



DANIEL BICKLEY / ARGONAUT

Volunteers circle the track during the all-night Relay for Life event that started Friday evening at the Kibbie Dome.

Relay for Life: Local groups walk for charity event

BY CAMERLY COX
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Hope. That word, spelled out in luminaria bags across the seats of the Kibbie Dome at the University of Idaho, was the theme of Moscow's second Relay for Life.

The event is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and is dedicated to preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

The relay raises money to support cancer research. It began as a 24-hour run against cancer by Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma colorectal surgeon who wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office.

According to the event program for the event, its goals are to reduce cancer mortality by 50 percent, reduce the incidence of cancer by 25 percent and significantly increase the quality of life of cancer patients from the time of diagnosis on.

The relay lasted from 4 p.m. Friday with team registration and campsite setup until 10 a.m. Saturday morning with the closing ceremony.

More than 30 teams participated in the event, raising money and walking all night.

ASUI senator and relay team leader Kirsten Cummings said the event is important to many people because it represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, those facing cancer will be supported and one day cancer will be eliminated.

"As a senate we decided to make this event our

philanthropy," she said. "Everyone will be touched by cancer. This night is all about hope."

The walk began at 8 p.m., lasting 12 hours and requiring at least one person from each team to walk at a time. It was spotlighted by a cancer survivor lap, music and dance performances, a team karaoke contest, and a luminaria service, which began at 10 p.m. with a prayer from Tim Eby, the youth pastor of the Moscow Church of the Nazarene.

"We want to say thank you for those involved in preventing cancer ... the givers of care who enable those battling cancer to persevere and share their pain," Eby said. "Cancer is a long journey, but we can provide our loved ones with hope. That is the only way to approach them, whether sick or well."

The luminarias were provided by each team and

See RELAY, Page 4