus moment? Certainly there are many points of possible contention between the sexes. One is the fact that Spitzer's

betrayal involved prostitutes.

"Men in general are more understanding, more accepting of the prostitute angle than women," says Lebow, who adds that the same holds true of casual sex, as in the one-night-stand after meeting someone at a bar.

Many women, though, tend to focus on the depressing grunginess of prostitution, as well as the risks to a spouse or partner. Prostitutes "have been with all kinds of people, so of course there could be some type of disease or infection," says Sylvia Clark, of Dallas. Her husband, Roy, calls prostitution "the lowest of the lowest, and a total disrespect for the wife."

Together, the Clarks run a company, Total Dimensions Family Services, that seeks to educate people about relationships. They hope to use the Spitzer scandal as a future teaching tool. "I'm quite sure it will come up," says Randy Clark. "It shows that everyone is vulnerable."

The two have discussed it as a couple, too. "I told him, there's no way I would stand there with you," Sylvia says. "He's shown her total disrespect. I would not be there."

On the airwaves, where talk shows addressed the scandal nonstop for days, Mars and Venus moments have abounded. Some women were greatly annoyed by all the talk of a "victimless crime." And they laughed when Joy Behar of the all-female gabfest "The View" proclaimed that "Viagra is destroying our government."

"I'm sure couples are in discussion, but gingerly, about this topic," Behar wrote in an e-mail message. "Every married couple fears this type of thing happening. Maybe it's inevitable that when you get married fairly young, you will be tempted to stray after a certain number of years."

How common is infidelity? A highly regarded survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago has found that 22 percent of men have had a sex partner other than their spouse while married, compared to 13 percent of women. (The figures are an average of the years between 1991 and 2004.)

But the Spitzer scandal was about far more than garden-variety infidelity — which is why many who were stunned by that scandal had a fairly blasé reaction when Paterson revealed his extramarital dalliances.

"It's not as bad," says Megan Trask, 30, of West-

field, N.J. "Paterson didn't run on a platform of being ethically superior to everyone else, like Spitzer did." The thought of the prostitutes was troubling to her, too: "(Spitzer) was bringing diseases home to his wife, and he was objectifying a woman, like in a business transaction."

Most disappointing of all, says Trask, who works in advertising, Spitzer's actions were "a slap in the face" to those, like her, who had high hopes for him. "Down under it makes you question your judgment of people," she said. "I really had him wrong. Who else did I have wrong?"

Trask's husband, Steve, 33, isn't nearly as outraged. Not that he condones the behavior. But, he says, "If we expected our politicians to be perfect, we'd never have a president. We hold them to a higher standard, and we should, but it's unrealistic to expect them to be perfect. Are you going to forget all the good things he's done?"

His wife, told of his comment, laughs. "Steve doesn't judge people. He doesn't want to put himself in someone's shoes. I guess that's one of the reasons I love him."

Though the Trasks are engaging in a good-natured debate, family counselor Elana Katz has come across couples who are deeply disturbed by the Spitzer scandal.

"I think it's really shaken people up," says Katz, who counsels families and couples at New York City's Ackerman Institute. "There are a lot of people trying to understand this out there. It's been very distressing to people to see the strain on a relationship made so public."

Seeking to address those feelings, one rabbi at a New Jersey synagogue wrote to her congregants.

"There are families in our community who have struggled with infidelity," wrote Rabbi Elyse Frishman of the Barnert Temple in Franklin Lakes, N.J. "No doubt that Gov. Spitzer's public behavior has struck a deeper chord in your homes. It may be hard to even look at your spouse, or to discuss the governor's behavior with your children ..."

"None of us is perfect. Marriages, families, friendships can heal over time."

Frishman says she heard back from several people who had experienced infidelity — from different sides — and were experiencing severe distress over the scandal. "They were so grateful that I had affirmed their reality," she says.

"Men in general are more understanding, more accepting of the prostitute angle than women."

Jay **LEBOW**
Psychologist

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Traveler forced to remove her nipple piercings

TSA gave woman pliers to remove nipple ring

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Texas woman who said she was forced to remove a nipple ring with pliers in order to board an airplane called Thursday for an apology by federal security agents and a civil rights investigation.

"I wouldn't wish this experience upon anyone," Mandi Hamlin said at a news conference. "My experience with TSA was a nightmare I had to endure. No one deserves to be treated this way."

Hamlin, 37, said she was trying to board a flight from

Lubbock to Dallas on Feb. 24 when she was scanned by a Transportation Security Administration agent after passing through a larger metal detector without problems.

The female TSA agent used a handheld detector that beeped when it passed in front of Hamlin's chest, the Dallas-area resident said.

Hamlin said she told the woman she was wearing nipple piercings. The woman then called over her male colleagues, one of whom said she would have to remove the jewelry, Hamlin said.

Hamlin said she could not remove them and asked whether she could instead display her pierced breasts in private to the female agent. But several other male officers told her she could not board

her flight until the jewelry was out, she said.

She was taken behind a curtain and managed to remove one bar-shaped piercing but had trouble with the second, a ring.

"Still crying, she informed the TSA officer that she could not remove it without the help of pliers, and the officer gave a pair to her," said Hamlin's attorney, Gloria Allred, reading from a letter she sent Thursday to the director of the TSA's Office of Civil Rights and Liberties.

Hamlin said she heard male TSA agents snickering as she took out the ring. She was scanned again and was allowed to board even though she still was wearing a belly button ring.

"After nipple rings are in-

serted, the skin can often heal around the piercing, and the rings can be extremely difficult and painful to remove," Allred said in the letter.

Hamlin filed a complaint, but the TSA's customer service manager at the Lubbock airport concluded the screening was handled properly, Allred said.

Allred said she might consider legal action if the TSA does not apologize.

On its Web site, the TSA

warns that passengers "may be additionally screened because of hidden items such as body piercings, which alarmed the metal detector."

"If you are selected for additional screening, you may ask to remove your body piercing in private as an alternative to a pat-down search," the site says.

Hamlin would have accepted a "pat-down" had it been offered, Allred said.

Hamlin was publicly humiliated and has "undergone" an enormous

amount of physical pain to have the nipple rings reinserted" because of scar tissue, Allred said.

"The conduct of TSA was cruel and unnecessary," Allred wrote. "The last time that I checked a nipple was not a dangerous weapon."

TSA spokesman Dwayne Baird said he was unaware of the incident. There is no specific TSA policy on dealing with body piercings, he said, "as long as it doesn't sound the alarms."

If an alarm does sound, "until that is resolved, we're not going to let them go through the checkpoint, no matter what they're wearing or where they're wearing it." People routinely pass through security wearing wedding rings without problems, and it might take a larger bit of metal to trigger an alarm, Baird said.

"The last time I checked a nipple was not a dangerous weapon."

Mandi **HAMLIN**
Traveler

Film criticizes Quran

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A Dutch lawmaker released a film highly critical of Islam on Thursday, setting verses of the Muslim holy book against a background of violent images from terrorist attacks.

Geert Wilders posted his 15-minute film on a Web site. Shortly afterward, Dutch television channels showed segments of the film and broadcast discussions by analysts on the possible impact of its release.

The Dutch government had warned Wilders that a film offensive to Muslims could spark violent protests in Islamic countries, like those two years ago after European newspapers published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

"The film equates Islam with violence. We reject this," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said in a televised reaction. "We ... regret that Mr. Wilders has released this film. We believe it serves no other purpose than to cause offense."

Dutch television refused to broadcast the film, and Wilders had difficulty finding an Internet platform willing to host it.

The film shows statements from radical clerics and cited verses from the Quran interspersed with images of the Sept. 11 attack on the United States, the 2004 commuter train bombings in Spain and the murder later that year of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh on an Amsterdam street.

His movie begins and ends

with one of the caricatures of Muhammad, accompanied by the sound of a page being torn from a book.

Subtitles assure viewers that the page was not torn from a Quran, but from a telephone book. "It's not up to me, but the Muslims to tear the hate-sowing pages out of the Quran," the subtitles add.

After the release, Wilders told reporters that he made the film because "Islam and the Quran are dangers to the preservation of freedom in the Netherlands in the long term, and I have to warn people of that."

The film is called "Fitna," an Arabic word that can be translated as "ordeal." Wilders suggested European culture is under threat due to immigration by Muslims.

The film was not as jarring as anticipated, said Maurits Berger, professor of Islam in the West at Leiden University.

"It's a series of images and photos, headlines from recent years which we already know," he said.

The film tells more about Wilders than the Quran, Berger said. "It represents his fear of Islam."

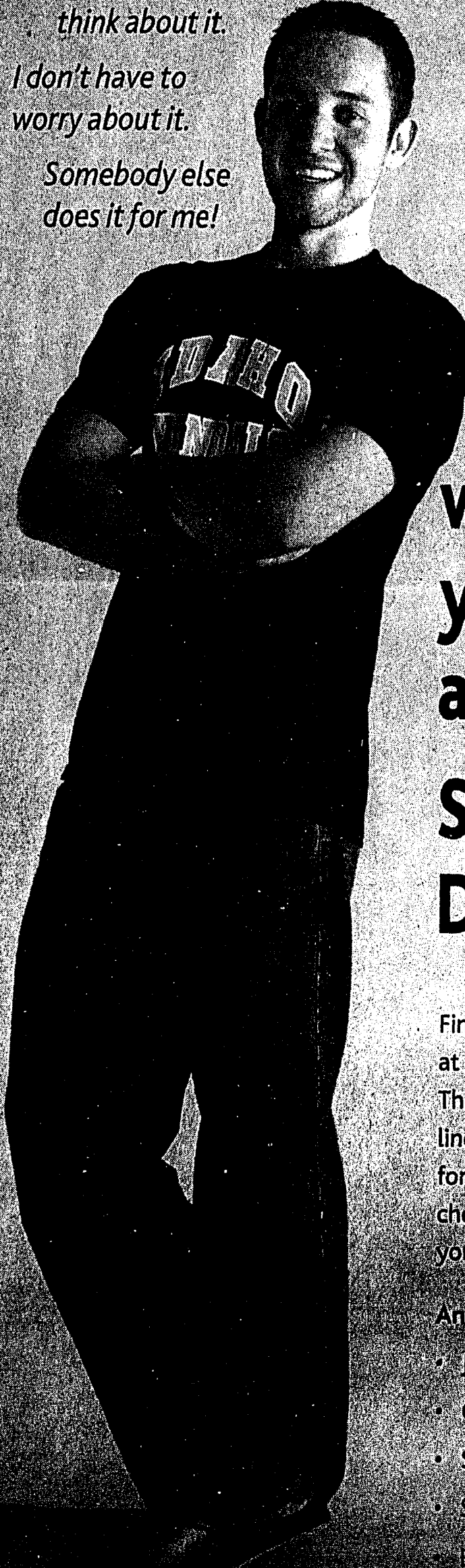
The lawmaker put out his film on the evening before a Dutch judge was due to hear a petition by a Muslim group seeking an independent review of the film to see whether it violates hate speech laws. The Dutch Islamic Federation asked the court to impose a fine of \$79,000 for every day the film is available to the public.

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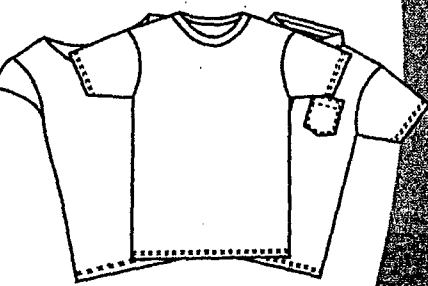
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May be link between allergy drug and suicide

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday it is investigating a possible link between Merck's best-selling Singulair and suicide.

FDA said it is reviewing a handful of reports involving mood changes, suicidal behavior and suicide in patients who have taken the popular allergy and asthma drug.

With sales of \$4.3 billion last year, Singulair is used by millions of patients in the U.S., according to Merck. First approved in 1998, it's part of a class of asthma and allergy drugs that includes AstraZeneca's Accolate and Critical Therapeutics's Zylfo.

Merck officials stressed that the FDA's inquiry is based on reports, not clinical studies, which are the standard tool for evaluating drug safety. The company said none of the 11,000 patients enrolled in 40 Singulair trials has committed suicide.

"We have no indication that anything about the mechanism of Singulair is consistent with these events," said George Philip, director of research and product development. "But because suicide is a life-threatening event we thought it was important to provide this information in the product label."

"Patients should not stop taking Singulair before talking to their doctor," FDA said in its statement, adding that doctors should monitor patients for suicidal behavior and mood changes.

The FDA said it asked the Whitehouse, N.J.-based company to dig deeper into its data on Singulair for evidence of possible links to suicide. The agency said it has not established a "causal relationship" between Merck's drug and suicidal behavior. An agency spokeswoman said the review was prompted by three to four sui-

cide reports it received before October.

It could take up to nine months before agency scientists can draw any conclusions, FDA said in a posting to its Web site.

The agency recently began notifying the public earlier about possible safety issues. The policy change came after the FDA was criticized for acting too slowly on information about the risks of Merck's painkiller Vioxx and GlaxoSmithKline plc's diabetes pill Avandia.

Merck has updated the drug's labeling four times in the past year to include information on a range of reported side effects: tremors, anxiety, depression and suicidal behavior.

The company said it recently added reports of suicide to Singulair's label, which already listed suicidal thinking and behavior as reported side effects.

In clinical trials of asthma patients, the most common side effects were headache, flu, abdominal pain and cough.

FDA said it is also reviewing reports of side effects with rival drugs, such as Accolate and Zylfo. Their labeling does not contain language about suicide.

Dr. Rauno Joks, an allergy specialist, said Thursday Singulair is generally well tolerated by his patients.

"Some of them have headaches with it but nothing I could imagine developing into depression or suicide," said Joks, head of the allergy division at State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center.

Joks said he will continue prescribing the drug because there are few alternatives for asthma patients beyond inhalable steroids, the standard treatment for the disease.

Shares of Merck Inc. fell 1 cent Thursday to \$44.77 in after hours trading, following an earlier close at \$44.78, up 8 cents for the day.

Attorney general says politics don't play part in charging public officials

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Attorney General Michael Mukasey vowed anew Thursday to crack down on crooked politicians and public officials, dismissing critics who accuse the Justice Department of letting partisan loyalties interfere with corruption cases.

Mukasey's comments came hours after prosecutors charged Puerto Rico's Democratic-leaning governor in a campaign finance probe that began more than two years ago.

Additionally, Mukasey said that a multibillion-dollar overseas contracting loophole that was quietly slipped into Justice Department plans to protect taxpayers' money "shouldn't happen."

All were part of the attorney general's rhetorical assault on public corruption, which he called one of his top priorities.

"It's often in the interest of someone to charge politicization whenever a prominent public figure is investigated or prosecuted," Mukasey said during a noon speech at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. "I find it notable that they make these accusations in the media, rather than before a court."

Earlier, during an interview with The Associated Press, Mukasey said corruption has "a cost beyond dollars and cents — it undermines the

whole idea of government." Because of corruption, Mukasey said, "people can't have confidence that government's being done honestly."

The Justice Department has brought numerous corruption cases over the last several years targeting Democrats and Republicans alike. In 2006, the latest data available, Justice prosecutors charged nearly 1,200 federal, state and local government employees in public integrity cases, a 20 percent increase from a decade ago.

During his speech, Mukasey pointedly spoke of charges brought against two former Republican congressmen: Randy "Duke" Cunningham of California

and Bob Ney of Ohio. He did not mention charges brought hours earlier against Puerto Rico Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila, who faces 19 counts in a campaign finance probe. Twelve others associated with Acevedo's Popular Democratic Party also were indicted Thursday.

Other high-profile lawmakers facing Justice Department charges include Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Ariz., in a land scam case, and Rep. William Jefferson, D-La., for allegedly taking bribes. Also under scrutiny by the FBI or congressional investigators are at least eight current House and Senate lawmakers. Democrat Eliot Spitzer resigned as New York's governor earlier this month after

a federal wiretap caught him arranging trysts with a prostitute.

Part of the Justice crackdown on corruption focuses on waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars spent on pricey government contracts. To that end, Mukasey told AP that the Justice Department is actively working to have a loophole exempting overseas contracts stripped from tough new rules to force private companies to report internal evidence of fraud.

The Bush administration added the loophole after the rule was first proposed by the Justice Department.

"Our position is it shouldn't happen," Mukasey said. "My understanding is we are doing whatever we can do at this point to show that we are opposed to it."

Mukasey took over the Justice Department in November following nearly a year of turmoil there over whether nine U.S. attorneys and career prosecutors were hired or fired because of their politics. The scandal ultimately led to the resignation of the attorney general, Alberto Gonzales, and Mukasey has been intent since then on rebuilding the Justice Department's image as fair and independent.

He also sought to quell suspicions over whether the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles meant to disband that office's cadre of public integrity prosecutors when he reassigned them to other units. Mukasey described the move as little more than an office restructuring.

"To take that as a signal that the Central District of California is out of the public corruption business I think is absurd," Mukasey said. "I didn't read it that way and ... that's not the life truth of it."

Terrorists 'never sought to overthrow government'

Associated Press

MIAMI — While prosecutors called them soldiers and would-be guerrillas, attorneys for men accused of plotting terrorism attacks said Thursday they were kept in the dark by their leader and never sought to overthrow the U.S. government.

Attorney Roderick Vereen, who represents Stanley Phanor, said in closing arguments that the U.S. case was "totally preposterous" and questioned why there was no physical evidence of plots against Chicago's Sears Tower and five FBI offices.

"Did you see any weapons training? Did you see any weapons? Did you see any explosives?" Vereen asked jurors. "How are you going to levy war against the United States if you don't have a bomb or a missile?"

Vereen said alleged ringleader Narseal Batiste was heard on several FBI recordings insisting that his followers weren't aware of his terrorism talks with a paid informant posing as an al-Qaida operative. Batiste testified that he was faking as part of a scam intended to get \$50,000 he was promised.

"There are no conversations at all between Stanley Phanor and Narseal Batiste talking about blowing anything up," Vereen said.

Remaining defense closing statements and a fi-

nal prosecution rebuttal were set for Friday morning, with jurors expected to begin deliberations later in the day.

The trial is the second for the so-called "Liberty City Seven" group arrested in June 2006 on four terror-related conspiracy charges. The first trial ended in December in a hung jury for the six defendants and the acquittal of a seventh man.

The six remaining defendants face up to 70 years in prison if convicted. One key piece of evidence is a March 2006 ceremony videotaped by the FBI in which the men pledge loyalty to al-Qaida and vow to fight in the holy war.

But attorneys for the men said the oath was sprung on them without warning, and that some were confused and troubled by what had taken place.

"He didn't even understand it," said Nathan Clark, who represents Rotschild Augustine, 24. "He didn't know what was happening."

Prosecutors said the men were preparing for terrorist attacks before the FBI investigation began in fall 2005 and that the informants only provided them with an opportunity.

"Narseal Batiste had a mission. His mission was to destroy the United States," Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Gregorie said Wednesday.

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OurVIEW

Seven reasons to be a Vandal

Greetings Vandal Friday guests, and welcome to the University of Idaho. There's a good chance you're new to Moscow, which means you have a lot to see in the next day or two. While you're thinking about living arrangements and classes, don't forget to consider what UI can offer you that may not be in the brochures. Here are a few more reasons that UI rocks.

1. Your parents are far enough away to consider yourself an adult, but close enough to help if you prove yourself wrong.
2. You'll see three seasons in Moscow — spring, fall and magical winter. Spring and fall are nice. Magical winter turns class days into ski days. Magic!
3. UI students never have to wonder if a person wearing Vandal athletics gear is actually a fan, or just doing it because it's trendy.
4. In a 1/2 mile radius, UI students can buy a steamed bagel, authentic gyro, late-night pita and tie-dyed panties.
5. Most mascots tend to enthrall young children, ours usually makes them cry.
6. UI offers an excellent education for the price of a car, in a town where you don't need to drive.
7. Moscow rent (and several Jr. Bacon Cheeseburgers) can be paid for entirely with the proceeds from plasma donation.

—AL

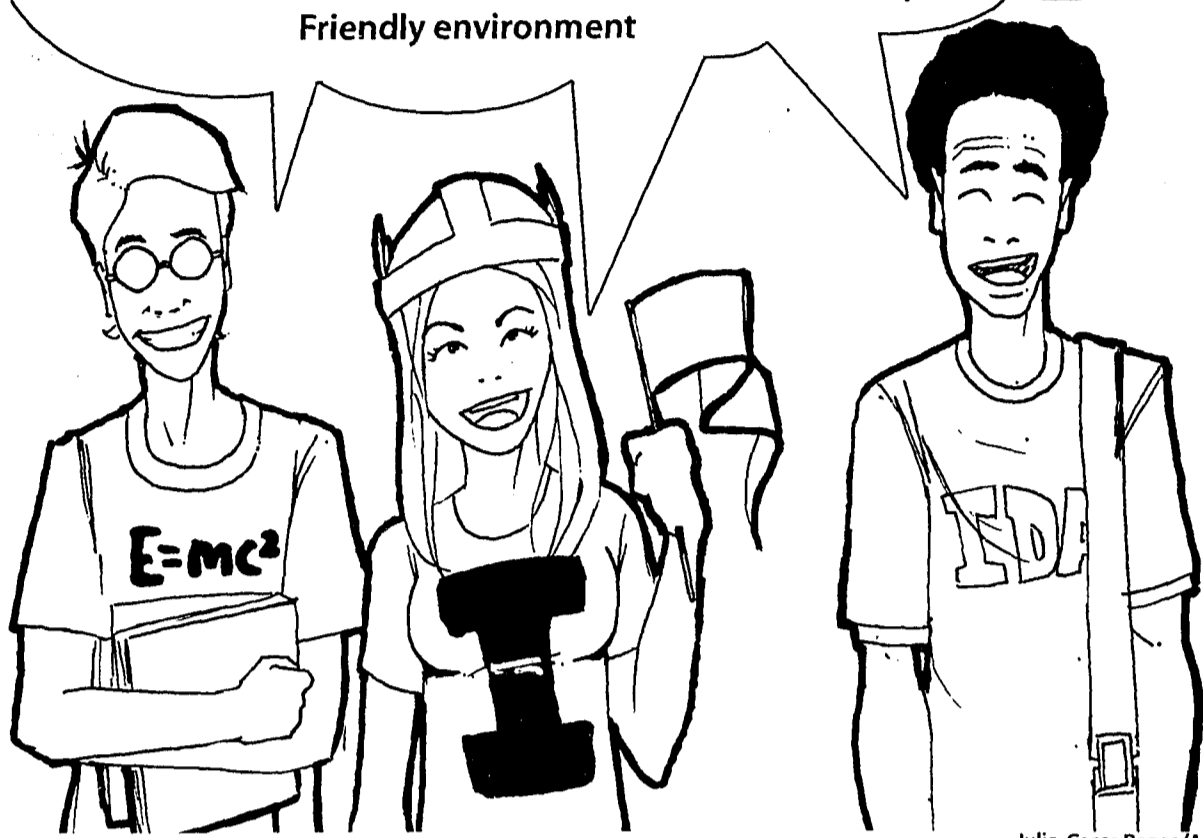
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Great School Spirit!!!



Julio Cesar Ponce/Argonaut

Off theCUFF

Quick takes on life from our editors

Clean the computers

The computer lab on the second floor of the Administration Building is the dirtiest room I've ever been in. On Wednesday, there were graham cracker crumbs covering my keyboard and desk. It's an 8 a.m. class, so you know that's there from the day before. Could we get a little maintenance in the room more often, please? It really is disgusting.

— Savannah

Batter up

The defending champion Boston Red Sox played two games against the Oakland A's in Tokyo this week. In the long run, these games probably won't matter but it does mean one very important thing: the Sox only have 160 games left in the season.

— T.J.

Mama Kin

My mama is making her first Moscow visit this weekend. Since I've been in college, we haven't been able to do as much of what we do best — go to concerts together. This weekend we're seeing The B-52's. Cosmic Thing was the first album I ever knew. Listening to "Love Shack" in my mom's 1976 Trans Am is one of my first and fondest memories. My mom is living proof you can still kick ass when you're 50. Plus, she's promised to buy me groceries while she's here, which totally rocks (and rolls), too.

— Christina L.

I Hope

I woke up this morning to a couple of inches of snow on my porch. I had a fleeting thought of "maybe all the equipment was put away for the spring time and the school would declare it

another snow day because they couldn't handle the two inches." I checked UI's home page for the little snowflake icon, but alas, school was not cancelled and I had to turn in a paper, an assignment, give a tour and go to work. Shucks.

— Alexis

Jackpot

As graduation approaches I have been worried about where I am going to work after school. Lucky for me my brilliant fiancé just scored an amazing internship. Yeah, the pressure's off now. If by some chance I don't have a job when I graduate I can always rely on him. Thanks Sean!

— Ryli

The fall lease blues

Next fall seems so far away, yet I am currently being forced, like many of my friends, to think far into the future to sign leases. There is so much pressure to figure out who is going to live with whom, where and when. It's simply too far away; I am just trying to get through the week. Shouldn't this town run on college time by now anyway?

— Roger

Nuclear Marco Polo

The Pentagon recently ordered U.S. military branches to inventory their nuclear arsenal. The order comes after four nuclear warhead fuses were mistakenly shipped to Taiwan and six nuclear warheads were mistakenly flown over the U.S. Perhaps the scariest part of this situation is that it is understandable — I lose things all the time. Then again, the things I lose don't tend to cause mushroom clouds. Anyway, at least we already have people trained to do this type of thing. It will be interesting to see what they can do when the weapons actually exist.

— Alec

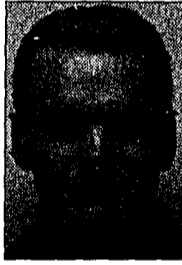
Middle of the road or on the fence?

One of my mother's favorite sayings is "moderation in all things," and I tend to agree with her. Extremes are usually not the wisest options. If someone were to ask my advice on how much to spend on entertainment, I would counsel moderation. If I were asked about eating junk food, using credit cards, watching television, pursuing hobbies or drinking, I would counsel moderation. Wisdom often demands a more careful, more nuanced, less rash decision that is not placed in absolute terms. However, there is a difference between wise moderation and superficial compromise.

Moderation is not the only thing that wisdom demands, and by itself it is meaningless. Wisdom also demands some measure of conviction and recognition of absolutes. Of course, not all will agree on just what those absolutes are, but they must exist. It would seem obvious, then, that if we hold some morals to be absolute, wisdom will demand rejecting things which defy those morals.

The problem with claiming that the most reasonable solution is generally

found in the middle ground is that the middle ground changes depending on who is talking to whom. If I am talking to my pastor about abortion, the middle ground is likely very different than if I were talking to a Chinese population control official. It becomes even more ridiculous to support a "middle of the road" policy if we talk about real moral extremes. If one person is opposed to rape and another supports it, are we going to take a middle ground stance? Of course not. When we start applying the principle of moderation across the board it becomes ridiculous, and we realize that wise decisions are actually made based on moral principles.



Benjamin Ledford
Columnist
arg_opinion@sub.uidaho.edu

We can try to save a middle ground policy by saying that it is the most reasonable policy and only happens to fall in the middle in this specific instance, but if that is the case, then why pretend at all? Why not claim reason as your basis, rather than moderation?

The reason it is important to understand the weakness of a policy based on taking the middle ground is

that it often results in inconsistent or incoherent positions, and our politicians do it all the time as they attempt to straddle the fence and attract votes on each side. Bill Clinton is famous for saying that he wanted abortion to be "safe, legal and rare."

"What a wise, moderate, common-sense policy," we cry. "Surely those on both sides can agree to such a measure." However, the statement is nonsensical. If abortion is an unobjectionable medical procedure then why keep it rare? Why not use it whenever desired? If abortion is actually murder, then why would we settle for "rare," let alone safe and legal? This attempt to take a moderate middle ground rejects the principles of both sides. If abortion is murder, then it is absolutely wrong, and it is not wise to allow it while counseling against it. Who would say to Hitler "Your extermination camps are fine, but if it were our decision we would try to avoid them?"

There are evils in the world, there are things which need to be stopped, and not all positions can be moderated wisely. Found your positions on reason and principle, and not on assuming wisdom in the middle ground. That seems like common sense.

MailBOX

Timely reminder

Please accept my compliments on Tuesday's editorial ("On Our Best Behavior"). What a wonderful reminder to the campus community that each of us needs to "reflect the best of what UI has to offer" especially on important dates like Vandal Friday. The staff of New Student Services works diligently to prepare for this event each year. They lead the effort,

but it's the willingness of so many others across the campus to participate that makes Vandal Friday such a special day. Prospective students and parents get to see first-hand what an amazing experience is ahead for them at the University of Idaho; and, staff, faculty, and current students all gain a renewed sense of pride — there is a tangible energy created that is unmistakable.

The Argonaut's reminder is timely for all of us as we prepare to meet future Vandals on Friday. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to

be an ambassador for this institution and show their Vandal pride. I'm glad to see the Argonaut encourage everyone to be proud of their university, be helpful to our special visitors, and let others know what a great university we have. You are a powerful influence on campus and I hope the Vandal Pride in your editorial moves us all to help on Friday. I plan to walk your talk.

Bruce Barnes
Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management

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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 Ryli Hennessey, editor in chief; Alec Lawton, managing editor; and T.J. Tranchell, opinion editor.

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- 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.

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TEEJOCRACY

Pants on fire

Newly appointed governor of New York David Paterson has the right idea. Before somebody catches you doing something bad, let everyone know. Then they can't do anything about it, except say you did bad things in your past.

Since you already said it, it can't hurt you.

Gov. Paterson has admitted up front to drug use during his late teens and early 20s and infidelity, including an affair with a past office worker.

It's not all that bad because his wife said she cheated on him, too.

While comparisons to the Clintons might spring right to mind, that's not what I want to talk about. I want to talk about getting the past off your chest before it comes back to bite you in the ass.

I'll start by airing a little of my dirty laundry, just to make you feel better.

It is still possible to get an A in high school German even if you smoke a lot of marijuana.

It is still possible to get a 3.5 or better GPA at a community college even if you stay up all night drinking at strip clubs. Most people won't notice if you smell like stripper. They'd have to get pretty close to tell the difference between strip club scent and just regular bar smell.

Is that enough honesty yet?

As for sex, well, a gentleman doesn't kiss and tell. I've never cheated on anyone, though.

Mitch Hedberg, who died of a drug overdose, once said, "I used to do drugs. I still do, but I used to, too."

Here's the thing about the past. It happened and there's nothing you can do about it. It's like your parents should have told you

when you were little: I'll spank you harder if you lie about it. You're still in trouble, but it will only be worse if you fib.

There are times when such honesty is necessary and helpful. If you are at a job interview and they ask if you drink, don't lie.

You don't have to tell them that you have a preference for Jack & Cokes over martinis, but don't tell them you never drink if you in fact have a beer or three on the weekend.

You may not get that job, but why would you want to work with a bunch of teetotalers, anyway?

Being honest with your peers is important, too. If you tell someone you never smoke pot and they see you with your lips pressed against a pipe, guess who is going to lose a friend?

Sometimes people will want you to suppress information and not let certain cats out of certain bags.

While I can understand and sympathize with some of that — I don't need people telling my grandma that I used to hit the bong because I can do that myself — but hiding the truth just to paint a picture that doesn't exist is hypocritical and dishonest.

We want our politicians to tell the truth, even if we don't expect it. We'd like our leaders at all levels to be straight with us and not play holier than thou. We should be holding ourselves to the same standards.

Today, when impressionable younger folks are hanging around and asking you what Moscow and the University of Idaho are like, don't be a liar. Don't run from the truth, don't be a hypocrite and don't lie just because someone else wants you to.

It will come back to haunt you and when it does, it will be worse than a simple case of pants on fire.



T.J. Tranchell
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Olympics should be time for nations to come together

Jessica Hensley
Kansas State Collegian (Kansas State U.)

MANHATTAN, Kan. — On Monday the ceremonial lighting of the Olympic Torch — a ceremony that should have been a symbol of international cooperation and unity — was marred by protesters and talk of boycott. Political figures all over the world have been calling for a full-scale boycott of the 2008 Olympic Games for the past few months, citing China's less-than-stellar record on human rights and recent crackdown on protesters in Tibet.

"There will be a boycott of some sort — what kind of boycott is the question right now," said European Parliament vice president Edward McMillan-Scott in an ABC News report. "At a minimum, I think the (European Union) should require that no elected official from the 37 members states attend the opening ceremony, but that is the minimum."

The decision of the International Olympic Committee to award China the 2008 Olympics always has been a source of controversy. The IOC rejected China's bid to be host to the Games in 2000, citing China's history of human rights abuses. As a result, Beijing's 2008 Olympic Committee championed an improved record on human rights as a major part of its bid for the Olympics in 2008. In its application, China pointed to Article 35 of the country's constitution, which guarantees "citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration," as proof that China was serious.

"This Beijing Olympic Games will be a

great event for people all over the world," said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in a recent press conference. He went on to say "the principle of the Olympics must be upheld — that is, the Olympic Games should not be politicized."

The Olympic Games should not be politicized. They should be above the pet causes of Hollywood, above national identities and the spread of political propaganda. The Olympics are supposed to represent a coming together of nations to celebrate the world's collective humanity. They are supposed to represent the fact that while we might be American, French, Japanese or Colombian, in the end, we are all citizens of the same world.

Thankfully, the United States has made its position on an Olympic boycott very clear.

"No. Absolutely not. No consideration is being given to a boycott," said U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Darryl Seibel during an interview with ABC News. "There is no discussion. We would never entertain it. It's not on the table."

Still, discussion of possible boycotts, continues within the national governing bodies of various Olympic sports. And with only five months left until the opening ceremonies, such discussion will only get more heated. We can only hope that the national

governing bodies that are contemplating an Olympic boycott stop to consider their athletes.

In the end, the Olympics are about the hopes, dreams and ambitions of the athletes, as well as those of the nations those athletes represent. And that is as it should be — the Olympics represent the dreams of individuals and the ideals of an entire world — such should be held far above the power plays of international politics.

"... the (European Union) should require that no elected official from the 37 members states attend the opening ceremony, but that is the minimum."

Edward McMillan-Scott
European Parliament VP



Gabriel M. Moats/Argonaut

The Argonaut Classifieds

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Holly Bowen/Argonaut

Seal clubbing an immoral act

Staff Editorial
The Daily Cougar (U. Houston)

HOUSTON — Canada has officially declared the start of its annual seal-hunting season. The government has even allocated the number of seals that can be killed - this year the quota is 280,000. Seal clubbing is the largest mass slaughter of a wild animal species today. Though Canada is the most popular country for seal hunting, it is also practiced in Norway, Greenland, Namibia and Russia.

If it weren't for how barbaric the act of seal hunting is it probably wouldn't spur such a large controversy around the world. Clubbing seals with a bat (crushing its skull) is considered to be the most cost-efficient method for these estranged seal-hunters, yet the Canadian government states that the seals are killed humanely, according to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. The conservation group also says that in the last three years alone, more than one million seals have been killed.

Sealskin is used to make waterproof jackets and even boats, while their fur is used to make fur coats, and surprise, surprise - it's considered to be high fashion to wear a seal-fur coat. Seal meat is eaten in many ethnic communities and is considered to be an important source of food. And finally, their blubber is used to make seal

oil, which is high in omega-3 fatty acids and used to make vitamins, lamp fuel and cooking oil.

Many animal-rights groups have attacked Canada for allowing its hunters to kill hundreds of thousands of seal pups each year, and now Canada is saying it will implement new rules to see that the harp seals are killed more humanely, because apparently there is a humane way of killing. An independent panel of veterinarians implemented the "humane" process. The Sydney Morning Herald reported that seal hunters would have to follow the three steps recommended by the panel, which stipulate that after clubbing the seal, the hunter must check its eyes to ensure the seal is dead and its main arteries must be cut.

That Canada, a country that gives free health care to its citizens, allows this brutal and barbaric method of hunting shows the hypocrisy and lack of morality in government administrations. Sure, people hunt deer and ducks, pigs and birds; but do they beat these animals with bats to ensure the death of the animal? Obviously, it would be near impossible to run around trying to club a duck or a deer, but if it were possible, there would most likely be deer-clubbers just as there are seal-clubbers. Canada ought to ban the practice all together - this is the only humane solution.

More 'blame whitey'

Samuel Berkowitz
FSView & Florida Flambeau (Florida State U.)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - You know, for a minute it actually seemed like Barack Obama was going to shrug off the race-baiting B.S. and unequivocally come out in opposition to the racial separatist anti-American garbage spewed by his "former" pastor and mentor Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

But then I remembered that this is the man who repeatedly refused when asked to wear an American flag on his lapel, picks and chooses when to show due respect during the pledge of allegiance, has campaign offices strewn with images of that (muerto!) Bolivian demon of filth, Che Guevara, and presumes to be poised to heal our very souls with neo-Socialist asininity that hasn't proven successful anywhere yet.

Of course, it was a bit much to ask a presidential candidate to refute statements like "God Damn America," and "U.S. of K.K.K.A." when made by a person he has described as a mentor and spiritual advisor. Why, Obama wasn't even in the room when the reverend made these, and other equally moronic utterances, just ask him!

Ah, the things you miss when you're in the bathroom, or maybe it was 1996 when, according to Accuracy in Media (www.aim.org), "He received the endorsement of the Chicago branch of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) for an Illinois state senate seat. Later, the Chicago DSA newsletter reported that Obama, as a state senator, showed up to eulogize Saul Mendelson, one of the 'champions' of 'Chicago's democratic left' and a long-time socialist activist. Obama's ... relationship with the DSA socialists, who groomed and backed him, has been generally ignored."

The U.S. government invented A.I.D.S. to kill black

people. No, really, any tin-hat conspiracy Web site or crazed preacher stirring up racial hostility can tell you that. You don't expect the "post-racial" (whatever that means) candidate to be equitable and fair. In terms of race, and thereby acknowledge that white people aren't out to destroy black people, do you?

Obama, in his much ballooned speech last week, said "The white community must start acknowledging that what ails the African-American community does not just exist in the minds of black people; that the legacy of discrimination - and current incidents of discrimination, while less overt than in the past - are real and must be addressed. Not just with words, but with deeds."

God, not again! Where is this "black community" I always hear about? It sounds like a real mess, because just about all the black people I know are from this neat place called American society, and are just trying to get an education, a job, pay the bills and what-have-you like everyone else, while people like this reverend and Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton keep talking about this inescapable, segregated dump called "the black community."

Maybe I should tell the few dozen black Deans List classmates I've had the past couple semesters that they aren't really black since race-baiting, activist jackasses like this "reverend" like to make black people think they are permanent victims with no "hope" of "change" or "ladders of opportunity," and so unless they are beholden to the Al Sharptons of the world, they are evil and traitorous.

Let me just say, as a Jewish person, when I don't get a job, I don't automatically think it's because I'm Jewish. I consider what were my qualifications, what impression I - as opposed to the dazzling redhead beside me in the waiting room - made on the interviewer, did I build

rapport with the interviewer, etc.

With civil rights dinosaurs and their followers, it's always "Stuff that went on decades and centuries ago is to blame!"

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed ... let's see ... 44 years ago, and guarantees protection from discrimination in terms of public accommodations, employment, education and federally assisted programs. It is also illegal to discriminate on the basis of race when renting an apartment to someone.

Is there some "white-people FAFSA" that guarantees whites more money? Someone please tell me what laws are on the books that deny any opportunity to anyone on the basis of race?

Well, there is the 1978 travesty otherwise known as University of California v. Bakke, which essentially codified discrimination against white people on the basis of race, but we've heard nary a peep from the "post-racial" candidate on that one.

Obama's one nod to "prejudice = bad" was his tut-tutting of his white grandmother, who had expressed a fear of passing black people on the street. Maybe Grandma Obama read US News on March 10, 1996 and read Jesse Jackson's assertion that "There is nothing more painful to me ... than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start thinking about robbery, then look around and see somebody white and feel relieved."

But whether she actually said this, or Obama made it up, the Hope Pope said Grandma's words made him "cringe."

Wow. If Grammy's racial stereotype made him cringe, what's an Iranian warhead going to do?

If anything, it would at least do more to unify the country (except maybe California and the Northeast) than Obama's bromides and racial baloney ever will.

Arts writers needed! Come to the 3rd floor of the SUB for an application.

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Celebrate Afro-Peruvian rhythm and dance



Courtesy Art

Incorporating Afro-Peruvian music and dance, Peru Negro will share their rhythms with audiences at 5 p.m. on Sunday at WSU's Beasley Coliseum. The show is part of Festival Dance's Great Performances series.

Padrhig A. Hamey
Argonaut

Festival Dance and Performing Arts Association will present Grammy nominated musical dance group Peru-Negro as a part of their Great Performances series.

Peru Negro will perform at 5 p.m. on Sunday in Washington State University's Beasley Coliseum.

"Peru-Negro offers a unique Afro-Peruvian music with a distinctive sound, with influences from West Africa, Cuba and elsewhere," said Juan Morillo, Peru-Negro producer/manager.

Peru-Negro has been performing since 1969 to preserve and celebrate Peru's black heritage.

The group was founded when someone asked Ronald Campos to put together a group to represent black folklore.

He turned to his family and friends to create what has now become a successful musical dance group for more than 35 years.

"The group is definitely like nothing you have seen before."

Juan MORILLO
Peru-Negro producer

"Peru Negro's last album, Jolgorio, was nominated for a Grammy Award and is responsible for the recent popularity of Peruvian music with West African and Cuban influences, that is all the rage in the hottest clubs in Lima, Peru," said Cindy Barnhart, Festival Dance executive director.

Peru Negro's high-energy show is made up of festive and celebratory dances interwoven with unique live music, humor and drama.

"The group is definitely like nothing you have seen before," Morillo said.

Blending in unique instruments such as a wooden crate, tithing box and a donkey jaw make for a different sound that is very much Afro-Peruvian.

When Spanish colonizers banned the use of drums and marimbas for slaves, black Peruvian music in turn developed its distinctive sound.

"During the slave trade, many West African people were brought to Peru

and they developed a unique culture centered around rhythm, folk-dance and music," Barnhart said.

Festival Dance keeps the performers over one night and on the day after, they bus in about a thousand students from around the area to see the show at the Beasley.

"The performers put on a special show for the children," Barnhart said.

"For some, it is their first experience with the performing arts."

As a part of their Great Performances series, Festival Dance looks to build the reputation as the premier performing arts organization in the Palouse and Valley regions. Groups like Peru Negro fit right in with the organization's mission.

"We seek out world class performances to bring to our area, and Peru Negro is highly recommended. Represented by Columbia Artists, they have beautiful pictures and excellent promotional videos," Barnhart said.

Festival Dance is the one of the largest private arts non-profit organizations in the area. Bringing in world-class performances is a goal of Festival Dance.

"Our mission is to bring the arts to the people and the people to the arts," Barn-

see the SHOW

Peru Negro will perform at 5 p.m. on Sunday in WSU's Beasley Coliseum in Pullman.

Tickets cost \$14 to \$25 and can be purchased at the Beasley Box Office or Tickets West.

hart said. "We support multiculturalism and believe that traditional dance and folkdance is important to preserve."

"This event will be our first trip to the Northwest America," Morillo said. "Peru Negro is a great experience that no one would want to miss."

Barnhart said the show is unlike anything in the area.

"It's a fun time, plus you might learn something or broaden your sense of the world," Barnhart said.

Multicultural groups, organizations and clubs are encouraged to participate and set up display tables in the concourse of the Beasley.

Visit www.festivaldance.org for more information.

India Nite brings Bollywood to the ballroom

Kevin Otzenberger
Argonaut

Few Americans have the opportunity to visit India, but for one evening, the University of Idaho will offer a concentrated glimpse into the colorful and exotic country.

Saturday night, the Indian Students Association will be hosting India Nite 2008.

The sold out event will run from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday in the Student Union Building International Ballroom.

Tickets went on sale in the Idaho Commons on Monday and were completely sold out by Wednesday.

The theme for this year is Bollywood.

"Last year, we did well, so we have to keep up

that expectation," said ISA President, Jnana Manoj Appikonda. "We're working hard on it, and we know that it goes good every year."

ISA Vice President, Kamran Khan said the event sells out nearly every year, and that people trying to catch a ticket at the last minute are simply out of luck.

"Almost everybody comes, especially people who love and want to learn more about India — a lot of curious students," Appikonda said. "The age group includes everybody. I hope it's like that this year, too."

This year's India Nite has been in planning for several months and the performers have been rehearsing heavily for nearly three weeks.

"They are very much excited," Khan said. "They all have class and work but make it the most fun time of the day when they come to practice."

Along with the five dances planned for this year, there will also be a skit written by Khan, about the various genres of Bollywood films (films produced in India, particularly in Mumbai).

"Every year, we have a different theme," Khan said. "But we didn't really last year, so we wanted to incorporate something clear, this time — that people would know about."

The event, which has been around for 10 years, involves skits, traditional dance routines, and a menu of exotic Indian cuisine that has been put together and cooked by ISA

members.

"Even though we are a small company," Appikonda said, "we showcase a large amount of culture that most people aren't aware of."

Nearly all of the students associated with ISA are foreign born Indian students who have only been in the U.S. for a few years. There are between 50 and 55 members, and roughly 30 or 40 of them are directly involved with the production of Indian Nite.

"It is the main event of the year, where we can show everything from how we dress and walk, to the cultural things we practice in India," Appikonda said.

The ISA also participates in various cultural

"We can show everything from how we dress and walk, to the cultural things we practice in India."

Manoj APPIKONDA
ISA President



Tyler Macy

Dancers rehearse for their performance in "India Nite," which takes place tomorrow.

See INDIA, page B3

UI dancer gets opportunity of lifetime

Meagan Robertson
Argonaut

She's been dancing since she was three years old and attending Universal Dance Association camps since she was a freshman in high school.

Now Jamie Wollenberg will have the chance to teach those who started out like she did.

Wollenberg, who is a junior dance major at the University of Idaho, said that dancing is her passion, and now she gets to take it to another level.

"Dance is the only really strong thing in my life," she said. "No matter what happens, I can find a space in a studio or in some random corner of a hallway and just dance. I can let out my emotion — whether I am in love with someone or I hate my mom, it's just this amazing natural high. Everyone dances."

For the past two years, Wollenberg has been attending the UDA dance camps each summer.

"At camp you bond with your team, compete, perform and learn," she said. "When you're a dancer going to camp is just what you do."

While at camp last summer she was tracked down and asked to fill out an application for the job.

"My friend had gotten one and we were laughing about it, and then one of the instructors, who's a dancer for the Seattle Sonics, chased me down," Wollenberg said. "(He) pulled me aside to tell me that I had to apply for this job, I was the best one there and that I was perfect for the position."

Sure enough, earlier this year, Wollenberg heard back from UDA and was offered a position teaching at their summer camp.

She said that it's a big deal for any dancer, regardless of the style of dance they specialize in, and that it still hasn't really set in for her.

"I have gotten to know a lot of the teachers over the years and I really look up to them," she said. "Now I get to be that person for someone else."

Wollenberg will begin teaching camps at the end of May twice a week where she will be training, teaching and performing for those who attend.

Her first camp will be at Lake Tahoe, but Wollenberg said that with the two camps a week she could be anywhere.

"I could be in California on Monday and in Florida on Friday," she said.

Since she isn't 21-years-old, she will be teach-

ing mostly on the West Coast, but once she meets the age requirement she will have the opportunity to travel everywhere, even internationally.

For the first two years with UDA, Wollenberg will have to re-apply, but will then be able to teach for them at their camps whenever she wants.

Wollenberg said that the biggest thing she's looking forward to is that she's going to have a job that is entirely dance oriented.

"Everyone I will work with and will be teaching will be as crazy about dance as I am," she said. "I am passionate and intense about dance, and people here don't really get why. It'll be nice to be in that realm where people are on the same level."

Greg Halloran, UI director of dance and one of Wollenberg's dance instructors said he thinks this will be a great opportunity for her.

"She already has teaching and leadership experience, and this will give her this chance to show her talents nationally," Halloran said.

Halloran has known Wollenberg since she first came to UI as a freshman three years ago and said that one of the things he likes about her dancing style is that she has a nice spark to her dancing.

"Her technique is solid and she knows how to give the extra 10 percent if needed," he said.

Diane Walker, who knows Wollenberg through her work with Dancers Drummers Dreamers, said this will be a wonderful experience for Wollenberg.

"All experiences like this will both add to her knowledge and skills and at the same time test them. This is always an exciting challenge and a huge benefit to a university education," Walker said.

Walker also said that Wollenberg is well organized, self-directed, and she gets things done.

Mary Heller, another one of Wollenberg's dance instructors at UI, said she's seen Wollenberg grow over the two years she's known her.

"Jamie is the type of dancer who's really grown in versatility as a performer, technician, artist, and choreographer," Heller said. "She really has presence."

Heller said that she thinks Wollenberg will do well teaching for UDA because as a novice teacher Wollenberg has done quite well.

"She's just beginning and she's nice and is personable," she said. "Her style is really clean and consistent, and she really cares."

In the end, Wollenberg said she would like to



Tyler Macy/Argonaut
Alone on the studio floor, dance student Jamie Wollenberg practices her routine in the morning light on Thursday.

get a job in performance dance and would like to travel south because it would be a completely different experience.

Working for UDA will help Wollenberg in her future endeavors.

She said in the past, UDA instructors have gone on to dance for the Sonics, Miami Heat and even become Rockettes.

"The networking opportunities are ridiculous," she said.

Wollenberg said she knows there are other reasons why this will be a good experience for her.

"There will be situations where I will need to

know how to handle them and I will get to learn how to deal with that," she said. "Also performing all the time will be tiring, and it'll be a challenge to wake up every day and be peppy and happy, but it will be a good learning experience."

Halloran said he foresees a successful future for Wollenberg, no matter what she decides. "She can be a strong teacher, performer, leader," he said. "I am not as familiar with the full-time job opportunities on a dance team as I am with concert dance, but I know whatever is out there Jamie will be one of the success stories."

Read the Argonaut online at www.uiargonaut.com

RELIGION DIRECTORY

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Matt Gray, Campus Minister 883-7903
Stuorgs.uidaho.edu/~crf

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Low numbers cancels Step and Stroll show

Sydney Boyd
Argonaut

The third annual Step and Stroll Competition planned on doing more than just dancing — it was going to take back music and keep culture alive.

However, only four teams signed up for the event, none of which were University of Idaho sorority or fraternity teams.

Highlighting UI fraternities and sororities was one of the main purposes for the event, so without UI representation, the event was cancelled.

"A lack of participation by University of Idaho students was disappointing and definitely contributed to the decision to cancel," said Heather Gasser, interim director of the Women's Center.

Also, not enough tickets were sold to make the program financially viable this year.

"It is an expensive program to implement and I felt it wasn't a good use of university funds if teams from Idaho were not represented," Gasser said.

She said one possible reason why the event lacked participation was because Washington State University and Eastern Washington are hosting similar events later this semester.

This year the competition was going to support a campaign put out by Essence magazine: "Take back the music."

Though the event was cancelled, the campaign's message is still prominent.

The idea is based around how popular media, particularly popular urban music and music videos, portray women in degrading ways.

The campaign works to raise awareness of music's effects on the younger generation and to simply encourage people to think about the issue.

Amy Sharp, WSU Retention Counselor for Student Support Services, helped start the event three years ago and said that a big part of the competition is the music.

"This is a chance for us to take back the music," Sharp said.

The event has been sponsored in the past in part by the Women's Center, and Sharp said there is good reason for it.

"Why not do it — why not support the women of color? But let's not stop there. Let's get the men of color involved too," Sharp said.

Sharp said that the organizers wanted students in the competition to find music that was

popular, stretching back into the 1970s until present day, but that was not derogatory.

UI Coordinator of the Office of Multicultural Affairs Leathia Botello said that this year the competition asked specifically for friendlier music.

"The concept was not about which artists not to listen to, it was more about listening to the music, the words and the messages it is sending to us," Sharp said.

But the competition was more than just the music.

The Step and Stroll Competition is the first of its kind in the northwest, and Botello said it centers on students embracing their culture.

"It is about community and belonging," Botello said. "We want to keep culture — that's why we see it expanding."

A committee is meeting to discuss why the UI groups couldn't participate and how to prevent it in the future.

"I look forward to working with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Greek Life to see how we can support these organizations and help bolster their numbers as they play a vitally important role in the recruit-

ment and retention of students of color," Gasser said.

"There is a culture that was created for them by American society. This is a chance for them to distinguish themselves," Botello said, of the sororities and fraternities that were going to participate.

This is the first time the competition will be cancelled since its beginning, but it will possibly return next year.

"If we are, as a university, intending on boosting our numbers of students of color on campus, it is important that we find a way to make events like this successful and a priority," Gasser said. "It is our hope that the Step and Stroll Competition returns to the Idaho campus in the future."

All the proceeds from the event were going toward a Student of Color Scholarship, Women in Science Scholarship and minority recruitment.

Due to the cancellation, all tickets and participation fees will be fully refunded, and any donations collected from UI departments or entities will be returned.

To comment or give feedback about the cancellation, contact the Women's Center at wcenter@uidaho.edu.

"This is a chance to take back the music."

Amy
SHARP
WSU Retention Counselor

'Dedication' is a worthwhile watch

Meagan Robertson
Argonaut

On the outside, "Dedication" is a dark romantic comedy, but underneath it all it's pretty sweet.

Billy Cruddup stars as Henry Roth, one messed up children's book author who is looking for someone to illustrate the sequel to his hit book, "Marty the Beaver," after his illustrator and best friend dies.

In walks Lucy, played by Mandy Moore.

To anyone who is instantly turned off because Moore is in the movie, you may want to reconsider, for this role is unlike any of her previous work.

In this movie Moore is the perfect actress for the role of Lucy, an illustrator just looking for a break while still pining after her nasty ex-boyfriend.

Henry, who is superstitious, obsessive-compulsive and just all around crazy doesn't work

well with Lucy at first, but eventually ends up realizing that she's the perfect girl for him.

This of course happens after he scares her back to her ex-boyfriend in a typical romance film style.

Another standout aspect of the movie is Tom Wilkinson's performance.

He plays Rudy, the dead best friend and former illustrator of Henry's book, who pops up throughout the course of the movie to talk to Henry and give him advice on his quest for life and love.

The movie stands out because it's not like most sappy chick flicks, but in a lot of way it is.

You're given the opportunity to watch this crazy nut-job man completely deconstruct

and still get the girl and not think it's the wrong decision.

The music also makes the movie, in a big way.

From "A Kick in the Teeth" by Fisherspoon to "Ask Me Anything" by The Strokes and numerous songs by Deerhoof in between, the soundtrack intensifies the emotion in the movie and is just a great buy for any music fan.

It's literally 13 tracks of bliss, and this includes any music from the score.

It's like someone made a great mix-tape and put it to a great movie.

Overall, "Dedication," the movie you've probably never heard of, is full of great characters and acting, a story that tugs at your heartstrings, and a soundtrack to live, die and fall in love to.



"Dedication"
★★★★(of 5)
Now available

Message lost in 'The Mist'

T.J. Tranchell
Argonaut

Frank Darabont knows how to make a Stephen King movie.

"The Shawshank Redemption" and "The Green Mile" were nominated for Academy Awards.

His latest effort, "The Mist," falls short of those films but does have its moments, even if its message gets lost in a haze thicker than the one in the movie.

The message — the average person, who you can see everyday, is capable of greater monstrosities than an actual monster — pretends to lofty ideals and reaches

to become a metaphor for the Iraq war.

The people, including side switchers and religious zealots, are scary but never reach the chill factor in other King adaptations like "Misery."

As for the monsters we do

get to see, they look great.

Giant flies, spiders and something that looks like a pterodactyl are seen clearly and get a lot of on screen time.

The big monsters, including a crab-like thing and something like a "Star Wars" toy with tentacles, never come out of the mist.

If you get the special edition DVD, the monsters are even harder to see if you watch the black and white version.

That's not a bad thing because black and white gives the film a 1950s feel that reinforces the "monsters among us,"

McCarthy-era subtext.

In the King novella, the characters are left driving aimlessly in the mist and left to whatever devices the reader can imagine.

The film ending, on the other hand, proves that being saved isn't always better.



"The Mist"
★★★(of 5)
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INDIA

from page B1

showcase events on campus throughout the year.

Earlier this month, their booth was voted the "second best stall" for Cruise the World 2008.

Khan said that India Nite is predominantly put on by the ISA alone, but that they are "grateful for the ASUI's funding and for the help of UI students and faculty."

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Students exposed to Art Festival in Commons

Sydney Boyd
Argonaut

Students in the commons were exposed to the arts in ways they otherwise might not be with this week's Art Festival.

From fashion shows and dance improvisations to jazz performances and painting workshops, the festival covered a large variety of art.

Today, a sneak peek of the production "Urinetown" will be at 12:30 p.m. in the food court.

"This year we decided to include as many forms of art as we could," said Matthew Weibler, Idaho Commons and Union Board Chair and event organizer.

He said the plans for this year centered on a bigger art week that was broader and included a bigger diversity of art.

"A lot of people want to get exposure to a lot of different things and an education beyond where their career will be," Weibler said.

Weibler, a senior finance major, said that seeing the art the University of Idaho has to offer in this festival is something he might not have been aware of

considering his major.

"I get something out of art," Weibler said.

Wednesday afternoon, UI dance instructor Mary Heller took her advanced modern dance class to the Commons to perform dance improvisations.

Heller said all the dance students were doing was improvising, but certain parameters, such as keeping eye contact and varying between quick and slow movements, gave the dance some structure.

Amy Dexter, a junior dance major, said exposing students to art is important to help them find a way to express themselves.

"Visual arts keep your mind up-to-date," Dexter said.

Dexter said that reactions of students walking by would probably not be too drastic because the campus is liberal.

"Hopefully people will get interested and watch," Dexter said.

Heller said art forms are particularly important today.

"There is this capitalist drive that success is monetary," Heller said.

Heller said that art is what matters.



Roger D. Rowles/Argonaut
Jay Barron stands by as Steve Turner solos on the vibraphone during a performance in the Commons on Monday afternoon.

"Art is reconnecting with the human species," Heller said.

Monday opened with jazz and other musical groups performing in the food court.

A fashion show graced the Commons on Wednesday followed by dancing improvisation and a student film screening, providing students opportunities to show off their talents and a chance to promote their hard work.

Students were given a

chance to participate in classes they might not normally sign up for at a drawing class and painting workshop held on Thursday.

Artwork lines the lower level hallway connecting the Commons and the Teaching and Learning Center.

"I am impressed by the level of art on display," Weibler said, "... and I am just blown away by how talented our students are."

Simple ideas for wheat-free lunches

J.M. Hirsch
Associated press

Maybe the low-carb folks had the right idea after all.

With increasing wheat and grain prices threatening to turn our daily bread into something like a luxury item, it might be time to revisit some of those flour-free lunch ideas we wagered our waistlines on a few years ago.

The trick to keeping a bread-free lunch satisfying is to make sure your menu still packs some heft. Here are some simple ideas for brown bagging it without hitting up the breadbox.

Lettuce wraps

A giant leaf of lettuce will never be as satisfying as a crusty baguette or a soft flatbread, but it is a healthy and inexpensive way to eliminate the bread from your lunch.

Use any large-leaf lettuce, such as Boston or romaine, as you would flatbread to wrap around sandwich fillings, such as deli meat and cheese, chicken or tuna salad, or thinly sliced leftover steak or other meat.

The bonus here is that you can eat more fillings (even two wraps) because of the calorie savings from bread.

Rice salads

Though a grain, brown rice remains a relative bargain. Make it at night, then refrigerate. In the morning, toss it with chopped vegetables, cheese, canned beans and vinaigrette dressing for a substantive salad sans croutons.

For a sweet touch, mix in some diced apples (toss them with lemon juice to prevent browning) or pears, orange segments or dried fruit, such as cranberries, golden raisins or chopped apricots.

Baked potatoes

If your office has a microwave, sweet or white potatoes are a no-brainer.

Microwave "baked" potatoes can be topped with cheese, chopped steamed vegetables (dinner leftovers are particularly good for this), canned beans, chopped chicken, chili or even canned vegetable soup.

Eggs

Make a vegetable-packed fritatta the night before and cut it into slices. These travel and reheat easily, and can be filling (especially when bulked with vegetables and topped with a bit of cheese).

Hard-boiled eggs also travel well and are filling. Eat them with a side of chopped vegetables and a bit of hummus or other spread for dipping.

Soups

A soup or stew jammed with vegetables, beans and meat will leave you plenty satisfied, and you'll never miss the noodles you otherwise might have added.

This is another good chance to use leftovers. A quart of vegetable or chicken broth and a pile of leftovers (everything from meat scraps to mashed potatoes) magically become a money-saving lunch with a bit of simmering.

Dessert

Don't forget your sweet treat. Sure you could do yogurt with some fruit, or even a pudding, but wouldn't a slice of flourless chocolate cake be much more satisfying?

Most recipes for flourless cakes call for ground almonds or other nuts, eggs, sugar and chocolate. They come together quickly and bake up rich, dark and chocolaty. There is no sacrifice here.

Recipe for apple lavender muffins

Associated Press

The resinous floral flavor of lavender is lightened by earthy sweet apples in these muffins. Fresh or dry lavender flowers can be used interchangeably since their flavor and volume are nearly the same. Look for dried lavender in the bulk herb section of your grocer or natural foods store.

Apple lavender muffins

Start to finish: 1 hour

Servings: 12

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup sugar

2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk
1 tablespoon lavender flowers
1/2 cup butter, melted and cooled
1 large egg, beaten
1 cup peeled and diced apple, divided

Preheat oven to 375 F.

Coat 12 muffin tins with cooking spray or line them with muffin cups.

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Make a well in the center.

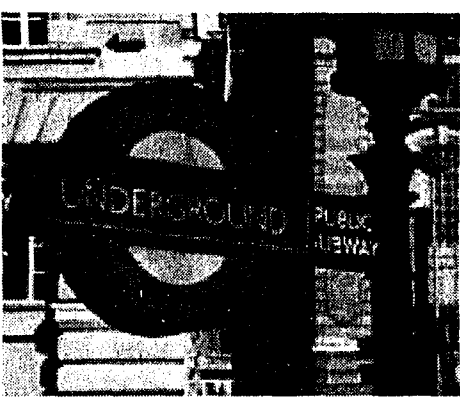
In a separate bowl, whisk together the milk, lavender, butter and egg. Add

the milk mixture to the flour mixture and stir by hand just until the batter is evenly moistened. Fold in 1/2 cup of the apples.

Fill the prepared muffin tins about three-quarters full. Gently tap the filled tins to release any air bubbles.

Sprinkle the remaining diced apple over the muffins. Bake until a skewer inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool the muffins in the pan for about 10 minutes, then transfer to a cooling rack.

Recipe from David Barry, an instructor at the Culinary Institute of America.



Have you studied abroad yet?

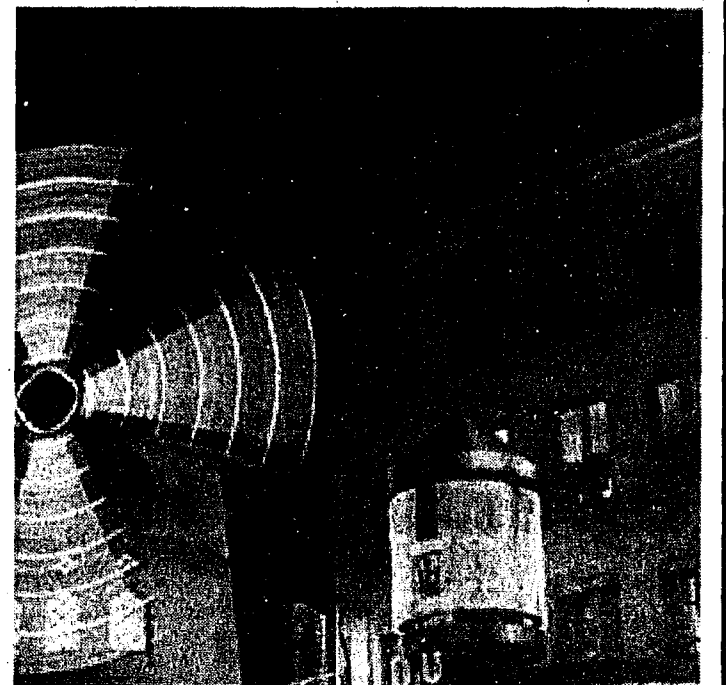
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Simple recipes for spring peas

Jim Romanoff
Associated Press

Green peas are so robust they can be planted in spring when the ground temperature has reached just 50 F.

And nutritionally speaking, green peas, also called English or garden peas, live up to this brawny image.

Sweet and starchy, green peas are a great source of many vitamins and nutrients, including vitamin C and folic acid. They also are a great source of dietary fiber and plant proteins.

Though they generally are thought of, and prepared like, vegetables, green peas actually are part of the legume family, which are plants that produce pods containing seeds or beans.

Fresh green peas can sometimes be found in the market, but they most often are sold frozen or canned.

If fresh aren't available, always opt for frozen rather than canned peas. Frozen peas retain more of their nutrients, are significantly lower in sodium, and have superior flavor and texture.

If you are lucky enough to find fresh green peas, choose glossy light green pods that are free of blemishes and feel somewhat heavy. Some markets carry fresh green peas that have been removed from their shells.

Unlike sugar snap peas or snow peas, the shells (or pods) of fresh green peas are tough and inedible.

To prepare fresh peas, open the pod by pulling from the stem end to remove the string that runs along the seam.

As a rule of thumb, a pound of unshelled green peas will yield about 1 cup of shelled peas.

To cook the peas, bring about 1-inch of water to boil in a medium saucepan over high heat. Steam the peas in a steamer basket over the boiling water until tender, about 3 to 5 minutes.

Alternatively, place the peas in a large microwave-safe dish with 2 tablespoons of water. Cover and microwave on high until the peas are tender, about 3 to 5 minutes.

Both of these recipes are quick to prepare and burst with the flavors of spring.

Green peas with scallions

Start to finish: 10 minutes (5 minutes active) Servings: 4

1 bunch scallions, washed and trimmed
2 teaspoons olive oil
16 ounces frozen or fresh shelled peas (2 cups)

1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon or 1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Slice the scallions in half lengthwise and then crosswise into 1/2-inch pieces.

In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add the scallions and saute until soft, about 4 minutes.

Stir in the peas; cover the pan and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook until the peas are tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in the tarragon and season with salt and pepper.

Nutrition information per serving: 102 calories; 2 g fat (0 g saturated); 0 mg cholesterol; 16 g carbohydrate; 5 g protein; 6 g fiber; 536 mg sodium.

Minted peas with feta cheese

Start to finish: 10 minutes (5 minutes active) Servings: 5

16 ounces frozen or fresh shelled peas (2 cups)

1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint or 1 teaspoon dried mint

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

In a medium saucepan, bring about 1-inch of water to boil over high heat. Place a steamer basket over the water and place the peas inside. Steam the peas until tender, 3 to 5 minutes.

Alternatively, place peas in a large microwave-safe dish with 2 tablespoons of water. Cover and microwave on high until the peas are tender, about 3 to 5 minutes.

Drain the peas and toss with the feta and mint. Season with salt and pepper.

Nutrition information per serving: 84 calories; 2 g fat (1 1/2 g saturated); 9 mg cholesterol; 12 g carbohydrate; 5 g protein; 4 g fiber; 536 mg sodium.

Ben & Jerry's offers its 280th flavor — or is it the 300th?

J.M. Hirsch
Associated Press

Talk about being a victim of one's own success.

Ice cream giant Ben & Jerry's is celebrating its 30th birthday this year. To mark the event, the company known for its numerous and creatively-named flavors has launched a special anniversary ice cream — Cake Batter.

Trouble is, the company has released so many (and some might say so many unusual) flavors over the years, the folks who work there can't come up with a tally. They think Cake Batter is No. 280. Or maybe No. 300.

Whatever its number, Cake Batter is a creamy mix of vanilla ice cream swirled with yellow cake batter and chocolate frosting.

And if that new flavor has got you wondering what ever happened to one you used to wake up craving at night, check out www.benjerry.com, where the "Flavor Graveyard" lists long-gone concoctions and invites people to lobby for their old favorites.

Elsewhere on the site you can suggest new flavor combinations.

Fresh herbs bring new life to breakfast foods

Maria Noel Groves
Associated Press

Take a hint from the French and perk up your morning fare with the incomparable flavors of fresh herbs.

With just a few snips of your kitchen scissors you'll transform your favorite egg, potato, quick bread or crepe.

"Fresh herbs expand everything," explains David Barry, an instructor at the Culinary Institute of America who teaches breakfast cuisine.

"You can take something as basic as eggs and completely change how the aromas are going to taste," he says. "We turn to herbs a lot for our scrambles."

Adding herbs to a recipe can make it healthier, as well as tastier. The additional flavors reduce the need for salt, says Georgeanne Brennan, who wrote the cookbook "Brunch" and runs a cooking school in France.

Here's what you need to know to experiment with herbs at breakfast.

Eggs

"Eggs are a great place to try herbal flavors," says Barry. "They have a nice but mild flavor and welcome a wide variety of herbs depending on what you might have in your garden or left over in that grocery store clamshell."

Try adding one tablespoon of herbs, such as basil, parsley or chives, per two or three eggs. Opt for slightly less of more flavorful tarragon or dill, and just a teaspoon of woody herbs such as thyme, rosemary and sage.

It can be helpful to think in themes and accent other ingredients in your egg dish.

— French scramble: Round out a simple scrambled egg with chervil, parsley, tarragon and chives.

— Mediterranean scramble: Combine diced tomato, avocado and feta with freshly snipped cilantro.

— Tex-Mex scramble: Combine salsa, jalapenos, poblanos, broken corn chips, cheddar or jack cheese, and fresh cilantro.

— Provençal omelet: Fill your omelet with ratatouille (fresh tomatoes, eggplant and zucchini) as well as onion, garlic, fresh basil and a sprinkle of dried herbs de Provence.

— Italian omelet: Combine fresh mozzarella, fresh sage or basil, and a sprinkle of red hot chili flakes.

— Smokey quiche: Add bacon, onion and a teaspoon of minced fresh sage.

Potatoes

"Potatoes are such a great canvas," says Cheryl Jamison, co-author of "A Real American Breakfast." "Chives come immediately to mind. I don't think there's a greater thing a chive can be than with a potato in any form."

Use similar ratios of herbs per three potatoes as listed above for eggs.

— Spiked hash browns: Snip fresh parsley and sage into a hash brown mix before frying.

— Herbed home fries: Fold fresh lovage, thyme, parsley, summer savory, rosemary and/

or chives into home fries during the final 5 to 10 minutes of cooking.

— Rubbed baby potatoes: Roast olive-rubbed baby red potatoes with sage sprigs.

— Thyme scalloped potatoes: Fresh thyme and minced shallots complement creamy, eggy scalloped potatoes. Rosemary or sage also could be used.

— Rosemary potato pancakes: Combine rosemary, butter, cheese and mashed or grated russet potatoes. Flatten and fry on each side. Or try a similar technique with dill.

Breads

Herbs can transform a basic quick bread recipe to savory or sweet depending on your ingredient combinations.

Per dozen muffins, scones, biscuits or rolls, add two to three tablespoons of delicate herbs such as chervil, parsley or chives.

Use slightly less — about a tablespoon — for stronger herbs, such as sage, rosemary and lavender. Add them to the dry ingredients to keep them well distributed.

— Cheddar thyme muffins: Cheddar and fresh thyme blend nicely in a savory muffin or biscuit.

— Sage biscuits: Sage's strong flavor mellows nicely with goat cheese for biscuits or scones.

— Sweet rolls: Add cinnamon, nutmeg and cardamom with some extra sugar to rolls or biscuits.

— Basil scone: Experiment with different types of basil, including traditional, lemon and Thai.

— Harvest scone: Add currents, caraway seeds and thyme to create a savory sweet scone. Or use the same blend in a muffin.

— Provençal scone: Add a teaspoon of fresh or dry lavender flowers to a basic scone recipe.

Crepes and pancakes

We tend to think of crepes and pancakes as sweet foods, and herbs as savory. But their flavors can combine in unusual ways in your standard crepe or pancake recipe.

Use similar portions of the herbs as with the previous breakfast foods.

— Seafood crepe: Fill a basic crepe with crab, chives and tarragon.

— Earthy crepe: Fill a basic crepe with sautéed mushrooms and thyme, parsley and a little rosemary.

— Herbed apricot crepe: Tame the sweetness of apricot jam with thyme or lemon thyme to fill a basic crepe.

— Dill crepe: Snip dill into your crepe batter, then wrap the finished crepe around lox and cheese.

— Savory crepe: Fold fines herbs (a blend of chervil, chives, parsley and tarragon) into your crepe batter, then wrap the finished crepe around a filling of ricotta and caramelized onions. Or try parsley, chives or lemon thyme in place of the fines herbs.

— Mint pancakes: Add apple mint to baked apples spooned over pancakes. Or combine chocolate mint and raspberries.

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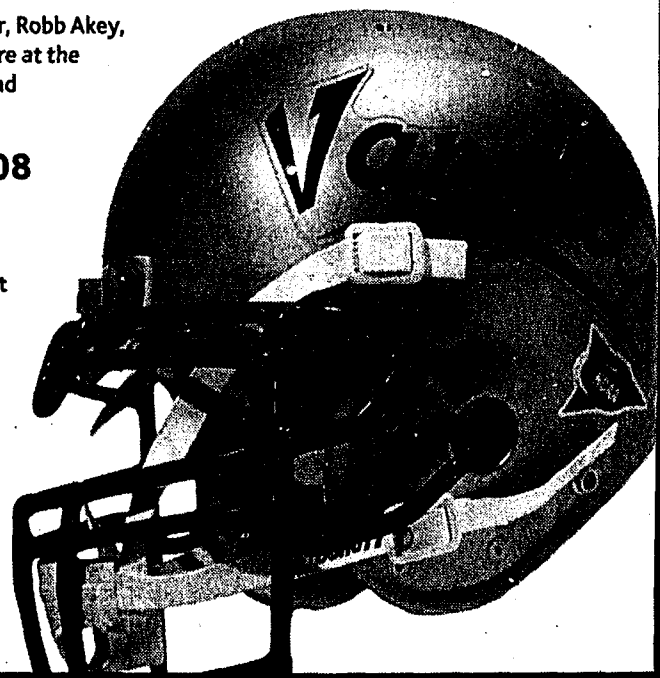
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When aging gracefully collides with looks

Josh L. Dickey
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Seven-year-olds, you are on notice: Unless playing in an organized game of baseball, wearing caps and jerseys in public is apparently no longer acceptable.

For the rest of your life. Sorry, kids. Now, if you don't care what Clinton Kelly thinks, then please, by all means — go on wearing what one ought not to. It's baseball season after all, and that authentic Albert Pujols jersey wasn't cheap, was it?

It's just that, well — Kelly ought to know.

"I would say that after the age of six, you might want to reconsider sports apparel as everyday clothing," says Kelly, the carelessly dapper 39-year-old fashion consultant and co-host of TLC's "What Not to Wear." "And I'm kind of not kidding. But when a man of 36 does the same thing, he looks a little ... mentally challenged."

OK, so maybe that's being a little

hard on the still-in-gradeschool set. Thing is, even some of the guys who wear the uniform to work every day have their limits.

"I don't think there's an age," says Washington Nationals pitcher Jason Bergmann at spring training in Viera, Fla., this week. "There's the development of the hat. See, when you're a kid, you get the hat with the snapback. And then when you're about 16, you get the fitted hat, which is a little more money, but it's a little nicer fit."

But after that? "Probably between 25 to 45 years old," Bergmann concedes, "you shouldn't wear the hat."

If pressed, most 25-year-olds on up would sheepishly agree. But then, sales of "age-appropriate" hats aren't exactly compelling. New Era — the official supplier of Major League Baseball's lids — to order up Fedoras and pork pies and deerstalkers from the factory.

The truth remains that when it comes to modern headwear, men have three choices:

1. Go bareheaded, which is fine for guys with thick, healthy pelts of fashionably cropped, windproof hair;

2. Switch to a grown-up hat, which is fine for Kevin Federline and guys who are comfortable with looking like they think they're Kevin Federline, and;

3. Wear a darn baseball cap, which is what everyone else is wearing, anyway.

Don't look for New Era to apologize for this sartorial pickle.

"I think wearing either (a ballcap or baseball jersey) at various times is acceptable at any age," says John DeWaal, vice president of brand communications for New Era. "Wearing a suit jacket to a beach event would be just as weird."

Which raises another question altogether: What about those guys who top off a suit with a baseball cap (a la Apple CEO Steve Jobs, or Hollywood heavies Ron Howard and Steven Spielberg)? Isn't that like slapping a "Wall Drug" bumper sticker on a Ferrari?

"I don't see what the point is, quite frankly, of wearing a suit with a baseball cap," Kelly says. "But some guys have made this their trademark. As far as trademarks go, that's sort of a lame one. ... Look, it's a crutch for guys who have thinning hair. If people realize you're doing it because of a bald head, then you've lost more points" than if the bald head were showing.

De Waal stresses that the baseball cap, highly functional as an eye shield and elements buffer, has become a here-to-there accessory for men — like an umbrella or an attache case.

"You see it in New York quite a bit," he says. "In the subway, say, a guy will be pretty well dressed up with a Yankee or Mets cap on."

What you probably won't see is a hedge fund manager — or anyone who counts on being taken seriously to make a living — in full baseball raiment. Where acceptance of today's "crazy casual" (as Kelly terms contemporary American style) ends, wearing baseball jerseys in public begins.

"If it's game day, and you're having a party at your house or tailgating, I can kind of get it," Kelly says. "But if you're going out to the supermarket on a regular Wednesday wearing a sports jersey, people might wonder about your sanity. These aren't clothes. They're costumes. French maids might wear a white skirt with a frilly apron, but when a woman wears that for a Saturday night out, it becomes a costume."

"It is not normal," an exasperated Kelly concludes, "to wear costumes."

And here's where the big-leaguer diverges somewhat from the fashion expert.

"If he's wearing it to his son's graduation," Bergmann says, "I don't mind, but ... there could be a better choice, more appropriate to the occasion. A button-down. A polo. But if they want to support their team, that's great. Go buy all the jerseys you want. We would never call somebody out and tell them to change. You can wear whatever you want — unless you're wearing your shirt open."

Behind the beauties, nips and tucks

Eric Talmadge
Associated Press

TOKYO — Ines Ligrón is the ultimate Miss Universe insider, and she doesn't believe much in secrets. One of her favorite stories is of a contestant who could have won but opted for last-minute cosmetic surgery, and thus was barely able to lift her arms when she went before the judges.

Even her own protege — current Miss Universe Ryo Mori — had work done.

"But just a little plumper in the lips," Ligrón says.

Hand-picked by real estate billionaire Donald Trump, who took over the Miss Universe pageant a decade ago, Ligrón is possibly the world's leading trainer of beauty contestants, having coached Mori to the crown last year — Japan's first since 1959 — and Kurara Chibana to the first runner-up slot the year before.

Getting on Ligrón's list can mean overnight stardom.

Hundreds of millions of people around the world watch the annual

contest to be held this June, in which women from 80 countries compete. Mori is currently hopping the globe between sessions on an MTV reality show, while Chibana has become a major celebrity in Japan, gracing magazine covers, co-hosting variety programs and endorsing dozens of products.

Ligrón, a vivacious and successful businesswoman in her own right, is now whittling down a list of thousands of women vying to be her pick when the contest is held in Vietnam. Along with Japan, she will be training the South Korean entry. After that, she wants to coach in her native France.

"These girls are like babies when they come to me," Ligrón said. "When I'm done, they have their college diplomas."

But winning the diamond-and-pearl crown comes with a price.

And often a slice.

It's time to take a walk.

In one of the last training sessions before Ligrón names her final batch of contestants for the Miss Japan contest, whose winner represents Japan at Miss

Universe, she takes about a dozen of her favorites out to a crowded crosswalk in a fashionable part of town.

The women strut back and forth across the street, then hold an impromptu fashion show — in their street clothes — on the stairs outside a large clothing store. Within minutes, a crowd of about 200 has gathered. A guard warns Ligrón that he is concerned it might get out of hand.

Mission accomplished. They laugh and clap, and head back to Ligrón's office.

"With a fashion model on the catwalk, it's about the clothes," Ligrón said. "With Miss Universe, it's all about the woman herself."

After passing a mass audition, the competitors go through sessions with Ligrón on speaking and posture, fashion and makeup, presentation and attitude. It's often brutal — Ligrón turned away one contestant, a high fashion model, because the woman refused to gain weight.

"I don't advertise anorexia," she said, as the other girls looked on. "We don't want skinny rabbits."

YouTube offers more details on viewers

Anick Jesdanun
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The popular video-sharing site YouTube is giving contributors more details about who's watching their video clips and when, offering advertisers additional insights they can use to target their pitches.

The free program, known as YouTube Insight, also could help bands schedule their concerts and help anyone time the release of a new video.

The launch of Insight on Thursday comes as Google Inc. looks for ways to make money off its \$1.76 billion purchase of YouTube in 2006. Despite growing interest in online video ads, many marketers have stayed away from user-generated video like what's on YouTube.

Marketers who buy ads on YouTube already get a bevy of statistics about the performance of their ads. The new program breaks down viewership by day and shows the states or countries where most viewers are.

A movie studio that uploads a trailer for free on YouTube could use those details to see where the clip is most popular and perhaps buy ads targeted to users in that region — on YouTube and even on television.

But everyday contributors also can benefit from the new program, said Tracy Chan, a YouTube program manager. Until now, those users got limited information, such as how many times their video was viewed or commented on.

The new tools "give a lot of context around the performance of video over time,

where are your audience coming from and how your message is connecting to your audience," Chan said.

A band could use that information to plan stops on a tour, while video producers who find their viewership peaks on Wednesdays could release new clips then. Likewise, producers who see their shows peaking after three weeks would know to release a new episode every three weeks, and someone whose material turns out to be popular in Spain might want to release the next video in Spanish.

"With this information, you can concentrate on creating compelling new content that appeals to your target audiences and post these videos on days you know these viewers are on the site," YouTube officials said in a blog entry announcing the program.

Upcoming features may indicate how viewers find a video, through a search, an outside link or YouTube's share-with-a-friend feature, Chan said.

Unlike the total viewership counts, the detailed information will be available only to the user who uploaded the video.

The new viewership breakdowns, like the current ones, will count on the number of times users start a video but not necessarily how many finish it. Geographic information is based on viewers' numeric Internet Protocol address, the same mechanism Google uses to target ads by region.

Some data will still be limited to paid advertisers, including information on how many viewers make it through 25 percent, 50 percent or all of a video.

Ledger's death fans Joker mania in 'Dark Knight'

David Germain
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Heath Ledger's frenzied reinvention of the Joker had fans and colleagues buzzing. His dreadful clown face was seen online by millions, and stood as the goosebump-raising image upon which nearly all early marketing of "The Dark Knight" hinged.

All this, while Ledger was still alive.

Now the Batman archfiend stands as Ledger's next-to-last performance. And while it's not the first, "The Dark Knight" has already emerged as arguably the biggest movie featuring a posthumous role in Hollywood history.

Major stars including James Dean, Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Spencer Tracy and Will Rogers had high-profile films released after they died. The deaths of others — notably Bruce Lee and his son Brandon — created an eerie allure that heightened interest in their final films.

Yet none had the magnitude of a comic-book franchise with an illustrious 70-year history, and movies in those eras did not arrive with the fanfare of today. Certainly none had the advance word of a delirious, demented turn by an actor completely rei-

magining of one of Hollywood's greatest villains.

"It was punk, it was 'A Clockwork Orange,' it was druggie. It was this kind of fantastic, anarchic look to him. This character who had absolutely no rules whatsoever," said Christian Bale, who returns as rich guy Bruce Wayne and his crime-fighting alter-ego Batman. "That's not like any Joker I've ever seen before, what I saw Heath do."

As the sequel to 2005 blockbuster "Batman Begins," "The Dark Knight" already was one of this year's most-anticipated films. Opening July 18, the film's must-see status has only risen since Ledger died of an accidental prescription drug overdose Jan. 22.

"More people will come to see it because of his death," said Bill Ramey, founder of the fan Web site Batman-on-Film.com. "No doubt some people may be apprehensive about seeing it because there may be a little ghoulish factor about it. But I'm betting that more people now kind of look at it as a tribute to him, and the biggest tribute you could give someone is to go see it and enjoy his performance."

When Dean died in a car wreck in 1955, studio executives lamented "there goes

the movie," figuring audiences would be scared away from his final two films, said Wes Gehring, who teaches film at Ball State University. To the contrary: "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant" were huge hits.

In today's anything-goes celebrity climate, it's doubtful anyone in Hollywood who ever felt Ledger's death might hurt the box-office prospects for "The Dark Knight," Gehring said.

"It's a tacky thing to say, but what would have been a negative in the past now could be a positive thing," Gehring said. "I think we've done a flip-flop on pop culture. Now it might actually be a selling point for a movie where you say, 'So and so's dead. Let's go see his movie.' What might have been a hindrance in 1935 now won't be a problem."

In the days after Ledger's death, fans debated how it might affect the film.

Would distributor Warner Bros. make changes or even delay its release? Would the advertising shift away from its early focus on Ledger's demonic Joker and his mocking taunt, "Why so serious?" Would the Joker's ghastly persona disturb fans? Would viewers be able to set thoughts of his death aside as they watch his performance?

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Myers' latest spoof hitting 'ohm'

Sandy Cohen
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — As the people of Kazakhstan know all too well, mockery of culture and religion seems to be kosher in Hollywood, under the following conditions:

The humor must be so over-the-top, so beyond reality, that it could never be misconstrued as mean-spirited. That, and the targeted groups cannot be large enough, loud enough or organized enough so that their hurt feelings make an impact at the box office.

Just ask Borat. Though Kazakhs complained that their country and customs were grossly misrepresented in "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan," the film was a \$128 million domestic success — among the top-grossing films of 2006.

In the context of Sacha Baron Cohen's uncomfortable in-character interactions with unwitting Americans, Mike Myers' parody of another cultural minority in the U.S. — as the oversexed, overly ambitious, American-born spiritual leader in the summer

comedy "The Love Guru" — would hardly seem cause for complaint.

Myers' character is an amalgamation of Eastern-style spiritual movements, never making reference to any particular religion. And yet the Guru Pitka — billed as "the second best guru in India" — draws a distinct picture.

He wears long hair, a long beard and a flowing caftan. "Prepare to get your enlightenment freak on," Pitka tells visitors to his MySpace page, where he blends real information — such as the Sanskrit origins of the word "guru" — with silliness, including impossible yoga poses that would require elastic limbs. He plays sappy pop songs on the sitar. His mantra is "Mariska Hargitay."

Pitka identifies himself as "a spiritual teacher affiliated with no one faith" and has the same crass-and-goofy charm as Myers' Austin Powers and "Wayne's World" characters. And the movie's plot — he heads West when he's offered \$2 million to heal a hockey star's romance so the team can win the Stanley Cup — is harmless enough.

Still, weeks before the movie is even ready for screening, some in the Hindu community feel that "The Love Guru" has the potential to ridicule important elements of their religion.

Rajan Zed, a self-described Hindu leader from Nevada, demanded that Paramount Pictures screen the film for members of the Hindu community before it is released in June. Based on the movie's trailer and MySpace page, Zed says "The Love Guru" "appears to be lampooning Hinduism and Hindus" and uses sacred terms frivolously.

"People are not very well-versed in Hinduism, so this might be their only exposure," he told The Associated Press. "They will have an image in their minds of stereotypes. They will think most of us are like that."

Paramount, which has screened sensitive films for select audiences in the past, said early screenings would be held for the Hindu community.

"Love Guru," which is not yet complete, is a satire created in the same spirit as Austin Powers," Paramount said in a statement, noting that the

film features spiritual teacher Deepak Chopra and Hindu actor Manu Narayan. "It is our full intention to screen the film for Rajan Zed and other Hindu leaders once it is ready."

Myers, who declined to be interviewed for this story, says in an episode of the Sundance Channel's "Iconoclasts" that Chopra, his longtime friend, was the inspiration for the Love Guru character.

"He is the basis of why I went down this path of a character like that, and it's because I am interested in higher states of consciousness and I am interested in comedy," Myers says. "The guru, he breaks down your barriers, gets you silly and gets you light so you're in a place to receive love."

But religious communities rarely take well to faith-themed comedies, said Diane Winston, a professor of media and religion at the University of Southern California.

"To be funny, you have to get in people's faces and disturb their complacent perspectives," she said. "Religious groups have tended to be very concerned about their portrayal in the media, espe-

cially the entertainment media. Often ... in comedies, it's a very broad representation which they perceive as offensive. It's the nature of stereotype."

Her take on "The Love Guru" trailer and Web site? Rather than a spoof of Eastern religion, it seems more of a satire of American culture's tendency toward materialism, promiscuity and quick spiritual fixes told through a pseudo religious figure.

"The character didn't have to be a guru. He could just as well have been a rabbi, minister, priest or imam," she said. "These are problems within the culture at large."

"Hindus were a fresh target," she continued. "Jews and Christians have been parodied before so perhaps Myers thought this was a different take on a familiar comedy routine."

Myers' publicist, Ina Trecio-kas, declined to comment for this story.

A Hindu nun at the Vedanta Society of Southern California, who asked not to be named because she felt it was not appropriate to seem like she was speaking for the faith, said sec-

ular and religious culture are "fused" in India, which could give rise to sensitivity if it appears sacred customs are being ridiculed.

"A good satire should pinch a bit," she said. "To gauge the movie on two minutes is impossible. But I can see, after having seen two minutes, that people who are sensitive would want to see more."

Just as most viewers of "Borat" know that the character's over-the-top antics have little to do with the reality in Kazakhstan, Myers' Guru Pitka is similarly silly — and has nothing explicitly to do with Hinduism. Still, the film was inspired by Myers' real spiritual quest, which began after his father's death in 1991.

Paramount officials point out that "The Love Guru" is "non-denominational comedy that celebrates spirituality and that the character has his own fictional belief system."

For all its sight gags and goofy jokes, the film is about three things, Myers says: "It's about fate versus choice ... it's about self love and the third part of it is that internal validation trumps external validation."

Rocker Patti Smith gets solo art show in Paris

Angela Doland
Associated Press

PARIS — A rocker, poet and activist, Patti Smith is already a Renaissance woman. With her first major solo exhibit of drawings and photographs opening in Paris this week, she earns the title of visual artist, too.

Smith, 61, calls the exhibit opening Friday at the Fondation Cartier "an open door welcoming people into my world." What may surprise fans is that her visual work is apolitical. From scratchy pencil drawings to Polaroid snapshots, it's dreamy and a touch surreal.

"Music and performance within the arena of rock 'n' roll has given me an opportunity to use my voice to communicate with many people, to speak out for human rights, against social injustice, against war, for our environment," the "People Have the Power" singer said ahead of the opening.

"But the other fields in which I work give me an opportunity to express my own

inner world, which is not political. Artists must have the freedom to express their own vision, which is sometimes celestial, universal, on a whole other plane than the political situation in the world."

The exhibit, called "Land 250," draws from art Smith created from 1967 to 2007, some of it during stays in Paris. Though Smith has had smaller gallery shows, this is her first major exhibit, and most of the art on display has never been seen by the public before, said curator Grazia Quaroni.

Smith fans will be intrigued by the insight into her music and inspirations, as well as by the videos projected on screens throughout the show. For everyone else, the art will probably go over their heads.

There are snapshots of graveyard headstones — Smith enjoys wandering through cemeteries. There are biting crayon portraits of Smith and her friends. There are also photographs of inanimate objects that belonged to her artistic inspirations: poet Arthur Rimbaud's fork and spoon; Virginia Woolf's bed; and Hermann Hesse's typewriter.

Most of the photos were taken with a vintage Polaroid Land 250. She started using the camera in 1995, soon after the deaths of her brother and her husband, Fred "Sonic" Smith.

"I felt so weary as a human being," she said. "I was unable to concentrate, to write, to draw. I was just emotionally and physically unable to express myself in any way that took a lot of concentrated energy. Taking the Polaroids, because it was simple and immediate, gave me an immediate response to a creative need."

Smith has gotten her son and daughter, Jackson and Jesse, involved in the show. Jackson is to spend a few afternoons hanging out at the exhibit, strumming the guitar and chatting with visitors. Jesse will play piano Friday as her mother reads from Woolf's writings, part of a series of evening events and concerts to coincide with the exhibit.

The show is the latest French honor for Smith, who in 2005, was named a commander in the prestigious Order of Arts and Letters.

Recipe for Frittata with Mixed Herbs

Associated Press

The frittata is the Italian version of an omelet. Unlike its French cousin, which carefully folds the eggs around the filling, the frittata mixes the filling with the eggs and cooks them together as a large pancake. Almost any vegetable can be used in place of the leeks.

Frittata with mixed herbs, leeks and parmesan cheese
Start to Finish: 35 minutes

Servings: 4

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

4 cups thinly sliced leeks (including tender green tops)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

6 large eggs

1/2 cup mixed minced fresh flat-leaf parsley, basil and mint

1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

In an ovenproof 10-inch skillet over medium heat, melt the butter.

Preheat the broiler.

When the butter foams, add the leeks. Season with salt and pepper, then saute until softened, about 15 minutes. Reduce the heat as needed to keep the leeks from browning.

In a large bowl, whisk the eggs until blended. Whisk in the herb mixture and cheese, then season with salt and pepper. Pour the eggs into the pan and stir to distribute the leeks evenly.

Reduce heat to low and cook until the eggs are set around the edges but still moist at the center, about 15 minutes.

Transfer the skillet to the oven about 6 inches below the broiler. Broil until the top is puffed and golden and the center is firm, about 1 minute.

Using a wide spatula, carefully transfer the frittata to a cutting board. Cut into wedges and serve at once.

(Recipe adapted from Georgeanne Brennan, Elinor Klivans, Jordan Mackay and Charles Pierce's "Williams-Sonoma Breakfast & Brunch," Oxmoor House, 2008)

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Monday
\$2.50 Margaritas &
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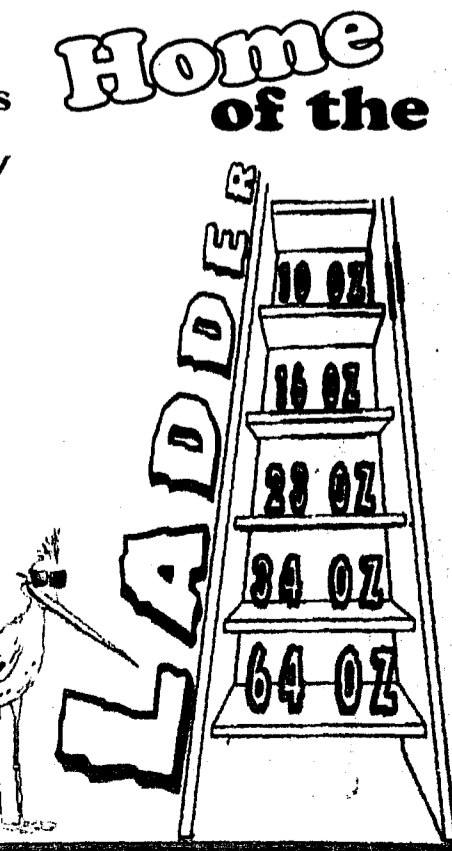
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QuickHITS

Did you know...

- Charlotte Ottero will be the only returning women's basketball player with more than one year of collegiate basketball experience when the team takes the court next fall to improve on their 4-25 record this season.
- The 2008 Vandal football team has three opponents on its schedule that had winning records in 2007 — Fresno State, Boise State and Hawai'i.
- The Student Recreation Center had 43,759 total visits in the month of February.

Vandals to Watch

Colter Kautzmann
Men's golf



Kautzmann's fifth place finish was a Vandal career best for the senior men's golfer at the Oregon Duck Invitational. Kautzmann finished with rounds of 73-72-74 for a three-over 214 at the event. Kautzmann led the Vandal men's golf team to an eighth place tie at the tournament.

Kelly Nakashima
Women's golf



Nakashima, a senior, led the women's golf team to a fifth place finish at the Oregon Duck Invitational with an 11-over, 227 for the tournament. Vandal golfers take to the course again today in Lewiston and Clarkston.

Alexandra Ulesanu
Women's tennis



Ulesanu, a sophomore from Constanta, Romania, helped the Vandals earn a 6-1 win over Weber State last weekend. Ulesanu and doubles partner Yvette Ly won at No. 2 over Weber State's Gabriela Venditto and Keya Adamson. She also won at No. 4 singles over the Wildcats' Greyce Farias. The women's tennis team is in action this weekend in Las Vegas.

Vandals In Action

Today
Men's and women's golf is in action today in Lewiston and Clarkston against the Cougars.

Vandal football spring practice continues today and Saturday.

Saturday
Women's tennis heads to Las Vegas today for a match against Southern Utah.

Sunday
Women's tennis takes on Bethany College and San Jose State in Las Vegas, on Sunday.

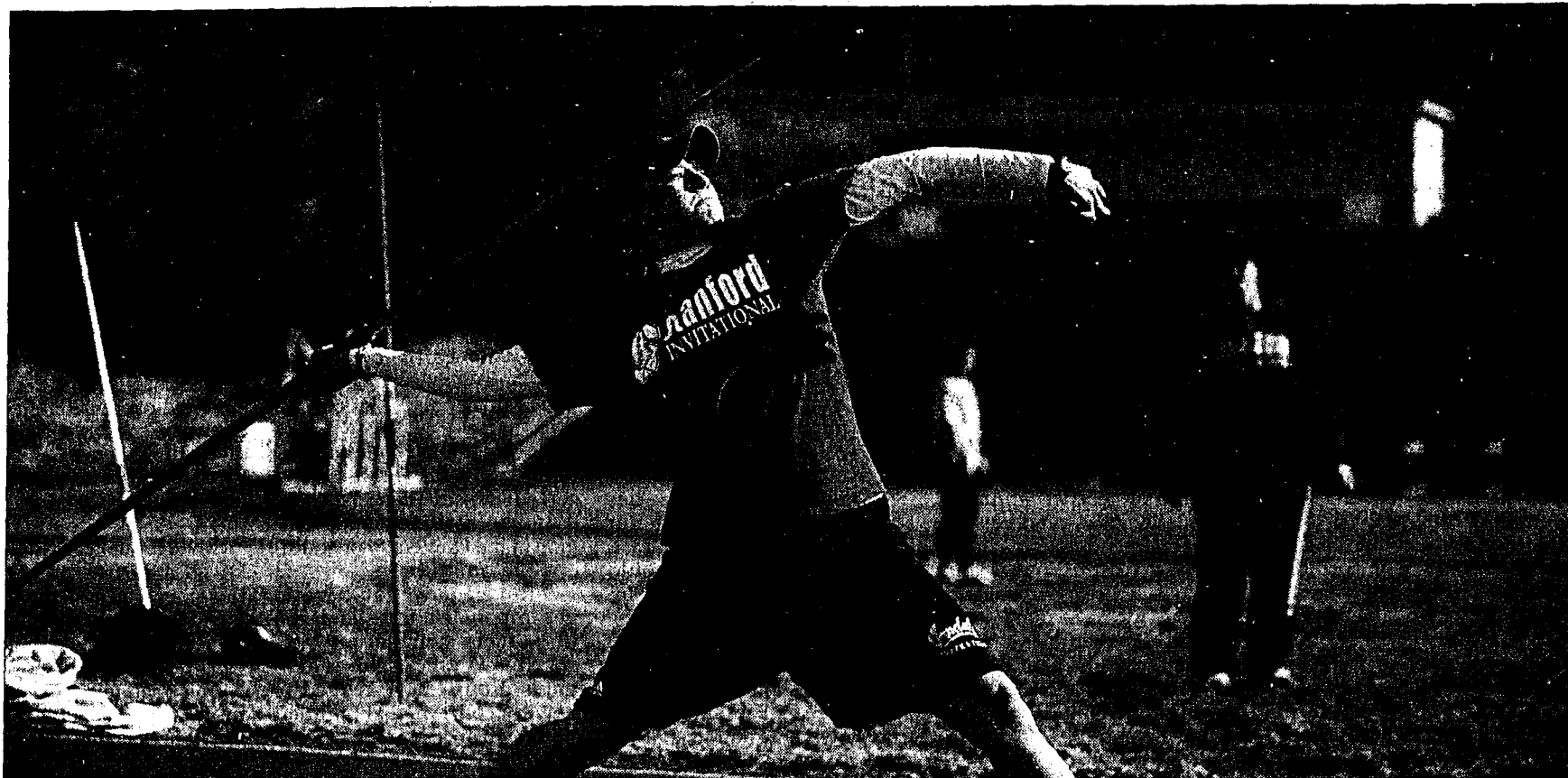
Monday
Women's golf begins play in the Sacramento Regional Preview Monday and continues Tuesday.

SportsBRIEFS

SRC hosts Vandal Friday Late Night

The Student Recreation Center is hosting Late Night at the Rec tonight from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. A valid Vandal card is required for all current University of Idaho students. Late Night is also open to all prospective UI students and their families with a photo ID. Participants are asked to wear appropriate work out clothing.

SHARPENING SKILLS



A track and field thrower practices outside at the Dan O'Brien Track and Field Complex on Wednesday afternoon. The first meet of the outdoor season begins next week at the Stanford Invitational in Palo Alto, Calif.

Women excel in Oregon

Jaimee Myers
Argonaut

If the weather in Eugene, Ore. would have been anything like it has been in Moscow, the University of Idaho women's golf team would not have been able to pull off their fifth place finish at the Oregon Duck Invitational.

"The weather was actually really nice," said senior Kelly Nakashima. "Previous years it's rained, but there was no rain this year so that was great."

Initially the tournament had a frost delay, but eventually the courses thawed out, allowing the Vandals to play their three rounds of golf.

"We've improved every tournament," Idaho coach Lisa Wasinger-Johnson said. "Everyone contributed this tournament. We hit quite a few fairways and greens. We've been playing more and more steady every round."

Nakashima tied for 12th individually with 11-over 227. Sophomore Amanda Jacobs tied for 16th at 13-over 229 and senior Renee Skidmore tied for 24th at 16-over 232.

"Amanda Jacobs played really consistently for the sophomores," Nakashima said.

Red-shirt freshman, Dani Madden, had a successful first round.

"Dani's first round went well, my score was dropped the first round," Nakashima said.

Sophomore Beth Stonecypher has been fighting an injury to the meniscus in her knee, and had to withdraw from the second round. She was able to complete her first and third round.

"Our coaches seemed really pleased, because we beat Washington State by one stroke



Kelly Nakashima practices last fall. Weather permitting, the University of Idaho's golf teams will take on Washington State at home today.

so that was very exciting," Nakashima said.

Nakashima said the Vandals have learned from this tournament that even when things are not going in their favor, they still pull off an admirable result as a team.

"Even with one bad round, we can still come back and build our confidence and make a difference the next round," she said.

On the men's side, senior

See GOLF, page B9

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Vandals seek Vegas victories

Scott Stone
Argonaut

The Vandals finally got their overall record above .500 and now have bigger goals as they travel to Las Vegas Saturday to play in three matches that promise to challenge the team's new winning attitude.

The women's tennis team will spend two days in Las Vegas where they'll face Southern Utah, San Jose State and Bethany College.

They start with Southern Utah Saturday evening, which holds an overall winning record of 8-3.

Sunday morning they face off against San Jose State, a Western Athletic Conference team who has a comparable re-

cord of 7-6 and has won four of their last five matches.

"It's an important WAC conference match," said Idaho coach Jeff Beaman. "They're similar to us. It's going to be a tough match."

The women will finish their weekend Sunday evening against Bethany College, a small school from West Virginia who will be playing their first matches of the spring season.

The team ended the fall season with a record of 0-15. But the Vandals hope to be ready and continue to improve on the slow start to the spring season.

Well into the second half of the season, the Vandals are at the top of their game, winning

six of their last seven matches. The team has scored a total of 38 points and only given up 11 in the last seven matches.

Being forced to practice outside, the tennis teams aren't getting much time on the courts due to the unpredictable weather Moscow has faced during the past few weeks.

"We don't have indoor courts so we can't practice at all, and that makes it real tough to go into a match unprepared," said junior Laura Leoni. "But I think that we kind of fight through it and that's something that will give us some sort of edge on people, that we fight through something like that, but it's also very very hard on all of our players."

DIARY OF A FANTASY GEEK

The dynasty that wasn't

Baseball season has officially begun.

I can start watching my beloved Seattle Mariners again. I like their chances this season of possibly reaching the playoffs. That's tough to say because I remember a time when my team had the best collection of talent in the game and winning a World Series seemed possible.

Oh, how times have changed.

Watching the Mariners always reminds me of the team's glory years and in my opinion, what should have been a dynasty.

I grew up in the Seattle area and adopted the hometown teams as any young sport geek should. I don't have a great story about attending my first game in a Yankee Stadium or Fenway Park and seeing history or even a successful team.

My memories were built inside the largest concrete structure in the world. Yep, I grew up going to the Kingdome.

I remember walking through the tunnel at my first Mariners game and seeing the bright lights and beautiful green AstroTurf — it almost even looked like grass.

I was four years old at the time and wasn't the sports purist I am now, which is why I liked AstroTurf. I was deprived in that respect. I loved the Kingdome. I remember sneaking beers inside with my friends during high school.

Damn, that was easy to do back then.

I remember watching a team that had no business calling itself a member of the Major League. When I was young, the Mariners were a joke.

I remember cheering for guys like Alvin Davis (Mr. Mariner) and Harold Reynolds.

I remember being upset when I heard news that the Mariners traded their best pitcher, Mark Langston, for some guy named Randy Johnson.

What were they thinking? The fortunes of my team all changed with one at bat.

Afterward, a possible dynasty could have been built.

I remember watching Ken Griffey Jr.'s first big league at bat on TV.

It was in Oakland against pitcher Dave Stewart, one of the best during his era. Jr. hit a double off the wall, and for the glory of this sports geek, that lowly Mariner franchise was never the same.

I listen to people like Bob Costas and Billy Crystal rant about what Mickey Mantle meant to them when they were growing up. I can't help but feel the same way about Griffey.

He was my guy. Hell, still is.

Griffey went on to become the player of the '90s, along with officially giving fans across the country reason to pay attention to the Mariners. He put the city on the baseball map.

Throughout the '90s, the Mariners put together arguably the greatest group of talent on one ball club. Their upper management did a marvelous job of scouting players, making trades and signing key free agents.

Not many people cared to notice or remember, but the Mariners of the mid-to-late '90s should have won a World Series — or three.

I don't hate them for it. It's like hating your puppy for fertilizing the carpet. They didn't know any better.

Fact: The Mariners had the first overall pick in the MLB draft twice (1987, 1993)

and took Griffey and Alex Rodriguez.

Each would go on to be the player of a decade — Griffey in the '90s and A-Rod in the 2000s. My team would later have a lineup consisting in order of A-Rod, Griffey and Edgar Martinez.

Beat that, Yankee fan. Here's how good A-Rod was as a 20-year-old rookie in 1996: .358 BA, 36 HR, 123 RBI and 215 Hits.

By '96, the Mariners should-have-been dynasty was built and winning should have followed. It didn't.

They had a future hall of fame manager in Lou Piniella calling the shots from the dugout and throwing bases whenever the team needed a boost or form of comic relief. Only a sports geek could call a base-throwing buffoon a genius, but Piniella is.

Their lineup was a dream. Along with Griffey and A-Rod, they had the era's most under-rated superstar, Edgar Martinez, who was, in my opinion, the best right handed batter of his time.

They also had Jay Buhner hitting sixth and averaging 41 home runs per season from '95-'97.

Don't forget the Mariners also had the most dominating left handed pitcher possibly in baseball history in Randy Johnson, the Big Unit. Why didn't this team win?

I have two theories. First was the team's inability to find a steady bullpen or consistent pitching at the bottom of the rotation. That pains me to say because I felt the team did practically everything else right.

They had four future hall of famers in Griffey, A-Rod, The Unit and Edgar. That should have been enough to make up for pitching deficiencies.

It wasn't. See JOHNNY page B9



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Columnist
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Track meet offered for spring intramurals

Rob Todeschi
Argonaut

Snow flurries and spring rains ushered in a new season of outdoor intramurals last week.

Intramural director Butch Fealy said the excitement and enthusiasm comes back to intramurals in the spring, assuming the weather cooperates.

During the winter months, facilities and playing fields are either covered in snow or are being used by the University of Idaho Athletic Department.

Fields may still be getting snowfall but with the end of the basketball seasons, the Kibbie Dome is open to students again.

Last week, co-rec ultimate Frisbee, basketball and soccer started along with roller hockey and softball.

This week, four on four flag football and foosball began.

"If a student wanted to, they could play two or three sports a

week," Fealy said. Every year, the intramural managers and Fealy add a new event to the season.

On April 13, the intramural program will offer a competitive track meet at the Dan O'Brien Track and Field Complex for living group points.

"I'm not sure the last time Idaho had an intramural track meet," Fealy said, "but when they did, they typed results on a typewriter."

Students will have the opportunity to compete in the 100-meter, 200, 400, 800, 1600, and the 4X100-meter relay. Field events will include high jump, triple jump, long jump, shot put and discus.

"It's not the best idea to have students throwing the javelin or pole vaulting without experience," Fealy said.

Blaine McConnell participates and officiates in every intramural he can with either his

living group or teams he forms on his own.

The last time McConnell competed in track was four years ago.

"It'll remind me of high school days, running around just having fun," he said.

McConnell said a track meet is the best sport for competition.

"It's an opportunity for each living group as a whole to compete against everyone at the same time," McConnell said.

After the fall semester, Alpha Kappa Lambda led men's Greek teams with 1,135 points. Kappa Delta led the women's Greek team with 1,092 points.

Campbell Hall led the men's residence teams with 186 points and Forney Hall led the women's group with 107 points.

The intramural season concludes at the end of April with a four person golf scramble and the Champions' Social on May 2.



Tyler Macy/Argonaut
An ultimate frisbee player from the team "Ninja What", tries to block a pass by an opponent on the "Sour Apples" team during intramurals on Wednesday night in the Kibbie Dome.

Redneck summer on its way

Get ready to burn rubber right through November. That's the length of the NASCAR season that began in mid-February with the Daytona 500 and ends with the Ford 400 right back in Florida.

Between those stops, NASCAR drives through all four corners of the country — as long as the Northwest doesn't count as a corner and Mexico City does.

As NASCAR gains popularity, its weaknesses get more airtime. The schedule and track locations are just two of them.

Right now, the closest major track to us in Moscow is the road course in Sonoma, Calif. It used to be called Sears Point but now it's Infineon Raceway.

Only Major League parks change their names more.

Speaking of name changes, NASCAR's top echelon is now known as the NASCAR Sprint Cup series.

Aren't sprint cars those little things that look like a roll cage with wheels and a big wing on top?

They're the ones you see on shows highlighting dangerous home videos any time one of them jumps the wall at a dirt track and flies into a crowd.

The days of Winston are gone and even beer is less prominent as a sponsor as it once was.

The second series, formerly known as the Busch Series, is now the Nationwide Series.

Which, in a way, makes sense.

Trade in a beer sponsor for a car insurance sponsor.

That's NASCAR's new image for you — safer, slower and more family friendly.

Which is why hard alcohol sponsors have come back in recent years. The fans need stiffer drinks now that their sport is being taken over by Californians.

California, though, gets two prominent races on the schedule and can't fill the

seats. Auto Club Speedway in Fontana gets the race after the Daytona 500 and the Labor Day race that used to belong to Darlington Raceway, one of the old school tracks. Now Darlington gets one race in May, and it doesn't even have a cool name.

Darlington used to host the Southern 500 and the Mountain Dew 500. For those who don't know, hillbillies created Mountain Dew as a moonshine substitute. NASCAR and bootlegging have as much history as Las Vegas and the mob.

This year Darlington will host the Dodge Challenger 500. That would be fine, except that the General Lee was a Charger, not a Challenger.

Like Darlington, Martinsville is an old school track. One of the oldest running tracks in the series, Martinsville is also the shortest at .562 miles.

Martinsville is a track that four-time series champion — all in the Winston Cup days — Jeff Gordon has won at seven times. Hendrick Motorsports teammate and two-time defending champ Jimmie Johnson has won there four times, including the last three races.

This is all good for the Hendrick Chevys, who haven't won a race yet this year but won 19 races last year.

Then again, Kyle Busch, winner of two races last year, isn't with Hendrick anymore. He's at Gibbs and driving a Toyota. He's also the points leader after five races, including Toyota's first Cup win at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

His replacement at Hendricks is NASCAR's most popular driver, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. He hasn't won a race since May 2006 at Richmond. Right now, he's the top Hendrick driver, sitting fifth in points.

He's never won at Martinsville but does have seven top

five finishes there. His No. 88 National Guard/Amp Energy Chevy has three top fives and four top tens for the year.

Earnhardt's move to Hendrick was the big story during the off-season and so far he's having a good year. Many point to Busch's win and current leader position as reasons for him being the better driver. Time will tell.

Neither of those drivers have a championship yet, but they come from racing families.

Busch's older brother Kurt won the Cup during its first year as the Nextel Cup and in its current 10-race playoff format.

Earnhardt's father, Dale Sr., won seven championships and is still argued as being the best driver not named Richard Petty.

There is still a Petty on the track, most of the time. Kyle Petty, son of King Richard, drives his No. 45 Dodge most weeks and the classic No. 43 is having a good season with 2000 champion Bobby Labonte behind the wheel. Labonte is currently 18th, 511 points behind the leader.

A Dodge driven by Ryan Newman won the Daytona 500 this year for the manufacturer's only win. Ford has two wins, both by Roush Fenway driver Carl Edwards. Busch has the Toyota win and Jeff Burton won in a green-white-checker finish at Bristol two Sundays ago for Chevrolet's first win of the season.

Edwards, who drives the No. 99 Office Depot Ford Fusion, would be closer to the points leader but someone forgot to screw on an oil lid and it cost him 100 points. He's 16th in the standings, 234 points back. His teammate Greg Biffle stands in second place.

And that's the season so far. I finally acquired a black 88 shirt and will be sitting down with a fresh Amp to watch the race.

I never liked Budweiser anyway. Kasey Kahne can have it.



T.J. Tranchell
Argonaut
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JOHNNY

from page B8

The second theory is the hard truth of baseball's business techniques.

During the salary boom of the '90s and baseball operating without a cap or limit to a franchise's spending, it made it virtually impossible to keep star players. Corporate goons like the Yankees and Red Sox starting buying players and offering salaries too high for mid-budget teams like Seattle to compete with.

By 1998, the run was basi-

cally over.

Randy Johnson was traded at mid-season. A-Rod would bolt in 2000 for 250 million reasons.

People blame him for leaving. I believe the Mariners offered him around 120 million, which was all they could afford.

The worst part about A-Rod leaving was that the team was unable to trade him and get star players in return. That's the harsh reality of the free agent system Yankee and Red Sox fans love so much.

This could-be dynasty truly ended in 1999 when Griffey asked to be traded to his home

town Cincinnati Reds.

That day ranked right up there with my dog dying. I'm still not mad at him for wanting to go home.

He gave us baseball in Seattle. He was my first sports hero.

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Damn, I love baseball. Go Mariners.

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GOLF

from page B8

Colter Kautzmann had the best tournament of his collegiate career with a tie for fifth at the invitational. Kautzmann had rounds of 73-72-74 for a three-over 219 for the 54-hole event.

The Vandals tied for eighth with a team-total 899. Senior

Ben Weyland finished in a tie for 38th at 227. Sophomore Brad Tensen was one stroke back at 228 in 43rd. Two strokes back in a tie for 44th was junior Russell Grove, while sophomore David Nuhn tied for 50th at 232.

The Vandals are scheduled to host a mini tournament against Washington State today. However, due to the snowfall the chances of the tournament taking place are slim.

Also due to the unpredictable weather, the Vandals have not yet practiced at the UI Golf Course.

"As soon as it stops snowing we can practice at home," Nakashima said. The golf course needs to open first, and that might be next week.

The Vandal women are on the road to Sacramento on Monday and Tuesday for the Sacramento Regional Preview.

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- Nov 15 Boise State University
WAC Senior Day
- Nov 22 @ University of Hawai'i



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Only whistle Canseco blows is his own

Jim Litke
Associated Press

Whoever said everybody has at least one book in them forgot to add that some people should never write another. Jose Canseco is one of those people. The only whistle we can rely on him to blow is his own.

At least with Canseco's first effort, "Juiced," there was a trade-off. All that self-serving snitching put cash in his pocket and his mug back on TV, but it also helped shame baseball into acknowledging its own performance-enhancing jones.

Canseco might have seemed miscast as the only honest man in the halls of Congress three years ago, considering he cheated and then lied his way through a 17-year pro career.

But that's the way things work sometimes. Everybody else in the game was so busy covering their tracks that a convicted criminal and shameless publicity hound like Canseco became a voice of authority by default.

It didn't hurt that more than a few of his claims, inflated as they were, turned out to be true. Apparently, that's why Canseco decided to title his second book, "Vindicated," though it's also possible he did so because "The Greatest Story Ever Told" was already under copyright.

As a rule, the best sequels succeed by going back to the well and digging deeper. But depth is a word you would never have encountered in the same sentence with Canseco until this one.

He didn't do much home-

work the last time around, but fortunately the people who put together the Mitchell Report did. So much, in fact, that as author Pat Jordan writes, the report "jogged" all those repressed memories Canseco had tucked away "of the many PED (performance enhancing drug) abusers he'd left out of 'juiced.'"

Make sure to read Jordan's exceptional long-form essay on Deadspin.com before you go out and buy the book. It will be the best money you never spent.

Jordan has few peers in the sportswriting business and he spent the past three months trying to interview Canseco for a magazine profile. As a result, he was privy to the goings-on as an increasingly desperate Canseco, his girlfriend-

publicist and agent-enabler scrambled to find a writer and publisher. Jordan's report reads like "The Grifters," especially the part about Canseco trying to extort \$5 million from former White Sox teammate Magglio Ordonez — first reported by the New York Times — in exchange for leaving him out of the latest book.

Since Canseco settled on the same ghostwriter who gave us O.J. Simpson's "If I Did It," perhaps the title of this book should be "Vindicated: Maybe, Maybe Not." And judging by the excerpts and interviews that have dripped out so far, even that might be a stretch.

In an interview with ABC's "Nightline," Canseco is asked about his claim that Alex Rodriguez approached him and

asked to be hooked up with a steroids supplier. Beyond identifying the supplier as "Max," Canseco refuses to provide additional details. Pressed for more, Canseco finally says, "Let's see how Alex reacts. Let's see if they all call me a liar again. How's that for you? Let's see if all of a sudden they're going to call me a liar again."

Ordonez issued a non-denial denial regarding his steroid use. Rodriguez, on the other hand, stated categorically that he had never taken steroids or human growth hormone. Given Canseco's track record, neither one may get the benefit of the doubt.

Roger Clemens, meanwhile, has been begging for just that since the Mitchell Report was issued without much success,

but at least he's got Canseco on his side. Canseco goes on at some length in the interview about trying to swap information with Clemens about performance-enhancers, but coming away empty-handed every time.

"So do you believe Roger Clemens has used steroids?" he was asked.

"If I were an investigator and I had to go on pure evidence that I have on Roger Clemens or dealt with Roger Clemens over time," Canseco replied, "then I would say no."

The most revealing bit of information to come out of all this so far could be something Canseco's agent told Jordan earlier this month: "Jose is one step from homeless."

If so, it couldn't happen to a more deserving guy.

Vogue cover called racially insensitive by some readers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Vogue announced its April cover starring LeBron James and Gisele Bündchen, the magazine noted with some fanfare that James was the first black man to grace its cover.

But the image is stirring up controversy, with some commentators decrying the photo as perpetuating racial stereotypes. James strikes what some see as a gorilla-like pose, baring his teeth, with one hand dribbling a ball and the other around Bündchen's tiny waist.

It's an image some have likened to "King Kong" and Fay Wray.

"It conjures up this idea of a dangerous black man," said Tamara Walker, 29, of Philadelphia.

Photographer Annie Leibovitz shot the 6-foot-9 NBA star and the 5-foot-11 Brazilian model for the cover and an inside spread. Vogue spokesman Patrick O'Connell said the magazine "sought to celebrate two superstars at the top of their game" for the magazine's annual issue devoted to size and shape.

"We think LeBron James and Gisele Bündchen look beautiful together and we are honored to have them on the cover," he said.

James told The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer he was pleased with the cover, saying he was "just showing a little emotion."

"Everything my name is on is going to be criticized in a good way or bad way," James told the paper. "Who cares what anyone says?"

But magazine analyst Samir Husni believes the photo was deliberately provocative, adding that it "screams King Kong." Considering Vogue's influential history, he said, covers are not something that the magazine does in a rush.

"So when you have a cover that reminds people of King Kong and brings those stereotypes to the front, black man wanting white woman, it's not innocent," he said.

O'Connell, the Vogue spokesman, declined further comment.

In a column at ESPN.com, Jemele Hill called the cover "memorable for all the wrong reasons." But she said in an interview that the image is not unusual — white athletes are

generally portrayed smiling or laughing, while black sports figures are given a "beastly sort of vibe."

For example, former NBA star Charles Barkley was depicted breaking free of neck and wrist shackles on the cover of Sports Illustrated. Dennis Rodman graced the cover of Rolling Stone with horns poking out of his forehead and his red tongue hanging out.

Images of black male athletes as aggressive and threatening "reinforce the criminalization of black men," said Damion Thomas, assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology at University of Maryland.

But others say the image show James' game face — nothing more. And they note that Bündchen hardly looks frightened.

"James is a huge, black beautiful masculine statue and Gisele is a feminine, sexy gorgeous doll," said Christa Thomas, 36, a black account supervisor in Los Angeles.

"I didn't see any kind of racist overtone to it," she said. "I still don't. I think there is such a hypersensitivity to race still in this country."

TV shows offer hope for weight loss

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kaeli Madill is obsessed with dieting.

She subscribes to magazines like Self, Shape and Runner's World for their "I-Lost-40-Pounds" success stories. She watches pound-shedding transformations on "The Biggest Loser." She flips through diet books, and buys those with glowing testimonials.

"It makes me feel like I can do it," says Madill, 26, who lives in Saskatchewan, Canada and is trying to lose 60 pounds.

"If I get discouraged, I look at one of those stories, and say that person did it. That person had results, so in time, I'm going to have results, too."

These days, Madill has plenty of places to find inspiration. Personal weight-loss success stories are cropping up in magazines, on television, on blogs and in long form memoirs, and seem to be resonating among the more than two-thirds of Americans who are overweight or obese.

Actress Valerie Bertinelli, who lost 40 pounds on Jenny Craig, was No. 1 on the Publishers Weekly best-seller nonfiction hardcover list last week for "Losing It: And Gaining My Life Back One Pound at a Time."

"Part of what draws you to a memoir is your ability to empathize and relate to these people and their lives," says Liz Perl, vice president and publisher of Rodale Books, whose many titles include "South Beach Diet" and "The Abs Diet."

"Clearly many Americans can empathize and relate to what it's like to lose control of your weight and your health."

While diet experts acknowledge the stories can be inspiring, they say reading and watching so many testimonials can also be problematic.

Kelly Brownell, director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale, says he sees both opportunity and risk. The narratives may inspire people to shed pounds themselves — but the weight-loss techniques shown in

books and elsewhere may not be nutritionally safe.

There is no "one size fits all" approach to weight loss, says Dr. Robert Kushner, medical director of diet.com's premium membership, who worries people may try to pattern themselves after the successful dieter.

"You can follow one program after another and none of it works for you," he says. "You can end up being more frustrated. There's no filtering (with these stories). There's no one saying, 'results vary, this may not work for you, read it with caution.'"

To their credit, some of the memoirs stay away from endorsing diet and exercise plans.

Susan Blech, who documents her 250 pound and counting weight loss in "Confessions of a Carb Queen," writes about her binge eating along with the Rice Diet Program she followed — where participants eat at "The Rice House" but don't center their diet on rice. She notes that some parts of the program

did not work for her and that she is not getting "monetarily paid" by the outpatient treatment center in Durham, N.C.

In "Hungry: Lessons Learned on the Journey from Fat to Thin," Allen Zadoff writes about his overeating as a part of a larger problem — an undiagnosed food addiction. And Jennette Fulda, author of the upcoming "Half-Assed: A Weight-Loss Memoir," writes that she doesn't want people to believe there is "one magic cure-all diet."

But many magazines do offer specific diet and exercise plans, along with details on how a person lost weight.

Most of this obsession stems from frustration, say diet experts. About 41 percent of Americans are trying to lose weight, according to a Consumer Reports telephone survey conducted last year. Most people who lose will regain. So when someone loses a large amount of weight, it's almost as though she has broken a code.

Yo-yo dieter Trista Blouin, 35, of Pensacola, Fla., has been

dieting since she was 16. Her library of diet books dates back to Susan Powter.

"It's very discouraging," says Blouin, whose goal is to lose 70 pounds. When a new book comes out, "I think to myself, 'maybe this will be it.'"

Discouragement could be a byproduct of so many success stories focused on huge — and unusual — amounts of weight loss, Kushner says. He also takes issue with shows like "The Biggest Loser," because they make weight loss a competition.

"I think that is the antithesis of what we are trying to convey as a health care community," says Kushner, also a professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "Weight loss is not a game or a sport."

Most of the memoir authors say their goal was to inspire — not dish out dieting advice.

"I think whether it be Jenny Craig, Weight Watchers, whether it be any diet program, it's about building a community around you and leaning on your friends and your loved ones," Bertinelli said in an interview.

"I spent so much time going through all of the hardships thinking I was alone," she added. "Had I just reached out, I would have realized I wasn't as alone as I thought I was."

Blech echoes that sentiment in her author's note: "I've written this book with my sister because for a long time I felt very alone, and no one should feel that alone and scared and ashamed."

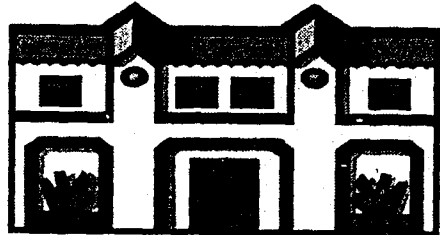
"This is a book that is not only going to help people but inspire them to want to live the kind of life they want to live," she says in an interview.

In the long run, it's clear that dieters need more than inspiration to be successful, says Judith Beck, author of "The Beck Diet Solution," which teaches cognitive techniques to help people stay on a diet, lose weight and maintain the weight loss. The inspiration may last days and even weeks, but what happens when dieting gets hard again?

"It's a bit like reading inspirational biographies of musicians," says Beck. "It might inspire you to learn how to play the piano or conduct the orchestra but unless you learn the skills of how you do it, it's not going to matter very much."

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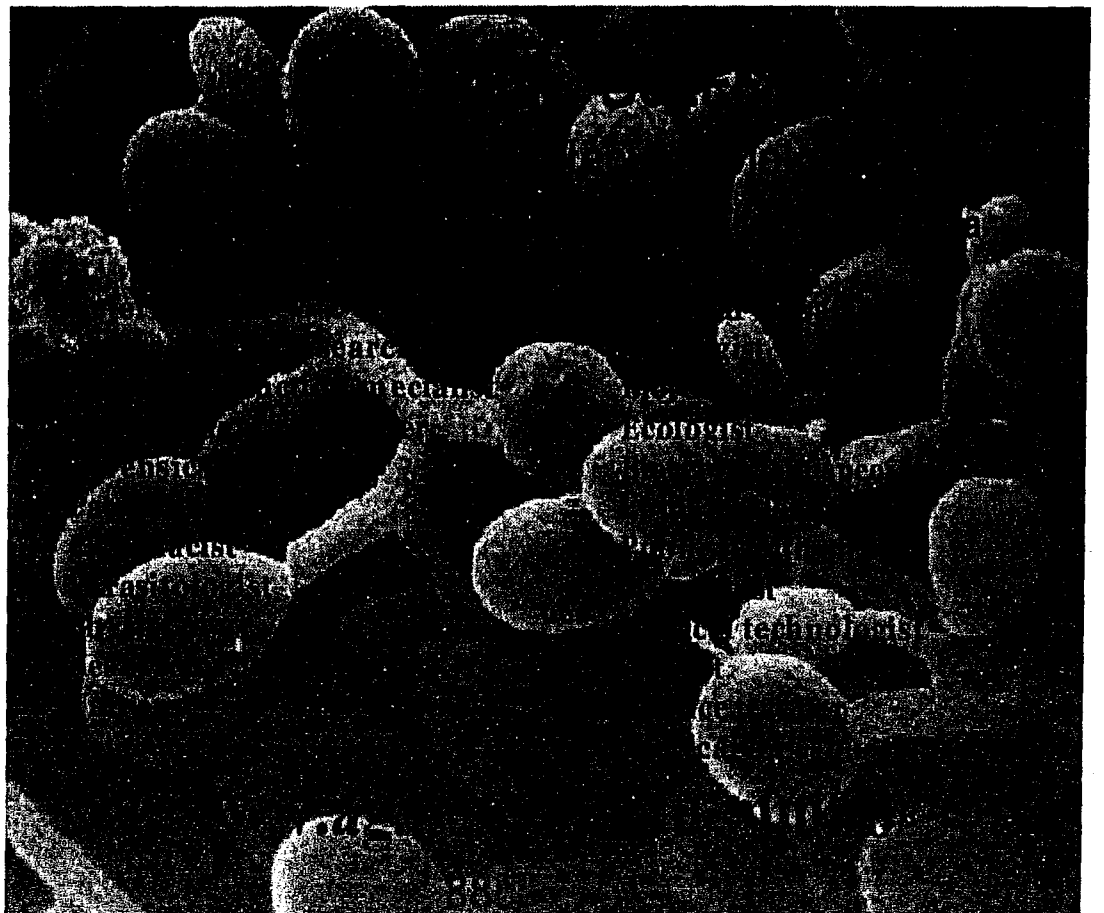
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Ultimate fighting expands to include young children

Associated Press

CARTHAGE, Mo. — Ultimate fighting was once the sole domain of burly men who beat each other bloody in anything-goes brawls on pay-per-view TV.

But the sport often derided as "human cockfighting" is branching out.

The bare-knuckle fights are now attracting competitors as young as 6 whose parents treat the sport as casually as wrestling, Little League or soccer.

The changes were evident on a recent evening in southwest Missouri, where a team of several young boys and one girl grappled on gym mats in a converted garage.

Two members of the group called the "Garage Boys Fight Crew" touched their thin martial-arts gloves in a flash of sportsmanship before beginning a relentless exchange of sucker punches, body blows and swift kicks.

No blood was shed. And both competitors wore protective gear. But the bout reflected the decidedly younger face of ultimate fighting. The trend alarms medical experts and sports officials who worry that young bodies can't withstand the pounding.

Tommy Bloomer, father of two of the "Garage Boys," doesn't understand the fuss.

"We're not training them for dog fighting," said Bloomer, a 34-year-old construction contractor. "As a parent, I'd much rather have my kids here learning how to defend themselves and getting positive reinforcement than out on the streets."

Bloomer said the sport has evolved since the no-holds-barred days by adding weight classes and banning moves such as strikes to the back of the neck and head, groin kicking and head butting.

Missouri appears to be the only state in the nation that explicitly allows the youth fights. In many states, it is a misdemeanor for children to participate. A few states have no regulations.

Supporters of the sport acknowledge that allowing fights between kids sounds brutal at first. But they insist the competitions have plenty of safety rules.

"It looks violent until you realize this teaches discipline. One of the first rules they learn is that this is not for aggressive behavior outside (the 'ring')," said Larry Swinehart, a Joplin police officer and father of two boys and the lone girl in the garage group.

The sport, which is also known as mixed martial arts or cage fighting, has already spread far beyond cable television. Last month, CBS became the first of the Big Four television networks to announce a deal to broadcast primetime fights. The fights have attracted such a wide audience, they are threatening to surpass boxing as the nation's most popular pugilistic sport.

Hand-to-hand combat is also popping up on the big screen. The film "Never Back Down," described as "The Karate Kid" for the YouTube generation, has taken in almost \$17 million in two weeks at the box office. Another current mixed martial arts movie, "Flash Point," an

import from Hong Kong, is in limited release.

Bloomer said the fights are no more dangerous or violent than youth wrestling. He watched as his sons, 11-year-old Skyler and 8-year-old Gage, locked arms and legs and wrestled to the ground with other kids in the garage in Carthage, about 135 miles south of Kansas City.

The 11 boys and one girl on the team range from 6 to 14 years old and are trained by Rudy Lindsey, a youth wrestling coach and a professional mixed martial arts heavy-weight.

"The kids learn respect and how to defend themselves. It's no more dangerous than any other sport and probably less so than some," Lindsey said.

Lindsey said the children wear protective headgear, shin guards, groin protection and martial-arts gloves. They fight quick, two-minute bouts. Rules also prohibit any elbow blows and blows to the head when an opponent is on the ground.

"If they get in trouble or get bad grades, I'll hear about it and they can't come to training," he added.

In most states, mixed martial arts is overseen by boxing commissions. In Missouri, the Office of Athletics regulates the professional fights but not the amateur events, which include the youth bouts. For amateurs, the regulation is done by sanctioning bodies that have to register with the athletics office.

The rules are different in Oklahoma, where unauthorized fights are generally a misdemeanor offense. The penalty

is a maximum 30 days in jail and a fine up to \$1,000.

Joe Miller, administrator of the Oklahoma Professional Boxing Commission, said youth fights are banned in his state, and he wants it to stay that way.

"There's too much potential for damage to growing joints," he said.

Miller said mixed martial arts uses a lot of arm and leg twisting to force opponents into submission. Those moves, he said, pressure joints in a way not found in sanctioned sports like youth boxing or wrestling.

But Nathan Orand, a martial arts trainer from Tulsa, Okla., said kids are capable of avoiding injuries, especially with watchful referees in the rings. He thinks the sport is bound to grow.

"I can see their point because when you say 'cage fighting,' that right there just sounds like kids shouldn't be doing it," Orand said.

"But you still have all the respect that regular martial arts teach you. And it's really the only true way for youth to be able to defend themselves."

Back in the Carthage garage, Bloomer said parents shouldn't worry about kids becoming aggressive from learning mixed martial arts. He said his older son was picked on by bullies at school repeatedly last year but never fought them, instead reporting the problem to his teachers.

And fighters including his 8-year-old son get along once a bout is over, Bloomer said.

"When they get out of the cage, they go back and play video games together. It doesn't matter who won and who lost."

Seahawks agree to \$50.2 million

Gregg Bell
Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Come on down to Marcus Trufant's wedding on Saturday. He'll be able to foot the bill.

The Pro Bowl cornerback and his hometown Seattle Seahawks agreed Wednesday to a \$50.2 million, six-year contract that runs through 2013.

Agent Doug Hendrickson said the deal for the 11th overall draft choice out of Washington State in 2003 includes \$20 million in guarantees. A \$3 million roster bonus due in 2010 effectively means Trufant is due \$28 million over the first three years of the contract, making him one of the highest-paid cornerbacks in the league.

"This is a great wedding present," his fiancée, Jessica Rankin, said with a grin as large as Trufant's timely windfall while standing inside Seahawks headquarters.

"Yeah, it's a good week for Marcus," Hendrickson said in a telephone interview Wednesday morning.

Last year, Nate Clements signed an \$80 million, eight-year contract with the San Francisco 49ers. Last week, the Oakland Raiders traded with Atlanta for DeAngelo Hall and then gave Hall a \$70 million, seven-year deal.

So now that he's got his big payday, how many people are coming to Trufant's big party Saturday?

"You know what? Too many," the 27-year-old native of nearby Tacoma said with a smile.

Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren joked that because of the imminent marriage, Trufant's new deal "had to get

done now."

Trufant's timing has been impeccable lately.

Playing for the first time with free agency looming at the end of a season, Trufant shed inconsistencies to lead the NFC West champions with seven interceptions, tied for third in the NFL. He had nine interceptions in his first four seasons combined.

He flourished under new position coach Jim Mora. In yet more good news for Trufant, Mora has already been chosen as Holmgren's successor beginning in 2009.

When asked if a jackpot like Wednesday's motivated him last season, Trufant gushed.

"From your rookie year on, making it to your next contract, that's what a lot of the players are into now," he said. "As you're coming in your agents tell you what you can do after you play out your first contract. So getting to this day is a dream come true."

"It kind of just seems like everything is working out like a storybook in my life. I played ball here. I grew up here. I got to play college ball here, NFL ball here. I'm getting married in Seattle. Things just all come together."

For the Seahawks, too. Seattle gets a lower salary cap number for Trufant in 2008, lessening the fiscal pressure the team had been feeling after signing free-agent running backs Julius Jones and T.J. Duckett, plus former Pro Bowl guard Mike Wahle. Last week, they asked four defensive players to restructure their contracts so Pro Bowl linebacker Lofa Tatupu could sign a deal through 2015 worth a potential \$42 million.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

France and Britain split over Beijing Olympics

David Stringer
Associated Press

LONDON — French President Nicolas Sarkozy ended his state visit Thursday by stressing he could boycott the Beijing Olympics' opening ceremony, striking a rare note of conflict with his hosts after two days of pomp, ceremony and promises of a new era of cooperation.

Sarkozy and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown showcased their friendship during the French leader's 36-hour trip, sealing a multibillion-dollar defense deal, vowing to jointly press the United States on climate change and to curb the spread of nuclear weapons technology.

Sarkozy said he and Brown had worked "hand in glove" since they both took office last year, but acknowledged they are divided over a possible Olympics boycott to punish China for its crackdown on Tibetans, an idea that the French leader first raised early in the week.

"I reserve the right to say whether I will attend," Sarkozy said at a news conference at London's Emirates soccer stadium.

He said that because France will hold

the rotating presidency of the European Union during the Beijing Olympics this summer, he must consult with the rest of the 27-member bloc before making a decision. France takes the presidency on July 1.

Brown insisted Britain will not boycott the Olympics. He plans to attend the closing ceremony and to carry out ceremonial duties, because London is host for the 2012 Olympics.

It was a rare point of discord. Sarkozy offered an effusive speech Wednesday to a joint sitting of the House of Commons and House of Lords praising Britain's role in countering the threat of fascism in Europe.

Following the leaders' talks at the soccer arena Thursday, Airbus parent company EADS said it had reached an agreement to sell air tankers to Britain's military in a deal worth up to \$26.4 billion.

EADS signed a \$35 billion contract to build refueling tankers for the U.S. Air Force last month.

In a joint communique, the leaders vowed to establish a system of "nuclear fuel assurances to reduce the proliferation risks" of the spread of nuclear technology.

Brown plans to host a conference later

this year for non-nuclear countries that want to develop civilian atomic power programs. London would extend an invitation to Iran if it obeyed a U.N. Security Council demand to suspend uranium enrichment, Brown's office said.

Discussions are expected to lead to a deal between France and Britain on a joint nuclear power program to replace aging power plants in Britain and to export technology to non-nuclear states across the world.

The two leaders also pledged to examine expansion of the Group of Eight industrialized nations, increase representation on the U.N. Security Council and urge a new push on financial transparency, including changes to the International Monetary Fund.

Britain and France also will hold twice-yearly summits to discuss progress on their projects, Brown said.

Sarkozy rejected suggestions that his trip, in which he has repeatedly emphasized his deep affection for Britain, had been heavy on flattery, but light on substance.

He likened the two countries' relations to a blossoming romance, rather than a fling. "I don't think it's a matter of a one-night stand. I think we now go into the next day's breakfast," he said.

Treasury secretary to visit Chinese

Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson will go to China next week, becoming the highest-ranking administration official to visit the country since Beijing's harsh crackdown in Tibet.

The Treasury Department said Thursday that Paulson will meet with Chinese leaders and follow up on an agreement the two countries reached last year on environmental cooperation.

The treasury's announcement came a day after the White House said that President Bush had sharply confronted China's President Hu Jintao during a telephone call about the violence in Tibet. The White House said that Bush had stressed the need for restraint and the necessity for the Chinese to consult with representatives of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet.

China has defended its use of force against anti-Chinese protesters in Tibet, describing demonstrations that broke out in the capital city of Lhasa on March 14 as riots and violent crimes.

The demonstrations have been the most sustained uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet in almost two decades and have put a spotlight on China's human rights record

at a time when it was hoping for a smooth run-up to this summer's Olympic games in Beijing.

The Treasury announcement said Paulson would be in Beijing on April 2-3 for meetings with Chinese leaders and also for a speech at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. That speech will focus on an agreement on the environment that the two countries reached during high-level economic talks last December.

At that time, the two countries agreed to cooperate over a 10-year period in efforts to address various environmental issues, including climate change, energy security and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.

The environmental cooperation agreement came at the third round of talks known as the strategic economic dialogue, which were launched in 2006 in an effort to ease economic tensions between the two nations as the U.S. trade deficit with China soared.

American manufacturers contend that China has artificially devalued its currency by as much as 40 percent against the dollar as a way of making Chinese products cheaper for U.S. consumers, while making American products more expensive in China.

Tibet protesters unfurl banners before Olympic torch relay

Associated Press

THESSALONIKI, Greece — About a dozen pro-Tibetan protesters unfurled banners in a central square shortly before the Olympic torch relay arrived in the city on Thursday.

The protesters, most of them Greeks, gathered in the square in this northern city about half a mile away from the route of the torch for the Beijing Olympics. They were being watched by about 50 police.

The banners read: "China is not worthy of the flame," and

"China stop killing Tibet." The protesters were wearing T-shirts with "Free Tibet" written across the front.

The flame arrived in Thessaloniki later without any problems. Hundreds of people turned out in the port city's central Aristotelous square, where the Olympic flame was to spend the night before heading south on Friday.

Police said they briefly detained two Falun Gong members who tried to unfurl a banner at another part of the city center shortly before the flame arrived.

It was unclear what was on the banner. The two were taken to a nearby police station but released less than half an hour later, after the torch relay arrival.

Thursday's demonstration occurred after two separate protests disrupted the flame lighting ceremony on Monday at Ancient Olympia — by a group of French reporters and pro-Tibetan protesters — despite the deployment of 1,000 police officers at the ancient site.

Police are bracing for pos-

sible protests in Athens where the torch relay is due over the weekend before it is flown to China.

The flame will spend Saturday night at the Acropolis and be handed over to Chinese organizers Sunday at the Panathenian Stadium, where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896.

Protesters are angry at China's handling of deadly riots in Tibet earlier this month and want the torch route to be changed to exclude Tibet.

Bush supports Tibetan protesters

Barry Schweid
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is using the prestige of his office on behalf of Tibetan protesters, but his direct appeal to Chinese President Hu Jintao lacks a trump card.

Through a White House spokeswoman last week, Bush made plain he would attend the Olympic Games in August in Beijing, the crackdown on Tibetan protesters aside.

Bush considers the games to be about athletics and not necessarily politics, spokeswoman Dana Perino said. For the Chinese, anxious to avert a public relations disaster, the statement undoubtedly was received with relief.

In the meantime, leaders of France and Belgium have warned they might boycott the opening ceremonies in Beijing to protest the way the Chinese are dealing with Tibetan protesters. But Bush hasn't got that hole card to play unless the crackdown intensifies dramatically and gives him a credible reason to change his plans.

The Chinese already have suffered embarrassment over their treatment of Tibetan protesters in Tibet and western China. They look to hosting the Olympics as an enormous boost to their prestige.

It didn't help that last week the State Department advised Americans planning to attend the games to take care and be mindful that they could be under surveillance.

"All hotel rooms and offices are considered to be subject to onsite or remote technical monitoring at all times," the department's Bureau of Consular Affairs said. "Hotel rooms, residences and offices may be accessed at any time without the occupant's consent or knowledge."

The classic Foreign Ministry called the U.S. warning "irresponsible."

The Bush administration has taken measured steps on Tibet, urging both the Chinese government and the Tibetan protesters to avoid violence as not serving either side.

But the U.S. position clearly is critical of Beijing.

China's ambassador to the U.S., Zhou Wenzhong, told an environmental conference in Washington this week that his government moved against

protesters to defend law and order and not to suppress religious freedom.

"What happened in Tibet is a law-and-order issue," he said.

In his conversation Wednesday with Hu, Bush called for a "substantive dialogue" with representatives of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetans' spiritual leader who lives in exile in India. He also called for access for journalists and diplomats to Tibet.

On the access front, China showed signs of relenting by permitting a group of foreign journalists to visit Lhasa, the Tibetan capital. It was not immediately clear how much access they would have, though.

And, with it all, the Chinese leader did not give ground on the protesters. According to Xinhua, the Chinese news agency, Hu told Bush the protests in Tibet were by no means peaceful demonstrations or activities of "nonviolence."

Tibet is only one of many issues marring U.S.-Sino relations.

The Chinese on Wednesday protested U.S. delivery to Taiwan two years ago of electric fuses for nuclear missiles. Bush tried to end the flap in his conversation with Hu by telling him "a mistake was made," the president's national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, said.

Taiwan had asked for batteries for helicopters. China considers Taiwan a renegade province and is trying to end U.S. military support.

China is regularly criticized as having a poor human rights record. At the same time, the Bush administration has maintained that China is an important trading partner and a world power whose cooperation is needed to try to get North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program.

The classic mixing of politics and the Olympics occurred when President Carter called on the U.S. team to boycott the 1980 Moscow games to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the year before.

More than 50 countries supported the American president, but the games went on.

Four years later, the Soviet Union boycotted the Olympics in Los Angeles in what was seen as a retaliatory move. Allies joined, but the games set a record for attending nations, 140 of them.

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