

blot

A New Voice In UI Student Media

Spring 2005: 1

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Student-Run Magazine
Resurfaces After 50 Years

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The Emo Kids' Handbook

What's Christmas Without
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Why Students Should Think
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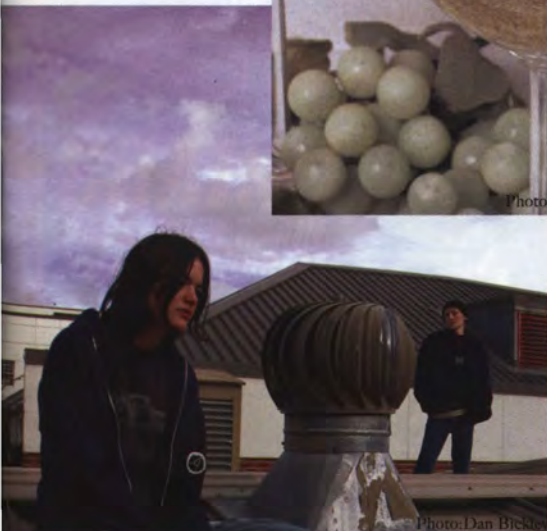


Photo: Dan Blesie

FEATURES

Cover Story:

15 Student Drug Informants

By Frank McGovern
Illustrations by Noah Kroese

It keeps kids, busted for possession, in school and out of jail. But ratting out friends and dealers has consequences, risks and is not always confidential.

25 From the Farm to the Classroom

By Jessie Bonner

Students who are children of migrant workers attend UI through the CAMP program: assistance, friendship and a way out of the fields.

31 Getting to Know Your Wine

By Kevin Rider

With your favorite entree, with cheese and crackers or with a group of friends, getting to know your wine is sweet.

19 Emo Kids Handbook

By Sean Olson

Meet the 21st-century punk! More than music, it's a lifestyle. What is emo? Who is emo? Find out if you pass the emo test.

PERIMETER

- 9 Pushing Limits
- 10 They're No Hacks
- 10 Real Good Man
- 11 "Surface Tension"
- 12 Once a Rugger, Always a Rugger
- 13 Sound of Idaho
- 13 Making a Splash



Photo: Kianna Hall

CAHOOTS

- 6 Air America
- 7 Spring Break Steals
- 7 Renters' Rights You Need to Know
- 8 Happy Hour Hangover
- 6 Tips for Cooking with Limited Resources

HANDBILL

- 41 John Pizzarelli, Oracle Shack, Left Hand Smoke
- 43 Christmas Without "Lord of the Rings"
- 44 Album Reviews: Cold Mountain, G-Love and Keaton Simmons

DEPARTMENTS

- 37 SCIENCE: Bio-Diesel vs. Gasoline
- 38 FINANCE: From Student to Homeowner
- 39 SPORTS: Get to Know the Rivalry

LAST CALL

- 45 Exclusive Interview with The Donald



Photo: Kentaro Murai



Photo: Dan Bickley

blot

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This is the first issue of Blot that Student Media has put out. Student Media, which oversees the Argonaut, KUOI and formerly Gem of the Mountains, funds Blot through student fees and advertising revenue. Monies were re-appropriated within Student Media in the Spring of 2004 for the creation of Blot. The name, "Blot," was the name of UI's student-run magazine in the late 1940s and early '50s. Students, faculty and community members, in August, voted on the name at Palousafest. Participants appreciated the historical aspect of the name and overwhelmingly voted in favor of "Blot."

Although the name was used in the past, there is no carry-over from the original publications. This premiere issue of the new Blot was created, from scratch, by a staff of student-journalists.

Students interested in working for Blot should call 885-6372.

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Photo: Altra Carter

Letter from the Editor

Dinner with strangers is always a good time.

I had dinner at Indiana University, in Bloomington, in October. I didn't know what I was getting myself into when I sat down. None of the names on any name tags were familiar, except, of course, my own. And considering the open bar, that was a bit of a surprise.

But we got to know each other pretty fast, another byproduct of the open bar. I was not in the company of media lightweights, and it didn't take long for casual conversation to become shoptalk.

When I mentioned our new endeavor here at Student Media, the flood gates opened and the professional talkers gave me an education you can't get in a classroom. The career journalists were a wealth of insight, encouragement and candid critique. They didn't like all my ideas and I appreciated their honesty.

It was an ideal situation to be in, four weeks before we sent this baby to bed. Identifying and serving a target audience dominated our conversation. The sermon was simple: Not serving your target audience means no readers, ads or money.

One part of the conversation, in particular, stuck with me. An IU professor told me a story about a former student who started a magazine after graduation. It failed, the student hypothesized, because he could not, in two sentences, explain what his magazine was all about. Nobody understood what he was doing.

We have too much responsibility, to ensure Blot's future success, for there to be any confusion as to what we want to be to the University of Idaho community. So when someone asks me what it is we're doing on the third floor of the SUB, I tell them the truth: We're listening to good tunes, eating cheap food and smoking expensive cigarettes. Between bites, we're putting out the first student-run magazine UI has seen in more than 50 years.

Blot is a general-interest magazine, tackling issues and topics that are important, interesting and possibly a complete mystery to the UI community. This could include a feature on UI's Logger Sports Club as easily as it could a question and answer with a celebrity or an article on emerging fashions and trends.

Entertaining our audience is the most important part of what we do. And if Blot ever fails to do that, we've let you down and we want to hear about it. Write us a letter, give us a call or stop by the office.

See you again in April.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Kornelis".

Chris Kornelis

College Cooking

Apartment Cooking

The real problem with cooking in an apartment isn't making the food itself, but making the right amount. No one likes eating leftovers for a week, which is why the art of cooking for two is important. Recipegoldmine.com has a great cooking for two page and almost anything else you could possibly want.

Linguine with Mushroom and Garlic Sauce

Ingredients: 3 tablespoons butter
8 ounces mushrooms, sliced
3 medium garlic cloves, minced
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary, crumbled
Freshly ground pepper

1/2 cup whipping cream
Salt
4 ounces dried linguine
2 ounces mozzarella, cut into small cubes
Chopped fresh parsley

Directions: Melt butter in heavy large skillet over medium-low heat. Add mushrooms, garlic, rosemary and generous amount of pepper. Cook until mushrooms exude their juices, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes. Add cream and simmer until sauce thickens slightly, about 3 minutes. Season with salt.

Meanwhile, cook pasta in large pot of boiling salted water. Drain well. Add pasta and cheese to sauce and stir until cheese melts. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

Minestrone

Ingredients: 2 cups chicken broth
1 small zucchini, sliced
1 cup frozen mixed vegetables
1 tomato, peeled and chopped
2 tablespoons chopped onion
1 clove garlic, chopped

1/3 cup uncooked macaroni
1 (8 3/4 ounce) can kidney beans, drained
1/4 teaspoon oregano
1/4 teaspoon basil
Parmesan cheese, grated

Directions: Bring broth to boil in saucepan. Add remaining ingredients except cheese. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and serve.

Dorm Cooking

It's understandable that when living in a dorm your food choices are rather sketchy. But just because your cooking opportunities are limited doesn't mean you can't still have good eats. Let's consider most students are equipped with your basic George Foreman Grill and/or a hot plate:

Veggie Stir-fry – on the hotplate

Ingredients: Ramen noodles (your flavor of choice), and frozen veggies.

Directions: Go about as if making basic ramen and then drain the liquid. Fry frozen veggies and throw in ramen at the end. Add or subtract anything you like, but we recommend snagging some soy sauce from a condiment bar near you!

Teriyaki Chicken Sandwich – on the George Foreman Grill

Ingredients: An uncooked chicken breast, hamburger bun or potato roll, cheese (Swiss recommended), and teriyaki sauce (or sauce of choice).

Directions: Thoroughly cook chicken breast on the grill while marinating with the teriyaki sauce. Add a piece of cheese to the top and allow it to melt. While waiting for the chicken to cook, prepare a hamburger bun or potato roll with mayonnaise or condiments of your choice. When the cheese has melted, put the chicken in the bun and eat immediately.

Photos: David Beart



FOUNDING FATHER: Al Franken has had enough of conservative radio

Air America, a different view

Liberal voice finds home on subscription radio

By Katie Fritzley

A year ago you could have tuned in to more than 600 talk-radio stations in all 50 states (and Guam), and heard little more than conservatism's old friend Rush Limbaugh. Enter Air America.

On March 31, 2004, "Saturday Night Live" alum Al Franken launched the first-ever liberal radio talk-show network on six stations in major cities across the United States. Since then, the number of stations to pick up the network has grown to 36, plus two satellite stations and live Internet broadcast on the Air America Web site.

Franken's show, affectionately named the "O'Franken Factor" in homage to his conservative counterpart, Bill O'Reilly, combines witty satirical humor with serious issues to give liberal America an anti-Bush cheerleader. Franken's humor is the essence that brings Air America to life, and it is the network's goal to use a similar level of comic droll to bring listeners to its other programs as well.

It does this by pairing young comedians and actors with experienced radio veterans. The "Morning Seditation" is the archetype example of this in its co-hosts Mark Riley, with more than a decade of radio experience, and Marc Maron, a stand-up comic. The men play off each other's political knowledge and jest back and forth, resulting in a hilarious bout of comedy.

But perhaps Air America's most valuable asset is the weeknight "Majority Report" with ray of sunshine Janeane Garofalo and entertainer Sam Seder. Garofalo is willing to take on any issue. But, like most of the network, the "Majority Report's" main focus leading up to the presidential election was to massacre the Bush administration.

Now, with the presidential election over, the network may have to find a new angle on its content. Nevertheless, Air America offers listeners a different opinion in a formerly one-sided medium.

Air America can be heard on XM Satellite Radio channel 67, Sirius Satellite Radio channel 144, and online at www.airamericaradio.com.



MS. SUNSHINE: Janeane Garofalo happily voices her opinion(s) to Air America listeners

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Spring Break

Ideas – when cash is tight

By *Katie Fritzley*

You can do whatever you want when you get there, but start investigating your spring break trip now. Most companies do one of two things to give students a price break on their vacations: reward for booking early, or reward for booking late. Oddly enough, this is the season where those two things combine. So if you are a planner, start looking now for early bird specials. If you are a last-minute type, start looking now for limited time offers.

CANCUNALLINCLUSIVE.NET primarily offers vacations to, duh, Cancun, perhaps the most popular spring break destination on the planet, thanks to MTV. You can get a six-day vacation for \$299 (based on double occupancy) in Cancun. It includes free drinks and free meals. Airfare isn't included, but when you buy this vacation you get a free four-day/five-night vacation to Orlando.

TRAVELFLEAMARKET.COM probably has the best last-minute deals with the largest variety of destinations, but the site is a little tricky to navigate. You have to find the sidebar with the link saying, "Vacations under \$399, \$599 and \$999" to find the last-minute deals. Specials include Las Vegas vacations for around \$50. It also has specialty vacations, from skiing to honeymoons.

VACATIONOUTLET.COM is a little pricier than the other two sites and seems to have a more limited selection, but it includes airfare and offers extras that the other sites don't. All the vacations include airfare, accommodations, all meals, drinks and non-motorized water sports. Find the all-inclusive vacations link on the right side of the page and it will lead you to the packages. Most of these are resort-oriented rather than hotel lodgings.

Renters' Rights

You Should Know

By *Katie Fritzley*

Odds are most renters don't know what they legally can require of their landlords as far as certain services go. Students especially are unaware of their rights, which can be scary, as there are some shady landlords around. But there are some basic rights all renters have under Idaho law with which they can require their landlord to comply.

Tenants can require landlords to fix violations if the landlord has neglected to:

- Offer sound water-proofing/weather protection
- Present property that is not hazardous to the health/safety of the tenant
- Mount approved smoke detectors
- Keep up electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating, cooling or sanitary facilities.

In order to force the landlord to fix the violations, you must provide a written notice citing all violations and requiring that they be corrected. The landlord then has three days to remedy the violation.

After that a legal proceeding can be filed. DO NOT fix the violation and expect a deduction from rent or reimbursement of funds from your landlord because those rights do not technically exist in Idaho law (with the exception of the installation of smoke detectors).

A detailed handbook of Landlord/Tenant Guidelines can be downloaded from <http://www2.state.id.us/ag/consumer/tips/landlordtenant.pdf> for a more complete list/description of rights and legal proceedings for both the renter and the landlord, including rental agreements, security deposits, etc.

HAPPY HOUR

Editor's Choice

The Mark IV
414 N. Main St.
(208) 882-7557

4-6 p.m.

\$1.75 wells

\$1.75 Bud/Bud light

\$1.25 Ranier

Selected appetizers free during happy hour.

The Slurp & Burp

3225 Robinson Park Road
(208) 882-7368

5-7 p.m.

\$0.25 off all draft, cans and wines

\$0.50 off pitchers

Gambino's Italian Restaurant

308 W. 6th St.
(208) 882-4545

3-6 p.m.

\$1.99 menu that includes hamburgers and hot wings

\$2.00 wine and sangria

Applebee's

105 Warbonnet Drive
(208) 883-4821

9 p.m. - close

Half-priced appetizers

\$2.50 margaritas

\$2.00 domestic pints

\$3.00 micro pints

The Alehouse

3 - 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. - midnight

\$2.00 pints

\$8.00 pitchers

\$2.00 wells

Garden Lounge

313 S. Main St.
(208) 882-8513

4-7 p.m.

\$1.50 wells

\$2.00 domestic pints

\$3.00 microbrewery/imports

Mingles Bar and Grill

102 S. Main St.
(208) 882-2050

4-6 p.m.

\$0.50 off all drinks

CJs

112 N. Main St.
(208) 883-3147

7-11 p.m.

(Wednesday - Saturday)

\$5 bottomless cup of beer

John's Alley Tavern

114 E. 6 St.
(208) 883-7662

2-7 p.m.

\$2.25 wells

\$1.50 domestics

\$2.50 microbrews

All Photos: Dan Buckles



Pushing Limits

Sophomore adjusts to life with a cane



Photo: Jared Desjarlais

PLAYING AROUND: Wrestling with a friend left Melissa Davlin walking campus with a cane

By Nate Poppino

UI sophomore Melissa Davlin lives a fairly active life. After all, she spent part of her summer teaching a rock-climbing class in Maine.

She just never got to do any demonstrations for it.

Davlin, an education major, has spent most of her time since May holding a cane. She taught the rock climbing class from a chair.

Davlin was wrestling with a friend when he kicked her in the hip and nearly separated the tendons holding her hip joint together. Davlin didn't realize how much of a problem she had until a few weeks later when she found she couldn't move after going rock climbing.

"She just dealt with it for like a month," said Laura Podratz, a sophomore geology major and one of Davlin's friends. "She stayed at my house for a couple of weeks waiting for her apartment. One day she said something about wanting to get a glass of water but didn't want to move because of pain. I said she was going to the hospital."

At the hospital, Davlin was told she might have a hernia and that it would heal itself in a couple of weeks. When it didn't heal, Davlin saw several more specialists before having a Magnetic Resonance Imaging test, or MRI. The test revealed that the flexors in her hip joint were stretched and frayed.

After the MRI, Davlin said, she started

physical therapy to heal the area. She does stretches, ultrasound therapy, electroshock therapy and pool therapy. She said the electroshock therapy is the worst.

"They zap me for 15 minutes. It is very uncomfortable," Davlin said.

In the meantime, Davlin uses a cane to get around.

"I used crutches for a while, but it didn't help so they gave me a cane," Davlin said. "One doctor said it would be about a year before the spot heals, but I might get to ditch the cane before then."

"Everyone recognizes me as the girl with the cane.

I'd like to think that it's my hot new haircut, but it's not."

— Melissa Davlin

Davlin's biggest challenge has been getting used to life with a cane. With so many hills on campus, she said, traveling between classes is hard.

"The campus is so hilly and there are so many stairs everywhere," Davlin said. "Sometimes I have to put as much weight on my left arm as I can and drag myself up them."

Davlin also said finding elevators is hard.

"A lot of elevators aren't marked and a lot of times they are way out of my way. It's kind of frustrating," Davlin said.

The most obvious change, Davlin said, is how strangers treat her. Before the accident, she could say hi to people without getting embarrassed looks, but now people mostly ignore her.

"They don't want to stare or give me a sympathetic look," Davlin said. "In the attempt to not make me uncomfortable they make me more

uncomfortable."

A lot of people now recognize her from day to day because of the cane, Davlin said.

"Everyone recognizes me as the girl with the cane. I'd like to think that it's my hot new haircut, but it's not," Davlin said.

Davlin said she does know some people who haven't changed: her friends.

"If anything, in the face of adversity she's a superhero," Podratz said. "I think when she's done with this she's going to get a good laugh out of it. She's going to be able to B.S. with her friends about it."

"It's just one more hurdle," said Stephanie Blair, a freshman general studies major. "It's a physical thing that she's just got to deal with and think she sees that."

Davlin's temporary problem hasn't derailed her from a host of personal dreams. Among others, she wants to study in Ghana, teach in Asia, be a photojournalist or cover politics.

"I could feel sorry for myself but that's not going to do anything for me. I've been really trying to keep a sense of humor," Davlin said. "Anytime anyone says they feel sorry I say the same thing: It builds character."

Now that she's used the cane for about four months, Davlin said she just wishes the reason for her accident was more interesting.

"I need a better story of how this happened," Davlin said. "Maybe I should say I got shot teaching in an inner-city school or something."



Photo: Jared Desjarlais



Photo: Jared Desjarlais

TIMBER: Club competes in ancient sport

After All These Years

Non-traditional student lives helping others



Photo: Alta Cutler

LATE START: At 50, Ben Hull is pursuing Spanish and French degrees

They're No Hacks

Student club competes in traditional logging events around the West, occasionally cross-dress

By Amanda Schank

When Shanna Smith needed a partner for the women's double buck competition, her teammate stepped up. Only one thing stood in their way: He was male and it was a women's competition.

Senior Wade Hendricks, forest products major and president of the Logger Sports Club, did the only logical thing he knew. Hendricks dolled up in a shaggy, black and white, longhaired wig that he said "looked like a scraped skunk" and competed as a girl, pride aside.

This year, the Logger Sports Club is pulling together more than before. Club adviser Richard Folk left last spring after 18 years. In searching for new leadership, the members have depended on their strength as a team and have had fun in the meantime.

"This club is a positive influence on every level; whether it's a fun, athletic, competitive or social point of view, it's just a good time," said Keith Coulter, senior team captain majoring in forest products. "The future was more promising with a vested adviser, but now it just relies a lot more heavily on current members and training

prospective members."

The club spends the year training for spring season, when they travel from Montana to California for logging shows. There, they compete in traditional logging events including chopping, sawing, chain sawing, climbing and ax throwing to average crowds of 200.

"When you're competing, all you're thinking is, 'Keep up your energy; just keep going,'" secretary Helen Rector, a senior forestry and wildlife major, said. "Everyone is cheering for each other and screaming at everyone. It's a rush."

Forester Brian Austin and Richard Fehrenbacher, from UI's English department, have stepped up as advisers. Hendricks said club duties are so time-intensive that members have undertaken a majority of the responsibilities while the new advisers adjust.

But sacrifice and responsibility carry rewards. And for the club, the rewards are endless.

"It's hard to put a finger on what makes it fun, really," Hendricks said. "It's just the experience and what you make of it."

By Amanda Schank

Ben Hull is not your typical middle-aged man.

He's a full-time student who will graduate in May at age 50. He's a service worker who devotes 40 hours every weekend to his job. He's a man who chose a graphite and titanium leg against the advice of a doctor and calls it "a huge improvement." And he only sleeps five nights a week.

"I owe my energy to good ancestors," Hull said, the laugh lines behind his large-rimmed glasses crinkling. "Also, it helps to be doing something you like doing; if you like doing it, you'll find the energy."

Hull is in his fourth semester at UI, what he calls his "home base." Earning a degree had always been an incomplete goal and he suffered professionally from the lack of one, Hull said.

Hull met his choice to return to school with only one fear, and it didn't stem from the obvious generation gap. It was the fear that his brain wouldn't work the same due to years of anesthesia and age. His fear was fulfilled.

"It makes me not try and do what I can't do and frees me up to enjoy what I can do well," Hull said. "I just said to myself, 'Well, that doesn't work anymore, I'll go to what still does work - languages.'"

The decision led him to a degree in French and Spanish. But that's just his life on weekdays.

Every Friday, Hull drives a mini-

mum of four hours to wherever his company sends him. He works with developmentally disabled people and says his ex-wife would "complain that I put volunteer work ahead of earning money." For Hull, who urges his classmates to "never miss an opportunity to serve your fellow man," his priorities were clear.

"I need to serve in my work. I need to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem."

While Hull devotes his life to solving others' problems, he's had to deal with problems of his own.

A veteran mechanic, Hull hurt his left leg in an industrial accident as a young man and "made the doctors take it off" after a series of unsuccessful operations. He was married and raised a family of three children but said his biggest regret is his divorce. Now, Hull lives a "disciplined lifestyle" by himself and with what he calls his "incredible ego."

But he doesn't think negatively about the life he's been dealt.

"I think God knows me better than I know myself and has given me the kind of life I need," Hull said. "Maybe it's not the kind of life I would have hoped for, but I think it was the life I needed for my own personal development."

With an eye on graduation, Hull continues pushing harder to create a new future for himself.

"What am I going to do with my degree? I don't know, I'll have to see," Hull said. "Maybe the CIA will want a middle-aged linguist."

What Budget?

Film students use limited resources to create feature film as the ultimate summer project

By **Jessie M. Waddell**

Extreme summer school. That might best describe the summer of 2003 for three film students who spent their break on the Palouse creating the independent feature-length film "Surface Tension," in exchange for UI credit.

"They say you're supposed to put in three hours for every hour in class," said David Anderson, a psychology major who acted in the film.

"Well, they quadrupled that during the summer. They were sometimes getting four hours of sleep a night and working seven days a week."

"Surface Tension" is a psychological thriller focused on the paranormal and written, directed and produced by Josh Czmowski, Devin Barrett, and Paul Basinger.

Czmowski primarily focused on writing, directing and editing; Basinger on cinematography and directing; and Barrett on post-production editing, wardrobe and makeup.

The three decided to make their own movie after working together as production assistants during the summer of 2002 on the set of "Dandelion," another independent movie filmed in the area.

"Dandelion" went on to win awards in film festivals around the country.

In addition to their fall classes, the three spent September 2002 through May 2003 working on the script for "Surface Tension," and most of June and July filming around the Palouse.

Though the production members of "Surface Tension" financed the movie's \$4,000 budget largely with their own money, they also received donations from community members and others in the film industry. The university and their friends and families were other invaluable resources.

"They were below a shoestring budget," said Harold Gibson, director of alumni relations at UI and an actor

in the film. "What they accomplished was more than admirable; it was staggering."

The three held an open audition in Moscow and cast many members of UI and WSU's theater departments. They filled the remaining roles with community members like Gibson, whom they'd seen in local productions.



ON THE CHEAP: Students created "Surface Tension" with \$4,000 budget

The small budget obliged the three to share production roles, a different situation than they had expected.

"I was hoping we could go in there and really treat it as a two or three million dollar independent production," Czmowski said.

"But it ended up that we'd finish shooting one day and tell the actor, 'OK, be here tomorrow,' and hope to God they'd show up because none of them were getting paid."

They shared duties that would usually be performed by a much larger crew.

"It was a big job for three people," Czmowski said.

"'Dandelion' had a crew of 50 people, and bigger movies like 'Spiderman' or something could have

up to 100 or 150 people working on the set within the production."

There was, however, a positive side to sharing tasks. Czmowski, who had only planned on directing, realized he enjoyed producing as well.

Basinger also appreciated the diversity of roles.

"Getting the opportunity to create and improvise and then see it turn out

tions ... but I realized your knowledge only works as a guideline. It only helps you so much."

Their flexibility and thoroughness was not lost on the cast.

"What I was impressed with was the amount of work, effort, time, blood, sweat and tears they put into it — hours and hours and hours," Gibson said.

Filming the movie gave Gibson a taste of work in the film industry where one scene is often shot more than one time from more than one angle, and scenes are not often shot in chronological order.

This requires foresight and attention to detail as well as knowledge of technicalities such as lighting, sound and angles — all talents he thought the directors had.

"They went about it the right way for building a career for themselves," Gibson said. "They've shown a very high level of professionalism."

Gibson also appreciated the details, including original music written and performed by local band Smoking Bill, and a car that the crew bought and wrecked for the film.

The crew also impressed Anderson.

"When you see someone shoot a scene 10 or 20 times, they can get really irritated and drained," he said. "But that's where Josh, Devin and Paul showed some major diligence."

He said Barrett was often the glue between the cast and the crew when either side would get frustrated.

Even with all the hard work, Anderson was apprehensive about the final product.

"I was very nervous the film was going to be so bad. But the talent of the editor, the director and the cinematographer really showed."

The film has played twice in the SUB's Borah Theater. Czmowski plans to submit the it to film festivals across the country.

was a blast," he said. "Collaborating and coming up with creative ideas and ways to solve problems — I just get a huge kick out of that."

Basinger initially filled the role of cinematographer, but took over directing for the last third of the film when Czmowski had to return to work.

Basinger utilized his experience from Watkins College of Art and Design in Nashville, Tenn., as well as his work on a few student films, a couple of independent films and small production parts in the movies "Cast Away" and "The Green Mile," both of which were filmed in Tennessee.

"When we started out, I was trying to be an encyclopedia of what you're supposed to do in certain situa-



TOGETHER NOW: Many members of the rugby club are playing for the first time

Rugger's for life

Team continues tradition of one of UI's proudest student clubs

By Nathan Jerke

The opportunity to play a sport like football, except without the pads, has piqued a fair amount of interest on campus. For the better part of 30 years, students and alumni have maintained a common bond as members of the UI rugby club.

"I was a little scared at first to come out, because I'm not the biggest guy," said Chris Ohms, president of one of the longest-running club sports in UI history. "But once you start playing, you learn there's positions for every size and ability. And you don't have to be the biggest guy. But if you're smart and you learn how to play well and learn the game, you can play with the big guys."

The club was founded in 1976 by three individuals who had an interest in the game, but, like most Americans, had little knowledge of the sport. First-timers are constantly the backbone of the successful club.

"We always have good teams, sometimes a great team," former player and coach Joe McGurkin said. "The nice thing about rugby is that anyone at any level can play. And everyone gets to play. You don't make the team; you're on the team."

McGurkin, who played from 1978-'82 and coached the team from 1982-'92, has continued to follow the team closely as an observer and supporter.

Although following the club is what many of the former players do, every five years, many for-

mer Idaho rugger's get to take the pitch once again for a reunion tournament. Generally, 400-600 people, including other club teams from around the Northwest, convene for the one-day tourney and fund-raiser benefiting the Idaho team.

"It's a great game; it's a wonderful time. Guys stay the best friends in your life you'll meet playing rugby at the University of Idaho, and just friends for life," McGurkin said. "The guys I played with in the late '70's and early '80's, we still see each other constantly and stay in touch with each other."

However, the club offers more than just a good time on the weekends. In 1987, the club did a playing tour of New England, and in the late '90s the team traveled to Pennsylvania and Southern California. For some, the game is an opportunity to travel abroad to play on club teams in Europe and Australia; a couple others have played on the U.S. national team.

"A lot of guys are busy, and trying to keep everybody interested while they do school and everything (is difficult)," Ohms said. "It's pretty laid back, but we try to keep it serious."

The club returns to play in the spring, hosting its games on Taylor Street field behind new Greek row. For information about the team, contact UI Campus Recreation at 885-6381.



Licorice
photography
licoricephoto@hotmail.com
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Michele Kimberling
Photographer



Sound of Idaho Marching band entertains, despite what the football team does

By Kristi Coffman

The University of Idaho Marching Band has been a long-standing symbol of school spirit in Moscow. Each year the band provides crowd members with upbeat music and several imaginative, visually stimulating marching routines. The marching band plays at all UI home football games and travels to the annual Idaho vs. BSU game.

UI senior Brian Smith has played percussion in the band for four years. Smith said the routines are a big part of being a part of the marching band. He said the marching band has a variety of unique moves they perform, such as squats and pelvic thrusts. Smith said the Vandal marching band is always five to 10 years ahead of every new trend in marching band.

"As soon as we see what people are doing in marching band, we change again," he said.

The marching band recently began to use props in performances. Smith said the flag team always has used props, but lately the whole band has incorporated props, such as chairs, into its routine. The idea to use props was inspired by the on campus Stomp-esque group, Dancers, Drummers and Dreamers.

The Vandal marching band practices five days a week for 50 minutes and performs three or four shows each year. At a marching band practice, band director Torrey Lawrence and assistant director Spencer Martin can be found at the top of the

Kibbie Dome steps, shouting out directions.

"They can be tough, but in a sick way, that's why we do it," Smith said.

Although many in the 161-member band are music majors, a large portion of the band is made up of non-music majors.

"They're there for 50 minutes of their day to get away from biology, engineering or whatever. It's 50 minutes where they can just have fun and play music."

Smith said a lot of individual time is put into the band. Band members are given a piece of music to take home and memorize before they return to practice the next day.

Each year the band invites every high school in Idaho and Washington to accompany it at a football game with the marching band.

At football games, the tuba players can be seen donning skirts, a long-standing practice of the section. Smith said the tuba section provides constant comic relief for the rest of the band.

"It's like a blood tradition. The tuba section has a long held tradition to be wild and crazy."

To prepare for each season, the marching band holds a camp a week before school starts. The band rehearses eight or nine hours a day and watches films of past Vandal marching bands. The camp provides time for basics to be taught to new members and reiterated to all members of the band.

This year the Vandal marching band sent a small pep band to Hawaii for the UI vs. University of Hawaii football game. Smith said that although there is support from Vandal fans at games, the band also gets booed by opposing teams. Smith said the taunts stop when the music starts.



SO SERIOUS: Skirts are common in UI's band

Making A Splash University brings back women's swim program; former Olympic gold medalist Tom Jager manages crew

By Elizabeth Dalessio

After 19 years, UI has revived the women's swim team.

Five-time Olympic gold medalist Tom Jager coaches the 16-woman team. Jager graduated from UCLA in 1987 after overlapping his collegiate and Olympic swimming careers.

He had seven NCAA national championships and became one of just two swimmers in history to compete in three Olympics (1984, 1988 and 1992).

"Bringing back the program is terrific for swimmers all over the country," Jager said. "We now have an additional opportunity for student athletes to go to school and compete in a sport."

Jager said the biggest hurdle for the swimmers will be adjusting to the workload as athletes as well as serious students.

"We work hard in the water, in the weight room and in the classroom," he said. "The sport of swimming is all about preparation and we hope to be prepared."

The team consists of 11 freshmen and sopho-

mores, and has just one senior.

"I look to leadership from every one of my athletes," Jager said. "If they all act like leaders and lead by example, then you have a great environment to develop as human beings."

The team will compete in the Big West

Championships in February in Long Beach, Calif.

"Our toughest competition will be at the Big West Championship," he said. "We would like to perform well and represent the University of Idaho well. That's a lot of pressure. That's why we prepare."



AFLOAT: Swimming returns to UI after 19-year absence

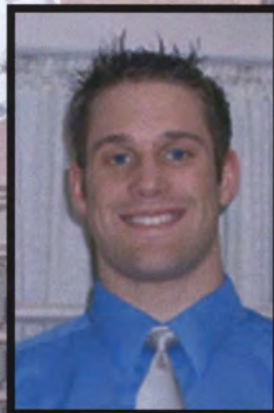
SARB



Brad Walgamott
President



Michaela Mcguire
Vice President



Matt Henman
ASAP District Rep



Emily Davis
Internal PR Chair



Daniel Hubbard
Eternal PR Chair



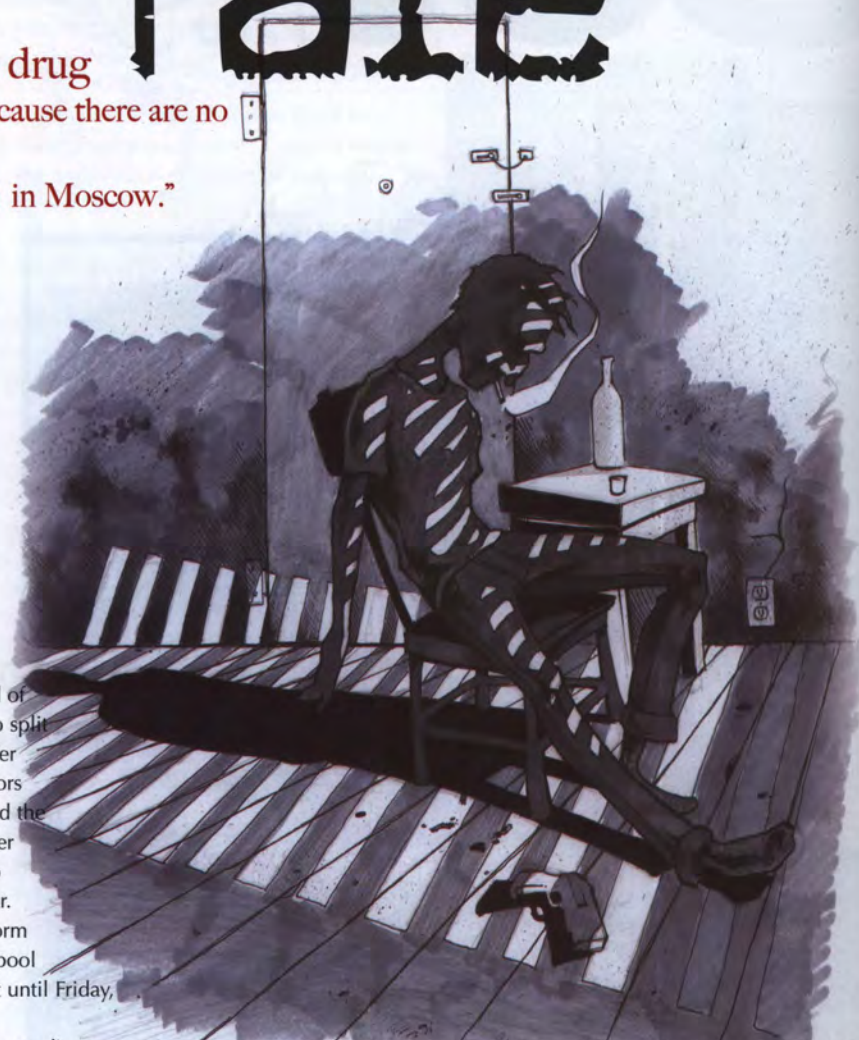
Katie Diederfield
Secretary



Brandon Johnson
Treasurer

Tattle Tale

"They're NOT taking down major drug networks, because there are no major drug networks in Moscow."



I'd
be

surprised if you made it until Friday, bitch."

The graffiti on the door spoke loudly. At the end of the semester a couple years back, several friends agreed to split gas back to their hometown with an acquaintance, "Jennifer Reynolds," a Wallace resident. Since most of the dorm doors had notes scribbled by and to friends, Jennifer's ride missed the significance of the most recent addition on the way into her room. Familiar enough with her room's door-scribblings to notice a difference, Jennifer caught it on her way to the car. Undoubtedly assuming it was a farewell missive from a dorm buddy, she pointed out the heavily scrawled jot to her carpool pal. They read it in unison, "I'd be surprised if you made it until Friday, bitch."

The kind of awkward silence that can only result from reading someone's death threat aloud settled for a moment before she burst into tears. It was almost half an hour of near hysterics before she calmed down enough to tell her friends what they had all already heard. Jennifer admitted she had been busted for simple possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. She was leaned on by the cops to give up names in exchange for remaining in school and out of jail. She swore she hadn't.

A year or so later, the Jennifer situation came up at a party. By a coincidence of commingling, two of the partygoers acknowledged that they had been informed on and asserted the informant was Jennifer. Both claimed they didn't deal and had gotten a couple of bags for her as a favor rather than an entrepreneurial endeavor. Shortly afterward, they were busted for the exact amount they'd procured for her. Unwilling to snitch, both had done jail time. Whether or not Jennifer became an informant is almost a moot point. She had been fingered as a "narc," a tag as dangerous as it is socially devastating.

In an altruistic overture to a fellow southern Idaho pot-smoker, "Danny Frost" befriended "Kyle," a socially inept and relatively unpopular student. Danny and Kyle were friends, not too tight, but a rung higher than casual acquaintances. They smoked some bowls and occasionally did a couple of lines of coke, though Danny has since sworn off powders. Several months into their friendship, Kyle approached Danny for an eighth (of an ounce, a standard "bag." I'm sure you had no idea).

"I got him a bag, and about a month later he came back and wanted an ounce, so I did it," Danny said. "Then about three weeks after that he asked me for a quarter pound, which I thought was kind of strange, I didn't want to do it and I told him that. He called me every day, or I saw him every day for about two weeks, finally I was just like 'fuck it,' you know, I decided to give it to him just to get him off my back. And the morning he was supposed to come over and get it the cops showed up at my house, and that's when I knew I'd been set up."

The MPD found roughly 4 ounces of pot in Danny's house – give or



Written by
Frank McGovern
Illustrations by
Noah Kroese

take Danny's personal stash – a scale and some mushrooms. "They trashed my house when they did their search. It was like stuff you see on TV. They fucking trashed everything in my house. Luckily the door was unlocked, or they would have battered it with their battering ram, so we still had a front door. They tore down posters ... and we're sitting in handcuffs in the living room in our boxers just watching this happen. They take me into a back room to 'interrogate' me; and they offered, you know, 'Oh, help us, tell us where you got the pot, blah, blah, blah.' I denied everything; basically told them to fuck off, but that was the first thing they did, they tried to get me to roll over on somebody. I told them to fuck off."

For his lack of cooperation, Danny was charged with three felonies, two counts of delivery and possession with intent to deliver. All told, for the 4 ounces, give or take, and half a bag of mushrooms, Danny was looking at a maximum of 15 years prison time and a \$75,000 fine. The search warrant was thrown out on a technicality and Danny was able to plea bargain down to simple possession for the two buys he made for Kyle. Eventually Danny ended up serving 30 days in jail with school release, paid a \$3700 fine and is nearing the end of three years' probation. Not including the fine, legal costs and bail added up to \$11,000.

One of the primary criticisms of the "narc dynamic" is the charge that the police recruit and

real weight, but how often is that the case? Accounting for his obvious bias, Danny feels the entire situation was unnecessary. "Nothing positive has come out of this. They didn't stop one person from smoking weed. They stopped me from smoking weed from Friday until Saturday afternoon when I got out of jail, so less than 24 hours I stopped smoking weed," Danny was, in fact, a little baked during this interview. "They really didn't accomplish anything. They got a quarter pound of marijuana of the street, which is a drop in the pond, a drop in the bucket. It's nothing. The amount of money they spent to get me in jail and 4 ounces of marijuana off the street is pretty incredible."

Legally, Kyle got the better end of the deal, but as is often the case in these

Rhett has an SKS assault rifle,
fitted for effect with a wicked-
looking bayonet,
a drawer full of knives,
several swords and a
pair of brass knuckles.

employ informants for and from unrelated cases. Kyle was busted driving drunk, and agreed to inform to avoid stiffer sentencing. Danny feels the distinction between selling pot and driving drunk is profound and comparing the two is absurd. "You've got a DUI on one hand with consenting adults smoking marijuana on the other. I had a conversation with the officers that arrested me, who charged me, afterwards. I said, 'Me selling weed is worse than this kid driving drunk?' He's all, 'No, I don't think so.' The police officer that arrested me basically said that he was just doing his job. He may not feel that selling weed was worse, or that drunk driving was better; basically I felt they were saying that drunk driving was a lot worse than selling pot."

The justification for using confidential informants as a law enforcement means to an end has to be that the institution does more harm than good. Will a minor bust leading to the arrest of a bigger, but still small-time drug peddler eventually lead to the nabbing of the big boys? This certainly wasn't the case in either the "Jennifer" anecdote, or the case with Danny. Undoubtedly, local informants have assisted in the arrests of dealers moving some

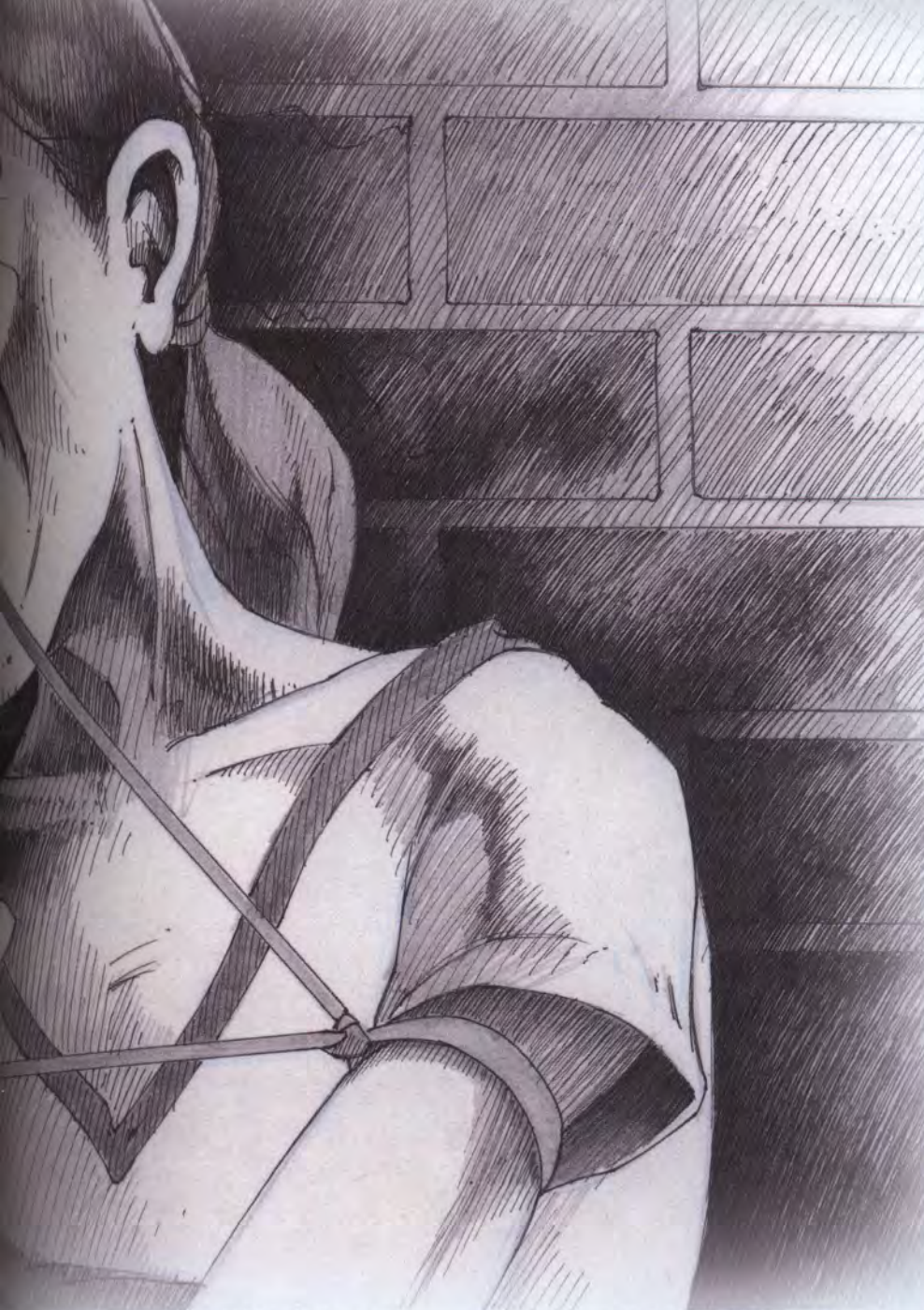
situations, the recipient of the greater share of misery is debatable. Danny knew who had rolled on him from the moment the police walked through his door, and soon after, so did everyone else. "I basically told everyone I knew what his name was and all my friends told everyone they knew." Shortly thereafter, the presiding judge ordered Danny (and his friends) refrain from any contact with Kyle. By then, of course, the directive was too little, too late. "I told my friends, 'You can't mess with this guy.' But, you know, the kid still had a hard time. I know a lot of people, and he eventually had such a hard time in Moscow that he moved back to (his hometown)." Unfortunately for Kyle, the fallout from the episode enjoyed no statute of limitations or preventive geographic buffer. As to what happened to Kyle after returning home, Danny is evasive: "I heard some stories about some stuff that might have happened in (his hometown), but it's pretty much all rumor. To my knowledge he's still down there."

Despite Danny's obvious vitriol toward Kyle and his decision, it was apparent he sympathizes.



"If you know someone who's been approached by the police really ask them to think about what they're doing, think about who they're helping. You've got to own up to your actions in this world. Once you're done with the case, you don't have any protection from them. You have to sign a contract releasing the city and the Moscow police from any liability. So if you narc on someone and you get stabbed, the police and the city of Moscow are totally unaccountable. They put you on an island, say 'fuck you' and leave you there."

"Rhett Lane" deals small-time out of his apartment. Dealing isn't his primary source of income, but it does amount to a robust chunk of secondary capital. He predominately sells pot and pharmaceuticals, chiefly painkillers, and whatever else pings across his contraband radar. Despite the relatively low volume of illicit trade that passes through his place, he's taking no chances. Rhett



thetical recourse suggested for dealing with a narc was dropping their name and spreading the word. "I'd tell them I know and everybody else does too," Paul said. "If you were to retaliate you'd get conspiracy or something like that on top of your charges. I'd for sure confront them about it, but I probably wouldn't do anything physical."

Rhett was less forgiving, "I'd let everyone in town know who and what they are, and then, I don't know, it depends on how much trouble I got in. It might result in violence."

The possibility of violent reprisal is one of the reasons local attorney Tim Gresback opposes the

**"They put you
on an island
and leave you there."**

use of informants. In a letter to the editors of local newspaper, co-written with his partner Charles Kovis, Gresback says, "Becoming a snitch is a dangerous and permanent decision. We doubt a student will get shot or stabbed from smoking a little pot or holding a beer. We have less confidence the same holds true with the ... snitch system."

Gresback has extensive experience defending students, and worked as defense counsel for Danny Frost. Gresback contends the use of informants does far more harm than good. "They're not taking down major drug networks, because there are no major drug networks in Moscow. It is irresponsible that the police department is turning students against each other." One of the principal reasons those arrested agree to inform, Gresback contends, is ignorance. "Our law provides numerous legitimate and effective ways to defend you besides snitching." Instead of becoming an "agent" for the police, Gresback suggests anyone arrested for anything talk to their parents, a competent attorney or other mature confidant after any run-in with the law.

Officer Art Lindquist, an on-campus liaison officer with the Moscow Police isn't crazy about the use of informants either. "We would rather not investigate narcotics at all, but it's kind of a fact of life. Informants are used by every law enforcement agency in the world. We use confidential informants and we will continue to use confidential informants."

The fact is, the use of informants works. Just as they are a bane to dealers and dabblers big and small, informants are a boon to the police. Furthermore, Lindquist asserts, not all informants are motivated by self-preservation. Some are paid, "professional" informants, and some, maybe most, operate solely for the good of Moscow. "We have some people who come up and do this sort of thing because they want to stop drugs in the community." Lindquist offers no apology for using a law enforcement system that works effectively at gathering and "facilitates the gathering" of evidence in narcotics cases. "The easiest way to avoid being the victim or subject of a confidential informant is to quit using illegal substances."

has an SKS assault rifle, fitted for effect with a wicked-looking bayonet, a drawer full of knives, several swords and a pair of brass knuckles. He isn't someone you would peg for a dealer if you saw him on the street. He's a full-time student, clean-cut, pleasant and soft-spoken.

Though he's never been busted for drugs, a close encounter with an informant in his hometown has made an obvious impression. When asked Rhett what he thought of police recruitment of confidential informants, the dichotomous contrast between his appearance and lifestyle reflected in his response, "I guess I can see the good in it, because it's hard for cops to, like, get in. It's still pretty shady though, I guess. I fucking hate narcs."

The general underworld animosity toward the narc is pervasive and legitimate. Because informants don't fit into the accepted criminal rubrics of drug etiquette, they represent an unstable wild card

element no amount of preparation or caution can absolutely ward off. "To avoid narcs, avoid new situations and new people; just use your best judgement. You go by your gut. If you get a bad feeling about somebody, you get sketched out being around them, avoid them." Rhett shrugs, "I know that's not necessarily good for business, but you don't want to deal with anybody you don't know."

"Paul Green," a friend of Rhett's, sells more prolifically. He holds a full-time job, though his illicit income nets more than his paycheck. Paul also chiefly deals weed but acts as a buffer for those "looking" for and "looking to get rid of" almost anything else. Paul's approach to handling the threat of an informant rolling on him is equally unscientific, "Other than them being pointed out to me, you kind of have to go with a feeling, you know, the vibe you get from certain people."

For both Paul and Rhett, the preferred hypo-



By Sean Olson
Photographs By Dan Bickley

emo KIDS' HANDBOOK





nality, he said, is the equivalent of a band singing "Spread your wings and fly."

"It's irresponsible journalism," he said.

Harsh.

Irresponsible or not, the word is out there and it has gained notoriety in the new millennium. Emo, if you ask anyone who subscribes to its existence, is more than just music. It is a state of mind.

Pop culture phrases always transcend their original function of describing a style of music. They must — it is futile to argue otherwise — eventually describe an all-encompassing way of life.

Enter the emo kid.

By all accounts, there is no one true specimen of the emo kid outside of fictionalized fodder. But some come close. The image extends to every aspect of the emo life, from the clothes to wear all the way to the food an emo kid eats.

Javid Dabestani plays drums for Bright Calm Blue, a modern hard-core emo band out of Lincoln,

There are not even
branches of
emo kids working together,
which pretty much rules out
emo-watching
as a hobby.

Neb. Or it was emo? Anyway, Bright Calm Blue, Dabestani says, began as such but has tried to expand to find its own sound, a new sub-genre, so to speak. But Dabestani is no stranger to the term "emo."

Dabestani says his fans, just like anyone else, want to stay away from the label of emo kids. His reasoning is not because the term is often used derisively (Harmer even admits to using the term to diss celebrities), but rather because no one wants to be lumped into a general stereotype.

"No one wants to be stale," he said.

But Dabestani still knows the stereotype: "The oxymoron of the hipster-nerd kind of defines the physical characteristics of the emo kids," he says.

Some were slightly more blunt in their descriptions.

"I just think of a bunch of kids dressed in black with black hair," says Justin Carey, who owns Dying is Deadly, a small record label in Boise.

One inarguable prerequisite for anyone to be labeled "emo" is fashion. Emo fashion is under strict guidelines that eliminate any trips to the mall for clothing needs. Emo management is, apparently, not flexible on this issue.

Andy Radin, a fervent music follower and resident of Hillsborough, Calif., operates an all-knowing site with a helpful title: "What the heck is emo anyway?" (www.fourfa.com)

Radin provides some pointers on emo fashion on his Web site. Some of which include:

Pop culture creates junk, jargon and Japanimation so quickly, sometimes it is hard to keep up. So no one should be ashamed when a little bit of the ever-changing language of the hip gets ahead of them.

Take "emo," for instance. The word morphed from its musical origins and became a part of everyday life. It grew insanely fast. So fast, in fact, that people never had time to learn just what the hell emo actually is.

That is, of course, until now.

Scholars and jilted journalists have pondered its meaning for a number of years. The same questions were raised about punk, grunge and alternative — which happens to win the prize for most vague representation of music, ever.

Many subscribed to the standard definition of emo — or "emotional" — music evoking the same feeling as when you get up early in the morning to build a sandwich for lunch and then walk a half-

mile in the rain before you realize you left it on the counter. But is this really an accurate way to describe the music?

"No," says Dashboard Confessional's publicist, Fernando Aguilar.

Of course, this phrase was taken out of context. What Aguilar was actually saying was no, Blot could not interview — or associate — any of his bands with the word emo. He hung up before commenting on the sandwich analogy.

Nicholas Harmer, bassist for Death Cab for Cutie, who also did not appreciate being linked to emo, had more to say on the issue.

"Using the word 'emo' is totally uncool," Harmer said.

Harmer says it is laziness on the part of journalists that brings words like "emo" into the public conscience. The word is just another catchall phrase used by music journalists to peg down a sound they do not have an original word for. That lack of origi-

Are You emo?

Take Blot's super-sad quiz and find out...

1. You wear black when you

- a. are going to a funeral
- b. are hiding
- c. are in a tux
- d. get up in the morning

2. Wearing your girlfriend's clothes is

- a. for Halloween
- b. for losers
- c. forbidden
- d. phat

3. Poetry is something

- a. Robin Williams put in a society
- b. Jewel put in a book
- c. John Lennon put to tunes
- d. I put on my shoe

4. I like to eat

- a. at Chili's
- b. fast
- c. hot dogs
- d. occasionally

d. If you answered "d" to any of these questions, you need to quit calling yourself a "hipster kid" and accept that you're emo. It's gonna be alright.

a. If you answered "a" for two or more questions, you really need to get out more. There are places, other than the mall, to go and spend your money.

seen a sea of tight "girl pants" and equally tight shirts frequenting the establishment for some of its more emo shows.

Malone, Winter and Dabestani all stress the importance of straying from these stereotypes. They point out that judging someone by dress alone is not only "rude," but, somehow, also "stupid."

It is a little unfortunate, but in reality there is not a perfect race of emo kids dressing and thinking in harmony. There are not even branches of emo kids working together, which pretty much rules out emo-watching as a hobby ("Look over there, son ... that's a Dashboard Confessional circa 2002. Notice the pin-on buttons on his hoodie and the spiky black hair ... ")

Dabestani has noted a wide variety of people at his shows, but does give some cre-

-The emo-Romulan look: "short, thick, greasy, dyed-black hair with bangs cuts straight across the forehead and cut high over the ears." (Interestingly enough, Dabestani also described this as "Vulcan Hair," popularized by Justin Pearson of The Locusts.)

-Tight and short slacks (black).

-Small polyester jackets or children's-sized T-shirts. Use a buttoned collar and always make sure they cannot protect you from any weather.

-Scarves are a must. Makeup is not a must, but it is never discouraged.

-Cardigans and V-neck sweaters that, again, should be tight and dark in color.

-Finally: "Anorexic thinness. Veganism helps here."

Moscow locals Josh Malone and Lloyd Eugene Winter IV both add horn-rimmed



glasses to the list. Malone gives credit where credit is due, however.

"That's (emo) the old straight-edge hard-core look," Malone says. The tight black clothes, ink

everywhere, it matches perfectly. Malone is not sure how it switched from one genre to the other.

Winter acknowledges a bit of hipster in the attire as well. The line separating punk, emo and indie rock looks altogether is a thin one anyway, he says. But Winter has a surefire way of spotting the proper stereotype of an emo kid.

"A tight Saves the Day (the band) T-shirt is a dead giveaway," he says.

Carey says he runs across emo kids at places like The Venue in Boise. Carey has

It is a vicious cycle they cannot escape from: They like emo, but do not want to be emo because it is bad. Think growing up gay in Provo, Utah.

dence to the overall look in some areas. He blames the overbearing pressure to "fit in" in the younger years of music fans, mainly junior high and high school.

When people get a

little older, it is harder to fit them into any mold.

Winter believes the only way to truly make a statement about style is to directly ask someone's influences. Only then, can one make a general sweeping statement about that person.

Even at live emo shows, where one expects to see hoards of horn-rimmed glasses, bad haircuts and depressed teen girls falling tearily in love with a lead singer while writing poetry, things are a little different.

Dabestani remembers what he recalled

Dark hair covering most of face

Thick, dark, messy eye makeup

dark vintage band shirt

Buttons of bands and sayings

Patches on dark hoody

Messenger bag with patches

Hole in hoody for thumb

Baggy jeans with patches
(pants are great place to write sad poetry)

Old, old Converse All-Stars

Dirty dark beanie

Light eye makeup

Headphones (never remove)

Dark vintage band shirt

Dark 'gas station' jacket

Multiple studded belts

Tight jeans (raid girlfriend's closet for best fit)

Old, old Converse All-Stars
(another great place for poetry)



KEYS TO LOOKING emo

Nothing can ever be too dark, dirty, old, patched, decorated with buttons or covered in lyrics and poetry. Ever.

as a strange, but very good emo show. Bright Calm Blue was playing a show that could, by irresponsible journalists, be called a hard-core emo ticket in an alley (with Page 99 and Albatross). People of all ages and fashions came together to dance, throw bottles, bread and even shoes for a night of music. "It was as natural as it could be," he said.

This emo-bashing, which became common during this investigation, still does not help in pinning down what the musical side of emo actually amounts to.

Marred by stereotypes and generalizations, emo tends to be dismissed as any band that critics wish ill will upon. But, like all popular culture, emo actually has roots in the '80s.

Radin cites eight years in college radio, playing in a band and being a general scenester at the time of emo's birth as his qualifications as music historian. His Web site details a history of emo from its birth.

It goes like this: In the early '80s, the D.C. punk scene was booming with hard-core. By 1984, hard-core had a death rattle that was coalescing into one last coughing spurt before it would come dangerously close to extinction.

But there was life in that spurt – a band called Rites of Spring formed that kept the hardcore elements of the local punk scene (fast and furious tempos and energy), but with a new touch.

Guy Picciotto (who was doomed to punk music by name alone), singer of the group, had a unique, breathy vocal style which would start "delving into intensely personal lyrics dripping with emotion and sweat," according to Radin.

Other bands, like Gray Matter, Soulside and Ignition, were attracted to the style and launched themselves on the DC scene. The bands of the era would eventually become known as the "classic D.C. sound," according to Radin.

Emo was originally a derisive term for the raw emotion in the lyrics, according to Radin. Following emo's creation as a term in music, Moss Icon, a well-known band that toured punk scenes, introduced the style to a wider region than the D.C. area.

Since that time, emo has turned into everything to all people. No longer confined to an emerging punk scene, emo is now applied to any and all bands that have a deeper personal meaning in their lyrics. It has grown so broad and vague that emo has really come to depend on a person-to-person basis for definition.

Malone believes in the traditional hard-core/emo definition (now often called "Screamo"). Malone believes that people think emo just means emotional music, and spread the term around too many genres.

"I heard someone call Modest Mouse emo the other day," Malone says. He denies this categorization firmly. He says the band has firm indie-rock roots.

Carey says he understands the confusion and is

often confused by what seem like arbitrary classifications of music. He admits that in the big picture of things, his confusion does not really matter anyway.

"Nobody will ever agree on what anything is," Carey says.

Winter, who is a fine arts and art education senior at the University of Idaho, agrees that most people cannot put their finger on an honest representation of an emo band.

"There's a big misconception about what it is really about," Winter says.

No longer confined to an emerging punk scene, emo is now applied to any and all bands that have a deeper personal meaning in their lyrics.

Winter's theory is that emo became popular as a genre in the early '90s punk scene, around the time of No Religion.

People had a natural need for a more emotionally charged sound in the music, but still charged. Thus was born the complimentary pair of punk

spin-offs to modern music: hard-core and emo punk.

Winter says this is a forgotten split by the mainstream public, which relies on MTV bands like New Found Glory to gauge the meaning of emo. It leads people to believe that emo music is "super-wussy-slow," he says. He admits that can be true, but is not always the case.

As for the MTV definition of emo, which is represented by a slew of artists that skirt the indie-rock and emo line, such as the Ataris, Saves the Day, Death Cab for Cutie and New Found Glory, it has

permeated the minds of music listeners as the true bands of mother emo, leaving noticeable punk roots in the dust.

Winter doesn't see this as a good thing.

"It was pretty honest and good music before it became accepted (into mainstream bands)," he says.

Newer emo has become a genre of dreary emotion. It could be called a softer, more beautiful version of its ancestor, if it weren't so damned depressing.

New Found

Glory is the poorest poster child emo has, according to Winter. That is the MTV version, what he calls just another top-40 band sucking on the teat of a short wave of popularity the term has provided.

Malone explains that this is the case for all music and its many genres. There is a short span between independent music and the mainstream, he says. People are getting sick of the same old sewage served on a platter to listeners. When independent music gets brought to the forefront as a replacement, the same old words are used to describe it.

And that is how a band like Dashboard, which epitomizes leaving a sandwich behind, can have ties to hard-core punk in the '80s. It is almost like playing the Kevin Bacon game, there are always only so many degrees of separation.

Factor in the rebellious beginning – the ability to last almost two decades, and some bands that are definitely selling records – and somehow, emo kids are still in no way cool.

The idea behind the emo kid, even if a bit off base in general terms, did get there for a reason. And as Aguilar passionately demonstrates, it is not a good thing. Being called emo falls somewhere between making the worst-dressed list in *People* magazine and being called a hippie at a young Republicans convention. Either way, one must be on the defensive.

So why does emo get such a bad rap? Everyone has a theory. It can't help that the term was started to make fun of a punk movement. It

also could not help that not one person in the history of the world (according to all sources, in every corner of the world. Yes, Blot asked everybody), has ever admitted to being emo.

Malone blames the MTV culture that has spawned the newer, softer emo bands. Just being associated with bands like Dashboard Confessional is aversion therapy to being called emo, according to him.

Winter believes the change in styles has been the downfall of emo as well. He specifically — almost angrily — cites New Found Glory again.

"It (old emo) hit a chord with me and it definitely doesn't now," Winter says.

Dabestani believes any label at all is grounds enough for dislike.

And Harmer, well, Harmer thinks the very existence of the word is grounds for dislike — and the dislike of anyone who writes it.

Carey has what is possibly the best explanation.

"I think these kids really want to be emo," he says.

The problem is that no one wants to be associated with the word. Emo was made fun of before it was listened to. So liking the music and the lifestyle is almost scary for some people. It is a vicious cycle they cannot escape from: They like emo, but do not want to be emo because it is bad. Think growing up gay in

Provo, Utah.

So what is emo?

Emo is a catchall phrase used by irresponsible journalists to describe hard-core music that started in the '80s and progressed to soft, sad ballads in the new millennium. It spawned a lifestyle that included tight, small, black clothing, dyed "Vulcan hair" and support of veganism.

Emo is also none of the above, because it is wrong to stereotype.

So what is emo? It's everything and nothing — a figment of the imagination — an "it" word, when it comes right down to it. No one will ever be able to use it or comprehend it completely because someone else will always think they are wrong. After all, as Harmer points out:

"All music is emotional."

But somehow emo kids are still in no way cool.



Keepin' it Emo with



Photo: Michele Kimb

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE

By Sean Olson

Although Death Cab for Cutie has been a staple of the indie-rock/emo scene for close to a decade, it was with the release of "Transatlanticism" in October of 2003 that it bridged the gap into the mainstream.

The album sold more than 200,000 copies and launched the band into a myriad of tours and countless gigs. They performed with Pearl Jam in October for the Vote For Change tour and found themselves on the guest list of shows like the "Late Late Show" and "Last Call with Carson Daly." They are also often a featured topic in the FOX show, "The OC."

Its sound is somewhat reminiscent of Built to Spill, with sometimes dueling guitars, and focuses on harmonies and personal lyrics, supported by the poppy vocals of front man Ben Gibbard. Death Cab also features Nick Harmer on bass; Chris Walla on guitar and keyboards; and Jason McGerr on drums.

The album is strongly rooted in the styles of modern indie-rock, but does manage to give a diverse range of songs within the genre. Gibbard said it was designed that way.

"There's nothing more boring than a record with 12 of the same song," he said in a press release.

Gibbard has partnered with producer Jimmy Tamborello to form The Postal Service, whose first album, "Give Up" has been a runaway hit. Death Cab, a Seattle-based band, is currently on the Barsuk Records label, but has been courted by several larger companies.

"Transatlanticism" is the band's seventh release in eight years. It debuted at 97th on the Billboard top 200. Other releases include "You Can Play These Songs With Chords" (1997), "Something About Airplanes" (1999), "We Have the Facts and We're Voting Yes" (2000), "Death Cab for Cutie Forbidden Love" (2000), "The Photo Album" (2001) and "The Stability" (2002).

From
the



FAMILY FIRST: CAMP program offers possibility of a different life for students

the farm to Classroom



By Jessie Bonner
Photographs by Dan Buckle

Five years ago, an assistance program for migrant workers and their families was integrated into the University of Idaho campus. Students travel from southern Idaho, central Washington and California to a small campus on the Camas Prairie where their lives take a dramatic turn. They find comfort in the program and the people who built it.

The road to college is a long one for most students. For Sonia Ponce, that road was 2,000 miles away from the only home she'd ever known. A crowded job fair at UI was the last place she thought she would end up. "I never thought I would come to school," Ponce says. "First of all, I couldn't speak English, and I had no money. I was going blindfolded into this."

Although Ponce, 23, was born in California, the United States is not her home. She grew up in a small farming community in south central Mexico as the daughter of migrant farm workers. "I moved from Mexico three years ago. I am the only person in my family who was born in the United States, but I was the last one that wanted to come here."

Just before her May 2004 graduation, Ponce visited the ballroom of the university's Student Union Building.

The dimly lit room is crowded with students navigating through tightly packed booths as business representatives try to recruit the best and brightest graduates of the 2003 school year.

For someone who learned English three years ago, Ponce speaks the language well and her accent is slight as she wanders into the crowd of students milling through the job fair.

Ponce recalls when her family immigrated to Idaho more than 10 years ago. She wanted to finish her education in the Mexican community where she had spent her childhood. "It's so funny; my dad would always say 'You're so stubborn!'" she says with a laugh. Living with her uncle, Ponce would travel to Idaho each summer to make the money that would pay for her high school tuition. On a tree farm in Bonner's Ferry, Ponce would get a small taste of the life her parents lived every day of the year. "We were waking up at 3 a.m. ... I hated it."

With a diploma from her high school in Ensenada, Mexico, Ponce remembers a time when her future didn't look so bright. "All of my friends were going to college and I had nowhere to go but to come work with my parents." Ponce never thought her par-

"All of my friends were going to college and I had nowhere to go but to come work with my parents. My parents didn't even go to elementary school. The best job they could get was farming."

— Sonia Ponce

ents' status as migrant farmers would be her ticket to a college education and her dreams of becoming a doctor. "My parents didn't even go to elementary school. The best job they could get was farming."

A friend told Ponce about the College Assistant Migrant Program at the University of Idaho. The program was offering financial aid to students who were seasonal farm workers or the children of migrant farm workers.

"They were pretty much taking anyone that wanted to go to school," Ponce says, adding that the application presented a barrier because it was in English. "My friend filled out the application because I couldn't," she says.

Although Ponce has worked hard to blend in as an average college student, she stands out because her face lacks the tense look of every other person in the

room as they rush from booth to booth trying to convince businesses of their skills and qualifications.

Her easygoing laugh and calm demeanor make it clear that her future is not in this room. "One or two jobs, I don't care. Even

if it's just part time," she says, stopping to pick up an application at a local department store's table and then moving on to stand in line at the next booth. She will graduate in May with a degree in psychology and apply for the University of Washington's medical school. "I want to be a family practitioner ... being a doctor in any area is my dream job."

Ponce is simply looking for something to tide her over while she starts paying back \$10,000 in student loans, waiting to get into medical school. Ponce has spent her entire life working for her education and the job fair is not a new concept. She's dressed to impress in dark slacks and a dress shirt.

A visit to her parents' home in Bonner's Ferry quickly reminds her where she came from. Although her parents have lived in Idaho for more than a decade, they never learned English and Ponce has gotten used to living in two very different worlds. She doubts she'll tell them about the sorority she recently



joined. "I think they are proud. It's kind of hard to explain to them."

Her face breaks into a huge smile when she describes her two younger brothers, who decided to join her at the university. Victor is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering, and Julio is a freshman majoring in general studies.

"Just think about it; they didn't have the chance to learn to read and write, and now we're here ... getting a college education. I'm so proud of them."

Ponce says going to college has made her dream of becoming a doctor a reality and reunited her family. It has not, however, changed her mind about which country she prefers. "I go back, and it's like home. I can't explain it to you. I still have to go to Mexico to feel at home." After receiving her diploma in May, Ponce now works as a coordinator with the CAMP program at UI and is applying to medical school at the University of Washington.

* * *

Isabel Bond, 71, has spent 30 years helping minorities come to UI by working with American Indian and Hispanic students as the director of TRIO, a program established in 1965 to help low-income and first-generation students enter college. Bond says that 12 years ago she realized

that the university needed a program to help another minority group.

Bond proposed an education program that would provide financial and academic assistance to seasonal and migrant farm workers and their children. Bond soon realized that CAMP programs are typically found in states such as California and Arizona, areas with concentrated populations of Hispanics, and the programs were

"But when you think of Idaho, we've had a huge influx of Hispanics, especially in Southern Idaho. It's a unique situation."

— Isabel Bond

in limited numbers to begin with. "So I thought with only five in the nation and the University of Idaho not being a seat for Hispanic students ... I didn't really think it would be feasible to start a CAMP program. But when you think of Idaho, we've had a huge influx of Hispanics, especially in southern Idaho. It's a unique situation. I just feel like Idaho is entitled to some of that money," Bond said in April.

Every year the U.S. Department of Education gives millions of dollars to CAMP programs

around the country. In 1992 there were only five in existence. Idaho had already implemented one in 1984 at Boise State University, one of the first institutions in the nation to do so.

Bond says she was not deterred, but inspired by the success of Campus Assistant Migrant Programs at other universities such as BSU.

"For me personally, the more migrant and seasonal farm worker students CAMP programs can serve nationwide, the better," says Gypsy Hall, an associate director of the migrant program at BSU.

In 1998 Bond's idea gained considerable support. Federal funding for the migrant assistant programs had doubled under the Higher Education Act Title IV. "They only had six, and then they had 12, that's when the UI got in. In 1992 we started thinking about this, then we backed off of it until we saw that increase in funding. It was inspiring."

UI alumna Yolanda Bisbee was chosen to carry out the idea that had taken shape over the course of a decade. Bond had met Bisbee when she was a student working as part-time coordinator for Upward Bound, a TRIO program that prepares low-income high school students to pursue college degrees. "Yolanda had been the coordinator for Upward Bound. She was familiar with proposal writing," Bond said. "Because she is

Native American and Hispanic herself, it made sense that she would direct this. She was ready to fulfill a bigger role."

In the basement of the UI College of Education, Bond looks around her small office, which is filled with pictures of students who have completed their degrees through TRIO programs such as CAMP and Upward Bound. "I think there's an opportunity for education in any community, even if you come from the tiniest town in Idaho," she says.

"We continue to look at test scores. Test scores only tell us what they did learn, nothing about what they can do. I think growth academically is one of the smallest things we do. But rather, giving them confidence, that's far more important."

* * *

On the third floor of the UI SUB, Yolanda Bisbee works quietly in a small cubicle. Her office is one of four spaces sectioning off the room designated for the CAMP program. With just weeks before graduation in May, Bisbee seems used to working with the buzz that floats through the air as students in the program gather outside her office every day for mandatory study sessions. "We're very proud of the home environment we provide here," Bisbee says.

The proposal Bisbee spent two weeks filling out in 1998 awarded the university a five-year grant to build the CAMP program in 1999. "That's when it dawned on us: 'Oh my God! I'm gonna be the director of this.' The \$1.6 million in federal funding was enough to accommodate up to 40 students each year, providing out-of-state waivers and stipends of \$5,000 for them to attend their first year of college.

CAMP freshmen receive help with room and board, books, transportation and assistance with applying for financial aid and scholarships to complete their degrees. There are now 42 CAMP programs in the nation and Bisbee would find out in June if the UI migrant program will receive another federal grant and the funding it needed to reach its sixth year. "We're just waiting to see if they'll fund us again. I don't want to get too confident. We have

great results ... but I don't want to get too confident."

As Bisbee's program ended its fifth year, it boasted only one graduate, but its success increased dramatically as nine more walked down the aisle at the UI's 2003 commencement ceremony in May. Another 12 are scheduled to graduate during the 2004 school year.

Not all of the students adjust to the dramatic turn their life will take when they come to Moscow to obtain a college degree. When the 2003 school year began, 43 students were enrolled in the program. As the spring semester approached an end, seven students had returned home to their families. "We had some that just weren't ready," Bisbee said quietly.

A table overflowing with CAMP pamphlets and paperwork sits less than three feet away from her desk. The students recently put together a newsletter to tell their stories and how they came to campus. While the federal funding allows students to come to the university, Bisbee said she is in charge of making the students feel comfortable in their new environment. Barbecues and retreats are organized on a regular basis. "If there's anything they're having trouble with, they know we're here helping them." Several of the students, like Ponce, have brothers and sisters who are also in the program. "We don't recruit students, we recruit families. We have to convince their families that we're going to take care of them here."

* * *

As far as he's concerned, Juan Cardenas lived the childhood of a king. Cardenas, 24, says his childhood summers were spent playing and laughing in the hot sun with his brother on the farmlands that surrounded Payette. Cardenas says his family never realized he was different from most families that lived in the small southern Idaho town his family had settled in after 30 years of traveling as migrant farmers.

But Cardenas was different. His family was among the first group of migrant farming families to reside in Payette, home to 7,000 residents. As he grew older, Cardenas worked beside his family in



the town's surrounding farm lands until he began attending a local high school. "My summers were just spending time in the field. At the age of 5 and 6, I remember sitting in the truck all day while my family was in the field. My mom couldn't afford day care or anything like that."

It has been almost two years since Cardenas graduated from UI, but he says it's an accomplishment that was hard fought. As a high school freshman, Cardenas began working a part-time job at a local restaurant to help support his family. The 10-hour a week job would take its toll on his performance as a student. "I almost dropped out my freshman year. I didn't have any goals. I graduated with a flat 2.0 GPA ... I barely graduated from high school."

Cardenas knew he wanted to change his life. As he watched more migrant farming families settle in Payette, Cardenas says he knew he wanted to help other Hispanic students who were struggling with being different. "There's a lot of discrimination; there's a lot of prejudice." As he reached his

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final year of high school, he became determined to get an education and become a teacher. "I knew I wanted to go to college. I wanted to do something. I realized there weren't people helping Hispanic students."

He applied for the migrant program at BSU, a university just 45 minutes away from his home, but the grades he had let slip in high school came back to haunt him. "I was not accepted at Boise State University because of my grades," he says. His dashed hopes brightened when Cardenas met Yolanda Bisbee. She told him that if he went through additional testing there was a possibility he could be accepted into the UI CAMP program, which was beginning its first year. Two days before the fall 1999 semester began, Cardenas found out he had been accepted into the UI program with 12 other students. "She fought hard. Yolanda fought so hard to get me into that school."

Five years later, he would be the first to graduate from the program.

"I was the last one to get accepted and the first one to graduate," he said laughing.

After graduating from UI last year with a 3.4 GPA and two degrees in education and sociology, Cardenas is now a teacher at the high school he barely graduated from. "They opened up a position for me. They've seen what I've done and they thought I would be a great influence in the community."

Cardenas' family bought its first home, in Payette, last year. He keeps a memento of his



"We don't recruit students, we recruit families. We have to convince their families that we're going to take care of them here."

— Yolanda Bisbee, director of UI's CAMP program

humble beginnings in constant view.

"I have a picture in my classroom of me and my brother. We're just smiling and we're so happy ... and then in the background there's this trashy trailer and there's 11 people living in

it. We didn't know any better. We didn't know what rich and poor were."

Cardenas tells his story from San Antonio, Tex., where he and Bisbee will attend the 2005 Migrant Education Conference. He knows how much a good education can affect the quality of life. "We were making \$6 a day ... and that was 10 years ago. We would eat cereal and water for lunch and dinner," Cardenas says. "Are things better? Hell, no. They pick the Mexican people over the people that know their rights."

While he is the first to graduate from college in his family, Cardenas will not be the last. His brother, Adolfo Cardenas, also plans to become a teacher and is in his third year at UI with the assistance of the CAMP program. "People say being a teacher is rewarding, even with the bad pay, but it is ... it really is. It's so amazing; it's something you have to experience for yourself."

* * *

On a busy weekday morning, Marisol Mendez is at the front desk of the CAMP office, surrounded by students studying for their final exams during the last week of the 2003 school year. Mendez, 26, says she has spent 40 hours a week at the office, helping students and answering questions.

"They offered me the job; I took it. I help Yolanda and Juan (De Leon, program coordinator) to type forms, I answer phone, enter a lot of information." As a former CAMP

student from Bonner's Ferry, Mendez watches over her younger sister Lorena, a senior who will graduate in May. Mendez says the program is unlike any other. "I guess the difference is



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that Yolanda and Juan are always here to help ... in everything."

The CAMP program has become a key recruiting tool for the university and brings in minority students of Hispanic and American Indian heritage. In 1999, the year the CAMP was integrated into the university; diversity numbers rose by 3 percent. The number of Hispanic students attending the university

rose from 255 to 304, and Native American student enrollment rose from 121 to 143. During the past five years the number of minority students has grown by 2.8 percent overall.

According to the university's most recent statistics, 413 Hispanic students and 158 American Indian students currently attend the university.

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Getting to Know Your Wine

Wine, as simple as it is.

It should be simple to describe the love between humankind and wine, but such is not the case, though only by the folly of words. Many are the books written on the subject of wine and man but no amount of words can capture or relate the emotions that wine imparts. Wine can be beautiful or handsome, smell like the dusty air in a rainstorm, taste as decadent as rich creamy chocolate, or make one feel so many emotions all at once that no amount of pictures or words could ever describe. But then maybe no description is necessary. Wine is meant to be drank! The rawness and beauty of this liquid lies within and requires little more contemplation than a sincere desire to experiment until the wine that suits one's life is found. Then there is only the question of where to start, this is where the fun begins.

By Kevin Rider

Photographs by Alta Cutler



Understanding the Grape

One of the most confusing things a person may find when first venturing into the world of wine is understanding what grape variety gives rise to what type of wine: red or white. The truth about all grape juice, whether from purple or green grapes, is that it is all clear, or what is called "white." This property of the grape is one of its greatest strengths and provides for versatility in finished wines. While there may be huge color variations in wines made from the same grape variety, the following grape types, the ten given are the most common a person will likely see in a grocery store wine section, are made into the associated style of wine:

Cabernet Sauvignon: These small grapes are fermented on the skins to give the wine a beautiful red-purple when the wine is young-color. Wines made from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes are typically placed in oak barrels for aging after fermentation, where the oak imparts flavors that compliment the wine, making it more rich and well rounded. Alone as a varietal or blended, often with Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon wines are some of the finest in all the world and can be found in so many styles that it would take a lifetime to try them all.

Chardonnay: This "white" grape variety is likely the most widely used in wine making today as it is often included in the great Champagnes of France, the superb white Bordeaux of Burgundy, and the rich and creamy wines of Australia. By itself Chardonnay is light on flavor and smell, but when matured in oak barrels, great flavors such as vanilla and toast are infused with the wine. This in turn makes them rich in smell and taste. When blended, Chardonnay can yield such dynamic wines, filled with a menagerie of characteristics, one might spend days trying to grasp the complexity of flavors and smells. Chardonnay wines need not be oaken to be great. In fact, some of the finest wines in the world are made into Chablis, in the southern region of Burgundy in France, from unoaked Chardonnay with crisp, acidic and dry qualities unique to vineyards that may only be separated by meters in distance. All of these qualities make Chardonnay the most versatile of the wine-producing grapes in the world.

Merlot: Of the noble grapes used in wine, Merlot must take its rightful place as a prince due to its ability to be blended with so many other red wine varieties or formed into a wine of only this grape's content. The famous Bordeaux of France and the up and coming Meritage wines here in the United States would not be so grand without the inclusion of Merlot. Often oaken, wines made from this grape are a bit more subtle than Cabernet Sauvignon but not at all lacking in depth or character. The Merlot grape can be fermented on its skins for varied lengths of time to produce, blended or not, a myriad of rich red wines that suit most red wine drinkers' palates.

Riesling: Often times Riesling is associated with sweet, often simple, wines, yet nothing could be further from the truth. Riesling wines are produced most often without blending into such a variety of styles, from bone-dry to ultra-sweet, as almost no means of classification, apart from the Germans' system, can categorize all the possibilities. What is so special about the Riesling grape is that it grows in almost any climate and produces excellent wines from all types of soils. The Germans, with their short growing season, have perfected the cultivation of the Riesling grape and demonstrate year after year the amazing versatility of wine that can be produced. In the United States the consumer must get to know what winery produces what type of wine, dry or sweet, from Riesling grapes, but when it comes to German wines one can simply look at the label to determine the bottle's contents; German labels will indicate the wine style, which makes selection by taste easy, with one of the following distinctions, in order of driest to sweetest: *Kabinett, Spatlese, Auslese, Beerenauslese or Trockenbeerenauslese.*

Pinot Noir: Often called the "heartbreak grape," no other berry in the wine family exists in such high regard or furious emotion. The simplicity of this grape is in fact the paramount factor with which it causes frustration. Pinot Noir is just plain fickle. Oh! But the wines that this grape produces are some of the most sought after throughout the world. Burgundy has set the standard for wine produced from this grape, and the rest of the world is playing catch-up. Pinot Noir is so delicate in that it possess none of the strength in color of the other red grapes, yet that slight fault is this grape's strength. Pinot Noir wines may not hold the beautiful ruby color of traditional reds for long, but wines made from this grape, those made with a sincere love for the style, are so brilliant that poets worldwide still scramble to write of the latest Burgundian vintage. To make a great wine from Pinot Noir is equivalent to a Nobel Prize. It is wonder that winemakers strive year after year to rope this wild-tiger grape, for when the beast is tamed, only then can the artisan briefly rest.



Sauvignon Blanc: The only similarity Sauvignon Blanc shares with Chardonnay is that it is a "white" grape wine variety. The strengths of Sauvignon Blanc are, as with so many grapes, simple. Riesling showed itself well without blending and so too does Sauvignon Blanc. There is no need to manipulate the ready aromatic characteristics of this grape and the wines it produces. Sauvignon Blanc, often called Fume Blanc in the United States, is a supple grape that captures the essences of complexity only shown in pure varietal like Riesling.

Syrah/Shiraz: Let there be no confusion about the Syrah grape, for it is in fact called by many other names. The truth is that Syrah, known as Shiraz by those in Australia and others in the Southern Hemisphere, is one of the heartiest grapes made into wine of the new century. Syrah grapes are plump and full of juice, and when allowed to ferment on the skins produce wines rich in the flavors of ginger, pepper, chocolate, and often strong floral notes. Syrah grapes produce wines of consistent quality due to their resilience and heartiness year after year. It is no wonder wines made from this grape are so popular in the modern age.

Semillon: Semillon is the great grape for blending. Semillon alone would produce a wine with few remarkable qualities, but when blended it lights a bonfire in compliment with noble grapes such as Chardonnay. Semillon/Chardonnay wines are still the champions of the U.S. wine market as they offer affordable wines within the price range of the working class.

Zinfandel (pink in the case of white Zinfandel):

Zinfandel is a great and robust grape. Wines made from the Zinfandel grape are typically of high regard. The red wines made from this grape, when the juice is fermented on the skins, tend to be very full and rich, like a piece of chocolate. Moreover, red Zinfandel wines shine as the modern counterpart to Cabernet Sauvignon as a varietal, though the blending quality of this grape is challenging at best. The counterpart to the deep red Zinfandels is the white, or pink, variety wine of this grape. The maturation time on the skins of the Zinfandel grape is by far less for the pink variety but is in no discount in style as wines of this light pink style are in fact highly desirable and luscious when made with care. White Zinfandel is one American wine that shines as a wonderfully delectable wine where the finest examples can only be found on the North American continent.

Pinot Gris/Pinot Grigio: The friend of the European world and a new love here in the United States, Pinot Gris. This grape is popular in the United States because of its simplicity. Wines made from this grape are easy on both acid and sweetness, typically, and seem to lend themselves well to light meals of fish, bread and cheese. Such popularity cannot be ignored when the wines made from this grape compliment basic meals throughout the world. In the United States Pinot Gris shines as the introductory wine for its simple aromatic qualities and drinkable characteristics, as well as its adaptability to most meals.

The beauty of the wine grape is that it lends itself well to the process of being made into a beverage with the character the winemaker wishes it to have. One should not, for example, expect all wines labeled "chardonnay" to taste the same. Blending is a common practice that allows wine producers to blend a wine with certain good qualities with another wine of complimentary character to create a consistency and quality the consumer can rely on year after year. As each growing season produces different grapes, even when blended, no two wines from different vintages will ever be exactly the same; these slight variations are what many wine patrons look forward to each time a new vintage of their favorite wine is tasted, and there exists a practical and effective method for tasting the wine with the goal of detecting the nuances.



Selecting The Wine

Budget constraints of most students attending a college or university are such that random wine purchases of an as-yet untasted bottle are likely to be quite few. Wine producers worldwide have recognized the needs of the market and, within the past five years, have begun to make affordable wines suited for the college student budget. This change has made available to the consumer many good to excellent wines at less than \$10 a bottle, all while expanding the quantity, quality, variety and styles of wine available. It seems that the pinnacle has yet to be reached, as more wineries come into existence every year, many with the goal of making affordable wines for the low-income consumer.

Here on the Palouse, many wine retailers and restaurants keep their prices reasonable as a means of attracting new clientele and retaining their regular wine-consuming customers. Local restaurants, such as the Red Door in Moscow and Swilly's in Pullman, provide customers with excellent wine menus that are not only diverse in wine styles, but also in price; a conscious effort is made by the restaurateurs to keep the wines complimentary to their food and



priced to make the experience as a whole enjoyable. Primary wine retailers in Pullman (The Wine Cellar) and in Moscow (The Wine Company of Moscow) have also structured their inventories and prices for a wide range of budgets. The people who staff these wine havens are

always willing and enthusiastic when providing information to wine drinkers of all levels of experience; these purveyors love the experience and pass their adoration to the customer, whether it be selecting a bottle as a gift or helping pair foods and wines.

The Art of Tasting

The ceremony of spinning a small amount of wine around in glass, smelling deeply of the vapors produced, then letting the liquid touch the lips and tongue may seem to be an unneeded show, but in fact it is the most efficient way of determining whether the wine is indeed drinkable. The swirling act brings forth scents that have and will forever be the unique character of that wine; just as each human being has a mimitable scent that can put one off or light a fire within, so does each wine. Once the wine is in the mouth a small amount of air is inhaled through pursed lips – this is tricky at first and yet a bit fun – then exhaled through the nose with the purpose of smelling once more the aroma of the liquid. From here the wine can be allowed

to run freely all over the tongue and mouth so as to feel and taste the various characteristics the wine has to offer. The ritual is usually done the first time a wine is tasted as a means of determining what smells and tastes are contained within. For most wines, one need only place them in a glass, smell the liquid to make sure it is not vinegar, and then taste to see if the wine is worthy of drinking. In the beginning, don't worry about the glass. Wine-glass shape makes a difference, but isn't essential. A simple 8-ounce wine glass will work quite nicely. For a seasoned or would-be wine lover, there are so many wines to choose from it can feel like starting from scratch every time a purchase is to be made, but therein also is the adventure.

The swirling act brings forth scents that have and will forever be the unique character of that wine.



Food and Wine

There exists no better compliment to wine than food, and with the seemingly endless number of culinary concoctions possible, so too are there wines to enjoy. The simplest and often best companions for wine are breads and cheeses, in the former cleansing the palate, making each taste seem as if it was the first. In the case of cheese, the saltiness of the standard yellow and white varieties can compliment red or white wines in such a way as to make the mix taste staggeringly decadent. It is not uncommon to see a person with a piece of cheese in one hand, a glass of wine in the other, eyes closed, and a smile of pure satisfaction across his face. Cheeses of the very dry type to the wonderfully creamy and smooth, for the most part, work well with wines of both the white and red varieties. It should be noted that white wines couple best with these cheese styles. Blue cheeses, on the other hand, find their best compliment with richer and sweeter red wines. However, there always exist exceptions to any rule and the best way to find what pairs best with a wine is to experiment.

While there are no set rules for other foods, it is generally accepted that poultry or seafood are best when served with a white wine, and beef, pork, and lamb taste best with a red wine; dishes of any meat served with a cream sauce, however, may not follow this guideline.

Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are the great crossover wines, as the styles can vary widely and compliment many a dish where there appears a poor match. For example, a heavily oaken Chardonnay, with rich, mouth-filling character, might be the perfect counterpart to a New York steak. The characteristics of Pinot Noir are such that one producer may make a wine from a grape that is light with wonderful floral scents and a silky mouth feel, where another might create a very earthy chalky wine that tastes firm and bold; whichever the case, one has to get to know these wines by character and label so as to pick the one that will best suit a meal, and therein lies the fun.

Fruits should never be forgotten in a discussion of food and wine, as the pairing is arguably only second to bread and cheese. The acidity of wine lends itself superbly well to the sweetness of most fruits. In many cases, a fruit's tartness can compliment a wine's character so well one might think they were of the same crop. Apples and pears taste best with white wines such as Chardonnay and Riesling because the ethers that make up the scent of these wines are also prevalent in these fruits; red plums and cherries too contain the volatile compounds found in red wines such as Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon that make them



smell so wonderful, and are therefore well suited for one another. Vegetables alone, excluding onions and garlic, are relatively neutral and therefore work well with almost every wine; when mixed, vegetables can, and most often do, create a great balance of flavors and scents that enhance any food experience and should always be included where possible.

Overall, food is the natural mate of wine and, unsurprisingly, thousands of books, magazines and articles like this one make this match their primary focus. Cultures worldwide are structured around friends and family getting together to share stories, resources, a meal, and of course a glass of wine. When the center of attention is the gathering, wine can play its role as part of the family.

It is important to note that wine comes in varied strengths where alcohol content is concerned. Some white wines may be as low as 9 percent and can go over 14 percent, with the later case being rare, and most red wines have an alcohol content ranging from 12 percent to a high end of 15 percent by volume. Most people lose the ability to recognize subtleties in flavor and scent after consuming two standard, 4-ounce, glasses of wine.

As has been widely published and recognized by the medical community, two glasses of wine per day, when consumed with food, show positive health effects in people who have no preexisting medical conditions. Wine is best enjoyed with friends, family and food; where alcohol is concerned, moderation is the key to health and happiness.

Whether wine is a new experience or old, getting together to enjoy its scents and flavors is always a happy occasion, where a small gathering can be just as enjoyable and interesting as large one. There is a way to bring people together as long as there is a will. Throw a party, but instead of one person footing the bill for wine and food, make the event a cooperative effort. Invite singles and couples, have each bring a different wine and a snack, such as cheese or fruit. If glasses are a problem have everyone bring their own. What matters is that a group of people comes together to enjoy each other's company with wine and food as the compliment. From there everyone can taste how the different wines conflict with or compliment the different foods. What's more, discussions can arise about each wine as everyone tastes and smells differently. Keep it simple; there is no expertise required. In fact, the less structure the better. Each experience like this will be different; the food, wine, weather, people and conversation will always change. As time moves on and the experiences become many, so too will develop a taste for what is liked and what is not. That is all there is to being a connoisseur; knowing what you like, and if by chance or divine intervention a great love affair with wine is begun, then so much the better.

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Photo: Jared Desjarlais

“Biodiesel has potential for being maybe five to ten percent of our diesel fuel use.”

- Dr. Charles Peterson

Keeping America running with Idaho spuds

By Kristi Coffman

Technology is advancing at UI that has nothing to do with mules. Biodiesel fuel has been researched since the late 1970s. UI has been examining it since then, though the university's research has been more in the spotlight during recent years.

Biodiesel is a domestic, renewable fuel for diesel engines, derived from natural oils, like soybean oil.

“Essentially it's a process where we can use vegetable oil mixed with alcohol as a diesel fuel,” Charles Peterson said. Peterson is the interim dean of the College of Engineering at UI. Peterson retired last May, but put his retirement on hold until a permanent dean is found for the department.

Vegetable oil was used early on as a diesel fuel; however, petroleum eventually became more popular.

“Biodiesel has potential for being maybe 5 to 10 percent of our diesel fuel use,” Peterson said.

Peterson recently attended the “Biodiesel Utilization Workshop” in Boise. The purpose of the workshop was to bring potential users in and educate them about the use of biodiesel. The university decided a good group to target would be the state department of transportation, as it operates many

vehicles that use diesel.

Peterson feels that if the state department of transportation is using biodiesel, other companies may consider using the fuel instead of regular diesel.

A second purpose of the workshop was to identify the barriers of using biodiesel, such as the cost of biodiesel being more expensive than regular diesel fuel. Availability is another concern, as there is not a supplier of biodiesel in Idaho. The number of U.S. producers are limited. There are only 15-20 producers in the United States.

Peterson says there is a problem finding people who are willing to build a manufacturing plant for biodiesel, and also people to buy the product. He says there is a lot of interest in Idaho, however.

The university has four on-road vehicles that run off biodiesel, including the yellow Volkswagen Beetle that most people are familiar with. UI also has several tractors that run off biodiesel. The first vehicle the university used was a 1994 Dodge pickup, which was driven coast to coast on 100 percent biodiesel fuel in 1995. The yellow Beetle travels around the country as a demonstration vehicle for biodiesel. The Vandal Trolley also runs on 20 percent biodiesel fuel.

“We purchased the yellow bug to show that biodiesel could be used in everyday transporta-

tion,” Peterson said. “It also catches people's attention because it's bright yellow.”

In 1998, UI participated in a research project involving running a semi-truck on 50 percent waste vegetable oil from the J.R. Simplot potato processing plant. Over a span of 18 months, the truck was driven 200,000 miles by the J.R. Simplot Company to transport feed.

The project was funded by the Department of Energy and Kempworth Truck and Caterpillar Company. Peterson said the project was a landmark study in determining whether or not biodiesel was even useful as a fuel.

He said there are several grassroots groups working with biodiesel.

“Frankly, you can go down to Safeway, buy vegetable oil and put it in your engines. I don't recommend it, though,” Peterson said.

He said the problem with grassroots groups is that there is no guarantee of fuel quality, which is why manufacturers may be reluctant about purchasing biodiesel.

Peterson is working on a study for the Idaho Energy Division to offer information to businesses that are interested in using biodiesel. For more information on biodiesel, visit UI's Web site at www.uidaho.edu/bae/biodiesel.

Student to Homeowner



Illustration: Betsy Kornelis

By **Chris Kornelis**

Buying a home may seem as far in the future as starting a family and getting a *real* job – possibly as much a mirage as graduation – and maybe it is. But buying a home today has become less a piece of a Norman Rockwell painting as it is the foundation of financial stability.

Financing a home is easier now than it's ever been, and rising interest rates are much like the mounting cost of tuition: still a bargain. Even as a student, preparing for becoming a homeowner is not a bad idea.

It's not like renting. UI finance professor Terrance Grieb said buying a home has more advantages than being able to paint walls and have cats. "Once you're in the house, you've got something you own," he said. "You are paying on the mortgage." Better than money down the toilet.

There are also advantages to becoming a homeowner as early as possible.

"If you have to finance a home, the quicker you start paying, the sooner you pay it

off," said Tim Kinkeade, a mortgage broker for Moscow's Advantage America Mortgage, pointing out that buying a home young could be the difference between paying it off at age 50 or 70.

It used to be the down payment that parlayed buying a home, but lenders have gotten hip to the empty-pocket market. Many loans now do not require a down payment, leaving closing costs and fees as the only up-front costs of buying a home. A person can often get through the door with \$3,000-\$4,000.

Even with down payments less an obstacle, borrowers still need to be attractive to buyers. There are some things students can do now to strengthen their

position for when they're ready to buy a home.

Establishing good credit is one of them.

"What mortgage companies are looking for are a balance of having had credit and paying it in a timely manner and not having too much credit," Grieb said.

Credit does not always have to mean credit cards. Kinkeade said Freddie Mac (a corporation Congress chartered to keep money flowing to mortgage lenders) wants to see three different credit accounts: a credit card, auto loan and shop card (Target, GAP, Bon-Macy's), for example. And they want to see that bills have been paid.

Kinkeade said avoiding a blemished credit report could be as simple as providing a forwarding address to utilities companies when you move so that your last

bill can be forwarded. "It's important to make those payments in a timely manner," Kinkeade said. "If you're continually late, it will erode your credit score."

Once you have established credit, keeping it under control is the next step.

Kinkeade said debt-to-income ratio is one of the primary factors in considering home loans. Finally gainfully employed, resisting the temptation to take on unnecessary debt will look good when it's time to pursue a home loan.

"I encourage people to drive their beater cars. Buy a home instead. It's a better investment," Kinkeade said like a true salesman.

Grieb is quick to agree that upgrading from college transportation is a popular stumbling block.

"You can't balance the payment on a \$20,000 pickup truck and balance the mortgage too," he said "Having too much debt can really hamper you."

"I encourage people to drive their beater cars. Buy a home instead. It's a better investment,"

-Tim Kinkeade, mortgage broker

Credit Tips

Here are Freddie Mac's tips on establishing good credit. More information is available at www.freddie.mac.com/creditsmart.

Pay your bills on time. How you've paid your bills in the past can indicate how you'll pay in the future. Credit scores emphasize your most recent payment record so if you've been late, start paying on time!

Pay at least the minimum amount required. You can always pay more, but you should never pay less.

Keep credit card balances low. Don't "max out" your credit cards.

Don't apply for too many loans or new accounts. Requesting a lot of credit in a short time span may concern lenders that you won't manage your debt well.

Establish credit if you have none. Apply for one or two credit cards. Use the cards carefully and pay them off each month.

Downfalls of an impaired credit history:

- Possibly pay higher interest rates
- Could be approved to borrow less money
- Could be denied credit

Three C's of Credit:

Capacity

Income stability
Employment history
Amount in savings
Monthly debt payments (credit card bills, car loans, etc.) compared to your income

Collateral

Land or property
Other valuable assets

Credit

Credit history
On-time payment of mortgage or rent, utilities and other household bills



Photos courtesy 1979 Gem of the Mountains

The 1979 Vandals play against the Broncos...



Oh yes, old rivalries die hard.



Get to Know the Rivalries

By Nathan Jerke

Is there a sweeter feeling than that of respectful hate for everyone around you? Not only do you see and hear the action, but you also feel the antagonism, the contention, the friction and conflict between each and every person within sight as all must take sides in the great feud.

Seemingly, not only life and death hangs in the balance, but pride, honor, and even a certain measure of arrogance will be decided for the masses, if only by the actions of a few. This is not simply war, it is sport.

Sport holds a special place in society, not just American society, but with just about every group of people on the planet. It is human nature, if not the nature of every creature, to compete and to decide the winner by means of brute strength, raw talent, and a last-second Hail Mary that will inevitably decide who is the conqueror and who is the vanquished.

These days there is a continuously growing desire and necessity for sport in America as there are now several national 24-hour sport networks with several offshoot channels, a multitude of sport magazines with several catering exclusively to a single sport, and up-to-the-second coverage of everything from NFL football to Iranian league cricket at your fingertips on the Web.

If a psychologist analyzed this frenzy, I believe obsession would be his diagnosis of choice.

Now more than ever, there is a need by fanatical followers to know every name, every statistic, every second of the action of their favorite teams, and in most cases, of every team they face. Teams not only must contend against a knowledgeable opponent, but also with fans and boosters that thrive on every number and success the team accomplished in each facet of the game.

Not only does this overload of information feed the warring passions of modern man, but it also directs it into some of the most intense out-of-arena action possible. It is life for those on the sidelines who are often more intense than

those between the lines, sparking and keeping lit fires of respectful hatred for those going against their team.

Among all this hullabaloo of fanaticism and love of the game is born the seriousness that has become the sports rivalry. Anymore, the rivalry often means more to the driving passions of the fans than does the outcome of the game.

But what would an autumn Saturday be without football, or winter without basketball? Not only that, how would the multitudes of sport guru's and freaks get their fulfillment of the day without the ritual rivalry against one's despised foe?

Here at UI we have many that can be described as our rivals – the University of Montana, Washington State, Utah State and Idaho State – but one rises above the rest.

Athletes and fans alike know each matchup against the Broncos must be won, or at least die in an effort to carry out this task. Every person in the state, every alumnus and student knows about the bitter feelings between Boise State and UI, and few deny the duty to at least cheer against the opposition.

In rivalries like this the abhorrence goes beyond just the football fields and basketball courts. It cuts into every sport and is even seen in comparisons of academ-

ics, annual budgets and stupid things like class size and student population. Every little thing is measured up to and judged against in an effort to ultimately decide which is a better institution and who can support a better athletics program.

This kind of "to the death" rivalry is common throughout America. Think about it to yourself; what would contemporary sport be like if not for rivalries like USC-UCLA, Notre Dame-Michigan, Cowboys-Redskins, Dodgers-Giants, Lakers-Celtics, U.S.-Russia, and the granddaddy of them all, Yankees-Red Sox? Every sport and every team has its biggest and baddest rivalry that is the key to every season; many times the entire season revolves around just one game.

Games like these reek of hate and disdain. But while few American sports matchups live up to the monumental stature of things like European soccer, along with its hooligans and city-wide brawls, these games carry with them

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the weight of dignity, honor, and satisfaction of the fans as much as the athletes themselves, as everyone rides each emotional and psychological wave with the team.

This is what sport has become, and to many it is what sport is all about. Imagine what it must have been like a century and a half ago, when organized sport was just beginning. The early rivals must have been born from old gang rivalries or blood feuds brought over from the "old country," the small parks in New York and Boston filled with groups of Irish, Germans and English vying for something more than city pride: pride in their nationality.

It was only natural as colleges and professional leagues took the best from these groups that it became a common tradition to cheer for the home team and local favorites along with booing the opposition.

Now the following of a team is much more scientific, as we vote in online polls, talk to people on the far side of the globe via chat rooms and cell phones, and watch the games with instant replay and super slow-motion. But despite the differences, it is still sport and the rivalries remain the same.

So as we near the end of football season and revel through basketball and hockey season, we are persistently reminded of the love/hate relationships on every level and in every type of sport. The war of words, and sometimes fists, is continued every day in towns and cities across the nation, but the followers are strong and will continue, regardless of a bad season, a big loss or an injured comrade.

Henceforth, go out (or in) and watch sports. Stand and cheer for your favorite team; boo and hiss against your most hated rival. Be a fan and continue the battle.

We'll see you again...

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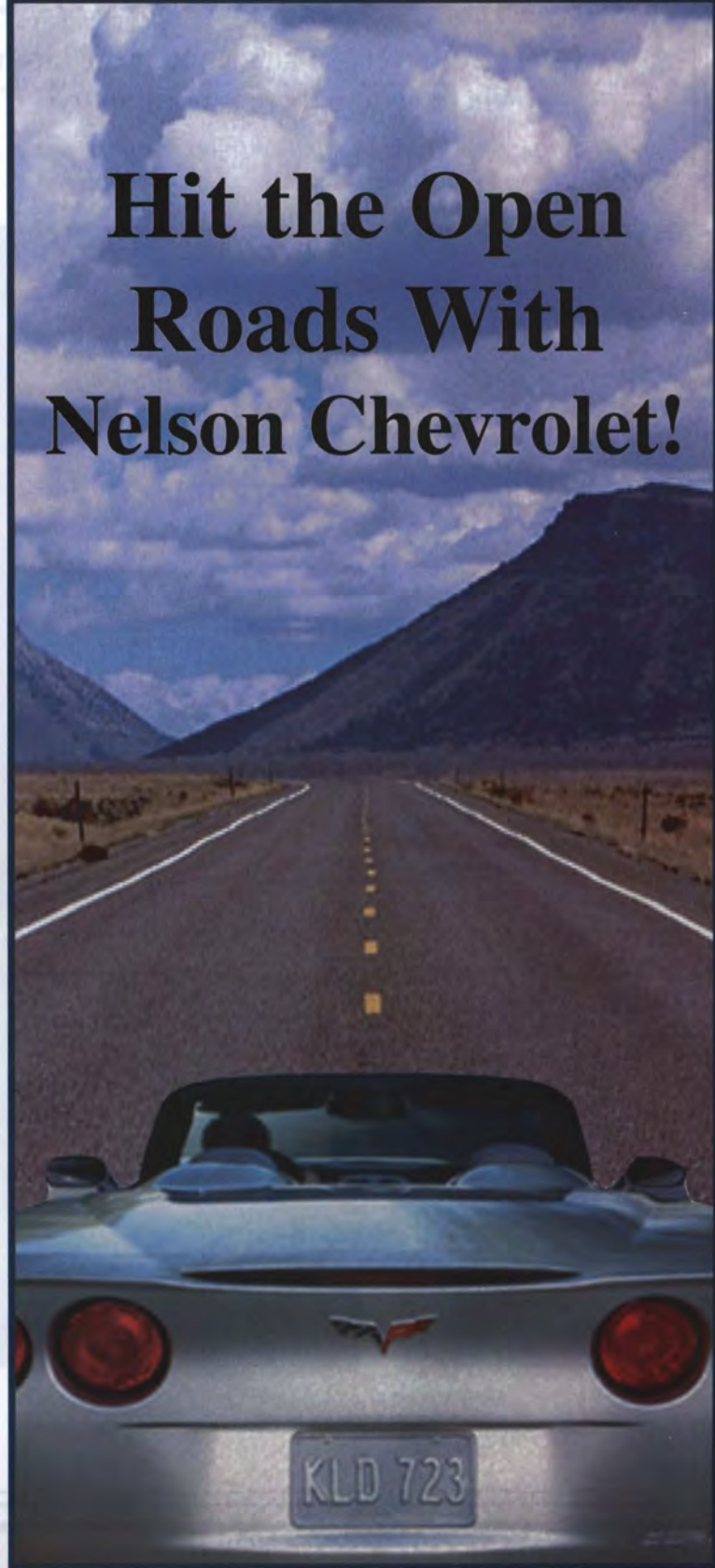
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H A N D B I L L

Bands to See Before You Leave Moscow

Here's a very small glance at the hit-makers that make this city "in the middle of nowhere, where there is nothing to do," such a great place to experience live music.

By Chris Kornells



December 10
John's Alley

Photo: Kentaro Murai

Oracle Shack

Oracle Shack is one of the few bands that isn't aching to move to a bigger market. Bigger sales perhaps, but getting the hell outta Dodge isn't a high priority.

"I would love to be a part of a touring band that sustained itself," said keyboardist/vocalist Eric Gilbert. "I wouldn't trade that to give up general happiness (and stability socially or politically in my community. That's sort of why we're not committed to uprooting to a bigger city."

Getting out once in a while helps.

After a string of successful shows out of town last summer, the band has tightened things up. Gone are the days of constant ambiguous jams peppered with moments of a noticeable tune. After four years, the boys of O-Shack have discovered that extended sessions of articulate improvisation please crowds and are satisfying artistically.

"We want to be able to play our songs effectively," Gilbert said. "We're getting better at getting to the point as to what the songs mean to us."

Getting to the point is exactly what the band needed. Seeing the band now is a different experience from 18 months ago. Once the epitome of the jam-band scene, O-Shack sounds increasingly like a rock band that jams.

"If you want to call us a jam-band, whatever. We can't really say that."

Left Hand Smoke

Ben Mish is happy to play John's Alley every month, but his expectations for Left Hand Smoke exceed the capacity of Moscow's finest dive.

"The more people who hear (our) music the better," the lead vocalist/piano player says. "We feel comfortable on a big stage. It's just a matter of getting the people in the big



Photos: Dan Bickley



January 14-15
John's Alley

rooms to see us."

They've had their shot at the big time in front of big lights and large crowds opening for top-40 newbies Maroon 5, and packing trendy clubs like the Showbox in their native Seattle. In fact, the only difference between Smoke and Maroon 5 might be a record label – the elusive deal that unsigned bands covet as if it were the ring of power. But, Mish is wary of becoming just another victim at the hands of a major label.

"When the right one comes along," Mish says, "we'll make a deal."

For now, the band's bread and butter is playing live shows between Whistler, B.C., and San Diego, in support of "Nonsense Parade," its latest independent release. Although most bar patrons know Smoke as a live band, making records is a large part of the game for the band, even if the recordings offer a different flavor.

"There's something we do live that's hard to capture on a record," Mish says. "We consider ourselves a live band and a band that spends a lot of time making records."

John Pizzarelli

I called John Pizzarelli on a Thursday and he talked to me on a Friday.

That's the way life is for the New Jersey-born crooner, who was in Japan, playing dates with the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra in October. Coincidentally, John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton, the orchestra's namesakes, will back Pizzarelli when he appears in February at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow.

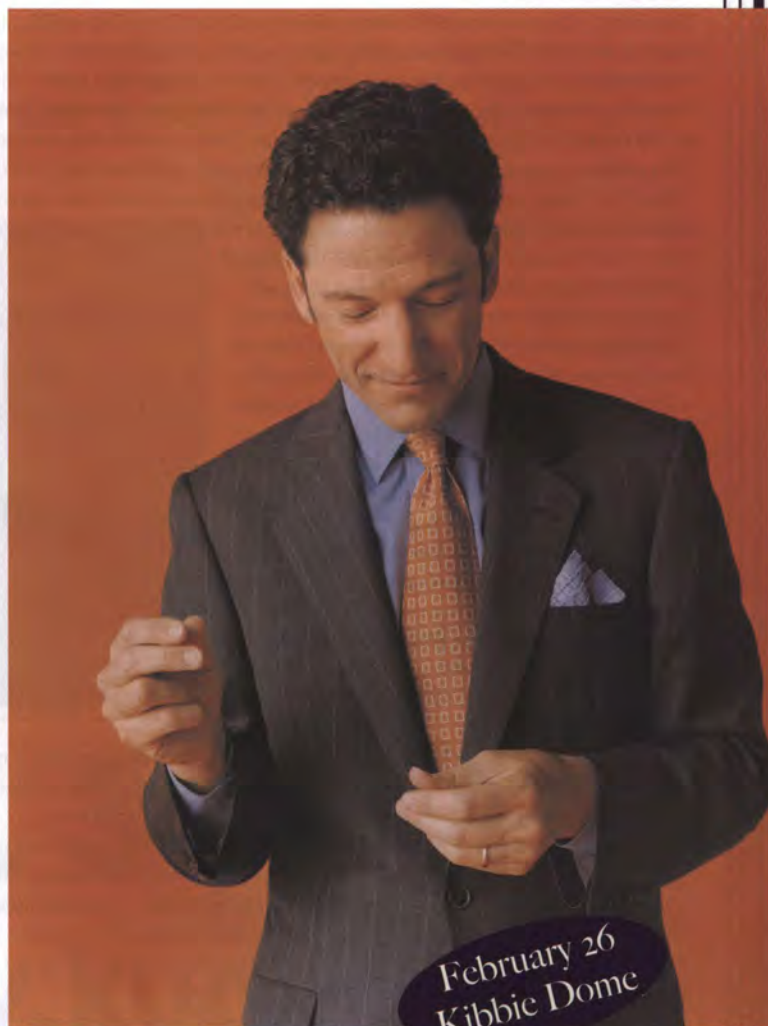
It's a small industry, especially when you travel as much as Pizzarelli – on the road constantly, bringing a familiar collection of tunes to clubs and festivals around the world.

"What I do is sing standards," he said from his hotel room, with ESPN's SportsCenter on mute, one day after the Curse of the Bambino was broken. "I'm a singer of a style of music. That's basically what I do. We try to do songs in that style."

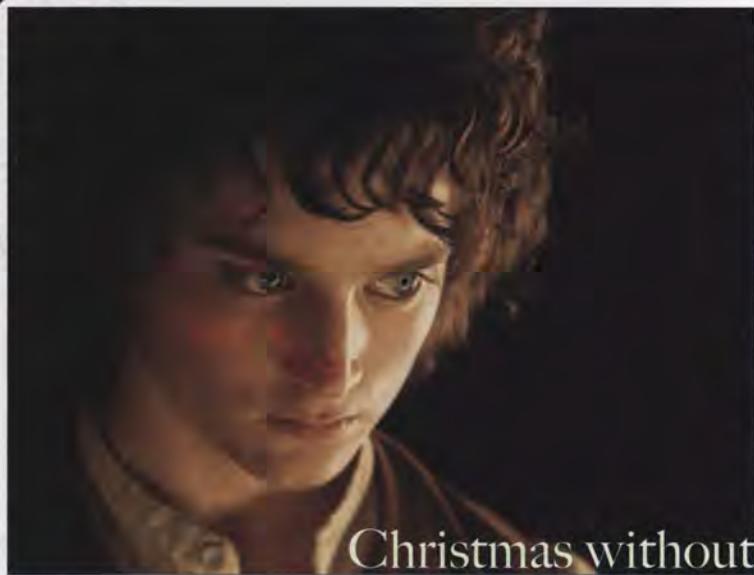
By standards, he's talking about many of the songs that recently propelled Rod Stewart back to the top of the charts. But Pizzarelli was singing "I've Got Rhythm," and "They Can't Take That Away From Me," before contemporary audiences began latching onto the chic new wave of standards interpretation.

Pizzarelli lets the songs speak for themselves – no need for added bling.

"We play it, and people buy it because it's played well," he said. "We don't try and do nutty things to make it this or that. It's acceptable on its own level."



February 26
Kibbie Dome



Christmas without

'Lord of the Rings'

By Jacob Denbrook

We as a collective society can scarcely remember the last time we didn't have a "Lord of the Rings" film to sate our Middle Earth hunger around December. The year was 2000, and somehow we hadn't all died in Y2K. In fact, we were still feeding our families Spam-wiches and refried beans from the stockpiles. George Bush was freshly off a 300-or-so vote win over Democrat Al Gore. The biggest film draw of the season was something like "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," in which Jim Carrey proved that not even his comedic presence can pull a large production orgy from the pits of mediocrity. That damn low-carb fad was just beginning to wear Americans down to lethargic piles of skin and femur, and Americans were happy because they'd finally found a means to be skinny and lazy instead of fat and lazy, but they just couldn't figure out why they didn't have any energy. Yes, these were different times when terrorist attacks hadn't whetted Americans' appetites for escapist films, that sort of grey zone in which our societal film enemies were still aliens and weather rather than Middle Easterners.

However, now that we've had three straight years of Orlando Bloom surfing down granite steps on shields and all those hairy Hobbit toes, we've run into a little bit of a demand-is-bigger-than-supply conundrum. Of course I speak about the obvious fact that we have no more "Lord of the Rings" movies to fill our void. Master of the universe J.R.R. Tolkien just isn't up to the task of writing a new trilogy of epics, and even if he were alive and got the inkling, he'd probably take a look at George Lucas' present career and crawl back into his coffin, thankful he hadn't acted on a mid-death crisis.

So naturally, why isn't someone else appointed that task of crafting a new storyline? After all, it's the American way to spit out sequels when a producer smells the euphoric scent of profit. And the answer is, of course, that Christopher Tolkien guards the Tolkien estate like Fat Joe guards a stack of pancakes. We can rest assured that no mortal screenwriter will be churning out a screenplay or manuscript unless he can prove that he's part of an elfin bloodline or get away with a lawsuit claiming he's an illegitimate son of Tolkien. Besides, no writer could hope to touch the deeply rooted mythology of the story without the risk of becoming diminishing.

That said, I figure that I'm simple-minded enough to be able to solve the "Lord of the Rings" shortage crisis. We may not be able to have a film, but

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this is America, and we're all about alternative means of diverting peoples' minds from the root problem. I can ascertain that a DVD release party or a "Hobbit" film helmed by Peter Jackson would only be a letdown, sort of like the 2004 United States Dream Team or, for example, if Fordo would have knocked the one ring of power down the sink drain when he took it off to cleanse his dirty little Hobbit hands (these analogies are my shameless attempt to appeal to the widest demographic possible). That said, here're some extreme ideas on how to find alternative ways to spend your Christmas with "Lord of the Rings," and never let our culture forget its legacy.

The Turf War: In this scenario, a person arrives at his Cineplex during a high-profile Christmas film premiere, preferably the most pervasively marketed, Santa Clause-themed movie of the season. Said person bursts through the double doors dressed as Gandalf and curses the other theater-goers in the black tongue of Mordor. He challenges any pedestrian to a wizard staff duel and trash-talks in arcane language such as, "Thy film is folly," and "The lore suggests that darkness will descend upon you and your kin."

The Bed-Rot Scenario: A group of "Lord of the Rings" fans in the darkest, dankest basement to watch all three extended DVD releases sequentially, which is about 11 hours of film. There are only two bathroom breaks between switching the DVDs. Whoever succumbs to depression first is officially cast out of the cult as an untrue fan and is forced back into destitution with the unclean and heathen race of man.

The Elvish Lawsuit: In this scenario a particularly vocal and boisterous person makes a political push to have Elvish subtitles made available by every studio on DVD and video releases of its movies. If his request is not met, he takes the issue to court, where he claims racial discrimination. He demonstrates his proficiency in the language and soon following, Elvish is offered as a second language in all of America's public school systems.

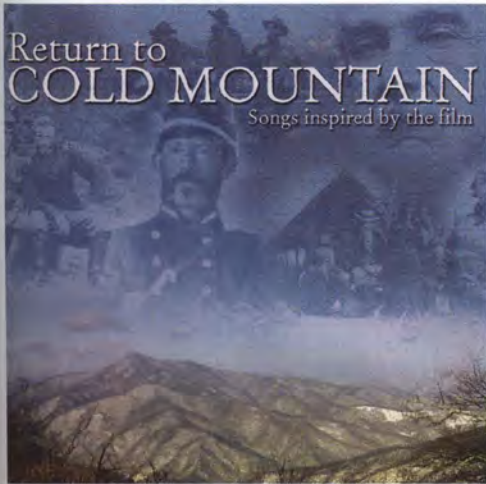
The Party Fact-Dropper: Go to a social gathering having just recently digested the entire "Extras" portion of the extended DVDs. At the opportune moment, begin fact-dropping as though you are a Tolkien scholar. You can say things like, "Research has suggested that Tolkien received the inspiration for the dead marshes from his experience in WWI trenches," or, "If you were to lay all three films out on the ground they would stretch from New York to Los Angeles," and/or, "Ian MacKellan is not actually 7 feet tall; they used camera tricks and stand-ins to make him appear gigantic." If this fails to impress, say you met a New Zealand transfer student who is family friends with Peter Jackson and that you have a shoe-in for an internship on his next set, even if it's a lie.

Playing God: Begin writing the next installment of "Lord of the Rings." A sample plot arc could involve the following: Gollum's leathery skin prevents him from being singed by the lava of Mount Doom, and he re-emerges with the one ring of power to finally achieve the popularity he's craved ever since he failed to make homecoming court in high school; Sam must go on the Atkins diet to get in heroic shape and vanquish Gollum once and for all, but will he have enough energy to complete the task?...

Even without massive CG battles, pointy wizard hats and Peter Jackson cameos, you can still indulge yourself in "Lord of the Rings." Smoke some pipe weed for our MIA Hobbits this blustery Christmas and engage in whatever scenario suits you best to eulogize our passing cultural phenomenon. After all, the holiday celebrants are as fickle as J. Lo's taste in husbands; we know that another epic will replace "Lord of the Rings" as the It-story of Christmas sooner than later. Just ask that one guy, you know, that Jesus character whose epic life story spurred the original Christmas celebration: Yeah, he must feel so 2,000 years ago.

Album Reviews

Blot Rating System Guide
 ★★★★★ HOMER ★ RALPH



Return to Cold Mountain

In 2000, the general public was reintroduced to bluegrass with the cinematic release of "Oh Brother Where Art Thou" and the myriad of tired compilations that followed. The releases sold well, but besides the appearance of John Hartford, the discs were littered with contemporary bluegrass acts. Four years later, Compendia records has released a compilation of music based on another film, "Cold Mountain."

"Return to Cold Mountain" features little-known musicians playing well-known tunes on period instruments. This is real old-time music, the kind played in the Appalachian Mountains during the period explored in the film.

The artists have put together a wonderful body of songs, including folk standards such as "Shady Grove," "Black Mountain Rag" and the popular fiddle tune, "Old Joe Clark."

On "Shady Grove," Laura Boosinger employs a claw-hammer technique that is rich with ornaments and solo breaks that stay true to the melody. Her voice lends a yearning lethargy to the song that was popularized in the '70s by Jerry Garcia and David Grisman.

Larry Keel explores "Black Mountain Rag" with Doc Watson in the back of his mind and provides listeners with a good excuse to explore the depth and beauty of the old-time tradition.

-John Ross ★★★★★^{1/2}

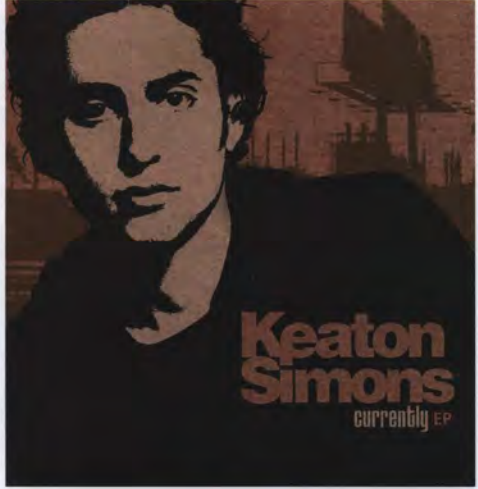
Keaton Simons *Currently*
Maverick Records

You can't hear Keaton Simons without realizing him as Norah Jones' male counterpart – well written, unobtrusive acoustic pop that makes for great background music, not a stretch to imagine over a glass of wine at a nightclub.

But as singer/songwriters pop up faster than check-cashing centers, the question is not whether Simons' debut EP is worthy of purchase, but rather, is there room in your life for another genuinely pleasant, yet increasingly overdone sound?

The gentle voicing and layering of sprinkled piano chords and guitar riffs underlying Simons' swallowed, soulful vocals indicate that the five-song sample that is "Currently," could manifest into something more than another notch on the bedpost of the singer/songwriter revival.

-Chris Kornelis ★★★★★



G. Love *The Hustle*
BRUSHFIRE RECORDS

G. Love opens "The Hustle" by leading his band through the album's first single, "Astronaut," a rowdy, up-tempo blues-based collection of orchestrated noise. By "Don't Drop It," it's business as usual: hip-hop, funk and syncopated beats behind a signature pop-rock rap, a formula that continues to gain popularity with his younger contemporaries.

G. still writes about smoking pot and living the carefree life, yet on the appropriately titled "Love," the party-house favorite speaks of something more permanent than the collegiate one-night-stand, possibly indicating a lifestyle change from the "Booty Call" life of track number four. That's not to say that there aren't points on the album that sound like the soundtrack to an evening at the hot springs.

But by the end of the record, what seemed to be an adventure in rock 'n' roll turns out to be an assortment of catchy, surprisingly forgettable rhymes and confessions of the eternal frat boy.

-Chris Kornelis ★★★★★



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Donald Trump By Chris Kornelis

The Donald, as he is affectionately called, has become more than just another billionaire. He's a pop-culture phenomenon. His hair gets more airtime than most reality shows. But Trump's celebrity goes beyond the Trump Organization recruitment/shameless self-promotion that is "The Apprentice." People are infatuated with his money, his marriages and his subsequent high-profile divorces. He's a tabloid fixture and a working man's billionaire...sort of.

What are students not learning at colleges and universities?

Theories over realities, a lot of the time. Practical experience can be a great education in itself. How things are taught and how things actually work are sometimes very different.

What advice do you have for students about to enter the workforce?

Know what you're looking for, research it and go for it. Again, what you think something is and what it actually is can be two different things. But being prepared and completely professional will serve you well.



What quality do you most desire in a job applicant?

Someone who is serious, professional and well prepared. I don't work haphazardly and I don't want people who aren't prepared every day.

What quality do you most loathe in an applicant?

A know-it-all. I've been around for a while and I still don't know it all, so if someone comes in as a know-it-all, I know they are misinformed or delusional.

What do you see as your biggest accomplishment?

Doing well in a tough business, but maybe I haven't accomplished my biggest accomplishment yet.

How do you deal with failure?

I move on immediately. Is it a blip or a catastrophe? Usually it's a blip.

Do you think anyone is capable of attaining your level of success?

Opportunity is there for everyone, but there are no guarantees.

What was your motivation behind making "The Apprentice"?

It would be educational as well as entertaining. There are lessons in every episode.

Do you learn things from contestants?

I notice things; I'm not sure if I learn things. My position is to find the person who will be right for the Trump Organization. That is my focus.

Are you upset that "The Apprentice" didn't win an Emmy?

It's nice to win awards, but they aren't always a barometer for quality.

How will you know it's time to stop making "The Apprentice"?

That will depend on ratings and my schedule.

Do you ever call in sick to work when you're well?

I work for myself. What would be the point?

When was the last time you took public transportation?

It's been a while.

Do you consider yourself a nice person?

Nice? That's not the word I'd use. I'm a fair person, which is a bigger challenge.

How many times a day do people say to your face, "You're Fired"?

That depends on where I am. In Los Angeles after the show opened, I heard it about 25 times in one day.

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