A host of support personnel enables the “best show on Broadway” to perform on schedule. The Broncos have a special wardrobe manager, trainers, a band and dancers. In addition, there are grounds personnel who maintain the beauty of the playing theater, and broadcasters, timers, referees, ticket sellers and advertising personnel. Advance ticket sales are brisk for each performance, and the parking lots take on a festive air at showtime. Tailgate parties, calliope music, the marching band and the ROTC color guard add to the excitement. Vendors sell souvenirs, clothing, programs, food and drink. Together, they stage the best show on Broadway.

Craner’s Trainers

By Bob Evancho

Some sports fans think the team trainer has the best seat in the house. Think again, says Gary Craner.

“I’ve had people say to me, ‘It would be great to have your job and sit and watch the game,’” remarked Craner, Boise State’s head athletic trainer. “But those people apparently don’t know what we do.” Craner does indeed view Bronco athletic events from the sidelines, but he’s too concerned with the performers’ well-being to really enjoy the show.

“During a football game I get a kick out of a good play or a long run as much as anyone,” Craner said. “But primarily I’m watching the game from a different perspective. I’m watching line play and I don’t quit [observing] after the play’s over. I watch how quickly the players get up and walk back to the huddle.”

Boise State student-athletes are under Craner’s watchful eye constantly—even when it appears they aren’t. “My student-trainers have noticed that when we’re out at practice with the team I might be talking to them and doing something else, but I’ve kind of developed a peripheral vision and keep an eye on the whole field,” he said. “That way, if something happens we can react to it. I guess I’m attuned to that.”

Craner’s sixth sense isn’t hard to comprehend when you realize he’s been a trainer for 28 years—the last 22 at Boise State. What may be surprising to some is the curriculum BSU offers to students who
may wish to pursue a career similar to Craner's.

Boise State's athletic training program, directed by physical education professor Ron Pfeiffer, was installed as part of the university's health, physical education and recreation curriculum and accredited by the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) in 1980. Students can earn a B.S. in athletic training through the NATA undergraduate curriculum program, which Craner calls, "one of the best in the Northwest."

To date, more than 40 students have graduated with athletic training-emphasis degrees. Despite the limited enrollment thus far, both Craner and Pfeiffer believe interest in the program will continue to grow.

"I think word of mouth is one reason we're getting more [prospective trainers]," Pfeiffer said. "Although it's a relatively small number so far, we've done quite well with respect to what our graduates have done. The majority of them have gone on to sports medicine clinics, college jobs or graduate school."

Like the paramedical profession, athletic training has risen in stature, thanks in part to education and technological advancements. "When I started, most trainers were self-taught," Craner said. "Now I think the athletes are getting much better care because of the education that the trainers receive."

Licensing and other standards, Craner contends, would improve the profession even more. Craner, who has served as president of the Idaho Athletic Trainers Association and on the NATA board of directors and its ethics committee, helped push for the national certification exam that is now in place. He and several colleagues successfully pushed for stringent guidelines on the state level that would require licensing for athletic trainers. Passed in 1989, the measure established a minimum standard for education background, among other things.

With tougher requirements now necessary for certification, products of Boise State's athletic training program are better equipped to cut the mustard when the time comes. That's because in addition to their classroom obligations, Boise State student-trainers are required to complete 800 hours of fieldwork under a certified athletic trainer.

Because he travels with the football and men's basketball teams and works with the other men's sports the rest of the school year, Craner typically works 60-plus hours a week from August through May. He's also a clinical instructor in the athletic training program, teaching several classes per semester.

His contributions to BSU sports, however, have an intangible quality that only the athletes and coaches can really appreciate. "When a player comes up and says, 'Hey, I wouldn't have been out there if you hadn't worked with me,' is the most gratifying part of the job," Craner said. "Working with the athletes and having them respond to your treatment. That's what it's about."

Hall of Famer

BSU trainer Gary Craner was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association in 1994 for his leadership at the national and state levels.
The Athletic Training Program in Football

By David Giacomazzo

The medicine men of the football field play a key role in Bronco hopes for a championship by keeping players healthy and helping them recover quickly if they should become injured.

Karen Bossick
The Idaho Statesman

Athletes must stay physically fit in order to participate in their sport. In a violent and physical game like football, players often come out of practices or games with bumps and bruises, an occasional sprain or muscle pull, or, unfortunately, a broken bone. When that happens, the athletic training staff at BSU stands ready to help. The staff consists of two full-time trainers, two interns, several assistants, three doctors and a strength and conditioning coach.

To prevent serious injury, football players must prepare their bodies to accept the punishment they will face from early August until the end of the season. The off-season consists of running and weight-lifting programs. Spring drills include padded and non-padded practices. Summertime is for weight-lifting and conditioning. Then there is the torture of two-a-day practices that begin in the heat of mid-August and continue until the first day of school.

Life for the football player begins in the training room at the Varsity Center. There, each student-athlete has an interview with head trainer Gary Craner. Craner suggests exercises and stretching techniques to promote quicker healing for those who suffer the aches and pains of spring ball. Once cleared by the head trainer, the student-athlete goes to the Simplot Center weight room, where the strength and conditioning coach conducts a well-organized program.

During the two daily practices at the beginning of the season, the trainers remain close to the action. They assist injured players on the
field, and several trainers prowl the sidelines looking for those who need help. Team physician Kirk Lewis described the advantage of having trainers present at all times: “The key thing for us is having a good trainer. He is there day in and day out and can get on injuries as soon as they occur to speed the healing process.”

Trainers get a slight break between two-a-days and the beginning of competition. Craner opens the training room at 7:30 each morning so that players can come in for treatment during the day. A player’s time is built around his course schedule. Once the season begins, the trainers work to keep each player healthy for next week’s game.

Injured players usually become fast friends with their trainer because they spend so much time together. The injured report to the training room before practice to check their eligibility to practice and then again after practice to make sure that the injuries have not worsened. Almost 80 percent of the starters on a given Saturday have injuries that must be treated in order to play.

It is only at the end of a season that players have afternoons free for schoolwork. For the athletic trainers there is a new sport in progress and a different set of athletes to keep healthy.

**Team Doctors**

President Eugene Chaffee realized the students’ need for medical services early in Boise Junior College’s history. A public health nurse often visited the campus, but there was no regular medical attention provided for football players. In 1947, Chaffee approached Dr. Bruce Budge, who had taught zoology since 1937, to take on the jobs of school and team doctor. Originally, Dr. Budge was to devote one hour a day in an office on campus and attend home games.

For the next 10 years, Budge served as team doctor, helping to mend broken bones, torn ligaments, sprained ankles and everything else that needed fixing. In 1958, Dr. Richard Gardner began attending to the team and soon fit into the position of team doctor, a post he held until 1991.

Gardner played football, basketball and baseball at the College of Idaho. He enlisted the help of Dr. John Swartley so that the men could cover Little League, high school and Boise State games. Swartley became the family doctor to the teams and Gardner took care of ligament and bone injuries. Frequently, in the high school and college games, the doctor for the home team would have to take care of players from both squads because doctors did not travel to away games.

Many other medical personnel have assisted in the Bronco program, including physicians, dentists, psychologists, ophthalmologists, nurses, nutritionists and chiropractors.

The Idaho Sports Medicine Institute was built on campus in 1984 by Dr. George Wade, who had worked with Gardner in orthopedic
medicine. Wade earned All-American honors in track while attending the University of Michigan. Wade brought a partner, Dr. Kirk Lewis, to the Institute in 1985. Formerly captain and guard for the Michigan football team, Lewis received All-American honors in 1976. In 1992, another doctor, Jim Johnston, joined the Idaho Sports Medicine staff. Together these three surgeons provide the Broncos with the best orthopedic care available. The doctors work to promote efficient surgery, rapid healing and total physical therapy for the student-athletes. The Sports Medicine Institute is open to the entire campus community and the general public.

At His ‘Post’

By Matt McLaughlin

Mel Pfost (pronounced post) has been the Boise State equipment manager since 1970. Pfost played for Coach Lyle Smith on the 1954 baseball team. Years later, Pfost was working at a local sporting goods store when Smith offered him the job as the school’s first equipment manager. At the time, the coaches and a part-time trainer handled the equipment duties from a small basement room in the gymnasium.

Tired of the traveling that his job required, Pfost accepted Smith’s offer. Since then, Pfost has been the person to outfit literally thousands of student-athletes on almost every Boise State team.

Born in Caldwell, Pfost attended Middleton High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball. He also was a boxer in high school. He attended one year at the College of Idaho, two years at Boise Junior College and a final year at the College of Idaho, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in education, physical education and guidance in 1956. He was active in athletics while in college — at BJC he played basketball and baseball — and at the C of I he played those sports as well as football.

Baseball was Pfost’s forte. He played two seasons in the Pittsburgh Pirates’ minor league system before returning to Boise to enter the sporting goods business as a sales representative. Pfost, an original member of the Athletic Equipment Managers Association, is one of the first certified equipment managers in the nation. He was among the 53 other managers who started the AEMA in 1974.

Bands at Boise State

By Vicki Wilson

From its beginning as a junior college, Boise State has developed a long tradition of excellence in music. In 1932, the music department created an orchestra, and the small student body started a pep band to play at athletic events. The pep band was an on-again, off-again endeavor throughout the 1930s. The band members played in street clothes at the home football games and received partial academic credit for their efforts to rally Bronco fans to support their team.¹

In 1940-41, the pep band became an official school project. The Les Bois credited the organization of the pep band to Bob Hays, Charles Jensen and Kay Belnap. The pep band, consisting of 16 members under the direction of Jim Baker, played at Bronco home games and became one of the finest bands in the Boise Valley. This was the first band to wear official uniforms, which consisted of dark pants, white shirt, tie and V-neck pullover sweater with the BJC music department emblem sewn on the front.²

World War II took its toll on the pep band membership. By 1947, the pep band, wearing the same uniforms that they began with in 1940,
played at both football and basketball games. Carroll E. Weber directed the band. The pep band became a welcome addition to all home games and took to the road in 1948, traveling with the team to some away games.3

In 1949, Jack Best directed the pep band. That year, the Boise Junior College Band attended the Potato Bowl in Bakersfield, California, and was described as “packed with violent enthusiasm.”4 The following school year, 1950-51, marked the transformation of the pep band into a marching band. Under the direction of Best, the band consisted of 35 members clad in new uniforms of gray trousers, blue sweaters and bright orange bow-ties. The new marching band performed at both home and away games.5

The transformation from pep band to marching band brought an increase in financial obligations. The music department had trouble recruiting enough students to play in the marching band. With limited funds, it was difficult to provide scholarships, sheet music, uniforms, and in some cases instruments, for the students. In addition, travel money was a problem. Community contributions to the music department and the general fund helped finance the band. Two major contributors from the community were banker John Schoonover and construction entrepreneur Harry W. Morrison. Both contributed money earmarked for scholarships that enabled students throughout the state of Idaho to attend BJC.

During 1950, the Boise Junior College marching band traveled to the Junior Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, lending its support to the Broncos in the football game against Long Beach City College. The band also traveled with the Broncos to the Potato Bowl games in 1951, 1954, 1957 and again in 1965. It was the band’s appearance in the 1957 Potato Bowl that inspired Morrison to write to Chaffee, stating that, “it seemed to me at Bakersfield that our band lacked considerably from the standpoint of dressiness and that maybe you will find it advisable to buy new uniforms for the band.”6

Morrison offered to pay the cost of the uniforms. At $102.30 each, the 60 uniforms came to a grand total of $6,138. The new uniforms consisted of coat and pants, a cap with an orange plume, breast patch including monogram, sand brown belt, citation cord, spats, shoulder patch, gloves and an additional white stripe.7 These uniforms served
the marching band through the 1960s.

The 1960s marked a period of transition for both the college and the marching band. Its last major appearance as the Boise Junior College Marching Band was in 1962 at the Seattle World's Fair. By the 1969-70 school year, the Boise State College Marching Band had grown to 115 and one of the highlights of the season was the marching band tour to Sacramento, San Luis Obispo and San Francisco, California. The trip was climaxxed with a nationally televised halftime performance at the football game between the San Francisco '49ers and the Washington Redskins. This appearance brought national recognition to the music program at Boise State College.

But in the 1970s the band was in a financial crunch. With funds drying up and costs increasing, director of bands Mel Shelton faced a dilemma not unlike many other institutions of similar size. The funds available from the athletic department and the university were no longer substantial enough to meet the growing needs of the marching band. The ASBSU had become increasingly apathetic to the financial needs of the band, and money that had been coming from the community through the '50s and '60s was no longer available.

In addition to financial problems, Shelton also had diffi-
ulty convincing students to give approximately eight hours a week of their time in return for only one college credit. Conflicts also arose over the use of the stadium for practice. Fan enthusiasm seemed lacking. It became obvious that once the football team left the field at halftime, the fans left their seats. The amount of time and energy expended to put together a proficient halftime show seemed to lack the appropriate appreciation. Due to these difficulties, the university decided that after the 1975 football season the marching band would no longer participate at athletic events.

Through the late 1970s and into the '80s, the music department felt that if it could not produce a top-quality marching band to do both itself and the university proud, it would rather have the band eliminated from Boise State activities. After much formal discussion, but contrary to the music department's preference, it was determined that a 31-piece pep band called the "Bronco Spirit" would play intermittently during football games while area high school marching bands would perform during the halftime. At the start of the 1978 athletic season, both the football and basketball pep band, now two separate groups, were totally financed by the athletic department.

Boise State continued to grow over the next 11 years, but remained without a marching band until 1986, when a $250,000 scholarship
donation from Keith and Catherine Stein of Boise gave new life to the music department’s dream of reestablishing a marching band. A total of $545,000 was raised to support scholarships for members of the new Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band. There were many contributors to the marching band fund, and the especially large outpouring from the community of Boise indicated that a university marching band had been missed.

The Blue Thunder, directed by David Wells, made its debut at Boise State’s first home football game on September 5, 1987. It became a source of instant pride to both the university and community. The band marched onto the field in new uniforms consisting of short blue jackets with a tuxedo-type lace shirt and bright Bronco orange cummerbund. The color guard, flag corps, and Mane Line Dancers accompanied the team on the field.

As the band marched into the ’90s, it sported a more traditional look similar to the marching band of the 1960s. With the continued financial contributions, the high expectations of the music department and the willingness of the band participants to give of their time and talent to ensure a successful program, the Blue Thunder Marching Band will have little difficulty marching into the 21st century.

The Mane Line Dancers

Now one of the best dance squads in the country, the Mane Line Dancers were organized in 1982 to entertain the fans during the halftimes of home games. From the outset, Julie Stevens has been the choreographer, teacher, director, costume designer and leader for the group. Stevens teaches dance and also works with the Capital High School drill team.

In 1990, the Mane Line Dancers entered their first national competition at the National Collegiate Dance and Cheer championships held in Dallas, Texas. They competed against 27 other teams and finished a very respectable fourth. In 1991, the BSU team took third, and in 1992, they advanced to second place in the nation. Then, in 1993, the Mane Line Dancers reached the top, placing first in the nation in the pom dance competition.
The women who join the Mane Line Dancers love to dance. Most of them have participated in dance for many years before college. Their partial scholarships and total of two credit hours in no way reflect the hours of time necessary to practice each new routine. Stevens says that five to six hours of practice goes into a new four-minute dance. In addition, most of the dancers work at other jobs and carry 12 credit hours each semester. The team of 22 talented young women entertains at football and basketball games, special events, and some important games away from home.

The Voice of The Broncos

The Voice of the Broncos, Paul J. Schneider, has broadcast Bronco sports on KBOI radio since 1973. At that time, Schneider did sports broadcasting for KBOI-TV (now KBCI). He has won more than 30 press club awards for broadcasting, and has several times been named Idaho’s Sportscaster of the Year, most recently in 1990. Besides doing Bronco play-by-play, Schneider is the co-host of the award-winning Dunn and Schneider morning show on KBOI Radio. He is also the track announcer for Les Bois Park. He makes commercials, hosts civic functions, attends dedications, and conducts radio interviews and “ask the coach” programs. Schneider travels with the Broncos on the road as well as broadcasting home games in both football and basketball.

Schneider grew up in Twin Falls, and graduated from the University of Idaho. He arrived in Boise in 1968 and became an immediate dyed-in-the-wool Bronco. There is not a Bronco fan who has not heard in the midst of a critical time in a game the familiar, “Oh my goodness, oh my goodness!” As much as anyone, Schneider hates it when the Broncos lose.

Schneider knows all the great Broncos of every sport and never forgets a game. He has talked to hundreds of Broncos on the postgame shows. During the 1992 basketball season, Schneider broadcast his 1,000th Bronco game.
Television

KTVB Channel 7 has carried BSU football and basketball television broadcasts since 1986, with play-by-play chores handled by KTVB sports director Larry Maneely since 1989. Maneely has won three straight Idaho State Broadcaster Association "Best Sports Play-by-Play" awards for his work on Channel 7 telecasts. Maneely originally came to KTVB in 1975. At that time, he hosted "Coach's Corner" with Coach Tony Knap. He also did the first television broadcast of Bronco road games. Maneely left KTVB in 1983 to join KXTV in Sacramento as sports director, where he had the opportunity to cover several Super Bowls, the World Series, the All-Star baseball game and the 1984 Olympic Games. But the Bronco spirit kept calling and in 1988, the opportunity to do play-by-play for BSU football and basketball games brought Maneely home to Boise.

He was courtside with Glenn Potter to call the action for Boise State's first national TV appearance in basketball — a 63-61 Bronco win over the Idaho Vandals on February 23, 1989, on ESPN.

On KTVB football telecasts, Maneely works with Tom Scott, who has covered the Broncos in one form or another since 1971. Scott was the Bronco Stadium announcer 1974-84, then teamed with Schneider on Bronco radio broadcasts in 1985-86. He spent the next two seasons with Mark Johnson on Channel 7 before pairing with Maneely. Scott also authored the original BSU football record book and is the "unofficial Bronco football historian."

Academic Support Team

Fred Goode rounds out the backstage crew as he directs the academic support program at BSU. Goode has served as academic adviser since 1986. A former Bronco running back from 1975-79, Goode rushed for 1,581 yards in his career. Goode received his bachelor's degree in communication in 1980 and earned a master's degree in reading education in 1983 from Boise State. He taught at Treasure Valley Community College from 1981-86 and was named that school's teacher of the year in 1986.

The Academic Support Program helps student-athletes take advantage of the educational opportunities offered at BSU. The program is designed to maximize the academic experience of student-athletes. The Peterson/Preco Learning Center in the Pavilion houses tutorial rooms, a study hall and a state-of-the-art computer laboratory. A tutorial coordinator assigns students to a cluster group or to an individual tutor, depending upon the need. In addition, there is a supervised study hall for all freshmen on athletic scholarships and for any student-athlete with less than a 2.0 GPA.
The Photographers

The majority of the photographs in this book are the work of two individuals — the only two people in the last 45 years who have held the post of university (or junior college) photographer — Frank Carr and Chuck Scheer.

No facet of campus life since 1949 has been left undocumented in their enterprising search for new and different scenes or events to photograph. Their work provides us with a unique window to the past, an invaluable record of the university's rich heritage. Their combined careers span five decades of school history ... but the work they have produced will endure forever.

Frank Carr served as photographer from 1949-1974. Thus, his photos document Boise Junior College's transition into a four-year university. In addition to shooting general publicity photos, he also took many of the pictures for the yearbooks of his era. An Idaho native, Carr taught photography courses and managed a private studio during his career at the school.

Chuck Scheer grew up not far from the campus, and attended BJC prior to receiving a degree in art from the University of Idaho. He taught art at South Junior High prior to his arrival at Boise State in 1974. Like Carr, he has taught photography courses for the university. His work won a national award from the Council for the Support and Advancement of Education (CASE) in 1988.

Jim Poore 1946-1987

Jim Poore, longtime sports writer and columnist for the Idaho Statesman, got his feet wet in collegiate journalism at a cub reporter for BJC paper, the Roundup, in the mid-1960s. He then transferred to the University of Idaho for his bachelor's degree.

Poore went to work at the Statesman in 1969, landing the job of his dreams as a sports writer. It was a beat he never left. During his career Poore reported on all Bronco sports. But it was through his columns that he gave readers a rare backstage view of athletics. Always written with insight and humor, Poore's columns showed obvious affection for the players, coaches and fans behind the headlines.

Legends about Poore abound. A connoisseur of pizza and fine food, Poore's corpulent stature was the target of frequent good-natured barbs. During the Cal-Poly game in 1977, the audience roared after stadium announcer Tom Scott made his public plea over the PA system: "Jim Poore ... Jim Poore. Would you please quit leaning against the goalpost in the south end zone? You are tilting the field." Poore, still propped up against the goalpost, shifted feet, laughing as hard as the rest of the crowd.

Poore's talented pen was silenced when he suffered a sudden stroke on Christmas Eve in 1987. After laying in a coma for more than two years, he died in February 1990.

3 Ibid., 1948, p. 49.
4 "BJC Marching Band Has 'Enthusiasm,'" BJC Roundup, November 10, 1950, p. 4.
5 Ibid., 1951, p. 81.
6 Ibid., 5.2 Box 13 File 23.
7 Ibid.
9 "BSC Band Campaign Nears Goal," FOCUS, Summer 1987, Vol. XII, No. 4, p. 16.