



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO THE ARGONAUT

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The Vandal Voice for 112 Years

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

furloughPOLICY

Faculty, staff react

'I don't think there is any satisfaction in taking a furlough, regardless of salary level'

Amanda Smith
Argonaut

Staff and faculty are mixed about the furlough plan released last week, which introduced a graduated plan for employees taking unpaid time off.

Mike Loehring, chair of the Staff Affairs board at the University of Idaho, said he had a great amount of input.

"I don't think there is any satisfaction in taking a furlough, regardless of salary level," Loehring said. "However, given the economic climate of the state and institution, protecting those who work below the living wage was and is important to Staff Affairs."

The graduated furlough schedule is set to save \$1.2 million. The

2,600 employees affected make up faculty, staff and administration at UI. Employees who make less than \$22,360 annually do not have to participate in furloughs or salary reductions.

Keith Ickes, executive director of planning and budget, answered media questions related to the furloughs and how they work at a recent news conference.

"We have exempted some individuals from the furlough who are making wages below \$22,360," Ickes said. "This is consistent with the desire of many of our employees who felt that we had to take the steps to protect our lesser-paid employees."

How the furloughs see **FACULTY**, page 4

Fest attendance down for 2010

Dara Barney
Argonaut

School and audience attendance significantly declined during the 2010 Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival.

Across four nights, attendance hit 10,757, down from 13,849 at 2009's festival. The number represents a 23-percent decrease. Attendance figures include both sold and complimentary tickets.

The festival's interim executive director, Cami McClure, said in a press release that 25 percent fewer schools attended.

"School attendance numbers did go down, but in these hard economic times, there is less budgeting for traveling to events like this," she said.

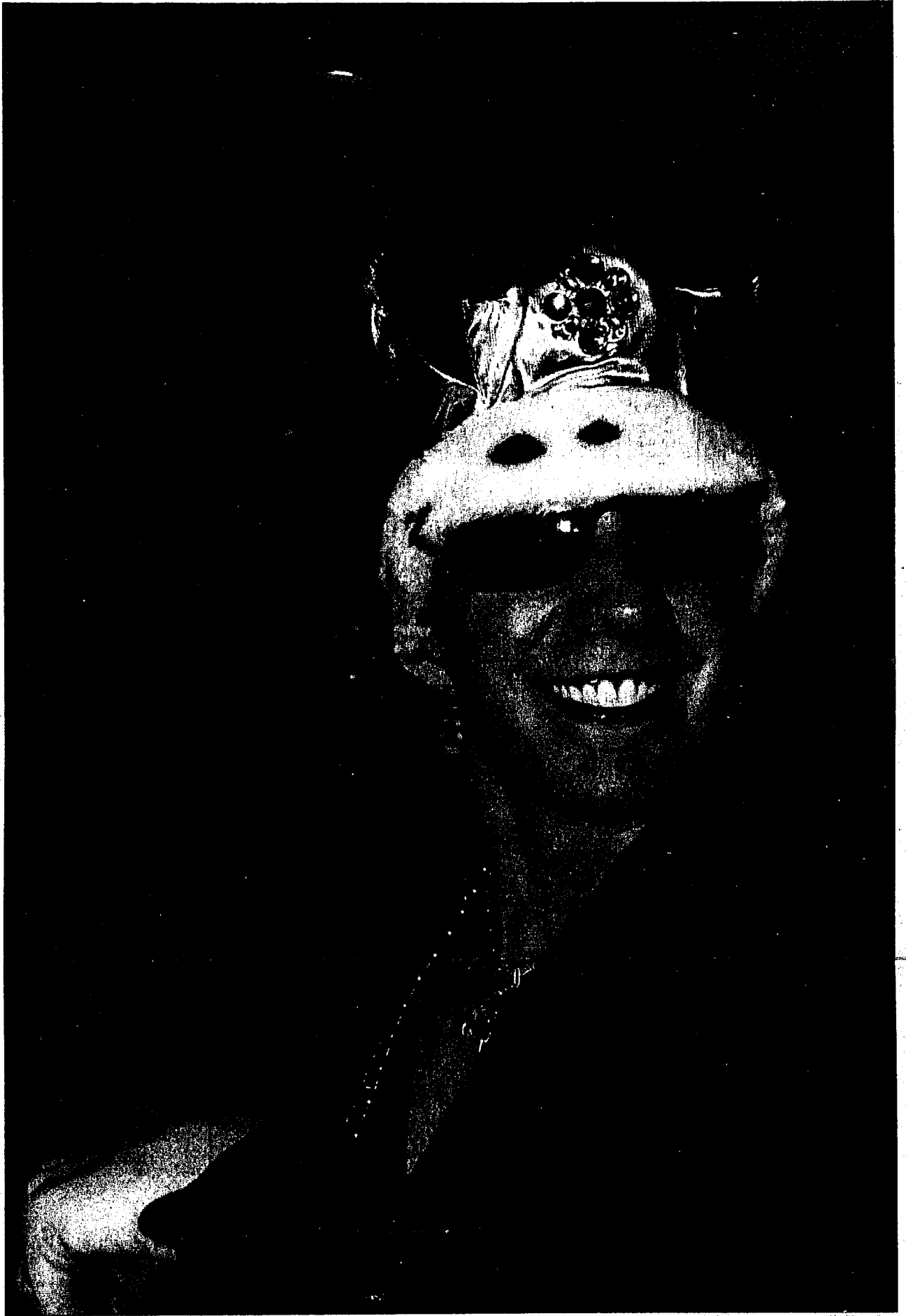
McClure gave the attendance level had a positive spin, however.

"It gave us an opportunity to spend more quality time with the groups," McClure said. "Instead of schedule, schedule, schedule, people could get quality feedback in a more relaxed atmosphere."

Although 2008 was a big year with 338 schools in attendance, McClure

see **FEST**, page 4

PARTY FOR A CAUSE



Steven Devine/Argonaut

Citizens and students of Moscow break out costumes, beads, masks, hats and other accessories to celebrate the Moscow Mardi Gras Saturday night. Profits from the event went to local children's charities.

Agriculture, food buyers meet, mingle

Chefs, producers met to strengthen local food system

Sebastian Edgerton
Argonaut

At the University of Idaho, 5,000 to 6,000 meals are consumed daily. Each meal travels an average of 1,500 miles before it reaches the plate.

"How we grow, transport and consume food as a nation impacts the global climate crisis, the local economy and personal health," said Jeannie Matheison, an adviser for the UI Sustainability Center.

UI is doing something about it. Sodexo, the campus food caterer, is required to buy 12 percent of their food within Latah County by their new contract.

Because of this requirement, Sodexo's production manager, Martinez Mercedes, attended the North Idaho Farmer-Chef Collaborative in Moscow. This collaborative has happened for the last three years.

Kim Peterson, a marketing assistant with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, said there have been 10 events in Sandpoint,

Coeur d'Alene and Moscow. During the events, chefs and farmers are acquainted with each other's operations in five-minute intervals in a "speed dating" format.

Martinez said demand outstrips supply for local produce, though he named three firms: Howard Jones of H & L Jones Farm, Soggy Bottom Farm and Spring Song Farm as potential clients.

"I did find it challenging because of the size of the business that we have," Martinez said. "The small business can't supply what the demand is."

Despite potential leads for buying locally, Mercedes foresees it taking a while before they can start buying.

"We need to get numbers, how much we use and can (Howard Jones) supply us," Mercedes said. "If we put (lentils) on the menu three times a week — lentil soups, lentil casseroles — and we use ... 100 pounds a week, can he supply that?"

He said vendors who supply food to Sodexo must be approved to make sure the crops are raised safely. Sodexo examines matters like harvesting techniques, water supplies and fertilizer use.

"The great thing about the

see **FOOD**, page 1

UI may start charging tuition

Constitutional amendment on November ballot to change interpretation of 100-year-old law

Erin Bradfield
Argonaut

A constitutional amendment allowing the University of Idaho to charge tuition to in-state residents will be on the ballot this November.

Assistant Majority Leader Joe Stegner of the Idaho Senate wrote the bill.

Article 9, Section 10 of the Idaho Constitution reads, "All the rights, immunities, franchises, and endowments, heretofore granted thereto by the territory of Idaho are hereby perpetuated unto the said university."

"That clause has been interpreted for over 100 years to suggest that the university cannot charge tuition," Stegner said.

Instead of tuition, UI charges its resident students a group of fees. Money from residents cannot support instructor pay, which this year totals 43.3 percent of UI's funding allocation.

Tania Thompson, a UI spokesperson, said via e-mail that UI supports the change.

"The institution will support efforts to educate the public on the need for this change in the constitution to allow the uni-

versity to apply student fees in the same fashion as the other state institutions of higher education in Idaho," she wrote, acknowledging that specifics of implementation are not yet finalized.

Other institutions in Idaho, including Boise State University and Idaho State University, do charge tuition. UI is in a unique situation, though, as it was created by the Idaho territorial government in 1889, one year before statehood.

"In that territorial law, there's a section dealing with the creation of University of Idaho, and there's a Section 12 that says no (resident student) shall be required to pay any fees for tuition in the university," Stegner said.

However, territorial law makes no determination re-

"There's a section dealing with the creation of University of Idaho ... that says no (resident student) shall be required to pay any fees for tuition in the university."

jo
STEGNER
Idaho Senator

garding out-of-state students. Non-residents pay tuition, which is not bound in the way student fees are.

Because fees are limited and can only be spent in their respective areas, approval of the amendment would give the university more flexibility on how money is spent internally. The amendment requires a simple majority to pass. The university wouldn't necessarily raise the amount students pay if the amendment goes through.

"Nobody expects the amount of money to go up besides other than what you normally see in an annual increase, but the university may change the name of it, yes," Stegner said.

If the amendment is approved, it will go into effect immediately.

Discover Life

at the Idaho Commons & Student Union

Idaho Commons & Student Union

This week's ASUI Vandal Entertainment Films:

Foreign Films Series:

Stoning of Soraya

Tuesday
March 22nd & 23rd
7 & 9:30pm

SUB Borah Theater
\$2 Students/\$3 Public
Tickets sold at the SUB Info Desk

Indie Film Series:

Brothers

Wednesday & Thursday
March 24th & 25th
7 & 9:30pm

SUB Borah Theater
\$2 Students/\$3 Public
Tickets sold at the SUB Info Desk

Blockbuster Series:

The Blindside

Friday & Saturday
March 26th & 27th
7 & 9:30pm

SUB Borah Theater
\$2 Students/\$3 Public
Tickets sold at the SUB Info Desk

Idaho Commons Hours:

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

Student Union Hours:

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



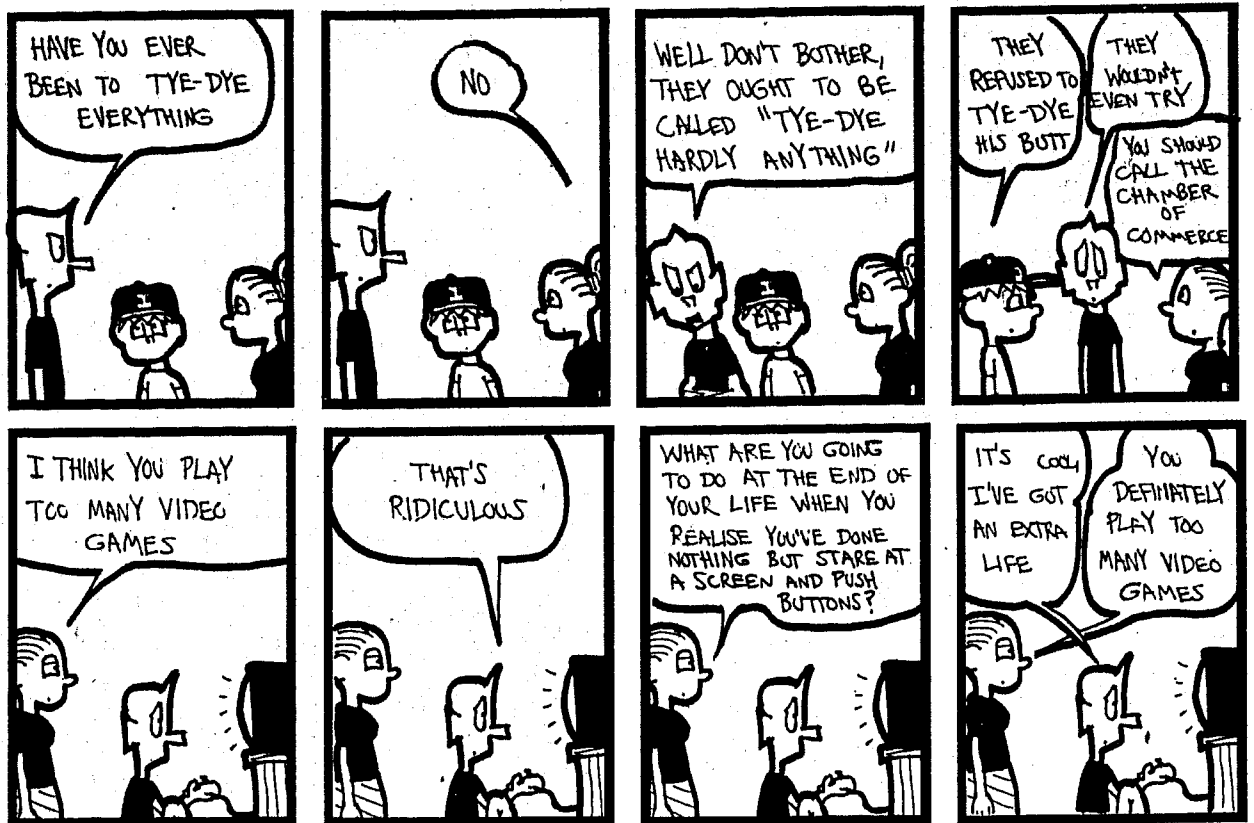
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hooverHALL

Paul Tong/Argonaut



The Idaho Argonaut

Stories from Tuesday, March 8, 1960

Engineers Set Date For Ball

March 25 has been selected as the date for the annual Engineers Ball which is the social event of the year for all the engineering students and faculty of the University.

The five branches of engineering — Agriculture, Civil, Chemical, and Electrical — will all present displays in their field. The prize winning display last year showed the mechanical perfection of ball bearings and swas built by the Mechanical Engineering.

The ball bearings were carried up a conveyor, dropped to an inclined plane, cut on a round metal post, bounced from the post through a revolving metal hoop into a collector. This process was performed continually without one ball bearing missing the hoop.

The outstanding freshman engineering student of last year will receive an award from Sigma Tau, engineering honorary, during the intermission of the dance.

Student Vote To Be Taken At 3 Places

Students will find three polling places set up and ready for business Thursday morning when balloting begins for the spring ASUI elections.

Dave Trail, chairman of the election board, said that students can vote either at the Administration Bldg., Engineering Bldg., or the SUB from 8:15

a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Election officials will accept only student service cards at the voting places; no pink receipt slips will be accepted, he stressed.

Trail added that students will not be allowed to vote by proxy and that absentee ballots must be cast by Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the ASUI office. Absentee ballots can be used only if voters have an official University excuse to be off campus.

Trail also said that election officials will use several means to prevent ballot box stuffing. All ASUI cards are punched at the polls to prevent re-voting; and as a double check, each voters' name is checked off in the student directory.

The election is run by the ASUI-election board made up of seven Greeks and eight Independents to insure fairness. Clifford I. Dobler, associate professor of political science, will assist the election board.

NROTC To Start New Film System

A system of showing weekly information and documentary films has been announced by the Naval ROTC unit at Idaho.

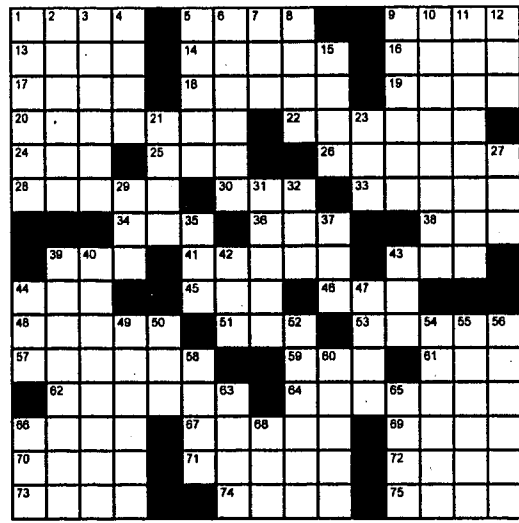
These films are open both to the naval Midshipmen and any faculty member or student. The first in the series will be "Operation Sunshine," a report of the atomic submarine Nautilus and its cruise under the north polar ice cap.

The film will be shown in room 107 of the Navy building at 3 p.m. Thursday.

crossword

Across

- 1 Easy marks
- 5 Auction actions
- 9 Stone
- 13 ___ of Man
- 14 Ridgeline
- 16 Race track shape
- 17 Larger ___ life
- 18 Hermit
- 19 Snowbank
- 20 Doom
- 22 Current
- 24 Miner's find
- 25 Bring to bear
- 26 Vile
- 28 Taxi ticker
- 30 Electricity source
- 33 Kitchen appliance
- 34 Silent assent
- 36 Knock
- 38 Capture
- 39 Store posting (Abbr.)
- 41 Cherish
- 43 ___ el Amarna, Egypt
- 44 Golf ball position
- 45 Sweet potato
- 46 Kind of truck
- 48 Acclaim
- 51 Slot machine symbol
- 53 Western group
- 57 Spectacles
- 59 Bard's "before"
- 61 Cowboy's moniker
- 62 Concoctates
- 64 Stretched to the limit
- 66 ___ no good
- 67 Caper
- 69 Orchard item
- 70 Espied



- 71 Pageant wear
- 72 Soprano Gluck
- 73 Puts two and two together
- 74 Kind of school
- 75 Deli breads
- 9 Singer Goulet
- 10 Cooked too long
- 11 Mardi Gras, e.g.
- 12 Airline to Amsterdam
- 15 God of love
- 21 Continental coin
- 23 Old PC platform
- 27 Cotillion girl
- 29 Nav. rank
- 31 Fragrance
- 32 Disfigure
- 35 Calendar square
- 37 Favorite
- 39 Had breathing spasms
- 40 Yielded
- 42 Apply gently
- 43 Low card
- 44 Bandleader Brown
- 47 Receptive
- 49 Negative particles
- 50 Asian occasion
- 52 Go to bed
- 54 Hard, like a stare
- 55 Oil source
- 56 Some role players
- 58 Plane reservation
- 60 Summation
- 63 Scissors cut
- 65 Joust verbally
- 66 Can. neighbor
- 68 Feather's partner

Down

- 1 Friends, for one
- 2 On the beach
- 3 Celestial body
- 4 Transmit
- 5 Unguents
- 6 Pressed
- 7 Cozy room
- 8 Flower holder

sudoku

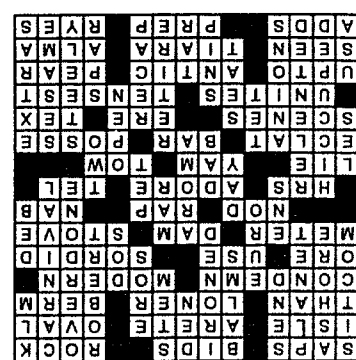
	1	3		8	2			
8			6					2
				1		7	8	
	3			9		4	6	
9	4			6				
1		3			5			
	9	1		6			8	5
	2	5	8	1	3	9		4
		4				7	3	

corrections

The Palouse Climbing Festival is in its eighth year, and this was the first time the festival was included as a climbing meet in a competitive series. This was reported incorrectly in the March 2 edition of The Argonaut.

Find a mistake? Send an e-mail to the section editor. Contact information can be found on page 5.

solutions



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

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asu**LEADER OF THE MONTH**

Leadership gives internship meaning

Ashley Centers
Argonaut

Samantha Storms said she realized she wanted to help people while holding a position as a student government officer in seventh grade.

Seven years later, Storms is doing just that — helping others on the University of Idaho campus by serving as a leadership and organization intern with Mitch Odom and Danni Merriman through ASUI.

Storms is a sophomore in international studies from Idaho Falls.

This isn't the first time Storms has been involved with ASUI. She served as a senator in her freshman year. Storms said each of her positions has helped her see a different side of ASUI, the UI campus and the opportunities available to her.

"Serving in ASUI is a unique opportunity," Storms said. "I have definitely learned that you get as much out as you put in. I work really hard to get the most out of my experience. I have met a lot of my fellow students, learned a lot about being a Vandal and have a

greater appreciation for the real issues our university is facing."

Storms' position as a leadership and organization intern requires her to facilitate the weekly Idaho LEADS Workshops with Odom and Merriman, planning student organization training workshops and planning and hosting the Student Achievement Awards, which will be held at 7 p.m., April 16 at the University Inn.

"Her desire and energy motivate the rest of the team, myself included, to do better," said Denise Carl, a student engagement coordinator. "Her willingness to help out whenever and however needed leaves me with no doubt about the high quality work Sam will do each and every time. I think her connections throughout campus have helped to bring our programs to more people, making our work all the more meaningful."

Storms and her fellow interns

are also in charge of the Leadership Conference and Get Involved Fair, which happen each semester.

"Sam has been a great addition to our leadership intern team," Carl said. "She always has a positive attitude, takes the time to ask how others are doing, brings great ideas to the table, is willing to do both the mundane and exciting jobs with the same attention to detail and energy, and her connections to many areas on campus have benefited us greatly."

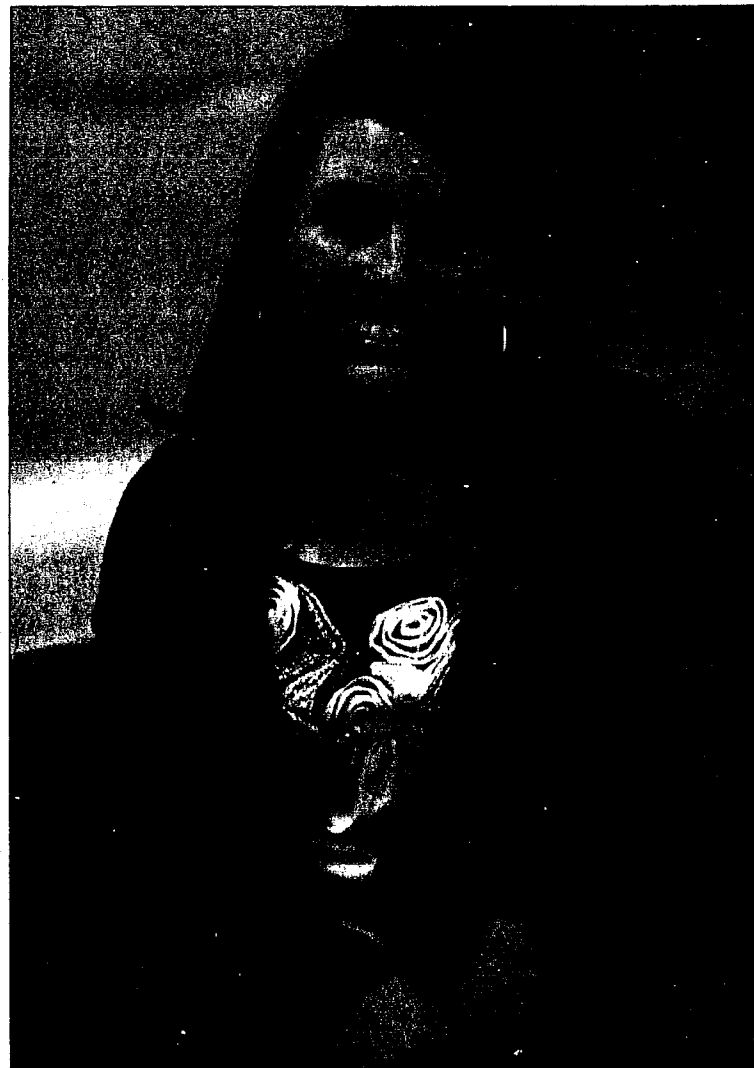
Storms credits her ambition and good work ethic to her family, especially her mom, who she said encourages her to set high standards and goals for herself.

"From day one (my mom) has always been by my side encouraging me to be the best I can be," Storms said. "I would not be where I am without her."

Storms said she isn't sure what she wants to do after graduation, but that she wants to continue helping people.

"Sam has been a great addition to our leadership team."

denise
CARL
Student engagement coordinator



Jake Barber/Argonaut
International studies sophomore Samantha Storms is a leadership and organization intern with Mitch Odom and Danni Merriman through ASUI.

policeLOG

Monday, March 1

1:51 p.m. Perimeter Drive: Female arrested for driving with a suspended license. Report taken.

3:48 p.m. Paradise Creek Street: Caller reported two men in the same stall in the men's restroom next to the information desk. Officer responded, no report.

6:06 p.m. West Sixth Street: Caller reported a blue Subaru nearly hit them. Unknown plate. Officer advised, no report.

8:19 p.m. Kibbie Dome: Caller reported a child left alone in a vehicle on the Dome's east side parking lot. Officer responded, no report.

8:29 p.m. Stadium Way: Officers responded to an assault in progress.

Tuesday

9:55 a.m. South Line Street: Caller reported a vehicle cut them off while riding their bike. Vehicle turned into the gravel parking lot near the Steam Plant.

3:30 p.m. Delta Chi: Caller reported two young men pretending to hold a string and raise it over the road, causing a traffic hazard. Officer responded but was unable to locate subjects, no report taken.

4:31 p.m. West Sixth Street: Caller reported vehicle parked in a no-parking zone. Officer responded, no report.

7:04 p.m. College of Education building: One male trespasser on UI property, officer requested case number, no report.

7:14 p.m. Sigma Alpha Epsilon: Fire responded to a fire alarm. Alarm was reset.

9:20 p.m. North Line Street: Case number for disabled vehicle. No report.

Wednesday

1:56 a.m. 700 Block of Deakin Avenue: One male arrested for urinating in public. Report taken.

1:25 p.m. UI Bookstore: Caller reported they have a student detained in the manager's office who tried to shoplift. The subject

was semi-cooperative. 1:25 p.m. Perimeter Drive: Caller reported that a UI Facilities 1994 flatbed GMC pickup's gas line was cut. Officer met caller outside on location.

8:22 p.m. AgSci building: Caller reported being hit about 6:20 p.m. in gold lot next door, without injury.

Thursday

9:27 a.m. Perimeter Drive and West Pullman Road: Caller reported a two-vehicle, non-injury, non-blocking accident. Officer responded, state accident report taken.

2:21 p.m. Sweet Avenue and South Main Street: Found property. Bike rack outside the center for disabilities at the incubator. Black bike has been there for one day.

2:59 p.m. UI Bookstore: Case for theft, report taken.

6:34 p.m. UI Commons: Caller reported they have a small blonde pit bull contained. Dog was taken to shelter, no report.

7:50 p.m. Wallace Residence Center: Caller reported the smell of marijuana in the hallway. Officer responded, report taken.

Friday

8:12 a.m. Paradise Creek Street: Caller reported vehicle parked in the street blocking and partially in the crosswalk. Officer responded and the owner showed up and removed vehicle. No report.

11:56 a.m. Teaching and Learning Center: Caller reported person having convulsions or seizures. Police and medical responded and transported subject to Gritman. No report.

11:58 a.m. UI Golf Course: Caller reported someone had been dumping mattress and wood into the dumpster. Officer advised, no report.

2:23 p.m. McConnell Hall: A person fell down. Officer and medical responded and transported subject to hospital. No report.

8:24 p.m. South Line Street, between Sixth and LLC: Caller reported a vehicle parked on the road with flashers on, not blocking. Officer responded, vehicle gone on arrival, no report.

11:00 p.m. Student Union

Building: Caller reported people on roof pushing things into back alley, possibly onto people. Officers responded and checked the area, no report.

11:17 p.m. Deakin Avenue and West Sixth Street: Officer advised two highly intoxicated females, one with lacerations on face. Patient was transported to Gritman and no report taken.

11:32 p.m. Blake Avenue, Delta Chi: Officers and fire responded for fire alarm. Officer on scene advised it was a prank and alarm was reset. No report.

11:38 p.m. Deakin and West Sixth Street: Officer cited female for MIP and requested case number for alcohol offense. No report.

Saturday

1:48 a.m. Railroad Street: Caller reported a male wearing camouflage and carrying a rifle. Officers responded, contacted subject and determined the rifle to be an airsoft gun. No report.

2:09 a.m. Perimeter Drive and Nez Perce Drive: Officer arrested male for DUI. Report taken.

2:20 a.m. Elm Street and University Avenue: Officer requested case number for drug offense.

1:25 p.m. Perimeter Drive and West Pullman Road: Caller reported an erratic driver continually going over the middle lane at varying speeds. Officer stopped and cited the driver. No report.

9:19 p.m. Wallace Residence Center: Officer cited male for MIP. No report.

10:51 p.m. Sweet Avenue and Railroad Street: Officer arrested female for a misdemeanor warrant. No report.

Sunday

6:10 p.m. Alpha Kappa Lambda: Caller reported that there is very loud bass somewhere on Nez Perce Drive that has been playing all day.

7:20 p.m. Wallace Residence Center: Caller reported that her bike was missing from the bike rack.

7:44 p.m. South Line Street near LLC: Caller reported a vehicle parked on Line Street that decreases visibility. Officer responded but vehicle was gone on arrival.

Election weakens members of Texas educational board

April Castro
Associated Press

The Texas state education board's influential Christian conservative bloc was weakened Wednesday after one of its most prominent members lost his seat to a moderate Republican. Another reliably conservative seat was headed to a runoff.

Former board chairman Don McLeroy was handed a GOP primary defeat by lobbyist Thomas Ratliff. Ratliff conceded McLeroy never foisted his religious beliefs into textbooks, over which the 15-member State Board of Education has nationwide influence because Texas is one of the biggest clients for publishers. But Ratliff had criticized the 10-year board veteran for being too far right.

"Voters sent a clear message by rejecting the ring-leader (McLeroy) of the faction that has repeatedly dragged our public schools into the nation's divisive culture wars over the past four years," said Kathy Miller, president of the Texas Freedom Network, which opposes Christian conservative initiatives. "Parents want a state board that focuses on educating their kids, not promoting divisive political and personal agendas."

Still, social conservatives claimed at least one victory as Ken Mercer of San Antonio successfully fended off a GOP challenge from Austin

attorney Tim Tuggey. And conservative Brian Russell forced an April runoff with educator Marsha Farney in the race for the seat held by outgoing Christian conservative Cynthia Dunbar.

"I hope we can keep our conservative posture," Mercer said of the board. He'll face Democrat Rebecca Bell-Metereau in November.

"It's not anybody's ideology," he said. "It's just keeping the promises we made." Primary results aside, the seven conservative Christians on the board will have votes this spring on the adoption of a new social studies curriculum, a task that has been chock full of ideological flashpoints.

While early quibbles over how much prominence to give civil rights leaders such as Cesar Chavez and the inclusion of Christmas seem to have been smoothed over — neither will be removed from the standards — board members are crafting dozens of amendments to be raised for consideration before the first vote this month.

McLeroy, who believes the Earth is only 6,000 years old and that the Christian influences of the founding fathers are important to studying American history, lost his role as chairman last year following criticism of his outspoken views on creationism and support of teaching the weaknesses of evolutionary theory.

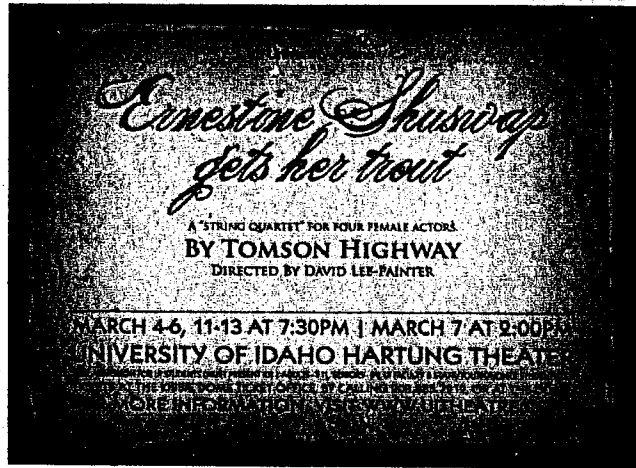
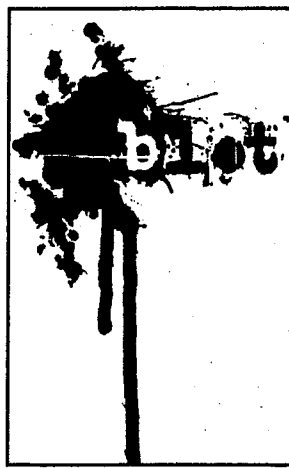
Dunbar drew the most attention in her single, four-year term by writing that public schools were a "subtly deceptive tool of perversion."

McLeroy, Dunbar and five other conservative Christians on the board have secured majorities when picking up votes from one of three other Republicans or five Democrats.

One of the board's more moderate Republicans, Geraldine Miller, also lost her primary bid to keep the seat she has held since 1994. But little is known about her successful challenger, Dallas English teacher George Clayton, and it wasn't clear Wednesday where his votes might align. Clayton did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

Democrats Rene Nunez and Lawrence Allen Jr. are both running for re-election; Allen is unopposed. No Democrats filed to run for McLeroy's seat in November.

Tuesday's elections were the first since the board tackled evolution curriculum in 2008. During the heated debate that ultimately led lawmakers to oust McLeroy as chairman, the board decided Texas schools would no longer have to teach the "strengths and weaknesses" of evolution. Teachers still would be encouraged to consider "all sides" of scientific theories.



5 10 8 SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE 6 7 8

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IT'LL ALL ADD UP IN THEATRES

MARCH 12

RESTRICTED LANGUAGE AND SOME DRUG CONTENT

FOOD from page 1

Farmer-Chef collaborative is that it not only strengthens connections between regional growers and local restaurants, it also supports our local economy and reduces food miles," Matheison said.

Peterson said as the organizer for the event, she sees it oriented more toward the chefs, not farmers.

Peterson said chefs are busy and tend to purchase raw products from remote locations. This is true for Sodexo: Mercedes said their major food provider is Sysco, meaning food could be coming from Mexico or further away.

What it comes down to, she said, is that the quality of regional, local produce and other such products is higher than that of California or South America. She adds that in the end, buying local does save the chefs money, though that should not be a driving motivation.

"I really want to buy more, I want to buy all of it, little pieces here and there," Mercedes said. "But I can't, because they can't supply it all year-round. But we can work around that. But another thing is that they can't really supply it one day like Sysco when they have the product in season, because we use too much ... We use seven cases of tomatoes per day."

Peterson said when farmers and chefs are coupled up, menus become seasonalized and consumers at restaurants are educated on what is grown when and who grows it.

The ratio of farmer-to-chef attendance has been 2-to-1.

Peterson said some producers in the past have been frustrated trying to make connections with chefs, because some chefs are not aware that certain products are not available year-round.

"They don't understand what it takes to be a farmer," Peterson said.

She said participants generally leave the meeting satisfied.

Peterson said the group "Idaho Preferred," whose objectives are to create options for civilians to buy local products, is the original organizer for this farmer-chef collaborative.

Most of the producers who come to this event are small or mid-size sellers.

"The people who attend my events are generally the ones who attend the farmers markets," Peterson said.

She said it was hard for these smaller businesses to promote themselves to buyers, because they may lack time and money. Organizing a fair to connect buyers and sellers makes that point moot.

"Purchasing foods from local and regional producers whenever possible creates demand for local foods, and everyone wins," Matheison said.

FACULTY from page 1

are taken depends entirely on salary and status. Jack Miller, chair of the faculty senate, said the amount of furlough time is reasonable.

"The prohibition against class cancellation really limits faculty options since their other jobs, such as research and service, have limited flexibility too," Miller said. "In that sense, faculty really bear the brunt of the furloughs. I suspect that there will be many faculty and administrators who simply work without taking any time off."

Loehring said Staff Affairs had a similar viewpoint, in wanting the furlough time to be as flexible as possible.

"Staff Affairs never took a formal position on canceling classes," Loehring said. "However, canceling classes could mean closing the university, so I don't believe Staff Affairs would support such a strategy at this time."

FEST from page 1

said it wasn't fair to compare this year to then because of economic hardship this year. She also noted that the festival competed with the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

New to this year's festival, Wednesday's evening concert moved to the Student Union Building International Ballroom. Attendance hit 709 people.

"We were really happy with the sound, and the artists were as well," she said. "Instead of performing to a large crowd in the UI Kibbie Dome (which) may have seemed smaller because of all the space," artists could perform in a more intimate setting, she said.

In the press release, McClure suggested attendance last year was somewhat inflated due to the nature of budgeting in advance.

"We are seeing the same (issues) in entities like this in performing arts events across the nation," she said.

**Comment on
any stories at
uiargonaut.com.**

Calif. state senator says he's gay after DUI arrest

Robin Hindery
Associated Press

Republican state Sen. Roy Ashburn said Monday he is gay, ending days of speculation that began after his arrest last week for investigation of driving under the influence.

Ashburn, who consistently voted against gay rights measures during 14 years in the state Legislature, came out in an interview with KERN radio in Bakersfield, the area he represents.

Ashburn said he felt compelled to address rumors that he had visited a gay nightclub near the Capitol before his DUI arrest.

"I am gay ... those are the words that have been so difficult for me for so long," Ashburn told conservative talk show host Inga Barks.

The 55-year-old father of four said he had tried to keep his personal life separate from his professional life until his March 3 arrest.

"When I crossed the line and broke the law and put people at risk, that's different, and I do owe people an explanation," he said.

Ashburn was arrested after he was spotted driving erratically near the Capitol, according to the California Highway Patrol. Shelly Orio, a spokeswoman from the Sacramento County district attorney's office, said a breath test showed the senator's blood-alcohol level was .14 percent, or .06 points above the legal limit.

The next day, reports surfaced that Ashburn had left Faces, a gay nightclub, with an unidentified man

in the passenger seat of his Senate-owned vehicle.

"The best way to handle that is to be truthful and to say to my constituents and all who care that I am gay," he said. "But I don't think it's something that has affected, nor will it affect, how I do my job."

Ashburn had been on personal leave since his arrest, but attended Monday's brief Senate session, where he avoided the media. Fellow lawmakers greeted him warmly, and he received pats on the back and hugs from some Republicans and Democrats.

Ashburn has voted against a number of gay rights measures, including efforts to expand anti-discrimination laws and recognize out-of-state gay marriages. Last year, he opposed a bill to establish a day of recognition to honor slain gay rights activist Harvey Milk.

Equality California, a group that advocates for expanded gay rights and other issues, has consistently given Ashburn a zero rating on its scorecard.

The group's executive director, Geoff Kors, said Monday that he hopes the senator's revelation will lead him to change his voting patterns.

"He's still the same person, only living more honestly," Kors said. "I

hope his own self-awareness will result in him no longer voting to deny people the most basic rights."

Ashburn said his votes reflected the way constituents in his district wanted him to vote, not necessarily his own views.

"I felt my duty — and I still feel this way — is to represent my constituents, not my own point of view, not my own internal conflict," he told Barks.

Ashburn said he planned to continue voting on behalf of what he sees as the majority viewpoint in his district, which includes parts of Kern, Tulare and San Bernardino counties.

Former state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, an openly gay Democrat who was visiting the Capitol Monday, said she hopes Ashburn receives support, not condemnation, from his friends, family and constituents.

"It's very painful," she said of the coming-out process. "And mostly it's painful because you think everyone will be against you."

In the radio interview, Ashburn said he is drawing on his Christian faith, and asked people to pray for him.

He said he does not plan to run for any public office after his term ends this year.

**"When I
crossed the
line and
broke the
law and put
people at
risk, that's
different,
and I do owe
people an
explanation."**

roy
ASHBURN
California senator

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B.E.A.R.

Pass them next year

Idaho's immigration bills should be passed after revisions

An Idaho immigration bill — SB 1303, aimed to penalize employers that knowingly hire undocumented workers — was shot down yesterday by the Senate State Affairs Committee, and for good reason.

Another bill, SB 1271, would make it a crime to use false documents for employment. The Senate State Affairs Committee will decide this bill's fate soon.

Certain aspects of 1303 render it ridiculous and

over-reaching.

Bill proposer Sen. Mike Jorgenson, R-Hayden Lake, said he plans to remove two provisions in the bill. One provision would make it a felony for churches or other charity organizations to aid illegal immigrants, and the other would ensure driver's license tests are only in English.

To stop religious groups from donating food and services to anyone is to force

them to abstain from what they believe their purposes are.

Forcing English on anyone taking a driver's license test in Idaho is discriminatory against not only Spanish-speaking immigrants, but also refugees and other groups of minorities.

Any reasonable person understands immigration laws are necessary to an extent. It's the crazy legislators with anti-immigration agendas

that cause the trouble.

Bills stuffed with silly provisions do no good. They waste the government's time with issues that will not and certainly should not pass, while the government could be using their time productively.

SB 1303 and 1271 should pass next year after the state budget crisis has been solved and without any of these idiotic provisions.

— KS

off the CUFF

Quick takes on life from our editors

Baseball soon

Baseball season is starting soon — my life has meaning once more.

— Greg

Here comes fun

Yes, it's midterms! I am so excited for midterms! This is really my favorite time of year. I love essay-style exams, 10-page research papers and design projects. Only not. Hey, I tried to be optimistic, didn't I?

— Kelcie

Apportionment

If I cranked up the ratio of time I spend on housework to the amount of time I spend on video games to 1:10 or so, I'd have such a clean house. So much "Oblivion," so much "Fallout 3." Ah, well. Everyone needs a hobby.

— Marcus

News flash

Instructors, professors and the like: your job is to teach. Your job is not to play God with our grades or become egomaniacs. Yes, you're smart. That's why you work here. That's why we pay you — to teach.

— Kelsey

My new apartment

After searching for weeks, I actually found a one-bedroom apartment on campus. It's quite a bit smaller than the place I have now, and it doesn't have a dishwasher, but it's closer than I usually park and a lot cheaper.

— Jeffrey

I love the rain

Yesterday was the first day I could wear my cherry rain boots — at least for a legitimate reason. I loved it.

— Elizabeth

Blah

Although the weather is dull, I think it fits perfectly with this week. Two papers, one feature article with interviews, classes and one midterm over media law equals a dreary week, rain and all.

— Jennifer

Midterms

I am so relieved that I only have one written midterm. Although, I am helping run a big convention that takes up the whole second half of the week.

— Jens

Hectic housing

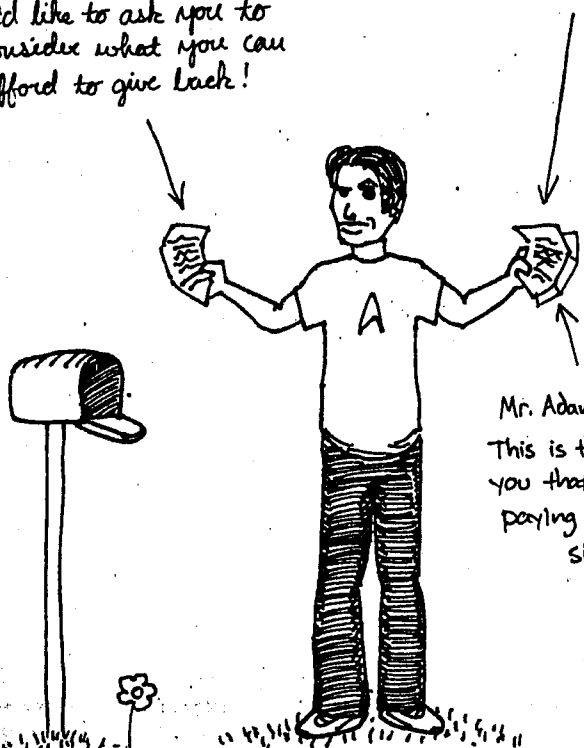
After finding an apartment I really like with a great roommate, we get a call from the property manager saying that the owner of the building doesn't want to use the building for rentals anymore and we'll have to find somewhere else. Really? What else do you use an apartment building for?

— Jake

Dear Matt Adams Wenger,
As a soon-to-be member of the distinguished alumni of the University of Idaho, we'd like to ask you to consider what you can afford to give back!

Mr. Adams-Wenger:
This is your bank reminding you about how little money you have.

Mr. Adams-Wenger,
This is the government reminding you that you have to start paying back your loans in six months.



ADAMS-WENGER
Argonaut

Nellis is still paid too much

University of Idaho President Duane Nellis makes 213 percent more every year than full-time professors at UI. Despite Nellis' high pay rate, the average professor is being paid 21.4 percent under the national average, as reported by the American Association of University Professors. Nellis also recently informed faculty and students that due to budget restraints, university employee furloughs are necessary this spring. While Nellis continues to make over \$300,000, he will be using his power granted by the State Board of Education to implement furloughs that will force the hard-working professors and staff of UI to take unpaid leave.

With the failing economy, and government funding facing drastic reductions, cuts are expected across the board. It would seem reasonable to begin in places that have funding to spare before taking away part of an employee's salary, such as the substantial funding the athletic department receives. It has been the trend in past financial crises to cut from various departments, but somehow athletics has managed to largely escape the monetary cutting board. In past years, they actually received increased funding and pay raises while other departments suffered massive cuts.

While athletics do bring in money from ticket sales and alumni donations, this does not mean they should be exempt from budget cuts, or at least not be granted additional monetary funds. Especially considering that UI has seen such subpar athletic performances — apart from this year's unexpected football season — budget cuts would make the most logical sense in these areas. But instead of cutting where below-average is acceptable, the administration saw fit to cut where excellence is not only required, but seen on a day-to-day basis, specifically in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

However, it is not just irresponsible departmental cuts that raise questions concerning the methodology of the budget committees. The real kicker is that while there is barely enough funding to go around and student fees are constantly being increased, the salary of our beloved president has risen in the last year. When signing his new contract, Nellis required \$44,000 more than former president Tim White was being paid to match what he made at Kansas State University. Even though this amount seems trivial when compared to the overall budget and funding of the university, it is this kind of selfishness that makes students, faculty and people associated with the university think while Nellis claims he has the university's best interests in mind, he really just wants to



katy
SWORD
Argonaut

see NELLIS, page 6

There are other places that can skim a little off their massive budgets before resorting to furloughs.

Instead of cutting where below-average is acceptable, the administration saw fit to cut where excellence is not only required, but seen on a day-to-day basis, specifically in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

see NELLIS, page 6

Therapeutic TV

I never really understood the promotions for television shows that started with, "Every once in a while a show comes along with the ability to change your life..." These promotions are meant to entice the viewer to watch when the show finally airs three months hence. The ads are usually taken off the air at about the time the show is four episodes in. Maybe this is because no lives were changed — just channels. I think I now understand this kind of advertisement, and I feel they should be used to advertise shows like A&E's "Hoarders" and ABC's "Super Nanny."

When I watch these shows I feel good about myself. I know it is wrong to find pleasure in others' struggles, whether serious psychological issues or parenting problems, and I am not so much finding pleasure as I am confidence. These types of shows give me

self-confidence, as I am sure they do for others.



erin
HARTY
Argonaut

These programs make me feel as though my house — the living room riddled with stuffed animals, the kitchen filled with dirty dishes and the desk buried under weeks of research and library books — is not as bad as it could be. These programs allow me to feel like a good mother with the best of intentions and enough parenting skills to teach my children manners. These programs give me hope.

I realize it sounds a little crass to be overjoyed that life is not always rosy for others, and I recognize this will make me look like a bad person to some, but there are those of you out there who can relate. I know it. You may hide behind self-righteousness at being called out on it, you may

see TV, page 6

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Editorials may not necessarily reflect the

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The Argonaut welcomes letters to the edi-

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- Letters should be less than 300 words typed.
- Letters should focus on issues, not on personalities.
- The Argonaut reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and clarity.

- Letters must be signed, include major and provide a current phone number.
- If your letter is in response to a particular article, please list the title and date of the article.
- Send all letters to:

301 Student Union
Moscow, ID, 83844-4271
or arg-opinion@uidaho.edu

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Would you like a latte with your gun?

The major news brewing in the past few weeks involves Starbucks allowing customers to carry un concealed weapons into any of the company's shops. Writers everywhere have been scrambling to concoct puns about shots since the news broke.

While most of the puns have been superfluous, the thought of staring down the barrel of a gun while waiting for a café con panna is something no person should have to consider. There are very few reasons — if

any — a person needs to be packing heat in a coffee shop.

People who carry their cellular phone in a holster inside Starbucks are a bit over-the-top — carrying a gun is just plain reckless. Brandishing a glock rarely has a positive outcome, especially in situations that do not require it.

Life is not an episode of "Miami Vice" or "The Shield." Shootouts do not haphazardly occur. Some may argue there is a need to have the protection a gun offers, but having

more guns out in the open leads to more shootings.

The problem is this issue has not become one about common sense and practicality, but the rights of gun owners. This is not about the Second Amendment — this is about not having to see someone toting an Uzi while trying to decide on a pastry.

It is fine for a person to own a gun, but leave it at home when running errands. Overzealous entities on both sides of the debate insist on making this a rallying cry for gun control in the United States.

The matter has become so convoluted there can be no

winner. If people are allowed to carry weapons into coffee shops, common sense is yet again struck down. If gun control advocates win and guns are not permitted in shops, they will only try to use the ruling to further their own beliefs.

It is a lose-lose situation. Guns are dangerous, but they are not going away anytime soon. It is an issue that needs discretion, but that seems almost as unlikely as seeing two people legally carrying a bayonet into a Starbucks.

Oh wait, that is a horrible analogy because the latter is acceptable despite the obvious

nature of its ridiculousness. As a society, we should strive to argue about issues more important than guns in coffee shops.

While it is not explicitly stated in the Bill of Rights, a person does have a right to feel safe in public places. It is hard to achieve that with a bunch of people carrying un concealed weapons in the community.

The last thing employees of a coffee shop want are a bunch of customers jittery on caffeine anywhere near a trigger. Guns and lattes do not mix, and it should stay that way.

Send letters to arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.



Cheyenne HOLLIS Argonaut

theDILETTANTE

Deliberative no more

'Filibuster' is a kind word

Apologists for the United States Senate will sometimes call it the world's greatest deliberative body. If that was once true, it is true no more.

The Senate no longer deliberates nor acts deliberately: 100 Senators representing about 300 million people now see themselves in a zero-sum game.

For the last year or so, politicians have been discussing reform to America's health care delivery system. Some GOP lawmakers have thrown up their hands and said we haven't talked about it enough, or that no person could plausibly understand the bill and its implications, or that it reshapes one-sixth of the economy (apparently enough, if true, on its face to be a reason against passage).

Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts and an apparent contender for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, expanded health care in the Bay State with an individual mandate, heavy subsidies for those up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, and free health care for those up to 150 percent of that level and an insurance exchange.

The big difference between the plan proposed by Obama and the plan Romney enacted is that Obama's plan pays for itself, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

One of very few alternative proposals from national Republicans is to allow insurers to sell across state lines. This is

states' rights in reverse: instead of allowing states to set baseline standards, a few states would endear themselves to insurance companies by promising low regulation, as happened with credit cards in Delaware and South Dakota.

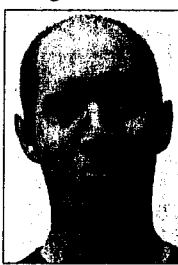
In poor times, such as we have now, demand for higher education rises at the same time states can least afford to fund it. Likewise, layoffs lead to greater reliance on Medicaid, the state-based health insurance program for the indigent. It makes sense to have the federal government, unbound to balanced budget requirements and able to carry a year-to-year deficit, take over such a role to get better outcomes.

But in the Senate, what matters is that Republicans may arbitrarily demand 60 votes. The "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" perception is of GOP heroes standing up for what they believe in, speaking until exhaustion.

The filibuster is no longer a measure for extended debate, but a measure for paralysis. Lack of access to health care costs many lives, hours of labor and untold grief and discomfort.

I do not bemoan principled opposition to the measure under consideration, but the indiscriminate use of the filibuster ought to end. When none may govern, even with 59 votes in a caucus, there will be no governance.

Send letters to arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.



Marcus KELLIS Argonaut

NELLIS

from page 5

find a simple solution that requires no real effort on his part.

It may be true that Nellis is taking the largest furlough, with a total of six days amounting in a \$7,730.88 cut from his salary. Some people have used this as a defense claiming that as Nellis is taking such a relatively large pay cut,

he really does have the school's best interests at heart. Yet what stands out to me is that by only taking six days off, Nellis loses almost \$8,000. That is more than a grand per day, which anyone would consider a very large pay rate.

Nellis may just be a poster boy for the university, or he may actually take his title seriously. Whatever way it may be, requiring employees of the university to take furloughs and cutting funding to the arts and

other programs that deserve all the financial support they can obtain seems like a step in the wrong direction. There are other places that can skim a little off their massive budgets before resorting to furloughs. If Nellis really cared, perhaps he would find other places to cut, starting with his own salary, before telling hard-working individuals that this spring they have to take unpaid leave.

Send letters to arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.

The decline of our society

We are getting lazier and perhaps more stupid.

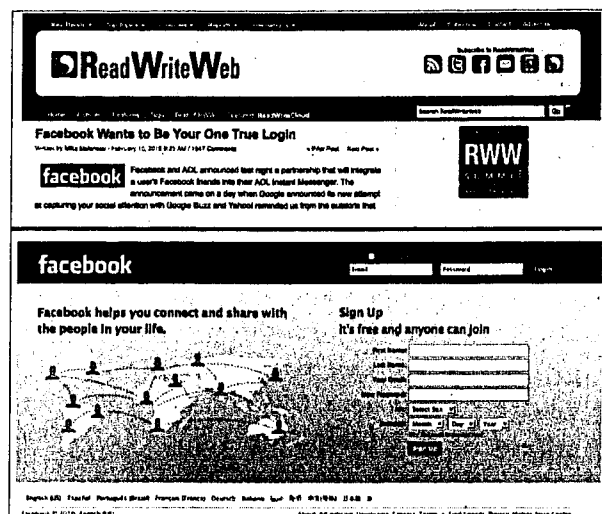
There were times when to use a computer would label you a nerd. Technology was limited to social outcasts that knew how to properly use it. Those days are gone. Now everyone uses computers, from desktops to iPhones, but some still do not know what they are doing.

On Feb. 10, the online blog ReadWriteWeb posted a story about the social networking Web site Facebook. The story quickly rose on the Google search results for "Facebook login."

Within several hours there were hundreds of comments posted about the story from people who were trying to find Facebook's Web site. The people

said their preferred method of getting there was to type "Facebook login" into the box on screen and hope that what they clicked on next would take them there. This site does not even remotely resemble Facebook, and its name is displayed in large font, but the comments left behind show panic.

Some comments had profanity. Some were so misspelled they were hard to understand. Others took time to explain they did not care for this new Facebook and would rather go back to the one with the login at the top. But all of the people truly believed they were at <http://www.facebook.com> even though the address bar read http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/facebook_wants_to_be_your_one_true_login.php. I doubt many



Courtesy of Facebook and ReadWriteWeb. Web pages on Facebook and ReadWriteWeb look nothing like each other, and yet hundreds thought they were the same. — JR

of them know what an address bar is.



Jeff REZNICEK Argonaut

The comments were discovered quickly enough, and many other people began to prey on the weak. One comment left for Prince Ebozinyhy was particularly interesting. "I am a Prince from Nigeria and Facebook has been captured and is hidden behind our impenetrable firewalls here. If you send me a \$10 Western Union money order to my address here in Lagos I can convince my family to release it. Send it to me here at: 2 Walter Carrington Crescent, Victoria Island, Nigeria."

I used to laugh at the thought of anyone actually sending money to a Nigerian prince, but after reading these posts, I'm not sure. Imagine if someone were to buy the domain fabebook.com and set up a main

page similar to Facebook's. How many people would instantly input their e-mail and password into this faux Web site? How much do spamming companies pay for bulk information like that?

With a little bit of fast typing, I found myself at <http://facebook.com>. The site — which actually does look like Facebook — offered a toolbar download that would display Facebook updates to the user. I can only imagine the spyware and aware that would follow it.

If people want to use the Internet, they have to educate themselves. Maybe the Internet should come with a warning label.

"Warning: Use of the Internet has been known to cause loss of money, waste of time, infestation of computer, visual scarring and in extreme cases, the dumbing down of society. Users who are unaware of how to use it should abstain."

Send letters to arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.

TV

from page 5

play dumb and say you've never once smiled as Nanny Jo gave a parent a lecture, but you are out there.

I try to think of these shows

not as reality TV, but as emotional support. When viewers are feeling down after an argument with their 9-year-old daughter because they won't let her leave the house wearing a plaid skirt with ripped tights covered in equally ripped and filthy jeans, they can turn to Nanny Jo and her time with par-

ents who have it worse than them. When viewers are overwhelmed with dirty laundry and sticky floors and no motivation to do anything about it, they can watch an episode of "Hoarders." Knowing there aren't dead cats buried beneath 2,000 pounds of trash on your living room carpet can allow

you to relax a little and not get so stressed.

Call me insensitive or self-indulgent, if you will, but these shows are cathartic. I hope the re-runs stay on the air for a very long time.

Send letters to arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.



The Argonaut Classifieds

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Employment

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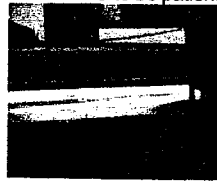
Employment

Advertising-Sales. The Palouse Earth Day Assoc. (PEDA) is looking for an enthusiastic and knowledgeable sales person with the confidence, passion and desire necessary to help us build the second publication of "Living Green on the Palouse Directory." This person will prepare lists of prospects from leads and past accounts. At present this role is commission only at a rate of 15% for block ads and line listings. The successful candidate will be able to be an advocate for businesses and people that bring the best of the new "green" ideas to our community. Send Resume to: Judi Dunn-Gray c/o Whitman County Recycling @ N. 310 Main Street, Colfax, WA 99111. Judi.gray@co.whitman.wa.us Application review will begin immediately and continue until position is filled.

Employment

Earn \$100. The WSU/UI WWAMI Medical Program is looking for HEALTHY MALE SUBJECTS to be patient models for the first year medical student physical exam course. MALE SUBJECTS needed for MALE GENITAL AND RECTAL EXAMS. If interested, please respond to <http://www.wvami.wsu.edu/project/male.html>.

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Mardi Gras draws festive crowd



Steven Devine/Argonaut

Students and residents of Moscow break out costumes, beads, masks, hats and other accessories to celebrate Moscow Mardi Gras Saturday night.

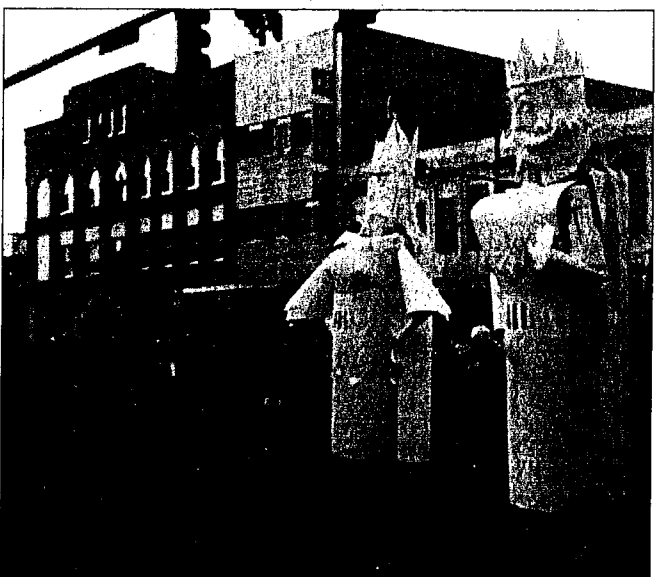


Photo Courtesy of Shirley Becker

Students and residents watch the 1983 Moscow Mardi Gras parade in downtown Moscow.

Moscow Mardi Gras is an experience that is all about the music.

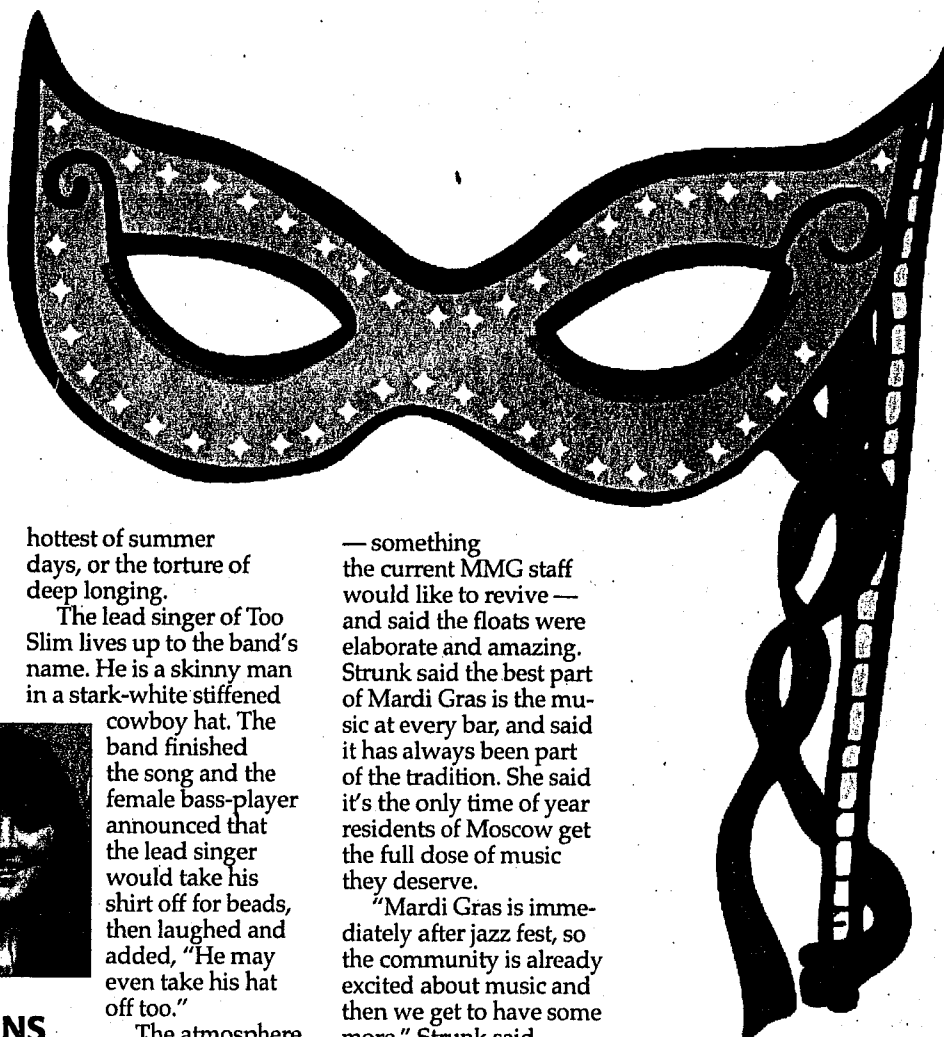
The night began as we ascended the small staircase leading to the upper level of the Moose Lodge. The open, plank-wood dance floor carried the sound of blues guitar across the room and down the staircase, inviting passers-by to come and enjoy the music. Couples swing danced near the stage and the rest of the crowd sat around elongated wood-grain tables chatting and laughing. Everyone had a smile on their face and bobbed their heads to the music.

Melissa Hamilton, face-painter at Mardi Gras, concentrated as she dipped her brush into a jar of blue face paint. She steadily traced colored waves onto a smiling party-goer. Maybe the design was inspired by the music of Too Slim and the Taildraggers, easy rock reminiscent of Jimmy Buffet. She finished her project and moved onto the next eager customer.

Genny Gerke, a painted advertisement for Melissa's face painting, wore a sparkly silver tank and stretchy black pants. Her eyes were painted to give the illusion of elaborate black lashes and her arms are adorned in black and gold sparkly diamonds, circles and other obscure designs; a pair of pale blue and white angels' wings unfurled across her shoulders.

"I like dressing up and getting into character. I get to be someone I'm not for a night," Gerke said.

The band picked it up a notch with a bluesy set of riffs. The music is like sucking on ice cubes on the



hottest of summer days, or the torture of deep longing.

The lead singer of Too Slim lives up to the band's name. He is a skinny man in a stark-white stiffened cowboy hat. The band finished the song and the female bass-player announced that the lead singer would take his shirt off for beads, then laughed and added, "He may even take his hat off too."



Tanya EDDINS

The atmosphere in the Moose Lodge wended down as the band started to play a tune in slow tempo. Couples scooted close together on the dance floor and swayed to the music.

The next stop on the MMG tour was the Eagles Lodge. Upon arrival, it appeared the band had taken a break for drinks. The bar was dim and colored disco lights cast circle-shaped patterns on the carpet. The crowd was small, but still happily sucking down cocktails and conversing.

Diane Strunk has lived in Moscow for 30 years and said this was at least her 15th time at MMG. She said she remembers when there was an annual parade and children events for MMG

— something the current MMG staff would like to revive — and said the floats were elaborate and amazing. Strunk said the best part of Mardi Gras is the music at every bar, and said it has always been part of the tradition. She said it's the only time of year residents of Moscow get the full dose of music they deserve.

"Mardi Gras is immediately after jazz fest, so the community is already excited about music and then we get to have some more," Strunk said.

BareWire came back to the stage and broke into a classic rock rendition of "Pretty Woman" by Roy Orbison.

A lone college student in a long-sleeve gray shirt is non-descript as a Mardi Gras partier aside from a single strand of gold beads. He scooted along the dance floor with a kind of shuffle and began to bob and weave to the music as if psyching himself up for a boxing match.

A couple witnessed his excitement and decided to join him. The woman wore a gaudy and heavily feathered mask with gold glitter tracing her eyes. Her partner wore jeans and a T-shirt with a purple wide-brimmed hat and leopard-print band. He led her into a spin and pulled her close, raising his eyebrows suggestively.

"They look like they are doing a mating dance," Strunk said.

onlineCONTENT

Read the rest of Tanya's Mardi Gras adventure at uiargonaut.com

A smoke-free journey

On a brisk March night when I was 16, I spent time with some friends at a 7-11 in Boise. We were blasting drum and bass music out of my friend's Volkswagen and drinking Slurpees. My friend bought a pack of Djarum Blacks, a clove cigarette, and offered me one.

The cigarette was black, and smelled like Christmas. I held it between the fingers of my right hand and lit it with a disposable lighter. I puffed on the cigarette, and gingerly inhaled the smoke into my lungs. It sent me into a coughing fit, but a dizzy and euphoric feeling came over me. I felt light-headed and off-balance, but this experience would change the way I looked at smoking.

Two years later, I was hanging out with some friends outside a game store. I felt frustrated by the way my friends were behaving, as I felt they were acting immaturely. I walked to a convenience store and bought my first pack.

On the day when I smoked my first cigarette, about 3,900 other American

teenagers were doing the same, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

I was not alone. Similarly, the day I had my last cigarette and slapped on a nicotine patch, Feb. 27, 2010, most of my friends were still lighting up. It seemed like everyone on campus was smoking I couldn't go anywhere without smelling the odor that had become so wonderful to me.

I felt alone. I decided to quit smoking after almost two years of habitual smoking. I'm tired of being smelly, out of breath and a nuisance to my friends with asthma. I'm tired of being hooked on something that will eventually kill me.

The first two days were rough. I was irritable and I slept almost nonstop. The day after I quit smoking, I slept for 13 hours because I missed the stimulation cigarettes gave.

And then, everything got better.

I could walk up the hill to the Administration Building without wheezing. I no longer had to leave my apartment early to take the

elevator to class like I used to as I could finally manage the stairs. I went to the gym for the first time in two years.

I have several friends who are allergic to cigarette smoke. I was able to give one of them a hug last week without her pulling away in a coughing fit.

I have extra money now that I'm not buying cigarettes and can purchase quality food and new clothes, which I won't stink up with smoke.

I can kiss my boyfriend without disgusting him. I don't get dirty looks from parents.

Overall, everything is better since I quit. However, it's not this easy for everyone.

According to the American Cancer Society, 70 percent of smokers want to quit. Over the next few weeks, I will be tackling issues related to quitting smoking — nicotine replacement therapy, medications, smoking and the mentally ill and teenage smoking.

I hope by sharing my story I can convince others to quit. I want to enjoy a long, healthy life.

Everyone deserves that chance.



Chava THOMAS

Argonaut

Top 5: Oh, Ringo

Obviously, to make it big in the music biz you need a few things — talent, ambition, looks, and — if you're a band — you need a group of the best people possible to make things happen. Sometimes, though, you can be in the right place at the right time and fail to contribute anything but an extra number to the roster. Or you can have really talented friends who let you stick around long after you've stopped helping. These no-talent hacks can make a career out of being "that guy" in the band, and this top five is devoted to the least contributing band members in music history.

5. Ringo Starr

Ringo Starr (real name Richard Starkey Jr.) was the drummer for a well-known British band, The Beatles. Perhaps you've heard of them. While being a member of The Beatles technically makes you legendary, being a member of The Beatles doesn't actually make you a deserving member of The Beatles. But in true lucky punk form, Starr took over for a recently departed drummer just as the band took off, and the rest is history.

4. Ringo Starr

Ringo Starr (real name Frankie McGooch III) was a halfway-talented skiffle drummer in England who lucked out when he got the chance to meet and play for The Beatles. After beating up their previous drummer, Pete Best, in an alley, The Beatles had no choice but to give Ringo a permanent position in the band — for fear of their lives. That's right: Ringo Starr was in The Beatles because the other Beatles thought he would beat them up.

3. Ringo Starr

Ringo Starr (real name Skeezy Mac-Wheezy) was a juvenile delinquent from

the streets of Liverpool who was good at hitting things in rhythm. After a particularly successful night at the pubs, he performed a 53-minute uninterrupted solo on the back of three guys' heads. Those three guys happened to be the other three Beatles, who were so impressed with his rhythmic violence and were so dispossessed by the multiple blows to the head that they immediately asked him to stick around. This resulted in the murder of their previous drummer.

2. Ringo Starr

Ringo Starr (real name Caddywhampus Orenstein) was a dentist's office spit-catcher and part-time dog walker with big dreams of one day catching the greatest spit of all — rock star spit. In his free time he practiced banging on sinks with toothpicks so he'd have an in with a rock star if he ever met one. One day, George Harrison came in for a cleaning and Ringo managed to get his attention with some truly epic spit catching and pick drumming. George felt sorry for him and let him come play with the band once, and they never had the heart to tell him to go home after that.

1. Ringo Starr

Ringo Starr (real name unknown) is everything wrong with music. He looks ridiculous, he can barely play drums, and Paul McCartney had better be taking his vitamins because if Ringo is the last living Beatle, he's going to become insufferable. How does this happen? How does a talentless hack get this famous? If Ringo Starr can be famous, I should be posting my kindergarten dance recital on the Web, because clearly I should be a backup dancer for Lady Gaga. And ultimately, that's all I'm trying to say — I want to dance for Lady Gaga.



Matt ADAMS-WENGER

Argonaut

playREVIEW

'Ernestine' brings humor to history



Crystal Munoz-Tesch, left, and Angela Vogel rehearse for the play "Ernestine Shuswap Gets Her Trout" by Tomson Highway, March 3 in the Hartung Theatre.

Sebastian Edgerton
Argonaut

A group of eight women — four main characters and the others assisting with sound effects — brought to life Tomson Highway's 2005 manuscript, "Ernestine Shuswap Gets Her Trout," Friday night in the Hartung Theatre.

The play's mix of monologues and dialogue follows the harsh reality Native Americans faced during the encroachment of the French and English, or "the great big guano of Canada." Despite the seriousness of the subject, the actresses kept the crowd laughing as they discussed rights they were losing.

The climax of the play came during a visit of the "Great Guano," which ended the play with the four actresses cracking under the pressure and engaging in a fight scene.

The play is comparable to West Side Story and Romeo & Juliet — forbidden love of a Native American woman and a white man. Annabelle Okanagan got pregnant, and their communities shunned her and "Billy Bob."

Humor aside, the play might leave your mind wrecked with misery the people might have felt. The actresses were animated in their efforts to show the audience the Native American

women felt while being oppressed.

They built up the suspense by going from complete silence to shouting at the top of their lungs. There is a balance, seamless transitions going from talking about an interracial couple getting pregnant and possibly facing execution to cooking beaver in a pot.

Okanagan, played by Adriana Sanchez, spends the play in a hysterical fit while sewing a tablecloth. She mainly sticks to mourning for "Billy Bob," who is represented by a cowboy hat suspended above her.

Delilah Rose Johnson, played by Rebecca Klung, along with Isabel Thompson, played by Angela Vogel, are opposites. Isabel is more concerned with the pleasantries of daily life, while Delilah has more of a worldly view — concerned about all the freedoms they are losing.

Ernestine Shuswap, played by Crystal Munoz-Tesch, is the comical part of the play at first. But as the audience gets to know her character, they see someone happy with life. Munoz-Tesch's acting brings out a character stressed by the invading force that is threatening her and her husband's livelihood.

This play, with the backdrop of a colorful and impressionistic set, brings to life a period that was less than flattering to the "Great Guano" and lethal to the Native Americans.

'Alice in Wonderland' is a strange beauty

Kelcie Moseley
Argonaut

Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" is a little bit like Avatar on high amounts of acid.

Beautiful scenery and stunning graphics of both people and creatures are part of the world that is Underland, the place Alice visited in her dreams from the time she was a small girl. In essence, this version of the story is more like a sequel (although Burton doesn't like that characterization — he claims it's just more like a story than the original) to the original novel by Lewis Carroll, with elements of poetry thrown in.

In any case, the Alice in this film is 19-years-old rather than 13, and she returns to Underland as "the Alice" who is meant to defeat the Jabberwocky. The Jabberwocky is a huge, menacing creature under the control of the Red Queen, and it is also a creature from one of Carroll's poems. Also included is the frumious Bandersnatch, another

creature from the poem that looks like a rabid, radioactive polar bear crossed with the abominable snowman. Both are under the control of the Red Queen, played by Helena Bonham Carter.

Carter does a fabulous job as the eccentric queen, and it really is incredible how disproportionate they were able to make her head from her body. Johnny Depp is admirable as always in his portrayal of the Mad Hatter, and his makeup throughout the movie looks like it must have taken endless hours.

Alice herself, played by Australian actress Mia Wasikowska, was stilted at various points of the film. Perhaps her role was to let all of the other characters shine, but if that was the case, her role was a little too convincing at times. Other notable side characters include the Cheshire Cat, who is much cuter and less creepy than

its animated Disney counterpart.

The story transitions fairly easily from point-to-point, although it gets off to a sluggish start. Once Alice falls down the rabbit hole, the pace picks up and takes the audience on a journey that won't soon be forgotten. It moves away from Burton's usual obsessions with the dark and twisted, bloody and disturbing and into the realm of dark and slightly twisted, but with distinct charm and life that makes it beautiful rather than scary or too strange.

Those who don't normally enjoy Burton's films should give this one a chance, as it is a pleasant surprise and an enjoyable movie. Those who never liked "Alice in Wonderland" as an animated Disney movie should also see it, because the plotline is more interesting and the acting is far better.



"Alice in Wonderland"

Actors
Release date

B

your bandsUCKS

Post-hardcore is so generic

Most of Of Mice & Men's band members come from a musical background. Coming from the bands Attack! Attack!, Lower Definition and A Static Lullaby, they are a powerhouse of musicians. The band has experienced skyrocketing success during the last year after its appearance on the Warped Tour and signing with label Rise without releasing an album.

That being said, Of Mice & Men's self-titled debut, which is due out today, is a lackluster jumble of post-hardcore falling completely into the generic woes which scourge their original bands as much as themselves.

Ever since his departure from Attack! Attack!, Austin Carlile has been a person of interest in the music scene. His eardrum-destroying scream and brutally honest lyrics drew attention across the world and when it was announced he was working

on a new project. Many fans were sold before a note was recorded. Months later that excitement is still building by its underground fan base, but the album's delay — mixed with the band's high exposure rate during the past few months — might have set expectations a bit too high for this filler-laced record.

Their debut record may not be the most inspired piece of work listeners come across this year, but it is worthy of at least a few listens. The album makes for a few decent spins with its thick breakdowns and Carlile's signature screams as front man, Even Shayley Bourget's clean vocals provide pretty soothing melodies throughout the entirety of the record. Each song contains an enjoyable crunch paired with some softer sections to accommodate both vocal styles.

Peering through the

wreckage of the album are stand out tracks like "YDG," "Westbound and Down," and "This

One's For You." Each owns up to all the preceding compliments from heavy breakdowns to solid, soaring chorus and back again. "Westbound and Down" contains a rather catchy chorus that will end up staying with listeners for days, as does the final track of the album, "This

One's For You." Despite the good, the problems are apparent throughout the record. Each song falls into the scream-sing breakdown patterns and never has a change of pace. Differentiating songs beyond their vocal melodies can be rather difficult. Add in overly compressed guitars and triggered drums, and fans have what feels like one 34-minute song filled with 100 breakdowns. Listening to the entire record becomes more of a chore than

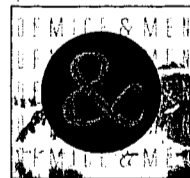
entertainment, since its difficult to distinguish each track.

While it does push the generic to the extreme with bands such as We Came As Romans and Attack! Attack!, listening to the breakdown at the end of "John Deux Trois," or before the shout-core section on "Those In Glass Houses" are only a couple reminders of how they fit in with those bands. Plagued with repeatable simplicity, *Of Mice & Men* lands the band in mediocrity with no glimmer of hope to get out at this point. Hopefully with more time together as a band, their sound will evolve to a more intricate and worthwhile one.

This release shows they have the makings of a great band, but until they introduce some more depth into their sound they will end up just like all the other bands before them — generic and boring.



anthony
SAIA
Argonaut



Of Mice & Men
Of Mice & Men
Rise
March 9, 2010

C-

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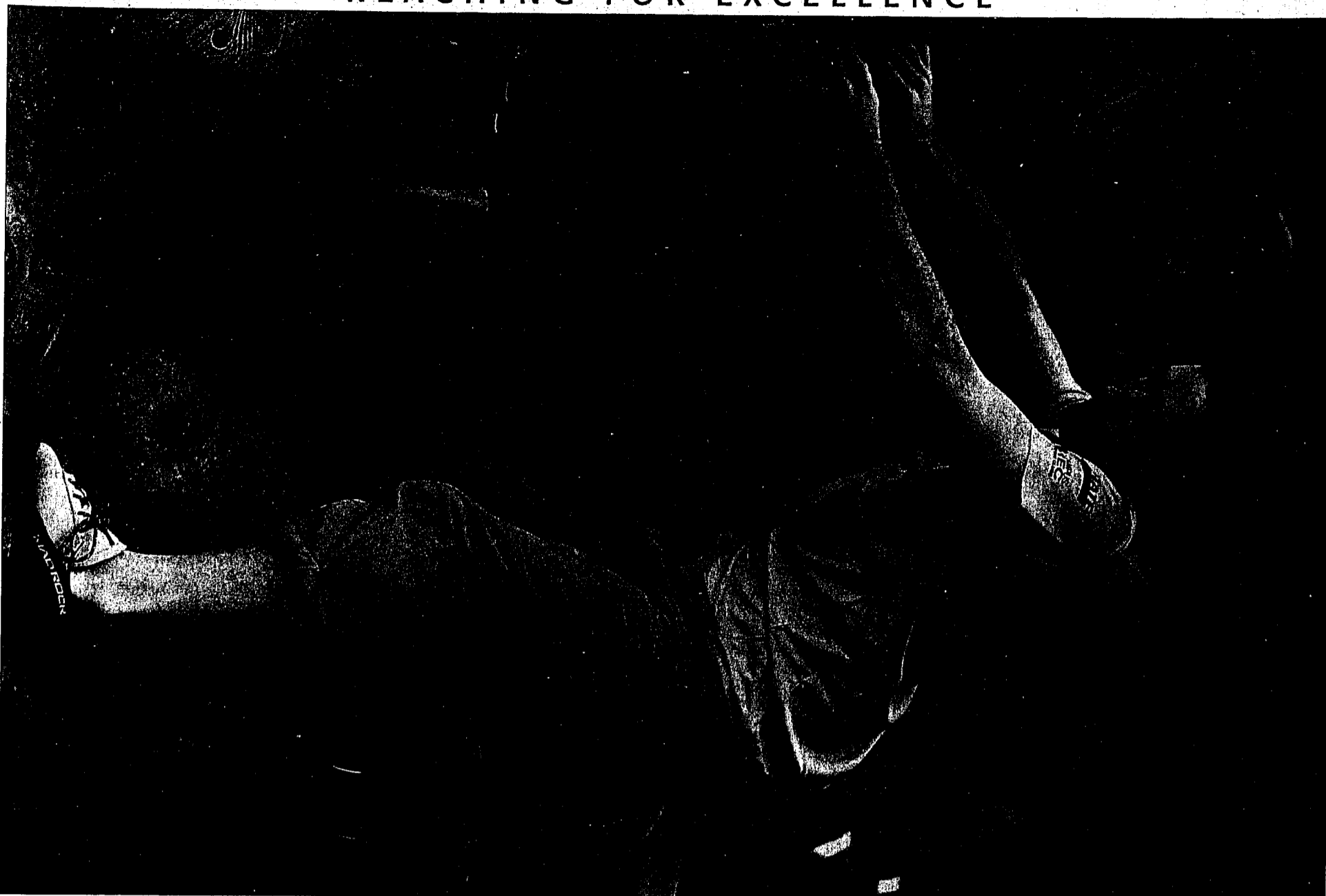
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Jesse Elliot boulders at the Student Recreation Center climbing wall during the Palouse Climbfest Saturday. The competition brought over 85 competitors from Idaho, Eastern Washington, University of Washington and Boise State. The competition was the largest festival Idaho has ever had. Idaho alum Conrad Piper-Ruth tied for first in the men's competition. Ilya Pinchuk/Argonaut

Season adds up to tournament

Pierce Beigh
Argonaut

After a hard-fought year of up-and-down basketball, the Idaho men's basketball team has finally earned the chance to put the bad games behind and start fresh with everything on the line. Idaho will travel to Reno this week to compete in the WAC basketball tournament. The winner of the WAC tournament will move to the NCAA tournament, also known as "March Madness."

The tournament is single-elimination, so the season comes down to one game. There has been inconsistent play in the WAC this year, which opens the door for any team to take the winning spot.

Going into the tournament, Idaho has won the last two of its games with home wins over San Jose

State and Hawaii.

During those last two games, the Vandals displayed aggression, talent and teamwork to beat their opponents. In the game against Hawaii records were broken, career highs made and points spread around players.

Steffan Johnson totaled 26 points, 24 of them coming from behind the 3-point line. Johnson made eight 3-pointers against Hawaii and led his team to a large win. Along with Johnson, Hopson had a double-double and no turnovers.

Turnovers have been a struggle all season for the Vandals, and playing the last home game turnover-free from point guard and center Marvin Jefferson was a big improvement.

With all this momentum and solid playing from across the lineup, the Vandals will take it with them to Reno in hopes of winning it all.

"We have a lot of experience on the team this year," Hopson said. "We're looking to win the whole thing."

Out of the nine WAC teams, only eight moved on to the tournament. After a loss to Idaho Saturday, Hawaii will not be competing in the tournament, as it sits last in the conference at 3-11.

Idaho will be placed as the No. 7 seed, out of eight, going into tournament play.

With games going either way all season long for most WAC teams, the tournament

see SEASON, page 11

Kashif Watson suspended

Pierce Beigh
Argonaut

Saturday night, the Idaho men's basketball team tipped off its last home game against Hawaii without one of its key starters, senior guard Kashif Watson.

Watson has been suspended indefinitely for inappropriate tweets on his Twitter account. Idaho coach Don Verlin said the conduct was detrimental to the program and his suspension was announced Friday.

"Kashif's suspension is a matter that he must work through in order to be reinstated for practice and play," Verlin said Friday. "The matter will be revisited prior to the WAC tournament next week."

Watson sat in street clothes in the stands watching his team beat Hawaii on its last home game.

Watson has started every game for the Vandals this season, earning a spot as No. 2 on the team with a 10.7 scoring average.

Junior guard Shawn Henderson started in place of Watson and was able to satisfy the role, filling the open space that was left behind.

Going into the tournament, it is still questionable whether Watson will play.

Verlin declined to comment further on his suspension.

WAC looms for women

Idaho to face New Mexico State in opener

Ilya Pinchuk
Argonaut

Idaho coach Jon Newlee and the women's basketball team are looking to do something no Idaho basketball team has ever done -- advance out of the first round of the WAC tournament.

The Vandals rebounded from a senior night loss to Louisiana Tech to close out the season with a win over the Nevada Wolfpack in Reno, and will face New Mexico State, in the first round of the WAC tournament Wednesday afternoon.

After selfish play doomed the Vandals' senior night hopes, Idaho came out strong and shared the ball in the win over Nevada, which Newlee called a complete game.

"We didn't have that typical some-part-of-the-game slump where it all goes bad," Newlee said. "We shared the basketball and everyone was trusting each other with the ball."



Vandal guard Mac Hopson drives past Hawaii defenders Brandon Adams, left, and Paul Campbell to the basket during the first half of play in Cowan Spectrum. The Vandals won the contest 78-69 with a season best effort from 3-point range, knocking down 14 from distance. Nick Groff/Argonaut

The win put Idaho at a perfect .500 with an 8-8 conference record and gives them the No. 4 seed in the tournament. The Vandals' reward is a draw against a potent New Mexico State, which earned the No. 5 seed with a win over San Jose State last weekend.

Idaho has defeated New Mexico State

in both meetings this season, although Newlee said he doesn't think the Aggies will be a pushover team. In both games earlier this season, the Aggies pushed Idaho to the brink, losing by three points in the first game and one point in the next.

see WAC, page 11

Running riot

Record numbers for Snake River Canyon Run

Ilya Pinchuk
Argonaut

The Palouse Road Runners invited runners from all over the region to help break in spring with their 31st Annual Snake River Canyon Half-Marathon.

It was a sunny, cloudless warm day and runners came out in droves.

An astounding 688 runners, walkers and joggers crossed the finish line and welcomed in springtime weather on the Palouse. That number dwarfs last year's record-setting amount by 265 runners.

"All of this couldn't have been done without the efforts of volunteers and our sponsors," said Lance Gallagher, race director, in a written statement.

The weather cooperated perfectly Saturday morning, filled with warm temperatures and sunny skies, which made the 14-mile course a pleasure to run.

The race also gave Michael Bresson a great start to his running season. Bresson, a native of Spokane, ran away with the competitive portion of the race, breaking the old course record set in 1992 by Stan Holman with a time of 1 minute, 8.28 seconds, shaving 14 seconds off of Holman's time.

The race also featured 62-year-old Jerry Martin, who competed in the race as the only person in the wheelchair division. Martin is one of the most well-known disabled athletes in the Spokane area.

Martin, who broke his vertebra and was paralyzed from the waist down following an acci-



Steven Devine/Argonaut

Runners and walkers came together from all around Idaho to participate in the 31st Annual Snake River Canyon Half-Marathon Saturday.

dent while working as a painter, is no stranger to road racing.

Back in 1985, Martin competed in more than 20 races per year, and was a member of the Spokane Cyclones, a full-fledged disabled basketball team. He won and qualified for the national Sit-Ski on Mount Spokane that year.

While those years are long past, Martin continues to enjoy road racing. He has been a fixture

on road events such as Bloomsday ever since his accident, and this year, Martin finished the Snake River Canyon Half-Marathon in under an hour.

Gallagher said the race was a huge success, and he hopes the numbers continue to grow next year.

Until then, the Palouse Road Runners has many more races, such as the WSU 100K relay and solo, planned for the 2010 running season.

Youth learn rugby

Cheyenne Hollis
Argonaut

The idea of letting one's children play rugby may be frightening to some parents, but the Idaho, Washington State and Blue Mountain rugby clubs plan to bring youth rugby to the Palouse.

"It hurts to play rugby but you are not likely to get hurt playing rugby," WSU coach Matt Hudson said. "There is a reason kids of all ages are allowed to play rugby all over the world."

Hudson said the goal is to set up U-14 and U-19 clubs for kids in the surrounding region and build a foundation from there.

"We want to build a set-up the community can be proud of and want to support. Rugby is one of the fastest growing youth sports in America and we want to bring (it) to (the) Palouse," Hudson said.

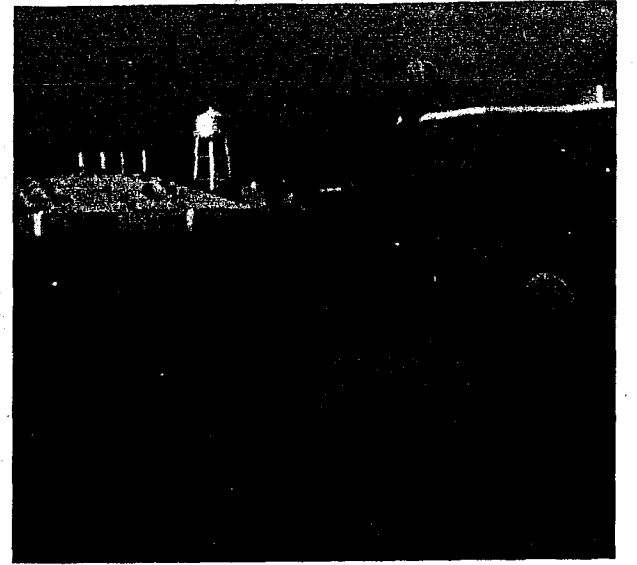
Idaho coach Matthew Becker said there is not one reason youth rugby would not be a success in the Moscow-Pullman region.

"We are trying to build a foundation that we can continue to build on and become a fixture in the area," Becker said. "The most important part is selling kids and parents on playing the game of rugby."

Becker said rugby is not as violent as people believe and can be a great sport for kids to play while growing up.

"Rugby, especially at the youth level, is completely safe for kids of all ages to play," Becker said. "Coaches, referees and everyone else involved in youth rugby is committed to making sure the kids are safe and responsible."

Becker said responsibility and sportsmanship



Tyler Macy/Argonaut

Two rugby players leap for the ball during a friendly scrimmage Thursday. Many of these students play for the Blue Mountain Rugby Team, which travelled to Butte, Mont. last weekend to play against the Crabs. Blue Mountain came out victorious in the match.

are the key themes for the youth rugby program on the Palouse.

"It is not just teaching responsibility to the kids but we want to involve players from both the WSU and Idaho club teams to help out youth rugby in the region," Becker said. "We want the guys on the club teams to be able to understand what it means to give back to the community."

Hudson said a youth rugby club on the Palouse will succeed or fail based on the bonds it builds with the community.

"Youth rugby is a great thing but only if the community accepts it and is willing to get behind it," Hudson said. "We have seen it work in different areas and have experience in starting a youth rugby program so we feel confident that it can happen."

Hudson said other youth rugby programs have been founded in Walla Walla, Missoula

and Spokane as the sport continues to grow at the grassroots level.

"You can see youth rugby expanded in the Inland Northwest and it is important the Palouse has an opportunity like this," Hudson said. "Rugby is such a cheap sport and anyone can play because everyone is willing to teach."

Becker said the benefits of rugby and lessons that can be learned give him hope that a strong youth club can exist in Moscow and Pullman.

"Ideally we can start youth rugby teams for every age group and have high school teams in Moscow and Pullman in the next few years," Hudson said. "It all comes down to being able to get kids and parents to understand what makes rugby so great."

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Last Chance for Klas

Only two Idaho athletes move to NCAA championship

Lisa Short
Argonaut

The Husky Last Chance meet in Seattle was just what sophomore Jeremy Klas needed. A group of about 10 athletes went to the meet in order to get one more attempt at NCAA qualifying marks — Klas was the one who succeeded.

Qualifying for the NCAA meet is a daunting task. The meet only takes the top athletes across the nation. Very few athletes meet the automatic standard to get into nationals, and there is a broad field of athletes competing for approximately 20 positions.

Klas was able to overcome the difficult task and put up a vault of 17 feet, 7.75 inches. Although this vault doesn't meet the automatic mark, it puts him in 10th place and essentially secures his spot to nationals.

This accomplishment is not only a great feat, but Klas is a sophomore who still has plenty to improve on, according to his vault-

ing coach Jason Graham. Graham said Klas is the youngest athlete he has ever taken to the NCAA meet.

"He is keeping everything in perspective," Graham said, "but he's excited and can go into nationals feeling pretty confident."

Graham said Klas has jumped the height of vaults around 18 feet, but knocked down the bar on his finishes. At Last Chance, he was able to put the whole vault together and get not only a personal best but

also a school record. If Klas can continue to jump that height and finish through his vaults, he can compete with the top five pole vaulters.

Klas' vault beat out senior teammate Lucas Pope, who finished with a jump of 17 feet, 1.25 inches. Pope has been fighting for the top position all season and accomplished some astounding personal improvements in the process. Graham said Pope has

done a lot this season, improving about 10 inches on his vault. But looking back at the last eight years of nationals, Pope's vaults would have got him a ticket to those meets — it is just a tough field this year.

At the Last Chance meet, there was a strong vaulting field, and Graham said some of the coaches that haven't had the opportunity to see Pope compete often said they were impressed with him. Graham said it was a disappointing finish for Pope, but knew he accomplished other great things this season.

Another disappointing finish came from senior KC Dahlgren — not because her vault wasn't good, but because the field has grown immensely tougher this year and Dahlgren wasn't able to make it to nationals this year.

Graham said the women's field this year is much stronger than it has ever been. He said normally three to five women hit the auto-

matic qualifying standard to go to nationals, but this year about 15 women hit the mark, even with the five inch increase on the automatic mark.

"It was disappointing for KC because I obviously wanted her to go back to nationals," Graham said, "but I still saw her improve and she is set up really well for the outdoor season. She'll be really competitive."

Although only Klas came out of the weekend with an NCAA qualification, the team was able to put some strong performances up in its last meet of the indoor season. Klas and Mykael Bothum head to Fayetteville, Ark., to compete in nationals on Friday.



Jeremy KLAS

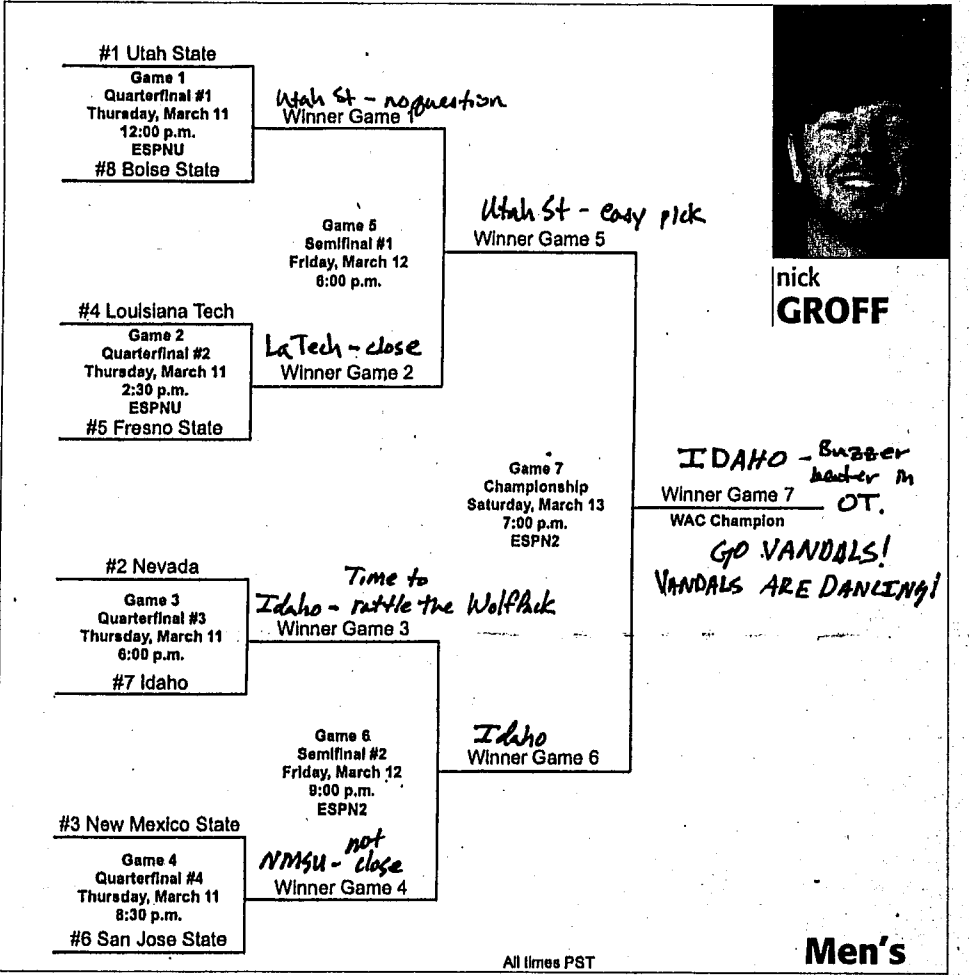
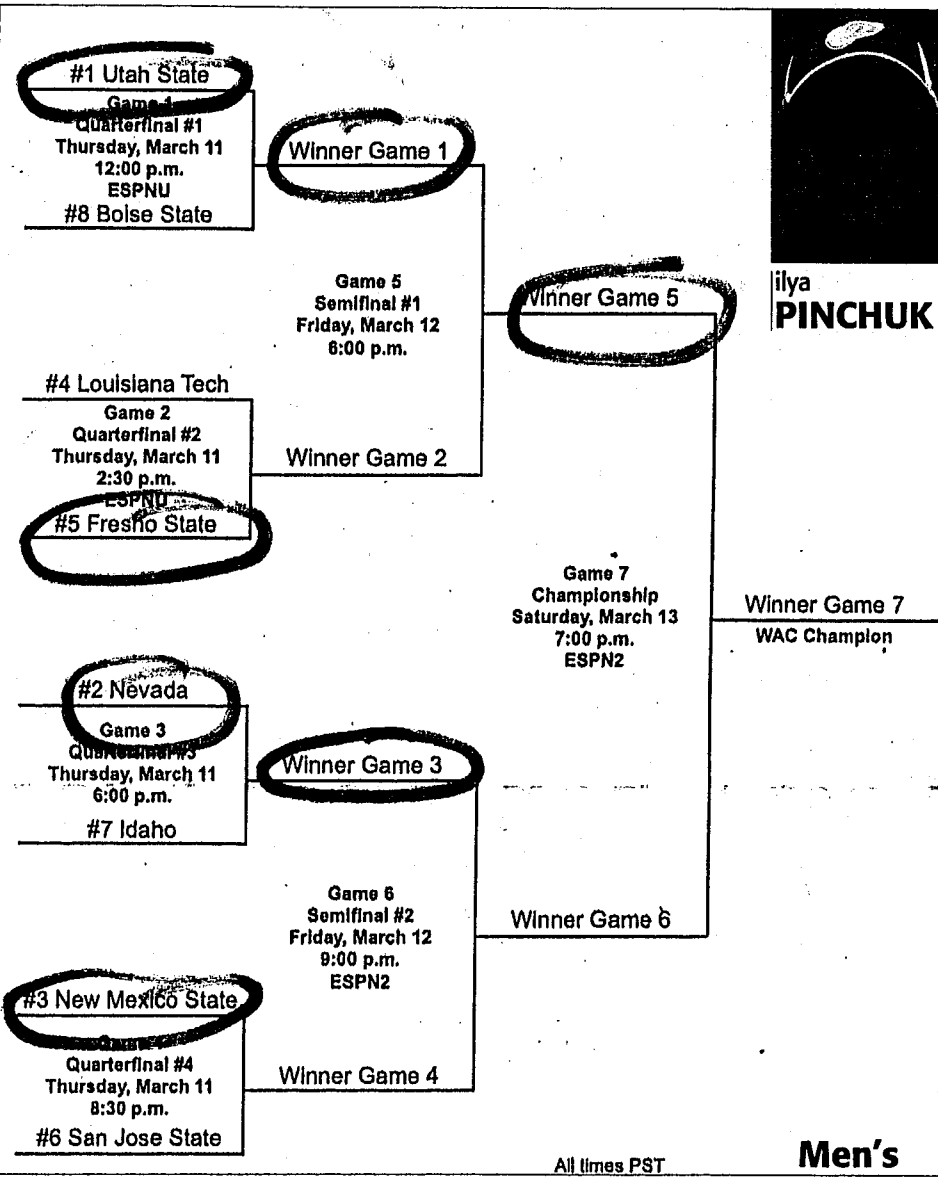
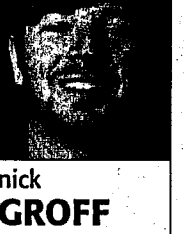
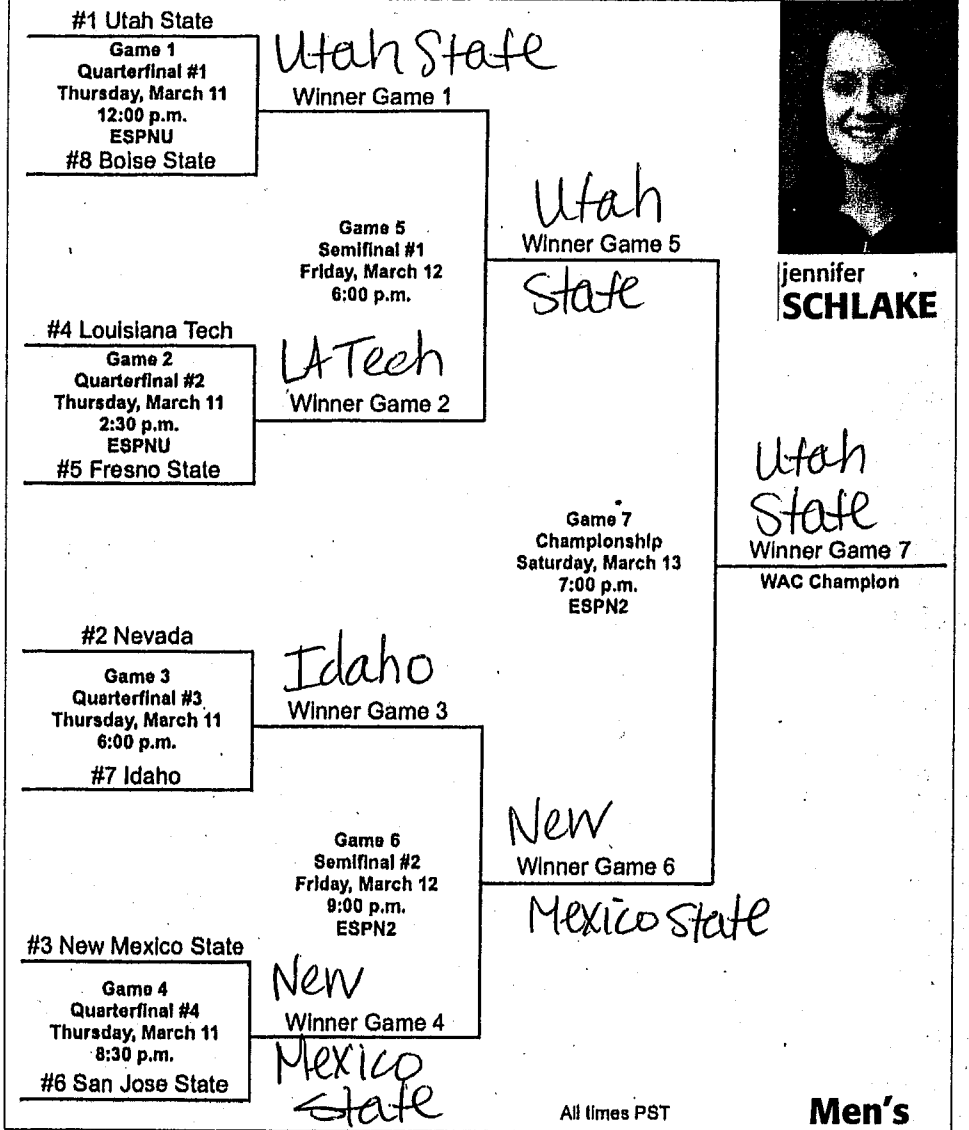
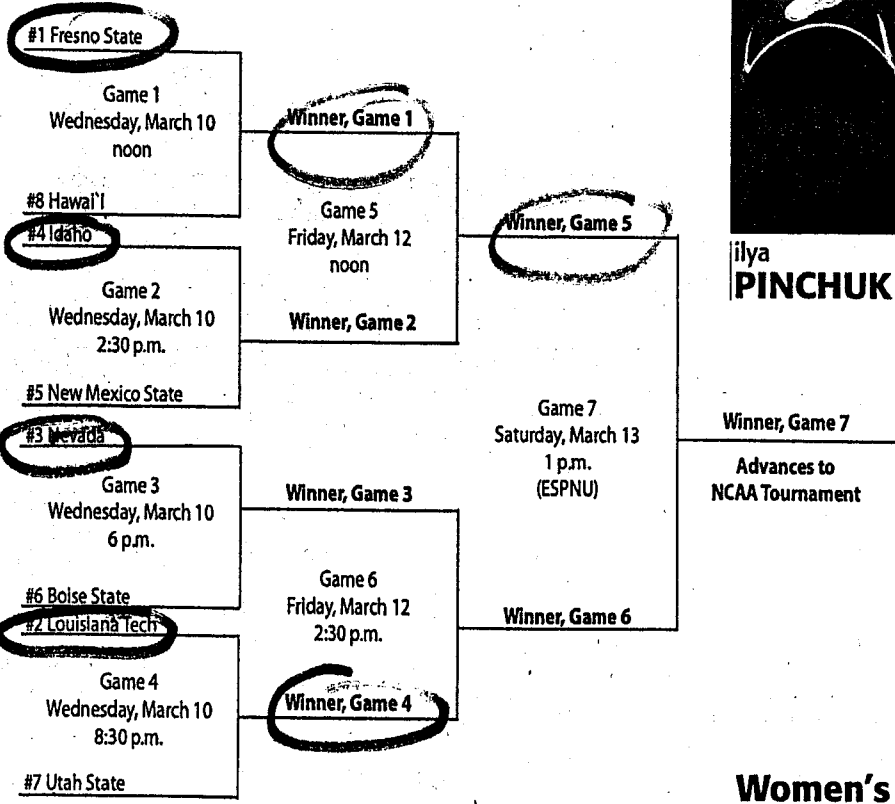


Mykael BOTHUM

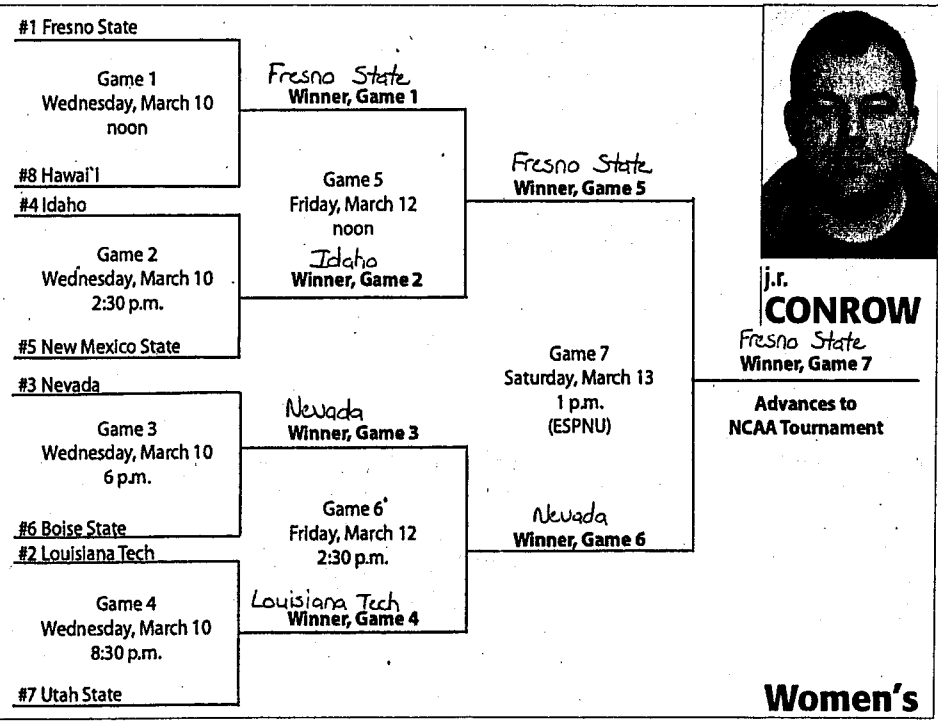
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PREDICTIONS



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SEASON
from page 9

could be anybody's game. Any team can step up and win a few games, resulting in the title and a trip to the NCAA tournament.

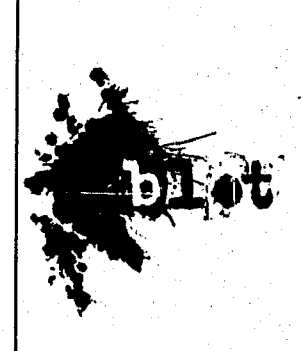
The season has come down to 40 minutes, one game.

Idaho takes on Nevada in the first round, who is the No. 2 seed. Nevada will bring a competitive match as the Vandals have suffered close losses to the team in the past, first in Reno, 76-68, and later in Cowan Spectrum, 67-66.

Fresno State has been unstoppable this season, but cracks in the armor have begun to show for this power squad, and blowout wins are less frequent.

They are still an extremely dangerous squad, with Jaleesa Ross, who was voted WAC Defensive Player of the Year, and are coached by Adrian Wiggins, who was voted WAC Coach of the Year.

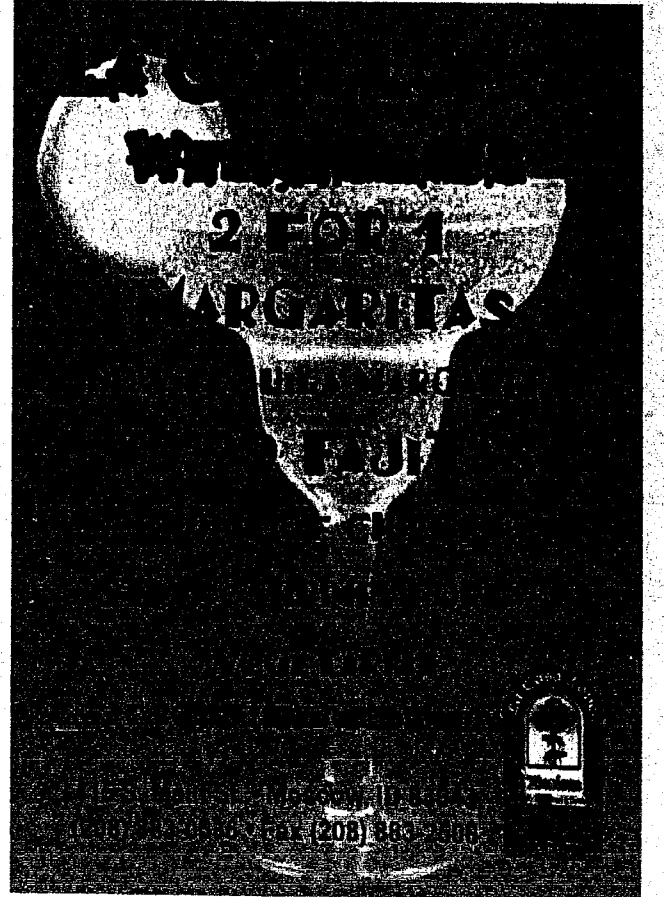
For now, Newlee and the Idaho Vandals are focused on New Mexico State. Conference records mean nothing now — it's a 40 minute season every night from here on out.



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WAC from page 9

The Aggies have three players who average in double-digits, predominantly Jasmine Lowe, who leads the pack with 20 points per game, and Crystal Boyd, who averages 17 points per game.

While Idaho did a fantastic job of shutting down Lowe last time around — Lowe didn't register a single point — Boyd gave the Vandals fits with her speed, size and booming shot. Handling Boyd and limiting damage done by Lowe and Tabytha Wampler will be one X-factor for Idaho, and could de-

side if Idaho sticks around in Reno or heads home early.

On offense, Newlee must be breathing a sigh of relief, as it looks as if Bianca Cheever has snapped out of her slump. After being of limited use for the middle of the season, Cheever has regained her scoring touch in the past few games. Against Nevada, Cheever put an exclamation point on her return by knocking out 15 points and bringing down four rebounds.

A hot Cheever could spell big trouble for New Mexico State, as Newlee said Cheever has the ability to knock out 3-pointers from anywhere on the court.

Rachele Kloke will also

need to have a smart game after developing a habit of getting into early foul trouble near the end of the season.

Kloke is a power player who can overtake games, as evidenced by the Kloke-show that was the game against Nevada, where she dominated with 26 points and eight rebounds.

If Kloke stays out of foul trouble and Cheever has a hot night, combined with secondary scoring from Yinka Olorunnife and Shaena-Lyn Kuehu, it would be hard to bet against the Vandals.

Should Idaho defeat New Mexico State, its reward will be a clash with undefeated Fresno State,

which is expected to dominate Hawaii in its opening tournament game.

Fresno State has been unstoppable this season, but cracks in the armor have begun to show for this power squad, and blowout wins are less frequent.

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Vandals

2010 WAC Basketball Tournament

The Idaho men's and women's basketball teams will head to Reno, Nevada, next week for the Western Athletic Conference Tournament presented by Verizon Wireless.

The women's team will play its first-round game on Wednesday, March 10 against New Mexico State at 2:30 p.m. (PST). Idaho went 2-0 in a pair of very close games against the Aggies this season. The Vandals won, 68-65, at Las Cruces before edging NMSU by a 60-59 margin two weeks ago at the Cowan Spectrum.

The men's team tied for sixth place in the regular season standings and enters the tournament with the No. 7 seed. The Vandals will play host team Nevada on Thursday at 6 p.m. (PST). Idaho saw a slim lead evaporate in the closing seconds of a heart-breaking 67-66 home loss, and fell to the Wolf Pack by a 76-68 margin on the road earlier this year.

The Idaho women are 1-4 in WAC Tournament play all-time, while the men are also 1-4, with two of those losses coming against Nevada. Neither team has ever advanced past the first round of the tournament.

WAC Honors Idaho Trio

The Western Athletic Conference announced its 2009-10 basketball postseason honorees on Sunday and Idaho's Mac Hopson, Marvin Jefferson and Rachele Kloke were among those selected.

Hopson, a senior from Portland, Ore., was chosen as all-WAC honorable mention after averaging 15.6 points, 5.9 rebounds, and 4.9 assists per game for the Vandals in WAC play. He earned three double-doubles this season and led the team in scoring 14 times.

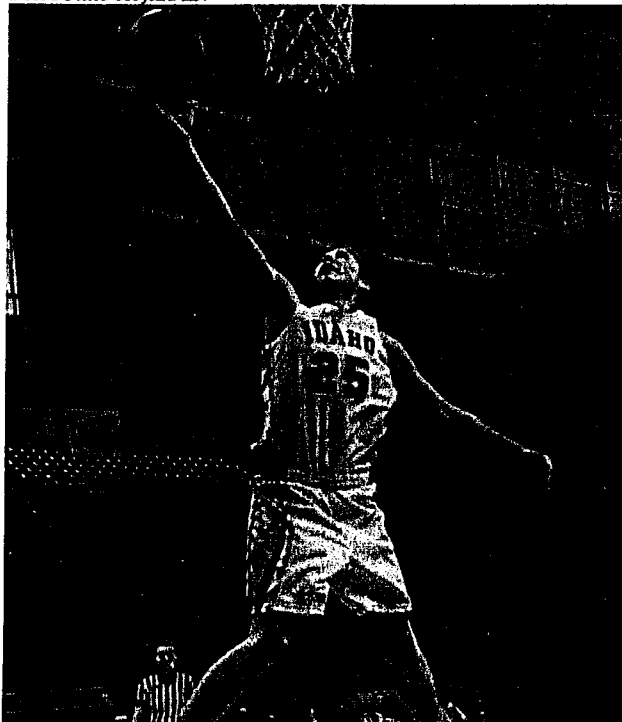
The honor is the second of Hopson's career. He was a first-team all-WAC honoree last season and was chosen as a preseason first-team all-WAC honoree before the start of the 2009-10 year.

Jefferson, a senior from Merced, Calif., was chosen to the WAC all-defensive team for his first career postseason WAC honor. Jefferson's 60 blocked shots this season are the most by a Vandal in 27 years and rank third in Idaho history. With two



more, he'll move into second all-time.

Earlier this year, Jefferson became just the third Idaho player to reach 100 career blocked shots, and had the school's sixth-best single-game blocking performance when he swatted six against Boise State on Jan. 25.



Jefferson joins Tanoris Shepard as the second Vandal to earn the WAC's all-defensive award. Shepard was honored after the 2006 season. Hopson's honor is the third all-WAC award earned by a Vandal. Jordan Brooks was also a second-team honoree in 2008.

Kloke, a junior from Stanwood, Wash., had a breakout season in 2009-10 and the WAC's coaches rewarded her by voting her to the all-WAC second team. Her selection keeps alive an Idaho streak of 27 consecutive seasons with an all-conference honoree.

Kloke, a combo guard/post for Idaho, ranked fourth in WAC play with a 17.0 scoring average on 45.5 percent shooting. She also averaged 4.9 rebounds per game in conference play and led Idaho in scoring in 15 of the team's 29 games.

Kloke scored more than 25 points three times this season and scored double-digit points in 14 of the team's 16 conference games. Prior to this season, Kloke's career scoring average was 6.4 points on 34.9 percent shooting.

Last week, Kloke earned WAC Player of the Week honors after leading the Vandals to a 2-0 with a season- and career-high 28 points, the final three of which came on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give Idaho the win.

Idaho has earned seven second-team all-WAC honors since joining the league for the 2005-06 season. Kloke is the sixth different Vandal to be honored on the team.

The Idaho women finished the season 10-19 overall and 8-8 in WAC play, good for a fourth-place tie and the No. 4 seed at the WAC Tournament, which kicks off on Wednesday.

No. 63 Idaho Completes Montana Sweep

The No. 63 University of Idaho Men's Tennis team solidified its ranking by conquering Montana this weekend.



The Vandals dispatched Montana and Montana State 7-0 as Idaho increased its winning streak to eight games.

"Winning these two matches against strong teams will help us continue our momentum and improve our national ranking," Idaho Director of Tennis Jeff Beaman said. "The development of this program is really starting to show."

Idaho breezed past Montana in the first game of its Saturday doubleheader as the team dominated the Grizzlies.

"Montana is a tough team and we played great to come out get the win against them," Beaman said. "It was our first match at elevation and the team showed no problems with it."

Montana State had defeated Idaho in the three previous encounters but the Vandals were too strong on Saturday. The Vandals once again swept all six singles, not dropping a set against Montana State.

"It was a really big step for the team to be able to beat a Montana State team 7-0 after losing to them three years in a row," Beaman said. "This was another important step for the program."

Idaho is idle until March 25 when it takes on conference foe and in-state rival Boise State.

Klas Punches NCAA Ticket In Pole Vault

Idaho sophomore Jeremy Klas soared his way into the record books and into the book of Vandal track and field lore on Saturday, as he broke the men's pole vault school record and likely assured himself a spot at next weekend's NCAA Championships.

Klas cleared 5.38m (17-7.75) in the men's pole vault to tie for second in the event at the Husky Last Chance qualifier meet on Saturday to eclipse teammate Lucas Pope's former school record of 5.35m (17-6.5).

Most importantly, the vault puts Klas in a tie for 10th nationally in the event and likely assures him a spot at next weekend's national meet - a feat no other Idaho men's pole vaulter has accomplished indoors. Idaho men's vaulters haven't been represented at an NCAA meet since 1952, when Dave Martindale won the national title by clearing 13-9 on a bamboo pole.

Klas will be joined in Fayetteville by Mykael Bothum, who punched her NCAA ticket with a toss of 17.20m (56-5.25) in the women's shot put at the Western Athletic Conference Championships. Bothum hit the NCAA automatic qualifying standard and is guaranteed a spot at the meet.

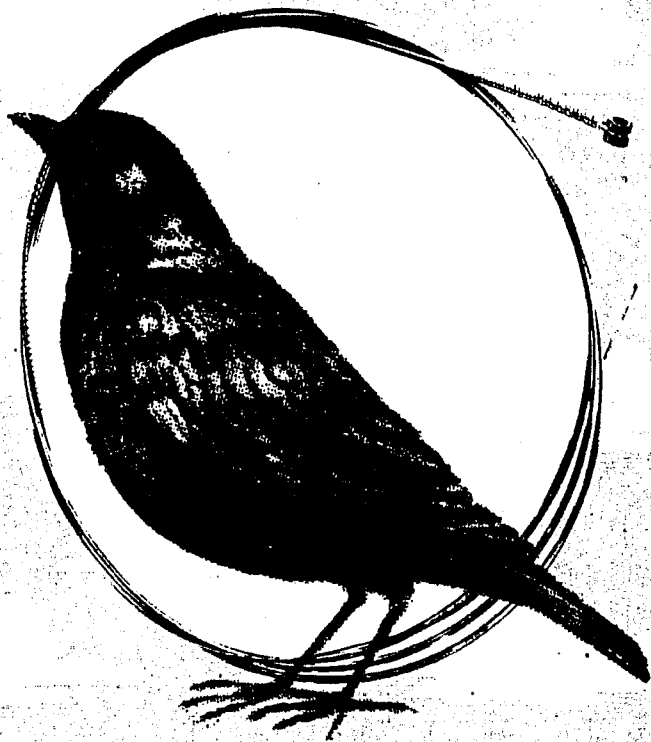
Pope also competed in the men's vault on Saturday and cleared 5.23m (17-1.25). Women's vaulter K.C. Dahlgren, also a senior, cleared 3.95m (12-11.5) in the women's vault. Both vaulters rank among the top 30 in the nation, but will likely come up just short of qualifying.

Junior Eugenio Mannucci won the men's shot put with a toss of 16.55m (54-3.75), while sophomore James Clark ran a career-best 1:50.91 in the men's 800m and junior teammate Josh Dalton ran a 1:51.51. Seniors Kevin Merkling and Steve Potratz ran 4:13.55 and 4:14.09, respectively, in the men's mile, while sophomore Barry Britt ran 8:24.27 in the men's 3,000m.

Junior hurdler Paul Dittmer traveled to the Virginia Tech Final Qualifier in hopes of running a top 60m hurdles time against strong competition, but ran a best time of 7.92 in the finals and didn't improve on his NCAA rank of 22nd and best time of 7.85.



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