Sports: Idaho women open with exhibition win over Australian team Page 10

THE ARGONAU'

www.uiargonaut.com

Players suspended indefinitely

Three football players charged with misdemeanor battery, more players may be involved

Breyon

Williams

treatment.

Shelton

Miles

require extensive medical

Disciplinary action has

"I have been aware

been taken against three

players for conduct detri-

since early Sunday morn-

ing that there was a situ-

ation that required my

attention," Idaho coach Robb Akey said. "I, as

well as the Moscow Police

Department, have investi-

gated the situation, and as a result, three individuals

have been suspended in-

definitely from the team."

players implicated may

not have been the only

filed charges," Weaver said.

"Others have been identi-

fied, and we are continuing to follow up on that."

of his nature have cost

players their university

scholarships and could

Traditionally, offenses

ones involved.

However, the first three

"Additional people have

mental to the team.



Dewey Hale

> Lianna Sheperd Argonaut

Three University of Idaho football players have been charged with misdemeanor battery after a fight at an off-campus party Sunday night.

Freshman strong safety Shelton Miles from Pomona, Calif., senior cornerback Breyon Williams from Pasadena, Calif. and sophomore wide receiver Dewey Hale from Paris, Texas, were served with citations Monday. A court date will be set later in the month.

Officer Daniel Weaver said the police were called in response to a fight midnight on Sunday.

"Upon arriving to the area, the disturbance had already ended," Weaver said. "The victim who owned the apartment was battered and wanted to press charges."

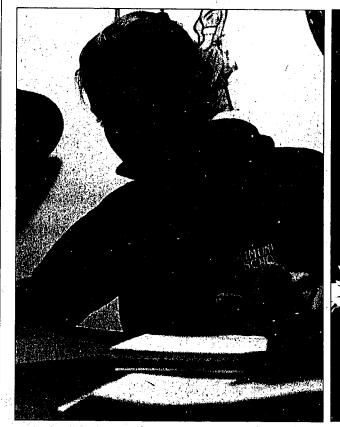
Moscow Assistant Po-

The Vandal Voice for 110 Years

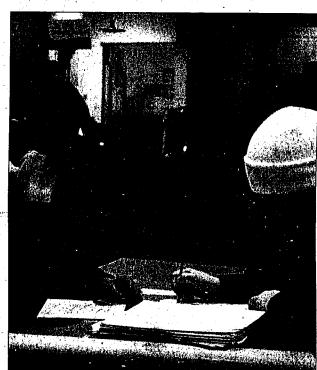
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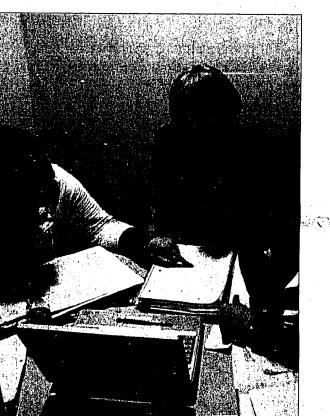
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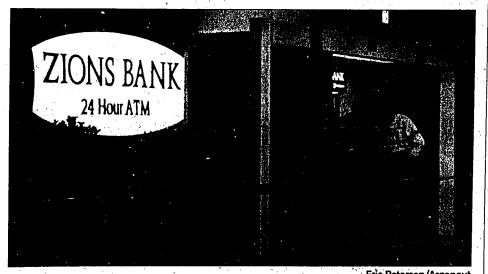


the brawl apparently began when the victim, a former football player, tried to get the three to leave.

The man reportedly suffered minor cuts to his face and head. He did not possibly result in other NCAA sanctions against the team.

"We have a code of conduct our student-athletes are expected to follow," Akey said. "When they violate this code, there are consequences."

Photos by Nick Groff and Jake Barber/Argonaut Midterms may be over, but University of Idaho students are facing the academic abyss that comes before Thanksgiving Break. Thursday night, students, both on and off campus, congregated at some of the known study hot spots, including TLC, 6th Street Market, a student's apartment and One World Cafe.



Eric Petersen/Argonaut According to a police statement, the suspect slipped a note to the teller and said, "I'm serious" before he took an undisclosed amount of money and left the scene.

Zions suspect arrested

Alexiss Turner Argonaut

A suspect has been arrested Tuesday for the robbery at Zions Bank in Moscow.

Adrian Ziegler, 35, was taken into custody by the Pullman Police Department Tuesday in Pullman on South Grand Avenue. His location was discovered after the Whitcom Emergency 911 Center received several calls from Ziegler's cell phone.

David Duke, assistant chief for the Moscow Police Department, said Ziegler con-

10

tacted Whitcom, identified himself and confessed to the crime. He then proceeded to give false locations to dispatch in order to keep police from finding him.

Duke said Whitcom was able to use global positioning system technology to find Ziegler's actual location.

Whitcom dispatch received the first phone call at 9 a.m. He was arrested at 11 a.m.

Ziegler's last known address is in Bellingham, Wash. He is currently being

See SUSPECT, page 5

UI cries foul on mail-out

Reid Wright Argonaut

The University of Idaho released a statement Monday evening denouncing a postcard sent out by the Latah County Republicans that same day, saying the mailing inferred a UI endorsement of Republican candidates.

"The mailing uses the university's name and a derivation the university's marketing slogan in a fashion that creates an inference of an endorsement of political candidates," the statement said. "We are clear: the University of Idaho does not endorse candidates for political office."

The postcard, sent out to area registered voters before Election Day, has a photo of former Republican Presidential nominee John McCain and former Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin in the foreground with the text, "University of Idaho — From here you really can go anywhere," written below. "I don't think anyone re-

"I don't think anyone really believes this came from the university," said Barrett Schroeder, chairman of the Latah County Republicans.

"That's why we put our name and logo on it." The Latah County Re-

The Latah County Republicans are identified explicitly on the reverse side of the card, but in print size that is smaller than the rest of the text. They are also identified in the return address, next to a thumbnail illustration of an elephant with the letters "G.O.P." on its side.

Complaints to UI were received from community members saying the mailing was deceptive. The matter was forwarded to the UI Office of the General Council who released the statement.

Schroeder said he didn't think the complaints were legitimate.

"What probably happened is, a Democrat called and claimed to be confused," he said.

The UI also sent a "cease and desist" communication to the Latah County Republicans.

The Latah County Republicans had previously used a larger version of the postcard as a flyer posted around the UI campus and as a poster at UI sponsored events without any complaint, Schroeder said.

He said the message of the mailing was justified be-

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cause the image of Palin as a successful UI graduate was inspirational to members of the UI community.

"When she was nominated it was the first thing that came to mind," Schroeder said.

The statement however, emphasized UI's neutrality.

"The University of Idaho is strictly nonpartisan and nonsectarian as stipulated under its charter, under the state constitution, and under Idaho law," it said.

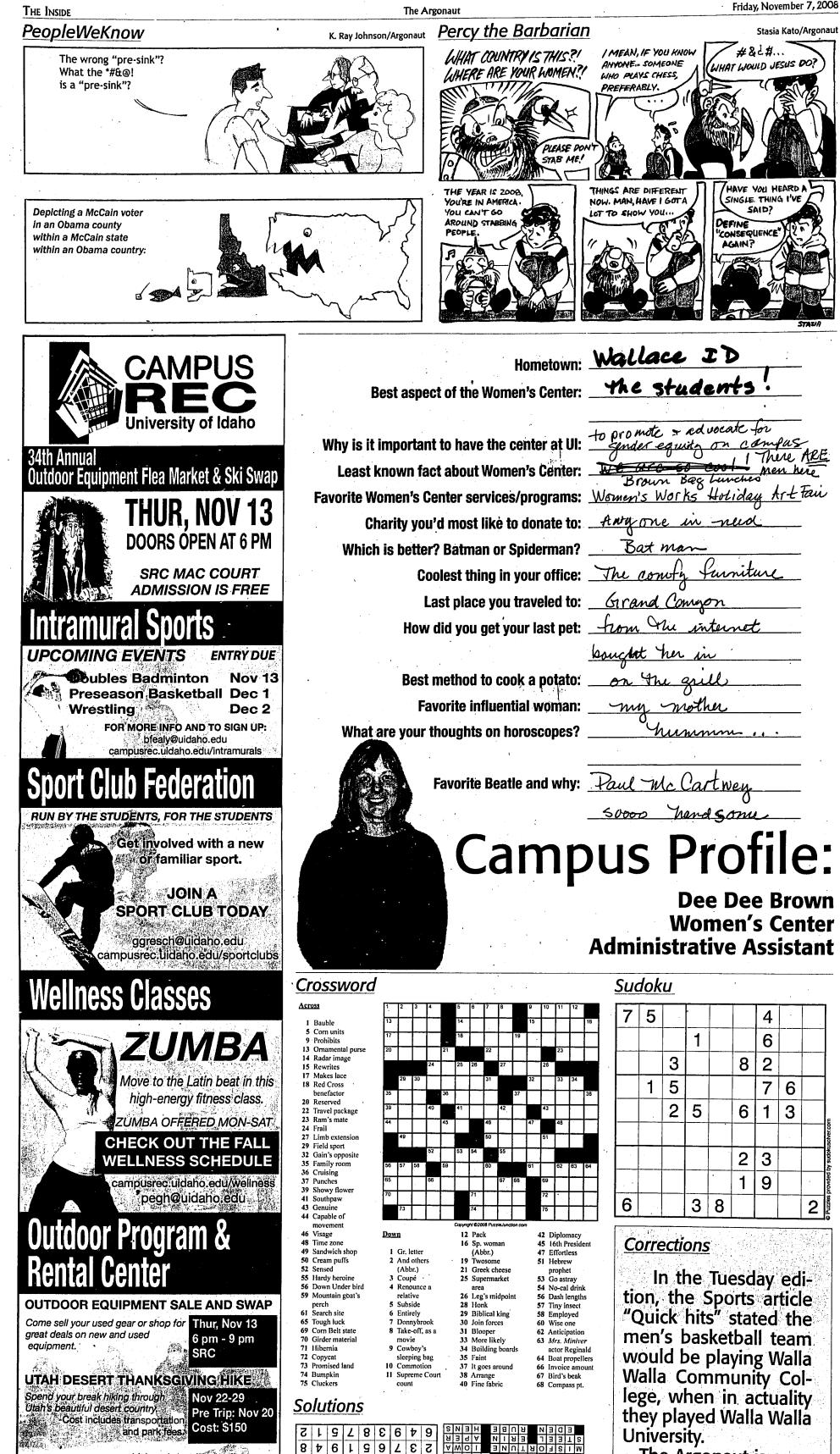
Schroeder said the UI name was used on the mailing because of its notoriety and its connection to Palin.

"Everybody likes the University of Idaho," he said. "We're real proud that she is from here."

Schroeder also said his organization was within its bounds to use a slightly altered form of the slogan because it is one that is used by other schools and is no longer used by UI. Tania Thompson, direc-

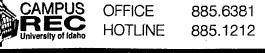
Tania Thompson, director of media relations, said UI was not currently considering further legal action against the Latah County Republicans.

UI General Council Kent Nelson declined to comment.



campusrec.uidaho.edu/outdoor mikeb@uidaho.edu





campusrec.uidaho.edu

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The Argonaut is sorry for any confusion. If you catch a mistake, please e-mail the editor of that section.

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KINEM

Classroom work for corporate America

Students help solve real problems for real companies

Cari Dighton Argonaut

Students in the College of Business and Economics are working on special projects this semester, providing them with essential work experience for the "real world."

Scott Metlen, professor of business and economics at the University of Idaho, said these projects serve to give students a taste of what the business world is all about.

"It's one thing to present to your peers and to faculty," Metlen said. "It is completely another thing to get in a car and drive to Boeing and present to executives."

Students who are enrolled in Metlen's Quality Management and Simulation/ Process Management classes participate in these projects and are paired up with large corporations such as The Boeing Company, Micron Technology Inc., Glanbia Foods and ATK. Metlen said students work to help solve quality control problems and check to make sure technology and equipment is operating as effectively as possible.

'In the last couple semesters, we have managed to find corporations that have problems that aren't in the critical chain, Metlen said. "In other words, they are problems that don't need to be solved today they do need to be solved, but not today. These are problems that they are willing to have students work on.'

He said his classes are completely wrapped around the projects, and at the end of the semester the students go to the company and present their solutions to executives.

'We will take a team of students and we'll go down and interview the company,

look at their problems and we will take in-formation back," Metlen said. "Within the bounds of the tools and knowledge that we have about process management, we will come up with solutions.'

However, Metlen said that the projects students take on are no simple task.

"Most projects that students get are projects that you put off basically until the night before," Metlen said. "If you do that with this, No. 1, you are going to go down and embarrass yourself in front of a bunch of executives, and No. 2, there is no way on God's green earth that you are going to get a job with that particular company.

In the last series of projects Metlen's classes did, he said five out of 22 students got job offers.

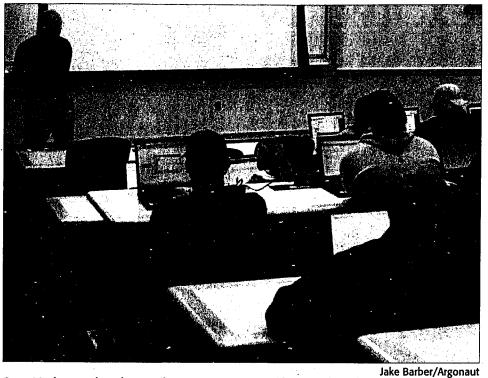
"A new objective on my syllabus is to help find employment," Metlen said.

Metlen said the companies the classes work with were skeptical about the idea of working alongside students, but he said they have come to realize the benefits in the last few semesters.

"A company can spend about \$30,000 on an internship by hiring a student for the summer," Metlen said. "Or they could spend about \$5,000 to \$10,000 and get to look at a whole team of students.

Metlen said the classes work on building students' business portfolios as well. He said having experience with special projects is a great thing for students to be able to put on their resumes.

"It's a very good avenue of getting students and firms together to know each other – to see how the fit is," Metlen said. Jeremy Wemple, a senior productions



Scott Metlen teaches the Quality Management 456 class on Thursday in the J.A. Albertson Building. Metlen's Quality Management and Simulation/Process Management classes are working on special projects to present to large corporations.

and operations management major at UI, said working with Boeing and finding out if the processes installed in machines are effective or not is valuable education.

He said through research and trial and error, he has been able to learn a lot more than he would have had access to if he were to sit in a class every day.

"Working on these projects is a great opportunity for students," Wemple said.

News BRIEFS

Advising committee formed for bike issues

A Bicycle Advisory Committee has been created by Parking and Transportation Services to address issues on the University of Idaho campus.

From 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Stu-dent Union Building's Chief Room on Wednesday, the committee will discuss bike parking and storage, circulation, safety and education.

Anyone who commutes to campus via bicycle is encouraged to come.

Arts festival offered for the younger generation

The Young People's Arts Festival for fall 2008 will be on Saturday. The registration deadline is at 5 p.m. today at City Hall.

Courses include sand castles, music and sound effects the recycled way, baking pumpkin pie and making sock puppets. The festival will be from 9 a.m. to 3

p.m. at Moscow Junior High School.

Children ages from preschool to sixth

Ud.

"Work experience is crucial, and the fact that we get this experience while working in an actual environment is great."

Page 3

Wemple said he is fortunate to be working with Boeing, and to be able to get his name known in the field he soon hopes to enter.

"I think the best opportunity of this project is the fact that you get to get your info in with the managers at Boeing – it's great to get your name out there," Wemple said.

grade are welcome to come with parents. The event is \$10 for half a day and \$20 for the full day.

Registration forms are available at www.moscow-arts.org. Drop forms off at the City Hall Arts office at 206 E. Third St.

For more information, e-mail gbaldwin@ci.moscow.id.us.

Panel to discuss current economic conditions

A discussion of the current market conditions and the impact of the current financial crisis will be at the town hall meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the University of Idaho Administration Auditorium.

A panel made up of four individuals will try to make sense of some of the most dramatic markets in the last thirty years

Jeff Feuerstein, Waddell and Reed Senior Financial Adviser will moderate the panel.

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The event is free and open to the public. The audience will be allowed to ask panel members questions.

For more information, contact Jeff Feuerstein or Cheryl Fleming at (509) 334-7523 or feuerstein@wradisors.com.

Photojournalist set to discuss Iraq experience

Greg Connolly Argonaut

MARTIN FORUM

Freelance conflict photojournalist Ashley Gilbertson will be the next featured speaker for the Martin Forum on Monday.

Gilbertson will discuss the nearly six years he spent in Iraq covering the war.

"I saw his book Whiskey Tango Foxtrot," said Bill Smith, director of the Martin Institute.

Smith said he wanted to invite a conflict photojournalist to speak at the forum. After talking to several of the CORE teachers, he decided that Gilbertson would be an excellent choice.

Gilbertson is a selftrained photographer who "mainly studied parties"



Courtesy Photo

Conflict photojournalist and author Ashley Gilbertson, who has spent the last six years in Iraq, will be speaking at the next Martin Forum at 7 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building Ballroom.

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during the six months he attended college, accord-ing to his Web site. He grew up skateboarding but decided that he would rather be a photographer than a skateboarder. He sold his skateboard for money to buy film and has been taking pictures ever since.

"His book Whiskey Tank Foxtrot is a photo collec-tion from his time in Iraq," Smith said.

Many of the photographs from the book will be featured in a slideshow of Gilbertson's work that will be shown before he speaks. "He's not trying to

paint a portrait of Iraq," Smith said. "He's just showing us photographs and letting us make our own conclusions."

After Gilbertson speaks, there will be a questionand-answer session.

When Smith first con-tacted Gilbertson to be a Martin Forum speaker, he was working out of the Diyala Province in Iraq. Gilbertson has spent much of the past six years embedded with Kurdish and American troops.

He has worked for the New York Times and Time, as well as several other. publications during his career as a photojournalist.

"Sometimes you hear people saying that there's nothing to do in Moscow," Smith said. "They must be referring to shopping and clubs since there's plenty to do on campus.'

Gilbertson plans on go-ing back to Iraq sometime in the near future. He currently lives in New York

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City with his wife Joanna. "We've never had a pho-

tojournalist before," Smith said.

Gilbertson won the Rob-ert Capa Gold Medal in 2004 for a series of photographs he shot in Fallujah, a city in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. The award was created in honor of war photographer Robert Capa and was awarded to Gilbertson for his role in promoting social issues

In addition to the Robert Capa Gold Medal, Gilbertson was recently featured in Photo District News magazine's "30 under 30" issue in 2004.

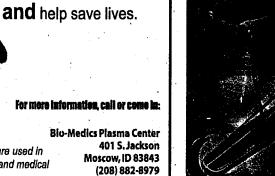
Before Gilbertson went to Iraq, he worked in Papua New Guinea, photograph-ing the conflict there in the late 1990s. He has also done work in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Indonesia.

Gilbertson will be speaking at 7 p.m. Monday in the Student Union Building Ballroom. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Join us for:

The Sandminer Grill

Alaskan Snow Crab Peel n' Eat Shrimp Oysters on the 1/2 shell Scallops Pan-fried Oysters 7 Season Shark Filets Grilled Ahi Tuna Cajun Seafood Chowder Salmon Pasta Salad and Soooo Much More



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Friday, November 7, 2008

Volunteers excited by high voter response

Page 4

Greg Connolly Argonaut

Greg Wolf has been a poll worker in every presidential election since 2000, and said he has never seen so many people come out to vote in Latah County.

There has been excellent turnout," Wolf said. "This is much better than the past two elections.

Wolf spent the day at the Kibbie Dome helping voters. An Obama supporter, he said he thinks the economy is the biggest issue facing the next president, and the U.S. is going to see major change in the next four years.

"We need at least 10 years to fix the economy, but Obama should help create a solid foundation," Wolf said.

A.J. Smith, who moved to Latah County from San Diego three years ago, said he has never had to wait in line for previous elections like he did Tuesday.

This is an historical event," Smith said. "It's the first time that an African-American has reached this pinnacle, and there's a tremendous amount of curiosity there."

Smith also said he thinks the biggest is-



Voters wait to cast their ballots in the Kibbie Dome on Election Day. People could vote in the Dome or Latah County Fairgrounds.

sue facing the new president is the faltering economy.

'This election is really impactful since there will be more drive and less apathy,' he said.

University of Idaho student Andrew Madsen helped out at the polls for the first time on Tuesday.

"It's been consistent all day," Madsen said, referring to the stream of people showing up to vote. "It peaked around 5 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. By 7 p.m., the average wait was five to 10 minutes."

Madsen said things ran smoothly all day. The biggest problem poll workers encountered were voters who showed up to register on site without the proper documentation, and voters who came to the Kibbie Dome when they were registered to vote at the Fairgrounds.

"I'm not at all surprised about the turnout," Madsen said.

The polls opened at 8 a.m., and by 7:30

a.m. there were already people lined up. "If there's 'a time you have to get up and vote, it's now," Madsen said. He said he spent the entire 12 hours the polls were open handing out voter registration forms at the entrance.

'I've been working at elections for 10 or 12 years, and I've never seen this sort of turnout," said poll worker Arvo Smith.

"This seems like a much bigger turnout than in past years."

Smith said he was pleased with the turnout and the number of people who were interested in the election.

UI student Symone Sasser did a write-in for Ron Paul in her first presidential election. 'I'm pretty excited to vote," she said.

'(But) it's too crowded." Sasser said she is excited to see what the

next four years brings. "I think this election is a good opportunity for your voice to be heard, although it doesn't matter in the long run who we vote for because there is an electoral college," Sasser said.

Department attendance policy harsh on students

Dara Barney Argonaut

Many students across campus have questions concerning the Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance attendance policy. One student, Emmalee Kearney, encountered those questions, along with a challenge.

"I suffer from debilitating migraines and missed the final in my PEB (Physical Education Building) course," Kearney said. "I ended up not being able to take my final.'

Kearney said she already had two absences and was told by her instructor the consequence of not coming would be an F in the class.

"Of course I couldn't come in," she said. "So I thought I was going to end up with an F in the class."

However, she didn't nd up failing the class

took it from there, Kearney said, and because the PEB teacher signed a disclaimer saying that she acknowledged Kearney had these migraines, her grade didn't change.

Each physical education class has a different attendance policy, depending on the credit hours.

'It really goes course to course as far as how many absences a student is allowed," said Elizabeth Miller, activity coordinator for the department.

"It is a credited class," Miller said. "If a student chooses to take a physical education class as an elective, they have to be there just as much as any other class. They have to be there 80 percent of the time."

This means a class scheduled two days a week allows students two absences, and a class three days a week allows students four Services absences. A doctor's note

will count as an excused absence, but it is not dismissed, the missed class is still counted.

"The policy has always been in place --it started around four years ago," said department chair Kathy Browder. "We have consistently enforced it for the last two years."

Browder said the purpose of the rule is to "promote academic quality."

"Elizabeth and I decided that enforcing this policy was a good way to encourage students to come to class," she said.

If students face unavoidable issues, and need to withdraw, that can be an option as long as they meet the deadline.

"This isn't about trying to be the bad guy," Browder said. "We want to p ipation, discipline, and good health. We figured this is a good way to do it."

Moving money around

Alexiss Turner Argonaut

The University of Idaho will need \$4.8 million in additional funding to fully function in 2010. Vice President of Finance and Admin-istration Lloyd Mues said the number is attainable.

UI spends 100 percent of their state-appropriated budget each year, if not more. Mues said the amount of spending is not the prob-lem, it is the way in which money is being spent.

(The state) doesn't want to give us money so we can save it," he said.

Mues has been working with the president and provost to develop a program prioritization model that would allow them to decide which programs could use more funding and which are getting too much. Mues said reallocating funds as-sures UI is putting suffi-cient funding into where the university excels.

Last year, Mues said \$40 million was carried over from departments in added revenue not appropriated by the state. He said the stance of the university has been not to "throw its arms around those dollars," but the future may call for reallocation of those funds as well.

don't want to give up reve-nue brought in by their own work. He said departments will have to ask themselves some tough questions 'what could we do for UI some during tight times with those dollars?" he said.

Mues said the attitude of faculty on campus toward

budget reallocation falls across the spectrum. "Sometimes you have don't

enough to do what everyone wants to do," he said. Mues said

some departments have already felt the pain of budget cuts. A 1 per-cent holdback was issued

by Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter after budget plans were released. Mues said the original number some departments thought they were getting was cut said this equates to about \$5 million.

Mues said he hopes to revamp the reserve system to hold about 5 percent of UI's total budget. Reserves , would be divided into three groups to be used based on emergency level. The first category would cover costs that occur

"Sometimes you don't have enough to do what everyone wants to do." Lloyd

MUES Vice president of finance and administaration

> last category would need about \$30 million for large projects far-

> ther down the line. Mues said he doesn't expect this kind of savings to appear overnight, and

without warning and need immediate attention. He said he advises \$3 million be reserved in this category. He said the second category would hold \$5 mil-lion to \$10 million for costs that are less of an emergency, and the

Disability

Rep. Tom Trail thanks Latah **County Voters for** their support in the November 4th election.



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Gene C.Lai.

Chair & Safeco Distinguished Professor of Insurance Department of Finance . Insurance, and Real Estate Washington State University



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Scott Dye, CFA, CFR, CMFC Regional Director of Investments & Sales Waddell & Beed Shawnee Missier, Kamar **RSVP** Required.

University of Idaho

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509-334-7523; 800-566-6368 or Ferrentein@wradvisor.com Space in huminod. There is no charge for attending. Yes are verleame to bring guests (mer age 21). Wine rasting and Hors d'œuvres served at the breaks

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What could this mean for you and your financial future?

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There is a syllabus at the beginning of these classes that sets the guidelines.

"We announce the attendance policy upfront," Browder said. "We want students to know that these credited courses are fun, and involve learning. Learning is a challenge."

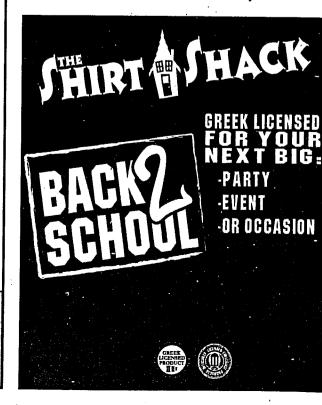
Mues said this can be difficult for departments to swallow because many.

Calendar

Today

In the beginning series 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Best Western University** Inn

Tartuffe 7:30 p.m.



even before they received any tangible tender.

Along with budget reallocation, Mues has big goals to increase reserve dollars to be used should the university need extra cash. UI currently has 1.2 percent of their total budget in reserves. He

Hartung Theatre

Student Recital

7:30 p.m. Recital Hall

Hawai'i

7 p.m.

Saturday

Memorial Gym

Idaho volleyball vs.

planning could take up to

15 years. "We can do it," he said. "We are going to be OK." • Overall, Mues said he is

'proud of where (UI) sits now."

"We need to be within our means and grow our means," he said.

Graduate Student Recital 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall

Sunday

Student Recital: 1 p.m. Recital Hall

Faculty Recital Series: Kay Zavislak 7: 30 p.m. **Recital Hall**

Sisters on the planet movie showing 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. SUB

Martin Forum: A Photographer's Chronicle of the Iraq War 7 p.m. SUB

Foreign Film Series: "My Winnipeg" 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. SUB

Monday

Martin Forum: "A Photographers Chronicle of the Iraq War" 7 p.m. SUB Ballroom

To have an event listed in the local calendar, contact arg-news@uidaho.edu.

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Native Americans celebrate Heritage Month

Rubell Dingman Argonaut

The University of Idaho will celebrate Native American Heritage Month with several events spon-sored by the Native American Student Center.

"It's an

opportunity

to educate

even the

of-touch

person."

MARTIN

NASC director

Steve

most out-

Native American Heritage Month dates back to the beginning of the 19th century when it was called Native American day. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush designated November as Native American Heritage Month.

"Native people can appreciate the month, it's an opportunity to educate even the most out-of-touch person, said Steve Martin, director of the NASC

Martin said the designation of November as Native American

Heritage Month might have some-thing to do with Thanksgiving.

A Powwow presentation will be given at 7 p.m., Tuesday in the Silver room at the Student Union Building. The presentation will be given by Sam Tropey, Coeur d'Alene, and Rudy Shebala, Nava-jo, both students at UI.

"They are strong participants in the powwow and we want them to share the meaning of and the meaning within the powwow," Martin said. Tropey and Shebala will share

their knowledge of the

songs, dance and regalia that are central to. the powwow. "We'll present a lit-

tle piece of culture that is a part of all tribes," Tropey said. Shebala will sing and share the mean-ing of the drum to Na-

tive Americans. Tropey may demonstrate his dancing style, but said he's not sure. "I hope that people will possibly gain an interest to study Na-

tive culture, attend a powwow, or spread the knowledge they've learned to lessen ignorance," Tropey said.

Martin will also do a Native American beading workshop at 6 p.m., Wednesday in the NASC. The workshop will demonstrate various beading techniques and explain the mean-ing behind many of the designs and colors Native American people use. Beads were actually introduced to

"It's a major part of our history," Martin said. "Before beads we always had something to decorate with."

There will be a Native American dinner at Bob's Place in Wallace from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday. The dinner will feature traditional foods from the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce tribes. There will also be a table with information provided by the Native American Student Associa-tion on Native American traditions that span the various tribes.

"In the last few years we've been able to place moré of an emphasis on multicultural events to increase awareness," said Mike Thomsen, director of operations for Sodexho.

On Nov. 14 the NASC will be hosting a fry bread contest in con-junction with its weekly event, "Soup Friday." Contestants will compete for first, second and third place based on who makes the best fry bread.

'We can't honor or celebrate who we are a tribes in one month," Martin said. "The celebration of who we are takes place everyday."

File Photo The Native American Student Center will be hosting a fry bread contest Friday as part of their Native American Heritage Month celebrations.

Senate REPORT

Open forum

None

Presidential communications

ASUI President Garrett Holbrook told members of the Senate the presidential search committee is still going well. He asked members of the Senate to "figure out" bill F08-40, an act to amend the ASUI rules and regulations.

Unfinished business

Bills

F08-40, an act to amend the ASUI rules and regulations was immediately considered and passed.

New business

Bills None

Resolutions

F08-06, a resolution Senate support in establishment of the U.S. public service academy was immediately considered and passed.

Vetoed Bills None

- Cyrilla Watson

Some in Idaho GOP grow leery of absentee ballots

John Miller Associated Press

BOISE --- About a third. of the 653,000 Idaho voters this year cast absentee ballots, a phenomenon that powered record turnout but raised concern among some Republican lawmakers that mass voting before Election Day is disruptive and disadvantages some candidates.

Although Oregon has adopted vote-by-mail and only two Washington state counties still open polling places, some in Idaho's GOP major-ity worry about their state following a similar path. They want the 2009 Leg-

islature to take up the is-Islature to take up the is-sue, though just what form any bill might take is un-clear — especially since Re-publican Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, Idaho's top election official, is a strong proponent of absentee ballots to increase turnout and cut waiting lines.

Still, some say the pro-liferation of absentee ballots has had the unintended consequence of extending

the traditional two-week flurry of campaign activity to months long odysseys favoring deep-pocketed can-didates. And Republican U.S. Rep. Bill Sali, who lost to Democrat Walt Minnick in the 1st Congressional District, contends voters who cast ballots early could have had a late change of heart.

'There's a reason historically that we've had elections on a specific day," said Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Eagle, who won his re-election bid but is leery of absentee vot-ing. "For the convenience of county workers, we're expanding it further and further, and I'm not sure it should be that way."

Prior to 1994, Idaho resi-

dents had to provide a good reason to vote absentee.

Tim Hurst, Ysursa's chief deputy secretary of state, said it's clear Idaho voters increasingly favor opportunities to vote be-fore Election Day.

fore Election Day. "Apparently, people like it, because we had over 190,000 people vote ab-sentee," Hurst said Thurs-day. "When you're talking about a democracy, don't you want participation by the people?" Democrats, meanwhile.

Democrats, meanwhile, back permanent absentee voting; Idaho voters now must request an absentee ballot every two-year election cycle. Lawmakers on the House State Affairs

Committee have blocked efforts to change that.

"People have shown a huge interest in absentee voting," said Sen. Elliot Werk, D-Boise.

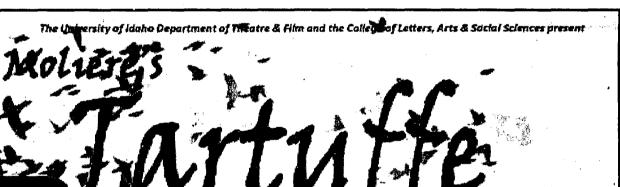
This year, absentee voting was particularly strong in Ada County, where election officials spent \$38,000 to send a direct mailer in September encouraging every registered voter to request an absentee ballot. That's after long lines in 2006 in Meridian, a grow-ing suburb west of Boise, scared off some voters and highlighted weaknesses in

traditional voting. Chris Rich, the county's election chief, said the absentee push helped alleviate what otherwise could have been chaos, as 79,016 of 181,000 Ada County voters voted either early

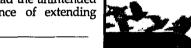
Page 5

"If we'd have had those 79,000 at the polls, folks would still be standing in line," Rich said, adding he told leaders of Idaho's po-litical parties and all major statewide campaigns as soon as his office decided to mail absentee ballot requests, so those groups could coordinate their campaigns. Some did, sending out their own promotional

mailings, he said. Still, not everybody got the word. Brad Hoaglun, an Ada County GOP official, said his group was caught off guard.



SUSPECT bank. A warrant was imme-



from page 1

held in Pullman awaiting an

extradition hearing. Duke said Ziegler entered Zions Bank around 4 p.m. Monday through the south entrance and proceeded to an open teller. Duke said the teller reported not noticing Ziegler until he placed a note on her desk. The note read, "Give me the \$ or else."

Duke said the teller noticed Ziegler had his hand in his pocket. Duke said Ziegler told the teller, "I'm serious." Once the teller had given

Ziegler the cash, he exited the

Duke said a trooper spotted Ziegler only 20 minutes after the robbery, but the officer was forced to release Ziegler when his physical description did not match the clothes he was wearing. Duke said Ziegler had changed after the incident.

it out for

The physical description given to the Moscow Police Department was of an adult male with a dark complexion. He was reported to be about 5 foot 8 inches tall and 160 pounds. He appeared to be in his late 20s with short hair wearing blue jeans, a black jacket and a black University of Idaho baseball cap.



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Translated by Christopher Hampton **Directed by Robert Calify**

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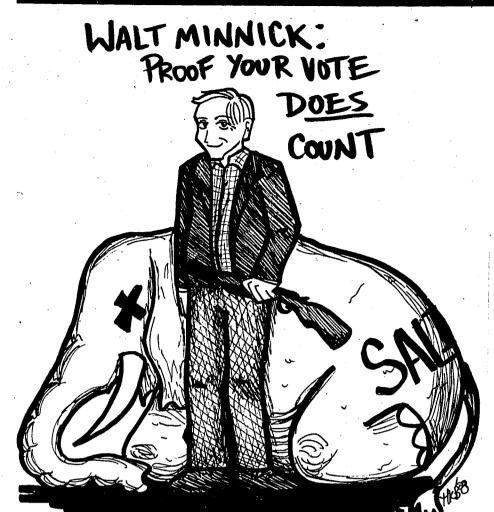
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OPINION



Holly Bowen/Argonaut

Friday, November 7, 2008

Off the**CUFF**

Quick takes on life from our editors

If it was you

I think someone stole my iPod. What's odd about that is it's a piece of crap — big, ugly and outdated. But if it was you who took it and with your tainted conscience refused to see my name and number on it, please ignore the Celine Dion albums. I was young, and I didn't know better. — Sydney

Can't vote for himself

I read an interesting predic-tion that Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens, a convicted felon who was barely re-elected Tuesday, might resign so Gov. Sarah Palin can appoint a new Republican senator — name-ly, herself. This would put her in the limelight to run for president in 2012.

Had enough of the "real America," Sarah? -Holly

A desk as my life

Palin swap meet

All I have to say is if Sarah Palin ever makes it to the White House as anything more than a janitor I will personally make sure she is swapped out for Tiny Fey. No one will be able to tell the difference, and Fey is a hell of a lot smarter than Palin. – Alexis

A good life

A woman I have come to respect and call my friend died this week. Shirley Caldwell lived in Moscow for 60 years, befriended the University of Idaho in countless ways and funded an annual \$4,000 scholarship for single parents getting an education at UI. She was a woman of conviction, kindness and love. Her good life has touched mine, and I'll miss her stories for years to come.

— Christina

Shut up

Just a general message to anyone who chose not to vote but feels like complaining ... stop talking — we get it, you're an idiot. — Lianna

OurVIEW

Assaulting morale

daho coach Robb Akey has said many times he's not just L rebuilding a football team at the University of Idaho — he's creating a "family." But by now, most residents of

the campus community and the Moscow area have read or heard about the three football players, charged after an early Sunday morning fight. Shelton Miles, Breyon Wil-

liams and Dewey Hale were charged with misdemeanor battery after allegedly taking part in a verbal and physical argument at

an off-campus party. Hopefully, the "thrill" of the fight was worth the campus-wide sense of disappointment and embarrassment. Hopefully, it was also worth being suspended from the team indefinitely which may lead to the loss of their university scholarships.

These actions are purely dis-respectful to the hard work and passion the coaches, other team members and directors in the UI Athletic Department have put

into creating a program we as a community all can be proud of.

The allegations undermine the direction of the program and only perpetuate the shame and frustration that continues to cling to stu-dents and the residents of Moscow.

If students can't count on players using common sense off the field, they won't believe in them

and support them on game day. After a step forward — the UI Homecoming win over New Mexico State University — students felt a sense of hope after years of frustration. It is actions like play-ers being charged for crimes that pull the morale of the university three steps back

Rebuilding UI's football pro-gram has produced years of critics and public scrutiny. Akey has tried so hard to create a football environment UI can get behind, and it's unfair the juvenile actions of a handful of athletes can bring humiliation to teammates and coaches, a university and a community of Vandal fans.

--- CL

Page 6

FEMINIST FRIDAY

Hijab: power or oppression?

In western cultures, we see dress as much more than just pieces of fabric to cover up one's body. It is a statement of identity.

In recent years, identity in the form of a particular article of clothing, the Islamic headscarf, has risen to international controversial debates on the freedom of religious expression. For feminists, it has

also become a debate of empowerment versus oppression.

Hijab, or the wearing of a headscarf, has become a statement of resistance, power, submission and political significance far beyond its traditional religious affiliation.

The common meaning of hijab is "modest dress for women," which most Islamic

However, this trend is coming at a time when, in the aftermath of various terrorist attacks, the launching of the "war against terror" and the increasing antiimmigrant sentiment have led to an increased suspicion of and discrimination against the Muslim religion across the western

world. The headscarf debate has been one of the most hot-button issues in Europe that the U.S. has managed to stay clear from — for now, anyway.

On March 15, 2004, France passed a law on secularity and conspicuous religious symbols in schools, which bans Islamic headscarves and other visible religious symbols in state schools. The law was

and Muslim parents taking their girls out of science classes, sex education and physical education classes.

If headscarves are tied in with fundamental, womenoppressing beliefs, then why has there been this increase in popularity of wearing the traditional dress?

The reasoning behind dress-ing according to hijab varies from person to person. Some women see the headscarf as a way to preserve their modesty and prevent any sexual attractions. Others are forced to wear it and see it as a way to keep women hidden and subservient.

The popularity with the headscarf among young, west-ernized women has symbolized the assertion of female Muslim identity. Some Muslim women have used the hijab to loosen the bonds of the patriarchy, resist cultural practices such as arranged marriages and to continue education away from home without alienating the parents and communities. To them, wearing a headscarf is a coping strategy to pacify the parents and reassure them they will not be "corrupted" by the public culture, the university or the workplace. When Muslim students and young, working women voluntarily adopt hijab, they do so primarily as a response to and defense against changes in gender roles and sexual identity. Adopting hijab shows cultural loyalty. It gains young women the trust of their conservative families and increases their chances to pursue educational and career goals. Western dress is seen as seductive and therefore disempowering.



Rook

arg-opinion

@uidaho.edu

If scientists were to do a research study comparing my or-ganizational skills to my life, the only conclusion would have to be that I am a bigger mess than a trailer park after a tornado. –Levi

Don't get too antsy

Obama won, and the stock market dropped. This is not because his presence is already wrecking the economy. Calm down, Republicans. Half of the investors on Wall Street are scared McCain backers like you, and the exact same thing would have happened if McCain had won. So, please sit back, chill out, eat a hot dog, listen to Trace Adkins and try to put a little trust into the inevitable new political atmosphere.

Bond is back

I don't know about you, but I'm pretty excited for the next installment of 007. My childhood hero was at his best yet in "Casino Royale," and I expect "Quantum of Solace" to be even better. Friday is marked on my calendar. See you there. — Jake

Tater hierarchy

I was just telling my dear friend Sýdney that tater tots are my second favorite form of potato. Here is my list: mashed, tater tots, baked, hash browns, french fries and jojos. Are there any more? — Lulu

— Kevin

terns denne as covering everything except the face and hands in public. People in western society

find it difficult to understand why young women would voluntarily submit themselves to Islamic oppression, which is how many people view traditional dress.

It was the end of the 20th century when Europe saw an increase in converts toward traditional values and dress in Muslims of migrant heritage. A trend toward the traditional faith is seen especially in those of second-generation immigrants, who now share much of the worldview and values of the dominant society.

This ongoing trend toward traditional values is a way for young Muslims to resist the conformist pressure of western dress that the dominant culture tries to impose upon them.

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justified on bases of secularity or the separation of state and religious activities. Politicians in other European countries such as Belgium and England are proposing similar legislation in their respective countries out of fear that conflicts of the politi-cal world are brought into the classrooms.

The issue with hijab and headscarves is people consider them not so much a symbol of religious affiliation but rather symbols of female oppression and fundamentalist beliefs.

People fear if wearing the headscarves in schools and other public settings is allowed to become the norm, trends in the immigrant community toward fundamental beliefs will continue and increase. Examples of this trend are the proposal of the Archbishop of Canterbury in England to allow Sharia law in U.K. civil courts

See HIJAB, page 7

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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

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The Argonaut welcomes letters to the editor about current issues. However, The Argonaut

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 Letters should be less than 300 words typed. · Letters should focus on issues, not on personalties.

· The Argonaut reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and clarity. · Letters must be signed, include major and

provide a current phone number. If your letter is in response to a particular article. please list the title and date of the article. Send all letters to: The Argonaut 301 SUB, Moscow, ID, 83844-4271 or arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.

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ACP Pacemaker finalist, 2003-04 SPJ Mark of Excellence winner, 2005

GOV. SARAH PALIN FACES THE GRIM CONSEQUENCES OF DEFEAT.



Scott Aguilar/Argonaut

HIJAB from page 6

After all, hijab was traditionally meant to protect women from objectification by men. Thus, the headscarf becomes empowering because it allows women to enter academics and the workplace.

Muslim feminists such as the French group Ni Putes Ni Soumises have argued against this, finding it difficult to see the "liberating" quality of the hijab. The rhetoric behind the hijab assumes women should ideally be inconspicuous and excluded from the public space, which men define as their domain. While the hijab allowed women to "invade" the public domain, wearing it only reaffirms that for women, their proper place is at home where they cannot seduce men. These are the feminists who supported the ban in France, as it serves as protection against the rise of fundamental Islam and the

female oppression within it. Others however find that banning hijab is counterproductive in the fight against fundamental Islam in the western world, saying it is more likely to help the fundamentalists by criminalizing thousands of

Kings come, kings go

Government makes for a weak,

Tuesday night was exciting. After building up to this elec-tion for two years, it all finally came to a head, and

emotions ran high on both sides. Many people on television were weeping for joy, and crowds were shouting and cheering. On the other side, the disappointment was heavy at the concession speech, and some in the crowd seemed to be sinking into depression. Despite all the excite-

ment, history tells us within a short period of time we will be ridiculing the president and unhappy with Congress. We may start out with lots of hope, but that has faded in the past, and it will again.

If we know our politicians will let us down, why do we get so worked up? Why do we put so much energy and emotion into the election? I think it is because we see control of the federal government as being the most important thing there is.

We go to politics with religious zeal because government has become our god. You think that sounds silly? I agree.

unreliable, highly incompetent god, but it is the biggest thing we know. Can you think of anything more powerful than the U.S. government? If there is a problem in the country, do we trust God's providence, or do we expect a plan from the president? When we talk about ethics, do

Benjamin Ledford arg-opinion @uidaho.edu

Because it is so important to us, we preach to make political converts, we debate fine

this. We are more than willing to engage in political fights, make personal attacks and deliver rabid speeches. We compromise our principles in order to win maiorities, we ally ourselves directly with powerful political parties and we devote our time and energy to campaigns. Just like everybody else, we'll do

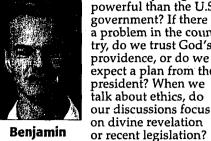
anything gain power, because we agree the most important thing is to control the government, and the best way to change a society

is by shaping public policy. This is all the worse because Christians are supposed to know better. We are supposed to have a different focus, which sets us apart. The Bible tells us clearly kings come and kings go, but the Word of God remains. No matter who is sitting in the Oval Office, God is in control. However, we seem to think if we allow the wrong people to be elected, he won't be able to carry out his plan. We act as though God needs politicians, and we give up our role of proclaiming the Gospel for the sake of a little political influence.

When Christians emphasize political goals and priorities and ignore the authority and power of God, the rest of the world looks at us and says, "Hey, you're no different than we are." They're right, and it's time we remember our hope is not in men, no matter how important they seem. If we propose the same sort of solutions everybody else does, we shouldn't be surprised when nobody comes to us for answers.

The same

1



And who do we trust to manage the education of our children?

points of political doctrine and we cheer and weep at political ceremonies and rallies. Christians are the worst at

Palin's plotting to stay in limelight

Chelsea Fiddyment Daily Illini, University of Illinois

A few hotly contested races have yet to be resolved following Election Day, including, perhaps surprisingly, Alaska's Senate showdown between Ted Stevens and Mark Begich. This may not sound like a big deal to some, but if you were waiting with baited breath for Sarah Palin to crawl back under the rock of obscurity from whence she came, listen up: don't sigh in relief just yet.

Despite all statements to the contrary prior to her selection as McCain's VP, Palin may not be interested in just serving as the governor of Alaska anymore. The GOP found exactly what it wanted in Palin: a devout social conservative with an externally female appearance (I cannot believe that Palin represents or fights for women in this country).

Though her handlers in this campaign found her perhaps a little too outwardly caustic or unwilling to stick to campaign rhetoric, there is plenty of time to reprogram her before she is put back into action in a presidential race. Now that they have her, the Republicans are not going to let her go.

In a radio interview with Rush Limbaugh, Palin said in response to a statement about her heavy open criticism of the Obama campaign, "I've got nothing to lose in this." And she's

right. She has been catapulted onto the national stage even though McCain lost, and after giving her a taste of fame, the party seems comfortable with continuing to entertain her delusions of grandeur. Tina Fey's "Palin 2012" jokes may not be so far from the truth.

But you have to learn to walk before you can run, right? Well, that's where Palin's friend Stevens comes in.

Stevens, who just barely led Alaska's polls Wednesday, is in a little bit of legal trouble. In October, the senator was convicted of seven federal corruption charges because he filed false statements on Senate ethics reforms. If he wins, he would be the first convicted felon to be re-elected to the U.S. Senate.

But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has already quashed this would-be first, saying that if would never be allowed to begin with, but also pressing the reality of Stevens' having to face an ethics committee investigation followed by expulsion, regardless of his ability to appeal.

So, should he retain his Senate seat, one of two things will happen: Stevens can step down from his position, or he will be expelled from it. And it's a realistic possibility that Palin will be waiting in the wings to appoint herself to his place. After all, ethics are not an obstacle for her, as she has already demonstrated. Maybe she and Illinois Gov.

Rod Blagojevich can appoint themselves together, in solidarity. Even if she's not willing to weather the

legal storm that would surely follow a selfselection to the Senate, Palin could easily use her newfound popularity and \$150,000 wardrobe to campaign her way into the spot during a special election. I wonder if she would get taxpayers to foot the bill for flying her kids back and forth to D.C. with her.

Besides, now that she's taken the time to publicly shame her pregnant daughter and soon-to-be son-in-law by pushing them into the spotlight with her, who could possibly want to hear the end of it (hint: every discerning person in the United States)

So, are we looking at an extended stay in the national political scene for Palin? You betcha, and likely not just for 2012, despite what "SNL" has to say about it. Assuming Obama runs for re-election in four years, Palin stands a better chance if she decides to run in eight, especially if

she "mavericks" her way into Congress. By 2018, voters will probably consider Hillary Clinton too old for the Oval Office in the same way they responded to McCain's substantial age. Can we count on some up-and-coming, liberal-minded female titan to stand up and truly represent not only women, but the entirety of our nation? If so, she better start now.

teenage girls who are simply victims of family pressure which they may be able to resist with sensitive help from schools.

The headscarf debate is a highly problematic one when the options of banning or accepting them both seem justified. However, when a woman voluntarily adopts hijab because it gives her the opportunity to pursue educational and career goals of her choice, one can find it hard to support a law that will ban them from choosing that and consequently deny them the freedom that was likewise denied to them by fundamentalists.

Proposition 8's victory a loss for California

Editorial Board Daily Bruin, UCLA

Wednesday morning, many of us woke up proud to be Americans but ashamed to be Californians.

That's not normal for us. Usually, we're incredibly proud of our groundbreaking, policy-crusading, shucking-the-status-quo home state. But Wednesday morning, the numbers were in, and more than 52 percent of Californians voted to stomp all over gay rights. Six months ago, California

became one of the few states to legalize gay marriage. Residents rejoiced in this newfound equality, and our economy showed a glimmer of hope in anticipation of a much-needed boost from wedding-related sales.

Over the past few months, a war was waged against equality. Commercials shamelessly de-clared by eliminating gay rights, Californians would be protecting their children, their churches and "traditional marriage." People spoke of the slippery slope of gay marriage becoming interspecies marriage or incestuous marriage or polygamy.

Money came in from all over to help endorse Proposition 8, most notably from Mormons in Utah. Though some may blame them for getting involved with another state's affairs, the truth is, it's Californians who went to the polls and voted yes on 8.

Some people also blame liberals, who realized early on that Obama was going to sweep the presidential election and decided not to waste their time at the polls on already-guaranteed electoral

votes from California.

Maybe they are a little bit at fault for what happened. But really, it's the people who voted yes on Proposition 8 who should be taking a good, hard look at what they've done.

Proposition 8 was not just a proposed law. It's much more serious than that. It was a state constitutional amendment, which means it cannot be changed as the result of a lawsuit or petition. The California state legislature would have to go to great lengths to repeal this amendment.

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Employment

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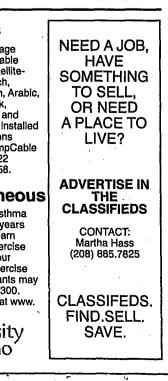
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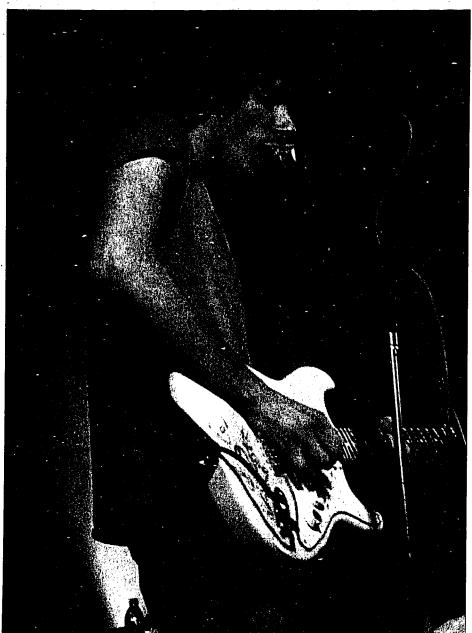


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FRONTROW

Friday, November 7, 2008

BAND COMMENTARIES





Marcus Kellis/Argonaut The band Yarn Owl (above) performs at The Nuart Theatre on Wednesday night. Also performing were The Oolongs and headliners, Women (below).

Jake Barber/Argonaut



As Pitchfork Media's Andrew Gaerig noted in his review of the self-titled album, they have perhaps "the most un-Googleable name in rock," and happen to be made up of four men, Matthew Flegel, Patrick Flegel, Christopher Reimer and Michael Wallace. Reimer and Wallace moonlight in Azeda Booth, as well.

Moscow's own The Oolongs opened playing its own blend of psychedelic surf rock before an audience deep with dancing among the theater's seats.

ing among the theater's seats. The Oolongs — Vicky Trochez, a University of Idaho graphic design student, on drums, Jesse Kappmeyer, a mechanical engineering student, on bass and Luke Ryan, a business student, on guitar and lead vocals — have been together since June 2007, when Kappmeyer broke his back in New Zealand and suddenly found himself with a lot of free time.

"One of our main goals is to contribute to the local music scene, and we've worked really hard for that," Ryan said. Ryan met Kappmeyer at Logos School in Moscow, and Ryan and Trochez are engaged.

The members of The Oolongs (named after tea, naturally) have a strong sense of what they're out to do. The drums accent the mood the bass brings, with guitar and vocals evocative of a young Jack White. After a set of perhaps 20 minutes, the band played its signature self-referencing closer, "Outro," wrapping up the set with a heavy dose of reverb.

Yarn Owl, a Pullman four-piece formed a few months after The Oolongs, followed. Yarn Owl's Javier Suarez and Ted Powers are formerly of Ether Hour, while bassist Tim Meinig was once the drummer for Band of Horses, and is currently Washington State University radio station KZUU's general manager. Tyler Armour rounds out the group on guitar. Suarez is the music director at KZUU.

The members of Yarn Owl are already immensely mature in their playing. A strong jangle permeates the guitar tones, but comparing the group with other bands is tricky: they're somewhere around Doves or Rogue Wave. Yarn Owl has a very good sense of melody, but is unafraid of going without vocals for a little while. The band consistently fires on all cylinders, but the drumming and vocals are particularly staggering.

After Yarn Owl concluded its set, Women thundered onto stage, performing a Devo cover as a sound check. Women's sound lies somewhere be-

Women's sound lies somewhere between Bauhaus and Steely Dan. Sub Pop artist and fellow Calgarian Chad Van-Gaalen produced the album, recording it according to the band's press material on "ghetto blasters and old tape machines." At times the music is tremendously creepy, like Joy Division or Xiu Xiu, but there's a constant attention to arrangement very much in the vein of prog rock.

Larson Hicks, a business developer with Economic Modeling Spécialists, promoted the concert, which was his first.

"I thought the show was a great sign of things to come for the Moscow-Pullman music scene," he said. "For our first effort, with very little time to market and advertise."

The show contract was only signed on Oct. 30.

"We were able to draw a great crowd, and it feels to me like our area would really respond well to more of this kind of stuff," Hicks said.

Hunter Valentine ready to break hearts

Canadian pop-rockers look to cross the border

Anne-Marije Rook Argonaut

Mix poppy rock 'n' roll with punk, attitude and heartbreak and you've got the three ladies that together form Hunter Valentine.

Kiyomi McCloskey (guitar, vocals), Laura Petracca (drums) and Adrienne Lloyd (bass) have been making their way into many hearts in Canada and are now looking south to capture some American attention.

The fictional persona Hunter Valentine is the ultimate heartbreaker who walks around breaking hearts without knowing it, Petracca said.

She added that the band says "he" but "everyone has little bit of Hunter Valentine in them."

"The essence of the person is that they do not know they are heartbreakers," Lloyd said. "Hunter Valentine is not male or female. It's an androgynous character,"

Well aware of their own reputation for breaking hearts, Lloyd said the girls have had experience on both ends, as heartbreakers and the heartbroken.

Lyrics from their first album, "The Impatient Romantic" (True North Records, 2007) shows just that: "I don't want no sweet valentine / I want a shot of jack to forget this time / and yes I think you're pretty / but I don't give a shit what you have to say / and I may be an asshole / but I've been shot down, beat out."

McCloskey is responsible for the lyrics, which like her, are feisty and energetic and deal with every aspect of young love.

Hunter Valentine certainly isn't one to be written off easily as "just another chick band." With McCloskey's raw yet dynamic voice and gujtar riffs accompanied by solid rhythms and classic rock percussion, the songs are simple, solid pop-rock. Hunter Valentine is still obscure in

America but that will soon change.

Formed in the summer of 2004, Hunter Valentine brought together three women from three very different musical backgrounds. Lloyd studied piano at the Royal Conservatory and said rather than famous rock idols, her music teachers were a paramount influence. McCloskey was always a lover of rock and said she looked up to Carol Pope, Janis Joplin and the like for strong, sexualized female role models.

Petracca comes from a family of drummers. Drawing her first influence from Animal of the Muppets she said drumming became a channel to "put her ADD and energy out there."

"Laura and I randomly met in an afterhours bar," McCloskey said.

Petracca said "... and by random she means totally illegal and dirty." The band found its bassist, Lloyd,

The band found its bassist, Lloyd, through a mutual friend, Lorraine Segato from the Parachute Club.

Canadian producer and musician Ian Blurton recorded their first demo in 2005 and by the summer of 2006, momentum was building around the group and Hunter Valentine signed with True North Records to produce "The Impatient Romantic."

The videos for "Break This" and "Staten Island Dreaming" may be aimed at the general, young MTV audience but while touring for the debut album, the band has drawn in a highly diverse audience of all ages, gender, sexuality and cultures.

McCloskey said they are currently "shopping for a new label," and intend to conquer the world, starting with the U.S. "We just want to be on the road as much as possible," she said. She said the girls have been working

She said the girls have been working on their second album for which they've finished 10 songs already, and they've been developing their music.

"We are more raw on stage, and we try to bring that into the new album," she said. "If you come to a live show, you'll be changed forever. You'll wake up the next morning and wonder why you have so many more feelings."

Despite the audience make-up, these ladies are likely to break hearts at every concert.

"Tell your boyfriend or girlfriend to make room for a little spot for us because you will fall in love," Petracca said.



Hunter Valentine, an all-girl pop-rock band from Canada, released a debut album in 2007 called "The Impatient Romantic" and hopes to break into the American pop scene with a second record, currently in production.

Faculty recitals rule November

Jordan Gray Argonaut

Members of the Lionel Hampton School of Music faculty are a productive bunch. In the month of November alone, they're putting on three concerts.

Featuring works from a variety of composers, including the premiere of some pieces, the concerts promise to give listeners an experience in both the old and new nuances of chamber music.

The first concert will feature Kay Zavislak, assistant professor of piano at 4 p.m. on Sunday. She will be performing works from a variety of Asian female composers. The performance will also feature the premiere of a work from Hong Kong composer Wendy Wan-Ki Lee with an unusual inspiration: paper cutting. Zavislak said she is excited to spotlight lesser known works.

"The typical concert repertoire is written by male composers," she said. "I just wanted to use this as an opportunity to highlight some of the available compositions from females. It may be a small step, but I can bring them to life so people can hear them."

Zavislak encourages people to come to the concerts, even if chamber music is not their particular type of music.

their particular type of music. "When I was a student, I was not the biggest fan of contemporary music," Zavislak said. "They were not very accessible to me. (But) it doesn't have to be the most complicated or difficult ... for something to have value. In my opinion, the pieces I'm playing are very accessible and they have something beautiful to offer."

The second concert, which will be at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 11, will feature a wide range of faculty performers, again performing works from Lee and the Idaho premiere of "Songs and Dances," a commissioned work by composer Bill Douglas. The Idaho Brass Quintet will be performing as well.

The last faculty recital will showcase the solo performance of pianist Jonathan Mann at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 19. Mann will be performing works from well-known composers like Chopin, while in the second half of his performance he will be featuring many works he said have been out of print for hundreds of years. Mann said he is currently writing a book on piano preludes like the ones he will be playing.

"I figured if I was going to teach these pieces ... I ought to be able to play them," Mann said. "It's important for the students to hear how we perform because it expresses ideas and words that we can't on how to teach and play."

Tickets for the concerts are available at the door. All concerts will take place at the LHSOM Recital Hall. The cost is \$5 for the public and \$3 for students and senior citizens.



University of Idaho assistant professor of piano, Kay Zavislak, will be performing for the first Lionel Hampton School of Music concert in November. Born and raised in Japan, Zavislak will perform works by three Chinese women composers.

'Zack and Miri Make a Porno' sweet and dirty

Meagan Robertson Argonaut

Writer and director Kevin Smith, (known for his popular past projects "Clerks," "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" and "Dogma"), has made an amazing film about two people — two people who happen to get into dire financial times and make a porno.

"Zack and Miri Make a Porno" is a refreshing film in a world of "Saw" sequels and "High School Musical" nonsense. A comedy with more of a romantic side than one would expect, the acting, storyline and soundtrack are all perfectly wrapped into a package that's hard to resist. Funny guy Seth Rogen ("Pineapple Express," "Knocked Up" and "Superbad") as Zack and the lesser-known Elizabeth Banks as Miri, are not only hilarious together, but their chemistry makes them a great on-screen couple.

The film focuses on Zack and Miri, two people who have been best friends since the first grade and roommates for the last 10 years since they graduated from their Pennsylvania high school. Neither of the two have amounted to much of anything since their high school days, living in a dump apartment and not being able to pay the bills. When their power and water is finally shut off over Thanksgiving, Zack comes to the realization they should make a porno to become rich and pay off all their debt. Little do they know actually having sex with each other will open up the doors of a realization — they are desperately in love.

This isn't just some raunchy movie about sex and porn. It's about Zack and Miri, both as friends and lovers and the awkward drama and tension-filled time in between. While there are a lot of ridiculous antics and offensive moments, you still manage to become emotionally consumed by Zack and Miri.

The well-written story combined with the killer soundtrack makes it hard to look away from the movie, even when you're sitting in a theater full of people watching a scene where they're trying to film "Star Whores" using dildos as light sabers. It's just that good.

Smith's film will make you laugh so hard you almost pee your pants and show you the most incredible/beautiful/amazing sex scene you'll ever see in your life. The scene where Zack and Miri

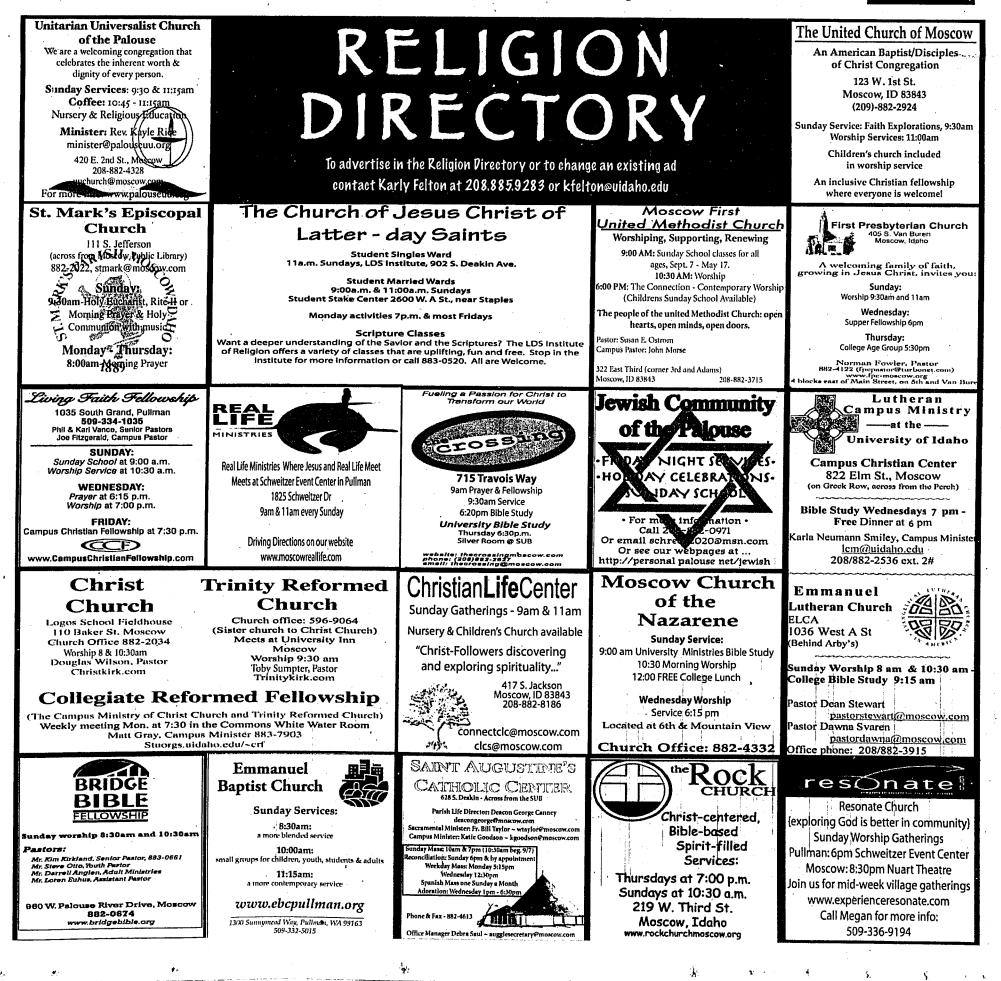
The scene where Zack and Miri actually do it is now in my top five favorite movie scenes of all time. Not because I'm a pervert or because I'm in love with Seth Rogen, but because the use of the song "Lift Me Up" by Live and the way the scene was filmed gave me chills.

It's the perfect climax of the movie — no pun intended. Way to be awesome, Kevin Smith. This movie is a must see, so go see it now.



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"Zack and Miri Make a Porno" Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks Now Playing



SPORTS87REC

QuickHITS

Vandals in action

Friday, November 7, 2008

Today

Swimming and Diving The team will compete in the Big West Shootout in Irvine, Calif. Saturday

Volleyball — Volleyball will remain in Moscow for a game against Hawai'i at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gym.

Swimming and diving — The team resumes competition at the Big West Shootout in Irvine, Calif.

Vandals to watch

Marvin Jefferson Basketball



Jefferson provided a spark off the bench for the Vandals scoring 16 points and grabbing 8 rebounds in 14 minutes. Jefferson threw down seven dunks in the game. He is a 6 foot, 10 inch junior col-. lege transfer.

> Liz Boyden and Anna Sandman Soccer/Basketball



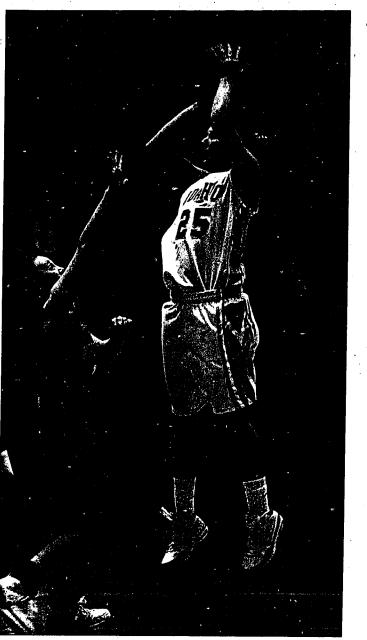
Boyden and Sandman, both goalkeepers for the University of Idaho soccer team, recently walked on to the women's basketball team. They will provide depth to a roster that currently has only six active players.





Hopson is a transfer from eighboring Washington

Hardwood and leather



Nick Groff/Argonaut Vandal guard Rachele Kloke takes a jumpshot during the game Monday in Memorial Gym. Kloke helped the Vandals to an exhibition win over the Australian club, Showtime Australia Basketball.

A short handed women's team easily handled the Show Time Australian club

Scott Stone Argonaut

Vandal fans caught a glimpse of what will be the new women's basketball team this season when they hosted Show Time Australia Monday in an exhibition game.

Sporting a new coaching staff, new game plan and a mostly new team, the Vandals defeated Show Time 72-53. With a depth chart of just six players, the team added two Vandal soccer goalies to the bench, Liz Boyden and Anna Sandman. Although the Vandals started the season with a win, Idaho coach Jon Newlee said the shallow bench was apparent late in the game. "There were times you could tell they were getting tired," Newlee said. "And I thought our shot selection wasn't great." Getting his first look at his team in a competitive situation, Newlee said he was happy with his team's effort and thought his junior point guard Charlotte Otero did a good job running the show.

the team's free throw percentage. He said it's something the team spends a lot of time on.

The Vandals shot 100 percent from the line in the first half, but missed two free throws in the second half to drop their percentage to 83.

"It's something I take a lot of pride in my team's doing," Newlee said. "Hopefully we can continue that, and we'll keep practicing because you know we're going to need every point we get this year." Because of the new stuff the team must learn, Newlee said the season snuck up on him and he didn't know if the team was ready. "I didn't think we were going to really be ready," Newlee said."And I thought we were more ready than I thought we were going to be tonight. Otero, who played all 60 minutes of the game, said the team exceeded expectations. "We did a lot better than everyone kind of expected,' Otero said. "Everyone did exactly what we needed to do." The regular season will start for the Vandals on Friday against Texas Tech, and See WOMEN's, page 11



Kate Kucharzyk/Argonaut

Page 10

Mac Hopson drives to the hoop for a Vandal score on Wednesday's game with Walla Walla University. The University of Idaho men's basketball team finished the game with 106-40 victory.

Idaho men's basketball used height to its advantage in a dominating 106-40 victory

Levi Johnstone Argonaut

The University of Idaho men's basketball team played its first exhibition game against Walla Walla University Wednesday under new coach Don Verlin and with a vast size advantage the Vandals rolled to victory 106-40.

The Vandals ended the game

parent from the beginning of the contest Walla Walla had nobody taller than 6 feet, 4 inches while the Vandals' tallest player comes in at 6 feet, 10 inches. It was nowhere more apparent than in the rebounding category where the Vandals dominated 45 to 16. The team also scored 69 points in the paint as opposed to WŴU who had eight.

"We obviously had a huge height advantage and we wanted to em-phasize that," Verlin said. "Our guys did a good job getting the ball inside and our inside players did a good job of scoring." In the first half of the game, the Vandals ran set offensive plays with discipline and were rewarded with good shots. Verlin said in the second half, the Vandals opened up the fast break as a result of good defensive stops. "We got some more stops in the second half and we're going to run the break every time we get a stop," Verlin said. "I was a little disappointed in the first half. They get rewarded if they get a stop and they can get out and run." While the season opening performance ended in a lopsided victory for the Vandals, Verlin said the team still has a lot to work on and will use this week to prepare for some tough non-conference games.

State. His father played for the Vandals as well. For the team to be successful, it will look to Hopson as not only a scoring threat but a guard who will run the offense efficiently as well.

Did you know ...

The Vandals scored 69 points in the paint against Walla Walla University in their exhibition match Wednesday.

Vandals by the numbers

106 Number of points scored in the men's basketball game against Walla Walla University.

9 Points allowed by the men's basketball team during the second half of the game Wednesday. The Vandals held visiting Walla Walla University to 15.8 percent shooting from the field in the second half and 32.6 percent for the game.

Number of football play-3 Number of 1000000 persecution and indefinitely for being involved in a fight over the weekend. The three players were charged with misdemeanor battery.

Obscure stat of the day

In 1984-85, the University of Idaho women's basketball team won 28 of 30 games en route to a NCAA tournament appearance. The team was ranked No. 17 in the nation by the CNN/USA Today poll on March 5, 1985.

Newlee was also happy with

with six players scoring in double figures. Junior Brandon Wiley led all scorers with 21 points on 9-13 shooting.

Fellow junior Marvin Jefferson had an impressive game as well coming off the bench to give the Vandals a spark. He scored 16 points and nabbed eight rebounds in the home opener. Jefferson was 8-10 from the field with seven of his field goals coming from dunks.

"Marvin is a good athlete, and he's come a long way," Verlin said. "He's a junior college transfer, he's athletic, he's long, he plays hard and he did a good job tonight."

The Wolves kept the game close for much of the first half, with a flurry of threes. With a little more than 8 minutes to go in the first half the score was 30-27. Walla Walla went cold after that, and at the end of the first half, the Vandals led 57-31

The height advantage was ap-

See VICTORY, page 11

the California sun swimmin 1n

Jaimee Myers Argonaut

The University of Idaho swim team is heading to Irvine, Calif. on Friday to swim against some of the best west coast schools at the Big West Shootout.

Freshman Samantha Hammerly came to UI from Colorado to continue her career in swimming and bond with a

new group of athletes. "Irvine is going to be fun because we can all be together as a team," Hammerly said. "We will get to know one another more because it's our first travel meet."

Hammerly said with no seniors on the team, the juniors have stepped up their leadership abilities in order to help the freshmen adapt to a new lifestyle at the collegiate level.

Captain Katherine Kubancik said she is looking forward to see everyone perform their best in the warm southern California weather.

"It is very exciting because we basically have a brand new team, Kubancik said. "It is the first meet where everyone who is well can swim, and we can see how we react to good competition."

Both swimmers said practices have been focused on speed and performance so the team does well in their races this weekend.

"We are excited to see how we stack up," Kubancik said.

Kubancik is one of eight juniors on the swim and dive team. She has adapted to her captain role by motivating other swimmers to keep the women

working as a good team. "She is taking care of "She is taking care of us by making sure every-one is happy because the team comes first," Ham-team comes first," Our coach is good at

The swimmers said many teams are going to be present in Irvine Western Athletic Conference schools along with bigger Pacific Athletic Conference schools like

Stanford. "The change has been hard," Hammerly said. "I have gotten a little home-sick, but the team has helped so much that I love it here."

Along with swimming and racing in the sun, the team plans to enjoy their

switching up the rooms we stay in," Kubancik said. "We get a chance to goof off and get to know everyone when we go out to dinner and be loud."

The UI swim team said they expect to do well in the individual medley race, distance swims and the sprints because they have practiced continuously.

They work us hard, but that is what I am here for," Hammerly said.

The next meet will be held at UI where the Vandal swimmers take on Northern Arizona University Friday.

The Vandals are on a bye this week, which makes it . a great opportunity for you college football buffs to spend a Saturday in front of the television.

Lucky for you, there are a ton of meaningful ballgames that will have serious BCS implications beginning early Saturday morning.

I recommend ordering some grub, enjoying several cold beverages with friends and taking in an entire day of college football. I have some ad-

vice for you to make sure your Saturday of college football isn't wasted.

The great thing about college football compared to the pros is its amount of television coverage.

In the NFL, you need the DirecTV package to watch most of the games.

Not so in college football. Really, all you need is basic cable.

Games begin at 9 a.m. and unlike the NFL, you will have a choice of which game to watch.

Personally, I like hooking up more than one TV in my living room to maximize the games I can watch. If you can pull that off, I highly recommend it.

Below is a list of games that you can watch during your daylong experience of college football:

9 a.m.

Baylor at Texas (FSN) -Fox will override ESPN in the morning as you should wake up to Baylor at Texas. Sur-prisingly, Baylor is solid this season and almost knocked off Missouri last week. I'm guessing Texas will handle them fairly easily after being upset by Texas Tech last week. This is a good Big 12 game to start your day off with as the

Longhorns are still in National Title contention.

Ohio State at Northwestern (ESPN 2) - Make this game your switch-to during all commercials. You don't have to watch commercials on this day. Remember that. Northwestern is surprisingly decent this season and may

have a chance to earn one of the biggest upsets in school history against the Buckeyes. Hopefully this game is close on the scoreboard. Nothing is worse than the best two games being blowouts.

Here are some other quality ballgames beginning at 9 a.m.: Purdue at Michi-

Johnny

Ballgame

Argonaut

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gan State, Georgia Tech at North Caro-

lina, Michigan at Minnesota 11 a.m.

Utah State at Boise State (local TV) — See what the Vandals are up against as the Broncos murder-face the Aggies. Maybe Boise State will pull out a flea-flicker or triple-reverse-option-pass to make things interesting. Oh, those tricky Broncos.

12:30 p.m. Alabama at LSU (CBS) -This is possibly the game of the day. If 'Bama has National Title hopes, this is probably a must-win. I can't wait to see if LSU can rise up and play at Alabama's level. I think they can. I expect this one to go down to the wire and may be a South Eastern Conference classic. Nick Saban is returning to Baton Rouge. Don't mīss it.

Penn State at Iowa (ABC) — You're going to want two TVs. If not, be sure to check up on this game early and often. Wear out that old "recall" button on the remote if Iowa comes out strong and looks like they have a chance to win. I expect Penn State to win easily, but the game is in Iowa — so maybe they have a chance.

Although you probably want to stay tuned to the games mentioned above. Here are some others to watch during the middle of the day:

Clemson at Florida State, Oklahoma at Texas A&M and Stanford at Oregon 5:00 p.m.:

Oklahoma State at Texas Tech or Cal at USC (both on ABC) - This is where it may get tricky for you. Due to the ABC network trying to please all fans, they telecast regionally broadcasted games. I know, it sucks. You may not get to see Oklahoma State at Texas Tech. You may be forced to watch Cal at USC. If you know someone who has the ESPN college game plan pack-age you will be able to watch both games. Hopefully, ABC will show Idahoans the OK State vs. Tech game but I'm sure they figure all Idaho fans root for California teams, so expect to see the Pac-10 rather than Big 12 - such a bummer. Head to Winger's if you really want to see OK State vs. Tech Florida at Vanderbilt (ESPN

2) — Florida may be the best team in the country. Too bad they slipped-up against Ole Miss earlier in the season. Watch Tim Tebow go crazy against a fairly good Vandy.

Notre Dame at Boston College (ESPN) — If you like root-ing against the Fighting Irish, this might be your game. Boston College is playing well this season and has a great chance to win this one at home.

It should be around 9:00 p.m. after this round of games is over. You have plenty of time to get ready for a long night of activities. Enjoy your Saturday, and be sure to show up next weekend in the Kibbie for Idaho versus Boise State.

Listen to the Johnny Ballgame Show on 89.3 fm or kuoi.org each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and Sundays at 8:30 p.m.



Vandal guard, Shaena-Lyn Kuehu from Honolulu, runs down the court on a fast break Monday afternoon in Memorial Cym. Kuehu, with 22 points, helped the Vandals to an exhibition win over the Australian club, Show Time Basketball.

WOMEN'S from page 10

14 against Texas Tech, and Newlee said although the team played well against Show Time, it will need to step it up against its better opponents.

"Texas Tech is not these guys by any means," Newlee said. "And neither are the rest of the teams on the schedule. So we're going to have to block out and get a lot more physical.'

Being more physical is a major part of Newlee's game plan, which he said is going to be fast and aggressive.

'We're going to push the ball every

time we can," he said. "We're going to shoot a lot of threes, and we're going to

try to play fast. As fast as our depth will allow us.' Otero's excited about the team's new

game plan. She said the team has been working hard in practice to learn the plays, and it was nice to see it come together in a game.

'It's a lot more fun to play," Otero said. "It's just up and down quick plays. You just kind of play basketball."

She said the team is still learning and will continue to grow.

"We are a completely new team and we're going to be growing a lot this year," Otero said. "And we appreciate a lot more support."

Bad blood in dead game

James MacPherson Associated Press

cials are recommending that pregnant women and young children avoid eating meat from wild game killed with lead bullets.

The recommendation is based on a study released Wednesday that examined the lead levels in the blood game killed with lead bullets appeared to have higher lead levels than those who ate little or no wild game.

The elevated lead levels were not considered dangerous, but pregnant women and children under 6 are considered most at risk from lead poisoning, which can cause learning problems and convulsions, and in severe cases can lead to brain damage and death.

Disease Control and Prevention and the state health department, is the first to connect lead traces in game with higher lead levels in the blood of game eaters, said Dr. Stephen Pickard, a CDC epidemiolgist who works with the state health department.





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TRIPLE TEAMED

Roll Tide: Saban restores pride

Paul Newberry Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala: Mike Johnson still remembers his recruiting trip to Alabama, which came with a heavy emphasis on — who else? — the Bear.

He drove down Paul W. Bryant Drive. He walked around Bryant-Denny Stadium. He received a tour of the Bryant Museum, where they keep a replica of the late coach's office, all the championship trophies, the shiny rings — even a crys-tal duplicate of the Bear's famous houndstooth hat, twirling under glass with an imposing sign that says, "Do No Touch."

"It's pretty cool," said Johnson, who was a Florida State fan growing up in the Panhandle but now plays offensive line for the Crimson Tide. "It's nice to be a part of that."

But this isn't some musty tradition fit only for a museum. It's on the move again --- evolving, growing, eager to carve its own niche at a school where Bryant still reigns supreme, more than a quarter-century after his death.

With Nick Saban at the helm, Alabama has clawed its way back to a position that was common in the Bear's day: unbeaten and No. 1. They expect nothing less in this state, where college football is feted with a single-minded passion that can't be matched anywhere.

"Here in Alabama, we don't have any pro sports teams," said quarterback John Parker Wilson, whose mother was a Crimson Tide cheerleader. "You either pull for Alabama or you pull for Auburn. It really draws the state together."

Indeed, this sport pro-vided immeasurable pride when Alabama — the state, not the team — was the scorn of the nation during the civil rights movement. Bull Connor may have pointed fire hoses at blacks for simply demanding the right to vote, but no one could deny that Bryant's all-white team was one of the nation's best, still fighting its own, more successful version of the Civil War.

When integration grudg-ingly came, Bryant started recruiting talented black athletes and kept right on winning, his teams hoarding five national titles and 13 Southeastern Conference titles by the time he retired after the 1982 season. He was stricken with a fatal heart attack exactly four weeks later, which only seemed to enhance his legend. Even today, on a campus where most of the student body wasn't even born when the Bear died, his presence is everywhere.

The campus bookstore sells all manner of houndstooth attire, starting with the famous hat Bryant wore on the sideline (except, of course, when Alabama played in a dome, because his momma always told him not to wear a hat indoors). There's also scarves, handbags and cof-fee mugs adorned with the checkered pattern.

But Saban, who had won national championship with LSU, arrived at Alabama supremely confident a brick at his office win-

he could take advantage of "A lot of the Bryant's footthings I was print withstumtold about bling over it. It helped Alabama to be following a string have not coaches turned out whose legacies ranged to be so." scorn and betrayal Nick to shame and embarrass-SABAN

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Mike Price were caught in scandals off the field; Price, in fact, was fired without ever coaching a game in Tuscaloosa. Dennis Fran-chione abandoned the Tide without bothering to say goodbye, while Mike Shula proved too inexperienced to handle the job. "A lot of the things I was

told about Alabama have not turned out to be so," Saban said. "All the positive things have been very positive and some of the negative things haven't really been so.

Asked for specifics, he pointed to the enormous expectations that anyone coming after the Bear must ultimately live up to. Ray Perkins thought it best to make a clean break, but he only angered the masses when he ripped down Bryant's famous coaching tower. Bill Curry tried to appease the Alabama faithful, even putting the tower

back up, but he was always treated as an outsider because he hadn't played or coached under Bryant.

Only Gene Stallings, a Bryant protege who even sounded a bit like his old coach, was able to win over Crimson Tide fans. Of course, it helped that he won the first national championship of the post-Bryant era in 1992.

Saban knows he, too, will largely be judged on wins and losses. He can live with that.

'Everybody says what a hard place it is to coach," Saban said. "I don't see that at all. I appreciate the interest. It wouldn't be a very good thing if there weren't expectations, as long as they're realistic.

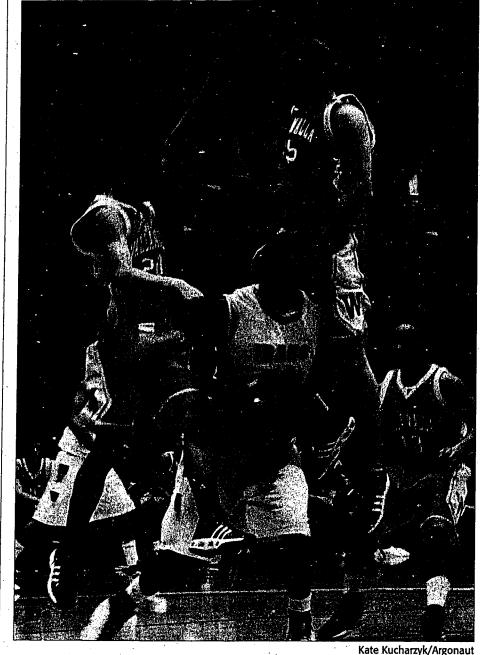
While Curry stirred up such ire in Tuscaloosa that someone reportedly threw

dow, he has no ill will toward the school he coached from 1986-89, winning a share of the SEC title his final season. In fact, he's still amazed at just how far tradition and expectations can carry a program. "You can take an ordi-

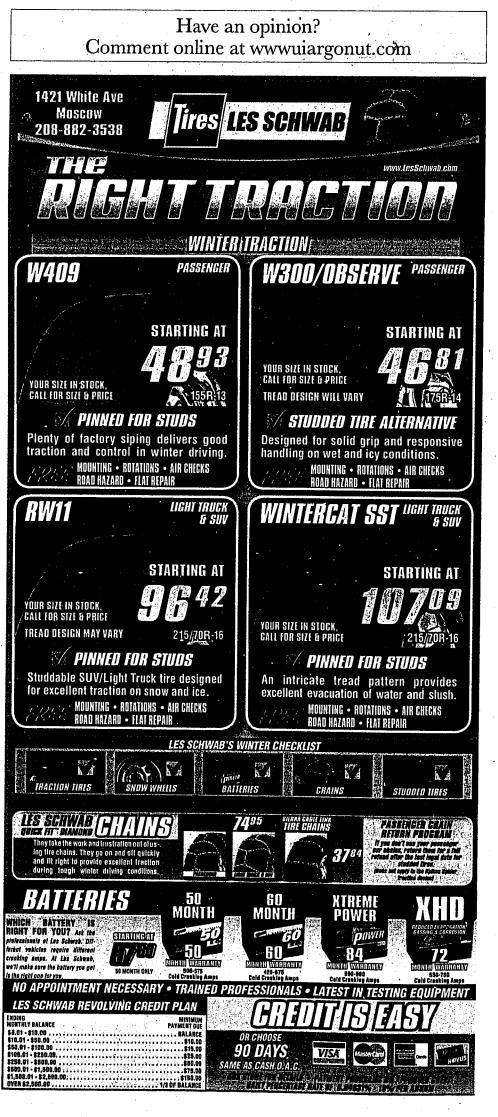
nary player, put that crimson shirt on him Saturday afternoon, and the son of a gun turns into Superman," said Curry, who now coaches Georgia State's fledgling program. "Kids play be-yond themselves. You never have to motivate the guys. They expect to win when

they come to Alabama." Saban recognized that when he was lured away from the NFL's Miami Dolphins by the richest contact ever given a col-lege football coach. The Crimson Tide brand has been immortalized in everything from song (Steely Dan's "Deacon Blues") to the big screen (the 1990s submarine movie starring Denzel Washington and Gene Hackman). "Tradition and name reg-

ognition are important in terms of the Crimson Tide," Saban said. "People know what that means. It's one of the most recognized names in sports."



University of Idaho center Marvin Jefferson, center, attempts to go for a shot as Walla Walla University forward Andrew Bailey, right, and guard Britt Balk try to block him dur-ing Wednesday's game in Memorial Gym. The Vandals won 106-40.



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Peavy train out of San Diego has left the station

Ronald Blum Associated Press

DANA POINT, Calif. Jake Peavy probably will be traded by the San Diego Padres before the winter meetings next month.

After spending four days at the annual general managers' meetings, Padres GM Kevin Towers said it is unlikely the 2007 NL Cy Young Award winner will remain with San Diego, which signed him out of high school in 1999.

The train's kind of left the station," Towers said Thursday.

Guaranteed \$63 million under a contract that runs through 2012, Peavy is relatively inexpensive when compared with what CC Sa-bathia is likely to get on the free-agent market. The righthander also has a no-trade clause, so he can determine where he winds up.

"We're not in control of the speed or the train," Peavy's agent, Barry Axelrod, said in a telephone interview. "The only thing we've got is a brake.'

Peavy's initial list of teams San Diego should concentrate on included Atlanta, the Chicago Cubs, Houston, the Los Angeles Dodgers and St. Louis. The

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Braves, Cubs and Dodgers appear to be the most likely candidates for a trade.

Towers, cutting payroll following a last-place finish, anticipates a trade before the winter meetings open in Las Vegas on Dec. 8. Given the paucity of pitching, the 27-year-old is highly prized. He was 10-11 with a 2.85 ERA in 27 starts last season.

"We're not to the point where we've agreed on who the players are coming back. We just have an idea of who's available to us and who's not," Towers said. "Now it's just a matter of looking at three priority teams that are involved and trying to figure out what our optimum deal is. Some of them involve third teams and potentially fourth teams, so it becomes a little more complicated."

At last year's GM meet-ings, Philadelphia acquired closer Brad Lidge and infielder Eric Bruntlett from Houston for outfielder Michael Bourn, pitcher Geoff Geary and minor league third base-man Mike Costanzo, a deal that helped the Phillies win the World Series for the first time since 1980. Florida held. trade talks on third baseman Miguel Cabrera, who was dealt to Detroit along with

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Dontrelle Willis at the winter meetings.

There were no trades at this year's gathering, with talks more cautious. That's because this year's freeagent class includes stars such as Sabathia, Manny Ramirez, Mark Teixeira and Francisco Rodriguez.

"The premium guys this year seem to be better than last year," said Mets GM Omar Minaya, whose biggest move last offseason was to acquire ace pitcher Johan Santana from Minnesota. "You'd rather do a free-agent deal than a trade, if possible, because with a free agent you don't have to give up prospects. And the way it is now, everybody is trying to keep their prospects.

Minaya needs a closer because Billy Wagner is expected to miss all of next season following elbow surgery. K-Rod and Brian Fuentes are the top two among free agents, and both will sign eight-figure contracts. Free agents can start negotiating money with all teams starting Nov. 14.

Dodgers manager Ned Colletti made the biggest news of the meetings when he said Los Angeles offered Ramirez a deal with the second-highest average salary in baseball.

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