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COVER
The Snake River, lifeblood of the plain, has carved the history of southern Idaho.
Photo by Glenn Oakley
Board OKs new degrees

Boise State received State Board of Education approval last month to offer three new master's degrees.

But two of those programs — music/performance and communication — won't be implemented unless funds are approved during the next session of the Idaho Legislature.

The other degree in music/music education will be offered next fall.

In addition, the board approved three new bachelor's degrees. The first, mass communication/journalism, will add 12 courses to meet growing demands from students and the community.

Those courses range from mass communication to video and audio production. Many of the new courses will be taught by professional staff from KBSU, Boise State's radio station.

The second degree is in communication training and development, one of the fastest growing careers for communication graduates.

The third degree is in athletic training, which was formerly only an option for physical education majors.

Students can enroll in the three new bachelor's programs this fall.

If new faculty positions are funded, classes for the new master's in communication will begin in the fall of 1990. Offered in cooperation with the state's other universities, the degree is designed to be flexible enough to provide students advanced study in public affairs communication, communication education and communication systems.

The new master's in music/music education is basically a name change from a degree formerly offered by the College of Education. The other master's in music/performance is scheduled to begin in fall 1990 if new faculty are hired.

Enrollment increases

Idaho's largest summer session just keeps getting bigger. Enrollment for Boise State's first five-week summer session has increased 4 percent from last year.

This summer, 3,476 students are enrolled, up from 3,352 in 1988.

William Jensen, BSU continuing education director, credits the increase to a larger selection of summer courses and a new charge-card program that allows students to put their fees on credit cards.

Summer session students charged more than $50,000 in fees, he says.

Japanese to study at BSU

As many as 100 Japanese college students will spend five months on the Boise State campus next year learning about their American counterparts and the language they speak.

The students will come from Asia University in Tokyo, a private school that has received international publicity for its aggressive studies abroad program.

During a visit to BSU in June, Asia University President Shinkichi Eto said it is important for students to overcome Japan's isolation by living in the United States and learning to speak English.

Next year, 800 Asia University students out of an enrollment of 6,500 will study at six U.S. campuses. Eventually, Eto hopes all sophomores at his school will study in the United States as part of their degree requirements.

The program began at Western Washington University with 60 students. Last year, 500 students studied at Western, Eastern and Central Washington and at Oregon State.

BSU was added to the program because of its location in a mid-sized city with a safe environment. In addition, students will learn English better in a community that doesn't have a high concentration of Japanese businessmen, Eto says. The first group of 40-50 students will arrive at BSU next March. The second group will come in September 1990. The program will continue for at least three years.

The students will live with American roommates in BSU's residence halls and take their meals at the Student Union.

Their primary emphasis will be English, but they will also take courses in U.S. history, physical education and environmental studies.

All courses except English will be taught by Japanese-speaking professors. The students will not take regular BSU classes or receive BSU credit.

About this issue

The Snake River Plain, once a wasteland to be crossed and forgotten by settlers seeking greener pastures, has become Idaho's most populous region. This immense crescent of lava lands, bisected by the Snake River, grows larger towns — Boise, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Pocatello — and includes such wonders as Craters of the Moon, the Thousand Springs of the Hagerman Valley and the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area. In this issue, FOCUS examines the Snake River Plain and the ways in which we have learned to live on it.
THE CAN MAN

Ex-prof turns trash into scholarship cash

By Amy Stahl

Dave Torbet has been called many things over the years, but “Professor of Recycling” just may be his favorite nickname. He certainly comes by it honestly.

For years, the former director of the Boise State Counseling and Testing Center has been collecting cans, stacking computer paper and brewing coffee with one purpose in mind — to endow a scholarship fund at BSU. His efforts are paying off, handsomely. With the help of dozens of devoted friends and recycling enthusiasts, the 71-year-old professor emeritus has raised more than $45,000 toward a scholarship fund that bears his name.

If you wanted to raise that kind of money tomorrow, you would need to cart more than 2.5 million cans down to the recycling center.

It all started in 1968, Torbet says with a customary twinkle in his eye. In an effort to raise the spirits of troubled BSU students, Torbet and the Counseling Center staff threw regular Unbirthday Parties. “People need attention at times. If you can provide that attention, they can pick up their self-esteem,” he says.

The parties were a hit and they grew in reputation and popularity. Sensing an opportunity to bring people together in a similarly relaxed setting, Torbet set up a coffee table in the hall outside the center office. Initially he charged 5 cents a cup and students, staff and professors would stop by, pitch in a nickel and settle down with a steaming cup of coffee.

The little pool grew and Torbet, determined to put some muscle into the fund, decided to supplement it by recycling cans, bottles and whatnot he found lying around campus or on the banks of the Boise River. “Every time I had a break, I’d be going through the trash on campus and go along down by the river,” Torbet says.

He never left the building without a plastic sack to fill with loot, says Clare Spoor, secretary/office coordinator in the Counseling and Testing Center. And Torbet’s pursuit of the almighty can rubbed off on his co-workers. Spoor says that just about everybody got into the act, picking up cans and handing them over to Torbet.

“Even when you’d be out hiking in the mountains, you’d pick up a can... It just gets in your blood,” she admits.

Torbet’s neighborhood has even pitched in. “A neighbor who used to sell cans to gamble in Jackpot now gives cans to me,” he says, laughing.
His efforts have generated more than just money — Torbet has also earned some good-natured ribbing from his coworkers. Upon his retirement in 1983, the Counseling Center staff bestowed the ultimate award upon “The Can Man”: a plaque with a crushed can painted gold.

Richard Hart, dean of the College of Education, chuckles when he recalls Torbet’s recycling antics. Hart, who has donated a can or two to the cause over the years, says he’d show up for work to find Torbet out digging around in the Dumpster, fished out cans.

“Dave’s a true-blue character,” Hart says fondly. “He had a well-earned reputation for being a real character and a much-loved member of the faculty.”

The pennies that have piled up to nearly $50,000 did not come easily. In addition to the hours Torbet spent combing the garbage and riverbanks, he also made countless trips to the recycling center where he collects $6 to $15 per outing. The frequency of these treks, Torbet says, “are determined by the condition of the garage and my wife.” His wife, Else, is a former BSU assistant professor of foreign languages and a native of East Germany.

The “recycling rustler” came to BSU in 1966 from Butler University and the University of Colorado, where he earned his doctorate. At BSU he was a psychology professor, then head of the psychology department. He was named Counseling Center director in 1968 and officially retired in 1984.

A fervent gardener, Torbet pursues his diverse passions with wide-eyed excitement. He continues to promote — albeit in a low-key kind of way — his books A Collection of Works by Our Hero and How to Handle Death and Dying.

Though Torbet spends his summers gardening, visiting with neighbors and “walking his legs to death” at the Oregon Coast, recycling is never far from his heart. He’s still at it even at his retirement retreat, stooping to pick up shells, driftwood and discarded items at the beach.

Come fall, the Torbets will head back to Boise so Dave can cheer on his favorite football team — the BSU Broncos. Then, he can get back to the business of recycling and bolstering the scholarship fund, his “living tombstone.”

He may suffer from diabetes, have a little heart trouble and get around a bit more slowly, but Torbet’s not one to watch the world go by. He plows ahead, wondering why others take the slow boat through life: “You know what happens when you’re miserable? You die. You know what happens when you’re happy? You die. Then what are you wasting your time for?”

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Conferences tackle hot topics

The seventh annual Frank Church Public Affairs Conference and the third annual US West Symposium on Teaching share at least two common factors: They are held in the fall on the BSU campus and they continue to bring some of the top scholars, educators and political figures in the nation to Boise.

And 1989 will be no different. The Church Conference, scheduled Sept. 27-29 in the Student Union Building, will feature a mix of scholars, politicians, and natural resource users and managers for "America's Public Lands and Their Uses: Who Decides?" Day sessions are planned for academic presentations and Gov. Cecil Andrus will be among the main speakers. Another keynote speaker will be Robin Winks of Yale University, a historian, author and member of the National Parks Board. The conference is sponsored by the BSU School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs and the Frank Church Chair of Public Affairs.

The teaching symposium will be held in cooperation with the Williamsburg Charter, a nationwide organization dedicated to the reaffirmation of the First Amendment's religious liberty clauses, and will be held Oct. 13 and 14. Part of the symposium will focus on the introduction of classes about religion into America's classrooms. One of the featured speakers will be Thomas Shannon, director of the National School Board Association.

A variety of panel discussions and working groups will be held throughout the day Thursday and Friday, Oct. 13, with a morning session planned Saturday, Oct. 14.

Friends donate amphitheater

As they have so many times before, Boise State's friends have stepped forward to build something that will benefit both the university and community.

In this case, Jim Nelson of Nelson Sand and Gravel, Ron Yanke of Yankee Machine Shop and Arthur Albanese of Zabala-Gilfry-Albanese architects have begun work on an outdoor amphitheater that will be used for lectures, theater and musical performances.

The amphitheater will be located between the library and river. A 16-foot high grass berm built in a semicircle will seat 500 to 600 people.

The project will include a stage, complete with electrical fixtures for sound and lights and an orchestra pit.

The project, expected to begin this month, will take 90 days to complete.

The two companies and architect are donating their services to build the amphitheater, a project worth more than $175,000, according to campus architect Vic Hosford.

Use of the amphitheater will be open to community as well as university groups.

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Do it now at Homecoming

Don't wait to have fun, "Do It Now" at six days of events planned Sept. 18-23 for Boise State University's Homecoming 1989 festivities. A pep rally, party and parade lead up to the big game at 6 p.m. Sept. 23, when the Bronco football team takes on the Oregon State University Beavers in Bronco Stadium.

- Catch that "Do It Now" spirit — the homecoming theme — at a pep rally and court announcement at noon Sept. 18 in the Quad.
- On Sept. 19, four fraternities square off for the Greek Bowl on the soccer field adjacent to the Student Union Building. The final game begins at 6 p.m.
- Flex your muscles and put on your thinking cap for two wild and wacky events Sept. 20: "Almost Anything Goes" and a scavenger hunt. Four-person teams compete in the egg toss, three-legged races and other contests for "Almost Anything Goes" at 3 p.m. on the soccer field. At 7 p.m., five-person teams set out from the SUB's Big Four Room to scour the community for objects in the scavenger hunt. The teams will take photos, record sounds, answer questions and undergo a sobriety test. Cash prizes will be awarded.
- A new event this year, the "Dating Game," will feature members of the homecoming court as contestants in a TV-style version of the game. The "Dating Game" begins at noon Sept. 21 in the SUB's Big Four Room.
- On Sept. 22, BSU's residence halls will field teams for the Volley-Bowl at 4 p.m. in the pits next to the tennis courts. The king and queen will be crowned at 9:30 p.m. during the homecoming dance in the SUB's Union Street Cafe. The dance begins at 8 p.m.
- Warm up for the game at a tailgate party then take in the sights and sounds of the homecoming parade Sept. 23. The tailgate party, hosted by the BSU Alumni Association, begins at 3:30 p.m. at the cul-de-sac at the east end of Julia Davis Park. Alumni, boosters and students are invited to snack on hot dogs and beverages while listening to live entertainment, including the Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band. The homecoming parade leaves the Morrison Center parking lot at 4 p.m. and ends at the stadium with plenty of time before the kickoff.
New dean, chairman join Boise State

Several new members have joined BSU’s team of administrators, including a new dean and art department chairman.

John Entorf comes from the University of Wisconsin-Stout to lead the newly established College of Technology.

Entorf, 58, was the associate dean for administration and research at the Wisconsin school. He received his doctorate degree in industrial education from Texas A&M University.

At Stout, Entorf was involved in the region’s economic development and served as director of the Center for Innovation and Development, an organization that links businesses with the university.

At BSU, Entorf will supervise programs in vocational technical education, pre-engineering, construction management and applied science. He will also direct the opening of the new $5 million Technology Building.

Earlier this spring BSU announced that George Waldheim from California State University-Chico was to be dean of the college. BSU withdrew its offer after final contract negotiations stalled in May.

Linda Stalley, formerly the chief academic officer for the State Board of Education, has been hired as BSU’s associate executive vice president.

She will assist in the development and evaluation of BSU’s academic programs and will oversee the honors program, academic advising center and other academic-related activities.

A graduate of Idaho State University, Stalley was a department chairman and acting dean at ISU’s College of Health-Related Professions until she moved to Boise in 1983 to work for the State Board of Education.

In her role as chief academic officer, Stalley developed the first statewide plan for higher education, and the board’s first mission and scope statement that identified the system’s priorities.

Mary Witte, assistant dean of the College of Professional Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is the new chairperson of the art department. She replaces Louis Peck, who retired after 33 years at the helm of the art department.

Witte earned her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has taught art and design courses at the University of Wisconsin, Indiana University and the University of Minnesota.

A photographer, Witte’s work is in collections around the world and has been included in more than 50 juried exhibitions. She has had work published in more than 50 publications.

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Scholars commemorate Hemingway

The enduring interest in author Ernest Hemingway's life and writing brought 130 scholars from 26 states to Boise and Sun Valley in early June for Boise State's "Hemingway in Idaho" conference.

Among the presenters were some of Hemingway's most published biographers... Michael Reynolds, author of The Young Hemingway, Robin Gajdusek, author of Hemingway's Paris, and Gary Brenner, co-author of Ernest Hemingway.

The conference began with a public lecture by author Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., who told a capacity crowd of 1,100 at the BSU Student Union that Hemingway was a writer in exile who "hardly knew us."

"I wouldn't think Ketchum would be a place to learn a lot about American blacks or Hispanics," he said.

Vonnegut praised Hemingway as a stylist and storyteller, but questioned how he would be accepted "nowadays" in an era of feminism and animal rights advocacy.

Vonnegut also said Hemingway allowed the story of his own life to become more important than the stories he wrote. "Life is not a story... a story is something made up. Only stories are supposed to be stories," he explained.

The 14 scholars selected to present papers brought a variety of approaches to the main topic of the conference — Hemingway's novel For Whom the Bell Tolls, parts of which Hemingway wrote during his first visit to Sun Valley 50 years ago.

Reynolds of North Carolina State University discussed the influence of the popular Western on Hemingway's work. As a boy growing up in the Midwest, Hemingway read tales of active, self-reliant, cowboy-warriors, and in his later fiction, Hemingway's male heroes are fashioned from the same mold, Reynolds said.

And Susan Beegel, author of Hemingway's Craft of Omission, questioned the validity of the psychological approaches that attempt to explain Hemingway's behavior. Rather, Beegel speculated, the author may have suffered from hemochromatosis, a hereditary metabolic disorder that could have explained his moods and actions.

BSU prints 3 editions of Papa

Papa, a limited edition one-man play on the life of Ernest Hemingway, has been published by BSU's Hemingway Western Studies Center. The book, casebound in natural buckram and including tritone and color photographs, is available in three editions.

Papa premiered at BSU in 1988, starring George Peppard as Ernest Hemingway. The play, which toured the United States, is set to open in London this fall. The published edition includes the revisions in the play made after its Boise opening.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author John de Groot spent five years researching and writing the play. During the course of his research, he traveled to Hemingway's haunts in Cuba, the Bahamas and Key West. De Groot is a staff writer on the Sunday magazine of the Fort Lauderdale News/Sun Sentinel and recently conducted a course in playwriting at Boise State.

Only 500 copies were printed. Ten collector's editions are on sale for $750. Another 40 sell for $300 and the remainder are priced at $75. All editions of the book are signed and numbered.

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Harrison Blvd. book published

A book celebrating the history, architecture, and preservation of Boise's historic Harrison Boulevard district will be released in September by Boise State's School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs.

Harrison Boulevard: Preserving the past in Boise's North End features more than 100 historic and contemporary photographs, watercolors, sketches and a walking tour of the North End. The book, edited by BSU history professor Todd Shallat and graduate student David Kennedy, includes chapters on history, architecture, oral histories and the politics of historic preservation. Recommendations for preservation of the area are included in the book, which began as a study for the Boise City Historic Preservation Commission. As the authors of the book note, "Architecture on Harrison Boulevard varies from the log cabin to the Greek Revival in an impressive chain of styles."

One of the more curious houses noted in the book, 1505 Harrison Blvd., was built for a California businessman in a style made popular by the California earthquake—reinforced concrete. The massive house includes a swimming pool in the basement that could be covered with a dance floor.

The authors include BSU history students, planners, architects and historic preservationists from the community. The book is funded by the National Park Service and the BSU School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. It will be available at area book shops and from the BSU Bookstore.

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Public Affairs expands role

The formation of an outreach training program for the public sector, an infusion of new instructors, and plans for a new home on the BSU campus are among the changes taking place in the BSU Public Affairs Program.

In addition to offering its master of public affairs (MPA) degree, the Public Affairs Program plans to expand some of its functions — including the establishment of an outreach program to provide training and applied research and services for state and local government workers.

"An example of that would be the program's certification training for municipal clerks, which we started a year ago," says Bob Sims, dean of BSU's School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, which administers the Public Affairs Program.

The Public Affairs Program's expanded functions will be led by Jim Weatherby, former executive director of the Association of Idaho Cities who became program director in mid-July. New faculty members David Patton, Janet Mills and Stephanie Witt will also help formulate and implement the program's various training programs. At the University of Utah Patton served as director of a program that served the needs of that state's government agency managers.

"Much of the enhancement of the public affairs staff is due to the equity funding the university received," Sims notes. "In addition, the equity funding has allowed us to add two more graduate assistantships."

Weatherby and his colleagues will also have a new home next year. Following next summer's remodeling, the program's offices are scheduled to move into Campus Elementary School along with the rest of the political science department.

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BSU Radio expands to Magic Valley

Ask what's new at KBSU and the answer won't be a quick one. This spring the station expanded its listening area, exceeded its membership drive goals, hooked up a new satellite feed and earned more than a dozen awards in broadcasting contests.

Beginning May 15, the station extended its listening area into the Magic Valley with the inauguration of KBSW, a new public radio station originating from KBSU. Part of the BSU Radio Network, the station is located at 91.7 on the FM dial.

A new transmitter at Flat Top Butte between Jerome and Twin Falls allows listeners from Burley to Glenns Ferry, Jackpot, Nev., and Shoshone to receive the station's signal.

Station manager Jim Paluzzi says that as a result of the expansion, KBSU's news coverage will include more stories from the Magic Valley.

On May 20, the BSU Radio Network hit its $60,000 spring fund-raising drive goal and then some. The Spring Celebration '89 auction and membership drive raised more than $62,000. The auction raised more than $11,000 and the membership drive netted $51,000 from 830 members.

KBSU inaugurated a new satellite feed June 29 with highlights from the National Old Time Fiddlers Contest in Weiser. The uplink enables the station to feed programming directly to 50 National Public Radio stations from Chicago to San Francisco and reach a possible audience of 9 million listeners.

Also this spring, KBSU received three first-place awards in the Idaho Associated Press Broadcast Association's TV and radio news contests. The station also earned 10 awards from the Idaho Press Club.
BSU linked to computer network

From his terminal at Boise State University, research professor Martin Dougherty explores the ocean floor using a computer at Princeton University in New Jersey. Dougherty's work is made possible by Boise State's recent affiliation with the National Science Foundation Internet, a computer network linking most of the country's research institutions.

Stephen Maloney, BSU associate vice president, says anyone with access to BSU's mainframe computer can use Internet. Its capabilities include sending and receiving electronic mail, accessing specialized computers at other institutions and perusing library catalogues at public institutions. The new system complements Bitnet, an international computer network already in use at Boise State. "Between the two of them, someone who wants to do some work with a colleague at another institution can do so," says Maloney.

The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and Idaho State University have recently joined the network via Boise State. Classes on the use of Internet will be offered to BSU faculty members this fall semester.

Programs approved

Two Boise State programs have received professional accreditation from national agencies. The baccalaureate nursing program was reaccredited for eight years by the National League for Nursing.

Department chair Anne Payne said four significant changes led to the accreditation decision: the bachelor's and associate's nursing degree programs were separated, a director was named to guide the baccalaurate program, the curriculum was expanded to include more emphasis on ethnic and cultural issues, and faculty members were required to obtain master's of science degrees in nursing.

The Counseling and Testing Center was accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services, an Alexandria, Va.-based organization of U.S. and Canadian counseling agencies.

The accrediting board recognized the center's development of a " broad program of excellent services and the high degree of professionalism on the part of the staff."

The center's range of services for students includes individual counseling and crisis intervention, as well as workshops, seminars and discussion groups aimed at enhancing the overall learning environment at BSU.

Among those already working with Internet is Dougherty. Funded by the Office of Naval Research, Dougherty studies the reverberations of sound waves as they travel through the oceanic crust. His problem is to solve the unexplained sound waves that are created by experimental explosions set off in the sea. Dougherty takes the data from these experiments and simulates the resulting sound waves on an ETA10 computer at Princeton.

Omnibus survey set

Beginning with the 1990 Idaho legislative session, Boise State's Survey Research Center will provide the state's lawmakers with an omnibus survey to help them weigh public opinion on issues of concern.

Each September, a survey on a key issue will be conducted by the center. The results will be tabulated and analyzed in October, printed in a booklet in November, and presented to lawmakers just before the Legislature convenes in January.

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Four receive ‘Silver’ awards

Each year at commencement, Boise State presents its Silver Medallion Award to those who have given outstanding service to the university. Since the university does not give honorary degrees, the Silver Medallion is BSU’s highest recognition for service.

Those who received medallions at the 1989 graduation ceremonies included:

Dr. Richard Bullington, who retired this year after 21 years at Boise State. During his years as executive vice president he developed most of BSU’s graduate and undergraduate curriculum, formed several important university-community partnerships and chaired advisory committees that oversaw construction of the Pavilion and Simplot/Micron Technology Center.

Dr. Louis Peck was chairman of the BSU art department for 33 years. A noted watercolorist, Peck has taught thousands of art students and has had his work exhibited throughout the United States. His latest exhibition at BSU was of work he completed while teaching at BSU’s Campus in Spain. He retired this spring.

Joe Parkinson, chairman and chief operating officer of Micron Technology, has provided financial support for BSU in a variety of ways. He was one of the leading donors for construction of the Simplot/Micron Technology Center, and has since funded scholarships for technology students. He also supported BSU and the Boise School District by arranging a $1 million donation from Micron to purchase Campus School.

Brian Ancell, Boise, is a BSU accounting graduate who excelled in the classroom, served as student body treasurer, was active in the BSU honors program, and received the top score from Idaho on the recent CPA exam.
Top 10: For ladies only

BSU may have its share of outstanding male students, but in 1989 the Alumni Association's best and brightest are ten women. These seniors represent academic excellence and Boise State at its best. Here is a look at our Top Ten scholars, who have named the instructors who were most influential to them.

Jerry B. Cowley,
Boise, is a senior English/secondary education major. A paper she authored was selected for the 1989 undergraduate literature conference at Weber State College. She serves as treasurer for Sigma Tau Delta, the National English Honors Society, BSU chapter. Honored faculty members: Glenn Selander, assistant professor of English and Adrien Taylor, Jr., library science instructor.

Lisa K. Geisler,
Boise, is a senior elementary education major. She is employed as an assistant teacher at Children's School, Boise. She received the Case Education Scholarship for 1988-89. She has been on the dean's list every semester of attendance and received the Scope Scholarship for 1983-84. She received the Department of Education Scholarship and the Teacher Education, Library Science, and BSU Bookstore Scholarship for 1986-87. In addition, Lisa received the All University Scholarship in 1987-88 and is a recipient of the BSU Wives and Women Scholarship. Lisa is the daughter of Arny Skov, a BSU professor of art. Honored faculty member: Phyllis Edmondson, professor of teacher education.

Claudia Moberly,
Boise, is a senior elementary education major. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and has been named to the dean's list. She received the Teacher Education Scholarship and the Case Education Scholarship. She won second place in the President's Essay Contest in 1987, and is a member of the BSU Honors Program. Honored faculty member: Thel Pearson, associate professor of teacher education.

Pamela Noble, Emmett, is a senior elementary education major. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and has been named to the dean's list. She received the University Bookstore Scholarship and the Gladys Langroise Scholarship, and has won the President's Essay Contest in 1988, and is a member of the BSU Honors Program. Honored faculty members: Garvin Chastain, professor of psychology, and William Mech, professor of mathematics and director of the honors program.

Debra D. Zipf
Boise, is a senior majoring in criminal justice administration. She is a member of Alpha Phi Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi. She is a recipient of the Richard Stallings Congressional Scholarship and the National Collegiate Criminal Justice Award. She was also named a Scholastic All-American. Honored faculty member: Jane Foraker-Thompson, associate professor of criminal justice administration.

Mari L. Knutson,
Nampa, is a senior elementary education major. She has been named to the dean's list with highest honors six times. She has twice been the recipient of the Gerald and Eunice Wallace Scholarship, and has also been a three-year recipient of the Laura Moore Cunningham Scholarship. She has received the Teacher Education and Library Science Scholarship two times. Honored faculty member: Robert Friedli, professor of education.

Suzanne Mark,
Boise, is a senior elementary education major. She has been the recipient of the BSU Bookstore Scholarship, the Teacher Education and Library Science Scholarship twice, the Alpha Delta Kappa (Beta chapter) Scholarship twice, and the Case Education Scholarship twice. Honored faculty member: Karen Ritchie, assistant professor of teacher education.

Debra L. Mathews,
Grand View, is a senior majoring in English/secondary education. She is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society and Phi Kappa Phi. She won the President's Essay Contest in 1987. She presented a paper at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference in 1988 and will present another paper this year. Honored faculty member: Debbie Kiser, adjunct faculty member, English.
ART

John Killmaster presented a workshop on architectural enameling processes in April to the Wichita, Kan., Art Association. In June, Killmaster's work was showcased on the cover of Glass on Metal magazine, published by the International Enamelist Society. His accompanying article, "Steel Repousse and Granular/Color Spray Techniques: An Extension of Sgraffito/Grisaille," documents his research into new enameling techniques.

Killmaster's work is also in a national traveling exhibition of contemporary enameling, "Color and Image: Recent American Enamels," presented by the Gallery Association of New York State.

ADMINISTRATION

John Franden was named to the Idaho Centennial Commission by Gov. Cecil Andrus. The commission will supervise the observance of 100 years of statehood, culminating on July 3, 1990. Franden will serve on the commission until May 1991.

SOCIAL SCIENCES & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dean Robert Sims spoke at the graduation banquet of the Snake River Japanese-American Citizens' League in Ontario, Ore.

HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECREATION

Steve Wallace, a former basketball player at Ricks College, was inducted into the Ricks College Athletic Hall of Fame this spring.

SOCIAL WORK

Arnold Pantich has been awarded a Canadian research grant to study immigration settlement patterns in Quebec.

PAVILION

Dexter King was named Facility Director of the Week in May by The Performance Magazine, an industry trade publication.

MUSIC

Madeleine Hau was an adjudicator in May at the Arizona State University Music Festival, Tempe, Ariz. Hau's article, "Canadian Composers: John Weinzweig," was published in the Jan./Feb. 1986 issue of Piano Guild Notes.

BIOLOGY

Richard McCloskey presented the results of a two-year research project, "Facilitator Stress Levels When Leading Environmental Education Activities and Discussions in Adult Resident Camps," in April at the American Society for Environmental History biannual national conference in Olympia, Wash.

McCloskey also led the session "Proven Techniques for Providing Feedback" for 30 outdoor program leaders from the Northwest at the Intermountain Environmental Educators Regional Leadership Workshop.

Graduate student Michael Hunt Jones received the "Best Graduated Paper" award in the Plant and Animal Studies session for his presentation at the Idaho Academy of Sciences meeting last fall. "Habitat Mapping in Mauritius Keetrel Territories" was based on his work with the Mauritius Wildlife Appeal Fund and The Peregrine Fund on the island of Mauritius. Jones will present the same paper at the American Institute of Biological Sciences meetings in Toronto in August.

Jones' wife Jody Carter, also a graduate student, this summer is working for the state of Oregon researching marbled murrelets on the Oregon coast.

Other graduate students in biology have also made recent presentations: Dawn McAnulla and Robin Spahr gave talks at the Northwest Science meetings this spring, and Chuck Turley presented a paper on his work in Tihal National Park, Guatemala, at last fall's Raptor Biology meetings.

PERSONNEL

Jane Kimm Buser has been elected chairperson of the board of directors, Capital Educators Federal Credit Union.

HISTORY

Todd Shallit has had two articles accepted for publication: "Building Waterways: Science and the Army in Early Public Works," in the University of Chicago's Technology and Culture; and "Engineering Policy," in the University of California's Public Historian.

SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Richard Baker was awarded a third Canadian research grant to study recent Italian immigration in Montreal. His research will focus primarily on adaptation and ethnicity retention of immigrants.

Baker has also conducted research on Eastern European immigrants in Boise and has had two papers accepted for publication on that topic.

Jane Foraker-Thompson presented a paper titled "Birth and Life of Peace and Environmental Groups Amidst the Radical Right" at the North American Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution held in Montreal this spring. In April she helped coordinate Idaho's fifth annual Victims' Rights Week and presented the workshop "Detecting and Responding to Child Abuse."

ATHLETICS

Ed Jacoby was named NCAA District VII Track and Field Coach of the Year and the 1989 Big Sky Conference Men's Coach of the Year.

COUNSELING CENTER


PSYCHOLOGY

Linda Aanooshian presented her paper "Identifying and Remembering Pictures: Developmental Trends for Implicit and Explicit Memory" at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in April.

Chuck Turley has received a Faculty Research Grant for his study "Exploration of Implicit and Explicit Remembering by Children and Adults."

Wylle Barsems served as program chairperson for the Idaho Psychology Association, which met recently in Sun Valley, and was also moderator for the legislators' luncheon on children's issues given by the association in February.

Barsems spoke to widows and widowers at a Living Again program at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center on "The Anxiety Connected with Loss." She also conducted a March training session for the Head Start program on "Value Decisions in Leader Training."

Steven Thurber has been appointed to a three-year term on the editorial board, Child Clinical Psychology section of the American Psychological Association newsletter.

Thurber has had three co-authored articles published recently: "Antecedents of Gregariousness," "An Apron Model," and "The Cognitive Distortion Model of
TEACHER EDUCATION

Robert Bahruth recently attended the International Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Convention in San Antonio, Tex. Bahruth has published a curriculum guide for teaching English as a second language to students in grades six to 12.

Michael Guerin and Jeanne Beuvene presented a workshop on "Teaching Adolescents How to Learn" at the International Reading Association annual conference in Boise. The workshop was based on a video instruction program that they developed in 1987.

Pat Bieler recently gave a presentation on Basque history to the Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers. Bieler was an evaluator-humanist for the Idaho City Basin Gold Centennial celebration and has written a chapter about Basques for the Idaho Centennial book on ethnic groups in Idaho. In addition, he has published an article on Basques in the Intermountain West for the Rocky Mountain Almanac.

Bieler served as a panelist for the conference on Ethics in Society conference this spring at BSU, and has recently presented seminars on teaching to the Idaho Cosmetology and Idaho Emergency Medical associations.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Gregory Raymond has had two articles accepted for publication: "Going it Alone: America and the Accelerating Decay of Alliance Norms" will be published in the Harvard International Review. "Polarity, Polarization, and the Transformation of Alliance Norms" will be published in Western Political Quarterly.

Raymond was also the recipient of the 1989 Outstanding Faculty Award for the School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. The award is presented by the Associated Students of BSU.

In April Gary Moncrief presented his research paper, "Electoral District Characteristics and State Legislator's Backgrounds" at the 1989 Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago. Moncrief has been elected to the executive council of the Western Political Science Association.

Steve Sallie presented his research paper, "The Syndrome of Dependency: Oppression, Repression, and Depression in the World-System" at the conference of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilization held in May at the University of California-Berkeley.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In June, Gary Moncrief served as director of the Idaho Municipal Clerks Institute, which conducts certification training for municipal clerks under the auspices of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Speakers for the institute included BSU professors John Freemuth, Janet Mills, Rick Leahy and Susan Brendler.

David Patton will join the faculty in July. Patton is currently completing his Ph.D. at the University of Utah, where he serves as training and development coordinator at the Center for Public Affairs and Administration.

Patton has served as senior management analyst and chief labor relations negotiator for the Office of the Salt Lake City mayor.

James Weatherby has been named director of the Public Affairs Program and will join the faculty in July. Weatherby served as executive director of the Association of Idaho Cities prior to his appointment.
A Message from the BSU Foundation Executive Director

By Bob Fritsch

After two months at BSU, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on my experience thus far and look to the future. While my schedule has been quite hectic, filled with new acquaintances, forming new friendships, and trying to orient myself to a beautiful part of the country, I’ve been left with several impressions.

First and foremost has been the warm and friendly way I’ve been accepted by the BSU community. Everyone—the president, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and many others—have gone out of their way to welcome me and make me feel at home. It leaves me with the impression that despite its size, the hallmark of BSU is its attention to the individual. This focus is the basis of the university’s educational programs and what takes place in the classroom.

Secondly, I’ve been impressed with BSU President John Keiser’s vision for the future of the university and the critical and vital role it plays in the Northwest. As the city and region continue to grow and prosper, BSU will assume an ever-increasing leadership position in the development of the intellectual capital upon which the future of the region is based.

I think this point is highlighted by the recent New York Times article featuring the “dynamic” city of Boise. That article addresses the critical role BSU plays in the region. As Keiser accurately points out, every great city is based around a great university. There is no doubt that this is true of Boise and BSU.

Needless to say, as a newcomer, I am awed by the natural beauty of the region and the quality of life available to all citizens of the state.

As I look to the future of BSU and the Foundation, I can only be excited by the vast potential that exists. In reviewing the history of BSU, I am left with the impression of tremendous growth and vitality. In terms of higher education, BSU is relatively young, but its attributes far exceed those found at many other institutions.

However, continued growth will require the hard work and dedication of everyone on campus and generous support from the university’s many loyal alumni and friends.

I look forward to working with all members of the BSU community to enhance an already quality institution and help it reach its potential as a key player in a region that is fast becoming an economic power in the United States.

Bob Fritsch became executive director of the BSU Foundation May 15, 1989.

Phonathon ’89

BSU students will be calling alumni in October and November

Giving Notes

- Boise Cascade Corp. has donated $2,000 to the accounting department.
- John and Katherine Best have donated $2,000 to establish the John Best Orchestral String Scholarship.
- Mr. and Mrs. James McClary have donated $2,000 for unrestricted use.
- Lourayne Klingensmith has donated $15,000 to the Library endowment in her name.
- The BSU Alumni Association has donated $50,000 to the Blue Thunder Marching Band for scholarships.
- The Idaho Business Review has donated $1,000 to establish a Vocational Technical New Student Scholarship.
- Hazel DeMeyer has donated $16,000 to establish the Albert and Hazel DeMeyer Nursing Scholarship.
- Burroughs & Hutchinson has donated $1,000 to the Library collection endowment in its name.
- Broadway Merchants Association has donated $500 to the university’s general scholarship fund.

Year of the Student Campaign

In keeping with BSU’s ongoing attention to the individual student, the BSU Foundation is conducting the Year of the Student Scholarship Campaign to raise $1.5 million to attract and retain outstanding students. President John Keiser has declared 1989-90 as The Year of the Student at Boise State.

Keiser pointed out that BSU loses many quality students to out-of-state institutions because of lack of scholarship assistance. “It is these students who will provide future leadership for the state,” Keiser said. “It’s important that we have the ability to compete with other institutions for these students.”

Robert S. Fritsch, executive director of the BSU Foundation, said the fund-raising effort will be conducted in three components: corporations, friends, and alumni.

Ed Keane, CEO and president of Key Bank of Idaho, has assumed leadership of the campaign. “Support for this effort will ensure the university will be able to compete successfully for the most promising students. In return, BSU will provide the Treasure Valley and Idaho with graduates skilled in the technical competence of their chosen field and prepared for leadership roles in the professional community,” Keane said.

The alumni and friends phase of the campaign will be completed in person, with direct mail, and through the annual phonathon conducted in October and November. Kim Philipps, assistant director of development, said this year’s phonathon will focus on raising money for scholarships. “The need to help our students financially is of critical importance. Many of the students who will be calling our alumni would not be able to attend BSU were it not for scholarship aid.”

Individuals who are interested in endowing scholarships or providing scholarship support through outright gifts or in their estate plans are encouraged to contact Fritsch or Philipps at the BSU Foundation, (208) 385-3276.
The Snake River Plain
From the top of Old Juniper Kipuka a solidified sea rages in all directions. Huge swells of titanium blue rise up against the island. Waves of stone stand motionless.

This is the source, in essence, of the Snake River Plain. During the last 15 million years, from Weiser to Ashton, fractures have opened in the earth and lava has poured out. Rope-like coils of pahoehoe lava, shining iridescent blue. Black rubble fields of aa lava. Red cinder cones. These features are obvious at Craters of the Moon and along the Great Rift, which encompasses this national monument. Two thousand years ago, hundreds of vents along the Great Rift erupted with molten magma, covering all but the highest points of land — now known as kipukas, islands in the sea of lava. Elsewhere, the volcanic origin of the Snake River Plain has been obscured.

Windblown soil has buried the lava, providing the farms for Idaho’s famous potatoes. Communication antennas sprout from the age-softened tops of cinder cones and volcanoes. Highways glide effortlessly over craters and lava pressure ridges.

But from the densest concentration of nesting raptors at the Birds of Prey Natural Area to the densest concentration of nuclear reactors at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, the natural and human history of the Snake River Plain originates in the volcanic vents.

The Snake River Plain is a crescent-shaped volcanic plateau extending 400 miles across southern Idaho, from the Tetons on the east to the Oregon border on the west. Bounded on the north by mountains of the Idaho batholith and basin and range, the plain tilts gently southward, terminating just south of the Snake River.

The Snake River rides atop the lavas in its eastern headwaters.

As the river flows west it slices 500-foot gorges through the successive layers of basalt, plunging over waterfalls.

For more than 200 miles across the northern Snake River Plain not a single river or stream makes its way to the Snake River. The porous lavas soak up rivers borne from the snowmelt of the mountains to the north: the Lost River Range, the Lemhis, the Beaverheads, the Pioneers. The Big Lost River winds through a high mountain valley and then sinks out of sight when it leaves the sedimentary rock of the valley and enters the Snake River Plain. Rivers and streams like the Big Lost River percolate down through the gas bubbles, fissures and fractures in the basalt to feed what is one of the largest and most heavily used aquifers in the country.

Geologists estimate the Snake River Aquifer holds enough water to flood the state of Idaho under a 4-foot sea. This water cruises along in a southwesterly flow at 5-25 feet per day, following the rubbly spaces between flow layers and coursing through lava tubes. A portion of the aquifer bursts free of its subterranean captivity in what was once a spectacular series of waterfalls cascading from the lava cliffs above the Snake River in the Hagerman Valley. Most of these springs are now siphoned into electricity-producing turbines or funneled into hundreds of concrete raceways where 75 percent of the country’s commercial trout are reared.

Geologists have an incomplete understanding of what created the Snake River Plain, admits BSU geology professor Spencer Wood. The prevailing theory links the plain with a “hot spot,” a source of intense heat deep within the Earth’s surface. As the North American continent drifted westward, says Wood, what
is now southern Idaho began passing over the hot spot. The intense heat raised the Earth's crust like a great blister. Explosive volcanoes burst to the surface. Then, as the plain passed the hot spot, the crust cooled, the blister began to sink, eventually dropping some 20,000 feet. Basaltic magma, meanwhile, began rising to the surface of this depression. During the last 15 million years successive lava flows have filled the depression 5 miles deep. The hot spot now lies beneath Yellowstone National Park, which is itself a massive caldera - a crater formed by a volcanic explosion dwarfing Mount St. Helens. Geologic changes on the Snake River Plain, while dramatic and occasionally explosive, took place over millions of years. Not so with human-caused changes. Despite its seeming lack of development, the Snake River Plain has been drastically altered by Western civilization. "I think the thing that's astounding is the rapidity of change on the Snake River Plain," says BSU geographer Elton Bentley. "We in essence started with Lewis and Clark in 1806, followed by the mountain man era of 1811 to about 1835."

Although there were perhaps only 200 mountain men hunting and trapping on the Snake River Plain, says Bentley, "they were instrumental in eliminating the great herds of bison that were here." The last Snake River Plain bison was killed in 1840 near Pocatello, says Bentley. Similarly, bighorn sheep, elk and bear were driven off the plains into the mountains.

The first Oregon-bound wagon trains began crossing the Snake River Plain in 1836. Says Bentley, "By 1843 the people on the Oregon Trail were complaining that the Snake River Plain marked the most difficult and critical part of the trip. From Independence, Mo., to Oregon, the Snake River Plain was the part they most dreaded." In the seven short years of Oregon Trail traffic, says Bentley, "the grasses were gone, the wood supply was gone and the water holes were dried up." Diarists from the Oregon Trail complained of axle-deep dust, no game to hunt and no grass for the livestock.

Yet, says Bentley, accounts of the plain from the early 1800s describe "a relatively lush plain of bunch grasses waving in the wind like an ocean." Trees filled the draws and wildlife was plentiful. "The favorite interpretation of all this is the climate changed," says Bentley. But, he argues, "There isn't any evidence to support that." Rather, he suggests, this dramatic change in such a short amount of time "tells us the Snake River Plain is a very fragile physical environment."

To the Oregon Trail settlers, the plain was a place to leave behind, and the sooner the better. To stay on the plain, says Bentley, was tantamount to suicide. Only with the coming of the railroad, he says, were people willing to homestead, to give farming a try. With the train, says Bentley, "You could afford to come and look, and if you didn't like it, leave. People knew they could always get back on that train and go back or go west."

But the settling of the plain really accelerated with the federal water projects that allowed farmers to irrigate the dry desert lands. American Falls Dam, the Boise Water Project with its New York Canal, the Milner Dam - all these projects made possible the dream of turning the desert green.

Irrigation was initially tied to the Snake River and the canals that siphoned off its waters. But in the 1950s the first irrigation well was drilled into the vast Snake River

Opposite left: Wild strawberry colonizes tiny fractures in pahoehoe lava on the Great Rift lava flow. Above: Old Juniper Kipuka, covered with yellow balsamroot flowers, is an ancient caldera surrounded by younger lava flows. Left: Trout farms in the Hagerman Valley, tapping the Thousand Springs, supply 75 percent of the nation's commercial rainbow trout. Glenn Oakley photos
Aquifer, and a second irrigation boom was on. On the wings of cheap, subsidized electricity, the Snake River Plain became one of the richest agricultural regions in the nation.

What was once considered a wasteland fit only for jackrabbits, rattlesnakes and sagebrush blossomed with fields of potatoes, wheat, barley, sugar beets and alfalfa. But there has been a price to pay for this development, both cultural and environmental. "Things happened so fast that people didn't even have time to name the roads," says Bentley. "There was no history. The old timers were the ones who arrived the year before." Even today, says Bentley, "There doesn't seem to be a sense of permanence."

Indeed, the towns and farms that sprung up so quickly on this volcanic landscape are already undergoing major changes. Railroad farm towns are dying. The rising cost of electricity is placing a sometimes unbearable strain on farmers who must pump their irrigation water up the walls of the river canyon or from deep within the aquifer.

And demand for water now exceeds the amount available on the Snake River Plain. Future irrigation water withdrawal from the aquifer and the river has been limited in a compromise between the State of Idaho and Idaho Power Co., which has a significant water right on the river. Irrigation has historically superseded all other uses of the Snake River. Fish, wildlife, electricity production and recreation have all been subordinated to irrigated farming. Except for seepage through cracks in the Milner Dam west of Burley, the entire Snake River is diverted into the Northside and Southside Canals. The Snake River is shut off, its bed of carved black basalt dry as a bone. Shoshone Falls, a mammoth cataract higher than Niagara Falls, has for the past three years had but a trickle of water pouring over its sides. And the Snake River Aquifer has begun dropping under irrigation withdrawals.

But all problems with the aquifer are not associated with removal of water. The injection of contaminated water has produced some of the most emotional and troublesome environmental problems in the state. The most widely known problem has been the injection of radioactive wastes into the aquifer at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. From 1953 to February 1984 the Chemical Processing Plant at INEL injected an average of 1 million gallons per day of radioactively contaminated water down a 600-foot deep well.

INEL officials said dilution in the aquifer, radioactive decay and the bonding of some radioactive elements to the basalt made the injection of no harm to the aquifer outside the boundaries of the INEL site. Nevertheless, under increasing pressure from the state and environmental groups, INEL stopped using the well in 1986. Now, radioactive wastewater is dumped into ponds and allowed to percolate into the aquifer. By 1991, INEL spokesman John Walsh says, the ponds should be lined to prevent percolation. Solid radioactive wastes buried with no containment provisions provide another source of concern for contamination of the aquifer. Plutonium has been found 210 feet deep in the basalt.

Farmers tapping the aquifer and river have expressed concern over the safety of the water. But it may well be that the most serious threat to the aquifer comes from the farmers themselves. Across the plain excess irrigation runoff — contaminated with herbicides, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals — leaches or is injected right back into the aquifer. Buried gasoline tanks at service stations, farms and businesses have leaked, creating literally explosive situations when the gas-contaminated groundwater surfaces in wells, schools, hospitals and homes, says Cheryl Grantham, groundwater supervisor for the State Water Quality Bureau.

Farmers have additional problems on the plain. Increasing electricity costs will probably continue to drive them out of business, suggest Bentley. "There'll always be agriculture on the Snake River Plain, but I think what you'll see in the next 30 to 40 years is a refinement," he says. More sophisticated irrigation systems and water conserving cement-lined ditches will be increased. Marginal areas may be abandoned.

Bentley says human occupation on the plain has occurred in
waves. First the wave of trappers, followed by the wave of wagon trainers. Then the wave of farmers.

"I guess the new wave is the interstate," says Bentley. "Truckstops and motels and service stations and shopping centers. It's almost like the interstate is sucking the vitality from the towns. I don't think we're building a landscape that will survive."

Of course the Snake River Plain has its own agenda. Lava will flow again, says Wood. The next eruption may occur in a thousand years, or the year after next. We will have warning. Harmonic tremors, vibrations ringing through the rock of the plain, will let us know the next wave is coming. The sea of stone will rage again.

Snake River book planned

Several Boise State faculty members are combining their expertise for a comprehensive book on the Snake River Plain that will be published in conjunction with the Idaho Centennial. "Volcanic Lands: The Snake River Plain and Its People" is being edited by history professor Todd Shallat and Robert Sims, dean of the School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs.

"It will be an interdisciplinary publication that encompasses 17 million years of the Snake River Plain's geology, geography, archaeology, history and politics," says Shallat. "It will be well illustrated and targeted for a broad public audience." Contributors from BSU are archaeologist Mark Plew, geologist Elton Bentley and political scientist John Freemuth.
Summer in the Snake River canyon. Waves of heat rise as the river sparkles under a clear blue Idaho sky. A golden eagle circles, soaring above the canyon rim and over the desert scouting for jackrabbits.

A typical spring day in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area 20 miles south of Boise. The 482,640-acre SRBOPA is home to the densest nesting population of raptors in North America, perhaps the world. Each year, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, long-eared owls and other birds head for the canyon to mate and rear their young.

Created in 1980, the SRBOPA is geographically unique in that the birds can circle high over the desert to hunt and then fly down with their prey to feed hungry young in nests lining the canyon walls. What is not unique to the area is controversy.

Agricultural interests have eaten away valuable shrubland, repeated fires have blackened thousands of acres and construction projects create noise and confusion in the heart of the desert. These modern-day dilemmas pose the most serious threats to raptors at the SRBOPA, says Boise State University biologist Marc Bechard.

By eliminating shrub cover vital to the birds' primary prey, Townsend ground squirrels and jackrabbits, cultivation strips the raptors of their most valuable hunting grounds.

There are no acres under cultivation in the SRBOPA itself, but lands to the east near Twin Falls have been cleared and heavily irrigated on both sides of the Snake, thus eliminating potential hunting grounds for the raptors.

And though agriculture presents a problem for the birds, construction and fires loom as much larger issues in the SRBOPA. An expansion program under way at the Orchard Training Area is a particularly volatile topic.

The area, which occupies one-third of the SRBOPA, has been used by the Idaho National Guard as a tank and training facility since 1953. The guard recently began work on a $13.7 million project to construct tank and ammunition storage buildings, improve the target system and upgrade eight miles of roads. The project, expected to be complete in November, has generated a considerable amount of public comment, both locally and on a national level.

The Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that oversees the SRBOPA, received several thousand letters last year on the proposed improvements. Despite widespread public concern about the project's effects on wildlife, the BLM gave the guard the green light.

In an open letter, the BLM said, "We concluded that construction of the proposed projects will disturb a total of 24 acres of the 483,000-acre area, and will have a negligible impact on raptors or their prey." The BLM OK'd the project, however, with the understanding that unprecedented research be undertaken to assess the impact of guard activities.

A four-year, $4.7 million study has been proposed that would include at least eight individual projects, says Barry Rose, BLM public affairs specialist. Planning has begun on the studies, which range from nesting and radio-tracking evaluations to a raptor inventory. These studies would be conducted by federal and state agencies, universities and private contractors.

Funding remains in limbo. The BLM would like to get started Oct. 1 at the start of the federal fiscal year, but it first must wait for Congress to appropriate money for the study. Rep. Richard Stallings has asked Congress for $672,500 for the BLM to begin the study, and the guard has requested $805,000 from the Department of Defense. A decision was expected from Congress this summer.

The BLM and the guard have worked together on SRBOPA management plans for years. In 1979 they reached several agreements up for renewal every five years that limit firing hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during prime nesting March 1 to June 30.

The hours, which significantly cut into firing time during the guard's busiest training period, were "agreed upon because it
was thought to be beneficial to birds of prey,” says Capt. Kurt Von Tagen, range control officer. “It’s better to be safe than sorry,” he says. Von Tagen is also proud of the guard’s improved firefighting capabilities. Fires were allowed to burn uncontrolled until three years ago when the guard began to station fire trucks on the range. Four trucks are presently on call, ready to respond to blazes within minutes.

Further, tank movements in the training area have been restricted to established roads or, when traveling cross country, spread out to avoid repeated tracking in sensitive areas. “We want to make this area beneficial for training with the least amount of impact,” Von Tagen says. “We don’t want the area torn up. If a certain area is abused, it cannot be used.”

The guard is doing its best to make environmental awareness part of each soldier’s training, says Marjorie Blew, training site environmentalist. Blue gives programs on the use and abuse of the area to the more than 1,000 soldiers who train on the desert each year. She also conducts studies of Townsend ground squirrels, oversees a shrub rehabilitation project and coordinates research efforts with the BLM and other agencies.

BSU political science professor John Freemuth, a public lands expert, sees the Orchard Training Area conflict as being part of a larger issue pitting national defense and the need for training against a host of other “external political values,” including agriculture, the environment, interest groups and elected officials.

Boise raptor expert Morlan Nelson, who has monitored birds of prey in the Snake River Canyon for more than 40 years, agrees. He questions the rationale behind the Orchard Training Area project and another recent proposal to expand the Saylor Creek Gunnery Range at Mountain Home.

“I do think there should be a national question of expanding the land use when there is no war in sight,” says Nelson, a World War II veteran. “In terms of peace and the problem of nuclear war, do we really need this nationally?”

Further, the damage caused by tank treads, critical habitat lost to road building and fires started by tracers have been devastating to the birds, he says. Tank firing at the range is an obvious danger, Nelson says. “You can’t have an eagle or a falcon go out to get something to eat when they’re out firing guns.”

Regardless, the guard views itself as a friend of the raptors. “We like to think of ourselves as stewards of the land,” says guard spokesman Lt. Mike Gallaher. “My personal feelings are that we are the best neighbors the Birds of Prey area can have.”

Without data to back them up, many scientists are unwilling to address guard activities at the SRBOPA. Though they may haggle over the effects of noise and tank activity, landscape blackened by fire is universally seen as the largest destructive force in the area.

In the early '70s, 40-50 fires burned about 200 acres per year at the SRBOPA, says Mark Hilliard of the BLM’s Boise District. By 1986, he says the damage had escalated dramatically to 130-160 fires covering 1,000-1,500 acres. In the last decade, fires have burned more than half of the SRBOPA.

The primary culprits are lightning and a volatile, non-native annual called cheatgrass that blankets the range and chokes out the native grasses. The SRBOPA is largely open range, with cattle roaming freely across the landscape. Overgrazing in the last several hundred years has taken a heavy toll on the native grasses. As a result, cheatgrass and its vicious cousin, medusahead wild rye, have taken over the range.

And where cheatgrass grows, wildfire follows. The fires’ effects on the raptors is not immediately known. Hilliard says, however, fires destroy shrubs and “when you lose shrub cover,
The BLM is taking steps to combat the devastation with rehabilitation measures that include reseeding, transplanting and green-stripping projects, which involve replanting an area with native and exotic plants to act as a fire break.

Hilliard says repeated burning and the seemingly impregnable cheatgrass are taking their toll on the range. "It's going to get worse before it gets better," he says.

By early July, many of the fledgling birds of prey will have left their nests in the Snake River canyon. They will have stretched their wings, learned to fly and taken off for their fall and winter ranges.

The canyon will be quieter. But what of the SRBOPA? Will its future be serene or rancorous?

Completion of the four-year study that awaits funding is critical to future management of the Snake River Birds of Prey Area, experts say. Other studies under way at the area — such as two being conducted by BSU raptor biology students Dawn McAnnis and Helen Ulmschneider — will also provide needed data.

The studies will provide experts with the tools they need to make decisions in the best interests of the birds. Whether the results will be integrated into the area's management plan remains in question.

Kochert is confident that they will. "I truly feel that the recommendations will be followed. I am optimistic," says BLM biologist Mike Kochert. "Absolutely," assures Nelson, who says the hue and cry will be loud and clear should the study's results be ignored.

BSU's Freemuth isn't so confident. "It all depends on when the study comes out, who's in charge of the BLM and the state of the local economy," he says. "It all depends on what the philosophy is of the land managers at the time and whether their political superiors agree with them."

And he expects to see the area grow in popularity as more people realize how valuable the land and the raptors are to Idaho's way of life.

"People are starting to say: Look at these lands, isn't it neat?"

He foresees problems with increased recreational use and the encroachment of residential areas on the SRBOPA. And he hopes the land managers and land users are ready to meet the challenges of the future and protect the Snake River's birds of prey.
The Jim McClure watch has begun. Although the coalition of Idahoans seeking to have Craters of the Moon National Monument changed to a national park appears to be inching closer to its objective, observers say the state's senior senator could stall the group's efforts.

And those advocating the necessary legislation for Craters' national park designation are doing so with a certain amount of exigence. That's because they hope to have the area become the nation's 51st, and Idaho's first, national park next year to commemorate the state's Centennial.

Although Craters of the Moon is already under the management of the National Park Service and steps to make the area a national park in 1990 would be relatively easy, supporters contend the legislative process must begin soon.

Craters of the Moon Development Inc., the primary organization behind the move to make the area a national park, has its champion in U.S. Rep. Richard Stallings, who is scheduled to introduce legislation as early as August. Sen. Steve Symms and Rep. Larry Craig are expected to support the measure. It's a different story, however, with McClure.

"Watch McClure," advises Boise State political scientist and parks expert John Freemuth when asked what it will take to have Craters of the Moon become a national park by 1990. "He's the key card in the deck... If he questions park designation and is able to mobilize support for his point of view, then maybe it won't happen in 1990. But if he says, 'I've thought about it and they [park designation supporters] have addressed my concerns and I think it's a good idea,' then you might see it in 1990."

Thus far McClure has taken a wait-and-see attitude. According to Pat Sullivan, an executive assistant in McClure's Boise office, the senator wants to consider two points. First, does Craters of the Moon meet the exacting standards required of America's national parks? And second, will park designation affect hunting and grazing in the area?

"Yes, there are resource values on that land," Sullivan comments, "but we're looking to see... whether those resource values meet what the Park Service considers national park material. We also want to ask if a national park would inhibit [livestock] trailing that goes through that area."

To find those answers, McClure's office has funded a study by the National Park Service "to find out exactly what limitations will be placed on the land should it become a national park," Sullivan says.

Freemuth points to an earlier preliminary study by the National Park Service that says certain features of Craters of the Moon area are suitable as an addition to the national park system. "But it was their conclusion that it lacked the diversity of features generally associated with a national park and that it should remain as an expanded national monument," he says. "This study, however, was only a preliminary and superficial analysis."

Such obstacles have not deterred those who believe a national park would enhance Idaho's reputation and showcase the Snake River Plain's unique landscape. And support seems to be growing. According to Rupert businessman Glen Allen, Craters of the Moon Development Inc. chairman, the concept is supported by "virtually all communities and counties in southern Idaho, from Preston to Boise, as well as many business, agriculture and government leaders. It's not just one group."

Like most of those pushing for a park, Allen is hoping and waiting for McClure's endorsement. "I think we can get it done [by 1990] if he jumps on our bandwagon," Allen says.

A careful approach to the Craters of the Moon debate, Sullivan says, is the proper approach. "Jim McClure is not opposing it," Sullivan says. "but at the same time he wants to be absolutely sure as to what it entails. I know some people get frustrated with us, but I have told them that [the senator] wants to go through the right process, to determine the viability of the idea and to check his concerns."
Nuclear Fall Out

Weapons factory plans for INEL spark debate

By Glenn Oakley

The menu board in Arco’s best late-night diner welcomes you with this historical information:

First city in the world lighted by atomic energy.
July 17, 1955.

Pickle’s Place is also home of the Atomic Burger, which the waitress will tell you is, “Just like a regular burger. But with mushrooms.”

Arco is situated on the edge of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, and the people of Arco, like most Idahoans, have been proud of the atoms for peace research conducted at the federal site. They have known that INEL has also been working on atoms for war throughout its 40-year history. But that part of INEL has been discreetly overlooked — until the Special Isotope Separator and the New Production Reactor came along.

These two nuclear weapons-producing facilities proposed for the southern Idaho site have ignited an intense debate over the safety, necessity and morality of INEL’s nuclear program. Should Idaho welcome the SIS, a facility that will turn commercial-grade plutonium into the stuff of bombs? Should the state welcome the NPR, a facility that will create tritium, a highly radioactive gas necessary to trigger those nuclear bombs? Will INEL become the new Rocky Flats, the nuclear weapons factory of America? And is it even Idaho’s decision to make? Even with the latest congressional action stalling SIS funding, the proposal remains alive, and the question of INEL’s role remains.

As explained in a socio-economic report for INEL by Idaho State University, “Originally established in 1949 as the National Reactor Testing Station, the site was a place where the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission could build, test and operate various types of nuclear reactors, allied plants and related equipment with maximum safety.”

“Maximum safety” at the time meant isolation — lots of land with few people. “The original siting of the INEL was based on the expediency of having open space,” says Clay Nichols, assistant manager for projects and energy programs at INEL and a former BSU geology professor. It was a place where mistakes could be made and the most toxic substances known to man could be used and dumped, with few people knowing or caring about it. While there are more people living in Idaho today than there were 40 years ago, the region still has a far smaller population than, say, Denver, which is near the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons site. That facility, raided this June by the FBI for illegal disposal of radioactive materials, is slowly being decommissioned for safety reasons.

Officials say that despite the purely expedient siting of the facility, INEL has turned out to be an environmentally safe and sound location to conduct nuclear research. Many see a prosperous future in nuclear weapons research and production. But not everyone agrees. Undoubtedly the most troubling environmental concern for Idahoans is the integrity of the Snake River Aquifer, which flows beneath the INEL. From 1953 to 1984, radioactively contaminated water — some 1 million gallons per day in the latter decades — was flushed down a 600-foot well directly into the aquifer. The aquifer, one of the most heavily used underground water systems in the United States, supplies drinking water for cities and towns, irrigation water for farmers and water for the trout farms of the Hagerman Valley.
The well was shut down in 1986. Radioactive wastewater is now poured into ponds where it is allowed to percolate into the aquifer. In addition, nuclear waste, buried years ago at the site with no provisions for containment, is working its way down toward the aquifer.

Among the waste is 25,000 gallons of plutonium-contaminated carbon tetrachloride, buried in steel barrels that INEL officials assume are now rusted away, according to a report by the Twin Falls Times News. The newspaper also discovered that from 1954 through 1969 the site received and buried 216 tons of uranium, 808 pounds of plutonium and 33 pounds of americium. More than half the waste buried before 1970 was packed in cardboard boxes, INEL contractors say.

"We've recognized things can be done better and we've eliminated a lot of those things," says INEL spokesman John Walsh. But, he says, "Nothing has left the site beyond EPA drinking water standards. And we don't expect it will ever." SIS project manager Phil Hamric says flatly, "We have not fouled the Snake River Aquifer." Hamric says the radioactive waste in the aquifer has either been diluted to harmless concentrations or has been bound to the rock beneath the INEL site.

But critics counter that because the radioactive wastes remain toxic for such a long time, there is no guarantee the contamination will ever leave the INEL boundaries. These critics argue that existing waste should be cleaned up before additional waste-producing facilities are considered. BSU geology professor Monte Wilson says, "These plants [SIS and NPR] are scheduled to produce tremendous amounts of incredibly toxic materials. There's no way to store this stuff. In the history of the human species the longest civilization has only lasted 1,000 years. We're talking a quarter of a million years [toxicity of waste]." Wilson poses the question, "Should we be burying this stuff in the Snake River Plain, which has frequent eruptions, has frequent earthquakes and has water running through it?"

INEL officials say most of the waste will go to nuclear waste dumps in New Mexico or Nevada. And they say the Snake River Plain is geologically stable. The plain, says Nichols, is "an aseismic area," meaning that it has little or no earthquake activity.

Again, there is disagreement. Citing environmental and technical problems with the Waste Isolation Pilot Project dump site in New Mexico and the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada, Wilson says radioactive waste disposal is by no means solved. "In fact they don't know what the hell to do with it," he charges. Both he and fellow geology professor Spencer Wood agree that the plain is geologically unstable. "You couldn't pick a worse place" for the storage and testing of radioactive materials than the Snake River Plain, says Wood. The plain, says Wilson, is bounded by mountain ranges that are prone to large and relatively frequent earthquakes, the last being the Borah earthquake of 1983. While the plain itself has relatively few earthquakes, says Wilson, "the map on the Department of Energy's own environmental impact statement shows that there have been magnitude 4 and 6 earthquakes on the Snake River Plain." In addition, he says the plain has a history of repeated lava eruptions. Wood says it is not a matter of if, but when, the next eruptions will occur on the plain.

Wilson conducted a geologic review of the SIS's environmental impact statement for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an organization that has recently filed suit against the DOE for failure to address all pertinent issues in its impact statement. Wilson notes that his professional review was "unpaid by choice, for the same reason I have never wanted an INEL-sponsored contract. I don't want to be construed as supporting them for monetary gain or opposing them for monetary gain."

Wilson says the draft environmental impact statement "was so incomplete it did not constitute a complete document for public scrutiny." Responding in large part to Wilson's observations, 71/4 pages were added to the final statement's geologic section. But still, says Wilson, the DOE assumes "an unrealistically low estimate of potential impact of earthquakes." Within the last 100 years, says Wilson, 10 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater have occurred in close proximity to the INEL site.
In its impact statement, the agency assumed an earthquake of magnitude 7.25 with an epicenter 30 kilometers away for its worse-case scenario. But, says Wilson, "In their own report they say there are earthquakes of 7.5 in the area." The 1983 Borah earthquake registered 7.3 on the Richter scale. Earthquake magnitudes are logarithmic and thus, says Wilson, a 7.5 earthquake would be three times stronger than a 7.25 earthquake. The most likely fault to slip next, creating an earthquake, is the Mackay Segment, which lies within 18 kilometers of the proposed SIS site, says Wilson, noting that that information comes from the EIS. Other highly seismic zones are within 10 kilometers of the site, says Wilson.

Nichols counters that the Borah earthquake did little damage to structures at INEL, proving that seismic events "stop at the edge of the plain." Wilson says, "It is true the rocks of the Snake River Plain tend to dampen out the waves [from earthquakes]. But if you're going to have a major earthquake within 15-20 kilometers of the site, it doesn't give much room for those waves to attenuate."

Wilson says INEL has also glossed over the likelihood of volcanic eruptions on or near the site. Wilson says the danger of vulcanism comes not from the reactors, which could be shut down, but from the radioactive waste stored and buried at the site. "Imagine you've got an impending eruption and you don't know where all this stuff is buried, which apparently they don't."

If molten lava came spewing out near the INEL site, says Wilson, radioactive wastes could be volatilized. "Clouds of volcanic ash and steam contaminated by plutonium and other radioactive toxins could cause severe pollution of the air, soil, surface water and groundwater."

Nichols says "There hasn't been vulcanism there [at INEL site] in at least 30,000 years. ... The vents which once fed INEL are considered dead and inactive."

Says Wilson, "I don't think there's evidence to suggest that it's dead. Their period of observation is far too short to say that. All the word 'inactive' means when you're talking about a volcano is that it hasn't erupted in historic times."

While the scientific and safety merits of the site have long been fodder for debate, few have questioned the beneficial economic impact of the INEL. But Charles Skoro, chairman of the BSU economics department, says job creation through SIS and NPR is "a myth."

INEL is the single largest employer in the state, excluding state government itself. INEL's budget for 1989 is $793 million. Through a variety of contractors, the site employs some 11,000 people with an annual $318 million payroll. "If you take 11,000 jobs and you put them anywhere in Idaho it's going to help the economy," says Skoro. But from a national perspective, he says, "it's actually job reduction."

"In order to pay for that [SIS or NPR] you take taxes from everyone and use it to create bombs that sit in a silo." Furthermore, says Skoro, "We don't see it as an economic bonanza to the state of Idaho to have [nuclear waste] sitting in eastern Idaho."

He adds that, "If you can have somebody inject a couple of grapes in Chile and nearly ruin their economy, even a rumor of a spill" in southern Idaho could have devastating consequences for the state's agriculture and tourism industry. He also notes that in the environmental impact statement for the project, "There was no information whatsoever on the economic impacts of a spill or accident."

The final EIS, in response to such criticism, countered that, "For those accidents considered in the EIS ... the resulting releases of radioactivity are not of sufficient magnitude to require costs for mitigation. ... Potential economic costs were ... therefore not included." Skoro says he was originally asked to participate in the economic study portion of the impact statement. But after Skoro said he would do so only, "if it's understood up front that it would be a complete one," with no limitations, he was never called back.

"The answer you give depends on the question you ask," says Skoro. "And the question they ask is what effect do all these jobs have on southern Idaho. That's obvious." It is the unasked questions that concern Skoro. "You can read that whole darn thing and still have no idea about the likelihood of a spill on the road," he says.

"A lot of these projects only make sense if you don't include the cost of cleanup," says Skoro. In fact, cleanup costs of existing waste at INEL - 2 million cubic feet of radioactive waste buried between 1952 and 1970 and plutonium loose in the ground - are estimated at $2 billion.

Skoro says his experience with the SIS project has convinced him that the public debate process, including the environmental impact statements, "are not meaningful." Rather, he says, "They are little rituals that we in society go through. The really meaningful questions were not asked."
Just how much say does the public have in these issues where national security looms with such authority? Much of the information upon which public debate focuses—such as the amount of plutonium stockpiled by the U.S. military—is classified. Energy Secretary John Herrington told Congress in 1988 that the nation was "awash in plutonium," thus there was no need for an SIS. He has since retracted that statement.

Public hearings held throughout the state on the SIS and NPR brought mixed response. Residents of the Idaho Falls area, where the jobs would be created by the projects, have overwhelmingly supported the SIS and NPR. Residents in the Magic Valley turned out in overwhelming opposition, spurred by fears of contaminated groundwater and air. Yet hearings are not referendums. "Can you say that the public makes a difference?" asks BSU political science professor John Freemuth. "It depends." With the continuing support of Idaho's entire congressional delegation and the state's governor, Freemuth says the INEL projects have all the in-state political blessings they need. But, he adds, "If you saw an incredible outpouring against SIS, then citizen activism could make a difference." Twin Falls County Republican chairman Mark Stubbs, publicly chastised by Sen. James McClure for opposing the SIS, quoted the senator as saying, "opinion in the Magic Valley could be the pin that bursts the bubble."

"INEL has been looked on so favorably by DOE because of the community support," says INEL's Walsh. "It's eroding away a little bit because of the activism of the environmentalists and anti-nuclear people."

BSU sociology professor Richard Baker, a former board member of the anti-nuclear group Snake River Alliance, is one of those people trying to chip away at INEL's weapons production. Yet he says that after the SIS hearings, many Idaho members of the peace movement were considering boycotting the NPR hearings because they thought the first set of hearings on the SIS was a "charade." Baker says only a limited number of issues are open for discussion in the public hearings and environmental impact statement process. The broader issues, he says, are not discussed. "The ultimate absurdity," says Baker, "is that in the environmental impact statement for a factory to create bombs that would destroy the world, that scenario is not even discussed."

Similarly, morality is not addressed in the process, notes Baker. "They won't touch it with a 10-foot pole." What role should ethics play in the debate over SIS and NPR? Skoro suggests, "It's at least worth asking [about morality] when your community relies on making nuclear weapons. How do you explain Christianity and Jesus to a kid when you go off to work in a nuclear bomb factory every day?"

The final environmental impact statement made note of the moral arguments, but responded, "While DOE is sympathetic to these concerns, moral and psychological impacts are not within the scope of the . . . process and accordingly are not included in the final EIS for the proposed SIS project."

The morality issue is dealt with at the election box, says Hamric. "We strongly support the policy to disarm. . . We want to get rid of the stuff. It's scary." But, he adds, "It seems to me the nuclear deterrent policy has deterred world war for 40 years." NPR spokesperson Susan Steiger likewise suggests the morality issue has been answered in the elections. "You can look at Bush's election as support for a strong nuclear deterrent," she says. Given that the United States has a policy to manufacture nuclear weapons, she says it is irresponsible for citizens of Idaho to oppose the SIS and NPR. That, she says, is a "not-in-my-backyard syndrome not appropriate for any citizen." Says Hamric, "We carry out the policy of the Congress and the President and that's why we're here." And Hamric says it is "a little bit silly" to isolate nuclear weapons production as an evil. He says many Americans share in the support of the military, from clothing manufacturers who sew uniforms to potato farmers who feed barracks full of soldiers.

Hamric says some former practices at INEL, such as burying radioactive waste with no containment provisions and releasing radioactive gases in the atmosphere, were acceptable at the time. Those practices, he contends, have been remedied. "The world has been processing plutonium for 40 years. We know how to handle it," he says. "We think we've designed enough safeguards and we can keep the public from getting hurt."

Wilson considers these arguments and responds, "They say that and then you find out that they have to abandon their Savannah River site and their Hanford site and their Rocky Flats site because it's so mucked up they're afraid to work there. . . . They always talk about state-of-the-art, but as time goes on they find new problems they didn't know about before."
People of the Plain

Archaeologists trace the lives of early cultures

By Amy Stahl

Turn back Idaho's clock for a moment. It's the Pleistocene era, about 15,000 years ago, and the weather patterns have changed. It's getting colder and as ice fields grow, oceans are lowering. A land bridge has formed between what is now Siberia and Alaska, enabling people and large mammals like elk, bison and camels to migrate to North America.

That is the scene archaeologists have set for the first human inhabitants of Idaho. Using artifacts excavated from ancient sites, scientists have pieced together a rich and fascinating tapestry of human life in Idaho along the Snake River Plain.

The earliest evidence of human habitation in southern Idaho — about 15,000 years ago — is at Wilson Butte Cave, northeast of Twin Falls. In his book An Introduction to the Archaeology of Southern Idaho, BSU archaeologist Mark Plew says "some of the earliest evidence for a human presence in the New World was found at the site." A basalt knife and bone fragments excavated when the site was discovered in the late 1950s suggest that people frequented the area and that they used caves as temporary shelters. The early people, categorized by archaeologists as being part of the Paleo-Indian tradition, were big-game hunters who stalked their prey with stone tools crafted from obsidian.

These were people who shadowed the movements of the large animals they relied on for their primary source of food. Their lives were simple, but Plew says they may have witnessed one of southern Idaho's great geologic spectacles: the Bonneville flood.

What is now a dammed and tamed waterway, the Snake River became a raging torrent 15,000 years ago when Lake Bonneville spilled over from northern Utah into southern Idaho. Car-sized boulders became little more than pebbles tossed by the river as it carved the canyon into the plain.

The prehistoric people were also witness to a change in the climate as the weather warmed and the glacial ice melted. The camels, sloths and elephants that once roamed freely across the plain were succeeded by modern bison, deer and antelope. As forage grew more sparse and game became more scarce, the ancient people of the plain altered their diets and habits to reflect the changing environment.

Plew points out, "People were making choices and developing tools to exploit the changes." Rather than rely exclusively on big game, the people of 7,000 years ago — the early Archaic period — began to look to the desert and river for plants and fish to supplement their diets. At the Wasden Site northeast of Pocatello, early inhabitants were found to have developed specialized tools, including grinding stones used to mill seeds. They also used more sophisticated strategies for hunting big game. According to Plew's book, one scientist "suggests that the Wasden Site was used as a natural corral for bison which were killed and butchered there."

As technology advanced, so did other aspects of early culture. The early people produced material goods in the form of simple clothing and woven baskets and they developed the atlatl, a spear-throwing device that made hunting more efficient.
During this period 7,000-5,000 years ago, inhabitants of the Snake River Plain are thought to have moved more frequently from the river across the grasslands to the foothills to better utilize food sources available during different seasons.

The historic Shoshoni Indians, exemplifying this cyclical pattern, headed to the more temperate canyons during inclement weather to hunt, fish for salmon and take advantage of more plentiful firewood. In the late spring they traveled 50 miles to the Camas Prairie where they collected the newly bulbous canna and other root crops. Here, they also hunted for smaller animals such as ground squirrels and traded goods with others on the prairie.

In the early fall, the Indians returned to the canyon to harvest salmon that had made their way up the Columbia River from the Pacific Ocean. Anticipating the lean months ahead, the Indians dried and smoked their catch and stored it in caches to use during the bitter winter months.

Excavations along the Payette River, in the Weiser area and in the Owyhee uplands show that while inhabitants were supplementing their diets with fish and plants, they also continued to hunt for bison and other big game.

The “interface between the Plains and the foothills” is of particular interest to Plew, who recently completed a six-week dig at Danskin Rock Shelter on the South Fork of the Boise River. Plew hoped to develop an “environmental history” of the area’s plants and animals in order to gain a better understanding of the prehistoric people who fished, hunted or lived at the site.

During the middle Archaic period 5,000 to 1,000 years ago, prehistoric people were spending more time in small villages by the river. At Givens Hot Springs near Marsing, archaeologists have found remnants of house structures and along the Payette River temporary workshops and hunting camps have been unearthed.

Seasonally, as the people followed their food sources along the plain, there was more interaction with other groups as they manufactured and traded goods and engaged in burial rituals.

The discovery of western Idaho burial sites by BSU archaeologist Max Pavesic is particularly important to understanding this period of human interaction and development in southern Idaho. In the Idaho Archaic Burial Complex, Pavesic has found blades, marine shells from the Pacific Coast, hematite pipes and red ocher, a pigment often used for native American Indian ceremonies. The items, some of which originated thousands of miles away, “clearly suggest that there was some sort of social interaction in the Archaic period,” Plew says. Additionally, the contents of “high-ranked” burials indicate the existence of a more complex social structure, with privileged members of the egalitarian society being buried with more valuable items.

During the late Archaic period 1,000 to 1,500 years ago, early people increasingly put technology to work along the river, using net sinkers and hooks to snag their fish. Some of the people lived in small villages, and with a predictable food source and increased storage capacity became more sedentary, a significant departure from the nomadic ways of earlier periods when people roamed the prairies following game.

In the upper Snake and Salmon river areas, inhabitants were increasingly using rock alignments, or hunting blinds, behind which they could stalk their prey undetected.

A Minidoka area farmer stumbled into this prehistoric world in 1985 when he discovered a lava tube near his farm that contained the remains of 17 bison. The bison bones indicated that early inhabitants hunted the animals and used the caves as a butchering site during the winter months.

An extraordinary site that was relatively undisturbed, the caves also contained ceremonial objects, awls and several types of projectile points in addition to the bison bones, providing a rich picture of the diversity of late Archaic life.

During the Equestrian period 700 years ago, some of the people of the Snake River Plain moved more easily and rapidly from higher elevations down into the canyon. They owed this increased mobility to the Spaniards who had re-introduced the horse to North America. With horses also came firearms, which enabled the Indians to hunt with relative ease and speed and permitted them to trade and expand their economic base.

The Snake River Plain has undergone remarkable changes in 15,000 years. What had been a cool and drizzly land evolved into a hot, dry desert. The Bonneville flood carved a deep canyon, sinking the Snake River into the plain.

As the climate and geography changed, so too did the plants and animals. Adapt or perish, the native people altered their lifestyles within this shifting world. Archaeologists, fascinated by the changing world of these early people, continue to comb the land seeking artifacts that are the clues to early life of the Snake River Plain.
New Writers of the Purple Sage

Literature finds its roots in the landscape of lava

By John Streiff

There has yet to be a history — fiction or not — written about the broad alluvial plains of Idaho’s Snake River that has reached the stature of Mark Twain’s book on America’s mightiest river, *Life on the Mississippi*.

But then, Twain’s voice stood practically alone in the 1880s. People were too busy pioneering the “frontier” to occupy their time reflecting on the virgin landscape, or commenting on collective social consciousness and behavior patterns.

Now, 100 years later, a cadre of writers live in southern Idaho, well within the watery reach of the mighty Snake, who can hardly ignore this brusque, yet tender landscape that quietly surrounds their thoughts.

Who are these hardy and often pioneering talents driven by the common love and lash of literature? Although most people associate names like Ernest Hemingway, Vardis Fisher or Ezra Pound with the literature of Idaho, there is an abundance of home-grown talent writing today.

Names like Embree, Durham, Ardinger and Chatterton roll off the tongue and down the dusty road to recognition. Wyndham, Reedy, Minskoff and Studebaker lap at the shores of consciousness, awakening the Homeric muse slumbering beneath the blue Idaho skies.

Their task is simply to state their minds and souls, and they have done so with eloquence.

Surrounding much of their poetry and prose is an overwhelming aura of place, a subtle but kinetic consciousness referred to in some quarters as provincialism. But it is this organic sense of living landscape that provides such a large scope to their writing; it is a necessary backdrop that helps define a particular breadth and depth within a poem’s sense of time or a story’s line of action.

*The Snake: Mad River of the West,* a book in progress by BSU professor emeritus Wayne Chatterton, is just such an example of how powerful an effect landscape imagery has on the imagination. Recollecting his youth, he writes:

“The floor of the plain was the most desolate country I had ever seen. Aside from a bare and leaf-like hill of strange red stone in one corner of town, rock formations were mainly porous black basalt with bread-knife edges and bayonet points. It chewed its way out of the sagebrush in upended slabs and plateaus that shivered into geometric shapes and piles, as though arranged by a demented cubist.”

Raised on the plains of the Snake River in eastern Idaho, Chatterton successfully swirls the reader through images of a powerful river that has demanded the author’s respect and awe, and leaves him to contemplate its ultimate meaning, as he does here while writing about the dam at American Falls:

“Standing on the dam I could feel through the soles of my feet the compressed and impatient water. Tireless, the river bunched its muscles against its concrete prison. Every inch and atom of its weight leaned downstream. I could hear and feel a churning under the surface, a prying along seams and into corners. The water swelled constantly upward, downward, and outward for 25 miles upstream, at which point the current of the downstream moving river met itself coming back.”

As the Snake River rolls west toward Oregon and the Pacific Ocean, so does it fertilize outposts of creativity. Along the way, output from small presses, college teachers, hardy literary activists living in sparsely populated communities or on isolated farms are accepted by the “river god,” much like the imagery Fisher used to describe the landscape of an ancient people in his novel, *The Divine Passion:*

“The gods of Rabi’s people lived in groves and glens, in meadows, in the verdant bottomlands, in rivers and trees, whereas the gods of darkness wandered in the wilderness and the wastelands where the dwarfed plant life had fangs and the creeping things had venom. The benign gods were never found far from the trees ... Evil was out in the waste spaces where this lunatic took his solitary way, where no trees had gone forth ... in the desert there were no sacred wells springing up in song, no rivers of eternal life, nor gods who were life-givers; but the accursed was there, and the evil.”

The descriptive prose of his novels...
Her 1987 selection of stories published by Harold Wyndham's Blue Scarab Press in Pocatello cannot restrain the feeling of openness that her ideas of landscape generate. In a story about a young lady who had the same name as a local prominent, geological outcropping, "Molly's Nipple," Durham evokes the joyous spirit that the environment gives to those who partake of its natural glory:

"Well, I thought, 'if it feels good on my top, how about my bottom?' And I took off my Levis and panties. Now I can't tell you the wonder of lynin' on the top of that mountain with the wind whistling up the crevices. Above me a universe of blue sky, below me wild rivers and mountain ranges stalked the Idaho Primitive Area. I felt good. I stayed like that as long as good sense would permit. I wasn't about to burn up or freeze. I wanted just that perfect high of afternoon sun and wind."

Wyndham himself, has also written of the symbiotic relation between thought and nature — in this case water — in his poem, "On The Portnen":

"The water fills my thinking, pulling me apart/into the gentle and disconnected noises, willow leaves/blowing against each other, bubbles and splashles, the sun broken into jagged bits on the water, so that I relax completely, even the desire for enormous trout smoothed out and washed away.../A golden eagle circles overhead."

Interstate 84 (formerly Interstate 80), a concrete and asphalt lifeline that mimics the Snake River's course through southern Idaho, also gives one an offramp into imaginative literature. From a poem called "U.S. 80," Boise poet Alan Minskoff gives life to the desolate view that every traveler undoubtedly sees and feels during any long haul across the desert between Boise and Pocatello:

"A rare tumbler escapes, a blue blast of air/floats it up, drops it down, At Thousand Springs/white torrents flow/out of porous white/rocks and a solitary/skimmer stands on the rim/above the canyon, like a man watching/his blood run."

Twin Falls resident William Studebaker also evokes this mingling of the far horizon with humanity in words from his poem, "Yes Nipple."

"What he sees is a woman./She is stretched out/like the desert./Her belly is flat and firm./Her breasts rise/buttes in the distance./Why they don't sink&level off/like everything else/is the mystery/she always leaves/wit her men."

If the literature from this area smacks of "provincialism" with its obvious references to Idaho's varied landscape, so be it. New York is not exactly what these native authors are celebrating.

Readers (and writers) will always have opportunities, at least through Penelope Reedy's Redneck Review of Literature (based in Twin Falls), to either contribute to, or keep abreast of current Idaho and Western fiction, essays, poetry and book reviews. The Redneck Review is an intelligent collection of "local" writing. Iconoclasts such as the late Edward Abbey have appeared on its pages — a sure sign that no fool's gold will be found in this genuine Idaho publication.

If you need to write to your friends about Idaho's literary finds, trace your thoughts out on the exquisitely produced poetic post cards from Rick Ardinger's Limberlost Press. Not only do they offer proof of Idaho's continuing and rich literary tradition, but just mining the different facets in this poetic collection becomes a satisfying cultural reward. All of these authors are alive, projecting a very personal rapport to their audience. Their warmth of personality expels any doubt about their friendship.

Idaho writers not wanting to wait for posterity to decide their fate will be pleased to know there is a place where their creativity will live on. Literary works by both struggling writers and established authors living in Idaho are now being cataloged and preserved by the Idaho Writers Archive, a project sponsored by Boise State University's Hemingway Western Studies Center and coordinated by Chuck Guilford of BSU's English department.

The Writers Archive will continue to collect older material as well, consolidating the state's past literary heritage with the current generation of Idaho writers who continue the honored and traditional role of creating a distinct literature of Idaho. Through the establishment of this archive, Idaho's unique literary voices will at least no longer be silenced by the winds of obscurity or condemned to a desert of neglect.

[Image: Chuck Scheer illustration]

Chuck Scheer illustration

draws many parallels to the countryside near Hagerman, which was home to Fisher for nearly the last 30 years of his life. The rough-hewn but beautiful landscape of southern Idaho is always present, if not in words, then atmosphere in nearly all of Fisher's important novels.

And it is this broad, expansive and nearly metaphysical atmosphere that is prevalent in the literature of the southern region. A brusque, but thought-provoking poet from Pocatello, Bruce Embree succinctly captures this feeling, even as it pushes past the ironic imagery of the last two lines, in his poem, "Outside":

"Yes and it's quiet outside/You could hear a steer drop."

Leslie Lee Durham, yet another literary force from the Pocatello area, invokes a slightly different attitude toward the mixture of humanity and nature in her poem, "Holding The Tin-Type":

"Fingers to tin-type/we fade to rays/of belly-full moon./Arms linked in round dance/with sisters at chant/of Galena Summit. Antelope Flat/women holding women/with breath of sage and pine/\n\n\ndancing wind/into days/of big sky."

John Streiff is a Boise free-lance writer.
Like most accomplished writers, Wayne Chatterton is an image maker. He strives to create mental pictures and concepts, evoke emotions and stimulate the imagination with his words. Chatterton will tell you good creative writing doesn't just spill forth; the process of shaping the right words into the right sentences is toilsome and tedious. Chatterton knows whereof he speaks. It so happens his current effort is perhaps his most challenging.

The author of several critical biographies of Western American writers and numerous articles in literature publications, Chatterton is merging his literary skills with his knowledge of Idaho to write a historical book about the Snake River.

"But it isn't really history, it's the story of the people who came into contact with the river," explains Chatterton, a professor emeritus of English and American literature at Boise State. "It's intended to read much like a novel."

And therein lies the challenge: While the style is designed to be romantic and adventurous, the approach is historiographic. "It has been very difficult to write because what you have to do is deal with history and then transmute it into personal experience," Chatterton says. Most of the book's contents are culled from in-depth research of journals and other literature and interviews with descendants of those whose lives were influenced by the Snake River. In fact, one episode that relates the narrowing experiences of an expedition that traversed the river in the 19th century has supplied Chatterton with a tentative title — *The Snake: Mad River of the West*.

"I've interviewed people whose families have grown up on ranches and farms along the river from way back, and these experiences have gone into making up the book. It's amazing stuff. But you have to be careful not to distort what you have because you're projecting yourself into the people in the book. . . . All of a sudden it ceases to be history and becomes a psycho-sociological adventure. You have to be awfully careful because you're tempted to make it dramatic. You have to pull yourself back and say, 'Now wait a minute, is this really justified?'

Given his intent to maintain accuracy, Chatterton was asked if photographs would help authenticate the book.

"It's not a picture book," he replies. "The job that pictures do I'm going to try to do with words. I don't want it to be a coffee-table book, it's a literary effort. We haven't got one like that yet on the Snake."

Chatterton started writing the book in the late 1970s, but the idea was hatched a few years earlier when he discovered that fellow Boise State English professor John Beckwith at one time had planned to write a book on the Snake River for the Holt, Rinehart & Winston "Rivers of America" series.

According to Chatterton, Beckwith, now deceased, was teaching at the University of Idaho before World War II when he and a colleague agreed to write the book. When the United States entered the war, however, the book was shelved and Beckwith's contract was not renewed after the book lapsed.

When Beckwith related the story of the unwritten book to Chatterton around 1970, he decided to pick up where his colleague had left off. "If you're going to have a series of books on the rivers of America, you have got to have one on the Snake," says Chatterton, who retired from BSU in 1982. "So I went ahead and worked on a proposal and sent it to the editors of the series."

Holt, Rinehart & Winston's initial response was favorable and Chatterton was asked to "work up a couple of chapters," which took nearly a year. But the editors eventually decided to abandon the project, Chatterton says, because a coffee-table book on the Snake River was already on the market.

"So there I was plugging along on the book since about 1975 or 1980 and I've been plugging along ever since," Chatterton says. "I'd say right now it's about half done."

Chatterton, 68, estimates it will take another four or five years before the book is complete.

Although the majority of the book's contents are culled from research and interviews, Chatterton is adding a personal perspective in the opening chapter, "A Boy, A Man and a River."

A native Idahoan, the Snake River has been with Chatterton most of his life. And his fascination with the Snake is reflected in his writing and the way he gives the river human qualities in the closing paragraphs of his opening chapter.

"Now I see that the river was like me in many ways," he writes. "It started out small, in high and lonely altitudes. It was young, carefree, shallow and a little reckless. It had no particular responsibilities except to keep going wherever nature guided it, and it certainly was no burden. . . ."

"In the years since those magic days I have seen where the river goes. I have stood on its banks in so many places I cannot remember all of them. So I feel that I have seen the river in its every mood and condition. Yet the next time I look at it, I see and sense complex changes in its disposition. Every experience with the river is different from all the others."

"Never take this river for granted. It can change as you watch it, and the changes might be subtle and soothing or violent and frightening. It is an enigma within a mystery."

"During my lifetime along the Snake, the river has taught me something about the rivers in our lives: each river is all rivers, everywhere and forever."
Epilogue

By Glenn Oakley

America has treated paradise with a less than gentle hand. So what could be expected when America encountered the Snake River Plain, a harsh and often foreboding landscape?

The first reaction to the Snake River Plain by settlers was to avoid it if possible, but cross it quickly if one had no choice. Today, 150 years later, the sentiments of most travelers are probably the same. Interstate 84 has replaced the Oregon Trail, and air-conditioned cars the covered wagons. But the plain remains something to endure and leave behind — to get to greener, more hospitable lands to the west or east.

Most of us know the Snake River Plain from what can be seen through car windows at 65 miles per hour or more. We dread the drive from Boise to Mountain Home, the longest 40 miles on earth. But what we see is a landscape so overgrazed and so frequently burned that the vegetation has been reduced to fields of dried cheatgrass. It takes a quick eye to see Malad Gorge as one drives over the bridges that span this chasm. The most spectacular part of the gorge lies beneath the bridges.

Even those who live on the Snake River Plain seem to have their eyes fixed elsewhere. Maybe it’s the paintings of lush forest scenes in a Hagerman Valley restaurant. Or a mural of the Sawtooths on a building in Shoshone. But the plain itself seems to be discounted, disregarded.

It has been treated with ruthless pragmatism: A land this harsh was not to be treated with compassion. If something could be put to use, it was, and to hell with aesthetics. Thus were the Thousand Springs of the Hagerman Valley sucked from the cliffsides in great steel tubes to feed turbines and fill trout hatchery raceways. Thus were the Hagerman Fossil Beds, considered one of the best Pleistocene fossil sites in the world, cut in two by a high-lift irrigation pump.

Thus were American Falls, Twin Falls and Shoshone Falls dammed.

Thus was American Falls, Twin Falls and Shoshone Falls dammed.

Thus was the eastern Snake River Plain used as a military gunnery range.

Thus was the eastern Snake River Plain used as a military gunnery range.

Not all is rotten on the Snake River Plain. There are some lovely towns to be found. Craters of the Moon may become Idaho’s first national park. The Hagerman Fossil Beds have some protection now as a national monument. And there is growing pressure to clean up the radioactive trash buried throughout the INEL site. There’s hope yet.

But it seems the prerequisite for living benevolently on the Snake River Plain is simply fixing it, appreciating the land for what it is. A June night on Bear Paw Kipuka may change some minds and win some hearts. The scent of sagebrush hangs heavy as the moon rises against a limitless horizon. Miles of lava shine in the moonlight. And on this island of land, grown lush with flowering balsamroot and serviceberry, it seems that the beginning of creation may be only moments away.
Alumni Survey
Coming Soon

Alumni will soon be receiving an important alumni directory questionnaire in the mail. This is being sent to give every alumnus the opportunity to be accurately listed in the upcoming Boise State University Alumni Directory.

Please be sure to complete and return your directory questionnaire as soon as possible.

Once received, your information will be edited and processed by our publisher, Harris Publishing Co. Inc. We hope more than 30,000 of our alumni will be included in the new directory.

If you don’t return your questionnaire, you may be inadvertently omitted from the directory. So don’t take a chance . . . watch for your questionnaire and return it promptly.

Career Network lists 150

The BSU Career Network was created earlier this year after many students and alumni expressed an interest in career counseling and placement assistance. The Career Network booklet, which lists more than 150 alums, has been assembled and distributed by the Alumni Office.

Its mission is to link alumni with BSU students who have questions regarding their field of study. The Career Network also serves as a career placement service for new graduates.

The network has rapidly expanded and includes alumni who are educators, attorneys, veterinarians, therapists, economists, accountants, dentists, nurses, and business people involved in marketing, advertising and banking.

Some prominent alumni who are members of the Career Network include Idaho Lt. Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter, corporate vice president and director of Simplot Inc.; Michael Hoffman, international filmmaker, director and screenplay writer; Pat Fleenor, author, lecturer and professor of management at the Albers School of Business at Seattle University; and Larry Chase, general manager of KIVI Channel 6 television.

BSU students and alumni who wish to join the BSU Career Network or obtain a free copy of the booklet may contact the BSU Alumni Office, (208) 385-1959.

Nursing alumni organize

Alumni of Boise State’s nursing program are establishing a chapter of the BSU Alumni Association. The goal, says nursing department chair Anne Payne, is to improve communication among the 2,000 alumni who have graduated from the nursing program.

Payne says the group is just beginning to organize, but a fall reunion, a newsletter and other professional activities are already being planned.

One of the first goals of the new chapter is to locate “lost” alumni who no longer receive FOCUS or other university mail, Payne adds.

Nursing graduates who want more information about the chapter can contact Payne at the BSU Department of Nursing, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725.

Champagne corks pop Sept. 9

Toast your favorite team Sept. 9 at the annual pre-game champagne reception hosted by the BSU Alumni Association. The party begins at 4:30 p.m. on the terrace of the University Quay Building, across Broadway Avenue from Bronco Stadium.

Alumni, boosters, students, faculty and staff are invited to drink champagne, listen to live entertainment and get psyched up for the season’s first home football game, pitting the BSU Broncos against Stephen F. Austin State. Kickoff is at 6 p.m.

The reception is free. Call Karin Woodworth of the Alumni Association at 385-1959 for additional information.

You can be our reporter

Have you moved, changed jobs, been promoted, received an award? . . . you get the idea. The news in your life is of interest to other alumni. Please let us spread the word in FOCUS.

Send news items about yourself or your classmates so we can include them in the next issue of the magazine. And, while you are at it, please send us a correct address.

Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________
City, State, ZIP ______________________________
Occupation __________________________________
Employer __________________________________
Year graduated from BSU __________________
News item ________________________________

Sent by ________________________________
Four named ‘distinguished’

One directs a worldwide construction company. Another is a film director. Another is a globe-trotting academic and consultant. And another is a corporate historian and researcher.

They are the four selected this year to receive BSU’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

Honored at the annual Top Ten banquet were:

William Agee, who returned to his native Boise last year as president of Morrison-Knudsen Co. He received his associate degree from Boise Junior College in 1958. “My roots are deep in this city and state. To come back and see the progress made at the university exceeds expectations. The wildest dreams of 20 years ago have been more than realized,” he said in accepting the award.

Michael Hoffman, a 1978 graduate in theatre arts and BSU’s first Rhodes Scholar, produced his first film while a student at Oxford, England. He has since directed three other feature films, and is currently working on a fourth.

Last semester he was a guest lecturer at Boise State.

“Boise State has at its core the best of what the West is all about. It is a place where you have a sense of possibility. You can ask why can’t things be done . . . not all universities give you this,” he said.

Patrick Fleenor is a professor of business at Seattle University. The author of 10 books, he lectures and consults in Europe and the Far East. A native of Jerome, he received a marketing degree from Boise State in 1969.

Anne Millbrooke, from Ocean Park, Wash., now lives in Hartford, Conn., where she is a corporate archivist and historian for United Technologies Corp. She also is an adjunct professor of history at the University of Hartford.

The award is sponsored by the BSU Alumni Association as a way to recognize achievement in the university’s family of alumni.

Reunion Set for Onate Group

Participants in the first Boise State University Campus Abroad Program during the 1974-75 school year in Onate, Spain, will celebrate a 15-year reunion Aug. 18-19 in Boise.

Friday night’s activities include a cocktail party and dinner at the Onate Restaurant in Boise. On Saturday there will be a barbecue and picnic. If you have not been contacted, please write: Onate Reunion Committee, 3049 Law Ave., Boise, ID 83706, or call (208) 342-4896 or (208) 467-2615.

1950s

Robert E. Bakes (AA, ’52) was sworn in to a four-year term as the Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court.

1960s

Milan Kaldeberg (AA, ’62) was awarded the Certificate of Distinguished Performance for earning one of the highest scores on the December 1998 Certified Management Accountant examination.

1970s

Sue N. Mooney (BA, music, ’75) accepted a position as elementary school principal with the Mason School District in Mason, Wash.

Leah K. Colthorn (BA, music, ’76) was promoted to archivist with the Oregon State System of Higher Education Centralized Activities Unit in Eugene.

Grant C. Jones (BA, history/secondary education, ’78) is the director of communications and administration with the Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Richard Totorica (BBA, accounting, ’79) was promoted to assistant controller of Precision Castparts Corp. in Portland, Ore.

1980s

George Kelley (BS, physical education, ’80) is an exercise science instructor in the department of health and physical education at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C.

Judith R. Elmore (BBA, accounting, ’81) was promoted to assistant manager of the Westgate office of First Security Bank of Idaho in Boise.

Mark D. Wells (BBA, management, ’81) is the regional manager of Dave Systems Inc., in Fairfield, Calif.

(continued on page 42)

Kids can join Little Broncos

Children and grandchildren of BSU alumni, boosters and students may still enroll in the BSU Little Broncos Club. This new program, with more than 500 members, has been implemented by the Alumni Association to acquaint and involve children with Boise State University.

Each Little Broncos Club member will receive a free membership card valid for admission into all club activities, which include the Popcorn and Movies series featuring popular children’s movies, free popcorn and soft drinks; Zoo Day; free admission to a Bronco basketball game and many other activities. Little Broncos Club T-shirts are also available for purchase at the Alumni Office.

For more information on the program, contact the Alumni Office at (208) 385-1959.

Sign up to golf in Twin Falls

The BSU Alumni and Friends Magic Valley Golf Tournament is scheduled Aug. 18 at Blue Lakes Country Club in Twin Falls.

The entry fee of $35 includes green fees, golf cart, golf cap, beverages and a barbecue following the tournament.

Alumni, boosters and friends of BSU are invited to attend. For more information, contact Karin Woodworth at the Alumni Office, (208) 385-1959, or Dennis Ward in Twin Falls, (208) 733-1076.
Hoidal selected president

Carol Hoidal, a business consultant and former Morrison-Knudsen marketing services coordinator, has been named president of the Boise State University Alumni Association for the 1989-90 academic year.

The association includes more than 40,000 members and provides a variety of social, academic, political and fund-raising support services to the university.

Hoidal, who received a bachelor's degree in history from BSU in 1971, has served on the alumni board of directors for six years. She also is president of the Ronald McDonald House board of directors and serves on the PTO board at Jackson Elementary School.

Hoidal's husband, Ernie, a Boise attorney, is the past-president of the Bronco Athletic Association.

As association president, Carol Hoidal would like "to make sure the voices of alumni at Boise State are heard." She plans to assemble a long-range plan to augment one that exists at the university, and invite deans to association board meetings "to keep the board advised on programs within the various colleges and schools."

Hoidal also would like to increase the Alumni Association membership. Last year, she participated in the publication of a new brochure that helped boost membership by 30 percent.

She also was instrumental in establishing the Little Bronco Club, which provides activities for children of BSU students, supporters and alumni. More than 550 children participate in the club's activities, including Zoo Day, films, and refreshments at the annual Tailgate Party.

Other officers elected to the BSU Alumni Association include Mark Literas, First Security Bank, first vice president; Booker Brown, Morrison-Knudsen, second vice president; Tom Blaine, Albertson's Inc., treasurer; June Pugrud, Washington Federal Savings and Loan, secretary; and Bob Beaver, Boise Public Schools, ex-officio.

Those named to the board of directors include: Mike Bessent, Albertson's Inc.; Curt Chandler, Hewlett-Packard; Paula Forney, business consultant; Jeanne Lundell, Lady Green Thumb; Mike Miller, First Security Bank; Kathy Moyer, Meridian Schools; Jolene Ogden, Boise Podiatry Clinic; Ray Oldham, First Interstate Bank; Larry Prince, attorney; Gailan Schuler, Idaho Department of Commerce; and Patrick Sullivan, officer of Sen. James McClure.

BSU Alumni Association regional coordinators are: Gary Likkel, Grangeville; Ivan Rounds, Potlatch; John Shaffer, Reno, Nev.; Steve Lawrence, Portland; Mike Russell, Seattle; Patience Thoreson, Los Angeles; and Michael Staves, San Francisco.

Alums take long way home

For Mike and Lois (Branson) Davis, a two-year teaching assignment in China ended just as the pro-democracy demonstrations came to a brutal end.

Both of the BSU graduates left China after teaching English at the College of Optics and Fine Mechanics in the northern city of Changchun. They were placed there by the Foreign Language Institute, an organization that locates work for U.S. teachers abroad.

Already seasoned travelers within China, the couple now is on a trip through the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They will return to Boise this fall. Mike graduated in 1987 with a degree in communication and Lois is a 1988 biology graduate.

Working for . . . Eyes of the World

By Bob Evancho

Epidemiologist Paul Courtright is waging war against a most formidable foe. Although a world full of medical miracles has done little to alleviate the centuries-old torment of leprosy in many underdeveloped countries, the BSU graduate is among a group of world health authorities trying to bring the disease under control in those afflicted areas.

The 34-year-old Courtright, who specializes in eye disorders, has traveled worldwide since 1984 to battle leprosy and other ocular diseases. In early July, Courtright and his wife, Susan Lewallen, an ophthalmologist, were scheduled to embark on their latest humanitarian adventure—a seven-year study of leprosy in Ethiopia, India and the Philippines for the World Health Organization. The couple will work in Ethiopia for two years before moving on to the other two countries.

In May, Courtright and Lewallen went on a two-week fact-finding mission to Beijing to determine the extent of ocular leprosy in China. Although the couple did witness some pro-democracy demonstrations, they returned to the United States before the Chinese government's bloody crackdown.

The trip to China, sponsored by New York City-based Project Orbis, was designed to introduce a leprosy treatment program for eye doctors in that nation.

"Leprosy causes a lot of ocular problems," Courtright explains. "We are trying to understand is who gets these complications and why."

World travel and altruism are second nature to Courtright. The son of former State Department employee, he has traveled extensively overseas since childhood and resided in and out of Idaho since 1963. After graduating from BSU in 1978 with a degree in elementary education, Courtright joined the Peace Corps and worked with leprosy patients in Morocco and Peru.

Sally J. Thomas (BA, business, '81) was named president and executive director of the newly established Idaho Community Foundation.

Kelly E. Reynolds (BBA, marketing, '82) was named assistant manager of First Security Bank of Idaho in Boise.

Kelley D. Hart (BA, criminal justice, '83) is an adjustor with State Farm Insurance in Idaho Falls.

Larry Compton (BBA, real estate, '85) was promoted to assistant vice president and income property officer in the mortgage production center of First Security Bank of Idaho in Boise.

Jeffery M. Wall (BBA, marketing, '86) completed basic training in Fort Jackson, S.C.

Norman Schlachter (BBA, business, '87) was appointed vice president of finance, treasurer and chief financial officer with Micron Technology, Inc., in Boise.

Robert Hirai (MBA, '87) was promoted to credit department manager for Key Bank of Idaho in Boise.

Barbara Rose (certification, nursing, '88) is working at Sandy Regional Convalescent
patients in Korea. After his two-year commitment was up, he remained in Korea for another year and taught at a school for children of embassy employees.

After his return to the United States, Courtright earned a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University in 1983. In 1984 he was hired by the University of California, San Francisco, to work on projects dealing primarily with the eye disease ‘trachoma’ in Egypt and Tunisia. In addition to his full-time job with UCSF, Courtright conducted some research for Stanford University in Nepal and began work on his doctorate in epidemiology at Cal Berkeley.

Needless to say, he has been busy. "My job brought me to Egypt and Tunisia a number of times," he says. "All together, I spent about a year in Egypt... That has kind of been the pattern for the last few years." Last summer he received his Ph.D., resigned his position with UCSF and married Lewallen. In the fall he returned to Korea with his wife and set up a training program designed to help health workers diagnose eye leprosy problems. Although leprosy is virtually non-existent in the U.S., the disease's dreadful scourge is still prevalent in some places.

"There are 10-12 million leprosy patients worldwide," Courtright says. "It is still a major problem in a lot of developing countries."

The disease often manifests itself in countries such as Ethiopia where the environment—physical and political—inflicts many miseries on its poor.

Recalling his first visit to the famine-ravaged country in 1985, Courtright says the suffering he witnessed and the ill-treatment he received helps him appreciate his homeland.

"Ethiopia has several plights tossed under one roof. First of all is its Marxist political system, which I don't particularly like working within," he says. "The first time I was back there I was arrested and put in jail for no reason. It has a system that does not assist its people and has a problem with feeding its population. These kinds of experiences have shown me how lucky we are as Americans."

Despite those unpleasant memories of Ethiopia, Courtright is eager to return. "We're young and this is a great opportunity," he says. "The world is changing so fast and there are so many things to see."

And it seems his wanderlust never abates. "A group from Australia has asked us to help start an ophthalmology program there and we told them 'yes,'" he says. "That will be after we come back from this current project."

Courtright would eventually like to work at a university to teach and conduct research. Teaching, after all, is where it all began for him.

"A lot of people who are elementary education majors, like I was, have this impression that all they can do is go out and teach elementary school, but that's not true," he says. "My education to become a teacher really gave me a good background to do a lot of other work. Obviously I had to get more training, but the point is that it provided me with the ability to go in and train other people. And now I'm doing it on an international basis."

Gina Wortham (BBA, business, '89) is employed by The Computer Store in Boise as a marketing support representative.

Janet K. Mal (RN, nursing, '89) is employed in the oncology unit at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Connie E. Totorica (nursing, '83) earned her juris doctor from the Loyola University of Chicago Law school and is working as an attorney with Williams & Montgomery in Chicago.

Daniel K. LeBeau (BBA, business, '82) joined the accounting staff of Chen-Northern Inc., an engineering firm in Boise. LeBeau lettered in football at BSU during the 1979-81 seasons.

WEDDINGS

Kimberly K. Lewis and Bradley Smelcer (Emmett) April 8.

DEATHS

Lyle F. Trapp died March 12 in McCall. Trapp taught in the vocational school at Boise College. He retired in 1967.
On June 3 and 4 the People’s Republic of China destroyed its future. A decade of economic achievement and relative prosperity was completely sacrificed in an extraordinary act of genocide. Those responsible were Li Peng, Deng Xiaoping, Qiao Shi, Yang Shangkun and other hard-liners at the top of the Communist Party leadership. The victims of this genocide were thousands of innocent students and Beijing citizens. They were slaughtered in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square by crazed People’s Liberation Army troops who were told that they were saving China from “counter-revolutionaries, class enemies, thugs and hooligans.”

I was in Tiananmen on June 3, the day the PLA began its assault. I went there to locate the contingent of Nankai University students who occupied one small section of the square. I also felt that I was witnessing history and I simply had to see things with my own eyes. Fortunately, I was able to catch the first train out of Beijing to my home in Tianjin only a couple of hours before the mass killings began.

There were perhaps 10,000 or 20,000 students occupying the square. They were living in endless rows of hot canvas tents, eating food donated by Beijing citizens. The students were being cared for by volunteer doctors and nurses who were also living in tents.

The students in Tiananmen were exhausted, overheated, hungry and filthy. As I walked past the tents, many students flashed the “victory” sign at me, or shouted ziyou, mingzhu, (freedom and democracy). Some students were sleeping in the shade, some were in the midst of heated discussions, and others were just walking in the midst socializing with students from other universities around China who were also occupying the square. The volunteer medical workers were spraying disinfectant. Beijing residents were throwing donated items of clothing into a large pile while others were standing around listening to the endless political debates. There were no police or soldiers to be seen anywhere. The atmosphere was unusually calm.

While in Tiananmen, I interviewed many of the students who were camped there. They seemed optimistic that their efforts had not been in vain, that in the long run the Chinese people would be enlightened as a result of their personal sacrifices, and would some day succeed in throwing off their chains. This optimism was symbolized by a 25-foot replica of the Statue of Liberty, which had been unveiled only a few days prior to my visit. It was pure white, with Chinese eyes, and stood at one end of the square boldly facing the portrait of Mao Tse-tung, which hangs above the entrance to the Imperial Palace about 100 meters away.

Despite their optimism, I think the students also realized that the pro-democracy movement had reached its end, that, with the declaration of martial law, the hard-liners had won a temporary victory. In fact, the Tiananmen leadership had already decided to end the demonstration in Tiananmen and return home. But only a few hours after I departed, and after they had decided to leave, many of the same students with whom I spoke were crushed to death beneath the treads of army tanks while they slept in their tents, or blown apart by machine gun bullets, or bayonetted to death, or incinerated when the army cremated both the dead and the injured. And it was not only the students who suffered this tragic fate. Thousands of Beijing residents were also killed while courageously attempting to prevent the slaughter by building human barricades, deflating the tires of military vehicles, and by talking to the soldiers.

I did not hear of the massacre until the morning of June 4. I was listening to a BBC report of the assault with several other foreigners. We sat in stunned silence as the reporter read the account of the atrocities in Tiananmen. Later that morning I spoke with some students who had just returned from Tiananmen and who witnessed the attack. They confirmed everything I had heard, and more. I then returned to my apartment and wrote the following words in my diary.

June 4: Oh God! Oh God! The Party has done the unthinkable! ... Last night the PLA moved into Tiananmen to end the students’ occupation. Tanks, armored vehicles, flame throwers, tear gas, machine guns, hollow point bullets, ... BBC reports 1,400 killed but eyewitnesses say many more are dead. ... How many of the students I spoke to just yesterday were killed? ... Today is the beginning of the end of the Chinese Communist Party. Today the Party has defied the memory of the decades of struggle to liberate the Chinese people from their misery. Today the Party has sacrificed what little legitimacy it had left in order that a few old seigne men, could retain their stranglehold on China. The Party has sacrificed Hong Kong, it has thrown away any possibility of good relations with Taiwan, and has effectively shut the door to all foreign investment. Oh God, the grief I feel. Weeping constantly, feeling emptiness, shock, disbelief, anguish, I will survive, but what of my students? What of my colleagues whose careers will surely be destroyed? ... The China I love has been brutally violated; its soul has been raped. ... My private world has been
destroyed. I have come to feel so closely connected to China, to Tianjin, to Nankai University. I know the streets of Tianjin as well as the streets of Boise. The familiarity, the attachment, the feeling of home, the bonds to China, all exploded in one 24-hour period. . . . I mourn for China, for the brave students of Nankai, the brave hunger strikers in Tiananmen, the citizens of Beijing, the workers. They died for just a taste of freedom.

In recent days I have been asking myself, "Why has this happened?" Only two weeks prior to the massacre, in a speech declaring martial law in Beijing, Li Peng said that "no other government in the world has shown so much tolerance for demonstrators." Until June 3 this was true. Why, then, the sudden turnaround?

For one thing, there was a period of several days, shortly before the declaration of martial law, when the Party had almost completely lost its authority. During this time, there was a free press, and the People's Daily, the China Daily and CATV were freely and accurately reporting the truth about the pro-democracy movement. In fact, reporters from these news organizations participated in the demonstrations.

In Beijing, students politely removed police from their jobs directing traffic and began to direct traffic themselves. Seventy thousand Beijing steel workers threatened to stop work if any hunger strikers died. Beijing residents were turning out in droves to feed and care for the student demonstrators. The 38th Division of the PLA refused to obey orders to clear the square. Several PLA generals even refused to attend a meeting called by Deng Xiaoping, who chairs the Military Commission. The minister of foreign affairs said that he didn't support Li Peng. And while the hard-liners were calling the students anarchists, thugs and hooligans, President Wan Li was describing them as patriots.

In nearby Tianjin, 50,000 residents from all walks of life turned out at the main train station plaza to applaud and cheer demonstrating students, teachers and workers. At one point, the entire crowd spontaneously began to sing the Socialist Internationale in a touching display of solidarity.

It was at this point in the evolution of the pro-democracy movement that the conservative hard-liners realized that a massive and brutal crackdown was the only way to preserve their power and to save face. Any sign of weakness would surely mean the end of the ruling "revolutionary" dynasty, a dynasty made up of a few old men whose roots trace back to the founding of the Communist Party in the early 1920s (e.g., Deng Xiaoping and Yang Shangkun).

Moreover, the use of such violence is certainly not new in modern Chinese history. And all the signs were there to indicate that a massacre was impending. But the last 10 years of political and economic stability lulled me into believing that this was all in the past, that such a display of violence was no longer possible. How wrong I was!

What lies ahead? The news is already familiar: arrests, reprisals, executions, and a propaganda campaign that makes it seem that the students were the true enemies, and PLA the victims. The Chinese Communist Party once again has complete control, and the people are rapidly disassociating themselves with any connection to the pro-democracy movement in order to save their own necks. The only hope for the future was described in one large poster: WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

Peter Lichtenstein is a professor of economics at Boise State. He spent one year as a Fulbright Scholar at Nankai University and was there this summer consulting for the World Bank.
**Broncos claim Big Sky Trophy**

Thanks to championship seasons by the men’s outdoor track team and men’s basketball team, Boise State captured the combined Big Sky All-Sports Trophy for the 1988-89 school year. BSU also won the Men’s All-Sports Trophy while the Bronco women took third.

BSU won its first men’s outdoor track title while the men’s basketball team shared first place with Idaho in the final Big Sky standings to lead the Broncos to the combined award. Boise State took second in volleyball and women’s indoor and outdoor track and third in football and women’s basketball to amass 143 overall points. Weber State, which won the women’s trophy, finished second with 132.5 combined men’s and women’s points.

The Boise State men’s team piled up 75 points to runner-up Idaho’s 65. In the women’s all-sports competition, Weber State had 71.5, Montana had 69.5 and BSU had 68.

Six of Boise State’s first seven football games will be at home this fall and all six will begin an hour earlier than last year’s 7 p.m. kickoff time.

The Broncos’ lone afternoon home game will be at 1 p.m. Nov. 11 against Eastern Washington.

- Sept. 9 Stephen F. Austin 6 p.m.
- Sept. 16 Long Beach State 6 p.m.
- Sept. 23 Oregon State 6 p.m.
- Sept. 30 at Weber State 7 p.m.
- Oct. 7 Idaho State 6 p.m.
- Oct. 14 Northern Arizona 6 p.m.
- Oct. 21 Montana State 6 p.m.
- Oct. 28 at Montana 1 p.m.
- Nov. 4 at Nevada-Reno 2 p.m.
- Nov. 11 Eastern Washington 1 p.m.
- Nov. 18 at Idaho 7:30 p.m.
The Snake River Plain: Spectacle, Refuge, Teacher, Treasure Chest

By John H. Keiser
President, Boise State University

What is the appropriate role for the university in the tension between those who interpret the word “Treasure” in Treasure Valley as larger bank accounts and those who find its real value in the untrammeled natural environment? What can be said for the consistency of an institution with advanced degrees in business and raptor biology, in art and literature as well as technology and construction management? What contribution can an urban university make in what has been described as an oasis civilization? Is balance possible?

Consider a region that combines the rainbow colors brushed over the broken landscape of the Owyhee country, the lunar images created by the lava flows of Craters of the Moon, the roaring misty power of Shoshone Falls, the finest collection of raptors in a natural setting on the globe, sand dunes which rival the Sahara’s, canyons so deep that millions of years of the Earth’s history can be read in their sides without excavation, sagebrush desert of endless vista, and a mighty river flowing with life and inspiration. The record of human interaction with it is found in the remains of Indian campgrounds, the ruts of the Oregon Trail — and the graves of some who made them, as well as the writings of the likes of Vardis Fisher, Wallace Stegner, Ted Trueblood and others commemorated in the Hemingway Western Studies Center.

It is also found in the records of ranchers, farmers, entrepreneurs, and engineers. After all, Time magazine called Harry Morrison “the man who did more than any other to change the face of the Earth.” He helped to make the Treasure Valley habitable for those of us living here now. But the land is delicate and threatened. Agricultural irrigation has either reached its limits or been overextended. Military uses by tanks and planes leave scars which will outlast those from the wheels of covered wagons in the magnitude of their relative horsepower, additional dams promise to change the ecology of the river and its surroundings in unknown ways, and nuclear waste has the capacity to poison the entire region’s water supply for a thousand years. To conquer nature, after a point, is to destroy it.

The challenge is to communicate the true value of the remaining natural beauty to ourselves and to future generations with enough balance so as not to be dismissed as sentimentalists. The late Ted Trueblood, a consummate naturalist and outdoorsman, so distrusted man’s capacity to care for his environment that he could not bring himself to campaign for his beloved Owyhee country to become a national park. That would lead to the construction of roads, “God’s asphalt,” traversed by crowds of people incapable of awe, intellectual curiosity or aesthetic appreciation seeking a soulless and destructive recreation.

As the numbers of people increase, it will no longer be possible to see an animal or bird and think only of the skillet, a tree and visualize newsprint or a duplex, or an empty plain and imagine apartment houses and businesses — or more irrigated farmland. Surely raptors kill quail, chukars and pheasants, but man devoid of balance, management and regulation is the greatest threat to all three. It is not anti-business, rather it is good business, to maintain that an economy of abundance can also be seen as an abundance of space, contemplation, appreciation, manners and a willingness to learn from nature. Primarily because of its aridity, the Snake River Plain must always be an oasis civilization. The character of its cities, the inviolability of the space in between — under the care of all the responsible agencies, and the relationship between the two, is more delicate and critical than anywhere else in the nation.

If there is anything that unites the people of Idaho, this diverse and artificial political construct, it is the recognized essential value of their relationship to the land, to nature. We are evidence that wilderness remains the wellspring of the American character, even if the great majority of people only look in from the edge. Idahoans know that wilderness can be desert as well as forest, and the Owyhee country is a prime candidate. As did Henry David Thoreau, Idahoans are in a position to know that nature, like human beings, is capable of emotional reaction and represents dignified life. Doubters can be reminded of incidents of sadness, anger and revenge after overgrazing, polluting, clear-cutting, irrigation to the point of salination, and ignoring the causes and effect of erosion.

Those of us who live on the Snake River Plain have the greatest and immediate responsibility to care for it. The role of the university is to promote balance. A complete return to nature is a myth, but utopia is not found in materialism and thoughtless exploitation. Precisely what that means must be high on everyone’s agenda. The university must concentrate on presenting more than a carefully designed commercial to sell science, engineering, culture and right political thinking to a public less and less inclined to think. The good life for those with degrees in business and technology as well as those with diplomas in art and raptor biology depends upon thought and related action in the environmental crises the Snake River Plain shares with the rest of the world. For the briefest time, we have more options than the residents of many other places.
For Idaho's 100th Birthday, There's Only One Card To Get.

The Official Idaho Centennial VISA. This is no ordinary VISA card. Sure, you can use it to charge just about anything—anywhere. VISA is honored in more places worldwide than any other card. But as the one and only VISA card that helps fund the Idaho Centennial, every time you use it you'll also help celebrate the state's 100th birthday.

With each purchase, a donation will be sent to the Idaho Centennial Commission. The Commission will also receive your first $20 annual fee—all at no extra cost to you.

So give yourself a little credit for supporting the Idaho Centennial. Reserve your VISA card through First Security Bank by calling toll free: 1-800-445-2689.