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Clip out along dotted line
RELIGIOUS RIGHT  16  Convictions shape their agenda.
LADY LAWMAKERS  22  For 100 years, they've left their mark.
TIME'S UP  26  Term limits are coming. So who's going to run?
VOTER VOID  28  Fewer Idahoans are going to the polls.
REAPPORTIONMENT  31  Idaho prepares to draw new boundaries.

Boise State's selection of outdoor art now includes Eternal Wind, a stainless steel sculpture donated to the university in memory of the late Janet Hay, a 12-year member of the State Board of Education and three-term legislator from Nampa. Created by 1984 graduate Nobuyo Okuda, Eternal Wind represents the bond between students and teachers. The piece is installed in the new Memorial Plaza between the Business Building and Albertsons Library. The sculpture and plaza were dedicated at a ceremony (above) in early September. John Kelly photo.
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ABOUT THE COVER: Idaho politics reflect both tradition and change as the state hurtles toward a new century and new challenges. In this issue of FOCUS, we explore some of the issues that are shaping state government, from term limits and reapportionment to the growing influence of women lawmakers and the impact of the religious right. We also profile four politicos who have made their voices heard in the state and look at voter turnout and other state trends. Cover courtesy Hummel Architects.
AT BOISE STATE, WE DO THE HONORS

By Charles Ruch, President

At the August 1998 State Board of Education meeting, the board unanimously approved the creation of an Honors College within Boise State University. This action marks the culmination of several years of planning and development, inaugurates a renewed universitywide effort to provide the very best in undergraduate education, and signals a new era in the life of our university.

Our Honors College builds on a long history and investment in an honors curriculum dating back to 1971. In 1995, the provost appointed a faculty committee that reviewed the status of our honors program and made recommendations for its enhancement. Concurrently, renovations to Driscoll Hall were being planned. With an eye toward an Honors College with a living/learning center, Driscoll Hall was remodeled to include program administrative offices, a seminar room and a student lounge.

Additionally, Driscoll Hall can accommodate 80 residents. With the advent of the Honors College, honor students have first choice for housing in that unit. This fall 29 Honors College students live in Driscoll Hall.

Why an Honors College? There are many reasons why a large, metropolitan university should include such a unit.

First, consistent with our mission, we need to provide collegiate programs responsive to all the citizens of Idaho. Academically talented students are no exception. Recent studies report that about 20 percent of graduating seniors leave Idaho annually to attend higher education institutions elsewhere. In many cases these are among the “best and brightest” of our young citizens. Our Honors College will create a viable alternative to our out-of-state competitors.

Second, the presence of outstanding students challenges the entire institution. Students enrolled in the Honors College will take courses across the university — some designed specifically for honors students, some available to the general student population. Their presence will serve as a challenge and catalyst for increased academic excellence from both their fellow students and the faculty.

Third, the Honors College is another opportunity to reinforce the interrelations between academic and student life activities. Learning is not confined to a single classroom. The campus, the community and the environment provide many opportunities for enhanced learning. The design of the college builds on this premise.

Finally, the Honors College provides a powerful haven within a large university. By design the college offers the best of the “small liberal arts college tradition” within a larger, multipurpose metropolitan university.

A unique characteristic of the college is its thematic organization. We contend that one of the more significant problems of the 21st century is our relationship to the environment. Environmental concerns are not the exclusive prerogatives of any academic discipline. Focusing the best minds from across the university on this one set of problems provides the college with an unusual opportunity for exemplary learning and scholarship.

With Boise State’s proximity to some of the largest pristine forests and grasslands in the United States, the Honors College is at the center of a large learning laboratory. Many of our academic programs and disciplines offer perspectives on environmental issues through courses, workshops and faculty scholarship. The selection of an environmental theme for the Honors College, therefore, is a natural marriage of our academic strengths and our location.

Research centers such as the Raptor Research Center and the Center for Geophysical Investigation of the Shallow Subsurface have an environmental emphasis. Again, student and community interests in the environment are strong considerations in the development of the program.

The environmental emphasis is introduced in the college’s curriculum through several mechanisms. Seminars serve as an introduction to the area and its issues. Internships permit students to study an issue from another perspective.

For example, a social science major may intern with a water control board study team to learn the role science plays in crafting solid environmental policy. Or a science major may intern at the Legislature and monitor one of the key committees developing environmental legislation.

Finally, a capstone experience can include a paper in which an Honors College student may discuss the relationships between his/her major area of study and one or more key environmental issues.

As we initiate the college, the unit enjoys strong leadership from its director, Dr. Greg Raymond, professor of political science, and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Alan Brinton.

We believe the college has a bright future. To date, we have received several scholarships to support Honors College students. Boise Cascade has provided a $50,000 gift to fund summer student research projects and ongoing funding for a speakers series. Other development activities are planned.

Alumni have a role to play in the development of this addition to Boise State. If you know of academically talented students who might be interested in the Honors College, please contact Dr. Raymond at (208) 426-1208 or by e-mail: graymon@bsu.idbsu.edu.

Alumni within the Treasure Valley with interests in supporting internships or other activities that might engage our students in environmental issues are also welcome to contact Dr. Raymond.

As always I appreciate your comments. I can be reached at (208) 426-1491 or through e-mail: apruch@bsu.idbsu.edu.

FOCUS/FALL 1998 7
ENGINEERING COLLEGE ADDS CLEANROOM

With the flick of a switch, lights bathe the room in a yellow glow. Sleek metal machinery gleams as white-gowned engineers delicately handle silicon wafers.

While this could be the scene at one of the Treasure Valley's high-tech businesses, it is actually a snapshot of the new cleanroom at Boise State University.

The Idaho Microfabrication Laboratory, a Class 1000 cleanroom outfitted with $2.25 million in donated equipment, was unveiled this fall for use by students, faculty and researchers. The 900-square-foot lab is one of only five nationally using 6-inch diameter wafers. It's the only one of its kind on an Idaho campus.

Housed in the Engineering and Technology Building, the lab gives engineering faculty the opportunity to teach about cleanroom systems and procedures as well as semiconductor processes. Students learn firsthand how to examine, test and model chip wafers using precision equipment and software.

The cleanroom is a joint project of the College of Engineering and the Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology. Undergraduate engineering students and two-year applied technology students receive hands-on instruction in the lab, which also will be used for faculty and student research and community outreach classes.

Rapid growth in the international semiconductor industry has created a severe shortage of skilled engineers and technicians with cleanroom experience, says Stephen Parke, a Boise State electrical engineering professor and director of the microelectronics program.

Jobs in the semiconductor and computer equipment fields in the Boise area alone have skyrocketed from 5,300 in 1987 to 16,400 in 1996.

Parke hopes that the cleanroom and the enthusiasm of industry supporters will help propel Boise State to the forefront of engineering technology. "Our vision is to become an international center for microelectronics instruction and research," he says.

Seven companies — Micron Technology, Zilog, SCP Global Technologies, AMI, West Coast Paper, Comdisc Electronics Group and Hewlett-Packard — donated equipment and supplies to the project.

The lab was designed by Leatham & Krohn Architects and Ackerman-Pratcixon Engineers; the general contractor was Guho Construction. □

FALL ENROLLMENT SETS RECORD—AGAIN

Boise State again set a record fall semester enrollment, but that growth is coming at a pace the university can handle, according to dean of enrollment services Mark Wheeler.

"We are experiencing sustained, managed growth. This is in keeping with our strategic plan to grow about 2-3 percent each year," says Wheeler.

Boise State enrolled 15,702 students this fall, the most ever served by an Idaho university and 235 more than last fall, which also set an enrollment record.

The university also welcomed the largest class of new freshmen ever to enroll — 2,386 students, a 5 percent increase over last fall.

Boise State’s new engineering college also continued to grow. The civil, electrical and mechanical engineering programs enrolled 524 majors, an increase of 263 students since Boise State began offering degrees just two years ago.

Enrollment in applied technology programs was 807, up 10 percent from last fall.

Wheeler says the university’s growth is related to several factors: new academic programs, increased courses at off-campus locations and through distance education, population growth in the Treasure Valley and the university’s growing academic reputation.

Boise State is located in an area where there is keen competition for students. "We are pleased so many are selecting Boise State," says Wheeler.

Boise State appeals to students because they like the blend of study, work, cultural activities and recreation that Boise State and the city of Boise offer, he says.

Wheeler cites an increase in the number of new out-of-state freshmen as an example of the university’s growing reputation within the region. This fall, 214 non-resident freshmen enrolled directly from high school compared with 142 one year ago.

Boise State’s Weekend University enrollment increased 224 students from last fall. This fall, 41 classes are offered on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sunday afternoons.

Wheeler adds that Boise State continues to draw students from throughout Idaho, and that enrollment is especially strong from Twin Falls and Bonneville counties. Boise State enrolls students from every Idaho county, 49 states and 55 foreign countries. □
CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY ON NEW ENGINEERING BUILDINGS

When engineering students need to work on class assignments next year, they won’t have to drive across town to use a borrowed laboratory. Instead, they’ll conduct their experiments in two new buildings filled with modern labs and classrooms.

Contractors are busy pouring the foundations for the state-of-the-art structures that will give Boise State’s engineering programs room to grow, and, as engineering Dean Lynn Russell puts it, “will allow us to become nationally competitive” for students and research grants.

With the exception of $500,000 in planning money from the state, funds for the $13.5 million complex were raised from area businesses and individuals.

Micron Technology, citing the need for a quality engineering program in Boise, took the lead in fund raising by issuing a three-year, $6 million challenge grant.

The response was so positive from donors that Boise State met the challenge one year ahead of schedule.

Two-thirds of the 62,720-square-foot, four-story Micron Engineering Center is dedicated to research and teaching laboratories. Glassed skyways will link the second and third floors to the Engineering and Technology Building on University Drive. Special features include electronics labs, a circuits lab, CAD labs, a thermal fluids lab, general computer labs and a room for student organizations.

The 14,160-square-foot Harry W. Morrison Civil Engineering Building, located north of the current Engineering and Technology Building, will house laboratories for civil and mechanical engineering.

A special feature is an 18-foot-tall high bay with an overhead crane and reinforced concrete floor.

Students will use the laboratories for mechanical processes, operating equipment and soil and other materials testing.

The new buildings will add needed space to a program that has seen its enrollment double since four-year degrees were first offered two years ago.

This fall, 524 students enrolled as engineering majors. Within five years, Russell expects College of Engineering enrollment to top 1,000 students.

The project architect is CSHQA Architects-Planners, and the contractor is McAlvain Construction, both of Boise. The project is being managed by the Boise State University Foundation, which is also custodian of the funds.

NATIONAL GROUP NAMES WITT IDAHO’S PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Boise State University is known for its emphasis on teaching — a trait reinforced this year when political science professor Stephanie Witt received 1998 Idaho Professor of the Year honors.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named Witt as Idaho’s best professor in September, the first time since 1994 that a Boise State professor has won the award.

The foundation honors professors in all 50 states for their dedication to undergraduate teaching.

Award criteria include integrating research in the classroom and personal interaction with students.

In their nomination letters, former students praised Witt for her active teaching style and her leadership with the political science department internship program, which has produced a new cadre of public servants in Idaho.

Former students credited Witt for her dedication to their academic and professional careers and her work as a Red Cross disaster services volunteer.

Students said Witt showed that public service goes beyond working in the public sector.

Past winners at Boise State include Greg Raymond in political science, who now heads the Honors College, and English professor Tom Trusky.

“This is based on recognition given by my students, which is the highest honor. And, I’m joining the company of others who I have tremendous respect for,” Witt says.
Summer adventures await you at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival!
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VIETNAM VISITORS EYE MBA DEGREES

Life in Boise and classes at Boise State University are part of an MBA education for a new group of Vietnamese students who joined the campus community for fall semester.

The 31 students are part of Boise State's efforts to provide an MBA education and build a free-standing business school at the National Economics University in Hanoi, Vietnam. This is the third class since 1994 to come through Boise as the last stop toward a master's degree.

The students represent different sectors of Vietnamese professional life, including lawyers, managers and future NEU faculty.

They will spend nine weeks in classes and internships with area businesses and will be matched with "buddies," volunteers who take students on social outings to encourage cultural exchanges.

In their first week on campus, students toured retail stores, met Gov. Phil Batt and attended the Idaho Shakespeare Festival while also preparing for classes.

The MBA training is a key component of Boise State's three-year, $3.2 million contract with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to build a business program at NEU. Boise State officials also are helping to create the administrative programs needed to support a business school.

Boise State has been involved with the NEU project since 1994 as a subcontractor but took over as lead contractor last year. The Hanoi university should have faculty in place and be ready to offer a business education by 2000.

WITH THIS RING ...
IS BSU'S NEW PREFIX

Boise State University rings in the new year with a new prefix — 426.

The new prefix replaces 385- and 331-phone numbers — including fax machines — for the more than 2,100 phones on campus.

The reason for the switch? "We were running out of numbers using the 385- and 331-prefixes. Rather than add another prefix, we decided to change to a new number; now all campus prefixes will be the same," says Mary Lou Fagerstedt, manager of Telephone Services.

Until Dec. 28, callers can still reach campus extensions by dialing 385 or 331. After that, they will get a disconnect message when dialing most campus numbers.

The university's toll-free number — (800) 724-7017 — remains the same.

For more information, visit the Telephone Services web site at: http://www.idbsu.edu/phone or call (208) 426-1011.
MCCAINS RECEIVE SILVER MEDALLIONS

Warren and Bernie McCain are the two latest recipients of Silver Medallion awards from Boise State University. The Silver Medallion is Boise State's highest award for service.

Usually given at Commencement, the medallions were presented at a lunch in early September because the McCains were unable to attend the ceremony in May.

"We bestow this honor on Warren and Bernie because they represent citizenship at its highest level," says Boise State President Charles Ruch.

The couple have supported education in Idaho through donations to the Payette schools, Albertson College of Idaho and Boise State.

Warren McCain, a former chief executive officer of Albertson's, donated $1 million to the Albertsons Library to support a reading room and book collection on Western topics. That amount was matched by other donations from the community, giving the library a $2 million endowment to support its collection.

McCain also played a key role in securing the $6 million gift from the Albertson's corporation and Joe and Kathryn Albertson that was used to expand and renovate the library.

"Warren and Bernie have built our community through their generous support of education. On our campus, the McCain Reading Room is a testament to that generous spirit," Ruch says.

EVANS WINS TWO NCAA AWARDS

Johnna Evans ended her competitive career in gymnastics last spring, but she is still winning awards.

The two-time All-American gymnast was honored twice this fall by the NCAA, receiving the state of Idaho's NCAA Woman of the Year award and an NCAA post-graduate scholarship.

Both awards are given to recipients based on their academic and athletic performance as well as community service.

Evans, from Coeur d'Alene, won the Big West vault championship three times and the conference all-around championship twice. She was named the Big West Gymnast of the Year in 1996 and 1998 and earned All-America honors for her performances on vault and in the all-around in the NCAA championship meet her senior year.

Evans is completing her double major in biology and environmental studies while also working for the State of Idaho's Division of Environmental Quality and teaching gymnastics.

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BOISE STATE PREPARES FOR NCAA EVENTS

Boise State is preparing to host two national events sponsored by the NCAA.

The second edition of the Humanitarian Bowl on Dec. 30 will match the winner of the Big West Conference against the second-place team from the Conference USA. ESPN2 will televise the game.

The nation’s newest bowl game is allied with the Boise-based Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame, which annually inducts athletes who have been positive role models.

This year’s induction, held during the week of the bowl game, includes Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee, basketball player David Robinson and soccer player Pelé.

From June 2-4, Boise State will host the NCAA national championships in track and field for men and women. Many of the world’s top student-athletes will be in Boise for the meet, which will be nationally televised.

This is the second time Boise State has hosted the championships. In 1994, the meet attracted 34,816 spectators, the largest crowd ever to attend the event.

For ticket information, call the Boise State ticket office at (208) 426-4737.

A new era in Boise State sports began this fall as the Bronco women’s soccer team kicked off its first year of intercollegiate competition under coach Julie Orlowski. Saturday, Sept. 5, was also a landmark date for BSU sports with three head coaches — Orlowski, the volleyball team’s Mark Rosen and the football squad’s Dirk Koetter — all making their home debuts on the same day. In the above photo, freshman defender Kate Bowles is shown in action during Boise State’s 6-0 win over Albertson College of Idaho in the sixth game of the 1998 season.

CHURCH CONFERENCE EXAMINES CHINA

Relations between China and the United States headline this year’s Frank Church Conference on Public Affairs on Nov. 12.

The all-day conference, titled “The Dragon Stirs: A New Dawn for China and the United States,” features experts from across the nation and will examine such topics as the future of trade and political relations between the two countries.

Edward Friedman, a political science professor from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, will deliver the morning’s keynote presentation, “Building a Peaceful, Prosperous and Democratic Future.”

Friedman has served as an adviser on China to the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs and with the United Nations.

Marilyn Matelski from Boston College will present a luncheon address on how China uses television to affect culture and politics. An evening keynote speaker had yet to be announced by press time.

The conference will feature lectures and panel discussions covering such topics as the future of U.S.-China relations, modernization in China, trade between the U.S and China and the economy of China.

Speakers include Charles Kegley, University of South Carolina; Kate Xiao Zhou, University of Hawaii; Nancy Street, Bridgewater State College; and Steven Chan, University of Colorado.

Sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. The evening address will be at 7:30 p.m. All events are in the Student Union. For more information, call (208) 426-3776.
ANDRUS COLLECTION CONTAINS IDAHO’S MODERN HISTORY

In four terms as Idaho’s governor and four years as secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus influenced some of the most contentious natural resource and social issues of our time.

Now students, scholars and historians can learn firsthand about the tough decisions he faced during his long political career thanks to the Andrus Archives and Gov. Cecil D. Andrus Room in the Albertson Library.

In 1995, the library received 725 boxes, nine tons of documents, letters, photos, memorabilia and videos compiled during Andrus’ historic career.

Librarians have spent the last three years sifting, indexing and cataloging the materials to prepare them for the Special Collections area on the library’s second floor.

“There is not an issue that confronted Idaho from 1970-1994 that isn’t covered in this collection,” says Boise State archivist Alan Virta. “This collection is essential to studying the last third of the century of Idaho history.”

Buried deep in the pile of boxes were campaign fliers from Andrus’ earliest gubernatorial campaigns, his veto stamp from the controversial 1990 abortion decision and records of his push to start kindergartens in Idaho. He also contributed his correspondence and memorabilia from the landmark Alaska Lands Bills.

Andrus, speaking at the opening of the Albertson Library room named in his honor, is leaving part of his legacy with Boise State.

Since leaving office in 1994, Andrus has signed on as a consultant to the Gallatin Group and serves on the boards of Albertson’s, Keycorp and Coeur d’Alene Mines. Most of his energy, however, is dedicated to the Boise State-based Andrus Center for Public Policy.

The center has hosted several conferences on environmental issues. Last year, Andrus coordinated an unprecedented meeting of the leaders of the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and the National Parks Service. The group will reconvene in Boise in March 1999.

With the addition of Andrus’ papers, the library is becoming a mecca for scholars looking for background on the personalities and policy issues of the last five decades.

The papers of former U.S. Sens. Frank Church and Len B. Jordan, former U.S. Rep. Larry LaRocco and retired state legislator Kitty Gurnsey are housed in the library along with photos, magazine articles and other treasures from sportsman Ted Trueblood and adventurer Robert Limbert.
NEW LITERARY JOURNAL PREPARES FOR OCTOBER DEBUT

*The Idaho Review*, a new journal published this fall, will launch Boise State's new MFA in creative writing into the national literary spotlight.

“Having a new journal is a way to showcase our new program,” says editor-in-chief Mitch Wieland, a Boise State English professor and author of the critically acclaimed novel *Willy Slater’s Lane*. “These journals serve to bring prestige to the programs. A lot of really fine MFA programs have fine journals.”

The first class of 30 MFA students will begin in fall 1999. Students in the three-year program can enroll in one of three genres—fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction.

Wieland says the inaugural edition of *The Idaho Review* features novelists and poets whose works have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, the *Kenyon Review* and other respected publications. Writers include Ann Beattie, Richard Bausch, Michael Blumenthal, MFA program head Robert Olmstead and Lewis-Clark State’s Robert Wrigley.

Many of the pieces—solicited from authors around the country—are chapters from books yet to be published, says Wieland, whose previous experience includes editing the University of Alabama’s *Black Warrior Review*. He hopes that future MFA students will serve as volunteer readers and proofreaders.

Staff members for this year’s edition were graduate students Quinn Pritchard and Tamara Shores, who is next year’s assistant editor. Holland Williams provided cover art of Utah petroglyphs.

The English department continues to publish its award-winning *cold-drill* magazine. While *The Idaho Review* focuses on the national market, *cold-drill* will showcase creative writing by Boise State students and regional writers.

Only 1,000 copies of the inaugural issue of *The Idaho Review* are being printed.

The 6x9 journal, which sells for $8.95, will be available in early October at the Boise State University Bookstore and area book shops.

MAGAZINES RANK BOISE STATE HIGH


Boise State is included in the national college and university category, which includes approximately 1,000 schools broken into four geographic regions. This is the second year Boise State has placed among the top half of the 110 schools listed from the West.

Schools are evaluated on statistical criteria such as spending per student, alumni giving, graduation rates, acceptance rates and student-faculty ratios.

Other schools included in the second tier with Boise State were San Jose State University, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, University of Texas at El Paso and most schools in the California state university system.

As for the recreational side of college life, in its September issue *Sports Afield* magazine listed Boise State as the top school in the country for paddling sports. And the September/October edition of *Paddler* magazine profiled Boise State in a story on the nation’s best paddling colleges.

Both magazines cited Boise State’s location on the banks of the Boise River and the school’s proximity to some of the world’s top whitewater rivers.
PHONATHON '98 SEEKS TO RAISE $240,000

Eighty Boise State students are calling alumni and friends of the university throughout the month of October to ask for a pledge for academic excellence at Boise State.

Phonathon's goal this year is to raise $240,000.

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When you receive a call this year, please say YES to enhancing educational opportunities at Boise State University.
At A Crossroads

The religious right seeks its place in Idaho politics

By Bob Evancho

et ready for the backlash, says former state Rep. Dave Baumann.

In the wake of White House romps, pro-choice militancy, gay-rights advancements and the general belief that our nation's morals are going down the tube, Baumann aligns himself with those who look askance at these political calamities and envision a shift to more virtuous times. The result, predicts the 67-year-old retired minister, will be a resurgence of the religious right and a wellspring of political conservatism in Idaho and elsewhere.

Baumann compares the current political climate to that of the late 1970s when the Christian right — responding to the anything-goes ideology of the '60s and early '70s — gained national prominence on the political scene with the formation of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority. From both a national and Idaho perspective, the power of religious conservatives was never more evident than in the '80s when they twice helped elect Ronald Reagan to the White House and Steve Symms to the U.S. Senate.

"The pendulum always swings the other way when people see things going downhill," says Baumann. "We feel the majority of people are fed up with what's going on in this country. They're disgusted, and our president is the worst
example of this. I think the American people will stand up and say the whole country is suffering from this rotten mess.”

Sure, there are plenty of Idahoans who are up in arms over the Clinton caper. But will it really lead to a ground swell of support for the religious right?

After all, there are those who maintain that religious conservatives have rendered themselves ineffective — or at least of limited influence — in Idaho’s political arena because the state’s lawmakers and electorate alike have grown weary of the right’s rhetoric and tactics.

“The religious right is a political force in Idaho,” says Boise State graduate Mark Warbis, a political reporter for the Associated Press’ Boise bureau. “But their effectiveness has been limited by their tendency to try and bully [state lawmakers] on the political issues.”

Despite these disparate views, most would agree that Idaho’s religious and political landscape has long been considered fertile ground for the ideological underpinnings for movements such as the religious right. Look no further than the 1994 election with the state’s voters sending ultraconservative Republican Helen Chenoweth to Congress and nearly passing a ballot measure — missing by a mere 3,098 votes — that would have restricted gay rights.

“The religious right’s strategy to achieve political power here and elsewhere has been to organize and politically activate people who subscribe to a more fundamentalist Christian tradition,” says Jim Hansen, a former state legislator and executive director of United Vision for Idaho, a non-partisan political watchdog group. “To do that, they’ve gotten into the GOP.”

With the dominance of one political party along with “low voter participation and deep cynicism, Idaho is very ripe for such groups to gain a disproportionate amount of influence,” adds Hansen, former director of BSU’s Office of Conflict Management.

But does the religious right have the same leverage that it apparently had as recently as 1994?

Andrew Arulanandam, executive director of the Idaho Republican Party, says the Christian right has not — and in reality cannot — tip the scales within the GOP to suit its own political agenda. “Yes, the religious right is a player within our party,” says Arulanandam, who graduated from Boise State in 1992 with a communication degree.

“They have influence not only in Idaho’s Republican Party, but also in national politics and society in general. But there are other players within our party. We are a broad-based party that draws strength from the diversity of our members.”

“All we’re saying is that we want a place at the table of political debate,” says Nancy Bloomer, executive director of the Idaho Christian Coalition. “We are simply people who believe in the Bible and that this country is best served by biblical principles.”

In addition to attempts to restrict gay rights, the religious right’s agenda has included efforts to end no-fault divorce and to provide tuition tax breaks for parents who send their kids to private schools. A more recent — and emotional — issue was the acrimonious abortion debate, and the role played by Dennis Mansfield, director of the Idaho Family Forum, during this year’s legislative session.

Mansfield spearheaded the lobbying efforts by religious conservatives — including the IFF, the Idaho Christian Coalition and Right to Life of Idaho — to urge the Legislature to pass a parental-consent bill, which would have required minors to get the permission of their parents or a judge to have an abortion. In his zeal to see the legislation passed, Mansfield proceeded to do considerable arm-twisting. But some — including Senate President Pro Tem Jerry Twiggs and House Speaker Mike Simpson, the Legislature’s top leaders — considered his style overbearing and overly aggressive. Even though he may have agreed with Mansfield on the issue, Twiggs called the IFF leader’s tactics “heavy-handed, sometimes deceitful and bullying” in an Idaho Statesman article.

Gov. Phil Batt, who labels himself pro-life, eventually vetoed an amended bill, saying it was “doubtful that this legislation would withstand constitutional scrutiny.” Another law banning what is called partial-birth abortions was also championed by Mansfield and other pro-life lobbyists during the 1998 Legislature. It was signed by Batt but is indefinitely tied up in federal court.

Many political observers agreed that the final version of the parental-consent bill was a flawed piece of legislation with too many red flags. But Mansfield and his allies disagreed. And it’s the manner in which Mansfield voiced his displeasure — stating that Batt’s legacy “will be the blood that dripped off his elbow as he vetoed that bill” — that angered some.

Mansfield’s hyperbole is an example of the religious right “shooting itself in the foot” with overzealous lobbying, says state Sen. Sheila Sorocen, R-Boise. “The abortion issue created a lot of bad feelings with [Mansfield’s] bullying tactics. [Politicians] in Washington may be used to such treatment, but I don’t think it goes over very well here.”

That still didn’t stop the religious right from angering some people even more when
Although he’s a relative newcomer to the Idaho Legislature, state Rep. Pat Bieter isn’t worried about making his voice heard. That’s because the former Boise State education professor is the antithesis of a shrinking violet. Throughout his life, Bieter, D-Boise, has articulated his points and asserted his opinions with both a booming voice and a wealth of knowledge on a variety of subjects.

Those qualities have served him well not only during his 40-year career as an educator, but also in his inaugural term in Idaho’s House of Representatives, which he began after winning the House District 19 seat in 1996, the year after he retired from Boise State.

Now 68, Bieter is running unopposed for re-election this November. “I don’t know if no one is running against me because they figure I can’t do anybody any harm or they don’t think they can beat me,” says Bieter with a laugh.

Bieter says he knew he was in for an education when he began his first term in the GOP-dominated Legislature. “I knew I would be in a minority position,” he says, “but I didn’t realize the extent to which the rural areas of the state control the agenda of the Legislature and how little of what goes on is partisan.

“Sure, there are some things that are strictly Democrats vs. Republicans, which the Democrats lose, but damn few. Most of the issues are urban vs. rural and conservative vs. moderate. I knew I would run into that, so I didn’t have any great expectations that I would shake things up.”

So while he isn’t in a position to push his own agenda, Bieter has tried to “put a holding action to keep some of the worst [legislation] from happening, and then promote some of the things I like — things like funding for higher education and public schools.”

Given his teaching background in both higher education and public schools, Bieter’s interest in education is understandable. His career as a Boise educator began in 1956 when he started teaching English at North Junior High—moving on to Boise High School in 1958 and eventually to Boise State College in 1969.

But now his focus is on his new career as a state lawmaker. “Although I’m learning about the day-to-day operations of the Legislature, I think my background in education and interest in history has helped bring a little more context to the discussion on issues like taxes and funding for public education. As a teacher, I feel I’m well-prepared for the communication that’s necessary in politics. I’m not intimidated when it comes to talking to people.”

While the ’96 election was his initial venture as a political candidate, Bieter considered running for a seat in the House as far back as 20 years ago. “But I couldn’t afford it because the amount of my salary that would have been withheld at the university would have amounted to close to half of my annual salary,” he recalls.

Despite his relatively late start as a lawmaker, Bieter is no stranger to Idaho politics. In addition to working on campaigns for Democratic stalwarts Cecil Andrus and Larry LaRocco, Bieter served as a delegate to the Democratic state convention and as the party’s Ada County chairman.

Bieter cut his political teeth in 1948 while he was a freshman at the College of St. Thomas in his native Minnesota. His sociology professor that year was a budding politician by the name of Eugene McCarthy, who was running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Bieter joined McCarthy’s campaign, “and that’s what got me hooked,” he says.

Little did Bieter know that his interest in politics would begin while working for a future U.S. Senator who forged a reputation as a political intellectual and would challenge for the Democratic presidential nomination 20 years later.

As for his future in politics, Bieter says he’ll play it by ear. “If I’m still in good health and feel I’m doing some good, I might run again in 2000. If not, I’d still like to teach.”

Either way, Bieter will be right at home.
it targeted eight Republican incumbents in the May primary — two in northern Idaho, three in the Boise area, one in the Magic Valley and two, including Twiggs, in the eastern part of the state — who voted against the parental-consent bill four months earlier. All eight challengers were outspent by the incumbents, who were supported by businesses, and all eight lost.

Sorensen was one of those who found herself in the religious right’s cross hairs. She was opposed by Baumann, who was backed by Right to Life of Idaho.

“If you have people who don’t like your philosophy, that’s their right to try to remove you from office,” Sorensen says. “What I didn’t appreciate was the letters they wrote against me to my constituents regarding the role I played in the parental-consent bill four months earlier.”

Baumann, who represented Boise’s District 13 after winning the 1994 election, says he was approached by Right to Life of Idaho and asked to challenge Sorensen in the primary “basically to make a point.”

Arulanandam acknowledges that the abortion debate was a hot-button issue that caused some ill will within the ranks. But any damage, he adds, was minimal. “The Republican Party is a pro-life party, and I don’t see any shift in our stand on that issue,” he remarks. “However, we are not a single-issue organization, and there are going to be differences. It’s all part of the political process.”

But Warbis isn’t so sure that everyone will forgive and forget so easily — especially if the religious right can’t throw its political weight around like it did in 1994. “This year’s primary results tell me that they can’t deliver on their threats,” he says. “And to make threats with impunity to people like Twiggs, Sorensen and Simpson doesn’t sit well with a lot of Idaho legislators.”

Another criticism is that religious conservatives are trying to foist their beliefs on the rest of the state. Mansfield declined to be interviewed for this article, and three phone calls requesting an interview with Barry Peters, Idaho Family Forum board vice president, were not returned. However, other leaders were willing to respond.

The Idaho Christian Coalition’s Bloomer scoffs at the notion that the religious right is the only faction in Idaho’s political arena that tries to legislate morality. “There isn’t one piece of legislation that doesn’t legislate somebody’s morality,” she says. “I don’t care if it’s a tax issue, an education or an abortion issue. Everything comes down to a moral basis.”

Kelly Walton, president of the Idaho Christian Coalition, echoes those sentiments. “Every bill contains somebody’s agenda or morality,” she says, “and every time a bill is passed, somebody’s morality is being imposed on the rest of us.”

But have overzealous lobbying and attempts to unseat lawmakers such as Twiggs and Sorensen alienated too many people? Has the religious right burned too many bridges in Idaho?

“Look at it this way,” replies Walton. “When I first came here in 1993 and worked [as a lobbyist] during the legislative session, we weren’t given the time of day. Then we got [the anti-gay rights] Proposition One on the ballot in ’94 and lost by the slimmest of margins.

“In the next session we got a law passed that prevents Idaho from recognizing same-sex marriages. We were looking for standards that would not honor this lifestyle, and that’s exactly what the Legislature did.

“We began to see that our relative strength was in focusing our efforts in the Legislature rather than the initiative format,” Walton continues. “Many legislators are very supportive of what we’re doing. Like I said, when I first started I knew only a couple of legislators. Now I consider myself friends with over half the Legislature.

“We plan on being here for decades.”

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Kjellander Walks the Walk

By Janelle Brown

You can tell a lot about the kind of politician Paul Kjellander is by how he's spending his time during the hectic weeks before November's general election.

Kjellander, who has served two terms representing District 15 in the Idaho House, is unopposed in his bid for a third term. And yet the Republican is still making the rounds in the west Boise neighborhoods he represents, knocking on doors with his 3-year-old daughter Allison in tow and talking with constituents.

"I've got 35,000 bosses, and I want to know what they think," says Kjellander, director of the Distance Learning Network at Boise State and a professor in the Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology.

Besides, Kjellander isn't the sort to take things for granted, his in-the-bag re-election included.

"Anybody in the Legislature who perceives themselves as being important is kidding themselves," he says. "The voters brought you in, and they can take you out."

Kjellander isn't just spouting pre-Election Day hyperbole. The former news director and station manager of BSU Radio brings the same straightforward approach to the floor of the House, according to his colleagues.

"Paul has a sophisticated veneer, but underneath he's a down-to-earth individual," says Rep. Max Black, R-Boise, also of District 15. "He understands the average person because he is one himself."

Kjellander excels at building coalitions, adds Rep. Celia Gould, R-Buhl, and a 1979 Boise State graduate in political science. "He's open-minded and fair. He doesn't care who gets the credit as long as he gets the job done."

Kjellander said he likes to take an incremental approach to legislation, considering bills a step at a time before drawing conclusions. "I don't often walk into the room with my mind made up. I want to hear things out," he says.

Although he may be more pragmatist than idealogue, Kjellander consistently aligns himself with the House's overwhelmingly Republican majority and considers himself a fiscal conservative.

The lopsided number of Republicans serving in elected positions is merely a reflection of the state, Kjellander maintains. "We've obviously struck a resonant chord," he says.

Among the issues Kjellander has worked on is a bill dealing with deregulation of the telecommunications industry and a measure to assist counties that don't have the funds to prosecute felony crimes. Kjellander has also worked on legislation to create a juvenile justice department and to open court records.

Kjellander's background — a master's from Ohio University in telecommunications and media law — has helped him sort through complicated deregulation issues. He hopes to use that expertise in the upcoming legislative session to tackle deregulation again and to convince his colleagues that promoting new technologies in public schools is important.

"We need to find new ways to utilize telecommunications in the educational system," Kjellander says.

Funding new programs while holding a tight fiscal line isn't easy, Kjellander acknowledges. "It's a balancing act," he says. "If we can figure out how to help counties and public education and higher education all at the same time — that's when we'll find our common ground."

Kjellander said he's learned some important lessons during his past two terms. "I've learned I don't have to express every opinion that I have," he says. "I should never even if I want to."

Kjellander remains optimistic about what the Legislature can accomplish. He will continue to serve on the House's Transportation and State Affairs committees and as vice chairman of the Judiciary and Rules Committee. He also hopes to serve as caucus chairman and liaison with the media.

Regardless of what new controversies emerge when the Legislature reconvenes, Kjellander knows his life will be extra-busy. He and his wife Radelle, a 1990 Boise State graduate in finance, are expecting twin boys in February.

It's just possible that two years from now, they'll be traipsing through Boise with their father, knocking on doors and meeting voters.

"The best part of my job is the people," Kjellander says. "I'm glad I've had this opportunity."
Lady Lawmakers

Women make advances in Idaho politics

By Sherry Squires

Kitty Gurnsey remembers a lot of doors being slammed in her face en route to her career in the Idaho Legislature.

The Boise Republican made her first bid for office in 1974 and went on to chair the powerful House Appropriations Committee during her 22 years in the Legislature.

One of only a handful of women on the ballot that year, Gurnsey recalls the perils of her first campaign.

"I knocked on doors and women said they wouldn't vote for me because a woman's place was in the home," Gurnsey says.

That reaction may seem surprising in a state that opened its political doors to women early on. Idaho was the fourth state to give women the right to vote. That occurred in 1896, long before national suffrage. This year Idaho celebrates the 100th anniversary of the state's first female legislators. And the state's political history is filled with lively women who commanded active roles in government.
But it has been the past 25 years, since about the time Gurnsey entered the Legislature, that have marked the most significant gains for women in the Idaho political arena, say political observers.

For the past decade, Idaho has been among the top 10 states in terms of the percentage of women serving in the state Legislature, averaging as high as 30 percent.

While roughly one in four Idaho legislators this year is a woman, half of the representatives from Ada County are women. Women also hold the majority on the Boise City Council and have staked a claim in other local governments across the state.

On the national level, one of the state’s four representatives to the federal government — Republican Rep. Helen Chenoweth — is female.

Idaho and other Western states are on the forefront of a national movement by women to gain elective office. The recent gains in Idaho signal a natural progression from small local government posts to more far-reaching roles, says Boise State political science professor Gary Moncrief.

“It’s true not just for women, but any group that has been left out of the political system,” Moncrief says. “They must build, and that takes time.”

It will take time for women to break through the “glass ceiling” that still exists, Moncrief says. Idaho has yet to elect a female governor, and few female legislators have gone on to higher statewide posts. But women have certainly progressed to those positions in other states, Moncrief says, noting that several states today have women governors.

Still, Idaho women have made tremendous strides in what amounts to one generation. Women often used to lose to men in legislative elections. But now, at least at the local and state legislative levels, women win as often as men when they run for an open seat.

Today’s female politicians need only to read Idaho history to find plenty of role models. Boise-area historian and Boise State graduate Susan Stacy says women have been working in the political trenches for more than a century.

Some wrote bills and got their husbands to introduce them in the Legislature before women could do so.

Other women championed issues quite publicly. Nora Davis, who represented Gem County in the Legislature from 1942 to 1960, sponsored and carried bills that allowed women to serve on juries, removed the word “illegitimate” from children’s birth certificates, required that children stay in school until a certain age, prohibited children from buying alcohol and required that milk be transported from dairies in covered containers.

Idaho’s first female representative to Congress, Gracie Pfost, was elected as a Democrat from Canyon County in a Republican landslide year, 1952, when Dwight Eisenhower took the presidency. She was known for promoting education and family issues.

Today, women are involved in greater numbers, and their voices
are being heard on all issues.

But it's difficult to determine what they bring to the table as a group.

Like virtually every other demographic group, women hold a wide range of views and do not always vote as a bloc. Therefore, their gains in numbers have not meant a specific women's agenda, Moncrief says.

Nationally, women tend to view the Democratic Party as more attuned to their concerns. Women vote Democratic in presidential elections about 10 percent more so than men, Moncrief says.

But in Idaho, one of the most conservative states in the nation, it is largely Republicans who set the agenda. That makes it difficult to recognize any kind of emerging trends or influence by women, Moncrief notes.

Republican Celia Gould has represented the Buhl area for 12 years in the Idaho House. After earning a bachelor's degree in political science in 1979 from Boise State, she worked for others in politics and then defeated two men for her legislative seat.

She says although women might be lured into the political arena by passion for one issue, they quickly meld into the routine, naturally gravitating toward issues they have the most interest in but serving in a variety of capacities.

A newly formed political action committee hopes to change that. Gracie's List, named after Pfoertner, is a bipartisan group that uses pro-choice as a litmus test to determine which female candidates to support.

About 50 members strong, the group hopes to unite women on issues such as child abuse, school dropout rates, education and abortion, board member Teri McColl says.

"Women are consensus builders," McColl says. "They tend to see the broader picture."

Former state Sen. Sue Reents, a Democrat from Boise, helped form the group after leaving office in 1996. Now a candidate for lieutenant governor — a position never held by a woman in Idaho — she believes female candidates will need a more formal support system if they are to continue to climb the political ladder to statewide and congressional seats.

United by a belief that this past year's Legislature got sidetracked by the abortion debate and ignored key social issues, Gracie's List is supporting its first candidates for statewide and legislative offices this fall.

"We hope Gracie's List can help move us forward but also bring us back to times when we compromised more," McColl says. "Times when children's issues didn't get pushed aside."

Gurnsey believes women will continue to become more of a force in politics.

"It's not an easy thing to do to strike out on your own and get involved," she says. "It takes an independent soul. But women just plain have to do it."
Political Analyst Extraordinaire

By Amy Stahl

When Idaho reporters need a quote for stories on political skirmishes in Idaho, who do they call? Jim Weatherby. As chair of Boise State University's department of public policy and administration, Weatherby is considered by journalists to be Idaho's most dependable pundit.

"If you have a question about political science in Idaho you go to Weatherby," says Marty Trillhaase, editorial page editor at the Post-Register in Idaho Falls. A former reporter and editor at papers in Moscow, Lewiston, Boise and Twin Falls, Trillhaase appreciates Weatherby's keen observations and his even-handed neutrality. "He's more a student of the process than an advocate," Trillhaase says.

An admitted policy wonk, Weatherby became interested in politics as a child growing up on the family farm at Fix Ridge near Juliaetta in Idaho's Palouse country. Neither of his parents was particularly active in politics. Nevertheless, as a 9-year-old he remembers listening to the 1952 presidential conventions on the radio. "I was attracted to their oratory," he says.

At that time he developed a fascination for political campaign buttons, bumper stickers and posters that continues to this day. On a wall above his office computer hangs a garish display of materials representing 40 years of the state's most colorful campaigns.

As a teen-ager Weatherby's interest in politics naturally spilled over into student government. He was active in student politics at Genesee High School and was voted "Most Likely to Become U.S. President" after transferring to Lewiston High School.

Weatherby earned his bachelor's at Northwest Nazarene and a master's degree in political science at the University of Idaho before teaching briefly at NNC.

Later he returned to UI for a doctorate. There he worked under mentor Sydney Duncombe in the Bureau of Public Affairs Research on a reference book for city and county officials.

In 1974, he was a research director and then moved up to become executive director of the Association of Idaho Cities, a trade association that provides technical services, training and lobbying on behalf of member cities. At AIC, he "enjoyed working with people around the state and getting a sense of city business."

Weatherby joined the Boise State faculty in 1989. As head of the department of public policy and administration he oversees the Center for Public Policy and Administration, a nationally accredited master of public administration degree program, and the Environmental Finance Center, a federally funded program that works with the region's cities to help them meet EPA standards for clean water.

With Weatherby's leadership, the public policy and administration center has become a statewide leader in training and applied research activities.

The center hosts the Local Government Training Institute and the Mountain West Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute. Staff members work closely with city and county organizations to produce the widely used Idaho Municipal Sourcebook and the Handbook for Elected County Officials.

Weatherby's touch is also evident with the Idaho Public Policy Survey. He helps develop questions and analyze results for the statewide opinion poll conducted annually by the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs.

Outside Boise, Weatherby has built a reputation as an expert in local government issues. He was named a senior fellow for the Center for the New West, a Denver-based think tank, and was elected president at the Idaho-Oregon Planning and Development Association. Weatherby is proud to have had an award named in his honor by the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association.

Randy Stapilus, a Boise political writer and editor, says Weatherby brings a unique perspective to Idaho politics. "One of his strengths as a pundit and a writer is a combination of political science and his real-world experience," says Stapilus. "There are not very many people who have both."

Stapilus praises his friend's storytelling ability, expertise in tax policy and sense of humor. Politics can be a wacky business, says Stapilus, "Weatherby's been around enough not to take it seriously."
Time's Up

Popular term limits law poses problems, provides opportunities

By Chris Bounuff

Is Stevin Brooks the problem?

Brooks is the only full-time attorney in southeast Idaho’s Oneida County, population 3,600, a newcomer from Utah recruited in March when the only other attorney resigned from his job as county prosecutor to become the county magistrate.

Normally, the prosecutor’s job would be Brooks’ for as long as he wanted. There’s no local competition, and as the county’s national search proved, few attorneys clamor to move to the rural farming community. In fact, Brooks was the only candidate willing to move his family to Malad City, the county seat.

Yet Idaho voters, under a term limits ballot initiative passed in 1994, insist that Brooks leave office after two terms. So Oneida County may be in familiar territory when Brooks’ second term expires eight years from now, trying to attract an attorney willing to accept a temporary, comparatively low-paying job in a community that still greets newcomers with a welcome wagon.

“It’s a poor community,” Brooks says. “Most are farmers. You couldn’t survive here with a private practice.”

Idaho’s term limits initiative joined the national revolt against the so-called evils of incumbency. But did voters truly get what they wanted when they included Brooks among the damned?

In the strictest sense, Idaho’s law limits only the number of times an incumbent can appear on the ballot. After four terms for legislators and two terms for most city, county and school board offices, incumbents must sit out two terms before their name can be on the ballot again. They can win re-election as write-in candidates, but write-ins often are longshots because they require voters to do more than mark a ballot.

Idaho’s law may also change. The 1998 Legislature placed an advisory measure on the November ballot asking voters whether term limits for state lawmakers and local officials should be retained after the U.S. Supreme Court voided limits for Idaho’s congressional delegation. If voters say no, a message backed by a coalition of business and lobbying groups, the 1999 Legislature may have the political will to repeal or change the law.

But if recent polls are any indication, term limits are as popular as hot fudge sundaes and apple pie. Nearly 80 percent of Idaho residents favor current or stricter limits for legislators and local officials, according to Boise State University’s annual Idaho Public Policy Survey.

So, term limits may be here to stay. And at the state level, political observers have some clues as to what will happen when limits strike the Legislature in 2002, says Gary Moncrief, a Boise State political science professor and national expert on term limits.

Different versions of term limits have already hit California and Maine, where legislative races now are more competitive as more people vie for open seats. More women and minorities also find themselves in the halls of power in part because term limits created opportunities to run for office.

And more politicians jump from office to office, starting in one post and running for another before limits oust them. Also, lobbyists work harder to influence lawmakers because they don’t have time to build lasting relationships with an ever-changing legislative roster, Moncrief says. But the biggest impact may be on technical legislation, which comprises most of a legislature’s work.

Legislation on the budget and regulating industries affects our everyday lives but mostly goes unnoticed. With an inexperienced legislature, such bills aren’t crafted as tightly, which could have unforeseen consequences, he says.

Moncrief expects some of the same results in Idaho, with a few exceptions. The newcomer factor won’t be as large an issue because about a quarter of the Legislature already is replaced each election.
As far as political swings, don't expect many, Moncrief says. There may be some movement on the handful of emotional issues the Legislature debates each year, such as abortion, but Democrats are in no position to push the state in a new direction.

Idaho politics have been and will remain stable not "because of the incumbency advantage," Moncrief says. "It's because of the Republican advantage in Idaho."

Even term-limit opponent state Rep. Jim Stoicheff, a Democrat from Sandpoint and 13-term legislator, admits the effects won't be devastating. The Legislature may lose valuable institutional memory, and lawmakers won't build as much trust among each other. But he has faith that voters will continue to elect qualified people.

"I don't care if they elect a Democrat or a Republican," Stoicheff says. As long as voters elect someone "with a brain and who is willing to work hard and do his homework."

Term limits may sweep through local governments, however, like a tornado through a trailer park.

Larger cities and counties such as Boise, Nampa and Ada County usually field a full slate of qualified candidates for government offices. But what about the Oneida Counties of Idaho? Already, county governments face about 30 percent turnover each election, according to Idaho Association of Counties data. And small counties often find it difficult to recruit qualified candidates to serve in such partisan, yet inconspicuous, offices as county clerk.

After all, who even knows what a county clerk does? The clerk serves as the official clerk for the district court, certifies tax levies for all taxing districts in a county, runs elections, monitors the county budget, maintains official records and a host of other duties — a huge job with huge responsibilities but little political appeal.

If small counties are lucky enough to find people willing to take the job, why should they be replaced as long as voters re-elect them? asks Dan Chadwick, IAC executive director.

Rural school districts also fear they will feel the pinch. In Kuna, a district of about 2,500 students, Superintendent Doug Rutan doesn't know what to expect under term limits, though in the past the district has persuaded some trustees to seek re-election because no one else wanted the volunteer post.

Board chairman Lee Eichelberger is a good example of how some board slots get filled. The board appointed him to fill a vacancy. And he's appeared on the ballot four times since, but he's only been challenged once. "The incentive structure for serving in local governments is just not very great," Moncrief says. "Why add disincentives at this point?"

Small districts, cities and counties find some hope in the story of Kuna Mayor Greg Nelson. In 1995, Nelson intended to retire as the city's mayor and run for Ada County commissioner.

But, as Nelson tells it, the city's business leaders persuaded him to launch a last-minute re-election campaign as a write-in candidate. He won by a count of 288 to 214.

The victory convinced Nelson that popular incumbents can overcome term limits in small communities, although he maintains that winning as a write-in is difficult.

Local government advocates also hope that if voters confirm term limits in November's election, as expected, lawmakers will at least add a local "opt-out" clause to the term limits law. Local voters could then decide whether to exempt their city, county and school officials from term limits.

Colorado instituted such a local opt-out, and 35 communities already have exempted their officials. Most of them have populations of 3,000 or fewer people.

Donna Weaver of Citizens for Term Limits, who spearheaded 1994's term limits initiative, says all elected offices should be subject to limits. But she also supports an opt-out option. Local voters, she says, should have the choice when it comes to local government.

Oneida County's Brooks also hopes state legislators agree to allow local votes on term limits; otherwise, Oneida voters may lose the only prosecutor in town.

"You don't want to pull your family up and buy a house here if your job is going to end," Brooks said. "The Legislature is going to have to look at some exceptions."
Voter Void
Interest lags at the polls

By Amy Stahl

‘Whatever the reason, voters nationally are staying away in record numbers.’

For Ben Ysursa, there’s nothing worse than throwing a party and having no one show up. “It’s sad in our business,” says Idaho’s deputy secretary of state. As the coordinator of statewide elections, Ysursa worries about a trend that shows fewer Idahoans going to the polls.

Idaho has long enjoyed a tradition of strong voter turnout. Forty-six years ago, the Gem State ranked No. 1 nationally. But the numbers are slipping. In 1996, after sinking to 15th, the state climbed back up to 11th.

Political experts disagree on why more voters are skipping the ballot box on Election Day. Some claim that Idahoans — like voters across the country — are growing more apathetic. Others say that voters are uninspired by issues or feel disenfranchised from distant candidates.

Whatever the reasons, voters nationally are staying away in record numbers. In 1990 voter turnout in a non-presidential election year fell to a post-World War II low of 33 percent, according to the U.S. Census. For the “off-year” election in November 1994, 36 percent of registered voters cast their
ballots, and for the 1996 presidential election the turnout was 46 percent.

Idaho fared considerably better. In the 1996 general election, overall turnout was 60 percent.

Veteran political observer Jim Weatherby says that traditionally, Idahoans have considered voting to be a civic duty. "We're historically high given our strong interest and feeling that it is a duty to participate in elections and public life. In a large measure that comes from strong religious strains in our political life — particularly the LDS church in southeastern Idaho," says Weatherby, chair of Boise State's public policy and administration program.

Yet fewer people are voting than in years past. Why? Weatherby thinks that voters today just don't find much in the political arena that excites them. They're not moved by the issues or candidates.

For the most part Idahoans are content, says Weatherby, citing statistics from the last nine years of the Idaho Public Policy Survey. In the statewide polls conducted by the university's College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Idahoans consistently indicate year in and year out that they are satisfied. "A satisfied electorate doesn't turn out. The years of biggest turnout are when people are angry and want to make changes," he says.

To encourage more people to vote, the state has embarked on several new initiatives. The secretary of state's office now registers voters by mail and has eliminated confusing categories for absentee voters. In 1994, Idaho joined six other states to offer same-day registration.

That year, 10 percent of voters who cast ballots registered at the polls.

However, it's not enough. Vote-by-mail — pioneered by Oregon — is another option. However, Ysursa doubts that Idaho lawmakers will give it serious consideration. A change wouldn't benefit incumbents who are likely to balk at the hefty price tag. "There's no question it increases turnout," says Ysursa. Conversely, "it's an American tradition to go to the polls. In some communities, the polling place is a neighborhood hangout."

Of all the recent trends, perhaps the most troubling to Ben Ysursa is lagging interest among voters ages 18-24.

Current and past Boise State student leaders hope to convince students that their votes make a difference. Two years ago, the Associations Students of Boise State University (ASBSU) registered nearly 1,400 students to vote at booths set up around campus. Former student body president Dan Nabors

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percent of senior citizens age 65 and older who went to the polls.

Current and past Boise State student leaders hope to convince students that their votes make a difference. Two years ago, the Associations Students of Boise State University (ASBSU) registered nearly 1,400 students to vote at booths set up around campus. Former student body president Dan Nabors

considers Election Day that year to be a highlight of his term in office. "You had to wait 45 minutes to vote at University Christian Church," he says proudly of the polling place most frequented by Boise State students.

Student leaders also enlisted the aid of Rock the Vote, a national MTV-sponsored campaign devoted to getting America's youth to cast their ballots. The rock network hosted high-profile concerts in major cities. It also supplied buttons, fliers, a web site and free phone services to campuses across the country.

Rock the Vote makes a difference for young voters, says 25-year-old Nabors. "Students see it on MTV and then see it in the Quad. That was encouraging."

Current ASBSU President Christine Starr, 33, worked with Nabors on the 1996 voter registration drive. She's determined to continue the tradition this year. ASBSU is again teaming with Rock the Vote and plans to register student voters at booths on campus.

She agrees that issues are the biggest motivator for young voters. "From 18-24, they're just trying to figure out their life," she says. "Not everybody feels it's their responsibility as an American citizen."

Starr and Nabors believe that students were motivated to vote in 1996 by the proposed 1% Initiative. The initiative aimed to limit property taxes to 1 percent of a property's assessed value. Opponents claimed that the initiative would hurt higher education by reducing available revenues and passing added costs on to students.

In protest, Boise State student leaders coordinated debates, rallies and a statewide student walkout. The initiative served as a catalyst for previously politically inactive students, says Nabors, who works now as a manager at Spur Wing Country Club. "It's important for them to relate to the issues."

"At that age there are so many other things going on," says Ysursa. "They haven't settled down into a pattern, and they haven't gotten a regular paycheck. I think a paycheck and taxes turn people around."

Controversial initiatives or legislative issues also drive voters to the polls, Ysursa says. "Once in a blue moon big issues will catch people's fancy," he says. Right-to-work and abortion legislation motivated voters in recent years.

Voters are often lulled into complacency, says former legislator Pam Ahrens. "In politics, perception is reality. There's no doubt about it. If people think their tax dollars are being well spent, they're more likely to go with an incumbent."

Legislators face an uphill battle in the race...
The Democrats' Diva

By Chris Bounéff

Given time, Bethine Church's memories usually gravitate to the 1956 campaign, a golden age in Idaho politics when an unlikely victory sparked a 24-year dynasty.

Husband and wife, on the stump, were basically homeless after selling their house and moving in with her parents to finance then 32-year-old Frank Church's run for the U.S. Senate. They drove from small town to small town in the family's Kaiser, trying to shake 500 hands a day at a time when, outside of Boise, grasps were as scarce as for Hands Across America.

They'd walk into a community newspaper office and type a press release, not a scathing attack that passes for a campaign platform today, but one strictly on the issues. And the editor printed it. On the campaign trail, no audience or community was too small, not even a handful of farmers to which Frank Church delivered a two-hour speech.

Nine months on the road cost $49,000, including several spots on a fledgling medium called television.

Bethine Church and her stories remind the Idaho Democratic Party of its majestic days. U.S. Senate, Congress, governor, Legislature, statewide offices. Democrats, though never dominant, were at least a force.

Though she has a library full of polished anecdotes from those days, don't count her among the political dinosaurs yet. After all, the Churches didn't win four terms in the Senate and four presidential primaries by living in the past.

Almost 20 years after her husband left the Senate, she continues to oversee the annual Frank Church Conference on Public Affairs at Boise State University, deliver policy addresses at gatherings like the Idaho Democratic Party convention earlier this year, and counsel young Democrats, such as congressional candidate Dan Williams, who still seek her advice before they test Idaho's political waters.

"After all those years with Frank in politics, you'd think I'd just bow out," Church says. "But democracy is only served well if everyone serves."

Bowing out is not in her personality. Behind that motherly smile, rivaled in size and warmth by her late husband's, is a burning partisan soul who remains optimistic about a party with fortunes more endangered than Idaho's salmon.

Politics have always been part of her life, coming from an Idaho family rich in the sport of public service. Her father Chase Clark was mayor of Idaho Falls, state senator, governor in 1941 and later a federal judge, while her uncle served as Idaho Falls mayor and governor in the 1930s. A cousin, D. Worth Clark, held the same Senate seat that Frank Church later occupied.

Politics also dominated discussions among friends and family. As high school kids, she and her group of friends, including Frank Church, talked politics in the kitchen for fun while the boys raided the refrigerator.

But younger generations are different, she concedes. In her day, people followed politics. Today's world sandwiches families between raising children and supporting parents, and they have no time, and no stomach, for today's political action.

As for Idaho's Democratic Party, it lacks a charismatic leader, she says. The party needs a Frank Church or Cecil Andrus who rises above partisan appeal to carry an election on the issues.

A lack of party structure is part of the problem, Church says. Many promising Democrats hesitate to seek office or continue in office in a strong Republican state. And money scares many people. Candidates spend more time on the phone asking for donations than in the field shaking hands, she complains. And a two-hour speech to farmers in rural Idaho? Not likely.

Most campaigns debate through short television commercials, and the media dedicate fewer resources to political campaigns, showing interest only when controversy erupts.

"Unless you're making some scandalous impact of one kind or another," she says, "getting the media to cover you is almost impossible."

But even her party's poor position in Idaho and the discouraging state of modern politics can't dampen her enthusiasm. She still likes the action and is ready to hit the campaign trail for the party, as if it were 1956 again, with the odds just as long.

"It isn't just the Democratic Party that's disenfranchised; it's the moderate Republicans, also," she says. "There's almost no two-party system in this state. As an eternal optimist, I'm really looking forward for this next election to turn this around a bit."
Voters must choose from a sometimes confusing ballot of names and issues. Savvy candidates know that advertisements will boost their name recognition. But the expense can be daunting for candidates running for a citizen legislature.

Controversial races can be strong catalysts for voters. The highest voter turnout in the last 20 years, 69 percent, was in 1980 when voters were riveted by a contentious Senate race between Steve Symms and Frank Church. “But competitive races are few and far between right now. Right now there are some coronations going on,” says Ysursa.

Weatherby agrees. “Our races are becoming less and less competitive.”

Some pundits blame low turnout on our current system of presidential primaries. The West, they say, is too often ignored by candidates looking for votes in densely populated states. The Western Regional Primary, as touted by Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt, would solve the problem. Western states banding together for an early primary would boost their voting power, he says.

Ysursa is skeptical about the likelihood of Idaho joining such a coalition. While intended to give the Intermountain West more clout, the primary would be expensive for small, rural states such as Idaho. Ysursa says an additional primary would cost between $750,000-$1 million.

Declining voter interest could also be due to Idaho’s changing demographics, says Randy Stapilus, editor of several influential political books and newsletters.

“A lot of newcomers in Boise don’t feel a great tie — understandably — as people who have been here for awhile. If people don’t have a strong reason to vote, they’ll vote for the incumbent whose name they recognize. A challenger needs to provide a strong rationale.”

Rural roots strengthen ties to the community — and to candidates. “You see the highest voter turnout in Idaho in the smallest communities,” Stapilus says.

“In Boise, you learn about politicians through the media. In small towns you walk up to a candidate and start grilling them. You want to meet your congressional candidate and look them in the eye.”

Urban or rural, Ahrens believes that Idahoans owe it to themselves to make voting the source of pride it once was. Parents can help, she says. “Citizenship needs to start with mom and dad and the family. It has to be instilled in us when we’re young that it’s an important thing to do.”

The new reapportionment process should also reflect where voters shop, the area’s media outlets and other common ties that aren’t readily evident. Inconsistent data further exacerbated the sometimes emotional debate that plagued the last two reapportionment committees. Ahrens says she pushed for computerized solutions but was overruled. “We ended up with an abacus and crayons,” she says.

The new reapportionment process should go more smoothly thanks to the Internet and other electronic tools, says Deputy Secretary of State Ben Ysursa. “People are going to have so much more information to come up with a plan. It’s really going to be a numbers game,” he says.

Experts agree that growth in urban areas — particularly Ada, Canyon and Kootenai counties — will require the commission to give population-heavy cities more legislative seats. The inevitable result? Incumbents in some rural areas will lose their seats.

Special interest groups are already positioning themselves for a Legislature with a more urban slant. This fall, the Agriculture and Natural Resource Industry PAC met to organize and boost fund-raising activities. The new political action committee is dedicated to electing officials sympathetic to the state’s agriculture and natural resource industries.

“Idaho’s cities need to have their needs met, but the state’s elected officers need to be sensitive to rural areas as well,” says Emmett rancher Jim Little, the PAC’s new chairman.
Boise State history professor Nick Casner felt a detective's elation when he discovered a letter from the Nampa School District buried in a thick file at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The letter, written in the 1920s to the U.S. Public Health Service, was a request that a film on venereal disease be sent to the Idaho school district for use in a sex education class.

"I was floored," says Casner. "I couldn't believe it. I didn't bother with the elevator. I flew up five flights of stairs to look for that film."

Casner was intrigued to learn that the still-controversial issue of sex education was broached more than 70 years ago in a small farming community.

It was the kind of small discovery that Casner is using to construct the first-ever detailed picture of how an earlier generation of Westerners dealt with issues that affected the public's health.


"It is easily the most powerful force in the history of the human species."

Casner attracted some national attention for his groundbreaking work. He received a 1998 Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and spent several weeks conducting research at the Rockefeller archives in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.

Next spring, he will present a guest seminar on his research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Casner also received a $34,300 grant from the State Board of Education in 1996 to study the history of public health in Idaho, a study he eventually expanded to include health issues in the West.

In the age of vaccines, antibiotics and modern hospitals, it's hard to imagine the havoc contagious diseases wreaked in the early 1900s, Casner says. Typhoid, diphtheria, smallpox, tuberculosis and other diseases decimated entire communities. Poor nutrition, a lack of sanitation and isolation put even the healthiest at risk.

Although public health issues in the Eastern United States have been extensively stud-
ied, Casner said there is little comparable data about the West.

"I've had before me an open field that has never been extensively documented," Casner says. "It's been the opportunity of a lifetime."

One area Casner is examining is how two external forces — the U.S. Public Health Service, created in 1912, and the Rockefeller Foundation, which financed public health projects — acted as agents of change in the West.

The foundation helped establish model "health units" in selective counties in the West that included nurses, physicians, sanitarians and other experts.

The units, run by the PHS, were part of a larger effort to encourage more advanced health programs, to standardize laws and to centralize the administrative health structure.

In Idaho, Twin Falls was selected for the unit because it was considered a microcosm of the state and could act as a good model for other counties.

The health units and other new programs were important because they helped change the structure of public health at a time the old system run by county governments was crumbling, Casner explains.

They were the forerunners of the health districts in existence today and brought a new standard of care to many isolated areas.

In addition, the programs helped usher in an era of proactive health care aimed at preventing diseases and containing outbreaks.

Casner has collected many fascinating anecdotes. For example, when a smallpox epidemic broke out in California in the 1860s and spread to Nevada and Oregon, officials in remote Silver City, Idaho, worried that the epidemic would reach them. They responded by burning sulphur, which fouled the air but did nothing to prevent the spread of disease.

A more helpful health initiative involved the building of millions of privies in the early 1900s to prevent the spread of typhoid. In Idaho, a privy factory was established in St. Maries, and tens of thousands of the buildings were shipped throughout the state.

Casner collected blueprints of the privies, along with photos showing such scenes as a "night soil man" driving a wagon laden with buckets of sewage.

He plans to write a book based on his research. But his immediate task, with the help of research assistant Valeri Kiesig, is to organize the brown boxes filled with documents that line his office wall.

"We live in a golden age now in terms of health. In many ways, we've stepped outside of history," Casner says. "But it's crucial to understand how we got here if we are to face the challenges ahead."

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VOLUNTEERS EXTEND HEALTH CARE TO WHERE IT'S NEEDED

By Bob Evancho

A volunteer program at Boise State is giving nursing students a firsthand look at the grim realities of homelessness.

And through the same program, residents in Boise's Community House homeless shelter are gaining access to basic health-care needs that would otherwise be unavailable or difficult to obtain.

Spearheaded by nursing professor Joanne Springer, the program fills a need for an often overlooked segment of Boise's population and provides the student-nurses with valuable insight into the homeless culture.

The services offered by the students include referrals, health education, first aid, blood pressure checks, assistance with obtaining prescriptions, and information for new and expectant mothers. Since the program began nine years ago, about 20 nursing students have signed up each semester.

While doing volunteer work in 1989, a year after she arrived at Boise State, Springer recognized the need to provide health care to the city's growing number of homeless and low-income residents.

A Boise shelter called Winter House offered a roof and a warm place to sleep to the city's homeless during the winter months, Springer recalls. But the number of homeless people in Idaho's capital continued to grow, and they kept coming to the Winter House, she says, "even during the warm-weather months."

From that need, Springer and a colleague began the volunteer program that linked Boise State students to homeless residents with health-care needs. The services are now provided at Community House, which was built in 1993 and includes a health clinic.

"What the students learn is about the struggle people have living in extreme poverty and their inability to access health care," says Springer. "It's important that these people stay healthy. If they get sick, they have nowhere to go."

"The homeless is a unique population of Idaho. They have different health-care needs, and these folks offer different challenges to student nurses."

And it's practical experience the students couldn't get anywhere else.

IN TODAY'S BUSINESS WORLD, YOU CAN'T RUN WITH THE CROWD

By Brad Carlson

It used to be that to succeed in business, you simply had to know the business.

But in the technology driven '90s, a little creativity is crucial, too.

Computer information systems professor Murli Nagasundaram teaches a course on creativity that is catching the attention of business students eager to learn new ways to solve old problems.

The undergraduate course, called "Creative Thinking and Problem Solving," explores how to approach business issues from new perspectives. Students learn the importance of creativity and how to bring it out in themselves by studying businesses that foster creative environments. They also complete exercises aimed at freeing the mind for creative thinking.

Nagasundaram says that creativity is vital now because the business environment is changing so fast. And unless businesses, and business schools, actively promote creativity, employers and employees can't adapt to change.

Hiring creative employees helps, but not everyone can be a creative genius. Managers, CEOs and even employees must work at creativity, which is where Nagasundaram's class comes in.

Nagasundaram based his class on others' research and his doctoral dissertation that described how information technology could support creative thinking in groups. That sparked his first class in 1995 that 12 students completed.

Today, Nagasundaram teaches 35 students from all business majors as more future managers, entrepreneurs and financial planners realize the importance of creativity in today's fast-paced business world.

"In the '80s, organizations began to change rapidly," Nagasundaram says of how the new focus on creativity evolved. "A business that had performed successfully for 50 years found it could no longer compete. Many companies had not kept pace with the changes."

Boise State is one of the few schools to offer a business creativity course. Others include Stanford, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Colorado and the University of Oklahoma.

Nagasundaram recommends that businesses look beyond traditional methods of competing — most notably product, price, promotion and place strategies. And to move in new directions, business leaders need to think in new directions.

"Evolutionary options don't work," says Nagasundaram. "You need to look to revolutionary changes."

And that takes training and effort.
TWO NEW FEDERAL GRANTS TO HELP TRAIN BILINGUAL TEACHERS

Two Boise State University cooperative education partnerships with Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) and the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) have been awarded more than $1.4 million in federal grants to train more teachers in bilingual education and better serve the area's Spanish-speaking population.

Boise State's College of Education and TVCC received a four-year, $666,747 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The department also awarded a four-year, $736,864 grant to Boise State and CSI for a bilingual education career ladder program. Full funding is dependent on congressional budget allocations.

Both programs are designed to encourage teacher aides already working in the Magic Valley and Ontario, Ore., areas to earn their associate degrees at the nearest community college and transfer to Boise State University to complete a bachelor's degree in elementary education/bilingual-multicultural education.

The Boise State/TVCC program provides scholarships for 36 students annually. Participants are required to complete their student teaching in the Ontario area.

Boise State's cooperative program with CSI will fund scholarships for 30 teachers in a bilingual/English as second language training program. Graduates will be qualified to teach K-8 in Idaho. The new grant will enable Boise State and CSI to expand an existing program.

"We hope the scholarships will enable teacher aides to receive additional training and return to their current schools," says John Jensen, director of Boise State's Center for Multicultural and Educational Opportunities and acting associate dean of the College of Education.

"More bilingual teachers can help serve as role models to the growing Hispanic school-age population."

Boise State has been training teachers in bilingual education for 18 years.

ENGINEERING, ROTC SIGN PARTNERSHIPS

Boise State University has joined with three of the state's private colleges to expand offerings for students.

The College of Engineering has entered into an agreement with Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa and Albertson College of Idaho in Caldwell that will allow students to earn dual degrees.

Undergraduate students at NNC and ACI will complete approximately three academic years at their respective schools followed by two more years of upper-division engineering studies at Boise State.

Students who complete the program will receive a bachelor of science degree from NNC or ACI and a bachelor of science in civil, electrical or mechanical engineering from Boise State. The first students are expected to enter the program in 1999.

Boise State College of Engineering Dean Lynn Russell says the agreement is aimed at students who seek a broad liberal arts background but who also want an engineering degree.

Boise State also entered into an agreement with Ricks College that allows Ricks students to enroll in Boise State’s Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program.

Ricks students can take the first two years of ROTC training in Rexburg through Boise State’s accredited program and then can transfer to Boise State or another accredited ROTC program. About 35 students are enrolled in ROTC at Ricks under the new agreement.

Boise State has a similar agreement with Northwest Nazarene College.

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BANK BOSS STRESSES PEAK PERFORMANCE

By Brad Carlson

For the past 20 years, Louann Krueger has found fresh challenges in the high-stakes world of banking and finance by both moving up and staying put.

The regional president of Northwest community banking for First Security Bank, Krueger has been with the Salt Lake City-based company since she graduated from Boise State in 1978 with a degree in finance. She started with the company in an entry-level job, then rose through the ranks to a top management position.

From her downtown Boise office, she oversees operations, sales and customer services for 100 First Security branches in Idaho and Oregon. She also analyzes opportunities to extend the bank's reach in the region. Up to 1,000 employees come under her supervision.

Krueger's rise in the banking industry should come as no surprise. She decided to be a banker during her high school days in Idaho Falls. And she later learned firsthand about the financial industry by working full-time in the credit department at Sears while attending Boise State.

One of her courses at Boise State was taught by a Boise bank manager who stressed the "people" side of the business. That clinched her career decision.

"I knew it was right for me," she says, "because I liked the business aspect and the people aspect. I thought banking would be a good way to help people."

Jobs were scarce in 1978, but Krueger was persistent. "I basically called them every day until they hired me," she says.

Thus began the climb up the corporate ladder. After a two-year series of jobs in First Security's management training program, she held posts as management training supervisor, business/commercial lender, branch manager, state credit administrator and Boise area manager before landing her current job in 1996.

"All of that bouncing around gave me an opportunity to grow and deal with change. It helped me get here," she says.

Her diverse career path, she says, gave her a customer-oriented focus and a greater understanding of staff needs.

Krueger began her career as the movement for equal rights for women in the work force gained momentum. By the late 1970s, First Security had women working as trainees, branch managers and lenders.

"There were enough women in management to see some role models," Krueger says.

As one of the few females to join the upper management structure in banking, she now is a role model for others.

"I teach women in the organization that they have an opportunity that is equal to that of men — to not set out to find barriers, but to seek opportunities."

First Security completed a major reorganization in 1996. She was on the decision team that led the internal change.

The six-month process, which included working day and night, "was the most intense thing I've been involved with in my life. I redefined what I was capable of doing. We looked at every process and every price," Krueger says.

Even Krueger wasn't sure she would keep her job until late in the process.

Krueger describes her current job as a balancing act, with performance as the driving factor.

"There has been considerable consolidation in banking. The competition is extreme. You balance your cost structure with your delivery to customers," she says.

"As an industry we are much more focused. We know there is a performance mandate. Banks must offer their customers choice, convenience and quality while limiting expenses to remain competitive."

Twenty years ago, a bank could stumble and then eventually recover. Today, if a bank cannot remain as profitable as the market demands, "it's over," Krueger says.

First Security, she says, wants to remain an independent rather than be absorbed by a larger bank. "We want to make decisions from the West," she says, adding that banks provide community leaders and local contributions as well as economic benefits.

What about the small community-based banks that have sprung up — and succeeded — in Idaho in recent years while large banks have consolidated with even larger banks?

"Certainly community banks are a competitor; they offer a choice for customers," she says.

"We are a regional bank behaving like a community bank. We think we have the right formula to remain competitive with large and small banks alike."

"I thought banking would be a good way to help people," says Krueger.
FINGERS THAT FLY ON THEIR OWN ALSO TEACH OTHERS TO SOAR

By Steve Martin

Danita Hartz never thought she could mix her music with teaching. But this year, she proved herself wrong.

Hartz recently won one of fiddling’s most coveted titles, and she’s teaching about 100 students from ages 3 to 88 how to play a menagerie of instruments including the guitar, mandolin, fiddle, bass and piano.

In June, Hartz won Weiser’s National Oldtime Fiddler’s Contest, becoming the first woman to win the championship division. Hartz won the title as the nation’s best fiddler over 500 other competitors. “I’ve been trying to win for many years. I’ve come close a couple of times, and I think my experience helped, she says.

Her calling in life began to take shape as a 6-year-old growing up in Mackay. She and her sisters decided one day that they wanted to play the fiddle.

“We had always wanted to play the fiddle. I started out with us just seeing how much fun some friends were having,” Hartz says.

“A small town, there’s not much to do. We started going to the Fiddler’s Contest and just continued with it.”

A national title proved that Hartz can play and teach. Above, she instructs “small fry” champion fiddler Alex Duncan, age 5.

When she was in the sixth grade, Hartz moved with her family to Nampa, where she joined her school’s orchestra. She continued playing through high school and decided she could make a living out of teaching music. She went on to earn a bachelor of music in violin performance degree from Sam Houston State in Texas, then returned to Idaho to receive a master’s degree in violin pedagogy at Boise State in 1996.

“Being a good player is different from being a good teacher. Being a good teacher is something you have to learn,” Hartz says.

She credits a graduate assistant stint with Boise State violin instructor and orchestra conductor Craig Purdy for boosting her confidence in private teaching.

“It can be very fulfilling,” Hartz says of teaching. “The most rewarding thing is to see some of the kids come in with a smile. They’re so excited about what they’ve learned.”

Hartz performed for a few seasons with the Boise Philharmonic, and she and her husband Matthew even appeared on Nashville’s Grand Ole Opry before moving back to Meridian, where they operate a music supply store out of their home.

With the fiddle title safely tucked away, Hartz may take a break from the Weiser competition. And then again, she may not.

“It’s a lot of pressure — I was glad to go back to work because of the stress. I’m not sure I’ll compete next year. But when it comes down to it, I probably will.”

RUKAVINA SHIFTS CAREER GEARS FROM MECHANICAL TO SPIRITUAL

By Steve Martin

When the Rev. Steve Rukavina graduated from Boise State in 1970, he wanted to be a car mechanic. Today, he’s repairing something of an entirely different nature.

At 47, the Mackay-born Rukavina is a priest at St. Mark’s Catholic Church in Boise.

Life can change drastically in three decades, but even Rukavina admits that becoming a priest is a world apart from the day he earned his certificate in automotive technology.

He graduated just in time to confront the realities of the Vietnam War. High on the draft lottery list, he figured it was only a matter of time before his number was drawn.

Potential employers thought the same.

“No one would hire me because they thought I would get drafted,” Rukavina says. “So I never went to work as a mechanic.”

Rukavina says he sees people at some of the most poignant moments in their lives.

A bout with asthma eventually kept him from the war. But all the mechanic jobs in his hometown were filled, so Rukavina went to work in his father’s cafe and bar in Mackay.

He later held a job for several years as a heavy equipment operator for a southern Idaho construction company, then took a year off to travel the country with a friend. The trip changed his life.

“I went back to work in construction in Montana for a year and it was during that time that I started wondering what I wanted to do the rest of my life,” says Rukavina.

“I knew I wanted to do something of more significance. Then I started getting the idea for priesthood. It took about a year to follow through on those thoughts.”

Rukavina now holds degrees in philosophy from Mt. Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore., and in divinity from St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif. He was ordained as a priest in 1987 and served at several Idaho parishes before being assigned as co-pastor at St. Mark’s in July.

“I like working with people — it’s never boring. I see them at some of the most poignant moments in their lives. It is a privilege to share the beauty and wonder of the gospel with them,” he says.
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. In addition, if you know someone who would make a good feature story in our "Alumniotes" section, contact the office of News Services at the same address.

30s

IRIS ANNETTE (THORNTON) PEACOCKE, AA, general arts and sciences, '34, recently published a book titled Savoring Your Sunset Years. The book focuses on lessons and activities for the elderly and is a resource for care center activity directors, home health care providers, as well as family members. Peacocke was a member of the first graduating class from Boise Junior College. She resides in Burley.

MARJORIE R. (ROBBINS) THOMPSON, diploma, general arts and sciences, '35, is a volunteer for both the American Cancer Society and the Deaconess Hospital gift shop. Thompson resides in Spokane, Wash.

50s

JIM COULSON, AA, general arts and sciences, '56, is president of Coeur d'Alenes Co. in Spokane, Wash. Coulson started with the company in 1966.

ELLA JANE (BROWN) HOLES, diploma, general arts and sciences, '58, was named artist of the month for June by the Central Idaho Art Association. Holes works for Nikken as well as Ray Holes Saddle Co. and Ray Holes Leather Care Products. She lives in Grangeville.

70s

RONALD W. COWLES, BA, finance, '74, is a senior research analyst with Gartner Group, a telecommunications company in Stamford, Conn. Cowles lives in Mahopac Falls, N.Y.

JONATHAN D. RAND, BA, communication, '74, is manager of the Petry Television office in Seattle. Petry handles national business for more than 100 television stations across the United States.

JANE KATHERINE (COX) BRENNAN, MA, elementary education, '75, recently completed an Ed.S. in special education through a distance education program at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Brennan is a special education specialist for the Idaho Department of Education in Boise. She is also the Idaho president of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and serves on the board of directors for Cerebral Palsy of Idaho.

JOSEPH O. SWENSON, BBA, accounting, '75, is chief financial officer with O'Neill Enterprises Inc. in Boise. Swenson previously was in real estate management consulting and tax accounting for Crandall, Swenson and Gleason.

DOUGLAS V. BAILEY, BS, physical education/secondary education, '77, is principal at American Falls High School. Bailey previously was principal at Raft River High School in Malta.

LAURETTA SUSAN BURMAN, BS, premedical studies, '77, is a veterinarian and owner of Pet Health Clinic, due to open this fall in Nampa. Burman has practiced veterinary medicine in the Nampa area for more than 17 years.

JACK PRECHT, BA, finance, '77, is an assistant vice president with First Security Bank in Boise. Precht is a credit review officer with responsibility for reviewing loan documents for all lines of business within First Security Corp. He has been with the bank since 1977.

IDOLINA VOLZ, BA, business/general, '77, is employed by the Internal Revenue Service in Boise. Volz recently received an award from the Department of the Treasury. The award recognizes the creativity, ingenuity and dedication of Treasury employees whose efforts distinguish them and the department.

GERTRUDE LEE ARNOLD, BBA, management/industrial relations, '78, received the John Warriner Award from the University of Michigan School of Education in Ann Arbor. She is working on her doctorate at the school's Center for the Study of Higher Education.

DAVID KENT HIGGINSON, BBA, finance, '78, is vice president and manager at First Security Bank's downtown Twin Falls office. Higginson previously was manager of the bank's St. Anthony branch. He has been with the bank since 1978.

CRAIG W. HURST, BM, music/secondary education, '78, is director of the instrumental music program at the University of Wisconsin in Waukesha. Hurst has performed as principal trumpet or trumpet soloist with the Waukesha Area Symphonic Band, the Waukesha Parks and Recreation Band, the Concord Chamber Orchestra, the Milwaukee Stadtpfeifer, the Jazz Express Big Band, the Wisconsin Wind Orchestra and the Milwaukee Police Band.

RICHARD S. TOTORICA, BA, accounting, '79, is vice president and corporate treasurer with ATL Ultrasound Inc. Totorica lives in Mill Creek, Wash.

80s

SERGIO A. GUTIERREZ, BA, elementary education/bilingual-multicultural, '80, has been re-elected to a second term as district judge for the Third Judicial District. Gutierrez lives in Nampa.

HE DOESN'T TAKE COMMERCIAL BREAKS

By Steve Martin

Unlike most television viewers, you won't find Michael LaTour flipping through the channels when the commercials come on. He actually likes to watch them.

The seven-year marketing professor at Auburn University in Alabama turned his fascination with advertising into an academic specialty that has led to some prestigious awards and an occasional brush with the national media.

"It's fascinating what makes people respond to advertising, what causes them to buy things and how psychologically intertwined they are with products," LaTour says.

Imparting what he learns to his students and watching them grow, as he did as an undergraduate student at Boise State, fuels LaTour's passion for his work.

"There's a tremendous reward derived from getting research published and then bringing it into the classroom and sharing it with the students," he says.

LaTour, 44, earned his marketing degree at Boise State in 1978 and followed up with an MBA degree three years later.

Earlier this year, he received the 1998 Alabama Association for Higher Education in Business Award for Excellence and Professional Contributions, an award given annually to only one business faculty member from the 15 four-year institutions in Alabama.

In addition to teaching about 350 students per year, LaTour conducts research in consumer behavior, focusing on reactions to advertising.

He has also conducted research in psychological dependence on product technology. Last spring, ABC News quoted him in a story about the public's reliance on technology in the wake of a satellite blackout that caused cell phones and pagers to stop working.

He credits his professors at Boise State University for steering him in the right direction, "My professors convinced me where I wanted to focus my studies," he says.

LaTour, who returns to Boise for occasional visits with family and friends, likes his niche at Auburn.

"It's a great place to raise a family. And I like Auburn's colors. They're orange and blue," he says. ☑
LLOYD W. HINER, MA, education/reading, '80, recently retired after teaching for 34 years. Hiner most recently taught at Centennial High School in the Meridian School District.

DANIEL L. MINK, BA, communication, '80, is lead singer for the Sage Brush and Roses Country and Cowboy Music Band, is active in community theater and also is a performance roper known as the "Rhinestone Roper." Mink lives in Jerome.

CONNIE S. (TAYLOR) BATES, BS, physical education, '81, teaches physical education at Pleasant Hill High School in Pleasant Hill, Ore.

ROBERT "BRET" JUDY, CC, heavy duty mechanics, '81, is a blasting crew foreman with Idaho Power Co. Judy resides in Kuna.

SUE (DUNNAM) SHARP, MA, education/curriculum and instruction, '81, is an interim minister at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Idaho Falls.

DEBORAH K. (OUVER) BROWN, BBA, economics, '82, is vice president of Capital Matrix in Boise. Brown previously was a loan officer and has been with the firm since 1990.

BRYAN JONATHON MATSUOKA, BA, elementary education, '82, is a regional director with Small Business Development. Matsuoka lives in Twin Falls.

MARY LEE (MCKINNEY) SEAL, MA, education/special education, '83, recently retired after teaching fifth through eighth grade at Ola School for 26 years.


VICTORIA "VICKY" LYNN (ALLEN) HALFORD, BBA, quantitative management, '83, is director of claims for Great Northwest Insurance Co. in Boise. Halford previously worked for Allstate Insurance in Boise for 14 years.

TERESA ANNE SACKMAN, BBA, marketing, '83, is executive director of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce. Sackman has been with the chamber since 1992.

MICHAEL B. CLARK, MA, art/secondary education, '85, is executive director of the Oyster Ridge Board of Cooperative Educa-
tional Services in Kemmerer, Wyo.

ROY M. JACKSON, BS, construction management, '85, is chief estimator with Steed Construction Inc. in Boise. Jackson's responsibilities include compilation of conceptual estimates and competitive bidding of commercial construction projects.

CEDRIC A. MINTER, BA, elementary education, '85, is middle school principal with the Nyssa School District in Nyssa, Ore. Minter has been a special education teacher and football coach with the district since 1993.

NICHOLAS JOHN WOYCHICK, BA, economics, '85, is an assistant United States attorney for the district of Idaho.

JOHN D. GROEBECK, BA, political science, '86, is chair of the business department at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah.

HUD HUDSON, BA, philosophy, '86, recently received the Excellence in Teaching Award for 1997-98 from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. Hudson is an associate professor of philosophy at the university.

ALAN DUANE POFF, BA, political science, '86, is a legislative aide to Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, drafting and analyzing legislation and formulating policy on labor issues.

VICKIE RUTLEDGE SHIELDS, BA, communication, '86, is director of the Women's Studies program at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. Shields previously was an assistant professor of telecommunications and women's studies at the university.

KENDALL R. HOYD, BBA, finance, '87, is general manager of Idaho Truss and Components in Meridian.

BOBETTE S. STEFFLER, BBA, marketing, '87, is administrator of SunRise Care and Rehab in McCall. Steffler previously was interim administrator and also worked as director of social services at the care center.

JOANNE KAY CLEVELAND, BS, mathematics/secondary education, '88, recently completed her master's of degree in education degree in instruction and design from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

MICHAEL FANTASKI, BBA, management/industrial relations, '88, works for Western Aircraft in Boise. Fantaski previously was employed at Norco for nine years.

DANIEL R. GIZINSKI, BA, communication, '88, is regional sales manager with the international division of Dictaphone Corp. He is responsible for the Caribbean and Latin American regions and resides in Melbourne, Fla.

THE LINES ARE OPEN

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CREATING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT

By Steve Martin

Bob Yerzy says going to school was not one of his favorite activities when he was growing up. Perhaps that explains why he is so eager to develop new ways to help students learn.

Since 1992, Yerzy has taught at Canyon View Elementary in Salt Lake City, where he is pioneering a new form of education for youngsters that combines traditional teaching with an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding environment.

"My philosophy is that you can't truly educate in the classroom," says Yerzy, a 1980 Boise State graduate in elementary education. "You have to include business, the environment [and] make education relevant to the students."

Yerzy is advancing that concept through a program he calls PROJECT: L.A.B. A.L.I.V.E., which stands for Learning About Balance while Actively Learning in Various Environments.

The teacher launched the program in 1993 with a plan to create an outdoor classroom in a nearby flood-retaining basin. With donations from the community and support from local agencies, Yerzy now is close to turning the basin into a place that simulates wetland and foothills habitats.

After five years of planning and fund raising, Yerzy says actual development of the site will start this fall when the National Guard grades the area and volunteers plant native Utah vegetation. Streambeds will also be created this fall.

Yerzy continues to search for business and private financial support, but predicts that most of the work will be complete by 2000.

For his efforts Yerzy was named Utah's 1997 recipient of the federal Chrisha McAuliffe Fellowship, which paid part of his teaching salary so he could devote more time to L.A.B. A.L.I.V.E. He also was named Utah Environmental Teacher of the Year in 1997.

L.A.B A.L.I.V.E. has been a labor of love for Yerzy, who says he spends between 20-40 hours each week on the project. But the eventual reward will be worth the effort, he says.

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music degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. Immel is now working on a
doctor of musical arts degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

SHANNON E. (GILBERT) NATION, BA, political
science/Spanish, '95, teaches Spanish and social
studies at Middleton Middle School in
Middleton.

TODD CHRISTENSEN, BS, political science, '96, is
an economic development specialist with the
Mini-Cassia Development Commission in
Rupert.

DEVAN FLOYD GREENHAGL, BBA, interna
tional business, '96, is a financial planner with
Liberty Mutual in Boise.

MELANIE M. HOYT, BA, mass communication/
journalism, '96, is a reporter for the Idaho Press
Tribune in Nampa.

LANCE H. KIRKLAND, BA, history, '96, teaches
social studies and coaches football at Oakley
High School in Oakley.

KEVIN M. KNIGHT, BS, biology, '96, has been
awarded a fellowship in the department of
pathology and laboratory medicine at the
University of Minnesota School of Medicine in
Minneapolis.

ERICK ALLAN KURKOWSKI, BA, political
science, '96, is a position classification specialist
with the Bureau of Land Management in Boise.

SCOTT ALLEN LOONEY, BBA, marketing, '96,
is a traffic/promotions coordinator with WRC
Advertising in Boise.

REGINA A. MAGNO, BS, political science, '96,
is a clerk/typist with the U.S. Bureau of Reclama
tion in Boise.

RAIN SONG "RAINY" (ZWEIFEL) MCDONALD, BA,
graphic design, '96, is art director/production
coordinator with Green House Inc. in Boise.

McDonald previously was a graphic designer with
the company.

CRAIG L. MEFFORD, BA, elementary education,
'96, teaches third grade at St. Peter's School in
Ontario, Ore.

DARIN RICHARD SOLMON, BS, criminal justice,
'96, is a border patrol agent with the United
States Border Patrol in San Diego.

JENNIFER JEAN (BLACKMAN) SWING, BS,
physical education/secondary education, '96, is a
professional tennis instructor at Cottonwood
Country Club in Salt Lake City. Swing also is the
community state representative for the Utah
Tennis Association.

KATHLEEN EMILY THURSTON, BS, political
science, '96, is a clerk/typist with the Ada
County Public Defender's Office in Boise.

KATHLEEN MARY (RUSSELL) BERG, BAS, '97,
is currently in the multidisciplinary graduate
program at Boise State.

TARA KIM CANTRELL, BA, political science, '97,
is a customer service representative at Micron in
Nampa.

DOUGLAS BRENT CARTWRIGHT, BS, political
science, '97, is an account executive with Dean
Witter Inc. in Boise.

LANDIS DILLARD, AAS, business systems and
computer technology, '97, is a supervisor for
Hoff Forest Products, working in the Strandex
Composite Wood Products plant. Dillard lives in
Middleton.

LINDA KAY JOCHUM, MPA, '97, is a policy
analyst with the Association of Idaho Cities.

Jochum was a 1995 Top Ten Scholar at Boise
State.

CRAIG DEAN KENYON, MPA, '97, is special
projects coordinator with the Department of
Administration in Boise.

SUSAN M. OLIVER, MA, school counseling, '97,
is a counselor at Fairmont Junior High School in
Boise. Oliver previously taught English at the
school.

NICOLE L. RUSSELL, BA, political science, '97,
is a project manager with The Russell Corp. in
Boise.

APRIL DAWN SANDERSON, MA, interdisciplinary
studies, '97, is a self-employed speaker,
trainer and facilitator. Sanderson lives in
Sylvania, Ohio.

LAURA LEE ALLEN, MA, school counseling, '98,
is a high school counselor with the Ruamrudee
International School in Bangkok, Thailand.

CHRISTINA LYNN BISHOP, BA, elementary
education, '98, teaches kindergarten in the
Meridian School District.

KACY ANNE BRADLEY, BA, elementary
education, '98, teaches second grade at Hubbard
Elementary in Kuna.

KASANDRA L. BURBANK, BS, criminal justice,
'98, is a correctional officer at the Idaho State
Correctional Institution in Boise.

KRISTINE KAY CARLISLE, BA, elementary
education, '98, is a first-grade teacher in Las
Vegas. Carlisle lives in Henderson, Nev.

KEVIN K. COLE, MA, history, '98, is a teaching
assistant at the University of New York at
Buffalo.

USA DIANE COLON, BA, elementary education/
bilingual-multicultural, '98, teaches seventh
grade mathematics at Eagle Middle School in
Eagle.

ROBIN MARIE (COCHRANE) DEBUHR, AAS,
accounting technology, '98, is an accountant with
AmeriTel Inns. DeBuhr lives in Nampa.

JOANNE M. D'ORIO, MA, education/curriculum
and instruction, '98, teaches biology and
chemistry at St. Ignatius High School in
Cleveland.

AMY ELISABETH (KUHN) ENGLISH, BS, nursing,
'98, is a labor and delivery nurse at St. Luke's
Regional Medical Center in Boise.

LORNA R. EZELL, BA, English/teaching, '98,
teaches ninth and 11th grade English at Nampa
Christian School in Nampa.

KARA J. FALASH, BA, elementary education,
'98, teaches first grade at Eagle Hills Elementary
School in Eagle.

TYONNE LOUISE JAHEN FLY, BA, Spanish, '98,
works at Hidden Springs Community School in
Boise.

TAMARA FORCE, MSW, '98, is a social worker
for Merle West Medical Center. Force lives in
Klamath Falls, Ore.

GREGORY A. FRYE, AAS, broadcast technology,
'98, is an assistant manager with Vector
Marketing in Boise.

ANNALEE GOETZMAN, BS, nursing, '98, is a
nurse at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in
Boise. Goetzman works in the cardiovascular
operating room.

JENNIFER LYNN HOPKINS, AAS, administrative
offices technology, '98, is an administrative
assistant at SCP Global Technologies in Boise.

TYREE JENKS, BA, English/general literature,
'98, is a graduate student at the University of
Arizona.
JENNIFER E. JOHNSON, BBA, marketing, '98, is a sales representative at Oakwood Homes in Boise.

JULIE KAULUS, BA, elementary education, '98, teaches second grade in King City, Calif.

KRISTY ANNE KUHFUSS, BA, psychology, '98, is in the doctoral program in psychology at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, Calif.

LORE A. LEATHERBURY, AS, nursing, '98, is a registered nurse at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center in Boise.

CRYSTAL MARIE MAGAZINO, BBA, accounting, '98, works at Moss Adams, LLP in Beaverton, Ore.

LINDA MCCLOSKEY, TC, dental assisting, '98, works at The Tooth Dome in Mountain Home.

ERIKA A. MCGINNIS, BFA, visual art, '98, has released her first limited edition print titled "Filuminares". McGinnis’ print is available at local galleries in Boise.

ANGELA D. O’BRIEN, BS, biology, '98, is a biological technician for the Bureau of Land Management in Boise.

DEBRA D. (FLOYD) PERCIFIELD, AAS, child care and development, '98, is an associate teacher at St. Alphonsus Early Learning Center in Boise.

ELIZABETH ROSE PEREZA, BA, communication, '98, is a graduate student in the department of speech communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

KELLY L. POTTSWNB, BSN, nursing, '98, is an officer in the Army Nurse Corps at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

JERALD DEAN PYE, BBA, computer information systems, '98, is a computer programmer with Columbia Ultimate Business Systems in Vancouver, Wash.

KERRY LYNN (NOULIN) RENARD, PVC, office occupations, '98, is a word processing generalist with the Idaho Department of Insurance in Boise.

SARA FLORENCE ROBINSON, AS, radiologic science, '98, is a radiologic technician at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

MICHAEL GLENN SAGRATI, BBA, marketing, '98, is a product manager for J.R. Simplot Co. in Boise.

MELODY C. SANDOVAL, AS, nursing, '98, is a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center in Boise.

JENNIFER LEE SEVERANCE, BA, political science, '98, is deputy finance director for the Dan Williams for Congress campaign.

F. MATTHEW STOPPELLO, BA, criminal justice, '98, is a law student at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

RICHARD LEE STOUSE, BS, criminal justice, '98, is an Idaho state trooper stationed in Pocatello.

BRYAN F. TAYLOR, BA, political science, '98, is enrolled at the University of Denver College of Law in Denver.

SHERRY ANN THOMAS, BA, elementary education, '98, is a librarian at the middle school and high school in Parma.

DEBRA NECIA (MUFFLEY) URRUTIA, BA, elementary education, '98, teaches sixth grade at Syringa School in Pocatello.

JEFFERSON HUNT WEST, BS, political science, '98, is a law student at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

M. DANIEL WOLF, BA, elementary education, '98, teaches first grade at Camas Elementary School in Fairfield.

**WEDDINGS**

CHRISTY DAWN MORRIS and John Phillip Frans, (Boise) Jan. 3

CURTIS LEE MACK and Karen Yost, (Boise) May 2

TONJA VAN HIES and T. Allen Hoover, (Boise) May 2

GREGG PRESTON ALGER and Mary Arvin, (Boise) May 9

BRUCE A. KLEIN and Young-Eun “Monica”Jun, (Seattle) May 24

SEAN C. EASON and Ann E. Coon, (Boise) June 12

DAVID WAYNE PASCUA and Heather Ann Warr, (South Lake Tahoe, Calif.) June 20

LISA ANN ROBINSON and Brian Lee Alger, (Boise) July 18

DEBRA NECIA MUFFLEY and Johnny Urrutia, (Jerome) Aug. 8

AMY ELISABETH KUHN and Donn English, Aug. 8

DEBRA D. FLOYD and Casey Percifield, Aug. 22

**OBITUARIES**

TENNYSON LEIGH “TENNY” ALGER, BA, music, ’94, died Aug. 13 in Caldwell at age 27. Alger had recently returned to Boise State to work on a science degree to prepare for veterinary medicine school. She previously worked in the marketing department with Premiere Multi-Media in Issaquah, Wash.

MARY ELLEN COLLIAS, BA, social work, ’72, died Sept. 16 in Nampa after a long battle with cancer. Collias had worked as a teacher, in social work and as a volunteer and school board member for the Nampa School District.

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APRIL LEAH COWLEY, BAS, '89, died July 23 in Salt Lake City at age 41. Cowley had worked as a computer programmer-systems analyst with Blue Cross of Idaho.

CHARLES WESLEY CULLINGS, BA, psychology, '74, died June 11 in Fruitia, Colo., at age 48. Cullings was general manager at Rocky Mountain Subaru at the time of his death.

ROSS EDWARD DAKE, AA, general arts and sciences, '57, died June 8 in Pocatello at age 67. Dake had been a licensed professional electrical engineer in Idaho and Prince Edward Island, Canada.

CARL E. DOBYNS, CC, parts counterman, '73, died July 8 in Portola, Calif., at age 65. At the time of his death, Dobyns owned and operated the NAPA auto parts store in Portola.

JANET MARIE (PRUNTY) HALL, MA, early childhood, '95, died July 25 in Bruneau at age 48. Hall taught preschool special education for 10 years.

Professor emeritus ROBERT D. JAMESON died Aug. 12. Jameson joined Boise State in 1979, serving first as director of professional development programs and then teaching in the management department until his retirement in 1989.

MAYLING WANG JONES, BBA, marketing, '96, died July 14 in Jordan Valley, Ore., at age 38. Jones had worked at Yen Ching Restaurant in Boise for six years.

ALBERTSON'S ALUMS DONATE $5,000

Boise State University alumni employed at Albertson's Inc. corporate headquarters raised nearly $5,000 during their annual scholarship drive.

Albertson's employees Laura Kubinski, Steve Tucker, Dave Ober, Rick Navarro and Mike Bessent conducted the fund drive. Albertson's alumni held their annual event at The Ram restaurant in September.

President Charles Rueh, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Bill Ruud and head football coach Dirk Koetter talked with alumni about the upcoming semester and the football team's prospects.

BOISE STATE PLANS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

On Feb. 22, 1999, Boise State will celebrate its 25th anniversary as a university.

"This is a time in which we can celebrate the history and traditions of Boise State University," says former student body president Doug Shanholtz, who leads a committee planning to commemorate the occasion.

"Not just the time since 1974, but since the beginning at St. Margaret's Hall. Also, this is not just about Boise State, it is about the entire university system in Idaho.

"This will be a time to celebrate higher education and what it means to the state of Idaho."

More about the celebration will be included in the winter issue of FOCUS.
The Boise State University Alumni Association promotes the advancement of academic excellence by fostering alliances between communities, the university, and its current, past, and future students. Accordingly, the association takes pride in supporting our university’s traditions and future.

This is the mission statement of the BSU Alumni Association as it was unanimously endorsed at the recent Alumni Association retreat and general board meeting. The statement speaks for itself and relays the message that the Alumni Association understands that the future of the university and the communities in which we live are inextricably linked. Based on this premise, the Alumni Association would like to highlight four events that support our mission and that deserve recognition by our alumni.

- Community service is an important function of the Alumni Association and will be exemplified this year in a food drive to be held in the spring. We will be contacting local businesses and alumni to help support this project under the direction of Kip Moggridge. We ask that you join the Alumni Association in providing food for those who are hungry and in need.
- Academic excellence is the backbone of any university and the quintessential element of the university that the Alumni Association prides itself in supporting. Part of that support comes from the Bronco Athletic Association/BSU Alumni Association Auction, a major biennial fund-raising event. Auction ’99 is scheduled for next May. The Alumni Association proceeds from the occasion will be utilized for scholarships and institutional advancement.
- In addition, the university’s most distinguished students, faculty and alumni will be honored at the annual Top Ten Scholars Banquet next April. These events are now alumni traditions and help provide the funding and recognition platforms which are crucial to academic achievement.
- The braid between current, past and future students as well as between the university and the communities it serves cannot be better examined or celebrated than in the events planned for the 25th anniversary celebration the week of Feb. 22. This series of activities will recognize the transition of Boise State College to Boise State University 25 years ago and promises to further enhance the history of this proud institution.

Thanks to all past, present and future supporters of the Alumni Association. Your support benefits both the university and our communities.
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**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

Each year, the Alumni Association honors its own with the Distinguished Alumni Award. *FOCUS* readers can nominate individuals for the award by sending a letter to the Alumni Office stating the person's accomplishments. Past recipients range from CEOs of major corporations to volunteer leaders to supporters of the arts.

**ON THE ROAD WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Results of a recent alumni survey have prompted the Alumni Association to organize discounted group travel packages for alumni. Such packages may include cruises, family vacations to Disneyland and trips to Europe.

The association will dedicate proceeds from the travel programs to academic programs and scholarships at the university.

**ALUMNI ENCOURAGED TO PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES**

The Alumni Association strives to promote academic excellence and foster alliances among communities, the university and its past, present and future students.

To accomplish this goal, the association needs your support.

If you are not a dues-paying member, please consider joining the association today. Membership is only $25 per year.

Your support will enhance the association's outreach efforts, as well as provide you with discounted e-mail and Internet access and discounts at selected Boise State athletic events, theatre arts productions and selected items at the Bronco Shop.
Volunteers of the Pulp and Paperworkers Resource Council [PPRC], biologists from the Nez Perce Tribe, and students from Lapwai High School gathered at the Potlatch [tree] Nursery in Lewiston this spring to prepare and release 4,000 Coho salmon into Mission Creek on the Nez Perce Reservation.

The fish are part of the continuing Remote Site Incubator program of the PPRC that includes fish incubators at high schools throughout north Idaho. **High school students and PPRC members raise salmon and steelhead at various times throughout the year to help grow fish populations in north Idaho.**

The need for a good educational tool to teach children about the importance of all natural resources was brought home to PPRC members several years ago when they asked students in one class if they knew what anadromous fish were. One student replied, “Yeah, it’s that fish that’s going to put my dad out of work.” PPRC knew then that student education about fish issues was vital for fish and jobs to survive.

Nez Perce Tribe officials provided the Coho salmon eggs for the project. The eggs were placed in the incubators in the middle of December by PPRC members who monitored and nurtured the eggs through the winter. Lapwai High School students released the fish in Mission Creek near the Nez Perce headquarters at Lapwai. PPRC will help the students set up their own incubators this year at the school for steelhead and next year for salmon.
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