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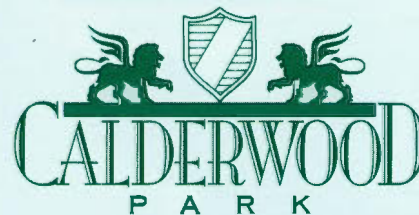




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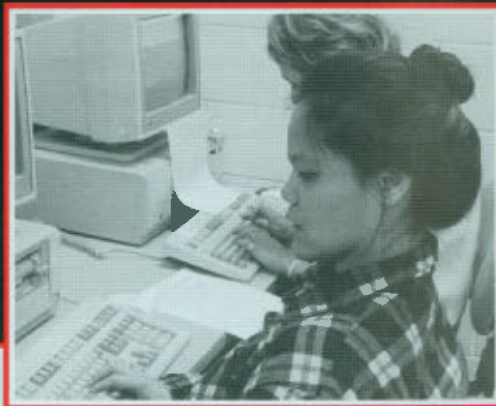
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## BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

VOL. XXIII, NO. 3 SPRING 1998

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## MOB SQUAD

March Madness held its fire for the West Virginia basketball team in the BSU Pavilion as the jubilant Mountaineers celebrated their last-second victory over Cincinnati in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Utah, one of eight teams that played in Boise, advanced to the Final Four. The tournament returns to Boise State in 2001.

Chuck Scheer photo





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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Most of us do not like to talk about death. There is nothing pleasing about the topic. But tucked away in our conscience is the knowledge that we will die — all of us. In this issue of *FOCUS*, we share the inspirational stories of some who have watched death take a young loved one. Their stories help us understand and cope with death's effect on us. Chuck Scheer photo.



## LOOKING BACK ON FIVE EVENTFUL YEARS AS BSU'S PRESIDENT

*By Charles Ruch, President*

**A**s I write this column, I am starting my sixth year at Boise State University. The time has passed all too quickly, an indication of the full and fast-paced world that is our university. Anniversaries provide a moment for reflection on past years and anticipation of things to come. Here are some thoughts about each.

One of the main reasons for my enthusiastic acceptance of the move west from a comfortable academic position in Virginia was the reputation of Boise State University as an institution of vibrance, breadth and quality.

What I have learned over these past few years is the accuracy of that perception. We are blessed with talented, caring faculty and staff who, year in and year out, deliver quality instruction, solid scholarship and generous service. This is the heritage of our university, and it continues unabated today.

Similarly, Boise and the Treasure Valley are two jewels in the Boise State crown. I am unaware of another community that cares more about its university, permits more of the university into its midst or is more willing to support university activities.

As a result, the community has strong expectations for the conduct of the university — witness the community dissatisfaction with student athletes who are not good citizens, unresponsive faculty, or insensitivities to student or citizen needs. Happily, the vast majority of our activities are conducted with exceptional regard for excellence and service.

I have been inspired by our continuing success in building a strong institutional culture. Boise State University is comfortable with its unique role as Idaho's urban university.

We are committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship and service, care about access for all who are able to profit from higher education, and welcome diversity across all dimensions of university life. We work hard to keep our services cost effective.

Finally, these years have reinforced my observation that university leadership is truly a "team sport."

Time after time, I have witnessed the team approach bring individuals from across the institution to tackle an important and difficult challenge. Our role in defeating the 1% Initiative, rallying support for capital construction projects, building new programs or hosting national athletic events are all examples of the institution — both on-campus and community members — pulling together to achieve what many believe are unattainable goals. Leaders emerge in all quarters, support comes from across the university and community, and everyone shares in our achievements.

These reflections — a strong institution, wonderful community support, positive in-



stitutional culture and a commitment to team leadership — provide a vivid picture of Boise State University, both past and present, and serve as the building blocks for our continuing development.

I would assert that the 21st century will be Boise State's time. As we move into the new millennium, my sense is that we will continue to move closer toward our goal of becoming one of the best metropolitan universities in the West.

For our immediate future, we will continue to follow our strategic plan and campus master plan. Slowly, physical facilities will expand on our campus and our satellite campus in Canyon County will emerge. These developments, coupled with judicious use of technology, will enhance our service to the growing population center of Idaho.

Our greatest challenge will be to manage our inevitable growth and continue to provide access, while at the same time continue to build academic excellence. As ex-

pectations for quality work intensify, both faculty and students will need to respond. I have no doubt that they will — it is the heritage of Boise State University.

Since our founding as a junior college, adequate financial resources have been an issue. This is our plight and our opportunity. We will continue to expand our revenue sources — state, student, federal and private — to meet the demands of a growing, complex organization. Conversely, no strategy that can stretch our resources can be dismissed. We dare not either price ourselves out of the market or pass up any reasonable plan to keep postsecondary education affordable to our citizens.

Technology will continue to challenge and befuddle us. It must be viewed and managed as a means to an end — quality teaching and learning — not the end in and of itself. Yet, the world will demand that we master the best that telecommunications and digital devices have to offer postsecondary education.

Finally, we will continue to find as many ways as possible to "tell our story." The importance of postsecondary education, the unique opportunities that Boise State offers, and the many individual activities are stories that need to be told. It is as

important for our community and state to come to appreciate the important contributions we make as it is to continue to attract students, faculty, friends and resources.

Boise State may be somewhat different today than it was in early 1993 when I arrived, but its "heart and soul" are as alive today as at its beginning in 1932.

It is this entrepreneurial spirit of "getting it done together," an entrepreneurial style, and a quest for the best in teaching and learning that will guide us in the years to come.

It has been Sally's and my great fortune to be part of the Boise State story these past few years. We are excited to be part of Boise State's future.

As always, I welcome your comments. I can be reached at 208-385-1491 or by e-mail: [appruch@bsu.idbsu.edu](mailto:appruch@bsu.idbsu.edu). □





JOHN KELLY PHOTO

*The inaugural Native American Studies Conference, held in February, attracted scholars from across the country to Boise State for three days of seminars and filled the house for an evening powwow. The comprehensive conference, the first of its kind nationally, addressed the full range of Native American issues from history to housing. About 500 people also attended a keynote address by American Indian historian and activist Vine Deloria Jr. The conference is scheduled to be held every two years.*

## BOARD APPROVES PROJECTS, BOND SALE

Taking advantage of low interest rates, Boise State has issued \$17.6 million in bonds to finance three major construction projects — a student recreation center, a parking structure and a field for women’s soccer.

In addition, the university will refund and reissue \$12 million in earlier bonds that were sold at higher interest rates, saving approximately \$800,000.

The projects and the bond sales to pay for them were authorized by the State Board of Education at its March meeting.

The board, initially skeptical about the plan, granted its approval after President Charles Ruch explained how the university could net “considerable savings” if the bonds were sold while the market was favorable. Interest on bonds is now 4.8 percent, compared with 6 percent when the bonds were first sold five years ago.

Board members were concerned about the rapid time frame of the proposal and the fact that Boise State had not purchased land where some of the projects would be located.

But Ruch was successful in convincing the board that BSU needed authorization to fund the projects before he could arrange land purchases and finalize other details.

“We acknowledge that we have put this package together at warp speed. We will be coming back to you many times in the coming months with detailed plans,” he said.

With the board’s approval, BSU can take the first steps to design and bid the three projects. In the coming months, the university will:

- Work with the city to convert an empty floodwater pond into a soccer field, complete with locker rooms, seating and other facilities. Located on Reserve Street, the \$1.1 million field is part of the university’s plan to provide more athletic opportunities for women.

- Acquire land near the campus for the \$12 million student-funded recreation center, which will be financed with student fees.

- Hire a consultant to help find the best site for one, and possibly two, parking structures at a total cost of \$4.5 million. Additional parking is required by city code as the university adds two engineering buildings and the recreation center.

An additional \$1.4 million will be set aside as a reserve account for the three projects, bringing the total funding to \$19 million. □

## BSU BRANCH CAMPUS RECEIVES FUNDING

A \$2 million appropriation from the Legislature will begin the transformation of a Canyon County mint field into what eventually will become a branch campus for BSU.

Almost two years ago the university purchased 150 acres east of Nampa for a branch campus to serve the growing population of Canyon and west Ada counties.

The campus will be built in phases, starting with a single building and heat plant.

The appropriation will allow the university to begin the infrastructure work that must be in place before ground is broken for the first building.

The funds will be used for site engineering/design, soil studies and planning. If funds are available, work could begin on some infrastructure projects such as the construction of utility raceways.

The architectural firm that will design the campus will be selected after July 1 when funds are available from the Legislature.

“We were very pleased with the support this project has received. While we have a long way to go before the first building is complete, this is a very important first step in the evolution of the branch campus,” says BSU president Charles Ruch. □

## SPRING ENROLLMENT LARGEST IN HISTORY

Boise State’s growth continued this spring when the school enrolled 15,384 students, the most ever for a spring semester and a 3 percent increase over last spring.

Enrollment typically drops during the spring semester, but this year BSU was only 83 short of enrolling as many students as it did last fall.

The spring enrollment total is 382 students more than a year ago and 1,011 more than two years ago.

Boise State’s enrollment is up in a variety of areas, from full-time freshmen to full-time

graduate students, says Mark Wheeler, dean of enrollment services.

“This is the third consecutive semester we have had a record enrollment. A more stable enrollment from fall to spring leads to the kind of managed growth we want,” he says.

Compared to last spring, undergraduate enrollment increased 2.1 percent and graduate enrollment increased 7.7 percent.

Of the students attending BSU this spring, 12,072 are undergraduates, 2,589 are graduate students and 723 are enrolled in applied technology programs. □



## TAYLOR TO RETIRE; BARR TO STEP DOWN

David Taylor, Boise State's first and only vice president for student affairs, will retire this summer.

Taylor came to Boise State in 1972 to lead a new student affairs division under then-president John Barnes. Taylor reorganized several offices into the new unit that includes student residential life, admissions, the Student Union, financial aid, the registrar and student special services.

A more complete profile of Taylor will be included in the summer issue of *FOCUS*.

A national search for his replacement will be complete in May.

Boise State is also searching for a new dean of education to replace Robert Barr, who will return to the faculty this summer. Barr came to Boise State in 1991.

Barr, an outspoken advocate for charter schools and other reform measures, is the co-author of two books, one on charter schools and the other on at-risk students.

During his term as dean, the college launched the university's first doctoral program, established the Center for School Improvement, began a program to recycle used computers for public schools, started a new master's degree in school counseling and secured more than \$15 million in grants.

Next fall, Barr will teach in the secondary education department, work with the Center for School Improvement and continue his research into at-risk students and school reform. He will also continue to speak on those topics to groups nationwide.

A national search to replace Barr will begin next fall. Associate dean Glenn Potter will serve as interim dean during 1998-99. □

## TWIN FALLS SITE SEES FIRST GRADS

Boise State's Twin Falls satellite program will mark a major milestone this spring when it hands diplomas to its first five graduates.

Under the cooperative program with the College of Southern Idaho, BSU delivers the final two years of courses in business and criminal justice administration to Twin Falls students. The satellite program opened in spring 1996 with 51 students and now boasts 119 students, says Joyce Harvey-Morgan, dean of the division of continuing education.

Continuing education, which oversees the program, uses a combination of distance learning and professors who commute to Twin Falls to offer the classes. And just this year, BSU committed to offering criminal justice classes for the next three years.

"The response from students has indicated that this program addresses a strong need," Harvey-Morgan says. "And it's a great combination of resources with CSI." □

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## BRONCOS DEBATE THEIR WAY TO TITLES

Boise State may not have captured any major athletic titles this year, but at least one group of Broncos dominated the Pacific Northwest and cracked the national top 10 rankings.

The group is the Talkin' Broncos, BSU's speech and debate team. For the sixth time in the past eight years, the Broncos won the Northwest Forensics Conference, which includes 40 schools in five states. The team, coached by communication professor Marty Most, then went on to dominate the Great West Regional Forensics Tournament in March.

Under Most's watch, the forensics program has finished no lower than third in the conference since 1990. Over that span, the Broncos have landed one first-place finish, two seconds and one third in the biennial regional competitions. And at nationals, held in odd years, the team finished third in 1995 and sixth in 1993.

The team recorded victories in three tournaments and reached as high as No. 8 in the National Parliamentary Debate Association rankings.

The team's success, Most says, reflects on the quality of undergraduate education at BSU. Students don't know their debate topics until the last moments. So, they rely on their knowledge of current events, philosophy, history, geology, art and any other subject that arises as they debate their point.

"It really demands that they be able to draw on everything they learn as a college student," Most says. □

## BSU CUTS RED TAPE FOR MBA APPLICANTS

The regular MBA routine requires undergraduate business students to wade through mounds of paperwork as they apply for graduate programs. A new agreement between Boise State and Albertson College of Idaho, however, cuts most of that red tape.

Under the new pact, undergraduate business students at Albertson will be preadmitted to Boise State's MBA program when they pass their core business courses and receive their undergraduate degrees.

Harry White, College of Business and Economics interim dean, says the agreement benefits both schools. Albertson students know they can attend a quality MBA program once they finish their undergraduate work. And BSU has a new avenue to attract quality students from one of the West's top private liberal arts colleges.

The first group of eligible students will enter Albertson this fall and could be taking MBA classes in as little as three years, White says. □

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# M A I L B O X

Dear Editor:

I just received the Winter 1998 issue of *FOCUS*. Great job! The front cover is wonderful! Where did Chuck Scheer photograph the picture?

I recently moved to Lewiston where I was named associate vice president for extended programs and community development for Lewis and Clark State College.

I appreciated the article about "Comfort Zone: At-Risk Students Find a Home in Alternative Schools." Alternative schools have become a savior for students who somehow do not "fit in" or need a "second chance."

There is another type of alternative school in Idaho that doesn't get much press, but should. That is the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. The six sites in Idaho, all attached to vocational-technical colleges/

schools, serve approximately 10,000 students functioning below the high school level and graduate about 2,500 GED or High School Equivalency Certificate (HSEC) students per year.

That is equivalent to over eight classes that graduate 300 students, and we know we have very few high schools in Idaho with those numbers. Many of these students go on to "something post-secondary."

Idaho has national award-winning ABE programs and should be recognized. More importantly, adult students, ranging from 16 years old to over 80, graduate each year with their GED/HSEC. ABE provides opportunities for parents to emerge from illiteracy to functioning adults who in turn give it back to their children.

*Darrel Hammon*

*BA, English, '82 / MA, English education, '86*

## GRANT HELPS HISPANICS LEARN ENGLISH

With funding and equipment from the US WEST Foundation and technology from Boise State's Distance Learning Network, the university's Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology will be able to provide distance learning classes in English as a second language, reading, mathematics and computers to adults throughout southwest Idaho.

BSU was recently awarded \$15,000 from the US WEST Foundation's Community Outreach Educational Program to help pay for the program, which is designed to assist rural Idaho residents with limited English proficiency.

The foundation will also donate four desktop computers with add-on hardware and software.

## BSU TEAM EVALUATES DISTANCE LEARNING

A team of BSU faculty, staff and graduate students is helping the U.S. Department of Defense meet the educational needs of K-12 dependents of military personnel and other federal employees who live and work overseas. And in the process, the group is enhancing BSU's international reputation.

BSU's Institute for Instructional Technology and Performance Improvement is evaluating the computer-based distance learning programs that the defense department offers to overseas dependents in grades K-12.

The IPT Institute, administered by the College of Engineering, put together a team to visit schools in Europe and Asia.

According to Kelly McCune, institute manager, the purpose of the site visits is to compare distance learning courses with non-distance learning courses as well as to

DLN is a Boise State-based consortium of school districts that have installed state-of-the-art distance learning classrooms capable of receiving video conferences and courses.

The system links the university with 11 receive sites at rural high schools in southwest Idaho, most of which have a substantial Hispanic populace.

The network has been up and running for more than a year.

DLN features compressed, two-way interactive, digital audio and video. With the classroom hookups, the program allows students to take live, interactive adult basic education courses from BSU.

The new program is expected to be available by August. □

identify program infrastructure and maintenance requirements.

According to McCune, the institute's contact with the Department of Defense is not only assisting the federal government in meeting the educational needs of overseas students, but it is helping BSU make international connections.

"When we meet with district superintendents and school principals, we also promote BSU's Studies Abroad program and [the College of Engineering's online] instructional and performance technology master's program," he says.

"We hope to receive more contracts with the Department of Defense and other military agencies, and I see our online instruction offerings expanding. I think BSU will continue to be a major player." □

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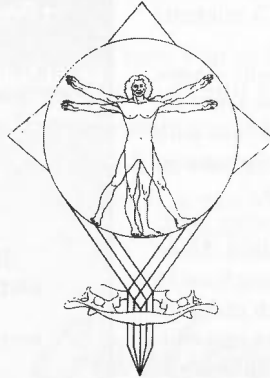


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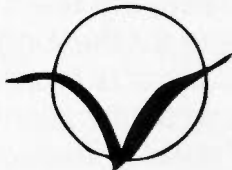
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## HALF DON'T REPORT CRIMES, STUDY SAYS

Most victims in Idaho fall prey to property crimes. But more than half of those victims never tell police about the crime, according to "Crime in the Lives of Idahoans," a recent survey from Boise State.

"Crime appears to be dispersed among the various regions — rural, urban and suburban," says survey co-director Mary Stohr, a BSU criminal justice professor.

The survey, funded by a grant from the State Board of Education, is a snapshot of crime in 1997. The BSU Social Science Research Center surveyed 1,682 people.

The survey included those victims who never call for help, revealing a more detailed look at crime in Idaho than arrest or reported crime statistics, Stohr says.

The survey found that property crimes topped all other crimes — about 219 larcenies per 1,000 Idaho households. About 61 percent of the victims said they didn't report the crimes to police. Half the time, victims knew the person who took their belongings.

Assaults or threats of assault were reported at the rate of 208 per 1,000 households. Again, about 69 percent never reported the incidents to police.

Stohr says many people don't report minor crimes because they believe police cannot help. She said some victims may hesitate to call police when they know who committed the crime because "people are unwilling to report people who they care about." □

## JAPAN PROGRAM ENDS PARTNERSHIP

Boise State's longtime partnership with Asia University ended in January when the last class of Japanese students returned home.

Since 1990, the Tokyo-based private university has sent approximately 100 students each year to Boise State to study English and American culture. More than 700 students have studied at BSU.

But declining numbers of college-age students in Japan led to a drop in the program's enrollment. As a result, Asia University officials decided to end Boise State's participation. Programs at three universities in Washington will continue.

The Japanese students lived in BSU residence halls, but took courses specifically designed for them. Many of them developed close friendships with their American counterparts. Some have returned to enroll at BSU as international students.

"This was a program that was very successful in bridging Japanese and American cultures. We are sorry to see it go," says Joyce Harvey-Morgan, dean of Continuing Education, which coordinated the Asia University America Program. □



## BSU, SCHOOL DISTRICTS TEAM UP TO DEVELOP VOCATIONAL CENTER

A vocational education center that will focus on transportation and automotive repair skills is expected to strengthen the partnerships between Boise State and the two largest school districts in the university's service area.

The Boise and Meridian school districts are joining to create the 70,000-square-foot center, which will be built in southwest Boise and should be ready to open by fall 1999.

BSU's Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology is expected to play a role in the center, but the college's specific role is yet to be determined.

President Charles Ruch, College of Applied Technology Dean Larry Barnhardt and Gary Arambarri, manager of the college's industrial/mechanical division, were involved in the discussion to create the center.

"Right now, the two school districts are working to develop the center," says Arambarri.

"The land [40 acres on Victory Road between Cole and Maple Grove] has been purchased and BSU will play a role. But right now, we're in the back seat."

Final costs for the project have not been worked out. But BSU could lease space in the center and provide classes for its stu-

dents as well as high school students.

The collaborative effort between Boise State and the two school districts will help cut costs and give area high school students an opportunity to get a jump on college vocational classes.

## BSU, FISH AND GAME PARTNER FOR CENTER

High school and college students will soon have a laboratory to study fish and wildlife thanks to a joint effort by Boise State, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Boise Independent School District.

Construction will begin this summer on the Conservation Education Center, a regional resource learning center, at a site adjacent to the Idaho Fish and Game headquarters near the Boise River.

The center is also viewed as a source to provide more learning opportunities for the estimated 70 percent of students in Idaho schools who will not go on to earn bachelor's degrees. □

The center will provide opportunities for students and teachers to develop scientific skills, biological knowledge and environmental awareness through the study of Idaho's fish and wildlife species.

The center also will serve as a classroom for BSU students studying teacher education and biology. Additionally, construction assistance will come from BSU's construction management students. □

## PRODUCTION RECEIVES REGIONAL HONORS

A fall production of the Boise State theatre arts department was one of four shows selected to be performed at the regional American College Theatre Festival in February in Pasco, Wash.

BSU's show, *Interrogating the Nude*, was selected in competition with colleges and universities from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Assistant professor Micheal Baltzell directed the BSU production that included a team of 14 actors and technicians.

This is the second year a BSU theatre production has received regional or national honors from the American College Theatre Festival. Last year, student Dano Madden's screenplay for *Drop* was selected as the best one-act play in the nation. □

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## SURVEY REPORTS IDAHOANS CONTENT

What's on the minds of Idahoans? Growth and education mostly, according to the 1998 Idaho Public Policy Survey from Boise State.

The ninth annual survey, released in February by the Social Science Research Center, measured the attitudes of Idahoans on quality of life and confidence in government.

The study also asked about funding priorities and issues such as term limits and abortion, providing legislators with the latest polling data as the '98 Legislature opened.

Nearly 90 percent of those surveyed said they were highly or somewhat satisfied with their quality of life. The survey's error margin is 3 percent to 4 percent.

Idahoans also showed that they are deeply split on abortion. About 50 percent believed abortion should be illegal in most or all cases, but 48 percent said abortion should be legal in most or all cases.

As for the state's top problems, about 13 percent said growth is their first concern. Education ranked second with 8.2 percent, down from 12 percent last year.

Other findings included:

- About 60 percent said they want current term limits maintained.
- 53 percent said that the state should maintain current levels of prison spending. Only 20 percent favored increased spending, down from the 40 percent who shared the same belief in 1995's survey.
- 84 percent said they had some or a great deal of confidence in Gov. Phil Batt, who garnered the highest approval ratings of any politician in the state. □

## ALBERTSONS LIBRARY ADDS WEB LINKS

Internet users can access several journals, libraries and other information sources through Boise State's Albertsons Library site on the World Wide Web.

From the library's home page, located at <http://library.idbsu.edu>, users can access Catalyst, the online catalog, and locate links to other libraries in Idaho.

Users also will find links to various Internet journals. The site also provides a link to Uncover, an index to approximately 17,000 periodicals.

Additionally, there are links to three indexes available only from computers on campus — El CompendexWeb, the web version of Engineering Index; the Human Relations Area Files, anthropological and cultural information; and a subscription to ABI Inform (business) and the *Idaho Statesman*.

Additionally, "Reference Sources on the Internet" provides excellent links to sources in business, art, astronomy, the Earth, health and wellness and music. □

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## NEW BOOKS EXAMINE THIN BLUE LINE, MONEY AND POLITICS

The public's views on campaign finance reform at the state legislative level, an updated examination of the status of women in the United States and abroad and an in-depth look at police culture at the street level round out new books written or edited by Boise State University faculty.

Recent publications include:

### UNDERSTANDING POLICE CULTURE

By John Crank  
Anderson Publishing Co.

In his new book, criminal justice administration professor John Crank analyzes police culture at the street level where officers on the beat regularly interact with the public.

Crank writes about how officers respond in an atmosphere in which supervisors are ready to pounce on the smallest mistake.

As for the public, they ask that officers protect them from the worst that society offers. Yet, they don't want to see or know about some of the actions that officers sometimes have to take to deal with society's unsavory elements.

"But we oftentimes don't like to see what it takes to deal with people like that. The police are exactly what the public ex-

pects of them," Crank says.

Meeting public demands for action while also maintaining a positive image is a tough balancing act for police and contributes to a secretive culture among the brotherhood of officers that the public often misunderstands, Crank says.

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE IN STATE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

Joel A. Thompson and Gary F. Moncrief, Eds.  
Congressional Quarterly Inc.

Gary Moncrief, BSU professor of political science, co-edited the book and wrote one chapter and co-wrote two others that examine how money and politics mix at the state level.

The book concludes that the most money is spent in states where power is most sought, such as in California where Assembly candidates spent an average of \$322,688 each in contested races in 1994.

That compares with Idaho, where House candidates spent an average of \$8,593 each in contested races.

Chapters in the book also examine spending patterns, whether money garners a win at the ballot box and whether the legislative campaign finance system can be reformed.

### A SOCIOLOGY OF WOMEN:

### THE INTERSECTION OF PATRIARCHY, CAPITALISM, AND COLONIZATION

By Jane C. Ollenburger and Helen A. Moore  
Prentice Hall

In this update from their 1991 release, Jane Ollenburger, BSU College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs dean, and Helen Moore of the University of Nebraska examine the current state of women in the United States and internationally.

They conclude that despite some gains, women trail men in wages and opportunity.

Ollenburger and Moore write that women face barriers throughout their lives, and those barriers are building blocks that affect women from a young age until their older years. The authors use recent census data and the leading field research to show that women also must work harder than men to gain in economic and social status.

"All of these factors affect the quality of life women have," Ollenburger says, "and it culminates in the quality of life for older women."

Higher education is critical for women competing in the workforce because they often start at a disadvantage," she says. □



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# A Meaning for Life

*Life is a process that ends in death, but we usually look at that process as the end of a long cycle. Yet death reaches various ages, even the young, and the way we cope when tragedy strikes our youth says volumes about our views on life. In this edition of FOCUS, we examine how the young die, how we grieve and, hopefully, something of how we live.*

**By Chris Bouneff**

It's 2 a.m., and Eric Hernandez wants to use the bathroom under his own power. Usually he activates a small toy that giggles loudly to summon his mother or aunt, but on this February morning, he wants to make the short trip alone, like a normal 14-year-old boy.

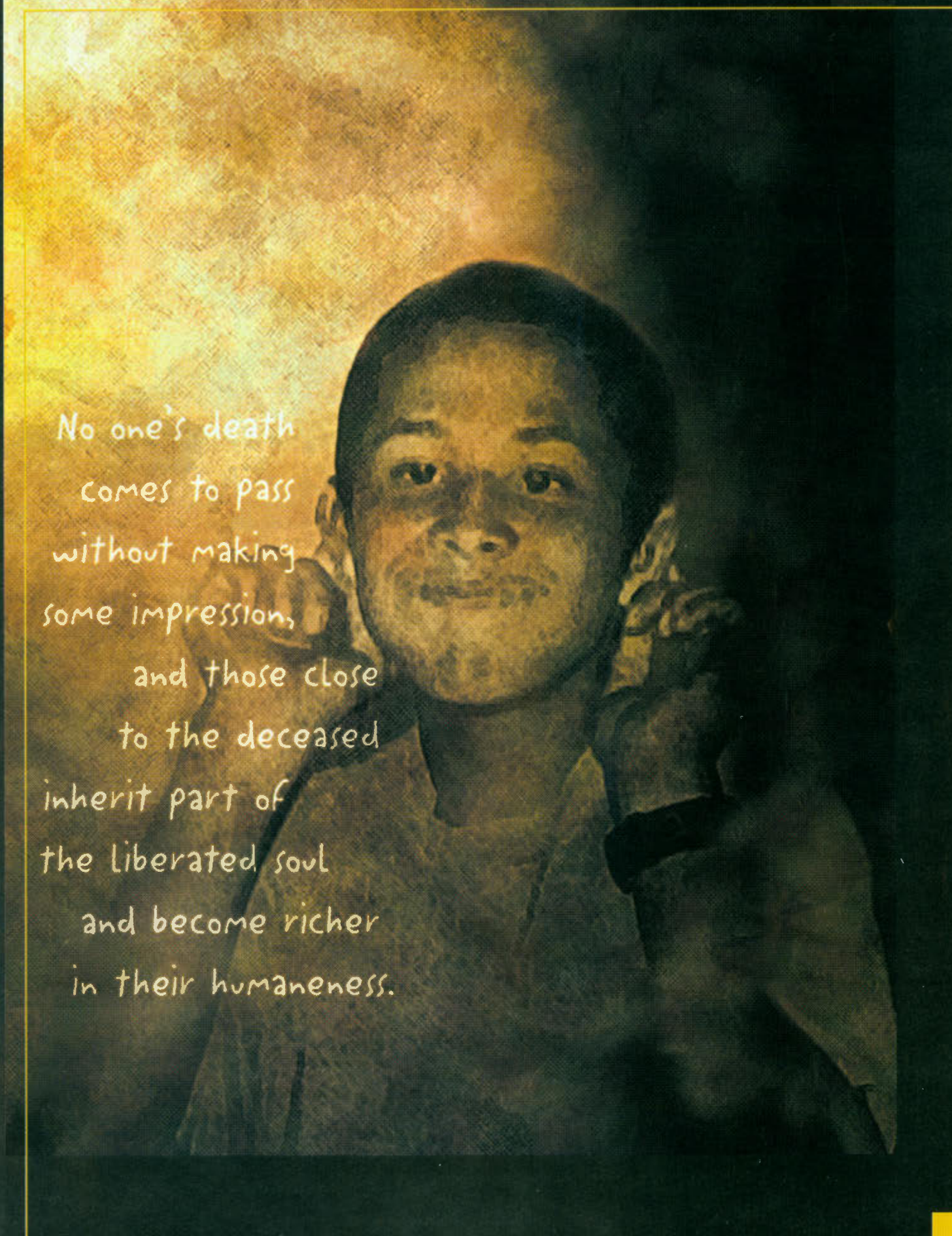
So he rises from his hospital-style bed, twists around into his wheelchair and moves the few feet to the bathroom. At the bathroom door, he rises again, loses his balance and falls. Hard. So hard that his mom, who sleeps lightly these days, hears the thud and runs to his aid. So does his aunt. And so does his older brother, who rushes from his bedroom downstairs.

They learn later that morning that Eric likely snapped a bone in his left arm, but doctors don't want to set the break. Eric has a tumor at the base of his brain. It incapacitates him, as his simple trip gone wrong demonstrates, and it will kill him sooner than any bone will heal.

We think of the process of death as something for the elderly, with a philosophical ending, a person ready for "my" time to go, a time for reflection and wisdom. Somehow, such passings seem natural even when steeped in sorrow, and they remind us of what we all face and how we want to face it.

But people of all ages die. Death doesn't always end with a life at full cycle, looking back on decades of memories. Even a 14-year-old boy, someone who should have more years ahead than behind, must endure life and death as the two meet, usually not in the harmony that we hope for.





No one's death  
comes to pass  
without making  
some impression,  
and those close  
to the deceased  
inherit part of  
the liberated soul  
and become richer  
in their humaneness.





*Chris Hernandez releases some anxiety with hospice chaplain Mary Cay Armer.*

So, what is Eric's story? The tumor impedes his breathing and strangles his speech, and he struggles to take in enough air just to whisper several words. Mostly, he communicates with nods of his head.

Yes, he nods, he wants his family and friends to learn from his ordeal, but he can't say what, no matter how desperately we want him to answer. His actions and others must answer whether the tragedy that consumes a 14-year-old boy, his friends and family teaches us something of life and death.

**C**hris Hernandez, 32, is in her home three blocks from Boise State University, sitting in her usual chair at the kitchen table. She tells her son's story with a mix of documentary detachment, pride and grief. The date is Feb. 12.

Seven months earlier, Eric, a small-framed boy with closely cropped hair and a wide smile, played pool at BSU's Student Union and jumped from the footbridge into the Boise River. When school started, his interests turned to football and wrestling.

Headaches, however, forced him from the field; his speech and coordination faltered. Doctors found the cancerous tumor on Oct. 1. Because of the location, they said they couldn't operate and that radiation and chemotherapy offered little hope. Eric, they told his mother, would die.

Chris broke the news to her family individually, taking aside her other children — Robert, 13, Patricia, 16, and Manuel, 17 — and Eric's best friend, Brandon, 14.

Shortly after the diagnosis, Brandon captured a telling moment with his camera in the family's living room. Eric, always a jokester, mugged for the picture, puffing his small cheeks and pulling his ears forward for the fuzzy black-and-white print.

The response set the tone for how Eric and the family would deal with the coming months. Life would continue as normally as possible, and they would avoid direct confrontation with fear and the eventual outcome, seeing but not acknowledging the shadow that waited for the family.

"We just didn't talk about it," Brandon says of the photo's

message. "So we'd just go on and do the stuff we normally did. We didn't run outside anymore. We'd sit and talk and watch movies."

Eric fought through October, even though doctors at one point said he wouldn't last the month. November and December, confined to a wheelchair, he battled for the holidays. Early on, he had energy to visit the mall and drive a family friend's go-cart. When his strength failed, he played cards or sat at the kitchen window and watched the world pass.

In January, the family joined St. Luke's Hospice. The program, covered by Medicare and Medicaid, helps eligible families care for those with terminal illnesses at home.

But nothing could prepare the family for February.

As Chris finishes the story, Eric sits at the table in a wheelchair with his head slightly bowed. His body is swollen from the drugs that, ironically, attempt to control the tumor's swelling, and he has only whispers of hair, a byproduct of unsuccessful chemotherapy.

A poker face hides his feelings. That's typical Eric, his mother explains, never one to argue or reveal emotions. You only guess at what he feels from his body language: fear, depression, some moments of pleasure, mostly sadness. He still laughs at jokes but often with a polite smile more suited for a drab cocktail party joke.

Chris speaks for him. What does he miss? Playing roller hockey with friends in a nearby parking lot and roughhousing with his siblings. And the fiddle, his other passion in addition to sports. Eric loved to practice, but now his hands, although they can grasp large objects, are too bulky and impaired for the delicate fingering needed to play.

"Do you miss the fiddle?" Chris asks. Eric digs for a deep breath to talk, and Chris waits patiently, knowing that an answer will come, one or two words, maybe a sentence punctuated with a cough. This time, Eric just cries.

**C**hris rarely reveals bitterness or sorrow and says she cries only in her quiet moments. She also maintains some hope, telling



hospice chaplain Mary Cay Armer during an afternoon visit that Jesus can deliver a miracle. But she also is resigned — she and the doctors are helpless.

“Well, what can I do?” Mary Cay asks.

“The same thing we can all do,” Chris replies.

“Pray?”

“Just pray,” Chris says.

Her sister Gloria comes to the kitchen table, and the three join hands and pray to the Lord as the coffee maker bubbles in the background.

A day passes, and Chris tells Tina Blood, the hospice nurse and a 1980 BSU alumna, that she wants to maintain a household focused on life rather than death to boost Eric’s morale. “Even if he lays there and doesn’t say a thing, you don’t change what’s normal,” Chris says.

Hospice nurses check on Eric twice a week, monitoring his medication and vital signs and delivering prescription refills. Though they work in a rotation, by the luck of the draw Tina has seen Eric regularly since the family joined hospice in January.

She walks into Eric’s bedroom for his checkup. The trappings of any 14-year-old boy decorate the room. Posters and autographed jerseys of Jerry Rice, Joe Montana, Steve Young and anything else with a San Francisco 49ers logo cover the walls. Pictures from happier times not so long ago — Eric wrestling, Eric in a wheelchair at the Halloween dance — clutter the short dresser. Eric is in a twin-sized hospital bed, just below a window that frames a basketball hoop standing outside.

Tina is a gregarious, friendly figure who jokes with Eric and to whom Eric responds with a genuine smile his mother says is still worth a million dollars. He lies there, mostly helpless, as Tina raises the legs on his sweat pants to check the swelling in his legs.

With a touch of her hand, Tina tries to let Eric know that she’s there for more than medical reasons. “Just to reassure him,” she says later of the touch, “when I see the 49ers from now on, I’ll think of him.”

Tina admires Eric’s will but worries that she and others can’t penetrate his fortress. Other patients, she says later, come to terms with their fate, find peace in their lives and with their families and resolve issues. Eric can’t or won’t.

**E**ric’s health nosedives when he develops pneumonia on Feb. 13. He fights off the infection, but after that, he mostly lays in bed hooked to an oxygen machine and watches television. A burst of energy occasionally surges through him, and he’ll play cards with his mother or sit at the kitchen table.

Brandon continues his afternoon visits, but the two friends can’t talk as they once did. So they watch cartoons, Eric sometimes staring at the TV and other times trying to sleep while Brandon sits on the floor with his knees to his chest.

On Feb. 18, the entire family is home for a night, and they express hope that Eric will live until his mother’s birthday, which is a week away. And for one of the few times since his diagnosis, they talk together about their feelings.

In Eric’s illness, his older brother Manuel sees a lesson: Live for today because you don’t know what will happen tomorrow. Eric’s sister and younger brother, however, can’t explain the anger and grief they feel.

Gloria, Chris’ older sister, has worked at a nursing home and witnessed death, so she takes comfort in her faith. Eric, she says, will be in heaven, a better place than this, and he’ll be happy.

Chris comes into the living room, and she and Gloria swap stories about their childhood and how each escaped tough lives. They lived in sparse conditions as children, existing in pup tents for three months after their family moved to Idaho. Chris married at 15, partly to escape home, and had four children by 19. Once

## Human Values

By Jackie Schnupp

**I**n an era in which the material value of personal possessions is first closely scrutinized in order to be ultimately priced, Alan Frankle is attempting to evaluate perhaps the most personal possession of all: a human life.

Frankle, a professor in Boise State’s department of marketing and finance since 1984, has spent more than five years conducting research in the area of forensic economics.

Put simply, he is trying to determine the legal value on human life, whether that life is lost or altered due to an accident or adversely affected due to work changes such as downsizing. “We are talking about earnings potential and economics, rather than the intrinsic value of a life,” Frankle says. “We’re not trying to say that someone who makes \$1 million per year is a better person than someone who makes \$1,000 per year — it is a strictly economic analysis.”

When it comes to litigation, Frankle says the easiest cases are those pertaining to professional employees with proven work records and histories of earnings. The histories can then be used to predict into the future, with allowances for variance in the value of the dollar, permitting a fairly straightforward analysis of the value of that person’s life. The hard part comes when the case involves a younger child, whose potential has yet to be proven; with no hard facts to draw upon. “In those kinds of cases, the value is always a guesstimate,” Frankle says.

In more recent years, some expert legal testimony has introduced the theory of “hedonics” to help determine a judgment. This theory attempts to establish the worth of family and friends, as well as illustrate the joy in life an individual has experienced, all of which combine as part of that person’s whole value. A few states have accepted hedonics, but most have not.

Frankle’s interest in business evaluations began about five years ago, when he assisted in a study for Idaho Power as the company began to downsize. “We developed a way to systematically determine employee contributions,” says Frankle. “The business aspects of my research definitely show up in the classroom, and especially in the counseling of students. I feel I am far better able to assist them in putting together a portfolio that will be of the most value to them.”

Frankle intends to eventually write a series of articles and manuscripts on forensic economics that outline his own findings and analyses.

“I think we are making definite progress in this field,” he contends, “but we are just not quite there yet.” □



CHUCK SCHIEF PHOTO



divorced, she worked non-stop providing a life for her children that she never knew existed as a child.

The family talks of the past and the future, about hardship and sadness, and about life and death. The past roars alive, but the future doesn't exist beyond a couple of days and lacks in dreams.

"I can't see the future anymore," Chris says. "I can't see the future for my kids because this has changed them forever."

On Feb. 25, Eric presents his mother with two surprises. One is a certificate marking Chris' 33rd birthday that the children made and signed, even Eric in his weak hand. The other is a series of seizures that every few minutes pulls his body to the left.

The worry on Chris' pale face is clear, and her normal talkative self recedes into uneasy jokes with Eric as they sit at the kitchen table and wait for the next seizure. The doctor returns Chris' phone call and says Eric could be rejecting his medication. More likely, the tumor has reached its peak and Eric's time is near.

For the first time, Chris speaks about more serious subjects than Eric's favorite dinners. How many children will she say she has when people ask? Three or four? What kind of coffin should she pick out? What music should be played at the memorial service?

Chris called Eric's ordeal a death watch in the past, and now she's learned that the months of preparation, of knowing the future and the eventual end, didn't prepare her. Eric fights on. But the shadow is descending.

In early February, Chris told hospice chaplain Mary Cay that she wanted to be with Eric when he died. "I don't want him to die by himself," she says. "I want to be there. Nothing is scarier than being alone."

She was there, March 3, at 7:30 in the morning.

Family and friends knew the outcome; they had five months to adjust. But they spent that time struggling to maintain a life rather than mourn a death. The end, when it came, devastated them. "I'm ready for it, but I don't think I can handle it," Brandon, his best friend, said a week before Eric died.

At the funeral four days later, Chris walked in a daze as a line of people hugged her. Mourners filled the Cathedral of the Rockies; most were Eric's classmates at East Junior High School.

Mary Cay delivered the eulogy and asked the audience to look at the impact one 14-year-old boy can have on the world.

Is that what Eric's ordeal taught us — that we touch the lives of others? Is that the ultimate message of life and death?

In their search for meaning, family members talked about Eric's smile, his humor and his friendliness. They talked about his fight, how he clung to life despite the losing battle and how he tried to savor his favorite dinners and go-cart rides.

Chris took pride in his graceful passing: Eric never complained or showed anger. Some friends didn't know what Eric's death meant, but they knew they would miss his generosity, his loving spirit and his companionship.

Each mourner heard a different message and tried to relay it through the clichés we use to explain the secrets of life locked in words like love, hope, despair and grief.

Maybe we're too close to the end to see the ending. Eric's statement on life and death will come later, Mary Cay says. "I don't worry about figuring all these things out today," she says. "It won't be all real clear today or tomorrow or next week. It will unfold for me as I go along."

Maybe we won't find the words to talk about what we learn, but we will feel it and see it, like a wisp of smoke. Try to grab it, try to assign words to it, and it eludes our hands, but there it is, a presence nonetheless. □



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# This Mother Knows Best

By Melanie Threlkeld McConnell

**M**ost new parents do not sit and wait for their newborns to die. But that's what Penney Huffman thought she had to do with her daughter Julianne.

Despite two surgeries within two weeks of her birth, Julianne Prudhomme would not live long, the doctors told Huffman, because Julianne's organs were defective.

But Huffman, a senior secretary at Boise State's Canyon County campus, wanted control over her infant's supposed last days, so she brought her 9-week-old daughter home.

"If she is going to die," Huffman says she thought to herself, "then let me learn how to take care of her and give her a life as long as I can. I can learn that stuff. I wanted her to be my child for awhile, not just a hospital child."

Five years later the possibility of an early death for Julianne still haunts Huffman. It has knocked on their door more than once — a severe case of pneumonia, a potentially fatal infection and a five-organ transplant that became the subject of a national television news program.

But Huffman is not idle. She has armed herself with the knowledge, resolve and determination to fight death on her territory, on her terms, so that if it does arrive neither she nor her family will be ambushed.

"When Julianne started getting sicker we really started spending time as a family, sometimes without her, talking about the possibility of her death," Huffman says.

"We tried to present it in a manner that if she died, yes, we would be sad, we would miss her terribly, but it would be the right thing for her. It would have been what God planned for her. It would have meant no suffering for her, and at that time she was beginning to suffer physically."

For Julianne, Huffman says she tried to paint "a pretty picture about heaven for her so that if it came to that time in her life where she would be that close to death she could let go. I was trying to prepare her to let go and not hang on to us."

To hear Huffman speak about the past five years, you might think she was a doctor or a nurse. She can rattle off surgical procedures and medical terms like they were old family recipes.

She still cares for Julianne at home, keeping her free from infections, changing colostomy bags and monitoring her blood count and test results.

Huffman will not allow Julianne to spend more than a few days at

a time in the hospital. She feels Julianne heals better at home surrounded by the normal activities of any family — her dog, her teen-age sisters coming home from school, and the family eating dinner at the dining room table.

Taking control of Julianne's medical care was Huffman's way of keeping her daughter's death at bay. It was her way or the highway, she recalls, laughing.

"I felt really committed to keeping her healthy as long as possible. I knew there were things I could do to control it. There was a central venous line that if she got infected it could kill her, and medications had to be given at a certain time. We had to have the right kind of nurses.

"They had to do things the way I wanted it done or they could leave. Because by golly, it was like this is what works for her, this is what keeps her healthy."

The constancy of a child on the edge of death has brought the

family closer and taught them some important lessons, Huffman explains.

"We have received letters and letters from people who say Julianne has changed the way they feel about their lives and their crises.

"For as bad as her situation is, things have just literally come together like it was mapped out. She has done some suffering, but the suffering is far less than the happiness in her life." □



*From Legos at home to stays in the hospital, mother and daughter value each day.*



JOHN KELLY PHOTO

JOHN KELLY PHOTO

JOHN KELLY PHOTO

JOHN KELLY PHOTO



# Survival of the Luckiest

*Death claims BSU student,  
leaves survivor to ponder 'why?'*

**By Bob Evancho**

**J**uan Majalca sits at a table in the BSU Student Union. He's a bit uncomfortable with the subject at hand, but he agrees to talk.

"We all deal with death differently," he says with a shrug. "How do I cope with Andy's death? I try to keep my mind occupied and think positive things. I try to blur the accident away."

This is how Majalca deals with the death of his friend and fellow Boise State student Andres "Andy" Luna, who was killed in a one-car accident on Sept. 28, 1997. At 6:37 that Sunday morning, Luna, 23, fell asleep at the wheel of his 1993 Mitsubishi Eclipse and crashed on Interstate 84 near Glens Ferry. Majalca was his passenger.

Returning to Boise after a day and night of gambling in Jackpot, Nev., Luna and Majalca, both teetotalers, were fighting fatigue. "We got a little bit of sleep, but not enough," says Majalca. "Andy was just tired."

Luna and Majalca arrived in Jackpot around 1 p.m. Saturday. Their original plan was to gamble for a few hours and be back in Boise by 10 p.m. "We had some good luck playing blackjack," Majalca recalls. "I won about \$200 and Andy won about \$150; we ended up staying longer than we had planned."

The pair left Jackpot at around 4 a.m. "Andy was in a hurry because he told his girlfriend he would meet her [in Boise] at 7 a.m.," Majalca says. "We stopped in a motel parking lot in Twin Falls and slept in the car for about 40 minutes. I said, 'If you're still tired we can get a room in this motel and sleep for

a couple of hours. We can afford it with our winnings.' But he didn't want to do that."

They stopped at a rest area on I-84 between Twin Falls and Glens Ferry for another short respite. "I offered to drive, but Andy said no," Majalca recalls. "Then I said, 'Well, at least put on your seat belt; I'm wearing mine.' But he wouldn't do

that either. He was stubborn that way." Majalca then reclined his seat as far back as it would go and tried to nod off.

"We were going to switch and I was gonna drive when we reached Glens Ferry, but when we got there he just kept going," Majalca recalls. "So I was lying there, looking out the window, and a little while later I felt the car start to drift to the left. I looked up and said, 'Andy, are you OK?' and he

said, 'Yeah,' but he didn't do anything to put the vehicle back on the road and we started going into the median.

"So I yelled again, 'ARE YOU OK!?' and he kind of woke up. He suddenly realized what was happening and he jerked the steering wheel to the right to pull the car back on the road. But we were going 80 mph and he jerked the wheel too fast; the car started to roll. On the first impact, I was knocked unconscious. I don't remember anything else about the accident."

Luna's car slid sideways and then rolled, making one complete rotation before landing on its wheels. Luna was thrown from the vehicle and died when his head hit the pavement. Majalca survived because of his seat belt and his reclining

**'Those first few  
days . . . didn't seem real.  
It really didn't hit me that  
Andy had been killed  
until a week  
and a half later.'**





*Juan Majalca copes with his friend's death by resuming his studies at BSU.*

position. "When I came to the first time, I was trapped and couldn't move; the roof was crushed in and was about an inch from my face," he says matter-of-factly. "If I had been sitting upright, I would have been killed, too."

Majalca suffered a concussion; lacerations to his head, hands and fingers; a bruised collarbone; and a dislocated shoulder. Twice he passed out between the time he was extricated from the vehicle and transported to Elmore Medical Center in Mountain Home. "I remember my head was bleeding and I remember two paramedics — a man and a woman," he says. "When they put me on a stretcher, I remember asking about Andy. 'Your friend was thrown from the car,' one of them told me. 'He didn't make it.' At that moment, I don't remember feeling any emotion. Not shock, not sadness — nothing."

Fluid formed between the socket and joint in Majalca's injured shoulder; the wreck left his head and hands bruised and battered. The doctors administered morphine and other drugs to kill the pain. As a result, he spent the ensuing days in a fog.

"Those first few days after the accident didn't seem real," he says. "It really didn't hit me that Andy had been killed until a week and a half later."

Five months have passed since Luna's death. Things have returned to normal — at least outwardly — for Majalca. He's working toward his degree in secondary education at BSU, holding down a part-time job and playing city league soccer. When asked how he's come to terms with the accident, his reticence is evident. "It's pretty painful to relive that morning," he says. "Sure I miss Andy. He was an awesome guy and my friend, a good friend."

Does he feel any guilt because he survived and Luna did not? "No," he replies. "It was his time; it wasn't my time."

If that's the case, does Majalca believe that his life was spared and his friend's was taken by some type of divine intervention? "Death is part of the evolution of life," he responds. "Sure, I feel lucky and I'm thankful to be alive, but I don't think about me being alive and Andy being dead in any religious or spiritual terms."

Perhaps he discusses his friend's death in such stoic, measured terms because of his upbringing. Raised in foster homes while growing up on the mean streets of East Los Angeles, Majalca says he has lived a life bereft of compassion.

"I grew up not knowing the meaning of the word love," he says. "I've had to deal with life's setbacks on my own my entire life. I

grew up not sharing my feelings. Because of that, I still tend to keep my emotions inside.

"People have told me that keeping your feelings inside isn't healthy; that it's the wrong thing to do. But for me, I think I'm handling Andy's death correctly. Maybe if I had grown up in a normal family, I would cope with this differently. Maybe I could lean on people more."

But he doesn't lean. He just stares straight ahead, hoping the interview will end soon.

"Yes, it was a tragedy; my friend died," he says. "But I can't stay in the past and dwell on what happened. I have no control over the past. I can't be crying every day and repeating it over in my mind."

"I've gotta try to blur it out and deal with it ... get on with my life. Sure, it hurts. I feel the pain and the loss. But I don't cry or get sentimental. I guess that's just the way I am."

Sometimes tragedy strikes, snatching a young life away long before it should end. And those left behind are forced to carry on. But how?

"If this were to happen to someone else," Majalca says, "I guess my advice to that person would be find someone to listen. Make sure you find someone to listen."

So who is listening to Juan? □



"A baby in a mother's womb has no comprehension of life outside the mother's womb. If somehow you could get in and try to tell the baby about the mountains, the trees and the clouds, the oceans and rivers, the baby couldn't comprehend it.

"But when a baby is born it enters a world it never knew or dreamed existed. But more important than that, it sees the mother who's carried it and loved it all of its life face to face. And so when we enter in life beyond death, we not only enter an existence we could never comprehend, we see the holy one who has carried us all of our life."

For Mawson, her spirituality, as manifested through her church, gave her structure during a time described as every parents' nightmare — a phone call that your daughter has been seriously injured in an automobile accident and is not expected to live.

The one-car rollover happened just outside Burns, Ore., as Kasie and a friend drove to a church camp for training to become camp counselors.

The driver survived and later told Mawson the two girls were trying to change places while the car was moving so Kasie, who did not have a driver's license or had ever driven before, could drive.

During the switch the driver lost control of the car. Kasie was ejected and suffered mas-

sive head injuries, which left her comatose. She was taken to a Burns, Ore., hospital and then flown by helicopter to Bend.

The six-hour drive to Bend is what helped Mawson deal with the situation, she says.

"The doctor had told me over the phone

**'A lot of people feel like life is meaningless if there is no afterlife.'**

that she would not survive. He said he would not resuscitate, that her heart was weakening. We basically knew she would not live. Of course the whole time I was praying.

"They always talk about making a bargain with God. It wasn't really a bargain. It wasn't like 'I would hate You if she died. I know she's gone. I just want her to live until I get there.'" Kasie died the next morning after her parents asked doctors to remove life support.

"Once we got to the hospital and we saw her, it was real. I think I became calmer. It was like I knew what I had to do. I had to

relieve her. You always wonder how you're going to react. I just wanted her to go in a very dignified way, and she did," Mawson says.

The first calls Mawson made when she received word about her daughter were to church leaders who were close to all three of her children. They later made calls to inform others of Kasie's death.

Mawson said the family underwent counseling as a family and individually to work through their grief. But it wasn't until Mawson met another mother with a granddaughter Kasie's age that she really began to heal.

The two women spent many hours together scraping and painting and fixing up an ailing old house that would soon become Mark's House, a gathering place for the church's youth groups. The house was donated by local philanthropists Warren and Bernie McCain after the death of their own son. As the house began to heal, so did Mawson.

Kasie was cremated and the family buried her ashes on the beach of Camp Magruder on the Oregon Coast, her destination the day she died. Mawson thinks of Kasie every day and prays to God to care for her.

"God knows what it's like to lose a child. I think that made me feel a lot closer to Him. I think that's why I never felt like He made it happen. He's been there." □

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# Death Brings Out Cultural Differences

By Janelle Brown

**C**armen Pendley wanted to shed buckets of tears and show her grief at the funeral of a Boise friend. But when the Mexican native saw how reserved the other mourners were, she quickly stifled her sobs.

"It felt very, very different," remembers Pendley about her first funeral in the United States. "In Mexico, everyone would have been sobbing and praying over the body. Everyone would have worn black. But here, many people were dressed in colors. There was music. And even the widow tried hard not to cry."

Pendley, who has lived in Boise for 12 years and is the mother of two American-born sons, sees many differences between the way Hispanics and other cultures deal with death.

"For us, life and death are very close, we breathe them both in," Pendley says. "We don't hold back when someone dies."

From the fiesta-like atmosphere of Day of the Dead to the unabashed grieving that follows the passing of a loved one, many Hispanics mark death with a roller coaster ride of emotion.

The Hispanic Americans interviewed for this article say they view life and death as intertwined and that their culture imbues them with the sense that little separates the two.

"My mother used to tell me that when a child was born, we should be crying, not rejoicing, because he is coming into hardship. And when that child dies, we should be joyful because he has found peace," says Dan Ramirez, (BS, political science, '94) the executive director of the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs. "In many ways, it is a reverse concept."

That is not to say that there is jubilation at the death of a loved one, Ramirez says. In fact, there is a period of intense mourning as family and friends don black and keep vigil over the body. But the mood turns happy later on, when the deceased are honored with food, presents, festivities and decorations during the Day of the Dead, held each year in early November.

"The Day of the Dead isn't morbid at all. It's a fiesta," says Alma Gomez, an adjunct professor of art at Boise State and a counselor for the College Assistance Migrant Program.

Altars festooned with grinning skeletons, candles, pictures and the deceased's favorite foods are the centerpiece of the celebration.

The altars are typically erected by family members in private homes, but Gomez has also organized exhibitions at Boise State in past years, in part to raise awareness about what is often a misunderstood

aspect of Hispanic culture. While some people unfamiliar with Day of the Dead seemed a bit uncomfortable when they first glimpsed the altars, Gomez says their hesitation vanished once they understood what the altars represented.

"The altars are a way of honoring the dead," she says. "It's a way to show respect."

According to Ana Maria Schachtell, (BA, elementary education, bilingual/multicultural, '91) observances such as Day of the Dead and traditional funerals serve another important function: They help Hispanics living in Idaho stay connected to their heritage.

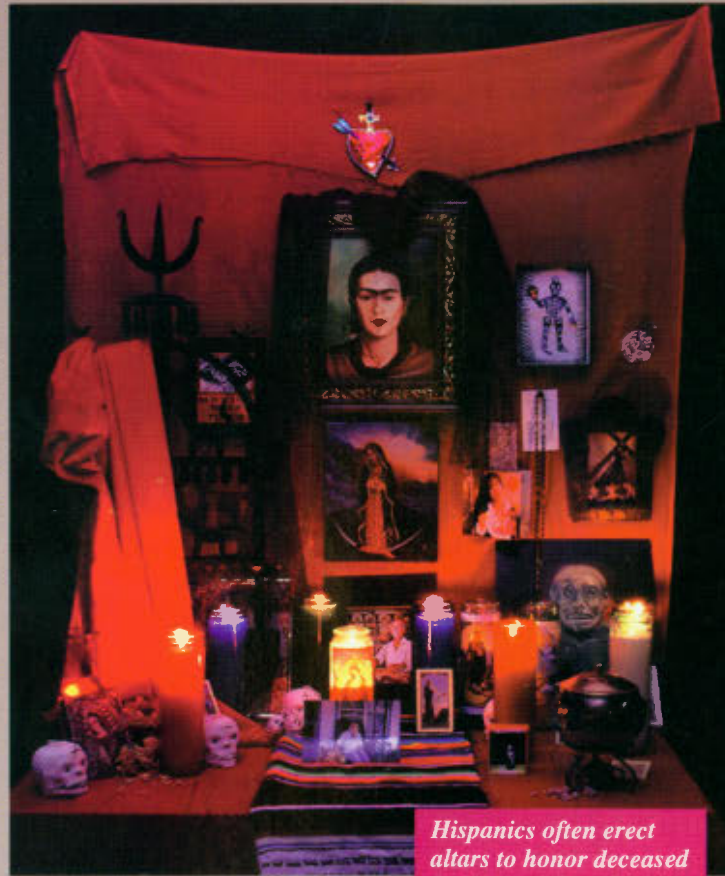
"A lot of Mexican people feel lost here, because it is such a different culture," says Schachtell, who chairs a board of directors that is working to establish a Hispanic Cultural Center in Nampa. "We need to find ways to help our children understand their roots."

The Hispanic approach to death is filled with healing and comfort, Schachtell says, in part because it revolves around family. She recently attended the funeral of her younger brother, an

event that brought four generations of her family together to mourn his passing and remember his life. This year on the Day of the Dead, she plans to erect an altar in her home to honor her deceased parents for the first time. Schachtell says she'll wait for her brother's death to recede further into the past before she remembers him with an altar of his own.

Schachtell still feels a sense of great loss when she talks about her dead brother and how he always had been her parent's "treasure." Being with her family for his funeral and grieving openly for him will make it easier for her to heal, she believes. It is during times like this, she says, when she's particularly grateful for her Hispanic heritage and its traditions for dealing with death.

"It's not a taboo for us to discuss these things," Schachtell says. "We are in touch with our emotions." □



Hispanics often erect altars to honor deceased family members during the Day of the Dead fiesta each November.

ALTAR BY ALMA GOMEZ COURTESY OF SCHACHTELL PHOTO



# Suicide:

## The Ultimate Rejection

By Sherry Squires

**J**oanne Glenn can describe the day her son died vividly enough to make you want to shut your eyes, to shut out the pain she has endured.

Today, 16 years later, she can talk without tears, without trembling.

It was January of 1982, a Wednesday — the day Chris, 17, shot himself in the head while she watched, helpless.

She can remember the shock, the horror. Then, she can remember little of the next few days as the pain and guilt took over.

“A suicide is the most difficult kind of death because the person chooses it,” Glenn says. “It’s the ultimate rejection to the survivors.”

More than 100 Idaho teen-agers took their own lives from 1990-96, the most current years for which statistics are available. They left behind mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters to somehow muddle through the numbness, the endless questions, the shame that so often surrounds a suicide.

Coping with it is a process, Glenn says. A lifelong process.

The weeks following Chris’ funeral, Glenn recalls being in total disarray. She would start 15 things and never finish any of them.

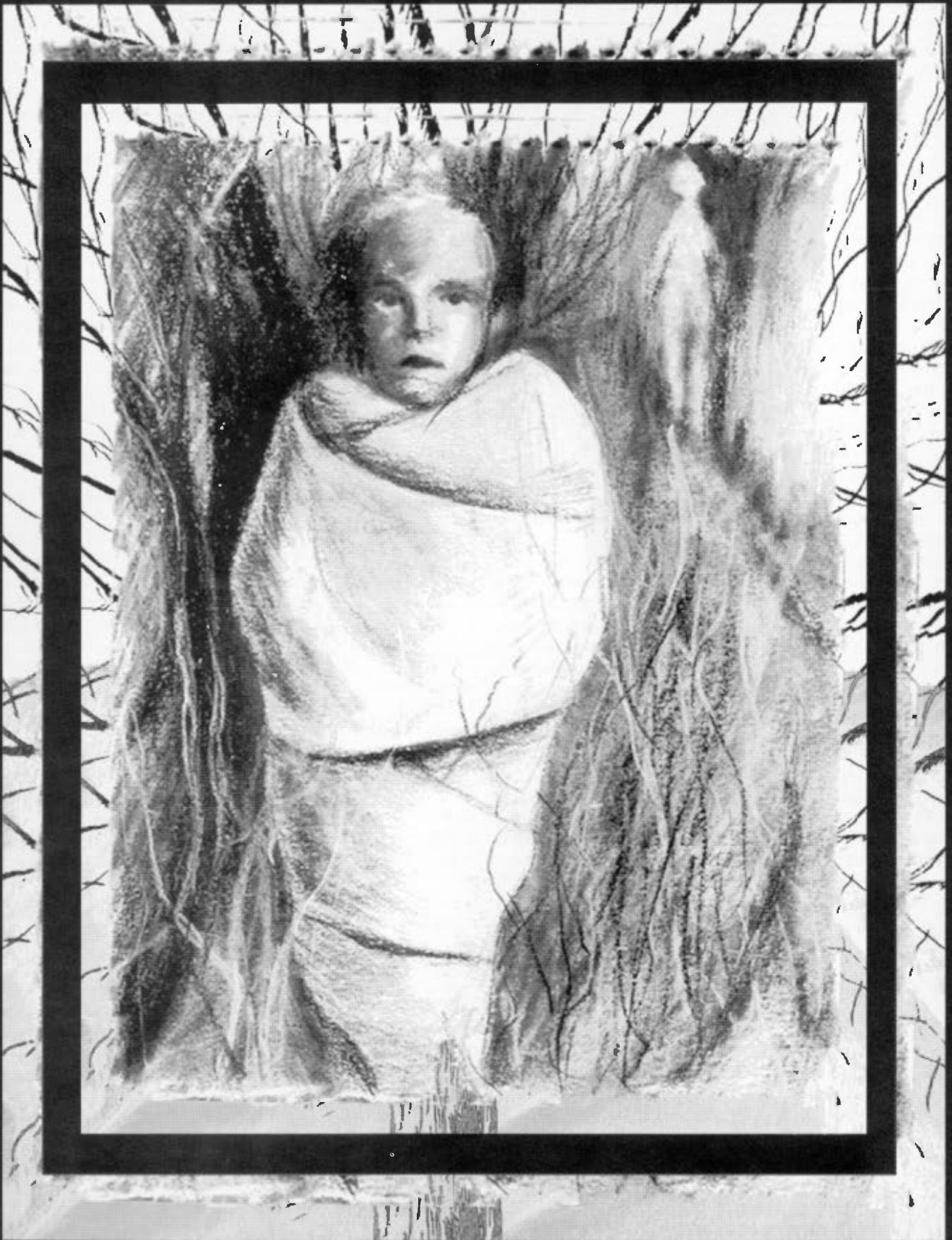
She knows only one way to describe her feelings.

“It was like waves of ocean washing over me, every moment of the day I saw the horror of it.

“The unspeakable loss was so on my shoulders,” she says. “I remember scrubbing the floor one day, concentrating only on that, when I just lost control. I could have washed the floor with my tears.”

*‘You ask  
yourself why a  
million times  
until you  
realize there is  
no answer.’*





*Grief fills the room up of my absent child,  
Lies in his bed, walks up and down with me,  
Puts on his pretty looks, repeats his word.*

—William Shakespeare



Six months later, the same thing happened while she was driving on the freeway.

"I'm not one to cry easily, but I had no control over it," Glenn says.

After Chris' death, Joanne went to Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who lose a child. But she soon realized that parents or family members who lose someone to suicide have a flood of very different emotions than those who lose children to accidents or natural causes.

And often, parents are dealing with those emotions alone.

When a suicide happens, brothers and sisters suddenly don't talk to one another. Parents hurt too much to support each other; most marriages don't survive the loss of a child.

Friends they used to count on are no longer around. Family members shy away, maybe because they, too, now feel vulnerable. Or maybe because they don't know what to say. "There's a stigma," Glenn says. "Whether people say it audibly or not, it's clear people believe there had to be something wrong with your parenting."

She started a support group in 1988 for parents or family members dealing with a suicide. "You can go to a counselor, but there's nothing like talking to someone who's been there," she says. "You need both."

Glenn remembers passing through the various stages of grief that psychologists have identified and thinking she was over her son's death. Then, it would hit her again.

Three years after his death, she first became angry with her son for what he had done. But, as always, more than anything, she missed him.

Like an endless reel of film, she replayed his death. She pored over the days before. The weeks before. The years before.

She knows now that she began to notice problems when he was 12, problems in school, a lasting depression. He experimented with drugs and alcohol, and even attempted suicide once.

But like every parent that Joanne has met who has lost a child, she thought these were isolated events. "I kept having this feeling in my chest that wasn't right, but I didn't know



*Joanne Glenn just finished this school scrapbook for her son who died 16 years ago.*

what it was," Glenn says.

On the day Chris died, his dad was at work. Glenn was home babysitting a 1-year-old child for a friend. Chris was in his room, and his 13-year-old sister was playing.

Glenn asked Chris to watch the toddler for a moment while she took some clothes off the line. After she completed her chore, she returned to the house, and Chris returned to his room.

Moments later she passed by his door and found it locked. "I didn't think he locked it to keep me out, so I put a nail through the hole in the doorknob and went in."

Chris sat in the corner of a room on a poof pillow with a gun to his head.

"I said, 'Chris, honey, no.' He pulled the trigger."

Glenn ran from the room and called 911. She couldn't go back in.

Her 13-year-old daughter was in the room before Glenn could stop her. "She will never get over it," Glenn says. Chris died in the hospital seven hours later after a failed brain surgery.

Glenn says it wasn't until she made a conscious decision to recover that the healing process began. "There's so many should-haves and if-onlys," she says. "You have to realize that the person who made that decision is responsible, not you."

"You ask yourself why a million times until you realize there is no answer. Then you can let it go."

Glenn served as the suicide survivors support group facilitator for five years, before putting it in the hands of Rich and Trudy Jackson.

Their story mirrors Glenn's, and that of so many others they have heard in the past nine years.

ability to cope.

"It would be wonderful to skip the pain, but you can't, or you could be on hold or bitter your whole life," Rich says.

Today, they approach life differently. Things that were monumental 10 years ago are trivial now.

"Rich and I are better people today, more tolerant, more compassionate, more patient," Trudy says. "It's really easy to cry. We don't have to be macho anymore."

BSU health sciences professor Con Colby teaches a class on death and dying, and believes that the most valuable tool in the grieving process is being able to listen deeply to yourself. But he's quick to note there's no textbook answer to coping with death.

"I don't know how to teach about death and dying," Colby says. "I know how to offer some different kinds of experiences, some ways people might approach coping. But there's no way around the problem of what you feel."

The Jacksons are carrying that message to their support group and others.

Glenn has spoken to hundreds of people and many schools about suicide prevention.

Just this spring she finished a scrapbook she was compiling for Chris at the time of his death. Its contents had sat in a trunk in her closet for 16 years.

Her husband has never talked about Chris' death. Her 30-year-old daughter, who was home the day Chris died, is just now beginning to deal with it.

Knowing she has helped others through the support group gives Glenn a renewed sense of hope.

"It's the hardest thing any parent will have to go through in their life," she says. "I'll never forget or get over it, but I had to learn to live with it." □

It was 10 years ago this month that their 16-year-old son, Jason, took his own life. His father, an accountant, and stepmother had gone camping for the weekend to escape after a long tax season.

They returned from camping to find him dead from a gunshot wound to the head.

"It's like a bomb going off," Rich says. "You are so devastated and numb that you don't know how to speak."

The Jacksons were able to get into counseling immediately after Jason's death and credit that with their

CHUCK SCHEER PHOTO



# Hotline is Lifeline for Many

By Sherry Squires

**T**he road to suicide is a dark and lonely one. Unfortunately, it is too well traveled.

Idaho suffers from one of the highest per capita suicide rates in the nation, with suicide being the second leading killer of 15-24 year olds and people 65 and older.

Despite the high numbers, few roadblocks are in place for those walking the line toward suicide. The Idaho Suicide Prevention and Hotline Service strives to be a voice of reason in the darkness.

Boise State communication professor Peter Wollheim serves as director for the non-profit agency. And most of its hotline volunteers are BSU students.

The statewide hotline operates around the clock for those contemplating suicide, those who want to help a suicidal person or those dealing with the suicide of a loved one.

Trained volunteers try to defuse crisis situations in a confidential setting and direct callers to personal, professional and community resources.

Wollheim says although the work is taxing, the opportunity to connect with people appeals to the volunteers.

"We can't solve life's problems," he says. "But you go in with that mentality that no one dies on your shift. You get people to promise you to live six hours, or a day, or a week. You can do that."

Stephanie Huber, 27, has been down the road with many callers during her 18 months as a volunteer. After hearing Wollheim mention the hotline during a class, the senior nursing major got involved.

"It gives me a sense of fulfillment for helping other people," Huber says. "There's a need. And I enjoy talking to people. Even in that circumstance, there's still a human connection."

Listening is one part of her duty. She also is charged with assessing the risk of suicide. Does the caller have a plan? The means? Is there a timeline? Is there a method?

Volunteers like Huber spend two weekends training before taking to the phones. They learn suicide statistics, develop procedures for helping others and role play based on past calls to the hotline.

Huber says she has encountered everything from people who are worried about a friend or family member committing suicide to desperate souls who just want someone to call 911 for them.

Volunteers average two to three calls during a six-hour shift. Some calls last only 10 minutes; others for hours.

"I learn something about myself with every call," says Huber. For volunteer Scott Ahrens, 29, serving the hotline is personal. His brother killed himself two years ago.

"I didn't want others to go through what I did," he says. "As long as I help anybody, that's all that's important."

About 3,500 callers reached the hotline this past year.

As far as Wollheim is aware, no one has committed suicide during a call. But if statistics ring true, about one in 20 of the callers actually go on to complete suicide.

Volunteers document information about each caller. Though each is unique, some common threads can be found. Most callers are female. The majority are 15-19. About 43 percent of all callers have experienced family violence or abuse.

About 97 percent of them are Caucasian, 89 percent are employed and most are married.

Regardless of their dedication, the hotline volunteers won't get all of the calls for help that are out there. That's why

the Idaho Suicide Prevention and Hotline's mission is much broader.

Wollheim has been involved with the hotline for six years. He has taken many calls, but today he focuses most of his energy on raising awareness.

There is no money set aside in the national budget specifically for suicide prevention or education. The state of Idaho spent \$10,000 last year.

But, Wollheim says, those who work in law enforcement estimate that Idaho taxpayers spend about \$1 million a year for medical care and other services related to suicide attempts and completions.

Wollheim's group trained Girl Scout and Ada County Boys and Girls clubs leaders on suicide prevention this past year. The group also works with coroners to provide support and referrals to families immediately following a suicide.

He hopes in the near future to help train school principals and teachers, nurses, pharmacists, cab drivers and even service club members.

And eventually, if resources become available, volunteers would call regularly to check on people who are alone and may need assistance.

"We want to create a safety net," Wollheim says. "I don't want to talk about suicide. I want to talk about suicide prevention." □



*Wollheim's contribution to his community is keeping its members alive.*

OLGHA SCHIEN PHOTO



CHUCK SCHIEER PHOTO



While working at an established institution like Alabama has its advantages, Burkett enjoys the challenge of being involved with the start-up effort at Boise State's College of Engineering.

## BURKETT EAGER TO BUILD BSU PROGRAM

By Bob Evancho

"Have NSF grant, will travel" wasn't on Susan Burkett's résumé when she joined Boise State's department of electrical engineering last summer. But it was a nice part of the package all the same.

When Burkett left the prestigious Center for Materials for Information Technology (MINT) at the University of Alabama for her new job at BSU, she brought with her a \$200,000 National Science Foundation grant that will help fund her research on magnetic materials for flexible magnetic media and read heads.

Heads are the magnetic sensors that "read" the magnetic fields on the data passing by, such as the heads on tape players that read music or VCRs that read video and sound.

The focus of Burkett's work is to make the magnetic storage on the media — a videocassette tape, for example — denser. "In my research I am dealing with magnetic films that are ultrathin, but I'm still trying to maintain the same properties of thicker films," she explains. "Magnetic film of this kind is not all that robust compared with other materials the memory business uses, so there are a lot of challenges in working with these materials."

Fortunately, Burkett's NSF grant is spread over four years and she was able to transfer the funding to her position at BSU, even though she applied for and received it while at Alabama. Because NSF grants are made to individuals, not institutions, there was little problem with the transfer, Burkett says. "I found out I got the grant about two months before I came to Boise State," she adds, "and because I hadn't really started the research and didn't buy anything with the NSF funds, it made things pretty easy."

After earning her Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri in 1992, Burkett spent two years on a postdoctoral fellowship in the private sector before returning to academia at Alabama.

"Fortunately for me, MINT is one of the top programs of its kind," says Burkett, "and that eventually helped me land the NSF grant. An important part of getting such a grant is to show a track record, and at MINT I was able to get into collaborative efforts with colleagues there and get some papers published."

While teaching and conducting research at an established institution like Alabama



has its advantages, Burkett is thrilled about all the possibilities that present themselves at BSU's fledgling College of Engineering. "It's really unique to come from a program that is one of the oldest in the country to a place where you can actually help shape the entire program," she says. "If you wanted to change anything at Alabama you were going to have to get your energy up because it takes a lot of paperwork and a lot of convincing."

"With a start-up situation here, many of the professors are directly involved in curriculum development and other aspects of the college's functions. It's extremely exciting to see how our faculty is working to provide the courses to our students that will help place them in industry. I don't think too many engineering faculties have that kind of hands-on involvement."

"There is a real sense of pride among the faculty here because of our involvement in helping shape this college. And everybody wants to make it tough for the students' benefit."

And thanks to the combination of Boise's population growth and the financial support of local business and industry, Burkett believes BSU's College of Engineering is establishing a solid niche in the Pacific Northwest. "We aren't going to compete with the big-name schools with lots of resources," she adds. "But there is no reason why we can't be a premier institution in this area."

Given the scarcity of women at the Ph.D. level in electrical engineering and the fact that she's the only full-time female professor in her college (construction management instructor Rebecca Mirsky is currently filling a full-time position on a temporary basis), Burkett is truly a trailblazer. However, Burkett doesn't think her unique status at BSU has any effect on how she is perceived by her students or her colleagues.

"I felt a little less 'onstage' at Alabama than I do here," she says. "I suppose every once in a while I come across a student who thinks, 'Oh, she's a female. I'll bet she's a softie. I'll just give her my best sob story.' I just resent attitudes like that. That's not to say a student like that wouldn't try a sob story with a male professor. I don't think the gender of the instructor matters — as long as you are fair, organized, prepared and committed."

Burkett, whose husband, computer science professor John Lusth, also joined BSU last summer, doesn't feel any resentment from her peers because of her gender or her success. In fact, it's quite the opposite. "I don't think anyone is uncomfortable with my being here. I've never felt like it's Susan and the guys," she says. "I just feel like one of the guys. The main reason is because we're all relatively young and here for the same reason." □

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# ZIRINSKY STUDIES TIME WHEN IRAN WAS A COUNTRY, NOT A CRISIS

By Chris Bouneff

The warm reception that a group of U.S. wrestlers recently received in Iran surprised an American public accustomed to two decades of anti-American rallies highlighted on the evening news.

But it reminded history professor Michael Zirinsky of a time when Americans and Iranians lived in peace, and it's that history that Zirinsky is studying for a future book.

Zirinsky is researching the lives of Protestant missionaries who spread the gospel in the Islamic country during the early 1900s. Although they never numbered more than about 100 at a time, the missionaries introduced new concepts in education and medicine to a people seeking modernization, he says.

And the Iranian people generally welcomed the missionaries, seeing them as ambassadors from the west. "They were evangelical Americans spreading the gospel of America," he says. "And that was an appealing message."

Zirinsky, who lived in Iran from 1956-60

as a teen-ager, examined the period to help explain why hostility grew between the two countries. On sabbatical this academic year, Zirinsky researched the Presbyterian Church

East as a European concern and ignored the region. Iran viewed the United States as a counterbalance to the colonial interests of Great Britain and Russia, Zirinsky says. In

such an environment, interaction flourished between the missionaries and Iranians.

But that changed after World War II. Iran became a strategic country in the Cold War, and U.S. policy supported the shah's dictatorship, often at the expense of the Iranian people, Zirinsky says. Policymakers ignored many missionaries who warned that the Iranian people would view U.S. policy as cultural imperialism, Zirinsky says. And that led to suspicions of U.S. motives and ultimately to the overthrow of the shah and the hostage crisis of the late 1970s.

Zirinsky says the two countries can learn from the past as they move toward peace today. Iranians

and Americans should build relationships on an individual basis. As American wrestlers learned, Iranians are eager for peace as long as Americans view them as a people rather than a policy, Zirinsky says. □



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL ZIRINSKY

Zirinsky traveled to Iran to gather information for his book.

archives in Philadelphia, interviewed surviving missionaries and traveled to Iran to gather information.

He found that the United States, before it emerged as a superpower, saw the Middle

# BIOLOGY PROF SEARCHES FOR WAY TO DEFEAT KILLER DISEASE

By Melanie Threlkeld McConnell

In a laboratory on the second floor of the Science Nursing Building, first-year BSU biology professor Cheryl Jorcyk and a handful of students are contributing to the study of prostate cancer, a disease that kills hundreds of thousands of men each year.

The researchers are studying two cell lines developed from mice that were genetically engineered to develop prostate cancer.

They are trying to determine what makes a tumor cancer cell metastasize, or break off from the original tumor and spread to other parts of the body either through the circulatory system or the lymphatic system. Once prostate cancer metastasizes, Jorcyk says, patient prognosis is poor and survival time short.

Metastasis, the main cause of death for most patients with cancer of all types, remains one of the "most important but least understood aspects of cancer," she says.

Jorcyk and her students use a technique called "differential display" to compare a

non-metastatic prostate cancer cell line with a metastatic prostate cancer cell line in order to determine what makes a cancer cell metastasize. Under the microscope the two cell

increase in a protein that causes metastasis, or a decrease in a protein that inhibits metastasis," she says.

The discovery of a novel gene may lead to its use as a biological marker for screening prostate cancer patients genetically predisposed to develop metastasis or as a tool in the development of treatments for metastatic prostate disease. Her work could potentially aid research of other cancers as well, she says.

Jorcyk's research began a few years ago when she developed the cell lines she is using in her current research during her postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Md.

She received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and earned her undergraduate degree in biology from Pennsylvania State University.

Currently there is no effective treatment for metastatic prostate cancer, Jorcyk says, and that is what is appealing about her research. "You can apply it to a disease people get," she says. □



CHERYL JORCYK PHOTO

Biology professor Jorcyk, right, with students, hopes her work will benefit other cancer researchers.

lines look the same, Jorcyk says, but there are genetic differences between them.

"We're looking for a change in the expression level of a gene, which results in an



## DONOR NOTES

- A-Avenue Health Services, \$2,500 to the Avenue A Nursing Scholarship.
- Irene Aitchison Family Trust, \$1,500 to the Business Administrative Account.
- J. A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, \$228,000 to Center for School Improvement.
- Anonymous, \$24,700 to the Friends of Nursing Endowed Chair, \$2,500 for the Edna Ruetzel Memorial Nursing Scholarship, and \$24,000 for scholarships
- Larry and Karen Arguinchona, \$5,000; Edwin and Shirley Croft, \$1,000; Edward and Suzanne Sullivan, \$2,000; Fred and Joan Thompson, \$1,000; and William and Virginia Woolley, \$2,400 for unrestricted use.
- Asia University, \$4,500 and Martin Hood, \$1,000 to the Sandra Eggers International Scholarship.
- Idaho Attorney General's Office, \$15,000 to the scholarship in its name.
- Richard and Alecia Baker, \$1,900; Norman Beckert, \$2,200; Thomas Hamilton, \$2,000; Ted and Linda Hopfenbeck, \$1,900; and Richard and Patricia Wilcomb, \$1,000 to the BSU General Scholarship Fund.
- Boise LDS Institute of Religion, \$1,000 for the Bruce R. McConkie Scholarship.
- Robert Bolinder, \$1,000 and Larry A. Jeffries, \$1,000 to Accountancy Endowment.
- BSU Alumni Association, \$6,000 and Doug and Serena McAlvain, \$8,000 for the Technology-Engineering Building Fund.
- Rosa and William Campbell, \$5,000 and J. T. Tanzini, \$5,000 to the Gene Harris Endowment.
- Charitable Gift Fund, \$1,000 for the Andrus Center for Public Policy.
- Joan Chapman Cooney and Tom Cooney, \$1,000 to John Chapman Scholarship.
- Larry and Jill Costello, \$1,000 and Robert "Zeke" Sarikas, \$1,100 to the Accounting Department Administrative Account.
- John Crim, \$1,300 to the Sharon Crim Nursing Endowment Scholarship.
- Samuel and Yolanda Crossland, \$1,000 and George and Elvera Klein, \$1,000 for the Frank Church Chair on Public Affairs.
- Norman and Gladys Dahm, \$2,000 and Arlen and Susan Planting, \$1,000 for the Norm Dahm Engineering Fund.
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- Estate of Betty M. Fish, \$24,700 to the nursing scholarship in her name.
- Thelma H. Brown Estate, \$3,400 to the Thelma Brown University Endowment and \$6,800 for the Thelma Brown Endowed Scholarship.

- First Security Foundation, \$7,500 to the First Security Scholarship.
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- Peter and Marianne Hirschburg, \$2,400; Jordan-Wilcomb Construction, \$1,000; Charles and Sally Ruch, \$1,000; J. R. Simplot Co., \$2,500; Adelia Simplot, \$2,500; and Trebar Inc., \$1,500 for the Warren McCain Library Endowment.
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- Idaho Power, \$16,600, Intermountain Gas, \$25,000, Johnson Controls Foundation, \$2,500 and Raymond and Candace Smelek, \$15,200 to the Micron Engineering Building Challenge.
- Helen John Foundation, \$2,500 and Carol L. MacGregor, \$10,000 to the Single Parent Scholarship Fund.
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- M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, \$130,000 for the Murdock Geology Grant.
- Carol MacGregor, \$1,200 to the Gordon A. MacGregor Construction Management Scholarship.
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- John F. Nagel Foundation Inc., \$27,100 to the nursing scholarship in its name.
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- Steven P. Schmidt, \$1,000 to the endowed scholarship in his name.
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- George Wade, M.D., \$5,000 to the Engineering Department Fund.
- Gerald and Eunice Wallace, \$1,000 to the scholarship in their name.
- Rick and Nancy Webking, \$5,000 to the Underkofler Accounting Scholarship.
- Western States Equipment Co., \$8,000 to the scholarship in its name.
- Marie White, \$1,000 to the Joseph White Jr. and Alba M. White Scholarship.
- Anne and Joseph White, \$1,000 for the Homeless Project.
- Ella Mae "Kelly" and Ron Winans, \$2,000 to the endowed scholarship in their name. □

## FUND HONORS LATE BSU STAFF MEMBER

One of Boise State's own will be remembered with the establishment of the Sandra Eggers International Scholarship. The fund will provide opportunities for future BSU students to study abroad.

Eggers, an outdoor enthusiast who traveled extensively throughout Israel, Egypt,



India, Nepal, the United Kingdom, China and Japan, was killed in a rock slide while climbing the Matterhorn last August.

Eggers had served as the curriculum coordinator for Boise State's Asia University America Program since 1994.


The BSU community will remember Eggers for her untiring and inspirational service to Japanese students on campus.

Contributions to the scholarship can be made in care of the BSU Foundation. □

## BSUF OFFERS WEB SITE

Looking for more information about the Boise State University Foundation?

Check out its new Web site, which offers in-depth information about the foundation as well as donor profiles, staff listings and information about how to support academic excellence at the university. Visit the Web site at <http://www.idbsu.bsue.edu/develop> □



### HOW TO REACH US

Contact the BSU Foundation by:

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**FAX:** 208 385-4001

**HOME PAGE:** <http://www.idbsu.edu/develop>

**E-MAIL:** [rdefrits@bsu.idbsu.edu](mailto:rdefrits@bsu.idbsu.edu)

## OFFICIATING CAREER ELICITS MEMORIES

By Bob Evancho

The faces are almost always familiar, says former sports official Aurelius “Buck” Buckner. “It’s the names and where they went to school that I have trouble remembering,” he adds. “It happens quite a bit. I’ll be at the store or a BSU game and some fellow will come up to me and say, ‘Hi, ref. How ya doin’?”

It’s easy to understand how Buckner frequently runs into former athletes whose games he officiated. The 71-year-old Boise native was a fixture on the Idaho sports scene for more than 40 years.

A standout athlete in football, basketball and baseball at Boise High in the mid-1940s, he became Boise Junior College’s first black student-athlete when he continued to play all three sports at what is now BSU.

In 1948 he embarked on his officiating career, calling high school football and basketball games before moving to the college ranks. After more than 30 years of officiating throughout Idaho and the Pacific Northwest, Buckner hung up his whistle in the early 1980s.

“I enjoyed being an official,” he recalls. “It was a way to meet a lot of fine young people.”

Like Boise State’s new head football coach.

“Sure, I remember Dirk,” says Buckner of Dirk Koetter, who was named the Broncos’ head coach in December. “I remember him when he played high school and college ball. He could throw the ball the length of the field when he had to.”

After an outstanding football and basketball career at Pocatello’s Highland High School in the mid-1970s, Koetter remained in his hometown, playing quarterback at Idaho State. During that same time, Buckner was winding down his long and distinguished officiating career.

Given their sports backgrounds and deep Idaho roots, it’s no wonder Buckner and Koetter crossed paths more than once.

“I remember when he was team captain at Highland. He was a good athlete and a good student,” says Buckner. “I think he’s turned out to be a good coach and did a good job at Oregon [as the Ducks’ offensive coordinator before coming to BSU] and helping them win a bowl game. I’m glad to see somebody from Idaho get the [BSU] job.”

Like Koetter, Buckner was no slouch as a



Buckner today, above, and as a BJC athlete in the mid-'40s.

student-athlete — although the situation was much different when he competed for BJC.

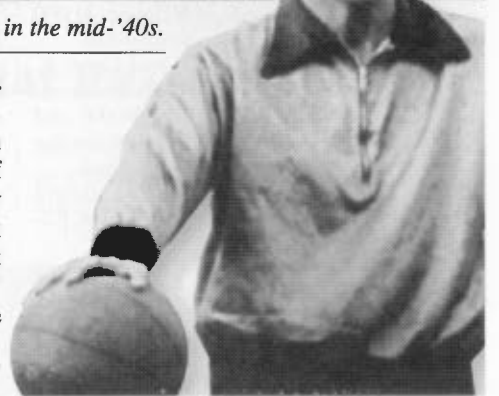
In the fall of 1944, Buckner’s freshman year, the BJC football “season” consisted of six games of six-man “touch” against equally makeshift teams from St. Teresa’s, Gowen Field and College of Idaho. “We just didn’t have enough players because of the war,” Buckner recalls. “Then the next year we didn’t play football at all.”

Nevertheless, Buckner was the Broncos’ co-leader in scoring with five TDs during their 5-1 season.

Including nine games against Gowen Field squads, the BJC basketball team posted an 18-6 record during the 1944-45 season. In 1945-46, the Broncos didn’t fare as well, falling to 5-21. Buckner was team captain and leading scorer both years.

“BJC converted an old airplane hangar into a gymnasium, and that’s where we played basketball. If there were any big games to play, we would play in Boise High School’s gym,” Buckner recalls. “We played our football games on a field where BSU’s stadium is now. For baseball, we built a diamond where the Morrison Center stands now.”

Race, he says, was rarely an issue. “I’d run into a crackpot every now and then,” he says, “but race just wasn’t a big deal. My teammates and I stuck together and we were all good friends. I know that if I heard anything



like that, my buddies would have cleaned their clocks — on or off the field. But I really don’t recall being subjected to racial taunts by opposing fans or players.”

In fact, says Buckner, it was not until years later as a Big Sky referee that he occasionally experienced the cruelties of racism. Sadly, he adds, it was a few of his fellow officials who were the culprits. “Some of the guys I was assigned to work football and basketball with made it pretty evident that they didn’t want to work or travel with me,” he recalls.

Today, he drives a bus for Boise-based Northwestern Stages. He goes to BSU games as his schedule permits. He still follows his alma mater and might even check out the football team soon.

“Spring football is just around the corner,” he says, “Maybe I’ll go see Dirk one of these days.” □

CHUCK SHEER PHOTO



# SCIENTIST STUDIES HOW LIFE CHANGES AS RAIN FORESTS FALL

By Janelle Brown

The whine of chain saws and the roar of bulldozers are sounds scientist William Laurance has heard often during his two years in the Amazon.

Brazil's vast rain forests are being destroyed at an unprecedented rate — with consequences Laurance and other researchers are just beginning to understand.

Laurance, a 1982 Boise State biology graduate, is studying what happens to rain forests when the surrounding area is cleared for agriculture, timber or other uses.

A senior research scientist with the Smithsonian Institution, Laurance is leading an eight-person scientific team on a 17-year study of rain forest near Manaus, Brazil.

Habitat fragmentation — the division of native forests by land uses such as agriculture and logging — is regarded as the “greatest single threat to the world's populations today,” he says.

“There is a vastly higher mortality rate for trees on the edges of a logged area,” says Laurance. “These trees are very specialized. They can't handle the stress.”

The dense rain forest canopy offers protection from the elements, Laurance explains. But when the forest is cleared, trees within



Laurance with a falcon captured in the central Amazonian rain forest.

about 1,000 feet of clearings are left exposed. Many die and are replaced by scrub species that provide less habitat.

The decomposing trees also give off carbon dioxide, fueling concerns about the greenhouse effect and global warming.

Laurance has published more than 60 scientific articles in international journals. Results of his recent work in the Amazon have been published in *Science*, *Ecology*, *Conservation Biology* and other journals.

He also co-authored *Tropical Forest Rem-*

are all issues.

But Laurance says his Portuguese is improving and that he and his wife, Susan, a scientist on his team, are enjoying some wonderful experiences.

Highlights for Laurance include coming face-to-face with two pumas and realizing after seeing tracks in the mud that he had been stalked by a jaguar.

“It's been a great opportunity. We have an incredible data set,” says Laurance. “We're bearing the fruits of a lot of past work.” □

## ENRICHING LIVES WITH SOUND OF MUSIC

By Theresa Langer

Margaret Vincent has lived her life in a partnership with music. “If we can teach at least one student to be a better listener, then the world of music will have a better audience,” she says.

After receiving her degree in music from Boise State in 1990, the College of Southern Idaho invited Vincent to create a program to teach others how to teach piano.

She accepted and has taught a class at CSI for the last seven years, during which time she commuted one day a week to Boise State from Twin Falls to earn a master of music degree in performance/pedagogy in 1995.

“The professors [at BSU] are very helpful and cooperative,” Vincent says, adding that as a non-traditional student she feels there is a lot of camaraderie on BSU's campus because of the number of students of various ages who attend.

Currently, Vincent is the coordinator of the department of music at CSI. Her duties

include organizing faculty concerts, addressing the general needs of the department and serving on the search committee for faculty at CSI.

“I have an open door to the president [of CSI],” Vincent says. “I'm able to make him aware when the department has needs.”

Vincent also coordinates community relations with the academic faculty. “I'm sort of a go-between for the school and the community,” she adds.

Vincent has taught private piano lessons for 35 years and currently tutors 15 college students and 12 high school and junior high school students.

Her dedication to music reaped some personal rewards in 1990 when Vincent and her husband Roger received the Governor's Award for the Arts.

“Music is an ongoing thing,” she says. “It's something you can share all your life. And music doesn't have an age on it. People are living so much longer now, so why not enrich our lives?” □



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID EY STUDIO

# Alumni in Touch

Our policy is to print as much "In Touch" information as possible. Send your letters to the BSU Alumni Association, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725 or e-mail to [lburke@claven.idbsu.edu](mailto:lburke@claven.idbsu.edu). If you know someone who would make a good feature story in our "Alumnnotes" section, contact the office of News Services at the same address.

## 50s

**SALLY ROBBINS**, AA, general arts and sciences, '51, is a guardian ad litem for the courts in Port Townsend, Wash., evaluating custody, guardianship and paternity cases. Robbins retired in 1992 as an extension agent and was a faculty member at Washington State University.

**VERLENA RAE (RICHARDSON) ORR**, AA, general arts and sciences, '59, recently released her second chapbook of poems, *Women Who Hear Voices*, published by Future Tense Press. Orr lives in Portland, Ore.

## 70s

**JUDY IRENE MURPHY**, BS, mathematics/secondary education, '72, teaches math for the Payette School District in Payette.

**MARVIN J. ASKEY**, BBA, marketing, '73, is residential national accounts manager with Trus Joist MacMillan in Boise. Askey has been with the firm for 15 years.

**MICHAEL JOSEPH KOLOSKI**, BBA, marketing, '73, is president and general manager of Stewart Title in Boise. Koloski previously was vice president and director of marketing for Home Federal Savings in Boise.

**JAMES N. BARKER**, BA, social work, '74, is a psychiatric social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palo Alto, Calif. Barker also teaches Vietnamese language courses at Mission College in Santa Clara.

**ALFRED ROBERTSON DOLE**, BA, music, '75, is music director at Clarkston High in Clarkston, Wash. Dole has taught at CHS since 1976.

**JAMES C. WOODS**, BFA, art, '75, is the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities award from the Idaho Humanities Council. Woods is an anthropologist and director of the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

**ELIZABETH "BETTY" E. ARCHIBALD**, BBA, business education/administrative services, '76, and her husband, Jean Archibald, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in February. They reside in Boise.

**MARSHAL M. McDANIELS**, BFA, art, '76, owns McDaniels Watercolours in Grants Pass, Ore.

**JAMES D. CORBETT**, BBA, accounting, '78, is chairman of the board for Golden Crown Corp. in Coeur d'Alene.

**MYLES P. DEWEY**, MBA, '78, is manager of post office operations for the Spokane district of the U.S. Postal Service.

**LARRY L. JOHNSON**, BBA, economics, '78, is vice president of planning for Abitibi Consolidated, a newsprint/forest products company. Johnson lives in St. Albans, Vt.

**JOEL S. HICKMAN**, BBA, marketing, '79, is senior relationship manager of KeyBank's

Private Banking and Investment department in Boise. Hickman has been with the bank for 10 years. He also serves on the board of the BSU Alumni Association.

**JERRY L. OSTERMILLER**, BS, social science, '79, is executive director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Ore.

## 80s

**SUSAN E. CARTER-ROOD**, BA, elementary education, '80, teaches first grade at Ridgemoor Elementary School in Menifee, Calif.

**JUDITH E. (WILSON) ALLEN**, MBA, '80, teaches health occupations for the Nampa School District in Nampa.

## BASSFORD PLANTS MONEYTREE SEED

By Renee White

While many of his junior high classmates played ball or helped with the family farm, young Dennis Bassford was calculating how to develop his own business.

For his first business venture, Bassford sold the definitions for his English class vocabulary list to his classmates in the small rural town of Payette. "I would look up the definitions, type them up and make mimeographed copies to sell as study guides," Bassford recalls.

Although his first entrepreneurial attempt was short-lived, the Boise State accounting graduate's entrepreneurial drive led him to establish the thriving check-cashing company, Moneytree.

After leaving BSU in 1980, Bassford persuaded his mother and brother to pool their resources, and in 1983 they opened their first Moneytree in Renton, Wash. Bassford believed that the banking industry's move toward electronic services would create a niche for what he calls "alternative banking" centers that could offer personalized services.

His hunch paid off. Moneytree, which had only 10 locations in 1995, has added about one store a month for the last two years and now operates 35 stores throughout Idaho, Washington and California. Bassford recently told the *Seattle Times* that he hopes to open another dozen stores by 1999.

Companies like Bassford's offer their clients personalized check-cashing, "pay-day" loan services and money orders. Much of their clientele are people who don't — or can't — use traditional banks and handle their financial affairs on a cash basis.

In the *Times* interview, Bassford said

**BRIAN PAUL CROUCH**, BA, political science—social science/secondary education, '81, recently received the Distinguished Service to Youth Award from Families Against Drugs. Crouch is a drug curriculum/intervention specialist with the Idaho Falls School District.

**ARTHUR JAMES BERRY**, MBA, '82, is owner of Arthur Berry & Co. in Boise.

**PAMELA L. DAVIES**, BFA, art, '82, is an outpatient clinician for Adult Mental Health with the Department of Health and Welfare in Blackfoot.

**LAYNE M. HEPWORTH**, BBA, accounting, '82, is an insurance and investments agent in Boise. He recently was named number one in the local Bob Rice Agency and was in the top 10 in the



PHOTO COURTESY SEATTLE TIMES

the check-cashing industry is growing, even in neighborhoods where traditional banks are located. But those banks often won't cash checks for non-customers or lend money to those with bad credit.

"We have banks all around us ... it is a reality that many of their policies enable us to be in business," he told the *Seattle Times* newspaper.

Bassford knows that business smarts alone do not make a company profitable. He insists that Moneytree's success is due to his philosophy of treating people right. That starts with his 230 employees and continues with his clients. "Ninety percent of our business comes from repeat customers," says Bassford. "We are really in a relationship business."

If Bassford's business is based on relationships, then his next big move could be called a relationship merger. In the spring he will marry Susan Albrecht, the owner of Checkmate, Moneytree's biggest competitor.

The two met at a convention in Chicago. And while they will join their lives, don't look for a business merger yet. "The two businesses will stay independent," Bassford says. □



nation for Baird Investments. Hepworth also serves on the board of the BSU Alumni Association.

**ROBERT FRANKLIN WATSON**, BBA, management/aviation, '82, is business manager for the manufacturing department with Northrop Grumman Corp. at Point Mugu, Calif.

**MATTHEW C. EAMES**, BA, political science, '83, is president of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association for 1997-98. Eames works for Idaho Power Co. in Boise.

**LELA M. HANKINS**, BS, chemistry, '83, is district sales manager at Searle Pharmaceutical Inc. in Reseda, Calif.

**MARK K. JARRATT**, BBA, management/aviation, '83, has been promoted to the rank of major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Jarratt is an instructor pilot flight examiner with the 97th Training Squadron at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

**MICHAEL O. BURTON**, BS, nursing, '84, teaches nursing at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene.

**KELLIE LEA DOYLE**, BAS, '84, is general manager of Mr. Sandman Motel in Meridian. Doyle has 14 years' experience as director of sales and promotions for several hotels throughout the Treasure Valley.

**KEVIN W. HAWKINSON**, BBA, economics, '85, is vice president of investments and sales manager of Smith Barney in Boston.

**CRAIG DEAN HUNTSMAN**, BA, criminal justice administration, '85, is project manager with American Protective Services in Corvallis, Ore.

**INEZ M. SCHOELER**, BBA, accounting, '85, is executive director of the American Diabetes Association in Boise.

**SHAWN RUSSELL ATHAY**, BBA, management/industrial relations, '86, is director of human resources and administration for the J.R. Simplot Co. Minerals and Chemical Group in Pocatello. Athay has been employed with the company since 1987.

**BARBARA J. (WANPER) ELSTON**, BA, music, '86, teaches private music and piano lessons in Boise.

**STEPHEN FRANKENSTEIN**, BA, history-social science/secondary education, '86, recently received his master's of educational leadership degree from the University of Central Florida. Frankenstein works for Orange County Public Schools and lives in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

**SANDRA L. (GORRINGE) VIAU**, BBA, accounting, '86, is a controller at Lake Las Vegas Resort, a real estate development firm in Henderson, Nev.

**ERIC MATTHEW SMITH**, BBA, marketing, '86, is vice president of Builders Masonry Products in Meridian.

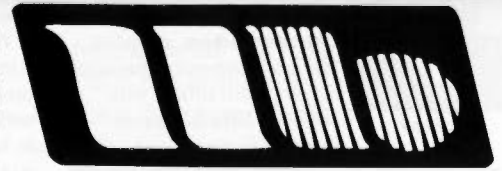
**DANIEL R. GREER**, BA, history, '87, is an associate editor at Healthwise Inc. in Boise.

**STEPHANIE C. WESTERMEIER**, BA, political science, '87, is a partner in the law firm of Givens Pursley & Huntley, LLP in Boise. Westermeier specializes in the area of health care and hospital law, representing hospitals and health-care providers.

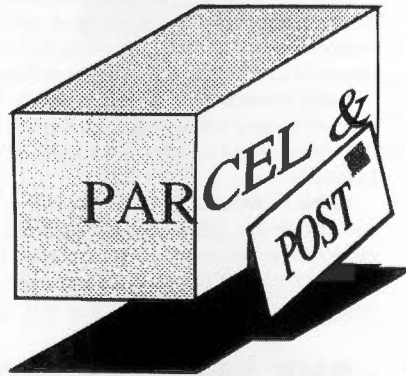
**KEVIN T. CHURCHMAN**, BS, political science, '88, is territory business manager for Bristol-Myer Squibb, specializing in cardiovascular and diabetes medication. His wife, **STEPHANIE ANNE (SMITH) CHURCHMAN**, BBA, marketing, '88, is vice president of administration and finance for Builders Masonry Products in Meridian. The couple resides in Eagle.

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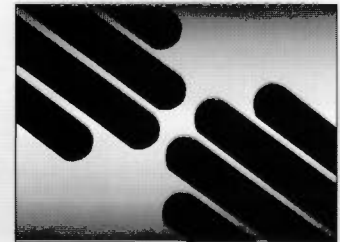
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**RICK J. CHOATE**, BBA, finance, '89, is assistant vice president and assistant manager at the Twin Falls Business Financial Center. Choate previously was manager of First Security Bank in Buhl.



Cochran

**KEITH COCHRAN**, attended '89, is a commercial business development officer with Alliance Title & Escrow Corp. in Boise.

## 90s

**KEVAN DOUGLAS FENDERSON**, BS, political science, '90, is a governmental affairs representative for Albertson's Inc. in Boise. Fenderson previously was public affairs manager for an Idaho environmental services company and also served as a special assistant in the office of former Idaho Gov. Cecil D. Andrus.

**MICHAEL C. PERALA**, MA, education, '90, is a certified athletic trainer at Pro-Motion PT Clinic in Yakima, Wash. Perala has also been elected president of the Washington State Athletic Trainers Association Inc. for 1996-99.

**BRENDA BLADES HALL**, MA, education/special education, '91, is preschool director at Wendell Elementary in Wendell. She has been a teacher for 20 years.

**FRANKLIN O. CARROLL**, MPA, '92, is communications manager for Potlatch in Idaho. Carroll previously was a Forest Service public affairs officer.

**ERIK B. CLINE**, BS, psychology, '92, is store manager with West Coast Firestone in Long Beach, Calif.

**BRYAN ANDREAS RASMUSSEN**, BA, communication/secondary education, '92, recently received his master of education degree in secondary education from the University of Idaho in Moscow. Rasmussen teaches English at Coeur d'Alene High School and also is an assistant track and field coach at North Idaho College.

**JEFFREY A. STOPPENHAGEN**, BA, political science, '92, has been named a training officer for First Security Bank's corporate training department in Boise. He previously served as financial services supervisor for the bank's Fairview branch. Stoppenhagen also is assistant coach for the BSU speech and debate team.



Stoppenhagen

**RUSTY J. BOICOURT**, BS, geology, '93, is environmental service manager for Material Testing & Inspection Inc. in Boise.

**KEVIN M. CATO**, BA, history, '93, teaches U.S. and world history at Buhl High School in Buhl.

**SCOTT E. GABELMAN**, BS, physical education/health promotion, '93, is director of tennis at Crane Creek Country Club in Boise. Gabelman previously was the assistant tennis pro at Hillcrest Country Club.

**WENDY JOY GRAHAM**, MA, education/curriculum and instruction, '93, is training development coordinator at Micron Technology in Boise. Her husband, **PAUL GRAHAM**, owns and operates Cyber Exchange, a computer hardware and software retailer in Boise.

**GREGORY M. MESS**, MS, exercise and sports

studies, '93, recently opened his own chiropractic practice in Ontario, Ore.

**MELISSA J. OSGOOD**, BA, advertising design, '93, is a graphic designer with Occupancy 66 Visual Communications LLC in Boise.



Osgood

**TIMOTHY ASHLEY RIHA**, BS, criminal justice administration, '93, is a patrol corporal with the Idaho State Police in Meridian. Riha previously worked for the Nampa Police Department.

**GUY MADISON SWARTZ**, BFA, advertising design, '93, is art director at Davies & Rourke Advertising in Boise. Swartz previously was a graphic designer, production supervisor and art director with Micron Electronics.

**CHRISTOPHER E. VELOZ**, BBA, economics, '93, has been appointed to the planning and zoning commission for the city of Nampa. Veloz is the treasurer of RV Furniture Center in Nampa.

**THOM WILHELM YOUNG**, MA, English, '93 recently earned his doctorate in English from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, La.

**TERRIL J. CATMULL**, MA, education/curriculum and instruction, '94, recently was named employee of the month at West Minico Junior High in Rupert. Catmull is a librarian at the school.

**ROSS ANN (CLARK) CHILDS**, BA, political science, '94, is an associate attorney with Dellwo, Roberts and Scanlon in Spokane, Wash.

**EVE R. COSTELLO**, BA, English/British literature, '94, is head proofreader at White Runkle Associates Advertising in Spokane, Wash.

**FABIOLA V. JUAREZ-COCA**, BA, political science, '94, was recently named chair of the Image de Idaho Scholarship Committee for 1998-99. Juarez-Coca is a minority enrollment counselor at BSU.

**SHERRI LYNNE KLUG**, BS, earth science education, '94, was recently selected Elementary Science Teacher of the Year for Region III by the Idaho Science Teachers Association. Klug is the science enrichment coordinator with the New Plymouth School District.

**PETER W. OAKANDER**, BS, construction management, '94, is lead project scheduler for ADP Marshall in Hillsboro, Ore.

**ERIC JOHN WERNER**, BBA, finance, '94, was recently designated a naval aviator while serving with Training Air Wing Two, Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas.

**JONI D. (ARGENBRIGHT) WAYBRIGHT**, BA, English/technical communication, '94, is a system technician with the Idaho State Police in Meridian.

**GRETCHEN L. BOLTON**, BA, communication, '95, is office manager at PBZ Marketing Communication in Boise.

**CHERLY A. (THAYER) MEADE**, BS, criminal justice

## SHE TEACHES MORE THAN JUST MUSIC

By Theresa Langer

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," says BSU graduate Linda Schmidt. Now in her 13th year at Capital High School in Boise, where she teaches intermediate and advanced concert jazz choirs and serves as the director of choirs, there are undoubtedly hundreds of current and former students who are glad she made that choice.

In her 13 years, Schmidt's jazz choirs have finished in first place 10 times and in second place twice at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival held in Moscow. She was the 1994-95 Choir Director of the Year for Idaho's District Three and was named the Idaho Music Educator of the Year in 1997.

"My education has had a big impact on what I do now," says the veteran teacher, who received her bachelor of arts degree in music education from BSU in 1973 and returned to earn a master of music education in 1990. She grew up in southern Idaho and came to Boise State



JOHN KELLY PHOTO

on a music scholarship.

Even with all the awards under her belt, the personal rewards motivate Schmidt most. "I have a lot of fun with the students. They're so smart and inspiring and never boring."

There are a lot of things she is able to do for her students — like helping them learn the additional skills they will need in the real world, including money and time management, that are important to have when they're performing on the road.

"It's the impact I'm able to make on my students, not just in music," Schmidt says. "Students leave my program with the love of music and also integrity." □



administration, '95, and her husband, **STEVEN JAMES MEADE**, BS, criminal justice administration, '95, are enrolled at the University of Idaho, College of Law in Moscow.

**GEOFFREY "JEFF" DAVID NICKERSON**, BBA, management/entrepreneurial, '95, is president and company operator of ALLWORLD Internet Services in Boise.

**JEREL MARCUS STOOR**, BBA, business management, '95, is an account manager with Boise Cascade Office Products in Boise.

**CHERI D. STOREY**, BA, English, '95, is communications coordinator with the Idaho Dairy Products Commission in Boise.

**RODNEY L. ZACHARIAS**, BBA, finance, '95, is sales manager at The Grove Hotel in Boise.

**AMY E. CATES**, BA, elementary education, '96/BA, general music, '96, teaches fifth grade at Joplin Elementary School in Meridian.

**SHANNON L. (HALL) DUNSTAN**, MSW, '96, is co-owner of Dunstan, Hall & Associates, a service agency for developmentally disabled adults and children. Dunstan lives in Meridian.

**TIMOTHY JOE RELK**, BA, political science, '96, is a business news reporter with the *Idaho Press-Tribune* in Nampa. Relk previously was a photographer with the paper. He was a 1997 Top Ten Scholar at BSU.

**SCOTT JERALD SALOIS**, BAS, '96, recently graduated from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tenn. Salois is a second lieutenant and a maintenance officer assigned to the 124th Fighter Wing at Gowen Field in Boise.

**ANDREA I. (WOLDEN) WALKER**, BA, psychology, '96, is skill center coordinator at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Ore.

**MARK C. WEAVER**, BBA, international business, '97, is a licensed agent for Preferred Homes in Nampa. Weaver will cover the Fruitland and Payette areas.

## WEDDINGS

**KENNETH BOEHLKE** and Kirsten Becker, June 21  
**KIMBERLY JO LANE** and Zeb Craig, (Nampa) June 21

**BRIAN RICHARD BOTHWELL** and **DEBRA MICHELE ERNST**, (Oak Harbor, Wash.) June 28

**LENA LIM** and Raymond G. Hui, (Portland, Ore.) June 28

**LESLIE ANNETTE HANNEMANN** and Dale Jansen van Beek, (Nampa) July 11

**STACY D. PUZEY** and Darren Twilegar (Boise) July 19

**MEGAN M. JONES** and **DAVID WILLIAM SCOTT**, (Boise) July 26

**ERIKA SUZANNE GUDEMAN** and Hud Parr, (Boise) Aug. 23

**PETER W. OAKANDER** and Elaine Neville, (West Yellowstone, Mont.) August

**SCOTT GABELMAN** and Ruth Fritz, (Boise) Sept. 6

**ROBERT BOTHNE HANCOCK** and Kathi J. Lemberes, (McCall) Sept. 20

**CHERYL ANN PEILA** and Charles J. Riddle, (Coeur d'Alene) Sept. 20

**HEIDI MICHELLE MULDOWNEY** and Galen Hill (Boise) Sept. 27

**JANET LYNN ROBINS** and Dennis Cherry Jr., (Boise) Sept. 27

**VICTORIA LEANDRA URRESTI** and Brenden Lee Fitzgerald, (Boise) Sept. 27

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## BSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- APRIL 11** — Alumni Night at the Theatre, Morrison Center Main Hall. Discounted tickets available to Alumni Association members for *The Grapes of Wrath*, presented by BSU theatre arts department.
- APRIL 30** — Top Ten Scholars and Distinguished Alumni Banquet, BSU Student Union. 6 p.m. social hour; 7 p.m. dinner. Tickets: \$15.
- MAY 5** — College of Business and Economics chapter meeting, Louie's Restaurant, downtown Boise, 5:30 p.m.
- MAY 9** — Alumni Career Conference, BSU Student Union.
- MAY 15** — Graduation Celebration, BSU Student Union.
- MAY 21** — Alumni Association Annual Meeting, BSU Student Union. Noon. Tickets: \$5, includes lunch.
- MAY 29** — Alumni golf tournament, Buhl.
- MAY 29-30** College of Business and Economics chapter trip to Jackpot, Nev.
- JUNE 4-6** — Alumni Association Tour of the Pacific Northwest. BSU President Charles Ruch and new head football coach Dirk Koetter will meet with alumni and constituent groups June 4 in Spokane, Wash., June 5 in Seattle and June 6 in Portland, Ore. Watch your mailbox for details.
- JUNE 12** — Alumni golf tournament, Payette.
- JULY 10** — Alumni golf tournament, Mountain Home.
- OCT. 17** — BSU Homecoming celebration.

**For more information call the Alumni Office at 208 385-1959.**

**HEATHER R. SATTLER** and Lance Sganzeni, (Caldwell) Oct. 11

**DAWN MARIE ARNZEN** and Nolan Schoo, (Grangeville) Nov. 28

**MAUREEN MCGONIGAL WHEELER** and William Guthrie Patterson, (Hailey) Nov. 29

**CAMY MELINDA MILLS** and Jared Selvoy Cox, (Salt Lake City) Dec. 27

**RODGER C. COUCH** and Lou-Ann Runyan, (Boise)

manager of diversity programs for Paradigm Consulting Inc. in Boise.

**DERWARD "PETE" PEDERSON**, AA, general arts and sciences, '57, died Dec. 10 in Mountain Home at age 64. Pederson was a teacher, coach, counselor and administrator with the Mountain Home School District for 29 years. He retired in 1988.

**MARSHA RAE (MCGHEE) PHILLIPS**, AS, nursing, '70, died Jan. 26 in Ontario, Ore., at age 47. Phillips was a certified cardiac rehabilitation specialist at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

**MICHAEL PAUL PIERCE**, AAS, machine shop, '83, died Jan. 29 in Orofino at age 42. Pierce had spent four years in the Navy, and had also worked for the Bunker Hill Zinc Plant, and the Idaho State Prison in Boise.

**RANDALL D. PIRNIE**, BA, social science, '78, died Jan. 4 in Idaho Falls at age 48. Pirnie had worked for Willow Creek in Idaho Falls.

**WILLIAM "BUTCH" H. PURDY**, BBA, computer information systems, '78, died Dec. 1 in Boise County at age 46. Purdy was music and video manager for Hastings.

**JEAN J. STEVENSON**, BBA, accounting, '84, died Dec. 27 in Boise at age 50. Stevenson was a certified public accountant. □

## OBITUARIES

**RUTH ANN (WARD) BRUTSMAN**, BA, elementary education, '69, died Jan. 30 in Caldwell at age 56. Brutsman was a teacher at Middleton High School at the time of her death.

**ROBB W. CAMPBELL**, BA, art, '91, died Jan. 29 in Boise at age 42. Campbell had been employed at several music stores, KBSU Radio, and other businesses.

**CARMEN L. (HARRIS) CANTRELL**, MA, business education/secondary education, '80, died Feb. 4 in Nampa at age 47. Cantrell taught business education at Nampa High School before retiring due to illness.

**AARON D. EVANS**, CC, small engine repair, '81, died Feb. 16 in Emmett at age 69. Evans assisted with vocational small engine courses at Middleton High School.

**BETTY JEAN (QUALEY) HARRISON**, AA, general arts and sciences, '41, died Jan. 31 in Boise at age 77. Harrison was a music specialist for public schools in Rupert, Blackfoot, Caldwell and Boise. When arthritis forced her to stop playing violin, she turned to student counseling and retired in that position at East Junior High after nearly 50 years in the teaching profession.

**LELAND "LEE" MERCY JR.**, BBA, marketing, '71, died March 9 in Boise at age 55. After his graduation, Mercy stayed on at BSU, working as assistant registrar, registrar and later as executive assistant to the president. He left BSU in 1985. At the time of his death, Mercy was

## THE LINES ARE OPEN

Contact your Alumni Office by:  
**PHONE:** 800 824-7017 ext. 1959 or  
208 385-1959

**FAX:** 208 385-1005

**E-MAIL:** bsualum@bsu.idbsu.edu

**HOME PAGE:** <http://www.idbsu.edu/alumni>

**MAIL:** Boise State University Alumni Association, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725. □



## KRAMER NAMED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dawn Kramer, a 1995 Boise State graduate, has been selected as the new assistant alumni director.

Kramer returns to the university after working for the Associated Press and the office of Idaho Gov. Phil Batt, where she handled issues ranging from education to the arts and health and welfare.

While at Boise State, Kramer was active as a university ambassador and as editor of the *Arbiter*.



A Magic Valley native, she holds degrees in mass communication/journalism and political science.

"I am looking forward to being back on campus. I want to reach out to recent graduates such as myself, who have in common their dedication to Boise State University," she says.

Her first goal is to establish a new chapter for the Alumni Association. "The Grad + 10" chapter will be designed to create an environment for interaction between recent graduates and the university.

"I am very excited to have Dawn join the alumni relations staff," says Bob Davies, executive director of the Alumni Association. "Her enthusiasm, experience and fresh ideas will help both the association and the university."

Kramer was selected from more than 110 applicants from across the country. □

## GOLF TOURNAMENTS AND PICNICS SET

The Alumni Association is planning six golf tournaments and family picnics this summer throughout Idaho.

Each tournament raises scholarship funds for students from that area to attend Boise State. Golfers and non-golfers are invited to a post-tournament family picnic.

Prospective students also are encouraged to participate in the tournaments and picnics to meet Boise State staff members and alumni from their area.

Tournaments are planned for May 29 in Buhl, June 12 in Payette and July 10 in Mountain Home.

Dates and sites are still tentative for tournaments in Canyon County, Pocatello and northern Idaho.

The association needs volunteers from each area to make the tournaments a success. Those interested, either as players or volunteers, can call the Alumni Office for details. □

## Help Your University Celebrate the Past and Look to the Future Join the BSU Alumni Association Today!

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Mail to: New Student Information Center, Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725  
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 Toll free in Idaho: 1-800-632-6586 / nationwide: 1-800-824-7017

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 High School \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major \_\_\_\_\_  
   First Choice    Second Choice  
 Your name \_\_\_\_\_



## STEP UP TO NEW BRONCO LICENSE PLATE

Boise State will soon add specialty license plates to the arsenal of materials boosters can use to show their enthusiasm for the university.

Starting this summer, Boise State and five other colleges/universities in Idaho will market their collegiate plates as a way to promote themselves and raise funds for scholarships.

The collegiate license plate program was approved by the 1997 Legislature. It is being marketed through the alumni associations of every public college and university in the state.

The plates will cost \$50 annually in addition to the regular license fee. Of that, \$25 of the initial fee will return to the university. Each time the plate is renewed, \$35 will

return to the university.

The university will use the funds for scholarships or matching funds for academic programs.

Unlike other Idaho affinity plates, the collegiate plate will not have a unique plate design. The plates will maintain the current red, white and blue design, but each school will be allowed space where the county identifier usually appears.

Boise State's design features a galloping bronco on a white background.

"We think this will be well-received by our supporters," says Bob Davies, Boise State's alumni director. "It is an excellent opportunity for our alumni and friends to show their support of Boise State and contribute money to academics at the same time." □

## NEW CREDIT CARD AVAILABLE IN MAY

FIRST USA, the BSU Alumni Association and the Bronco Athletic Association have teamed up to offer a low-interest, no annual fee credit card for their members and friends. Each time one of the credit cards is used, a portion of the transaction fee is donated to the university.

"This is a great program for alumni and friends to help support Boise State. The Alumni Association will use this money to

offer more programs and to support current students," says Bob Davies, the association's executive director.

The initial credit card will feature a picture of the Boise State campus. Additional cards will include pictures of the expanded stadium and other campus highlights.

Alumni will be notified by mail when the cards are available in mid-May. The Alumni Office also has details about the cards. □

## AlumNews

### ALUMNI CHAPTER NEWS

The Alumni Association is starting a new alumni chapter called Grad + Ten aimed at alumni who graduated within the last 10 years.

The goal of the new organization is to provide networking opportunities and programs for recent graduates. A steering committee is being formed to plan events and activities for the upcoming year. Alumni interested in participating in the new chapter can contact Dawn Kramer at the Alumni Office.

In other chapter news, Laura Kubinski has been elected president of the College of Business and Economics (COBE) Alumni Chapter. Nicole Pichardo was elected vice president, and Gene Marchioro was elected treasurer. Phil Bartle was selected to remain chairman of the social committee, and Sherri Youron was selected to chair the public relations committee.

The COBE chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month at Louie's Restaurant in downtown Boise. Each meeting starts with a social mixer at 5:30 p.m. followed by a presentation at 6 p.m. The COBE chapter is planning an alumni trip to Jackpot, Nev., May 29-30.

For more information regarding the COBE chapter, or any other chapter, contact the Alumni Office.

### ASSOCIATION DUES DRIVE

Have you paid your 1998 Alumni Association dues yet? Dues-paying members enjoy a variety of programs and benefits, including discounted Internet access.

Your dues also support alumni activities ranging from reunions to a career conference to academic speakers.

Take advantage of the convenient dues form included on Page 43. Annual dues are still only \$25. □

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

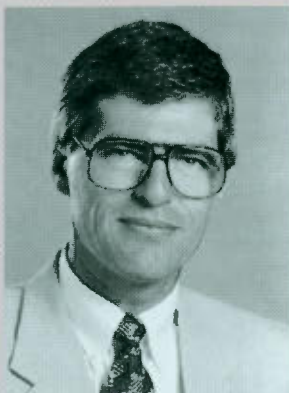
By Jim Davis, President  
BSU Alumni Association

It has been a privilege to be president of the Alumni Association this past year. I am certain I speak for all of the board members who have served over the years when I state what an honor it is to serve the Alumni Association membership. We have been entrusted with guiding the association's activities at an opportune time.

The university and the association are dynamic, growing institutions. Enrollment at the university continues to increase, as does the overall academic quality of those who apply for admission. Likewise, the number of dues-paying members in the association is rising along with the quality and quantity of its activities. It is easy, then, to be proud of Boise State University, the Alumni Association, and the role we, as board members, have played in the association's growth.

You, too, can join in the excitement! We are currently conducting our annual dues drive. The dues are minimal (\$25 per person), but they are the lifeblood of the association. If you have not received a dues mailer, the necessary information to join the association is available on Page 43 of this magazine. Dues-paying members of the association are afforded benefits that far outweigh the cost of membership. The association also has a number of committees, events and activities in which you can participate. We would love for you to become involved and to share our enthusiasm and pride.

The Alumni Association has enjoyed a tremendous year. It has been fun to be part of it. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity and privilege of serving the association. □



## AlumNews

### ALUMNI CAREER CONFERENCE

The Alumni Association and the BSU Career Center are teaming up to assist alumni with career choices. An Alumni Career Conference will be held May 9 to provide advice on how to launch a new career, change jobs or land a promotion. Experts in career development will explain these strategies and answer questions at the first-ever conference, which will be held at the Student Union.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Boise State University Alumni Association will be held at noon May 21 in the Student Union Look-out Room. The event will feature a recap of the year's activities and election of board members and officers. Lunch will be served for \$5. To RSVP, call the Alumni Office.

### REUNIONS...REUNIONS

Reunions are planned this year for the Forensics Team, Intercollegiate Knights, Valkyries and former Band members. In order to make each reunion special and unique, the Alumni Association needs help from alumni who participated in these activities while they were students. If you can help, call the Alumni Office. □

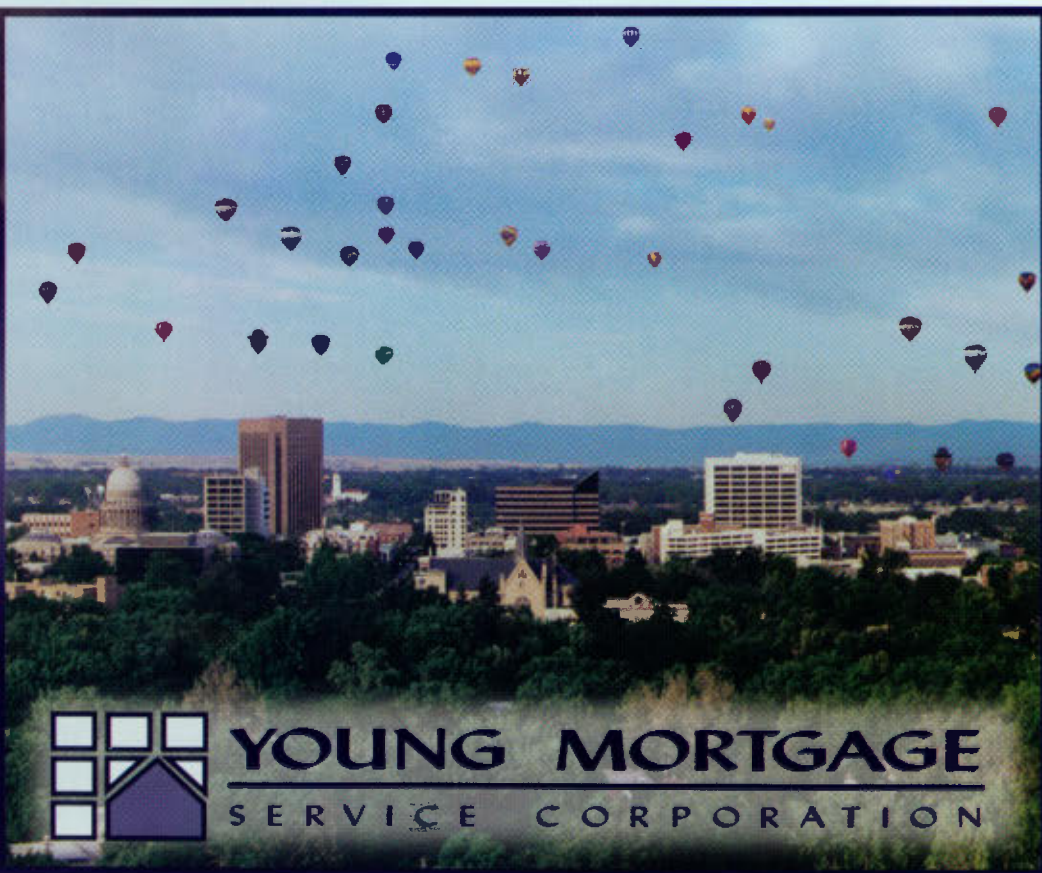
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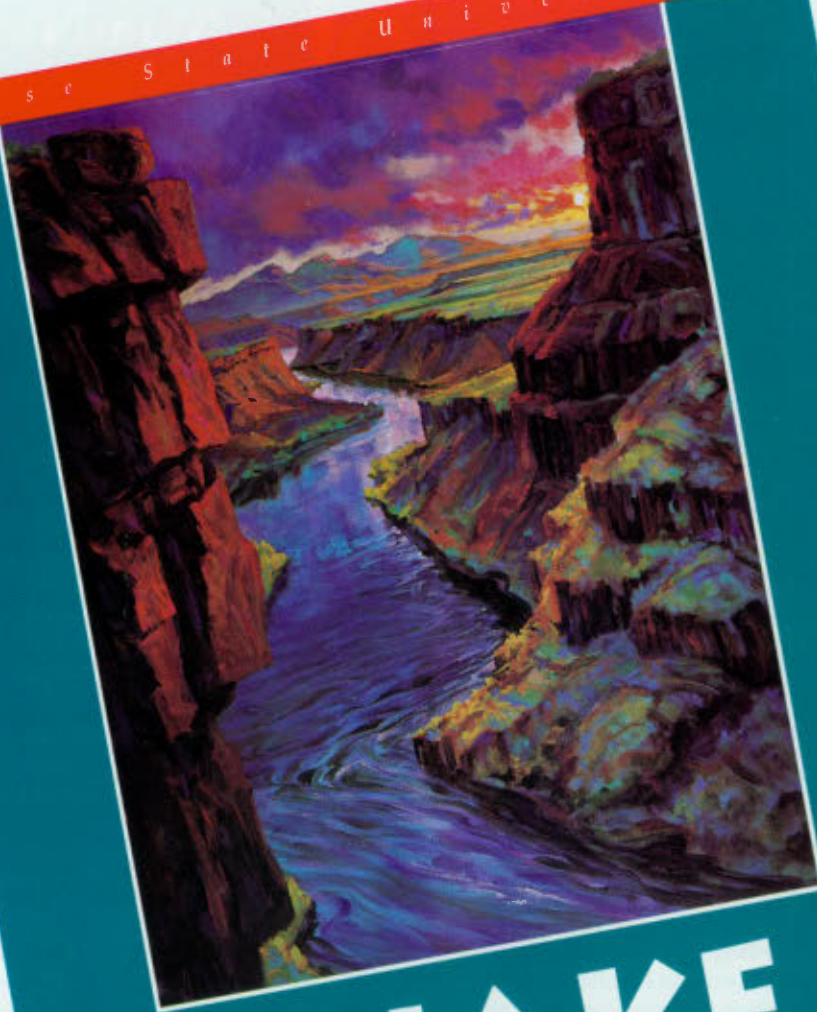


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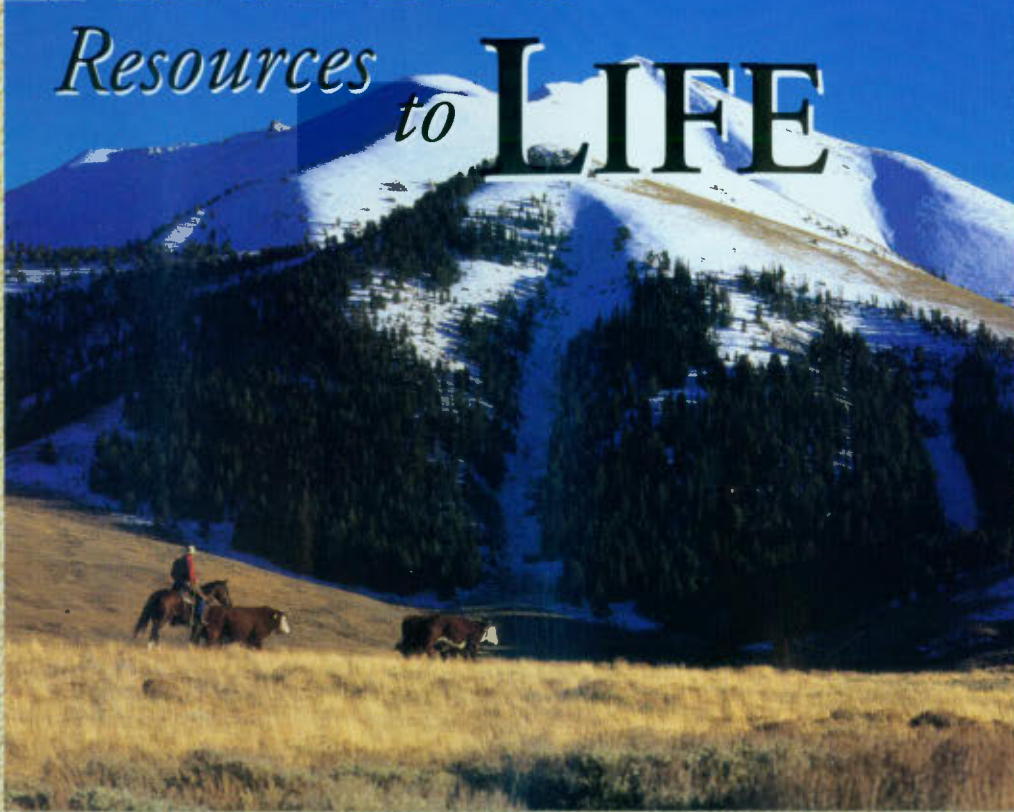
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