

# UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

# THE ARGONAUT

Volume 109, No. 34

www.uiargonaut.com

The Vandal Voice for 110 Years

Friday, January 23, 2009

## STATE FUNDS

### Seven percent slash expected

Reid Wright  
Argonaut

The University of Idaho budget team toiled over Winter Break to tie down loose ends on a 4 percent cut in state funding for this fiscal year and prepare for an anticipated 7 percent — or \$8.6 million — cut for the coming fiscal year.

"The certainty of it is relevant," said Lloyd Mues, vice president for finance and administration, citing Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's Jan. 12 approval of the possible 7 percent cut. "We have been told this adjustment is permanent until the legislators finish their session, and it becomes law. Anything can change ... will it be 7 percent? Don't know. Will it be less than 7 percent? I doubt it. But I can't predict that."

Mues said the university currently faces three major challenges: balancing the FY 2009 budget in response to Otter's 4 percent cut announced in December, adjusting to the 7 percent cut for next year and the Program Prioritization Process. Mues emphasized PPP was initiated independently of the state cuts.

The budget office has run various simulations to determine possible courses of action, said Jana Stotler, university controller.

"It is a big deal," she said. "There's a lot of work to it."

The financial models assembled by the budget office will eventually be presented for executive approval, Stotler said.

The solutions to the possible 7 percent cut for next year are still undetermined, Mues said.

"There is no specific one answer," Mues said.

He said delaying or scaling down construction and renovation projects were likely, such as the

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## Up in arms

### Gun sales increase nationally after Obama election

Alexiss Turner  
Argonaut

Moscow's Big Five isn't the first place most people look for firearms — but business is booming.

Employee Jon Stein said sales have increased by 50 percent or more. He attributes most of the boost to the fear locals have of a gun ban being implemented in relation to the election of President Barack Obama.

"It was hard for us to keep them in stock," he said.

Sales reports from across the country have shown similar signs. According to a CNN report on FBI statistics, there were 374,000 background check requests from Nov. 3 to 9, the week Obama was elected — a 49 percent increase from last year.

Regarding Obama's stance on gun control, little has been discussed. He has said publicly the Second Amendment and the right of state governments to create their own gun laws will ensure individual gun rights are protected.

To combat allegations that he is avoiding the subject, Obama has said he considers the issue a low priority.

Steve Brown, sporting goods manager of Clearwater Builders Supply in Kamiah, Idaho said gun sales have risen at his store over the last two months.

He said the popularity of tactical weapons or "black guns," including semi automatics, increased the most.

"Sales just went crazy," he said.

The wait list for weapons of this nature were anywhere from six months to a year around the U.S. during the week of Obama's election, Brown said.

"Everybody is speculating a ban on high-capacity weapons," he said. "They want to get them before they

can't."

A ban was placed on certain semi-automatic rifles and large magazines in 1994 under the Clinton administration. It was revoked in 2004 when a 10-year extension was voted against.

Obama has suggested the ban be restored to re-establish safety measures such as requiring customers go through background checks at gun shows and others.

Moscow Tri-State assistant processing goods buyer Keith Warren said requests for firearm ship-

**"(Customers) want to have their rights to what they want."**

Keith  
**WARREN**  
Tri-State employee

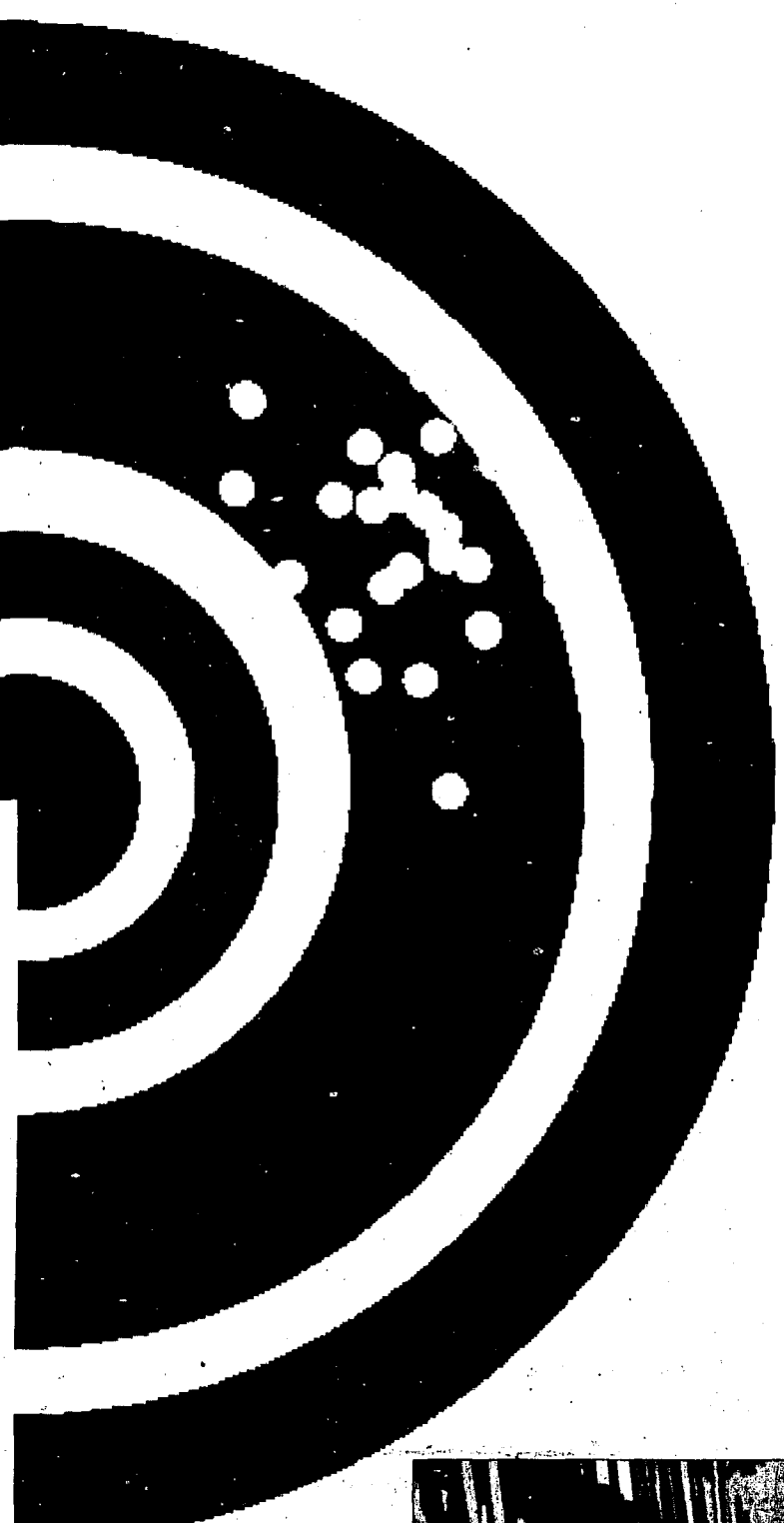


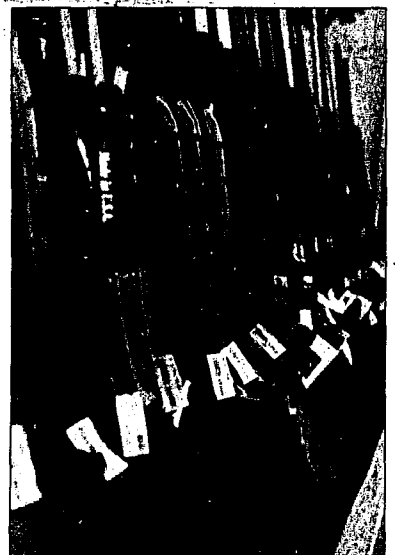
Photo illustration by Alexiss Turner

ments of all kinds picked up the first month following Obama's election and have remained steady since.

"I've worked in retail long enough," he said. "Every time a Democrat gets in office, it tends to happen that way. (Customers) want to have their rights to what they want."

The National Rifle Association has its own views on the effects of Obama's presidency. An article released on the group's Web site claims Attorney General Eric Holder has been a proponent of the Second Amendment for years.

See GUNS, page 5



Steven Devine/Argonaut  
Businesses like Moscow Tri-State have seen a rise in gun sales since Barack Obama's election.

## Graduation venue still unknown

### Construction renders Kibbie Dome unusable

Erin Hartly  
Argonaut

University of Idaho graduating seniors are still in the dark this semester about where commencement ceremonies will be held in May.

With the Kibbie Dome under construction, UI is struggling to come up with a venue large enough for the event.

Kibbie Dome renovations are already underway, and Brian Johnson, the assistant to the vice president of facilities, is telling all facilities users to make alternate plans.

"I anticipate construction will be continuing from March through August," Johnson said.

Until spring 2007, graduation ceremonies were held for each individual college on campus. This approach was changed to a formal all-school graduation that took place in the Kibbie Dome in both the spring and fall.

Last year, more than 1,000 students participated in the May ceremony, with each college holding its own celebrations afterward. The College of Law holds its own graduation in Memorial Gym.

UI students have not been informed of any changes in the graduation platform, but some think that going back to smaller college graduations would be better.

"I've heard rumors that they were going to split it up and do it in each college," said Kayla said Dahmen, a senior in the College of Letters,



With the Kibbie Dome under construction, the location of the next graduation is uncertain. File Photo that the University of Idaho might be going back to smaller ceremonies for each individual college.

Arts and Social Sciences. "I kind of like the idea of that. It's smaller, and you know the people graduating with you."

Daniel Clift, an architecture student, worries if college-specific graduations are being held at the same time, he won't be able to at-

tend his friends' ceremonies.

Breaking up the graduation by college would make each graduation smaller and shorter, but the university would still have to decide where

See VENUE, page 4

## Mixed gender dorm rooms given the axe

Lianna Shepherd  
Argonaut

On Thursday Interim President Steven Daley-Laursen announced the proposed co-educational dorms would not go underway.

"After visiting and reviewing the actual physical configuration of the suites that had been proposed for co-ed housing in the future, I have decided that we will not use the suites for this purpose," Daley-Laursen wrote.

Tania Thompson, the University of Idaho representative, said announcing the proposed change was done hastily.

"We just got ahead of ourselves," she said.

According to Daley-Laursen the plan has been discontinued. Although the suites offered "private and secure sleeping accommodations," they also featured a shared bathroom

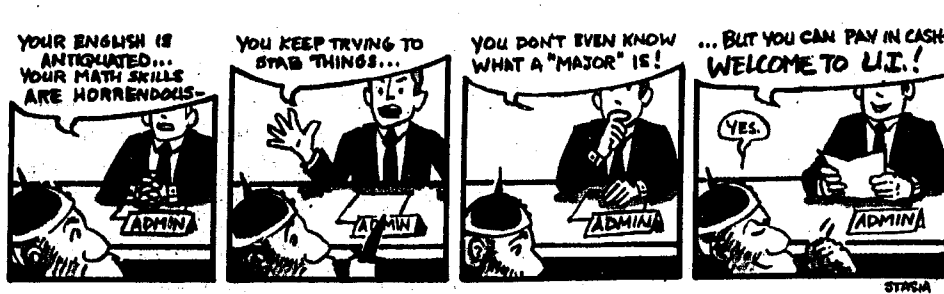
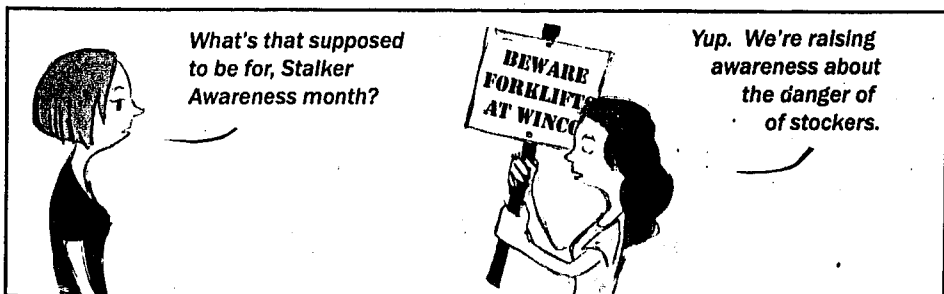
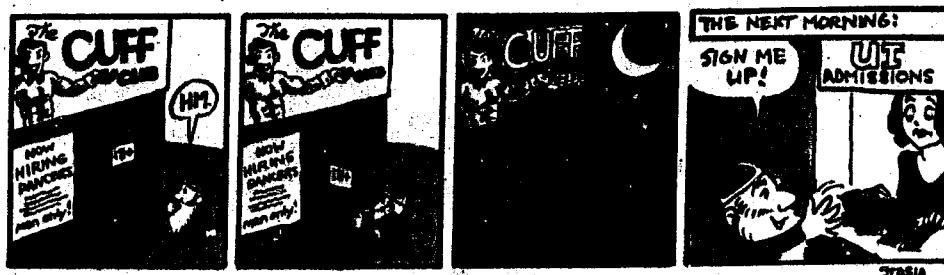
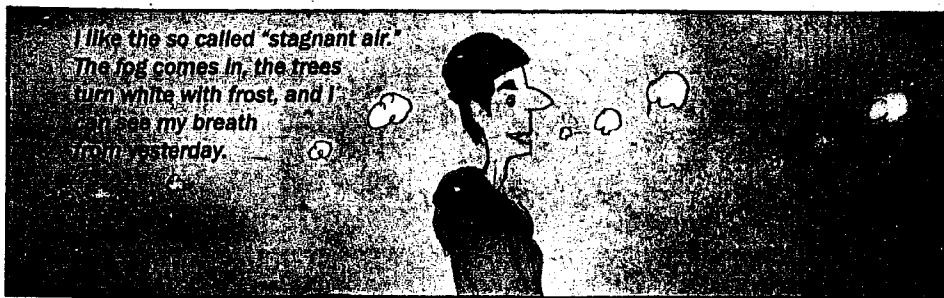
See AXE, page 4

### PeopleWeKnow

K. Ray Johnson/Argonaut

### Percy the Barbarian

Stasia Kato/Argonaut



**CAMPUS REC**  
University of Idaho

## Late Night at the Rec

**CO-REC VOLLEYBALL**  
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Singles Racquetball	Feb 5

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Class Sessions: Jan 27 or Feb 10  
Day Clinics: Jan 31 or Feb 14  
\$45 UI students, \$50 all others  
(Includes transportation and lift ticket)

**CAMPUS RECREATION**

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University of Idaho  
campusrec.uidaho.edu

### CampusPROFILE

# Bruce Pitman

Vice Provost of Student Affairs

What are you most looking forward to this semester: \_\_\_\_\_

*Developing a strong first year experience program to help our students be successful*

What change from last semester are you most proud of: \_\_\_\_\_

*work on first-year student initiative*

Is anything stressing you out: *Budget/Resource issues*

One word to describe your self: *Compassionate*

Your favorite class in school: *Counseling classes*

Dream Vacation: *warm sunny location*

*Hawaii*

Favorite band: *Jack Johnson*

*Johnny Cash*

Fondest Memory: *mile stone events*

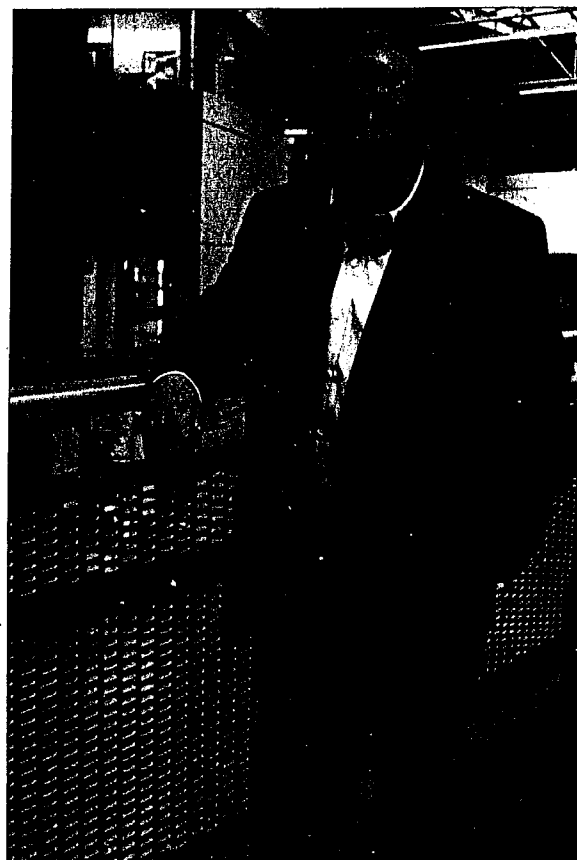
*associated with my three Vandal children*

What would you do with a million dollars: *UI alternative*

*break service trips*

Best advice you have ever received: *Spend your*

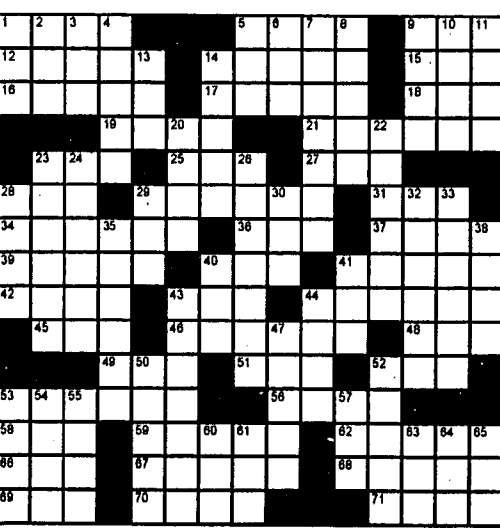
*time doing things that matter*



Jake Barber/Argonaut

### Crossword

- Across**
- Houseboat actor Grant
  - Pouches
  - Annoy
  - Spring sign
  - Coffee order
  - Bonanza's Blocker
  - Manet contemporary
  - Fall flower
  - Swelled head
  - Tailor-made
  - Shocked
  - Out of a job? (Abbr.)
  - Gr. letter
  - Kind of party
  - Gun, as an engine
  - Dessert fire
  - Unruly crowd
  - Bring out
  - Tire filler
  - Ship's front
  - Navigational aid
  - Baseball's Mel
  - High-strung
  - Diplomacy
  - Reverence
  - Gofer's job
  - Cozy room
  - Indistinct
  - "... the season..."
  - Back then
  - Dashed
  - Ocean
  - Daze
  - Bottomless
  - Sun shade
  - City on the Mohawk
  - Red River city
  - Biblical high priest
  - Designer's concern
  - Tire pattern
  - Favorite
  - Cool drinks
  - Brink
  - Concept
  - to riches
  - Air mile
  - Compass pt.
  - Devil ray
  - Whip mark
  - Clothes basket
  - Add new ammo
  - Express
  - Type of golfer
  - Medical advice, often
  - Cone bearer
  - Drill part
  - Showy
  - Sarajevo locale
  - Snooze
  - Marries
  - Wise one
  - Give it a go
  - Cut short
  - Irish river
  - Speeder's bane
  - Dutch cheese
  - Bowling score
  - Stride
  - Story
  - Condo, e.g.
  - Young newt
  - Bar stock
  - Romaine lettuce
  - Wine color
  - Joke
  - Lyric poem
- Down**
- Bounder
  - "... you sure?"
  - 18-wheeler
  - Bakery supply
  - Distress letters
  - Behave
  - Trickster
  - Boot camp boss



### Sudoku

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

### Corrections

Find a mistake? Send an e-mail to the section editor. Contact information can be found on page 6.

### Solutions

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

# New dialysis center to open

Greg Connolly  
Argonaut

Starting this summer, Moscow residents in need of dialysis treatment will no longer have to make tri-weekly treks to Lewiston, Spokane or Coeur d'Alene.

Gritman Medical Center has teamed up with Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane and Fresenius Medical Care to create a full dialysis center in Moscow, said Gritman Community Relations Director Kelly O'Neill.

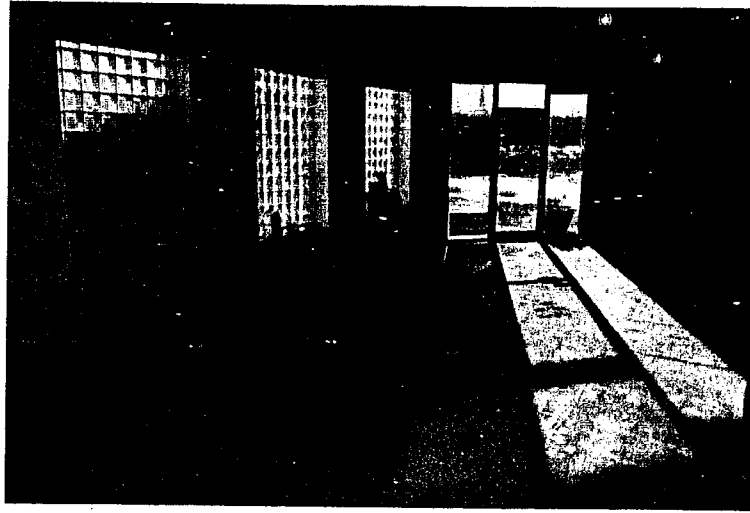
Fresenius Medical Care specializes in dialysis treatment and offers service to more than 1.6 million people through its 2,297 clinics spread throughout five continents, according to a corporate release.

Dialysis is the process of inserting a soft tube known as a catheter into the abdomen, which then fills up with a cleansing liquid called dialysis solution. The solution absorbs waste and extra fluid from the abdomen, taking all of it out of the body once the solution is drained.

Moscow is currently without a dialysis center, which has forced some residents to move to cities that have one.

"One man is moving back to Moscow from Lewiston once the center opens," O'Neill said.

The new center, at 721 S. Main St., will feature nine dialysis units, one of which is in seclusion for people who need to be isolated due to medical conditions. The building originally started off as a gas station and then became a bank. After the



Renovations are currently underway at 721 S. Main St. to open the Palouse Dialysis Clinic, which will be up and running in May in partnership with Gritman Medical Center.

bank moved out, the building became home to a clinic.

"The board of directors of Gritman Medical Center have been pushing for a dialysis center for many years," O'Neill said.

The center will be equipped to handle close to 50 patients per week, saving several area residents a long commute.

According to a press release from Gritman Medical Center, any accredited nephrologist can apply for medical staff privileges. Nephrology is the field of study devoted to the kidney.

Since dialysis treatment is on average five hours, including the check-in and wait, the commute to a different city is quite

inconvenient, O'Neill said.

Gritman Medical Center and Fresenius Medical Care entered into agreement to fund the center about six months ago. The construction is expected to last into the summer.

"I think this is really important because the rates of diabetes and high blood pressure are growing quickly," O'Neill said. "Diabetes plays a major role in kidney failure."

O'Neill added the new center should make Moscow more desirable for people considering locating here who require the treatment.

According to the National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse, di-



Todd Baty of Spokane Concrete Cutting works on the renovations in a former bank building where the first dialysis clinic on the Palouse will be. The clinic will be a joint effort between Gritman Community Relations and Fresenius Medical Care.

alysis becomes necessary when an individual suffers from kidney failure, either temporary or permanent.

The kidney performs an important role in the body, cleaning out blood and contributing to bone strength.

# Fair aims to inspire students

Travis Mason-Bushman  
Argonaut

The University of Idaho opened its doors to the world Wednesday for the spring Study Abroad Fair.

The event packed the Clearwater and Whitewater rooms in the Idaho Commons with UI staff and faculty, along with representatives of several overseas study organizations. All offered opportunities and answer questions from students interested in learning in places as diverse as Finland and India.

The intent of the fair, UI Study Abroad adviser Mary Ellen Brewick said, was to give students a window into the wide variety of options and potential advantages of spending a summer or a semester studying in a foreign country.

"We see this event as a chance

for us to inspire people," Brewick said. "Students who participate in study abroad programs can see a different culture from the inside, experience total immersion in a foreign language or learn to view the world from another perspective."

John Langdon, a digital art/design major, spoke to several representatives about possible study destinations in Europe. He said the fair provided him with a one-stop shop in his quest for an overseas experience.

"My mother had a wonderful time studying for a semester in France when she was in college," Langdon said. "In talking to her, I knew that I'd want to have that same kind of adventure. Right now, I'm thinking about going to Italy, but I just found out about a design school in Rome that may be an option too."

Music major Brendan Johnson

stopped in to find out about opportunities in his field. He heard from music history assistant professor Barry Bilderback, who will lead a three-week study abroad trip to Ghana in early May, focusing on the country's traditional music. Johnson, who is studying classical and jazz guitar, said the trip has piqued his interest.

"The Ghana thing really sounds cool," Johnson said. "The roots of jazz are in African music, and I think knowing more about those traditions would deepen my musical knowledge and experience."

Around 250 students take part in UI-sponsored study abroad programs each year, said Jill Kellogg-Serna, study abroad coordinator. Universities and colleges from virtually every corner of the globe participate, and thanks in part to this diversity, a location

can be found to fit most budgets.

Students register as UI students, and thus remain eligible for all university scholarships and federal student aid.

"If you're flexible about where you want to go, studying abroad won't cost much more and could even be less than it costs to live and study on campus," Kellogg-Serna said.

Some of the most popular destinations are Spanish-speaking countries, as Spanish language students seek a cultural and linguistic immersion in their field. Spanish major Naomi McClaine, who is headed to Ecuador in the fall, said she thinks the experience is vital to her studies.

"I really like exploring other cultures and having to use the language all the time really forces you to become fluent in its use," she said.

## Calendar

### Today

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

### Saturday

Band Fest XXXII  
9 a.m.  
Administration Auditorium

### Sunday

Sigma Alpha Iota Musical  
3 p.m.  
Lional Hampton School of Music Recital Hall

Women's basketball vs. New Mexico-State  
2 p.m.  
Cowan Spectrum

### Monday

Sigma Alpha Sorority Rush Informational Night  
7 p.m.  
Idaho Commons

Legal Aid Workshop Offered for Same-Sex Couples  
7 p.m.  
1912 Center

## Local/BRIEFS

### Students to learn dining etiquette

The University of Idaho's annual Dine with Style etiquette dinner is scheduled for Feb. 10 in the Idaho Commons Clearwater and Whitewater rooms.

The dinner will feature a six-course meal, and participants will learn professional dining etiquette.

Tickets for students are \$20 each and can be bought in the Career and Professional Planning office located on the third floor of the Idaho Commons.

UI food and nutrition students designed the menu. The event is sponsored by Fast Enterprises LLC, Stryker, First Investors, Idaho National Laboratory, Target Corpo-

rations, Wells Fargo and Power Engineers.

For information, visit [www.capp.uidaho.edu](http://www.capp.uidaho.edu).

### Join mentoring program needs

The University of Idaho Women's Center is looking for mentees to join the Women's Mentoring Program.

The focus of the program is to connect mentees with experienced students, staff or faculty mentors to build campus relationships.

To become partnered with a mentor, interested students can pick up an application at the Women's Center located in the Memorial Gym. Applications are due by Jan. 30.

For information contact, Lynn McAlister at [lynnm@uidaho.edu](mailto:lynnm@uidaho.edu) or 885-6616.

### More snow on the way

As more snow starts falling, citizens of Moscow are reminded of sidewalk maintenance.

According to a Moscow City ordinance, to keep sidewalks clear of snow, it is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to clean off the sidewalks. It is important to keep sidewalks clear of snow and debris.

For information, contact the Public Works Department at 883-7034.

### Courtroom has new technology

The University of Idaho's

College of Law has new technology in its courtroom allowing law students to receive first-class technology training.

A demonstration of how the upgrades work will be given to the public by professors Trapper Stewart and John Hasko. The demonstration will be at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 30 in the Menard Law Building.

The new courtroom features include AMX touch screen controls, point maker annotation software for the use of video and still images on any screen, a voice-activated camera and a 50-inch PX350 Smart Board.

For information, visit [www.law.uidaho.edu](http://www.law.uidaho.edu).

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**PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION**

**ASUI pushes for more time**

**Chava Thomas**  
Argonaut

The ASUI Senate passed a resolution Wednesday requesting an up to three-week delay in the Faculty Council decision that could lead to the possible removal of the communication studies major at the University of Idaho.

Members of the Senate said they specifically singled out the communications program because of the large amount of students in the major in comparison to the other program cuts issued by the Provost's Council.

The proposed cuts, including 41 different programs, were announced Tuesday. The cuts were determined by the university's Program Prioritization Process, an assessment initiated to increase academic efficiency within the university.

"I think what our reasoning was if we ask them to hold everything, they wouldn't respond," said Sen. Zachary Arama, co-author of the resolution. "Some of the programs only have one or two people, or even zero people. 140 people are in this major."

Arama is a communication studies major.

He said he wanted to make sure leaders at UI understood cutting a major has serious repercussions for students.

Sen. Joe Black said the reason he helped write the resolution was he got calls from students about the communication major specifically.

"Our job is to represent the students," Black

said. "If another student from another major called I would have done the same."

The resolution states the communication studies major is a program that can "apply to a wide range of career fields and is extremely useful when considering many ... careers."

It also states eliminating the major will prolong a student's time at the university and may cause many students to find a new major.

The Faculty Council may vote on programs to be cut or consolidated as soon as Tuesday, but the decisions could take much longer.

Sen. Sophia Tsai, a communications minor, and said one reason for the cut may be a shortage of personnel. The communications department had the approval to replace staff they had lost last year, but after the hiring freeze went into effect, they were unable to do so, she said. The communications department is understaffed and many students cannot get into classes, she said.

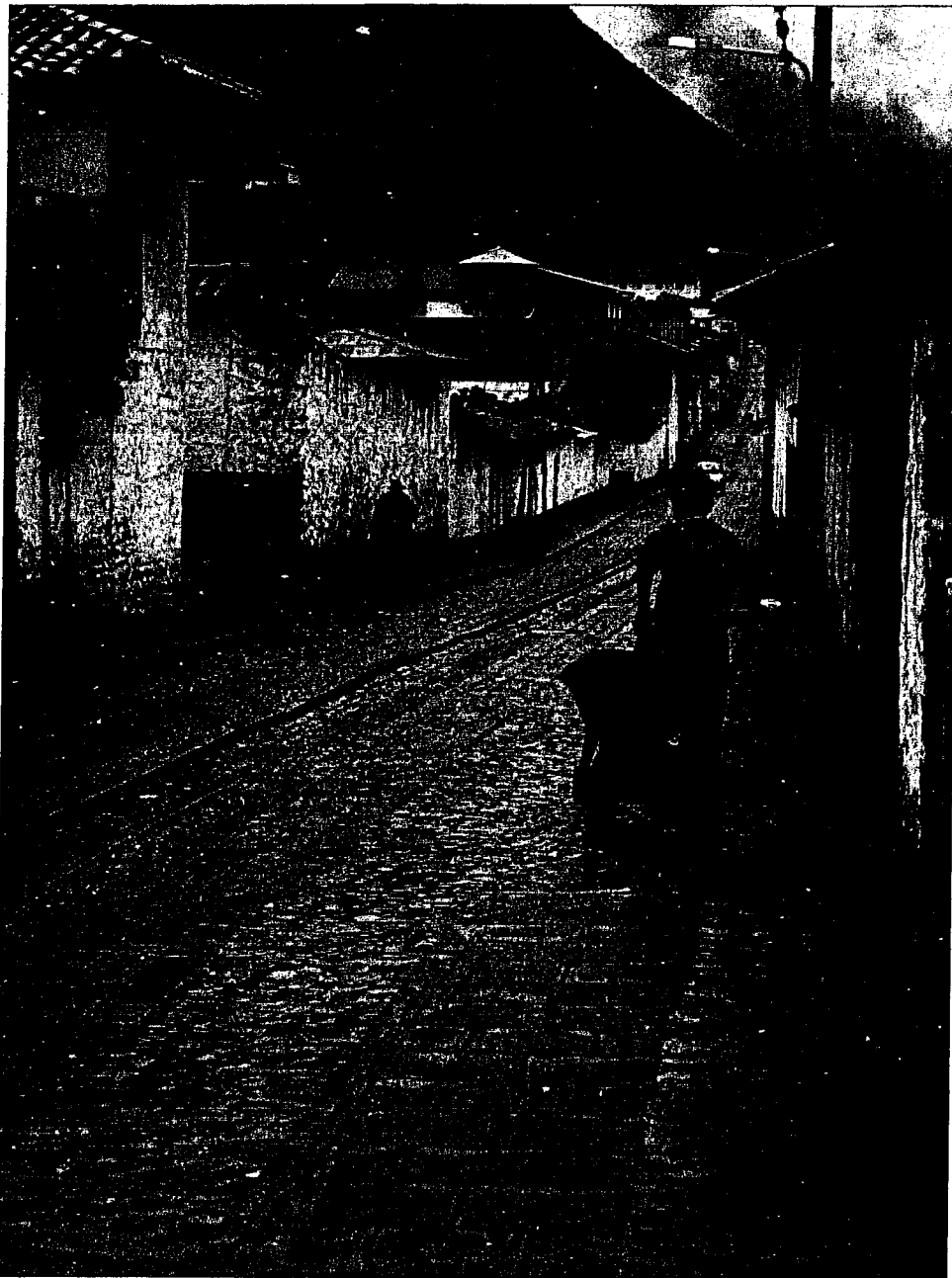
"There are 50 people on the waitlist for some classes," Tsai said.

If the communication studies major is cut, the minor will remain in place, Arama said.

The physics major is another program up for cuts. The program currently has 71 students, according to the UI department Web site.

"If a physics major wanted me to look in on that, I would have ... I can't act on my own wishes but the ones of the students," Black said.

**BUILDING THE FUTURE**



Over Winter Break, a group of University of Idaho students traveled to Cai Cay, a Peruvian Villiage, to help in the construction of a youth center. Other service groups were sent to the Gulf Coast and Romania.

Lianna Shepherd/Argonaut

**VENUE**

from page 1

to hold them. In the past, several ceremonies were held in the Student Union Building ballroom at varying times and also in the Memorial Gym and the Kib-

bie Dome.

The university still has not announced its plans for the May 2009 graduation, but the Registrar's Office said as soon as they know, the students will know.

"I don't think any of us have anything solid to say about this right now," said Heather Chermak, an asso-

ciate registrar.

Tania Thompson, spokesperson for UI, said more information should be released in early February, but the university is exploring a range of options for commencement.

An announcement regarding commencement is expected Tuesday.

**SenateREPORT**

**Open Forum**

Kelby Wilson, ASUI activities board chair, told members of the Senate a sign up sheet was available for Ice Bowl Flag Football games.

**Unfinished Business**

S08-1, a resolution condemning state of Idaho cuts in higher education budget, was immediately considered and passed.

**New Business**

**Bills**  
S09-01, a bill providing for the assignment of senators to living groups, was immediately considered and passed.

S09-02, a bill providing for the assignment of senators to senate standing committees, was immediately considered and passed.

S09-03, a bill providing for the assignment of senators to ASUI standing boards, was immediately considered and passed.

S09-04, a bill appointing Kristin Caldwell to the position of ASUI director of health and wellness, was immediately considered and passed.

S09-05, a bill appointing Kristin McGee as ASUI Student Achievement Awards coordinator, was sent to Government Operations and Appointments.

S09-06, a bill to increase Vandal Small Concerts chair position salary, was sent to Finance.

S09-07, a bill to increase Lecture/Performing Arts Chair position salary, was sent to Finance.

S09-08, a bill canceling the Jan. 28 ASUI Senate meeting, was immediately considered and passed.

**Resolutions**

S09-02, a resolution requesting a delay in the Faculty Council vote regarding the removal of the communication studies, was considered and passed.

— Chava Thomas

**FUNDS**

from page 1

installation of new windows in the Brink/Phinney building.

Constructing a road linking campus to West Pullman Road near to Tri-State Distributors, is likely to continue, Mues said, as well as the Kibbie Dome Life Safety upgrades, which will be jump started by a \$10 million loan from Wells Fargo.

The university has also initiated a Request for Innovation asking members of the UI community to come forward with ideas on how to save money.

The hiring freeze is likely to continue, Mues said.

"What we will do to make up the 7 (percent cut)," he said, "is we will identify

some positions that we will not ever fill." Mues said the numbers and locations of the vacant positions to be dropped have not yet been specifi-

cally identified, but up to 50 were possible.

Faculty, staff and administration layoffs are also a possibility, Mues said.

"As this plays out, there may be people whose jobs go away," he said. "At this time, they have not been identified ... Nothing is off the table."

However, Mues cautioned against jumping to conclusions.

"We're not going to cancel classes," Mues said. "We may have to tweak sizes of classes, but the quality of our education is our core purpose."

The finance office is also looking to analyze sources of revenues, such as student fees, Mues said. The process of calculating the proposed student fee increase for next year is entering its initial phase.

"What we want," he said, "(is to) not ask the students to pay very much ... and yet at the same time, the budget's got to balance somehow."

Stotler said the university is looking at ways to reduce other expenditures as well.

Mues encouraged constructive thinking in the UI community to resolve budget challenges.

"The thing that I think we all need to understand is that this is a public institution, and it is largely funded by the tax-payer dollars from the state," he said. "We can scream and holler and throw our hands up, or we can go, all right, how are we going to make this work' ... this is a tough time and we're going to make it."

Stotler said the budget holdbacks have provided an opportunity for UI to clean up its budget.

"It does make you look with a very analytical eye," she said. "What you are doing and how you are doing it ... This gives you the opportunity to look at efficiencies."

UI has not been told to hold funds in reserve for FY 2010 for now. However, Mues said the state Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee sent a communication to UI Friday requesting the university most unobligated one-time state-appropriated funds for FY 2009 in reserve, with the exception of funds for UI's Center for Advanced Energy Studies.

Mues said it is difficult at this time to assess the total of how much the requested reserve amounts to, but the budget team is currently working on it. He said the request for a reserve is likely just a precaution.

"The legislators are still

gathering information about the state of the economy," he said. "Until they can get to the same level of awareness as the financial management team, it's just prudent to say, 'OK guys, hang on to your dollars a little bit, until we can get through this.'"

The challenge, Mues said, is finding funds to reallocate that are not already obligated, such as faculty salaries.

"That was the beauty of the (hiring) pause we went into," he said. "That has allowed us to move into this without screaming 'the sky is falling.'"

Mues said he anticipates restrictions on hiring and travel have saved enough money to align with the Otter's 4 percent holdback for the current fiscal year.

"In hindsight, the action we took on our pause, turned out to be pretty good for us," Mues said. "When you have a vacancy, you ac-

crue salary savings."

Mues said that he expects to get through the remainder of FY 2009 without any more cuts from the state level.

Stotler said the final budget numbers for FY 2009 would not be known until the end of March, but she expected the budget to balance.

"We're on track right now," she said. "Our reserves are sufficient."

Stotler suggested several ways for UI personnel to save money, such as pooling electronic resources such as printers, teleconferencing to save on travel, and buying office supplies from sources that have contracts with UI, such as OfficeMax.

"We save significant dollars if we use these (contracted vendors)," she said.

Mues said the state funding cuts are across six separate state appropriations including General Education,

Agriculture Research and Extension, the Washington-Idaho Veterinary Medicine Program, Washington Wyoming Alaska Montana Idaho medical education program, Forest Utilization Research, and the Idaho Geological Survey.

These cuts were not across the board, Mues said, but were individually assessed. General education received a 6.9 percent cut while ARES received a 7.3 percent; WWAMI 8.9 percent; FUR 10 percent; WI veterinary medicine 1.8 percent and IGS received 7 percent reduction respectively.

On the university level, Mues said the FY 2009 cuts were distributed evenly at the level of the vice presidents and left to their discretions within their departments.

"Ultimately, it's really up to the executive level," Stotler said.

**AXE**

from page 1

space which the interim

president said, "I am not comfortable offering to students of opposite gender."

Both Provost Doug Baker and Vice Provost of Student Affairs Bruce Pit-

man were unavailable for comment. The office of University Residence Director Ray Gasser deferred comment to University Communications.

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# RHA hosts pool party after meet

**Dara Barney**  
Argonaut

With the upcoming swim and dive battle against Boise State University, the Residence Hall Association will hold a Beat BSU Pool Party in an effort to rally students and bring in the new semester.

"We all have Vandal pride. We need to beat BSU. Go Vandals," said Steve Hanna, the RHA events coordinator. "We have been advertising the swim and dive meet as well as our party."

The event will be from 3-5 p.m. Saturday at the Swim Center. The swim and dive meet sparked the idea to host a pool party.

"We hope that more than 100 people show up. We want everybody to come," Hanna said.

A small portion of student housing fees provides funding, Hanna said.

There is a want to get students back into the groove that things are happening, it isn't just classes, and it is fun to be here, said John Paul, RHA marketing and communications coordinator.

The event is free to all students.

"As things started off kind of slow first semester, we want to kickoff this semester with a great time for people," Hanna said.

The idea is new to the university.

"As far as I know, this event is brand new," Hanna said. "It is a new move for us. We are excited, it is a great step forward."

Many games will take place, but the introduction when students get to the pool is a surprise, he said.

"We'll quarter off a section for people who just want to hang out," Hanna said. "The diving boards will be open as well. There will be 'Sharks

and Minnows,' water basketball and polo and maybe a whirlpool will get started. For those who want more structure, there will be the '2009 Water Olympics.'"

This series will include five events, he said.

"There will be a breath holding contest, a freestyle race, a two-person chain race (in which pairs link on to each other and swim as a unit) and a splash/dive contest off of the diving boards," Hanna said.

Prizes won't be awarded, but residence halls will win hall points.

UI's victory or loss at the swim meet won't play a factor in a successful turnout at the party, but a victory could only help, he said.

"No matter what, I think it is going to be a good time," Paul said.

The swim and dive meet will be held at noon Saturday.

# Idaho makes more cuts

**John Miller**  
Associated Press

BOISE — Idaho budget writers voted Thursday to cut \$18.5 million more from the current year's spending than was previously mandated by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

Some lawmakers say they already have a place for the savings: shoring up public education, which faces the prospects of larger classes, fewer teachers and scaled-back programs amid the worst economic crisis in decades.

Budget writers found about \$6.3 million from the state's fiscal year 2009 Permanent Building Fund budget, including \$5 million appropriated to help the Idaho State Historical Museum expand. That project is now on hold. Dozens of other agencies also came up with savings, totaling some \$12.2 million, that are now returning to the state general fund.

The attorney general's consumer protection fund is also moving \$2.2 million to the general fund months earlier than usual, to bring the total transfers to about \$20.7 million.

With these additions, about \$150 million has been carved out of the original 2009 appropriation, or some 5 percent.

After the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee approved the transfers, Republican senators at a closed caucus meeting Thursday said public education would get priority status in the debate over where the additional money should go in the fiscal year that starts July 1, according to lawmakers who attended the meeting.

"The intent is to try to use that to soften the blow," said Senate Caucus Chairman Russ Fulcher, R-Meridian, who met with reporters later.

Otter's plan calls for cutting \$75.8 million from Idaho's share of public educa-

tion funding, which would slip to \$1.34 billion. Though he used about \$60 million from an education reserve fund to fully offset his 4 percent cut in the current year, he doesn't recommend using the \$53 million remaining in the education fund — in case the economic downturn persists and reserves are needed in future years.

The Republican governor's budget chief, Wayne Hammon, told The Associated Press that Otter agrees "in principle" with the notion of using the latest savings for K-12 public schools but wants to see details before endorsing any plans.

"The governor doesn't want to cut public schools," Hammon said. "It's just, given his commitment not to spend all of the rainy day funds, it's unavoidable."

Lawmakers on the budget-writing committee say the additional savings came after state agencies were asked to scrutinize about \$89 million worth of projects in their current year budgets.

Those that hadn't been started or could be delayed were required to return the money, said Rep. Maxine Bell, R-Jerome.

Before educators start counting on the money, however, House Speaker Lawrence Denney offered words of caution: "I don't know that any of the money is earmarked yet," Denney told The AP on Thursday afternoon.

He's concerned that tax revenue figures, reflecting retail sales for December's holiday shopping season, will be even worse than many people anticipate when they're released in early February.

If that's the case, Otter might have to ask agencies to give up an additional 2 percent of their budgets.

"From what I've seen, when we get the next month's tax revenue figures, we could be even deeper in the hole," said Denney, R-Midvale. "I would caution public education that they will still likely be facing a significant cut."

**"... When we get the next month's tax revenue figures, we could be even deeper in the hole."**

**LAWRENCE DENNEY**  
Idaho House Speaker

# Citing American character, Obama to close Guantanamo

**Jennifer Loven**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Breaking forcefully with Bush anti-terror policies, President Barack Obama ordered major changes Thursday that he said would halt the torture of suspects, close down the Guantanamo detention center, ban secret CIA prisons overseas and fight terrorism "in a manner that is consistent with our values and our ideals."

"We intend to win this fight. We're going to win it on our terms," Obama declared, turning U.S. policy abruptly on just his second full day in office. He also put a fresh emphasis on diplomacy, naming veteran troubleshooters for Middle East hotspots.

The policies and practices that Obama said he was reversing have been widely reviled overseas by U.S. allies as well as in less-friendly Arab countries. Former President George W. Bush said the policies were necessary to protect the nation after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks — though he, too, had said he wanted Guantanamo closed at some point.

"A new era of American leadership is at hand," Obama said.

Executive orders signed by the new president would order the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, shut within a year, require the closure of any remaining secret CIA "black site" prisons abroad and bar CIA interrogators of detainees from using harsh techniques already banned for military questioners.

That includes physical abuse such as waterboarding, a technique that creates the sensation of drowning and has been termed torture by critics at home and abroad.

For the signing ceremony, Obama was flanked in the Oval Office by retired senior U.S. military leaders who had pressed for the changes.

Underscoring the new administration's point, the admirals and generals said in a statement: "Presi-

dent Obama's actions today will restore the moral authority and strengthen the national security of the United States."

Not everyone felt that way.

Criticism surfaced immediately from Republicans and others who said Obama's policy changes would jeopardize U.S. ability to get intelligence about terrorist plans or to prevent attacks.

House Minority Leader John Boehner was among a group of GOP lawmakers who quickly introduced legislation seeking to bar federal courts from ordering Guantanamo detainees to be released into the United States.

Boehner, R-Ohio, said it "would be irresponsible to close this terrorist detainee facility" before answering such important questions as where the detainees would be sent.

Obama said he was certain that the nation's security is strengthened — not weakened — when the U.S. adheres to "core standards of conduct."

"We think that it is precisely our ideals that give us the strength and the moral high ground to be able to effectively deal with the unthinking violence that we see emanating from terrorist organizations around the world," he said.

"We don't torture," Obama said, but Bush had said the same. The question has always been defining the word.

Later in the day, Obama visited the State Department to welcome newly confirmed Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, emphasizing the importance his administration intends to give diplomacy in his foreign policy. He told Foreign Service officers and other department employees they "are going to be critical to our success."

The president and Clinton jointly announced the appointment of former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, who helped broker peace in Northern Ireland, as special envoy to the Middle East. Former U.N. Ambas-

sador Richard Holbrooke, who helped write the peace deal that ended Bosnia's 1992-95 war, was named special envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan.

But for all the talk of a new era, it remained unclear how much of a shift Obama plans for the Middle East.

Though he named high-profile envoys to regions where critics say American attention lagged under Bush, the Mideast policy Obama outlined was no different.

He said he would aggressively seek a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians while also defending Israel's "right to defend itself." He called on Israel and Hamas to take steps to ensure the cease-fire that is in place in Gaza will endure. And he called on Arab states to show more support for the beleaguered Palestinian government of President Mahmoud Abbas.

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## GUNS

from page 1

On its Web site, the group has compiled a list of 24 reasons why Obama is a "threat to Second Amendment liberties."

According to the list, Obama is in support of increased licensing processes, more legislation against right-to-carry laws and high-

er taxes on ammunition. Stein said ammunition sales have doubled in the last year.

"Ammunition sales have gone up leaps and bounds," Brown said.

Along with increased government control, Stein said fears range from subdued to more extreme and "out there" views, including zombie attacks.

"A lot of them are pretty out there," he said.

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Stasia Kato/Argonaut

## OurVIEW

# Culture of fear

While millions of Americans rejoiced Tuesday at the peaceful transfer of power that is guaranteed in our democracy every four or eight years, others feared the demise of one of our basic rights — the Second Amendment.

Gun sales nationwide rose following the election and inauguration of President Barack Obama, and they show no sign of stopping. Many gun stores named Obama their salesman of the year, and sheriff's departments have seen an increase in weapons permit applications since November.

Gun rights advocates claim Obama and the Democrat-controlled Congress will take action to restrict their ability to purchase, own and use firearms. Some even believe their guns will be taken away altogether.

Such fear mongering goes to show the politics of panic and jumping to conclusions are still alive and well in America.

The Second Amendment guarantees Americans' right to own firearms. Even if Obama were in favor of overturning the amendment — and he isn't — three-

fourths of the 50 state legislatures would have to approve the decision. It's safe to say that won't happen any time soon.

To many Americans, gun restrictions are nowhere near as frightening as the thought of the damage guns have caused to human life, much of it innocent, or the thought that some families may be forgoing other important purchases to acquire a gun because they're scared the guns won't be there later.

More dangerous weapons in the homes of average citizens mean a greater chance of lost lives to accidents, misunderstandings and, again, jumping to conclusions.

Are we so afraid, so untrustworthy of one another that we feel the need to fortify our defenses in preparation for war against each other on our own soil?

That's not American, and despite the protests of weapons rights advocates, any decision Obama makes regarding firearms will likely come after deliberate thought over what is ultimately best for America.

— HB

## Off the CUFF

Quick takes on life from our editors

### Tumultuous times

This week feels like there was no long weekend, and even though I can't afford it, pretty much the only thing to cheer me up right now is the Red Door's bread and garlic balsamic oil dip. I will splurge on an entrée just to get that fresh bread and oil with a side of happiness.

— Sydney

### Fancy toilet

Merrill Lynch CEO John Thain has resigned. He spent more than \$1.22 million in 2008 to renovate his office, including spending \$131,000 on area rugs, \$1,400 on a wastebasket and \$35,000 for a "commode on legs." So, how about that bailout?

— Holly

### But it's so catchy

I've been listening to the radio lately, and I feel like I've discovered the one thing to create crappy yet highly marketable music: a key word. Examples: "Womanizer" by Britney Spears, "Umbrella" by Rihanna and that "It's hard out here for a pimp" song, which won an Academy Award. Key word: pimp.

— Alexis

### Death from above

A Massachusetts engineering firm has created a flying car to cost \$194,000. In reaction to a drop in pilot license applications, the government is relaxing licensing restrictions, which may help the car succeed. It's called the "Transition," but they might as well just call it the "Terroristmobile" or something more sellable, like "Jihad-rod."

— Kevin

### New obsessions

In my English class, we wrote down our obsessions. Now I find myself obsessing over tiny, mundane details.

Today I found myself checking out each person's eyebrows, then comparing them to one another by categories. Bushy-ness, width, color, plucked, unplucked, angle, arch and pitch — the last of which I think I just made up. Can eyebrows have a pitch? Ugh.

— Levi

### Not racist

People made a stink over Dr. Joseph Lowery's benediction at the inauguration. They say his prayers for a day when "brown would stick around," "the red man would get ahead, man" and "white would embrace what is right" are in bad taste. He was merely throwing a little humor into a serious event and hoping for a day when we are all equal. Lighten up.

— Jake

### What the frak?

How are we in a recession, and Skymall is still in business? Car companies, banks, airlines and the housing industry are all going bankrupt, but Skymall is still in business. It is sad we aren't buying plane trips, but we are still purchasing useless, overpriced items from Skymall.

— Jens

### Filthy rich floozy

A woman in Nevada has been offered to sell her virginity for \$3.8 million. She set up a private auction in a legal Nevada brothel. This 22-year-old Jezebel is hustling out of the nothing-but-class "Moonlite Bunny Ranch." Virgin? Either she's insane in the membrane or is the smartest woman on the planet. Only a man would be stupid enough to get his junk in that trunk.

— Christina

### Job well done

One of President Obama's first acts of office was to close Guantanamo Bay and end waterboarding interrogation methods. I can honestly say I'm not disappointed yet.

— Lianna

# Better ways to save lives

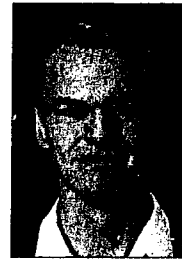
Although some awareness events — such as National Coming Out Day — receive a substantial amount of attention from the university and student groups, others seem to fly entirely under the radar. For that reason, most readers probably don't know this week has been designated as Sanctity of Human Life Week. The fact this receives so little attention belies the scale and importance of the issue it highlights, namely abortion.

It is also mildly ironic during the same week in which some are trying to focus on saving lives, we have sworn in a president who promised his first act would be to sign the Freedom of Choice Act. If it is passed, FOCA would eliminate the restrictions and regulations on abortion that many states have enacted in the years since Roe v. Wade, and it would allow federal funds to be used for abortion.

Whether or not FOCA is passed, pro-life groups will face difficulty and opposition in the new administration, and legislation will probably turn even more in support of abortion. Although it is still important to speak out morally against legalized abortion, the most effective methods of saving lives will not be affected by the changing winds in Washington.

The evidence of this can be found within the annals of American history. Although we may think of abortion as becoming common only in the 20th century, the truth is, in 1860, just prior to the Civil War, the rate of abortion in the United States was higher than it is today. There were roughly 160,000 abortions in 1860, or 5.3 for every 1,000 Americans. Last year there were 1.2 million abortions in the U.S., which works out to 3.9 for every

See SAVE, page 7

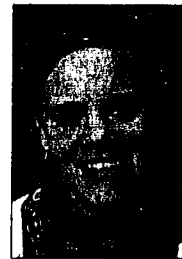


Benjamin Ledford  
Argonaut  
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## FEMINIST FRIDAY

# Is Obama a new feminist icon?

The cover of the special inauguration issue of Ms. Magazine has been getting some attention — both positive and negative. Ms. Magazine, arguably the leading feminist magazine in the country, features America's new leading man Clark Kent-style on its cover. Obama is shown tall and proud, ripping open the chest of his dress shirt and tie to reveal, not the familiar gold and



Anne-Marije Rook  
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statement, "This is what a feminist looks like" instead. A man on the cover of Ms. is quite exceptional and has some feminists wondering if Ms. is trading in Wonder Woman, who appeared on the cover twice, for Superman, questioning if it's best for women to have a male hero and whether this symbolizes women need to be saved by a man.

But Ms. Magazine explained that in choosing

this cover, it is merely reflecting the high expectations and hopes the nation and American feminists have placed in Obama.

I personally despise the gender battles. Although I would have loved to see Hillary Clinton in charge, and I am pleased to see her in the role of secretary of state, I am also excited and hopeful of the Obama administration.

The fact is, Obama ran on the strongest platform for women's rights of any major party in American history. As the husband of an equally

See ICON, page 7

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Editorials may not necessarily reflect the views

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

**MailBOX**

**UI should reevaluate sports**

Bob Dickow and Nick Gier's column, "Athletics get breaks during crisis" (Wednesday), was a long-overdue rebuke of the University of Idaho athletics program's seemingly unassailable financial security. It's absurd that amid this economic maelstrom, administrators are focus-

ing their fiscal knives on education without considering cuts to athletics. Shouldn't the big money suckers be singled out first? Years of lavish spending on athletics have not raised winning teams, yet the asinine belief the university's future fortunes are in football and not education persists. Certainly, collegiate sports serve our institution. Athletics remain an essential part of the student experience.

For alumni, the Vandal legacy may account for continued support, but that support is rooted in academics. If the university cares to preserve its status — especially in times of tough financial responsibility — it should re-evaluate its zealous commitment to the athletic program.

Beau Baker  
junior, radio/TV/digital media

**SAVE from page 6**

1,000 Americans. The fact abortion was so common at a time when the laws of the land, the medical establishment and even the New York Times were opposed to it should convince us winning the public policy debate does not necessarily mean more children will be spared. However, we also have a positive example from history, because through persistent action by pro-life organizations, the abortion rate dropped

by at least 50 percent between 1860 and 1910, and it stayed low until the 1960s. This was not done with legislation or public debate but through support and care given to pregnant women and their children. Groups such as the Free Home for Young Girls, the House of the Good Shepherd, the Red Cross, Florence Crittenton Homes and the Door of Hope provided refuges and boarding homes for unmarried, pregnant women. In 1893, the Home for the Friendless refuge in Chicago cared for 1,291 women. At the same time,

groups such as the Erring Women's Refuge and the Children's Aid Society worked to find adoptive homes for children whose mothers could not raise them. Between 1890 and 1907, a Women's Christian Temperance Union refuge in Elmira, N.Y., placed more than two-thirds of the babies born into adoptive homes. The methods that were employed 100 years ago to save lives are the same ones that are effective today if only we would commit to them. Of course, these methods also demand much more of us. If we want children

to be adopted, we have to be willing to adopt them, and if we wish there was more support for pregnant women, we have to support them. This is more difficult than writing our senators or marching in protests, but if all those people who say they oppose abortion were to make the sacrifices required to provide this sort of care and support, I'm sure we would see dramatic change again. On top of that, if we really pursued these methods, who knows? We might even find support from President Barack Obama himself.

# Obama works to end Gitmo embarrassment

**Ammar Al Marzouqi**  
Badger Herald, University of Wisconsin

There are 25 detainees left in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, out of the original 800 sent there by the Bush administration. This means that more than 95 percent of the supposed worst of the worst were in fact innocent. Hence, it's no wonder that in the mind of any objective person, the legacy of Camp Delta will be a disgraceful one characterized by torture and unjustified incarceration.

It's also no wonder that true to his promise, President Barack Obama has ordered a halt in proceedings of the special military tribunals set up by the previous administration. This initial step will hopefully culminate in the eventual closing of the camp itself. Yet it's the manner through which the new administration goes about closing the camp that will show whether they closed it because they believed the conditions there were inhuman and the pretexes unjust, or because the camp has become too much of a political burden.

They must ensure that there isn't any continued imprisonment of the detainees in other prisons, whether military or civilian, without giving them fair and public trials. Furthermore, the defendants must have the right to know the evidence against them, even if the CIA and the military believe it should remain classified. It is ludicrous to expect civilians to go into witness protection but still testify and not expect intelligence operatives to endure the same risk in order to ensure that those who pose a threat to the American public remain behind bars. Also, the lawyers of those held captive in Guantanamo should no longer be required to prove the innocence of their clients. Instead, the

position of the court should be the assumption of innocence until guilt is proven.

They must also put a stop to the policy of pretending that those who were held at Guantanamo for years without charge and then released don't exist. They must receive appropriate reparations and apologies for the unjust pain and suffering they endured. A clear example of one of these people is Sami al Haj, a cameraman for Al-Jazeera who was held in Guantanamo Bay without charge for six years. He was released last year and dropped off in Sudan in miserable health without even an apology.

Also, those released from the prison camp must be heard and action taken to punish those responsible for the suffering they endured. They must not be told the suffering they endured was justified because of mere suspicion or because of the extraordinary circumstances of the "post-9/11 world."

And the administration shouldn't stop there. Related policies such as rendition — where suspects are handed off to countries like Morocco, Jordan and Syria to be tortured using methods American interrogators are still not allowed to use — need to stop. Those who were victims should receive formal and full apologies and appropriate reparations. And for those who are skeptical of the validity of the claim that the U.S. government would do such a thing to innocent people, I present the example of Maher Arar.

He is a Canadian citizen who was rendered to Syria by the U.S. and regularly tortured for almost a year. After his release to Canada he was publicly cleared by the Canadian government of any wrongdoing and received a \$10.5 million

settlement and a formal apology from the Canadian Prime Minister Steven Harper. Yet even after both the Canadian and Syrian governments cleared him, the previous administration still maintained him and his family on the terror watch list, and the Bush White House still refused to apologize or admit any wrongdoing.

Yet in the midst of the pain and suffering, there still remains a glimmer of hope that this legacy will not be the only deciding factor in how the United States is viewed abroad. I, for one, will never forget the answer ex-Guantanamo prisoner Juma Mohammed Al Dossary gave when asked of his memories of the camp. He said that though his detention was filled with suffering caused by severe sleep deprivation and prolonged exposure to frigid cold and hunger, the moment which stuck out in his mind the most was when, during one of the numerous periods of sleep deprivation, an American guard approached him at night and gave him some cookies and a warm drink. When he thanked him, the soldier said he wasn't after praise, but he hoped instead that Al Dossary would keep in mind that not all Americans approve of what he's going through and that most of them would stand against it if they knew.

Indeed it is the good nature of the majority of the American people that enables an incoming president to boldly promise to close an institution so closely tied to the post-9/11 war efforts a mere seven years after the tragic events themselves. Yet one can't help but wonder how much earlier it would have been closed had the American people been adequately informed of the magnitude of the atrocities committed there, in their name.

**ICON from page 6**

intelligent woman and father of two daughters, Obama is well aware of women's issues, has stood up for women in the past and promises improvements under the Obama-Biden plan.

"... Ordinary women have taken on extraordinary odds to give their daughters the chance for something else; for a life more equal, more free and filled with more opportunity than they ever had. In so many ways we have succeeded, but in so many areas we have much work left to do," Obama said in a speech in Washington, D.C., in November 2005.

Here are some promises Obama has made which excited so many women and made him the hero of Ms. Magazine:

Healthcare is big in the Obama-Biden plan, and in addition to making health care more affordable, Obama promised to reverse the "conscience rule," the policy that allows doctors, pharmacists and other health care workers to refuse to provide care they object to.

Obama has been supporting women and their reproductive choice, and pro-choice feminists can let out a sigh of relief that Roe v. Wade will be preserved, at least for the next four years.

The Prevention First Act, of which Obama was a co-sponsor, will increase funding for family plan-

ning and comprehensive sex education that goes beyond abstinence-only. The act will end insurance discrimination against contraception, improve awareness about emergency contraception and provide compassionate assistance to rape victims (none of that "rape victims should pay for their own rape kits" ridiculousness).

It's been observed women have been suffering more from this economic crisis than men. Women hold the majority of low-wage jobs, and women still make roughly 78 cents to a man's dollar. Obama and Biden have both been advocates for minimum-wage increases and the right of women to receive equal pay for equal work. As a state senator, Obama cosponsored the Illinois Equal Pay Act, and in the U.S. Senate, Obama supported the Fair Pay Restoration Act, a bill to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. The Obama administration has said it will continue to promote paycheck equity and attempt to close the wage gap between men and women. The Obama-Biden plan encourages investing in woman-owned small businesses and reducing discrimination in lending.

Yes, I do believe we have much to be excited and hopeful for in the new leading man and his administration. Whether he is the hero the Ms. cover makes him out to be or not, we have yet to see.

# Improve gov't tech innovation

Minnesota Daily, University of Minnesota

Technology enthusiasts rejoiced this past campaign season as President Barack Obama pledged to appoint the first-ever national chief technology officer. The chief technology officer would effectively serve as the surgeon general of the technology sector, working with all branches to ensure technology is worked into its every layer. If Obama holds true to his pledge, the move has large potential to bring much-needed innovation to America's governmental sectors.

Unsurprisingly, throughout the Bush administration's tenure, scandals ran high over technology issues. Down to its last second, his administration fought hard to keep e-mails and other information hidden from the public eye. Also controversial was his inability to adapt to the open standards that America demanded. Put nicely, the Bush administration looked at technology as a threat and avoided it accordingly.

A chief technology officer can bring a needed change to this country's technology infrastructure and should stress a couple of key ideals when he or she takes office. Foremost among those issues should be using information technology as a tool to shine a light on government. Millions of dollars of tax money flows through Washington every day, but taxpayers have little idea where it goes. As Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales said on CNN, it is most important that our government adapts to these open source standards and coexists with them smoothly. When Web sites such as Google and Wikipedia make information accessible to their users with ease, there is absolutely no reason our government should not be the same way.

Whoever gets appointed as the nation's technology officer should be bipartisan and should work to harness the Internet's vast potential to democratize opaque governmental bureaucracies.

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## For the spirit of the song

Ensembles perform at college and high school level

Kevin Otzenberger  
Argonaut

This weekend, young musicians will travel to the University of Idaho campus not to win awards — but just to play some music.

On Saturday, the Lionel Hampton School of Music will host the Band Fest XXXII High School Invitational. Along with music from a series of high school concert bands will be performances by several of UI's small ensembles and the UI Wind Ensemble.

Band Fest is a non-competitive music clinic and performance conference, designed for high school bands to interact with UI faculty and student musicians. Since 1998, UI director of bands Alan Gemberling has personally organized the event. Gemberling said Band Fest is unique.

"Since it's non-competitive, it's purely to have these groups come on our campus and perform for each other," he said. "It's more for the education aspect, taking competition out of the mix."

The event was founded 31 years ago by former UI director of bands Robert Spevacek. Aside from changing location from the Student Union Build-

ing to the Administration Building Auditorium four years ago, little has changed about Band Fest's mission over more than three decades.

"There are festivals where you get adjudicated and get one person's feedback," Gemberling said. "But we might have six faculty members working with a group. There's lots of useful information to apply to technique and approach."

Gemberling said one unique aspect of Band Fest is that all groups that attend are prepared to perform a common musical selection of Gemberling's choice.

"You're able to hear the song's different interpretations," Gemberling said. "You'll hear it seven times if you want."

For schools that wish to arrive early, a faculty-led clinic is held Friday evening to give the visiting musicians pre-emptive feedback and practice.

Associate professor of saxophone Vanessa Sielert said when she was in high school, she never had an opportunity to learn from college musicians free of competitive motivation.

"I never got the learning experience of seeing bands cross-examine a common piece, either,"



Photo illustration from Jake Barber/Argonaut

The University of Idaho Wind Ensemble will be featured at the Band Fest High School Invitational Saturday.

Sielert said.

Sielert has been teaching clinics at Band Fest since she began working at UI three years ago.

Gemberling said university students involved with Band Fest obtain some professional experience from the event.

"These students only have like a week and a half to prepare a couple of pieces," Gemberling said. "So, they're getting the real world experience of quickly preparing a piece for performance."

Some music graduate students also gain experience from aiding the faculty in conducting the clinics.

"University students have the opportunity to play during the day between all the high school bands," Sielert said, "and it's a neat experience because some of them went to those high schools, so now they get to play in front of students from their hometowns."

Sielert said Band Fest is only one event from a long list of ways the university interacts with public school musicians each year.

"(The Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival) sees thousands of students, and we go out to schools throughout the year," Sielert said. "We adjudicate at

festivals, and literally every weekend you can find a faculty member travelling to perform or adjudicate somewhere. We're very active."

Band Fest is typically attended by six to eight high schools, and the attending parties are "fairly consistent," said Jim Howell, band director at La Grande High School in La Grande, Ore.

"Of all the things we do every year, this is one of my very favorites," Howell said.

Howell has brought LaGrande music students to Band Fest for the past 22 years.

"The feedback I get is mostly from band directors that attend," Gemberling said. "Their students are excited to be here ... it's a good jump start to their programs — getting them going early in the year."

Gemberling said Band Fest has also served as an effective recruiting tool for the LHSOM over the years.

Howell said of his students who continue to pursue music, more of them choose to enroll at UI than any other institution.

"(Band Fest) really helps them visualize the transition to making music in college," Howell said.

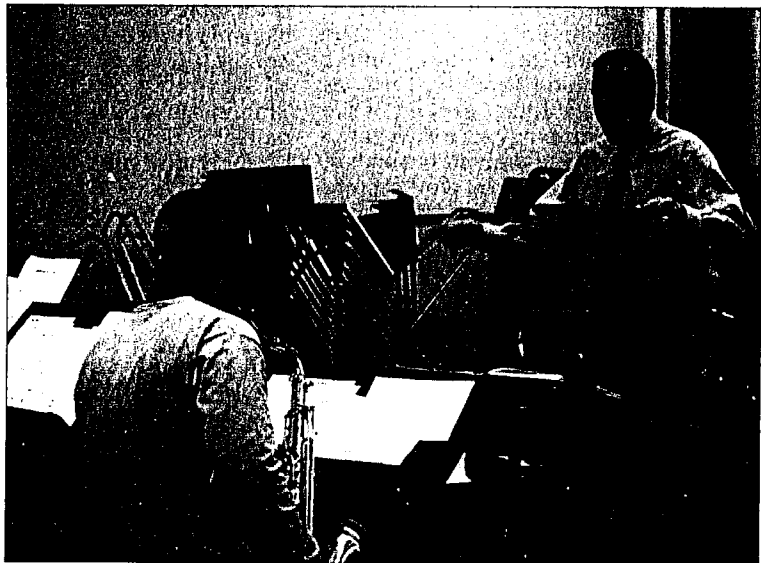
Band Fest XXXII will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Administration Auditorium. Tickets will be available at the door.

**"Of all the things we do every year, this is one of my very favorites!"**

Jim

**HOWELL**

La Grande High School  
band director



Jake Barber/Argonaut

Director of bands at the University of Idaho Alan Gemberling conducts during a jazz band rehearsal in the Lionel Hampton School of Music. Gemberling is the event organizer for the Band Fest High School Invitational that will take place 9 a.m. Saturday in the University Auditorium.

## Community activists discuss change on MLK Day

Jordan Gray  
Argonaut

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day and on the eve of a historic inauguration, a group of four panelists gathered at the 1912 Center to share their own dreams about how to "Keep the Dream Alive in Your Town — How You Can Effect Positive Change."

Sponsored by the Moscow Civic Association, the four women speakers came from diverse backgrounds, from city government to Buy Local Moscow and Backyard Harvest. They came to share their vision of how even small beginnings can grow into positive community changes.

Amy Grey, founder of Backyard Harvest, posed the question, "How do you go from inspiration to action?"

And the answer for all the participants seemed to

be the simple one: get people involved and dedicated.

"Everyone can do a small part to make a big impact," Gray said.

Backyard Harvest follows this example. The organization began by asking people to donate the extra produce from their gardens, and has since grown into a choreographed organization that helps supply food banks as far away as Lewiston with fresh produce and vegetables.

According to the panelists, collaboration and cooperation seems to be the key to community life, and people are the lifeblood of all community life.

"Without our volunteer commissions, we would not be Moscow," said Mayor Nancy Chaney. "We are a role model in so many areas."

That role includes a pilot program that will soon be responsible for the planting

of a production garden at City Hall to grow food that will also go to help Moscow residents. Moscow recently implemented a program that allows citizens to use food stamps at the Farmers Market to purchase fresh, locally grown produce.

"The new ideas come in and invigorate the old leaders," Chaney said.

While new ideas and fresh spirit may keep a cause going, it still needs community support to keep it afloat. And here in Moscow, the community has not shied away from that duty.

"People are still digging into their pockets despite the economic downturn," said Jessica Bearman, founder of The Circle: Moscow Women Giving Together. Her personal approach is to "just ask," and people will be willing to donate their money and their time to making a difference.

In the spirit of the giv-



Eric Petersen/Argonaut

From left, Amy Grey, Arlene Falcon, Nancy Chaney and Jessica Bearman were panelists for "Keep the Dream Alive in Your Town — How You Can Effect Positive Change," a forum put on by the Moscow Civic Association at the 1912 Center on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

ing nature of the event, the Moscow Civic Association raffled off copies of Barack Obama's book, "The Audacity of Hope." Gary Bryan was one of the recipients of this book.

"All of these people have enthusiasm for what they did ... and spread the word," Bryan said.

Perhaps a small town meeting wasn't what Martin Luther King Jr. had in

mind when he gave his famous speech, but as the participants pointed out, sometimes things have to start small before they grow into something that can truly change the world.



# Online TV bound to get ugly, messy

**Cory Barker**  
Indiana Daily Student, Indiana U.

Spoiler alert: People watch TV shows online nowadays.

Each major network's Web site includes a substantial video and episode gallery, and co-op Web sites, such as Hulu, a joint venture between News Corp. and NBC Universal, are bringing more and more content to the Web.

Up until now, viewers and users have seen this democratizing of content as nothing but a great change with the technology. Clearly there are benefits when the networks provide full episodes online. We don't have to watch the program live or worry about setting the DVR, and the "related content" features help us find more in just a click.

We've all been able to embrace this move toward more online TV, because the networks behind them see great visitor ratings and ad revenue. During Gov. Sarah Palin's stint as the Republican vice presidential candidate and the subsequent parodies by Tina Fey and "Saturday Night Live," Hulu experienced more than five million unique viewers each month. Hulu's online ad sales for the fourth quarter in 2008 were up compared to 2007, and the same results were seen by CBS and ABC's video pages.

But as the market for online video gets more competitive and the money gets tighter, things are going to become very interesting. There are quite a few issues that have complicated and will continue to complicate the online video sector.

First of all, the major

legal issues between the competing factions will continue to disrupt free video-watching use for everyone. When each major network or faction (YouTube is owned by Google) owns a major video-hosting Web site, there are going to be battles over copyright issues.

Good luck searching for an "SNL" clip on YouTube. If you do find something a few hours after the broadcast, be certain that the video will soon "no longer be available due to a copyright infringement claim by NBC Universal."

It's understandable for Hulu to protect its content, but what about those people outside the United States who can only access YouTube?

Second, Hulu's success is going to make the content division even larger. CBS recently purchased former TV info headquarters TV.com and hopes to turn it into its own version of Hulu. It's smart for CBS to set itself up to compete with Hulu, but purchasing a news portal and slowly turning it into its own hub isn't the way to do it.

It wouldn't surprise me if CBS keeps the news of TV.com while slowly emphasizing its own content.

Moves like this signal that the Web video market will eventually be just like network TV with each section clearly divided and continuous battles over content and ad revenue.

That's not necessarily a bad thing, but it's sad to see the networks use the same business model on the Internet so quickly. And when ad revenues look to be down this year, who knows what they'll fight over in 2009.

# A look at call girl lifestyle

**Meagan Robertson**  
Argonaut

Premium cable channels like Showtime and HBO are notorious for their original series, most of which are too foul or racy for regular TV but still decent, and often times award-winning, programming. Unfortunately, the same premium channels with the hit shows also feature a lot of smut, typically ranging from cheap cable porn to sex documentaries. Among the mix of shows and trash is Showtime's "Secret Diary of a Call Girl," a show that was originally shot and broadcast in the United Kingdom before finding its American home on Showtime.

With a name like "Secret Diary of a Call Girl" and a plot that centers around the life of a high-class prostitute, it's easy to pass this show up on the TV Guide because it appears to be more cable garbage. But surprisingly, it isn't.

The show actually spawned as a television version of the book by the same name, penned by Anonymous, or Belle de Jour (depending on the

version you pick up). She is actually a former London call girl who writes a successful blog and has written several books about her escapades (they are much racier than the show). No one knows the real Belle de Jour's name, but in the show, she goes by Hannah and is played by actress Billie Piper.

The show is by no means worthy of a Primetime Emmy award or the best show on TV, but it is different from other programming on air today, and at the least, entertaining. Hannah, who graduated from university (as they say in London) found herself in a financial bind once she entered the real world. After she was accidentally paid for sex, she discovered that selling sex for money was not only fun and easy for her, it paid the bills and paid them well. This created her other identity, Belle.

The show isn't strictly about her

whoring it up — it's about the ups and downs of her unconventional life. Her parents and family aren't aware of what her occupation actually entails, and her best friend/ex-boyfriend just found out.



"Secret Diary of a Call Girl" Billie Piper  
Sundays 10:30pm Showtime

**B**

The show is more about how a girl tries to manage two lifestyles without letting them interfere with the other, along with a little humor and a lot of Belle talking to the camera in a "Ferris Bueller" style.

The show is witty, clever and of course racy, not to mention Piper is amazing because she started shooting season two of the show while she was five months pregnant and was still wearing skimpy lingerie. That woman is either crazy or brave.

For those interested in learning more about the "Secret Life," season one is available on DVD now, and season two premiered this past Sunday.

# Animal Collective shows maturity

**Andrew Priest**  
Argonaut

At some point in their career, every earnest musician creates a piece of music that amalgamates what they've learned as a part of their growth as an artist. For the endlessly experimental and inventive Animal Collective, the wistful new wonder-album, "Merriweather Post Pavilion," expressively demonstrates the band's surging evolution in the near-decade it's been around.

Over the last several years, Animal Collective has gained an audience in urbanites with an affinity for tribalism. It's a force of nature. The Collective has a hunter-gatherer way of experimenting with whatever musical styles it comes across, always finding beauty in whatever is picked up.

Animal Collective's last release, "Strawberry Jam," was a Sun Dance, an all but religious celebration of the force and vitality that could be cre-

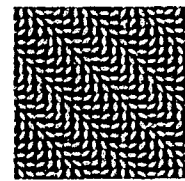
ated from brutal musical simplicity. The earlier work is brilliant because of its youthful fervor. However, the Collective has settled down now. In "Merriweather," that passion has grown into a thoughtful dreaminess.

I once had a teacher who instructed me to listen behind music, to the background. That's where the really interesting stuff is. For readers who understand that, there are plenty of nuances to chew on in this album. "Merriweather" was made for music lovers.

This is one of those rare albums that stands on its own, without context from its creators, without banal discussion of genre politics. If the audience can listen closely enough, it's all there, every splendid bit of it.

There's the sense the Collective is noticing something the band's

never seen before, like one's first autumn — one finally notices nature's vibrancy and all of the thoughts one has to have before that — or the ensuing spring when they feel rebirth.



Animal Collective  
"Merriweather Post Pavilion"  
Domino  
Now available

**A**

Indeed, this album feels much like a rebirth, but it also sounds like the Collective's most mature work to date. "Merriweather" has a more sprawled-out texture and loftiness, while keeping the meteoric buildups and walloping stomps.

If this sounds similar to the Collective's previous work, in many ways it is. This is the band's personality cut to the bone, honed, expanded upon and explored. This time everything just came together.

The group could quit here, go out with style, and they would be appreciated all the same.

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## QuickHITS

### Vandals in action

**Today**  
**Women's basketball** — The team will take on conference foe Louisiana Tech at 7 p.m., in the Cowan Spectrum.

**Women's tennis** — The Vandals will be road tripping westward to Eugene to compete against Oregon at 9 a.m. at Eugene.

**Men's and Women's track and field** — Both men's and women's teams open indoor competition this week beginning at 8:30 a.m. Friday at Pullman.

**Swimming and diving** — The team will remain home for a meet at 5 p.m. against Washington State.

**Saturday**  
**Women's Tennis** — The squad will split as some members will have matches against the Portland State Pilots at 8:30 a.m. in Portland. Other participants will remain in Eugene for competition against the University of Houston at 5 p.m.

**Men's tennis** — The team will travel to Lewiston for matches against Lewis-Clark State at 1 p.m.

**Men's basketball** — The Vandals will continue conference play against New Mexico State at 7:05 p.m. at the Cowan Spectrum.

### Vandals to watch

**Shaena Kuehu**  
 Women's basketball



Kuehu has scored in double digits in the last five games. The freshman guard will look for another double digit performance against Louisiana Tech as the Vandals search for their fourth conference victory.

**Luis Augusto**  
 Menw's basketball



The Vandals have been without Augusto since the Portland State game played Dec. 6. During the Vandals' recent loss to New Mexico State the Vandals were without both Augusto and center Marvin Jefferson. The Vandals will look forward to the return of Augusto to provide a much-needed body in the post.

**Matt Wauters**  
 Track and field



Wauters was a surprise last season, putting up big numbers in the hammer and weight throw. This season the Vandals will look to soften the blow of losing All-American thrower Russ Winger with an improved Wauters. The Vandal track and field team has its first competition this weekend.

# Vandals seek revenge

**Levi Johnstone**  
 Argonaut

New Mexico State was the team that ended UI's season last year and one week ago defeated the Vandals again in a down-to-the-wire game at the Pan American Center. The Vandals will have a chance for redemption at 7:05 p.m. Saturday in the Cowan Spectrum.

The Vandals are 8-10 (2-3) on the season and while the team and coaches aren't looking past any teams before the Western Athletic Conference tournament, Idaho coach Don Verlin is aware of where his team stands.

"If we continue to practice hard and get better we can play and get wins against any team in this conference," Verlin said. "We know what we are doing out there so now it's about stopping what the other teams are doing. That's what good teams do in this league."

In the team's recent defeat to the Aggies the Vandals were without both of their big men, Luis Augusto and Marvin Jefferson.

Jefferson sat due to suffering a concussion and Augusto has been out since the Portland State game.

"We need big bodies in the post," Verlin said. "Their guys hurt us — I think (Wendell) McKines had 15 and (Troy) Gillenwater had 17 and they hurt us on the boards a bit too."

The Vandals play eight of their next 12 games at home against WAC opponents. After a road trip which saw the team drop 3 of 5 games including 2 straight on the road, the Vandals will look to get back on the winning track.

Vandal guard Kashif Watson who has averaged 12.4 points per game during league play said he is looking forward to the home stand, but the Vandals won't be changing much heading into the matchup against the Aggies.

"We're just going to keep running the offense the coaches have taught us and try to get out in transition," Watson said. "(We are) going in with the same mindset. We're still going to battle hard and fight."

The Vandals currently sit 6th in the WAC, but the team is only one game out of third place.

"We are coming in



Forward Brandon Wiley goes up to the basket during the men's basketball game against South Carolina State, Dec. 17. The Vandals won 81-68 and will be playing New Mexico State in the Cowan Spectrum Saturday at 7 p.m.

hungrier for a win in this game," Watson said. "We should have won the first time we played (New Mexico State)."

UI is just 2-9 during road contests on the season — another aspect that has the team ready to play ball in the Cowan Spectrum.

"It feels really good knowing we're going to be back at Cowan Spectrum," Verlin said. "We've played good ball in the Spectrum this season."

In the previous matchup against the Aggies, the

Vandals had trouble from the foul line, shooting just 60 percent, a problem Verlin hopes playing at home will remedy.

"(Free throws) are one of the things we need to do better," Verlin said. "Guys just have to have the confidence to step up and make shots."

Idaho will play its next three games at home against New Mexico State, Boise State and Nevada before heading to Hawai'i.

"It's lovely to be playing at home again," Watson said. "We've been waiting all year

long for league play so we can make some noise."

Verlin said while the Vandals dive deeper into WAC play, the season is about how much the team wants to practice and play.

"Our season really comes down to three games at the end," Verlin said. "It's how you play from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15 that carries you into the tournament. (Players) have to want to prep hard and play hard."

The Vandals' tip-off is set for 7:05 p.m. Saturday in the Cowan Spectrum.

## Simmons believes in new team

**Megan Broyles**  
 Argonaut

Re-organizing the Idaho men's basketball program has come with different challenges and benefits since the team acquired a new coach and a new philosophy.

Senior guard Terrence Simmons said the pre-Don Verlin Idaho team "felt unorganized," and lacked key components to a successful season.

"Everyone feels good about winning," Simmons said. "No one felt good last year."

A change in the team's attitude has made an enormous impact on the frequency of victories. Simmons said this season brings different players to the court that "believe in the system." He said Verlin has been working the players hard, on and off the court.

"No one can be perfect," Simmons said. "But perfection is what (Verlin) preaches."

Simmons said the priority is a win over individual performance.

"I try my best to produce the best I can," he said. "But it's not about individual statistics. It's about the team, not me individually."

In the team's attempt to turn around last season's 8-25 record, Idaho has already won eight games with 12 left in the season. Eight of those remaining will be held at home in the Cowan Spectrum.

"We're the only Western Athletic Conference team to play four games on the road to start the season," Verlin said. "Eight of the last 12 are at home and that's a huge advantage for us. I'm looking forward to having the students come out to see us play. They will like what they see."

The Vandals' schedule started with Top-20 teams

See TEAM, page 12

# Women look for first La. Tech victory

**Scott Stone**  
 Argonaut

Thirteen days ago, the women's basketball team picked up its third straight conference win for the first time ever. Tonight, the Vandal women look to make it four in a row when they host Louisiana Tech.

The long break came at a time when the Vandals were playing their best, so instead of keeping the momentum going, associate coach Gavin Petersen said they will have to work to get it back.

"It seems like we've been off for a year so it's going to be kind of hard to get that momentum back," Petersen said.

The team got three days of rest during the break and spent the days in the gym focusing on the consistency and shot selection needed to beat the Lady Techsters.

"Hopefully that carries over and we'll be ready to go Friday night," Petersen said.

The match-up will be sure to test the skills and the nerves of the Vandals, who have never defeated the Lady Techsters.

Petersen said it isn't an issue they are looking at, and although it will be a tough match-up, they go into every game believing they can win.

"As a coaching staff we prepare for every team the same, so it's not really going to matter," Petersen said. "We prepare our girls to go into the game with a game plan in order to win and succeed ... every game we play we've got to believe we have a chance to win it, and if you don't you shouldn't be playing."

The Lady Techsters are 9-9 overall, 2-2 in the Western Athletic Conference, and recently lost to Fresno State, a team the Vandals defeated by three points earlier this year.

Despite their 50-percent win record, the Lady Techsters maintain a 66-point scoring average compared to the Vandals' 58-point average.

Petersen said they know a lot about La. Tech's playing style, but they're focusing more on perfecting their own game plan rather than focusing on stopping theirs.

"The thing with basketball is we can look to take away as much as we want from them but at the same time they have a game plan for us," he said. "So we're hoping we provide some matchup problems for them as well."

The Lady Techsters are consistently successful, and Petersen said it would be a good win for the Vandals.

"They've been a great team in the WAC and, credit to them, they've been traditionally one of the greatest programs in the nation," he said.

Also looking to keep the fire going against La. Tech will be the Vandals' freshman guard Shaena Kuehu, who found herself scoring double digits in the last five games.

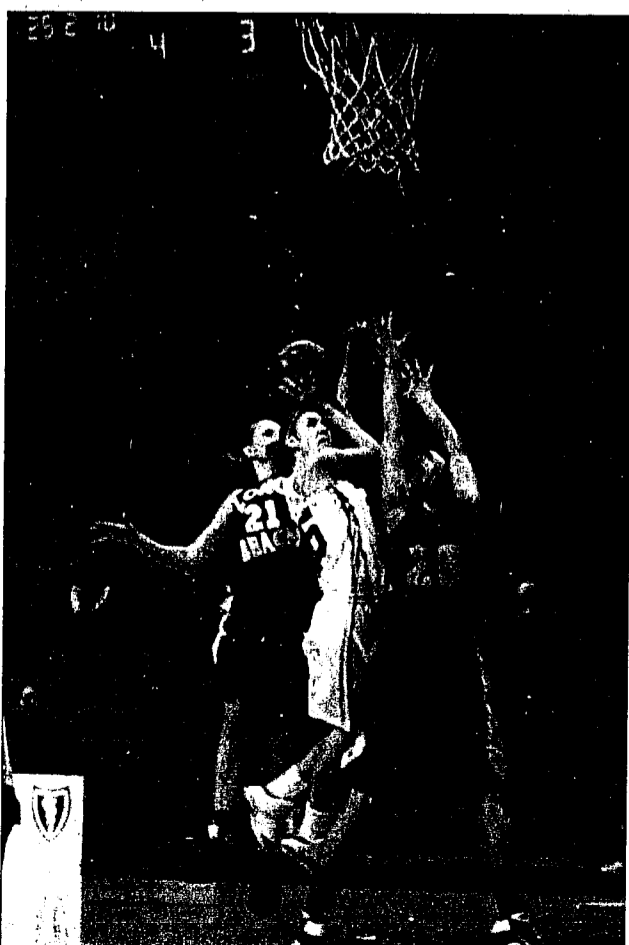
"I just do what I have to do on the court, and I do what my teammates need me to do," Kuehu said. "Nothing special."

She said her team has the ability to win this weekend, and right now they're just focusing on practicing how they play.

"Practice hard on the court, that's pretty much it since we had a week and a half off," she said. "Just practice, practice, practice."

Kuehu said they've been adding new plays and fine tuning the old ones to prepare for La. Tech, and she said they should be fine as long as they execute their game plan.

The game will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Cowan Spectrum.



University of Idaho guard Rachele Kloke takes a shot during the Dec. 7 basketball game against Long Beach State in the Cowan Spectrum. The Vandals loss 55-54 and will take on Louisiana Tech tonight at 7 p.m.

## SWIMMING &amp; DIVING

# UI coming off long break

Marco Frassine  
Argonaut

Despite a break from competition dating back to Dec. 6, the University of Idaho swimming and diving team said they are eager for a new challenge.

"We're just excited to race," said Idaho coach Tom Jager. "We haven't raced for a while, and everybody is chomping at the bit."

The challenge will come this weekend when the Vandals square off against the Washington State University Cougars on Friday followed by the Boise State Broncos on Saturday.

"We've been training a lot this past month," Jager said. "Our kids are going to be more fatigued coming in but it's just all about racing."

Jager said he's not interested in the specific scores and finishing places in the meet itself.

"What I'm looking for is how much effort is given and whether our kids fight to the finish," Jager said. "I want to see them (the Vandals) out-gut them until the end."

Idaho coach Qiongje Huang reiterated Jager's feelings and even offered a more relaxed attitude going into this weekend.

"I just want them to enjoy the meet and be a part of the team," Huang said. "It's more important to me that they are having fun."

Despite her calm outlook, Huang maintains a competitive mind-set.

"Our goal is to break records," she said.

Although she may not have been alluding to any specific athlete, the Vandals do have a record breaker in senior diver Amanda Morrow.

In just her third meet of the year, Morrow broke Jennifer Hunkele's 23-year-old record in the 1-meter diving event with a score of 233.5.

**"I just want them to enjoy the meet and be a part of the team. It's more important to me that they are having fun."**

Qiongje  
HUANG

Idaho diving coach

"It was exciting," Morrow said. "I didn't really expect it because I wasn't even really striving for the record. I was just trying to dive well."

The Vandals look to continue their success this weekend and into the Western Athletic Conference championships.

"The WAC championship is

our biggest concern," Jager said. "We're looking for weaknesses."

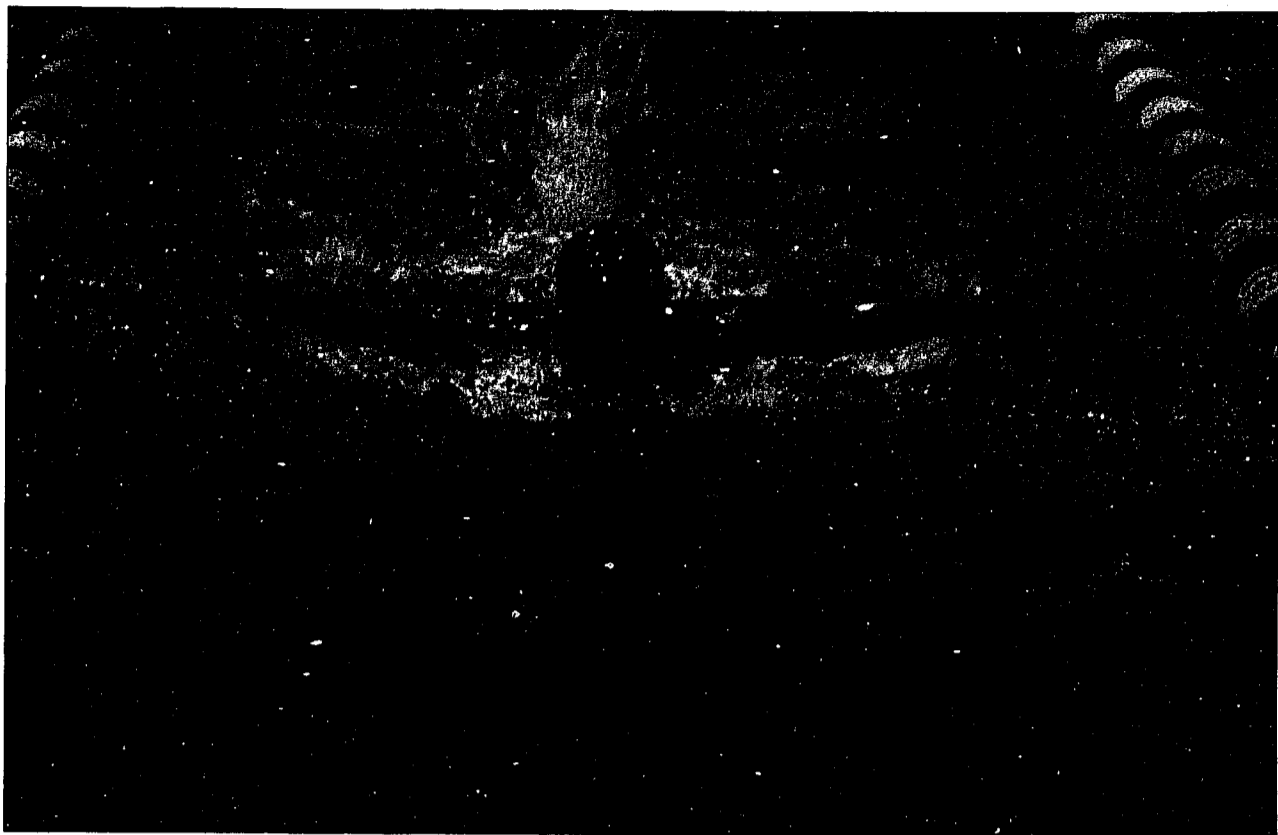
The WAC championships are not just on the minds of the coaching staff; the athletes are looking forward to the meet as well.

"We have potential to do well," Huang said. "We can definitely compete."

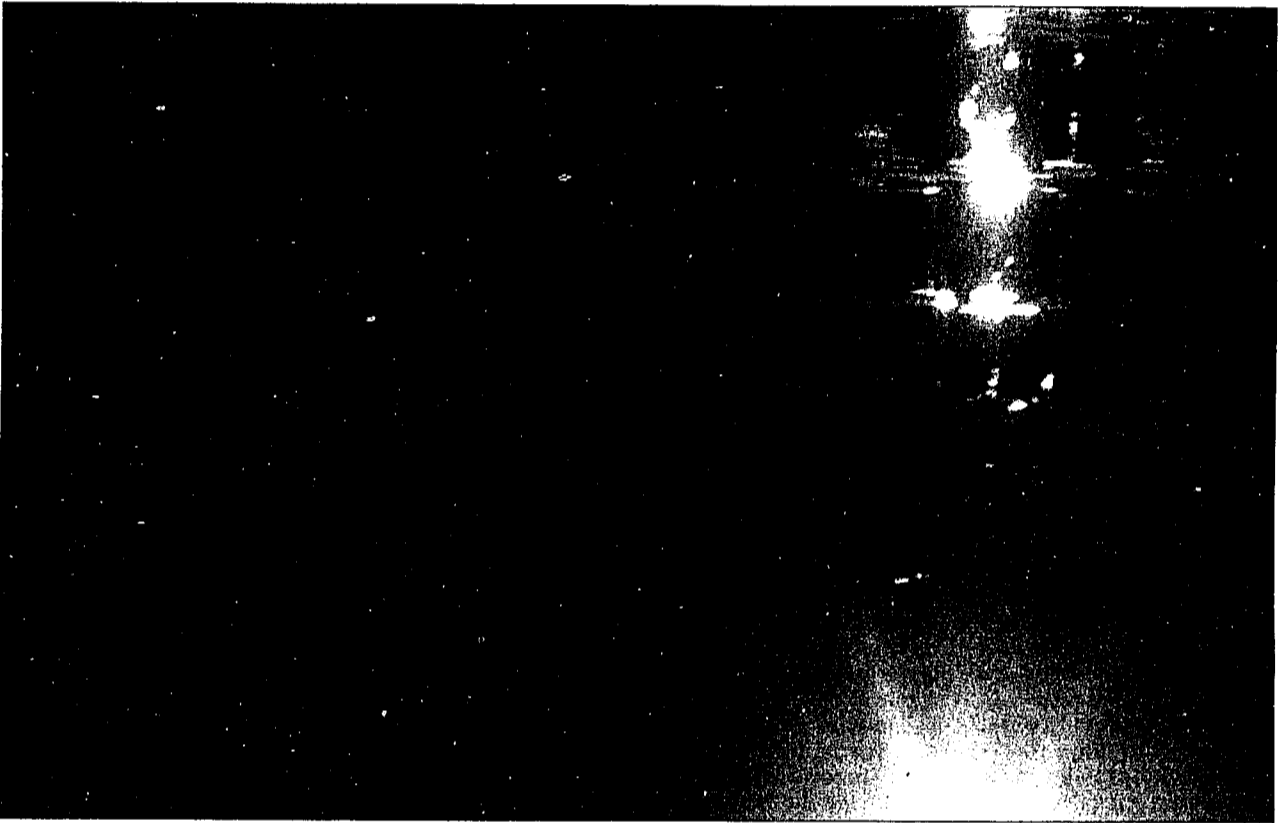
The Vandals will get a chance to see where they are in terms of the WAC championships when they compete at home this weekend.

The Friday meet begins at 5 p.m. and Saturday's meet starts at noon.

"I just want the team as a whole to do well," Morrow said. "And if another record happens then that's great too."



Amanda Watson swims fly on Nov. 21 during the meeting against Seattle University. The Vandals will face Washington State Friday and Boise State Saturday.



Amanda Watson jumps in to start the fly during the meet with the Seattle University on Nov. 21. The UI swimming and diving team will meet with Washington State on Friday and Boise State on Saturday.

## Lawmakers protest Gators' title, BCS

Ben Evans  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A handful of lawmakers used a resolution commending the University of Florida's national football championship Thursday to protest college football's much-maligned BCS system.

A dozen House members voted "no" or "present" on the resolution, the latest signal from the nation's capital that many people aren't happy about the way the NCAA chooses its football champion. Many of the dissenters were from Utah and Texas, both of which have schools that made a case to play for this year's national championship but were passed over.

"A fine school with a great team deserves better than a national championship that was decided inside somebody's computer," said Rep. Joe Barton, a Texas Republican who has introduced legislation to force a playoff system. "The Gators certainly could have won it on the field, but they didn't get the chance any more than Utah, Texas and USC."

President Barack Obama also has repeatedly criticized the Bowl Championship Series, saying he plans to "throw

(his) weight around a little bit" to pressure the NCAA to adopt a playoff system.

The BCS was created in 1998 by the six most powerful conferences. It features a title game between the top two teams in standings that are based on two human polls and six computer rankings.

This season, Florida (12-1) met Oklahoma (12-1) in the championship game. Florida won 24-14 and ended up with a 13-1 record.

But the game was under scrutiny even before it began. Several schools that played in lesser bowls claimed they deserved a shot at the championship, including undefeated Utah (13-0), Texas (12-1) and Southern California (12-1).

"Utah has a legitimate claim but we'll never know because they couldn't play for it," said Rep. Marion Berry, D-Ark., who said he also voted against the resolution because he thinks it's a waste of Congress' time.

A spokesman for Rep. Bobby Bright, an Alabama Democrat and Auburn University graduate, said his reasons for not supporting the measure were simpler: He simply couldn't bring himself to support a school that is such a bitter rival of his state's universities.

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# He's for real: Irvin to star in reality show

Jim Litke  
Associated Press

Be honest. When the words "Michael Irvin" and "reality show" turned up in the same sentence, you glanced at the listings to find out when the next episode of "Court TV" was on. Well, it's nothing like that.

Instead, the former Dallas Cowboys star, current radio show host and tireless self-promoter has decided to add talent scout to his lengthening resume. Irvin will play host as a dozen "football neophytes" — guys whose dreams of playing in the NFL ran into one obstacle or another — vie for a guaranteed spot on the Dallas Cowboys' 80-man training camp roster.

This is funny on so many levels, it's hard to know where to begin.

In just about every NFL organization, the owner or general manager — or both — wouldn't think of wasting a roster spot on a shameless publicity stunt, considering what teams spend on scouting. But not in Dallas, apparently, where Jones holds both titles and probably blessed the

project after a brief discussion in front of a mirror.

"Taking it to Jerry, talking to the Cowboys — that was the easy part," Irvin said in an interview Thursday with Associated Press reporter Jaime Aron.

"Not easy in the sense of what they're allowing, what they're giving us to give somebody. But easy because Jerry understands what it is to own America's Team. ... He was good with it. He said, 'I think this is what we are about, this is America's Team.'"

Then there's the matter of Irvin as the show's host or "overlord" as he described it. Though he was an exceptionally hard worker himself, it's hard to imagine Irvin telling the winner what to expect during training camp, since some of his best stories are rumored to be under seal in court documents.

But since plenty of the details have yet to be ironed out — including a title — let's leave that worry for the final episode. First, a look at the qualifications.

Size will matter, and so will playing shape, since the winner is expected to take part in contact drills as well as the condition-

ing program. The better the back story, the more gruesome the injury that cut short a career, the more Irvin wants to talk to you. Never mind that NFL scouts are fanned out around the globe at this moment, hunting for those same diamonds in the rough. Irvin knows where to look.

"I grew up with guys who are much more talented than I was. I remember seeing guys who at 12 or 15," he said with a straight face, "could've left the neighborhood and gone straight to the NFL."

Laugh if you want, but nobody in America might be better suited to hand out second chances. Irvin was the 15th of 17 kids, so he learned early how important it was to get back up after being knocked down.

After winning a national championship at Miami and all three Super Bowls he played in with the Cowboys, Irvin's career ended after he was driven into the unyielding turf at the old Veterans Stadium in 1999. Philadelphia Eagles fans booed as he was carted off the field on a stretcher with a serious spinal cord injury that forced him into

early retirement.

Still irrepresible and more bombastic than ever, Irvin segued into broadcasting and carved out a second career. Some of the same knuckleheaded run-ins with the law that plagued his playing days may have shortened his tenure as an NFL analyst, but Irvin always managed to land on his feet.

Those troubles were also the reason his name languished on the Hall of Fame ballot for three years, but Irvin's induction speech — he begged his wife and others he had wronged for forgiveness — was one of the most heartfelt in memory. He thinks there's a lesson somewhere in his own journey that will translate well into a reality show.

"We need hope. ... Seeing somebody come out of nowhere on 'American Idol' and win, come out of nowhere and lose the type of weight they lose on 'The Biggest Loser,' to come out of nowhere and have the opportunity to walk into an NFL camp," Irvin said, "that gives people hope."

What it gives the Cowboys, of course, is even more publicity, which might be the last thing

they need. The team hasn't won a playoff game since 1996 — the longest championship drought in franchise history — and it's saddled with a big-as-all-Texas payroll freighted with malcontents and reclamation projects.

In terms of priorities, you'd think the owner would be worried about how to get his three biggest stars in the same room without security and teaching his coach not to be afraid of his own shadow. But no. With a new stadium coming online and seats to sell, Jones opted to open another ring in the circus.

And circus it will be once Irvin turns up in one of his outrageous outfits, relying on good pals like Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Deion Sanders to spice up the drama. Imagine what will happen if Adam "Pacman" Jones, who was a guest on Irvin's show not long after the Cowboys said good riddance, becomes a contestant and ends up winning. Tune in and find out.

"If you grab any other team," Irvin said with a rare dose of understatement, "it doesn't work quite like this will."

No, it doesn't.

## Howard sets voting record

Tim Reynolds  
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — He was the first to dress as Superman to win a dunk contest.

He's now the first player to get 3 million votes from fans.

Yes, the All-Star game is fast becoming Dwight Howard's personal showcase.

The Orlando Magic center — who leads the NBA in rebounds, blocked shots and double-doubles — got a record 3,150,181 votes to lead this season's All-Star team, released Thursday.

The Feb. 15 game in Phoenix will mark the third All-Star trip for Howard, who'll be starting for the second time and easily topped the previous record of 2,558,278 votes collected by Houston's Yao Ming four years ago.

"Wow, what a blessing," said Howard, the 6-foot-11 center who dressed in full Superman regalia, cape and all, on the way to winning last year's slam dunk competition. "That is what I took it as, a blessing from God and then the fans. It's just a great honor and I was surprised, but like always I thank the fans for everything they have done for us."

The final results of fan balloting didn't exactly bring any major surprises.

Miami's Dwyane Wade (2,741,413) and Detroit's Allen Iverson (1,804,649) will be in the East's backcourt, alongside reigning All-Star MVP LeBron James of Cleveland (2,940,823) and Boston's Kevin Garnett (2,066,833), who beat New Jersey's Yi Jianlian for the starting nod by 253,004 votes.

"The All-Star game

is always so meaningful to me because of the fans," said James, whose 24.3-point scoring average is the highest in All-Star game history for players with four or more appearances.

Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers (2,805,397) was the West's top vote-getter, and will be joined at guard by New Orleans' Chris Paul (2,134,798). At center, Yao (2,532,958) will start for the sixth time, along with forwards Tim Duncan of San Antonio (2,578,168) and Amare Stoudemire of Phoenix (1,460,429).

"When I first heard I was leading in votes, I was shocked, to be honest with you," Howard said. "I really didn't expect anything considering you have guys like Kobe, LeBron and Dwyane."

Howard entered Thursday averaging 20.2 points, 14.1 rebounds and 3.2 blocks for the Magic, who took the league's best overall record (33-8) into a home game against the reigning NBA champion Boston Celtics.

But on the national stage, Howard still might be best-known for his exploits in last year's All-Star dunk contest in New Orleans, with his cape sailing on one jam and capping his night by using teammate Jameer Nelson as a prop in another slam.

"That's his element there. He's an entertainer. He loves it," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I think sometimes people look at that kind of thing, where Dwight's out there having a good time, and they doubt the seriousness of a guy. That's not the case at all. He's very

serious about winning and very serious about being a great player."

Van Gundy likened Howard's All-Star antics to what the NBA has come to see from another giant jokerster — Shaquille O'Neal.

"Like Shaq, Dwight is a great person who loves to make other people smile and laugh," Van Gundy said. "That's what really makes him go. He likes to have a good time and he likes to help other people have a good time. It's his nature. It's his character."

That all being said, O'Neal is reluctant to anoint Howard as the game's, well, next Shaq.

"He's a good player, but everything he's done I've invented, so I'm not impressed," O'Neal said. "For me to get my eyes wide open about another big man, he'll have to do something that I haven't seen before or something that I haven't invented. Everything that he's done, I've invented it."

For Garnett, it's his 12th All-Star selection — second-most among active players behind O'Neal's 14 trips. O'Neal could see that total increase by one; he could easily be announced as a reserve when coaches' balloting to fill out the seven remaining spots on each roster are announced next week.

"It's like a good wave, man," Garnett said. "If you've surfed the boogie board, you know you ride it 'til it dies out. And I love boogie boarding. It's all about that good wave and holding on and holding on for dear life. And once it's over, you crash and you go out and try to find the next one."

## TEAM

from page 10

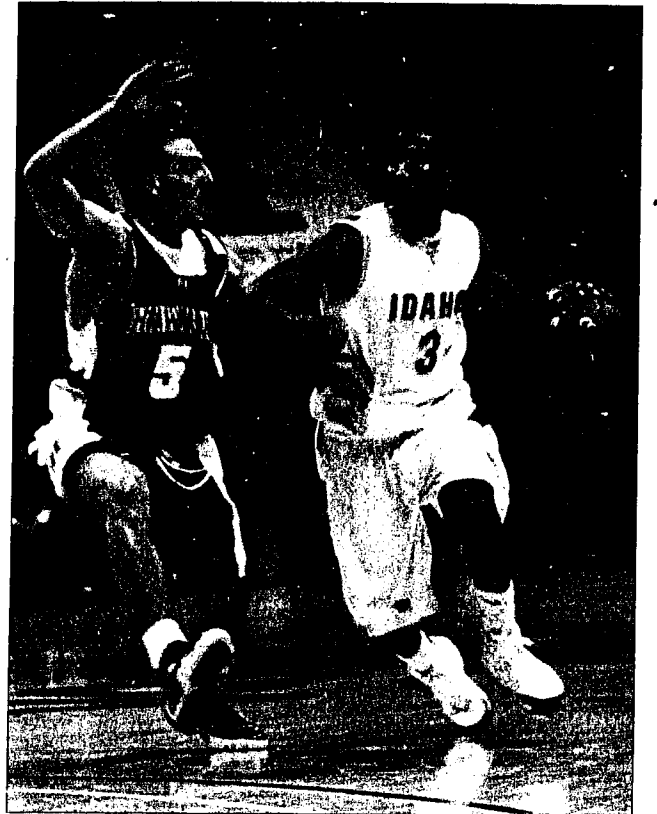
such as Michigan State and Gonzaga that helped the team recognize their strengths and weaknesses on the court. The Vandals have many worthy adversaries within the WAC as well.

"They are well coached," Simmons said. "Their records show it, check their resumés."

Verlin said he has a group of competitive players that are wonderful to coach. Although the situation of returning seniors with a new coach has inherent difficulties, Verlin said the juniors and seniors have done a great job of being coachable.

"This team has a lot of character," he said. "They are all good guys who represent the University of Idaho well and want to win."

On Saturday, the Vandals will take on New Mexico State in the Cowan Spectrum between two women's games the day before and day after. Even though Idaho "didn't execute" at New Mexico State on Jan. 15, Simmons is confident the Vandals can



File Photo University of Idaho guard Terrence Simmons tries to fight by University of Hawai'i guard Lasha Parghalava during the Jan. 8 game in the Cowan Spectrum.

show the home crowd what Idaho basketball is made of.

"We're new and improved," Simmons said. "Come watch us play. You be the judge."

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