Students of Boise State University

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Words are powerful

The Arbiter actively seeks open discussion on issues of public and campus concern, and welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters must be submitted with a name, daytime telephone number and be no longer than 300 words in length. All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Letters to the editor can be dropped off at the Arbiter’s plush basement office across from the SUB. Letters can also be submitted via snail mail to: the Arbiter at 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725. For speedy delivery fax letters to (208) 426-3198 or send e-mail to arbiter@email.boisestate.edu.
Growth dominates fall 2000 welcome speech

by John Threet

The Fall 2000 semester, at Boise State University officially began Monday, August 21, with the tradition of the President of the university's address to faculty and staff. The university's growth dominated the address.

"I have never been more optimistic for this institution than I am now," declared Boise State President Charles Ruch. However, the great challenge confronting this "best of times" is access.

On the heels of nine consecutive semesters of growth, Ruch cautioned, "We are about out of room." He said there is a shortage of available classrooms, space for support services, and office space for faculty to serve the current student enrollment. Ruch said, by 2005, over 18,000 students will attend Boise State. Access to education for these future students will depend on building the necessary facilities for instruction.

In order to satisfy the physical requirements of 2005 the university will need to construct three additional classroom buildings equivalent in size to the Multi-Purpose Classroom Facility, Ruch said.

Bringing growth needs to the legislature and to public awareness will be critical, Ruch said. To accommodate current growth, construction of more than 20 major projects are in various stages of completion, including: Campus Lane improvements. Albertsons Library remodeling, the storm water drainage project cutting across the east end of campus, a electrical distribution project and the new Student Recreation Center.

Ruch spoke at length on the demand for tax dollars as well as other private revenue sources to finance Boise State's growth.

Boise State University recently joined the Workers Rights Consortium as a fully committed member. The consortium collaborates with workers, non-governmental organizations and other colleges and universities to improve the conditions of workers that produce collegiate apparel.

Boise State joined the consortium, "In an effort to take a socially responsible stand on sweatshops and child labor," wrote Kim Thomas in a memorandum to ASBSU executive leaders. "In joining the Worker Rights Consortium, our school requires our licensees and/or sourcing companies to meet a code of conduct that is consistent with the WRC," Thomas wrote.

The Worker Rights Consortium is a non-profit organization that supports and verifies licensee compliance with production codes of conduct. The codes of conduct were developed by colleges and universities across the country to ensure those goods are produced under conditions that respect the basic rights of workers.

WRC is developing a network of local organizations in regions where licensed goods are produced. This network will allow the WRC to inform workers of their rights under applicable codes of conduct and will allow workers to report conditions securely and confidentially.

United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) developed the Worker Rights Consortium in collaboration with human rights and labor organizations in the U.S. and other apparel-producing regions.

The WRC provides college and university members with information about working conditions through close contact with workers and local religious, human rights, and labor groups.

The Arbiter (8/3/00) reported that apparel carrying the BSU logo often originates from countries where factories pay their workers substandard wages.

The WRC currently has 57 affiliated colleges and universities.

Boise State University President Charles Ruch addresses faculty, staff and students. He said growth is one of BSU's biggest challenges.

photo by: Ted Harmon
The Arbiter
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How safe is your daughter at BSU?

by Mike Winter

Boise State University student Samantha Mahur, age 22, was on her way to class on the sunny summer morning of July 6 when she was abducted, by a suspected rapist and murderer. Details are unconfirmed, but authorities believe the abduction occurred in Julia Davis Park, where the alleged perpetrator’s car was found. Students regularly park along the road behind Zoo Boise to access the campus over Friendship Bridge.

But the fact is, rape is more likely to occur on the BSU side of the river, in that all-American regular guys, according to sociologist Michael Kimmel, commit most rapes. Sociologist Allan Johnson contends, “College women are at a greater risk of being raped or aggressed against by the men they know and date than they are by lunatics in the bushes.”

Under “reported criminal offenses” you see lots of reassuring “0’s.” Don’t be fooled. There is a whole lot more criminal activity than “0” going on at the BSU campus and adjacent neighborhoods. Nineteen pages worth of crime fill the campus police log for 1999 to be exact, and five and a half pages detail crime as of mid-July for 2000. At 14 crimes per page, that’s still reported crimes in 1999 and 77 reported crimes as of mid-July this year, for an average of one crime every 8 hours for the past year and a half.

So why all the “0’s” in the “Safety and Security Annual Report?” “It’s the categories required by the report,” explains Sgt. Gary Roane, supervisor of five Ada County Sheriff deputies at BSU, “and the fact that only felonies get reported in compliance with Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990.”

For example, in the published fight in the Towers dorm last Sept. 9 in which a student was stabbed with a pencil several times, the perpetrator was charged with battery and malicious injury to property—a misdemeanor, so it wasn’t get reported in the Safety and Security Annual Report. Another reason the crime did not make it into the annual report is that battery is not a required reporting category.

This doesn’t make much sense to Roane, given that aggravated assault, which is attempted battery, is required. Battery surely happens at BSU every year, usually in the form of fights.

Another reason that the annual report looks better than it should is presumably due to some careless proofreading. Arrears for 90 liquor law violations, one weapon possession violation, all on campus, and 11 liquor law violations at off-campus housing were left out. The discrepancies have been corrected on the department’s webpage at www.boisestate.edu/parking/arrest categories in the report are not necessarily felonies.

While there were no reported cases of aggravated assault on campus in 1999, there are ten cases at property adjacent to BSU, described in the report as “public property contiguous to the University.” Likewise in the police log, this area and the properties surrounding BSU housing and apartments show the most reported crimes.

Technically adjacent areas are the jurisdiction of the Boise Police Department, but BSU’s
Six sheriffs also patrol there and take calls for the Boise police regularly. Julia Davis Park falls in this category and a result of the July abduction and murder is that the sheriffs now patrol the park as a matter of policy. Sgt. Rouse explained they patrolled it previously, but as a practice. Now it's official.

The annual report shows no reported sex offenses on campus for 1999 or the two years prior, and none in the adjacent areas. No data is available for the prior two years for the adjacent areas. The police log shows a rape in Towers Dorm at 7:00 a.m. on April 19, 2000 and an attempted rape on Nov 1 "east of Friendship Bridge." Rouse said the victim in the Towers incident declined to pursue charges, and that the Nov. case turned out to be "unfounded" and referred to Detective Ken Smith of the Boise Police Department for further details.

Though the six sheriffs are men, they call in a female Victim Witness Coordinator to assist women victims as soon as possible.

The most common reported crime is burglary, at 32 on campus in 1999, down from 42 in 1998, and at 101 reports in adjacent areas in 1999. Rouse explains most of these are thefts from cars. Burglary - a felony - is defined as entry with intent to steal, regardless of the value of the stolen property. Where "theft" - frequently reported in the police log - is stealing without prior intent, or stealing with prior intent, as with an instrument to break through a bike lock, if the stealing does not involve entry. Theft becomes a felony (grand theft) if the stolen property is valued over $1,000.

There were seven motor vehicle thefts reported in 1999 in adjacent areas, and none on campus. One reason that you - and your car - are safer on campus property than in the surrounding area is the amount of patrol. In addition to two sheriffs who are on duty at any one time there are one to three campus security personnel to check lighting, especially the operation of the 22 emergency phones at the blinking blue lights. Installing these phones in the adjacent areas, however, such as Julia Davis Park or along BSU side streets, would have to be done by Boise’s Parks and Recreation Department or the city of Boise, according to Seibolt.

In addition to the civil laws enforced by sheriff and security personnel is Boise State University’s 21 Codes of Conduct, which is provided at orientation and is available at www2.boisestate.edu/vpsa. An on-campus grievance process known as Judicial Disciplinary Referrals handles these infractions. The purpose of this system is to aid the student who provokes drug or alcohol complaints with education and counseling rather than enforcing criminal penalties. Some complaints have been for stealing from a student organization. Any student who has a problem or concern is invited to call Rob Meyer at 426-1224, or Blaine Eccles at 426-1538.

Ultimately, the best protection is an individual’s own awareness. The Ada County Sheriff offers free training on how not to become a victim. The two-hour seminar for students will be held on campus, presented by BSU’s Training and Development Department at 426-4419. Sgt. Rouse says that the next seminar will be given in the first or second week of September.

Every six minutes a woman in the U.S. is raped; every 18 seconds a woman is beaten, and every day four women are killed by their batterers.
Ruch says business is under control
President vows to erase deficit

by Carissa Wolf

"Same story. Forty different versions," Boise State University President Charles Ruch said between meetings with the State Board of Education and reporters last week. He sees a lot of the press these days. He said it is all part of living under a microscope and having a few university departments in the red.

The red ink has the press jumping and the State Board of Education looking for answers. Last week Ruch and financial vice president Buster Neel told the board Boise State would erase the $311,830 debt incurred by the Pavilion and the Athletic Department within five years.

The deficit inspired several pages and days of coverage by the Idaho Statesman and by now Ruch is accustomed to heeding the presses' prods. He's even refined interviewing himself:

"Are you concerned? You bet. Does it effect the rest of BSU? No," Ruch said.

Ruch said he looks at Boise State as a big business and he looks at the big picture. He sees the deficit as a little, easily erasable, dent in a huge multi-million dollar budget.

"In the great scheme of things, [the deficit] may not be as important as people think at any given time," Ruch said.

Ruch said it is natural for any business to experience gains and losses. Over time, he says, those gains and losses balance each other out.

The athletic department and the Pavilion, like ASBSU and the Bookstore, are auxiliary expenses and operate out of the same budget. But Ruch assures that the Pavilion and athletic department deficits will not affect other auxiliary department enterprises.

Ruch employed the analogy of meat and produce to explain. "Let's say you have a grocery store or department store. You may have some departments that make money and some departments that don't make money."

Ruch said the meat department may not make money over a period of time, but sales may be high in the produce department. He said over time the high sales in one department would balance out the low sales in another department.

Ruch said much like the good sales in the produce department compensates for losses in the meat department, revenues from other auxiliary departments balance losses from the Pavilion and the athletic department.

Last year, ASBSU accumulated $582,648 in revenue, but only spent $164,914. The Pavilion brought in over $1.2 million, but had over $1.5 million in expenditures. ASBSU surpluses help balance Pavilion deficits. Ruch said over time, gains made by the Pavilion would balance current losses.

If Boise State operated the grocery store, Ruch said, "We'll ask the meat department to make up [for losses] over time.

Students sweat to park

by Daniel Wolf

People stood in sweltering heat outside the Campus Safety office last Wednesday for a chance to own a limited number of reserved parking permits. Students that planned on waiting brought lawn chairs, coolers of water and umbrellas.

Korrin Eveland said she camped for hours near hot asphalt in an effort to dodge parking tickets. Last year she racked up almost a hundred dollars in parking fines. Her friend, Kristen Perkins didn’t fare as well. She found a parking ticket on her windshield 24 times last year.

Eveland, a transfer student, said parking at Idaho State University, "was so much easier." Still, the political science major was willing to pay $110 for a reserved parking permit rather than $40 for a general permit because, "No matter what, if lots are full, you’ll still have some back up."

They’ll have a sale, they’ll sell different kinds of meat.

Korrin Eveland (right), Kristin Perkins (center) and Tanya Kack lounge by the asphalt. Last Wednesday, they were one of hundreds waiting for reserved parking permits.

photo by Daniel Wolf The Arbiter
Summer Vacation? Who started that lie?

by Kara Janney

Summer time. Hearing the word makes some people think about relaxation, going backpacking with friends, or traveling around to see different places. Students think summer is a time when they can finally forget school for a few months and regain their sanity.

I totally disagree. I think summer is the worst time of the year to be alive.

It's hot, everyone is irate, and all I do is work, work, work. While some people may have a privileged, enjoyable summer, let's not forget about those summer slaves who work the majority of their waking hours during this cursed time of year.

It definitely isn't a vacation for everyone. As a matter of fact, most of my friends can't wait for school to start so they can take a break from working so much.

A great example of summer burnout would be my good friend Jason. He works two full-time jobs during summer so he can save enough money to go to school in the fall. The only time I see Jason is during the school year, which he considers his vacation.

My buddy Carrie, who I see regularly during school, disappears during the summer. She has an orchard to tend to, two kids to raise, not to mention the four or five job assignments she has to run in the summer. She told me that she cannot wait for fall semester to begin so she can "feel normal again."

I guess the students who think summer is so grand are those who are lucky enough to have to work only one job. What a luxury. How nice for them! But I must say, at least they are working.

I know people who decide to work in the summer. They say, "I'm going to work this summer." How great it would be to have an option like that. I've never had to mull over whether I would work. I just had to. Maybe I sound slightly bitter, but so what. I see people riding the mom 'n pop gravy train and I get a little jealous. It's a normal emotion.

I met one guy this summer who brags about not having to pay his bills, work, or buy his own car. "My parents take care of me." Well, good for him, but don't rub it in the faces of those who actually support themselves. It is just plain cruel to do that. During the school year, I could care less. As a matter of fact, I might even be happy for the guy. But it is summertime. Everyone is slaving away to get to school, and here is little leisure boy proudly telling everyone how lazy he gets to be while the rest of us actually (gasp!) work.

Then there is the heat factor of summer. Unless you have the luxury of a/c, the overwhelming heat can drive you crazy. I don't know how many times I had to just sit still, not talk or move, and hope that I wouldn't die of being too hot. I thought I was losing my mind a couple of times, which I probably did. But the worst thing about the heat is the irritability it brings out in people. Those who you once thought were easy going, nice folks, can turn into the biggest unbearable bastards in the entire world. Why? Because it is summertime, I've heard the rumor that the murder rates rise in the summer. This doesn't shock me at all. Wonderful time of year, eh?
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On line help can reduce financial aid lines

by John Threet

Perhaps Randa Ranshaw has the best excuse for why her financial aid will arrive late. "My puppy tore up my birth certificate, and now I have to wait until September to get my award."

Sonja Brown-Hunt never stood in line at a financial aid office at Mesa State College. "They have work study students who take care of all that or you can constantly walk-in for service." This first year transfer student in Drafting Technology was a little surprised by the line formed ahead of her. Especially surprised because last Wednesday was the second time she stood in a financial aid waiting line. Both times were at Boise State.

Meanwhile, seven days before classes began at Boise State, in the Administration Building hallway, a snaking line of students with financial problems passed into the Financial Aid offices.

But standing in line is not the quickest way to find out what answers to ask inside the Financial Aid office. Some short term solutions to a financial aid crisis for students. He ticked off the I-pay fee plan for extending payments for fees over a broader period.

If the student has made their grades and is making academic progress, a financial aid request may still be made even though the April 4 deadline has long passed, said Rapp.

Rapp displayed a three-inch thick manual of federal guidelines hundreds of pages in length. Eighty percent of the rules we have to deal with are not university rules or Dick Rapp's rules, they are federal rules and we can't control the federal requirements.

"I don't know how to distribute my grants," said Patricia Eddins, a freshman Business/Marketing major. The number one rule necessary for getting and maintaining financial aid is maintaining "satisfactory" academic progress said Rapp. The second rule is dotting the I's and crossing the t's on the federally mandated forms.

Rapp held the title Interim Director of Financial Aid Services replacing former director Lois Kelly. Kelly left Boise State to become Assistant vice-president at Indiana Wesleyan University.

But Rapp is no newcomer to the financial aid process, serving from 19740 to 19840 in what was then a combined office of the Career and Financial Aid Services for Boise State, finally as director.

Now Rapp has returned to the office he knows so well on a temporary basis while still serving as a university Associate vice president and director of Student Affairs/Career Center.

"We dealt with approximately $8 million in student aid back then, now the number is closer to $40 million," said Rapp.

For students hoping to obtain future financial aid, Margaret Matjeka, Financial Aid counselor admonishes and advises, the two keys to avoiding financial aid problems are: "Make the financial aid deadlines and make academic progress, attend your classes and pass your classes."
New parking structure has students paying twice

Students call boycott on garage

Boise State's first parking structure is supposed to ease tension for commuters. However, the 650 space structure has student advocates searching for equity and institutional democracy.

Students contribute, and will continue to contribute, roughly $20 per student per semester to retire the debt incurred from the construction of the $3.9 million parking garage.

Students will pay 75 cents per hour to park in the complex. The public will also pay 75 cents per hour for parking privileges.

Students essentially subsidize parking costs for the public, said ASBSU President Nate Peterson. "It's an issue of equity for students who have already funded the parking." He said students are being asked to pay for the garage twice — once through student fees and again through hourly rates.

Peterson finds the lack of student participation in the decision making process that determined the price of parking fees equally disturbing.

The decision to charge the public and students the same hourly rate to use the structure was made by the parking committee last year. Peterson said the committee was composed mostly of administrators.

Though two students — former ASBSU presidents Matt Bott and Christine Starr — sat on that committee, Peterson said their votes didn't represent the wishes of most student commuters. Starr and Bott could not be reached for comment.

John Franden, Executive Assistant to the President and chair of the parking committee, said the President's Cabinet established the pay per hour parking policy at the new parking structure and the parking committee set the fees. He said the committee had originally wanted to give students a discount.

"We were very hopeful parking [fees] would be a dollar per hour,” said Peterson. "For the public" and students would pay 50 cents per hour,” Franden said.

Bob Seibolt, director of campus safety and a member of the parking committee said the vendors that provide the technology for the fee paying system told the parking committee it was possible to charge two separate rates for garage users.

But in the final stages of developing the fee system, Seibolt said the committee was told the technology needed to charge two rates did not exist.

Seibolt said the vendors told the committee it would cost in excess of $100,000 to develop such a two-tiered fee collection system.

"We invite anyone to get on the phone with vendors and they will be told the same thing," Seibolt said.

Franden said students could have a voice in parking decisions. He said students can go through ASBSU and apply for an appointment as a voting member of the parking committee. The meetings are also open to the public to observe and speak.

"They're more than welcome, the more the merrier," Franden said. "It's a very open committee... it's semi formal. . . They just need to get on the agenda"

But Peterson says the committee's meeting location is not very welcoming to students. Only limited seating accommodations are available in the committee's usual meeting location, the President's conference room.

A boycott against the parking structure is one option student advocates are considering. If student protests do materialize, it may become difficult to use the parking structure during the second week of school.

The next parking committee meeting will be held in the President's conference room, located in the Business Building, room 307, on Sept. 18 at 3 p.m.
**Through Sept. 15**

"Arctic Spirit," Liberal Arts Building Gallery. Inuit art exhibit. Summer hours noon-5 p.m. weekdays. After Aug. 25, hours will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays, by appointment on Saturday. Free. Call 426-3994.

**Aug. 23**
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Faculty Advising, Academic Departments
10 a.m.-1 p.m. New Faculty Orientation and Luncheon, Student Union Barnwell Room
1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Faculty/Staff Orientation, Student Union Hatch Ballroom
3-4:30 p.m. Faculty Library Tour, Meet at 1st floor reference desk

Gateway to Your Future orientation, advising and registration program for new, readmitted and transfer students. Call 426-4049 or 426-3664.

**Aug. 24**
Boise State University fall semester classes begin.

Boise State fall semester classes begin. Hypnotist Bruce McDonald, Student Union Jordan Ballroom. 7 p.m. Presented by Student Programs Board. Free. Call 426-3955.

**Aug. 25**
11:40-12:30 p.m. Education College Meeting, Student Union Lookout Room.
1:30-3:30 p.m. Business and Economics College Meeting, B105 Outdoor Festivities, Centennial Amphitheatre. 7-8 p.m. comedian Tim Young, 8:15-10 p.m. punk rock artist Atom and His Package. 10:15-midnight "Evil Dead II" film. Presented by Student Programs Board. Rain location is Special Events Center. Free. Call 426-3955.

Weekend University classes begin.

**Aug. 28**
Alison Krauss and Union Station, Morrison Center Main Hall. 8 p.m. Presented by Big O Productions. Tickets: $28.50 and $24.50 in advance, $4 more day of show at Select-a-Seat. Call 426-1110.

Gateway to Your Future orientation, advising and registration program for new, readmitted and transfer students. Call 426-4049 or 426-3664.

**Aug. 30**
Last day for 100% refund for dropping a class or withdrawing from the University (minus $25 administrative processing fee and any late fees assessed).

Last day for faculty initiated drops for nonattendance during the first week of the semester to be turned in to the Registrar's Office.

**Last day to drop a first 5-week or 8-week block class without a "W" appearing on the transcript.**

**Last day to file application for graduation for degrees and certificates for December graduation.**

**Last day to submit "Admission to Candidacy" form to the Graduate Admissions Office for graduate degrees to be awarded in December.**

**Aug. 31**
Instructor permission required to register or add classes.

To add your event to the Arbiter Calendar contact the Arbiter offices at 345-8204.

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Protests mark L.A. Convention

by Will Evans

LOS ANGELES — On the final night of the Democratic National Convention, Berkeley's delegates partied the night away, while the city's protesters wrapped up their week of anti-corporate demonstrations.

The week has gone "very smoothly," said Los Angeles Police Officer Jason Lee. Police have arrested 192 protesters, some from Berkeley. Those that refused to give their names as a form of resistance remain in jail, while many others have been arraigned and set free, sometimes having to meet bail as high as $100,000.

While the first day passed without major incident, the 2,000 police showed an aggressive presence throughout the week. At the end of a march against police brutality Wednesday, police fired several volleys and struck several protesters and members of the media with batons, bloodying the chest of Don Menzel, a camera operator.

Protesters marched several times a day, followed closely by police. At a demonstration against the Los Angeles Police Department Wednesday afternoon, 38 people were arrested for blocking an intersection. The protesters were calling attention to the ongoing corruption scandal in the department's Ramparts division, in which a police officer has been charged with attempted murder and many convicted criminals have been let free.

Protesters and police remain tense after the melee that occurred Monday night, when police used rubber bullets and pepper spray to clear people from the "protest pit," injuring several people.

Protesters and police remain tense after the melee that occurred Monday night, when police used rubber bullets and pepper spray to clear people from the "protest pit," injuring several people.

Los Angeles Police Cmdr. David Kalish said officers used reasonable force since some protesters were throwing objects at his officers.

Despite the media's presence at many of the demonstrations this week, UC Berkeley alumna Sylvia Romo said that, looking back on the protests, she was disappointed because the media distorted their many messages, portraying them as disorganized instead of diverse.

"I know that Middle America, watching the Fox network, didn't get the message," she said.

Will Evans is a reporter for the Daily Californian, UC Berkeley's student newspaper. Article reprinted with permission.
Students react to parties' drug stances
by Jennifer Skalka

LOS ANGELES - The Democratic platform says drugs are wrong and drugs can kill you, and the Republican platform clearly implies it.

But neither offers a new approach to what many young people and public policy experts believe has been an ineffective effort to combat the problem.

"Drugs are a problem in our country and they're a problem in our communities," said Los Angeles resident Claressa Hawkins. "[Politicians] are advocates and supporters of the problem."

And beyond offering what some said are more of the same policy proposals, both party platforms - which are each more than 40 pages in length - address the drug issue in two paragraphs or less.

"They are not trying to dismantle what they already know is a failed system," said Deborah Small, director of public policy at the New York City-based Lindesmith Center/Drug Policy Foundation.

And many young people agreed with Small's assertion that the government's policies have not been effective. In a recent Medill News Service poll of 18-to-24 year olds, drugs were cited as the number one problem facing youth today.

Erin Emblem, a 17-year-old Escondido, Calif., native who will head to UCLA or Stanford University in the fall, watched a childhood friend suffer through a crack addiction. Her friend is now 18 years old and the mother of three children. Emblem said she witnessed first-hand how the system failed her friend, and she thinks the platforms are weak in offering new or innovative solutions.

"A lot of politicians don't care," Emblem said. "I don't think that either party is really concerned about the problem."

Both Hawkins and Emblem said they want to see government support for mentoring, counseling and outreach programs and that sending more young drug offenders to prison will not solve the problem.

"Prison is not reform," Hawkins said. "It's not rehabilitation. It's a drug ring in prison."

Policy expert Small said that drug use has increased over the last 10 years, price and availability of drugs are the same and the criminal justice system provides disproportionate sentencing for drug offenders.

She said the biggest problem facing those who become users is lack of access to a decent education and lack of jobs and said the government must place greater emphasis on education and community-based programs to combat the problem.

She added that the brevity of the platforms' proposals on drugs did not bode well for an administration that might effectively address the problem.

"Both of the parties are basically in the same place in terms of not addressing any of the issues," Small said. "We need to change our whole approach to dealing with this problem. [We] really need to decriminalize marijuana and focus our resources to deal with those who have more serious drug problems."

Jennifer Skalka writes for Medill News Service at Northwestern University. Article reprinted with permission.

Purported economic boom not doing much for masses, report shows
by Sean Hayes

"My fellow Americans," said President Clinton to a crowd of delegates at his well-received speech before the Democratic National Convention last week. "Are we better off today than we were eight years ago?"

Clinton bragged of creating twenty-two million new jobs, boasting of the lowest child poverty rate in twenty years and a rise in wage at all income levels but new reports show that this new prosperity benefits few - particularly in Idaho.

The Conference Board, a self-described "business-funded think tank," released a July report showing that the number of working poor is the highest in two decades. The Board's report shows that despite the record numbers enjoying the new largesse, the bounty is not "trickling down" to those low on the socioeconomic ladder.

Economist Judy Brown of Moscow has been studying issues of poverty and finds that the polarization between rich and poor is even greater here in Idaho.

* "The gap between rich and poor has not only widened," Brown says. "But the 40 percent of families at the lower end of the spectrum have actually been sliding backwards."

She concludes that, adjusting for inflation, poor families have less mean income today than they did in the late 1970s.

For those suspicious that these findings are partisan attacks on the Democrats from the Bush/Cheney camp, consider the attacks from 'left-of-center' Leftist social critic Michael Moore, who rose to fame with Roger & Me, a documentary about the economic and social devastation visited upon his hometown by the withdrawal of the town's chief employer to cheaper foreign labor, attacks Clinton's economics boasts. He says that the convention will do its best to remind Americans of reported economic strides, but the numbers are misleading.

"No one onstage will point out that while the top 10 percent got really, really rich, the bottom half saw their bottom fall out," Moore writes in an essay for www.grassroots.com

He reports that the nation is now carrying its largest consumer debt ever, that health benefits and pensions have been slashed, and that more people are working more than one job.

A chief criticism by many of Clinton's boast of having created millions of new jobs is

U.S. Productivity Surges; Labor Costs Dip
by Stuart Silverstein and Leslie Earnest

Productivity surged in the U.S. workplace during the spring and labor costs dipped, a powerful signal that the recording economic expansion will pack plenty of momentum to lift profits and wages. It also provided further evidence that the economy maintains the resilience to grow without kindling inflation.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that productivity climbed at an annual rate of 5.8 percent in the second quarter and is up 5.1 percent over the past 12 months, the highest yearlong pace in nearly 17 years.

And a drop in unit labor costs over the past 12 months was the first such decline since 1984. Analysts said the rising productivity, a key measure of the economy's ability to produce more with less work, appears to reflect a continuing boom in business investment in technology and other equipment and facilities.

They also regarded Tuesday's report as further evidence that the so-called New Economy — an economy increasingly reliant on advanced computers and software — is significantly improving the performance of American business.

"It's stunning how fast productivity has improved in the past quarter," said Christian E. Weller, an economist with the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, a liberal think tank.

That productivity growth, combined with other recent evidence of economic expansion, Weller said, "indicates that there's something to the story that we have finally figured out how to use computers and software to our advantage."

But at this point in the nation's economic expansion, productivity appears to be rewarding business owners more handsomely than ordinary workers.

The latest figures showed that hourly compensation — including wages and benefits increases — climbed at an annual rate of 0.5 percent during the second quarter and rose 4.7 percent over the past 12 months.

But the gain in what's known as real hourly compensation, which filters out the impact of continued on pg. 19
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How Will the Election Affect the Stock Market?

by Eileen Ambrose

Forget the partisan yammering over which presidential candidate has stronger family values, is more in debt to special interests, or more likable. Let's talk about what the new occupant of the Oval Office could mean for your portfolio.

No one should base long-term investment decisions on an election. Still, if some campaign promises turn into actual policies, it's possible they might affect the economy or certain sectors.

How a party's candidate will influence financial markets isn't always obvious. Many people assume that the stock market performs better under business-friendly Republican presidencies. Not necessarily so.

Look at the past eight years.

Or look at the past 52 years, said Anthony Chan, chief economist with Banc One Investment Advisors in Ohio. Since the 1948 election, Chan said, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose an average of 9.3 percent during Democratic administrations compared with 4.5 percent when Republicans controlled the highest office.

A Democratic president, Bill Clinton, has presided over the longest economic expansion in U.S. history. Republicans need to convince likely voters, the majority of whom own stock, that they want a change. "The economic statistics would suggest that Democrats have the edge," Chan said. But, he added, one survey shows that Americans by a 5-to-1 margin give Bill Gates, not Bill Clinton, credit for the booming economy.

Here are some stocks that financial experts predict might fare better under one or the other of the major party candidates. Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore:

**George W. Bush**

Defense. The Pentagon's budget would be expected to get a big boost under Bush and his running mate, former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. That would be welcome news for defense companies whose stocks have been in the doldrums, experts said.

Tobacco. "A Bush administration would be much more likely to throw roadblocks into these big jury settlements against the tobacco industry," said Peter Ricchiuti, assistant dean at Tulane University's business school in New Orleans.

Financial services. Bush proposes to allow individuals to invest a portion of Social Security funds in the stock market. That could mean another $5 billion to $6 billion pouring into the market, which would benefit financial services stocks, said Patrick Buttarazzi, associate vice president of investments with Prudential Securities in Baltimore.

Investing Social Security funds would also be a boon for the market overall, experts said.

Oil services. With two oil men heading up the ticket, it's expected that oil services companies, such as those that get underperforming wells flowing again, would prosper, Ricchiuti said.

Whether intentionally or not, Democrats have been better for the oil industry than Republicans, according to Ricchiuti. "Take the Carter administration. Things couldn't have been better for the oil business," he said. "In Houston and New Orleans, the biggest problem you had was how to drive both your Jaguars."

Pharmaceuticals. The expectation is that Gore would resort to price controls to make prescription drugs more affordable to seniors, dampening drug stock prices, Chan said.

**Al Gore**

Pollution control. As the author of "Earth in the Balance," Gore is more likely to take steps to protect the environment, a boon to those in the business of cleaning up the planet, Ricchiuti said.

Health care. The country is facing a health care crunch of hospitals and physicians in five years, said Richard Cripps, a market strategist with Legg Mason Wood Walker Inc. in Baltimore. Gore is more likely than Bush to use government dollars to relieve the problem, he said.

Consumer goods. Under Gore, Americans might find a more equal distribution of income, meaning more money in the pockets of those earning below the median, Chan said. This group tends to spend a bigger portion of its income on consumer goods.
U. Texas staff prepares for sick-out

by Matthew Cook

AUSTIN, Texas - After a summer of organizing and calling meetings for association President Peg Kramer said,"Things are going really great," Kramer said. "We've got some faculty organizing. We've got some students organizing.

Kramer said the group spent the summer passing out fliers, conducting meetings and calling staff members. The group has increased its membership to nearly 400, and Kramer said she expects close to 12,000 of the 12,000 non-teaching staff employed by the University to participate in the sick-out, Sept. 1-8.

Kramer in addition to its normal meetings, the staff association has been conducting bilingual meetings for Spanish speaking staff members. "We want to make sure they learn about their rights," Kramer said. The staff association has been negotiating with UT administration since a 1997 report showed that 94 percent of UT employees were paid less than Austin residents with equivalent private-sector jobs.

On May 18, about 340 staff members walked out of their jobs in response to changes in the insurance programs offered to University employees. Under the 2000-2001 health plan, monthly premiums saw a rise in cost and dental coverage became an additional cost. Dental coverage was previously included in the health plan.

In early June, the group released a list of 17 demands, including a grievance system, wage increases and increased insurance benefits, and said if the demands are not met by Sept. 1, staff members will hold a sick-out. Kramer said the group is still trying to inform people of the situation. The staff association will be holding a forum and debate featuring a panel of staff faculty and students on Aug. 31 at a location to be announced. The forum is designed to inform people about Texas labor laws and getting involved.

"We want to bring students into the debate because many students will be state employees," Kramer said. "We'll be talking about the law and why a sick-out.'' Earlier this month, UT President Larry Faulkner sent out an open letter to the UT community. In the letter, Faulkner outlined the University's policy regarding missing work and possible consequences for those involved in the sick-out.

"There have been some people that were scared by Faulkner's letter, but at the same time we have a lot of people who got a lot more angry," Kramer said in response to the letter. Greg Murphy, staff association vice president, said that when Faulkner's letter was published, the thought of losing his job crossed his mind. "It's kind of a wake up call," Murphy said. "This isn't all fun and games there are consequences for people.

Murphy said he's been faced with the question of simply finding another job instead of trying to improve working conditions at the University.

"The more philosophical answer is that someone's going to work [at the University]," Murphy said. "There's going to always have to be somebody here to help run the place, and why shouldn't all those people be taken care of? If it was one person complaining about one thing, [finding a new job] might be the answer.

At the UT System Board of Regents meeting earlier this month, both Faulkner and Interim Chancellor Dan Burck declined to receive a pay increase for the 2000-2001 fiscal year as a gesture of good faith.

However, Kramer said the gesture just further demonstrated that the staff is not a priority.

"We find it a callous gesture that is intended to improve the UT System's and UT Austin's public image," she said. However, Kramer added, the sick-out is still preventable.

"Absolutely. If there is a good faith effort made on all 17 items listed on our demands... if that is accomplished, then there is no need for a sick-out," Kramer said.

Pat Clubb, vice president for employee and campus services, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Matthew Cook is a writer for the Daily Texan at the University of Texas-Austin. Article reprinted with permission.

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Senate kills fair pay act

by Carissa Wolf

WASHINGTON - Working women were denied equal pay when the U.S. Senate defeated the Paycheck Fairness Act July 17. The legislation would have strengthened current equal pay laws in an effort to close the huge pay gap between men and women.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would have amended the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 "to revise remedies for and enforcement of prohibitions against sex discrimination in the payment of wages."

Women earn about 73 cents an hour for every dollar men earn. The AFL-CIO estimates that wage gap costs working families some $200 billion a year.

Stock cont. from pg.17

sumer goods, such as cars, he said.

Housing. Under Clinton, homeownership has reached its highest level ever, and companies involved in affordable housing could expect further gains if the vice president assumes the reins, Chan said.

Internet service providers. As a "techno geek," Gore is interested in bridging the digital divide and would try to get more people online, Ricchetti said.

Economists and other experts are less concerned about the election's effect on the market than they are about the candidates' plans for the huge government surplus. The fear is that tax cuts or increased spending would heat up the economy to the point that the Federal Reserve would further raise interest rates, Cripps said.

Bush has the bigger tax-cut proposal, expected to cost the government $1.8 trillion over 10 years.

Some investors hope that whichever party wins the White House, the other controls Congress. "That's the view most investors would be comfortable with. Some sort of split seems to be what's worked best," Cripps said.

If you seek hints of the election outcome, watch the stock market's performance for this week's Democratic convention and up to the November election. "It's time to stop giving America's women lip service for equal pay for equal work, but to actually do something to make it happen," said Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), who introduced the legislation as an amendment to the so-called marriage penalty bill.

"Some have suggested that the pay gap is insignificant, but working women know better," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.).

"Even after accounting for differences in education and the amount of time in the workforce, a woman's pay still lags far behind the pay of a man doing the same work. This persistent pay gap doesn't just shortchange women. It shortchanges families," Daschle told Senate members.

"The wage gap causes the average American working family to lose more than $4,000 a year," he said.

The Paycheck Fairness Act would have allowed compensatory and punitive damages for women denied equal pay for equal work, authorize class action pay lawsuits and protect workers from retaliation for sharing pay information.

By a party-line vote of 55-45, most Republican senators refused to consider the amendment.

Further details of legislative action tally on Senate bill 74 can be found at: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query.

U.S. Productivity cont. from pg15

that most have been in low-end service sector occupations. A decline of unions, manufacturers taking production overseas, and the failure of minimum wage to match inflation are other causes the Conference Board suspects are behind the numbers of working poor.

Though Clinton and Gore have raised and vow to raise again the minimum wage at a federal level, Brown says that a higher minimum wage (including one extended to farm workers) would bring some relief here in Idaho. She points out that while Oregon and Washington have raised their minimum wages to $6.50, Idaho's minimum wage remains $5.15.

"She also says that career education programs, better health insurance plans and an update of tax policy would help ease the economic disparity."

The grocery credit for example in Idaho's income tax has been at $15 since the early 70s," Brown says. "To fully update it, it should really be at $95 or $94 per family member."
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New library system expands research options

This summer, Albertson's Library changed vendors for many of its indexes and databases. The new vendor allows library users to access approximately 25 databases, including WorldCat, the world's largest database of information about books and other library materials.

While users familiar with searching the library's previous interface will notice changes for ERIC, Dissertation Abstracts, and PAIS, they will also realize more indexes as well as improved access to others. PsyLit, for example, is now available as a web delivered index under the name PsycInfo and is accessible from off-campus.

WorldCat is a large and comprehensive computerized card catalog comprised of more than 42 million records from the merged catalogs of libraries around the world. WorldCat contains records for all library resources: books, serials, visual materials, maps, periodicals, sound recordings, musical scores, and computer files.

In addition to the new FirstSearch service the library added other significant databases, notably the CCH Internet Tax Research Network and the Oxford English Dictionary. The CCH database is available to on and off campus users while the Oxford English Dictionary is available to on campus users only.

To use the available web delivered indexes and databases, point your World Wide Web browser to http://library.boisestate.edu and click on the box "Indexes, Abstracts & Databases." Users should remember to check back frequently, as the list will continue to evolve.

People

Campus Holdup

by EvyAnn Neff

Arbiter reporter EvyAnn Neff has a habit of cornering people between classes to prod for intimate details. Her mission: To get to know the students of Boise State. If she ever holds you up, relish the opportunity to tell your classmates a mission: To get to know the students of Boise State. If she ever campus users while the Oxford English Dictionary is available to on campus users only.

Her Word

Age: 21
Major: Anthropology

It's Kristen's senior year and she is looking forward to grad-

To use the available web delivered indexes and databases, point your World Wide Web browser to http://library.boisestate.edu and click on the box "Indexes, Abstracts & Databases." Users should remember to check back frequently, as the list will continue to evolve.

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The Gem State

Game can
save struggling
students

by Sean Hayes

A

ccording to legend, a foreign exchange student at Boise
State died of malnutrition by living off ‘nothing but ramen
noodles. For students who have to spread their money to pay for
books, rent and student fees, only to have enough left over for a
10-cent entree, the Idaho Foodbank Warehouse may have just
the solution. If you like big game, that is.

A new state law that went into effect in July clears the way
for donations of non-canned meat to Idaho food banks. Until the
law was passed, food banks could not accept donation of fresh or
frozen meat without special USDA approval.

Since inspectors generally aren’t sitting around food banks,
most donated meat — including so-called big game like deer or
elk — had to be discarded. Bob Peters of the Foodbank Ware-
house hopes to tap the generosity of Idaho’s hunting commu-
nity this fall.

“If someone goes out and bags an elk this hunting season
and goes to put it in the freezer and finds some of last year’s
we can take it,” Peters says.

Peters goes on to say that meat is a good source of high pro-
tein for the hungry, along with such items as beans and peanut
butter. Needy Idahoans will require an estimated four million
pounds of food this year, and officials hope the new legislation
will mean more donations.

For those who think the poor – or starving students
should “pull themselves up by their bootstraps” and get a job to
pay for their food (elk or otherwise), Foodbank officials say that
over half of those dependent on food banks are working full
time but still unable to earn enough to provide food for their
families.

Big game donations, by the way, will not require USDA
inspections. Hopefully, donated meat will meet the same rigid
health standards nonetheless. Likely, most dependent on food
banks don’t have the best medical insurance.
cost: $3.89
good for getting into your favorite vegetable, fruit, or pasta

cost: FREE
good for getting into your favorite chat room, email account, or news source
Free speech belongs to the people. Will you speak?

I wrote my first apology letter when I was fifteen years old. I was forced to apologize for printing students’ voices in my high school newspaper. I was forced to apologize because I spoke when the powerful did not want to hear my voice.

I spoke because I believed people had the right to speak. This conviction often landed me in the principal’s office.

After I published criticisms of administrative policy in my high school newspaper, I was forced by the administrators to either leave school or write an apology letter to every member of the school board. My words were censored by a high school principal. My voice was stifled because someone knew words are powerful.

Much like high school administrators control student opinion by controlling the content of student newspapers, the powerful in public and private sectors control what people think by controlling what journalists have access to. Unfortunately, truth is not always packaged in a glossy press kit.

Political philosophers have expounded upon the link between a well-informed public and democracy. Yet, in America, journalists apologize to big car manufacturers for unveiling product flaws on network television. In America, public relations firms buy journalists’ attention. Within the fourth estate, financial constraints force reporters to produce news as cost effectively as possible. Too often, press releases do the talking and spokespeople do the explaining.

In America, those who cannot afford PR or advertising influence are silenced when the news comes off an assembly line. In America, public relations firms, corporate press owners and highly paid spokespeople almost exclusively enjoy free press and free speech. The public rarely has access to the truth they need to make informed decisions.

This is the reality that we at the Arbiter must work in. This is the reality we wish to challenge — but we cannot do it alone.

Free press and free speech was not exclusively intended for Viacom, General Motors, Disney or even the New York Times. Free speech is not reserved for press pass holders. Free speech and a free press belong to the people.

I am not here to build my resume. I am not here for the glory of seeing my name in print. I have no hopes of ever winning a Pulitzer Prize, nor do I desire future employment at the New York Times or any other Ted Turner publishing house. I am here because I believe you have much to say. I’ve chained myself to the Arbiter offices because I know your voice has not been represented in the public discourse. I opened the door of the Arbiter’s office to open a forum.

I give this forum to you. I invite you to speak and shout. I encourage you to tell your story. I ask you to rant when you see injustice committed and I hope you will rave when you see the best of humanity. Please pick up the pen, it is truly a sword. Words can empower.

For your right to speak I open this forum, and for this I will never apologize. — Carissa Wolf

WILL YOU SPEAK? Send your submissions of empirical fact or matters of the mind to the Arbiter at 1910 University Drive, Boise Idaho, 83725.
The Speech of His Life

by John Threet

A Gore came to deliver the speech of his life, and he proved true to the challenge. Gore vowed to put his hat in the ring with the confidence of a boxer ready for the fight. Skillfully Gore brought forward the issues and the stand he will take in the 2,000 campaign.

Pitching a direct appeal to working people and working families, Gore spoke of what is important to them. "People making house payments, car payments, working overtime to save for college and do right for the kid."

The question of "Why Joe Lieberman" was forcefully answered by Gore, "I picked him for one simple reason: He's the best person for the job."

His remarks on his relationship with President Bill Clinton, "For almost eight years now, I've been the partner of a leader who moved us out of the valley of recession and into the longest period of prosperity and freedom in American history," made clear Gore regards the Vice-Presidency as a team playing position.

Gore lauded the "biggest budget surplus, the highest home ownership ever, the lowest inflation in a generation" and "22 million new jobs". But Gore insisted, "This election is not an award for past performance."

Pitching a direct appeal to working people and working families, Gore spoke of what is important to them. "People making house payments, car payments, working overtime to save for college and do right for the kid."

How and what we do for all of you - the people who pay the taxes, bear the burdens, and live the American dream - that is the standard by which we should be judged." Gore declared.

Gore made clear to whom this standard should apply - him. "And I stand here tonight as my own man, and I want you to know me for who I truly am." Gore's self biography charted the roots and evolution of his personal creed. "My parents taught me that the real values in life aren't material but spiritual. They include faith and family, duty and honor, and trying to make the world a better place."

From Carthage, Tenn. to Army reporter in Vietnam, to Vanderbilt University and the study of religion, Gore told the condensed version of his life and times.

From police beat reporter for the Nashville Tennessean to Vice-President of the United States, Gore portrayed himself as a man who had seen the worst side of the American experience. "I also saw so much of what could go right. Citizens lifting up local communities, family by family, block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, in churches and charities, on school boards and city councils." Gore declared.

Gore's speech contained the requisite political appeal to the interests of the gathered delegations. Gore to pro-choice and no privatization Social Security, yes to federal support for education with a goal of 100,000 new teachers but no to school vouchers.

Gore's speech has been described as a "manifesto only I will be able to read in the streets. We are strong and capable and we don't have to put up with these $6 an hour jobs while Simplot sits on top of his hill laughing at us. Do your toy. Quit your job! What will they do without you? Create a union, be a lobbyist, make some laws that can do a bit of good for everyone.

The truth is we're all scared. I'm so scared that all I can do is just sit here and write this manifesto that only I will ever read. I know it probably won't do you any good, it will just make you angry just like the class "Social Problems" made me. Well, I'm tired. It's time to go back and fall into that Serta perfect sleeper and sleep all of these revolutionary thoughts away and just live my life as it has been created by Microsoft... oh well.

I don't really have to make any sort of footprint on this world, people just come and go and the news that serves to cover the homeless man as he is lying cold on his park bench. So before I go to bed, let me say a little prayer: "Thank you almighty dollar for this life you have given me, and to all of the things you bring. Praise you for the food on my plate, the clothes on my back, and for all of the things you have caused among the masses. Let ignorance come back to me when I rise, so I can go on another day in this world you have created."
Today IPTV, tomorrow academic freedom?

by John Threet

Precisely the same body who found Idaho Public Television's programming so objectionable for portraying homosexuals as normal human beings controls the purse strings and, therefore, the future of this, our, university.

If the intellectual freedom to pursue knowledge, in whatever form or by any method of inquiry, should become abridged or violated at this, our, university, that threat will originate from the same legislative body.

And, if, as students we are not allowed to pursue intellectual freedom, what then becomes of our university? It is a short path from censoring IPTV to censoring our intellectual product. If, in the interest of saving our souls it becomes necessary to chain our minds to the whim of a legislative body, what freedom remains?

True enough, money rules what does or does not occur at our university. With that in hand, the University serves at the pleasure of the legislative body. Should at some future point the intellectual freedom, what then becomes of our university? It is a short path from censoring IPTV to censoring our intellectual product. If, in the interest of saving our souls it becomes necessary to chain our minds to the whim of a legislative body, what freedom remains?

The short list of possibly objectionable subject manner would include: any examination of dominant religions, evolution and its sister genetics; any historical subject which does not wrap itself in the flag; calling into question the economic basis for our society; explicating business practices which result in separating the work from the product of that labor; any scholarly examination of the notion of family and marriage; study of the origins of the legislative body; calling into question the economic basis for our society; explicating business practices which result in separating the work from the product of that labor; any scholarly examination of the notion of family and marriage; study of the origins of the legislative body.

The safe course lies in insisting as Dr. Pangloss so effectively proved that this is the best of all possible worlds. By extension then should we, for purely financial reasons insist that this is the best of all possible worlds of the notion of family and marriage; study of the origins of the legislative body.

But these are the future of this, our, university. That threat will originate from the same body who found Idaho Public Television's programming so objectionable for portraying homosexuals as normal human beings controls the purse strings and, therefore, the future of this, our, university.

Defend us against immigrants

A senior American recently told a junior that today's 33-cent postal service is inferior to the 1920 service costing 2 cents.

He said that for 2 cents in 1920 the U.S. Post Office would customarily transport a letter door-to-door between Bangor, Maine and San Diego, California. Such postal service today is called "Priority Mail," requires a special envelope or label, a phone call by the sender to his local post office to pick up the letter, and costs $8.00. By this standard, over a period of 70 years that value of our money has decreased more than $1.49 for every penny.

The alternative standard service, not requiring a special envelope, label, or phone call, costs 33 cents. So, this service effects a decrease of only 16 cents for every penny, but imposes the burdens of walking 50 yards or so on the sender and addressee, to send and receive the letter at neighborhood mail-box clusters.

The part responsible for the extreme decline in the value of our money, and usurpation of several minutes of our time on weekdays is the Congress of the United States - which has Constitutional authority to determine the value of our money and all aspects of our postal services.

Since before 1920, the will of our Congress has been the will of Republican and Democrat party members. Their acts have permitted or caused the declines in value of our money and postal service, and pillering of our time.

Other questionable deeds by Democrat and Republican party members in Congress include giving our money and military resources to foreign countries, failing to defend us against invasion by illegal immigrants, and dissipating our wealth in space.

I urge that we seek alternatives to election any more Republicans or Democrats to Congress.

Frederick A. Weiland
Leavenworth, KS

History, documents separation of church, state

With the recent separation of church and state issues, we need to acknowledge some of our history that supports the concept. I'm an 82-year-old Idaho native. I'm tired of some religionists trying to construct our past and not wanting to educate our children and grandchildren about the true history of this country.

First and foremost, although there may be Christians living in this country with the rest of us, this country was never intended to be labeled "Christian." One religion was never supposed to dominate and overshadow other religions and, in general, our nation's founders took measures so that religious people would not be able to intimidate non-religious people - although they try relentlessly.

The founders of our country and the framers of our Constitution were non-theists, skeptics, state/church separationists, and freethinkers. Many of the founders, including the first six presidents, were Deists, who did not necessarily believe in prayer or revelation. Thomas Jefferson stated, "Question with boldness even the existence of a God, because if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason. Than that of blindfolded fear."

Here's a little American history that most people have not heard of or don't understand thoroughly: Nowhere in the body of the U.S. Constitution (1787-1788), nor any of its amendments, is there any reference to any gods. The Constitution was intentionally written as a godless document. The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution (1791) states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...".

In the Treaty of Tripoli (1796-1797), negotiated during Washington's presidency, rat-
Letters Continued...

Throwing Hazelwood:
Censorship, chaos and calamity in the school press

by Sean Hayes

In high school, my yearbook editor once told me she was throwing Hazelwood at me. My friend Meghan suggested why not throw sandalwood at her, but of course Mrs. Hays wasn't talking about anything off a tree. The Hazelwood School District v. Cathy Kuhlmeyer of 1988 established the precedent that any administrative official may alter student publications in any way, so long as the publications are not "forum[s] for public expression." The Supreme Court thus set the precedent that students were not privy to the same protections under the First Amendment as adults.

The offensive passages were mostly from a Valentine’s Day article I wrote - not exactly hard-hitting journalism. I’d quoted that same friend Meghan as saying, “Valentine’s Day is a big pink fit that should be popped.” Mrs. Hays found it gross and nativist. It was Mrs. Hays’ frequent problem with my writing that I was a bit too cynical for syrupy sweet yearbook style reminiscing. All yearbook articles were basically the same format (intro - quote - summary - quote - summary - conclusion), and all had the same theme, “It was hard work but with a little elbow grease and determination we got through it!” I was of the opinion that people would want to reminisce about what they were really thinking in school, not just the reportage I knew they’d said in other words say something. Maybe I was in the wrong line of journalism. Actually, what inspired me to write about the yearbook was a similar article I’d written, and a word I thought I’d used innocently.

In an article about what students favorite things were about coming to school, I got a sarcastic quote from a drummer in our premiere school rock band saying, “I love tests.” I referenced it in my article as, “Masochistic students had something to look forward to every day.” I love tests,” said Guy Ledbetter. When Mrs. Hays heard the word ‘masochistic,’ evidently she pictured naked slaves being whipped by beaten in dungeons. Though I hadn’t intended it in its ribald connotation, she exercised her divine right of editorship and inserted the words ‘gluttons for punishment’ in place of my expijective. Annoying as it was that my words could be changed for seemingly no reason, my experiences high school censorship were only mildly annoying compared to what many students have gone through - particularly since the April 20 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado.

The Student Press Law Center, or SPLC Report tracks incidence of censorship throughout the student media, and some of these cases have been shocking if not laugh-out-loud funny. There was a case that made national attention concerning a censored letter to the editor, regarding a girl’s decision to leave a cheerleading squad. Parents freaked out about the letter, and the principal responded by marking out the letter with a black marker. Of course, this only called attention to the letter that could easily be read by holding it up to the light. Strange as this case is, this is really a humorous case of parents overreacting to a damaging analysis of the holy institution of cheerleading. Many other incidents involve more serious consequences.

Lately, the attacks against student journalism have grown more severe. Frantic worry about school violence led many school officials to be hypersensitive to anything seen as remotely negative toward the school environment. In Missouri, a Journalism class was cancelled because it published a poll stating that most students do not like school. In Missouri, a student made a sardonic comment about blowing up was suspended for ten days and could not graduate with his class. As author Jon Katz told the SPLC Report, “It is now a crime to speak in a hostile way about school.” Shortly after the Columbine holocaust, Katz received a mass of emails from students - self-described outcasts mainly - about abuses they'd suffered because of this new hypersensitivity. As Katz states in an article on his website (www.slashdot.com), "Many of these kids saw themselves as targets of a new hunt for oddballs... Suddenly, in this tyranny of the normal, to be different wasn’t just to feel unhappy, it was to be dangerous.”

A young student named Dan posted to the website from Boise, Idaho. He wrote that his class was asked to write a paper about their feelings about the Columbine massacre. He said that though he didn’t approve of the killers’ response, he understood the alienation they must have felt. He criticized adults’ easy interpretations of the killers’ motivations, “You can’t blame screwed-up kids on the net,” he wrote. “How about blaming a system that takes smart or weird kids and drives them crazy?” His article was never printed, and though he wasn’t officially suspended - school officials told him if he made a big deal of his punishment he would face serious consequences. Dan felt that he had been set up, he writes, “They pretend to want to have a dialogue but kids should be warned that what they really want to know is who’s dangerous to them.”

Administrative officials have also proven that they’ve not yet ventured into the 1990’s, let alone the new 00’s. An Idaho student now attending BSU, Travis Rigg's, tried to advertise a gay youth group in his school newspaper at Eagle High. The paper rejected his ad on the grounds that it contained the expletives gay and lesbian,” Riggs tried to send it back with the words ‘non-heterosexual’, but still no dice. The paper’s decision ended up backfiring when the ACLU got involved and most papers in Idaho reported or ran ads about the youth group, which led to a huge surge in attendance. Rigg’s says, though, that many students are still having trouble getting papers to run gay-themed ads or articles.

One cover of the SPLC Report featured a student writing on the board, Bart Simpson style, “Happy news is good news.” Many student-run publications don’t seek all the news that’s fit to print, but rather all the dry and meaningless news that makes people look good - a magnet-to-the-fridge-looking-my- Sally’s-quoted-in-this-article brand of journalism. Today's youth have seen and heard it all. They need a forum to discuss their situations honestly, without the ridiculous morality that has pervaded school life forever. The old methods of discourse and teaching say very little to today’s students about their own lives. If kids’ emotions are stifled in print and art in schools, in what form will negativity present itself?
The “Other,” Lack of “White Privilege,” and Educational Attainment within American Society

by Wade Bundy

As I look down at my arms, covered in tattoos I am constantly reminded that I am not America’s version of the “white male.” I feel that because of this personal aspect I am qualified to talk about the American ideal that promotes “white male privilege” within our varying educational institutions, as I have “voluntarily” disqualified myself from this “privilege.”

In the absence of “white privilege” lay many of the educational problems within our society today, which have plagued both myself and the “others” of society. Although I am not, in demographic terminology, classified as the “other,” I feel my educational feelings and experiences are similar to those of which fall into the “other” distinction: women, minorities, and the working classes. Therefore, a comparison can begin to be made between my educational experiences and the educational experiences of the “other” in general.

To achieve an understanding of the “white privilege” apparent within the American educational institution one need only to look at the negative labeling techniques that have been applied to both myself and the “others” of our society. This is indeed only a microcosm of American prejudice, but nonetheless exposes a larger problem within America today. Stereotyping by teachers has made it very difficult for minorities, women, the poor, and those who exhibit “negative” attributes to succeed in most educational institutions.

To succeed, the above-mentioned groups must exhibit strong personal perseverance to overcome, what to me was, an insurmountable obstacle in gaining the education I felt I deserved.

After applying to colleges and receiving my acceptance letters, I decided to attend Whitman College in the southeast corner of Washington State. My decision was based upon the following factors:

Whitman is portrayed as the most selective, academically challenging, and “progressive” private liberal arts college in the Northwest according to statistics in major magazine publications and college guides. I thought that within this “liberal” and “progressive” institution my tattoos would be overlooked and I could obtain about Whitman became a truism all too quickly. Teachers didn’t seem to care if I had thoughts or questions on certain topics. When I asked for help on papers cold criticism was given. The intimate environment Whitman so proudly marketed was not purveyed upon me. Other students, excluding the few friends I had, would constantly ask me fault as well, as the “other,” and their plight, is inconceivable to the “white male” mentality. White students see the “other” as “trouble makers,” “not caring about school,” “drug dealers,” “teen queens,” and generally lazy when it comes to academics. Within this alienation from teachers and peers, one cannot ignore the psychological repercussions.

From the moment an “other” enters junior high, high school, or college they are stepping into the realm of “white privilege.” They notice the color of their skin and their monetary situation differs from the majority of their peers. Gender stereotypes lurk around every corner. They feel alienated by the language, culture, and attitudes of the “white male.”

my college education perceived as a “normal” student. This was not the case. From the moment I stepped onto campus, I felt alienated by both the staff and my fellow students. This alienation led to a jaded view of education and an uncomfortable educational atmosphere.

When I look around myself I cannot help but think that this is how the “others” of our society must feel within our varying educational systems. From the moment an “other” enters junior high, high school, or college they are stepping into the realm of “white privilege.” They notice the color of their skin and their monetary situation differs from the majority of their peers. Gender stereotypes lurk around every corner. They feel alienated by the language, culture, and attitudes of the “white male.” Body language, speech patterns, and misunderstanding exhibited by teachers and peers socialize indignation of “other” students from the moment they begin their secondary education. As I was, they are wearied by the thought of the years ahead.

My initial perceptions alienating questions such as: “Why did you do that to yourself?” or “Are you some sort of masochist?” referring to my tattoos. My response was usually perceived as antisocial, as I would ask them why they wore such expensive clothing and lacked a personality. I did not feel that these responses were justified, but they came naturally as some sort of “fight or flight” response. Teachers probably saw me as a problem that would be weeded out. Although objective grading took place, the cold environment of Whitman played with my emotions. I began to believe I was inferior and dumb compared to the masses of the white, upper-class majority.

It is not only conceivable, but also obvious, that this same process is occurring daily to the “other” within our society. Teachers see the “other” as non-deserving. Attention is rarely given in educational institutions, as the “other” is nothing but despicable and unattended. Students are often stereotyped as “shy,” and generally uncomfortable in school.

After three long years at the “prestigious,” “liberal,” and “progressive” institution of Whitman College, I had to leave. This was not so much a forced decision because of academic or attendance reasoning, but a decision for the betterment of my psychological well-being. Although leaving was a decision of my own, I do feel I was pushed out of the system. I returned to Seattle, my home, and life began to pick up. I was no longer an outcast and my self-esteem returned. Although my psychological health was much improved, my economic health was in danger. To my dismay my friends from Whitman, “hippies” and “drug users,” who had persevered and graduated from Whitman were enjoying an economic situation that I could not obtain without a college degree. This economic privilege was a direct result of their strength and willingness to withstand the degradation that the “white privilege” of Whitman bestowed on all of us who were “different.”

It would seem the “other” is “forced out” in much the same way. Although poor grades and attendance problems can factor into one becoming a “drop-out,” the issue of being “forced out” remains. Some might call this the “push out” of the “other” in our educational system. An intolerable and psychologically draining system is instituted in which “dropping out” is an effort to regain self-esteem and a positive identity. This positive effort in the end is paradoxical in that economic success is jeopardized. Whites who thrive on “white privilege,” and have to fight “white privilege,” cannot understand this “forced” economic deprivation. Students distinguished as the “other” are in need of the benefits of a pluralistic education. I believe the above comparisons are both valid and sensible when comparing my educational experiences and the educational experiences of the “other” within our society. The benefits of including a plurality of curriculum would be of much help, although cost and public ideology would hamper the legislation of such benefits. Yet, compassion doesn’t cost. Equal treatment doesn’t cost. Disregarding negative stereotypes doesn’t cost. These are the principles that would have saved me from becoming a “drop-out.” I’m sure these principles would save many “others” from becoming “drop-outs” as well.

The Arbiter invites students to publish their essays on any subject. Send submissions to the Arbiter at 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83725, or e-mail essays to: arbiter@boisestate.edu.
Cheap Question

An introduction to cheapness
by Megan Marchetti

If the Arbiter is going to subject you to my convictions this semester I think it is only fair for me to tell you who and what I am in the “cheapest” sense of the definition. By cheap I am alluding to the name of this column, “The Cheap Question.” My intention is to focus on what intelligent and educationally focused individuals can monetarily and spiritually can afford. I also intend to uncover what holds the most value.

It is obvious that everything we do has some sort of higher surcharge attached to it. Every action we take has a negative and a positive effect on us and I want to uncover some of the more positive parcels and share them in this column.

I am a senior Sociology major with high hopes of graduating this spring. I started at Boise State University in the fall of 1998. Upon hearing this, most people look at me funny when I say my start date, “Oh, The Seven year plan, huh?”

I began my collegial career as a Theatre major and actually did quite well (until I was hit cats Cassie and Godby, and our as a Theatre major and actually Steve, her cousin Jack, our two fall of 1998. Upon hearing The Seven year plan, huh?” normal 24>-year-old college student. I switched to Business for one semester, then to Communications, and then on to my true calling – Sociology. I took a semester off here and there, went to Europe with a backpack, spent too much time at the Neurulax and well, you all know how the story goes...

I suppose the best way to design a schematics of Megan would be to quote Samuel Clemens, “Faith is believing something you know ain’t true.” At some point what we call our reality came from something. I’ll be damned if I believe it came from a man, who wears a long flowing dress, has long hair, and lives in the clouds. I grew up Catholic (dad is Italian and mom is Irish) and have come to the understanding that nothing comes without a price and ignorance is way too high a price to pay for religion. Which is why I think that the “Cheap Question” is something that the Arbiter needs.

Other than that I am a pretty normal 24-year-old college student. I live with my boyfriend Steve, his cousin Jack, our two cats Cassie and Gabby and our fish, Lady. Until recently, I worked for a corporation and still struggle everyday with what this did to my soul. I have close to 10 years of experience cooking in local restaurants. I used to work for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and I have worked in almost every downtown coffee shop. I am addicted to, reading second hand books; I love the Simpsons, music, and movies. One of my best friends is a computer science major and I have absolutely no idea how she understands how to use a computer that does not have cute icons.

Enough about me! This is more than my boyfriend knew before we moved in together. I would like to focus on food, clothes, music, movies, beer etc... I am excited to hear from all of you that have something that is in need of being uncovered as “cheap.” Please e-mail me at cethijr@yahoo.com and let me know any “cheap” ideas you might have. Next week's focus is pizza...mmm...mmm...I love researching this!

BSU features The Idaho Landscape
by Carl Rowe

“The Idaho Landscape,” an exhibition opening Aug. 14 at the Boise State University Student Union Gallery, will feature paintings by local artist Carl Rowe.

“The varied and wonderful landscape of Idaho is what made me want to become a painter,” says Rowe. “For years I have explored Idaho, and always it has stirred me in ways I do not understand.” Through his painting, Rowe explores the textures, lighting and emotions evoked by Idaho’s landscape.

Rowe is well known in Boise for another form of artistic expression — dance and choreography. He is co-artistic director and a choreographer and dancer for Idaho Dance Theatre. He has choreographed more than 68 works, including pieces for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.

The exhibition will continue through Sept. 29. Admission is free. The Student Union Gallery, open 7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily, is located on the upper level of the Student Union Building. For information, call 208-4686.

Carl Rowe is a writer for News Services at Boise State University.

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Let's Get Spontaneous!

By Beth Schmidt

Ever hear of the Time Warp? How about the Sweet Transvestite? Perhaps Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show will jog your memory. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the famous story and Spontaneous Productions in Boise is the first community theater in the nation to get the rights to perform the campy/cult play. "We like to do plays no one else will do," said Artistic Director, Scott Stewart. "We tend to perform cutting edge plays and push the envelope."

In its fourth season, Spontaneous Productions has a schedule that indeed pushes the envelope. Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show starts in September. Stewart will direct the play that involves a semi-crazy and ingenious transvestite who plays host to a lost couple in his mansion in Transylvania. After hilarious antics, music, and a bit of learning, the lost couple becomes comfortable, non-threatening, and fun atmosphere we've ever done has involved thoseقبل the scenes with the staff. We always encourage diversity: 'For ticket and time information, call Spontaneous Productions at (208)-805. The theatre company is run solely by volunteers, donations, and by the support of attending audiences. Stewart adds, "We got a little tired of the red tape involved in professional theatre, so we started on our own. Here we are four years later and still going strong. We have eight producers, who's tasks run anywhere from teachers to grunts, and many people building sets and props and the like for us. They're all wonderful."

Stewart received his M.F.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, trained at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Alley in Austin, the Dallas Theatre Center, and many more across the country. Students seeking additional theater training would benefit from the experience of all the producers and staff at Spontaneous Productions.

As for the plays to be performed, "Our company performs plays anywhere we can," said Stewart. "We've performed anywhere from a church to a warehouse, and other theaters in town. It certainly adds to the diversity." For ticket and time information, call Spontaneous Productions at (208)-805. The same number can be used for those interested in working behind the scenes with the staff.

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Remember Urge Overkill?

by Jim Tolwem

Does anyone remember Urge Overkill? You know, that hip power-pop trio who had a couple of hits back in the early 90s, with "Sister Havana," and a cover of "Girl, You'll Be a Woman Soon" from the Pulp Fiction soundtrack? Well I do, and I suspect that Wolf Colonel's Jason Anderson must remember them too, since at times his band sounds like U.O.'s lower-fi counterpart.

This style of rock 'n' roll certainly isn't new, but the Wolf Colonel do it anyway and do it well, with a lot of energy, gratuitous guitar solos, and massive pop hooks. Plus, any band that can have me singing along with a chorus that consists of the following line: "you can buy me two mowers," is worthy of some praise.

If they could somehow pick up on Nash Kato's fashion sense, Wolf Colonel might be on their way to superstardom. Speaking of superstardom, Eve 6 also play their own brand of power-pop, or should I say, not-powerful-enough-pop.

Alright, I'm sure it's obvious where this review is going, but I'm not done yet! Horrorscope, (man, what a clever title), consists of the following line: "you can buy me two mowers," is worthy of some praise.

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The Bug still makes noise
An interview with Jason Burke

By Jim Tobwell

A right folks, here is an interview, conducted via email, with the man, the myth, the legend, Jason Burke, also known across the world as Bug. He's been a staple in the Boise music scene for quite some time, playing in bands, putting on shows, putting out records, taking off his clothing, rocking out to more bands, and a million other things.

JT: First of all, are you comfortable with your nickname? Does it help you out with the ladies?

JB: I got the nickname about 8 years ago from Al Ireland, owner of the Neurolux. I guess I used to bother him, and I remember he used to call me a pest and a bug. That's how the name started. I like it for that people remember your name a lot more if you have a goofy name... people I haven't seen for years and years can easily remember "Bug." So I guess its still cool, but as I'm getting in my upper 20's it seems stupid at the same time.

JT: Your band, Life After Johnny, played at the first local show I ever attended, and that must have been 5 or 6 years ago. How and when did you get involved in the music scene?

JB: I got involved into punk rock by reading Thrasher magazine, and listening to Mutant Pop. Mutant Pop was a radio program on BSU FM radio that played all punk and alternative music, nothing like this played on any other Boise station. I think it started early in the 80's. I started listening to that when I was about 14, in 88 or 89. I started playing in bands and hanging out in Boise (I was from Nampa) around the same time. The local shows were held at The Zoo (now Bogies). Life After Johnny didn't start until '92 or something. That was a fun band.

JT: How do you think the local music scene has changed over the years, for better or worse?

JB: Boise and the surrounding area has grown a lot, therefore there is a lot more of everything. The problem with this is that there is a lot more shit. When I started coming to shows it seemed like there were only 15 or so bands that would rotate playing and only half that were really good. Now we have 60 bands in the valley and I think half of them are still good, but that makes for a lot of shitty bands too, and the rotation has slowed down due to the amount of bands. The big upside is that there are lots of places for underground and local bands to play right now.

JT: Are The Adversives going to continue to tour/record?

JB: Yes, in fact next week we are recording a couple of songs for compilations and such. Nate our last and 3rd bassist, moved to Boston last year and it's been kind of up in the air. The way I see it, we might as well start looking for another bassist. I thought it would work out a lot better than it has. Nate's a great guy, but we want to play. We were scheduled for a 6-week tour starting in Sept but it looks like that is off for now, due to the fact that Nate can't come out. The Adversives have always been me and Ben, and it always will be me and Ben. We can't quit after 6+ years of making noise together (even though we both are in Gordie Howe).

JT: What musical projects are you involved with now? Can you give a brief description of each?

JB: Adversives, which I just commented about, kind of in hiatus, but still rolling out the dark doom style stuff. Gordie Howe Trio Unit, fast skate punk. We have been playing for about 4 years now. Three Mile Island is a slower more hip, melodic punk. I like this band due to the fact that it is different from all the other bands I'm in.

JT: Are there any questions you'd like to ask yourself?

JB: Are there any questions you'd like to ask yourself?

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The life of a saxist

by Mona Morrison

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you hadn’t talked your mom into letting you quit those music lessons?

I decided to hang around with Ritchard Maynard, Boise State’s premier saxophone, clarinet, and jazz instructor, to find out what that life would have been like.

The first thing you need to know about Ritchard is this is not your mother’s college professor. Not unless your mom danced at the Blues Bouquet until two a.m. to the awesome sounds of a wailing sax in a cracker-jack band, that is.

The second thing you should know is that Ritchard’s success is well-deserved and hard-earned. All the planets and stars lined up to give him opportunities but not without a lifetime of work and practice.

Ritchard is the son of a big-band loving career Air Force man, and a French mother. He was raised in Bossier City, Louisiana, which may explain his early penchant for jazz. His good luck started with a dad who loved music and made clarinet lessons available from the age of ten, which was a few years earlier than the local schools offered. By the time other kids were learning which end of a clarinet the reeds are inserted into, and how to tell a treble clef from a snail, Ritchard was already playing solos and teaching himself improvisation by listening to recordings of great artists such as Bennie Goodman, picking apart their “licks” and mimicking them. By high school, he knew his future had to be fashioned around music one way or another, and two excellent teachers were enough to encourage a teaching career.

After graduating from North East Louisiana, and earning his Master’s from the University of Iowa, Ritchard sent out the usual hundreds of resumes and job applications. One early response was from a place called Boise, Idaho.

Like many southerners, he and his wife had to pull out an old atlas to locate this unfamiliar place. Upon landing in Boise, Ritchard instantly fell in love with the Jaialdi Basque Festival, the Green Belt, the easy wilderness access, and the generally laid-back attitude permeating the rest of the throng? Too bad the next day was a workday, the Blue’s two a.m. closing time added a crimp or two in my morning face.

Not long after that, and strictly in the interests of good journalism, I followed Ritchard to the Ste. Chappelle Winery’s.

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Tryouts
for the Boise State Intercollegiate
Forensics* Team
(Debate and Speech Squad)

will be held
August 31 thru Sept 1

Three openings are available on the nationally-acclaimed Boise State University Forensics Team. To tryout you must be a full-time undergraduate with a 2.80 G.P.A. High School or junior college forensics experience in public speaking, oral interpretation, L-D debate, parliamentary debate, and/or other significant public presentation experience is preferred. Forensics students earn two credits each semester, and all travel expenses are paid. Scholarships are available for outstanding competitors after the first semester of participation. This season’s tentative travel schedule includes tournaments in Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Louisiana, and Virginia, as well as the Pi Kappa Delta National Collegiate Forensics Tournament on the Boise State campus.

To schedule an interview and try-out time, contact Professor Most in the Dept. of Communication:
E-Mail: mmost@boisestate.edu Phone: 426-1920

*"Forensics" derives from the Latin "Forum" and refers to that which pertains to public argumentation, debate, justice or rhetoric.
A rich and long history
Theatre department celebrates 30th year
by Beth Schmidt

BSU’s Theatre Arts department is celebrating their 30th anniversary during this year. "We have a rich and long history of outstanding theatre here, and we are celebrating that history this season," said Richard Klautech, Chair of the Theatre Arts department.

The fall promises to provide interesting and provocative productions. Klautech said, "It’s a very exciting and diverse season we have planned. Our hope is to feature alumni in every show, working alongside our current students." Quality productions are not new to BSU’s alumni or its current students.

Two Theatre Arts productions were showcased at the regional American College Theater Festival on campus this past spring season. A Doll House and King Stag. Showcased productions were chosen from university theaters in Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

Klautech said the department will continue its tradition into the fall. Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night will be performed in October at the Special Events Center. Directed by Gordon Reinhardt, this poetic comedy set in mythical Illyria weaves a colorful and spirited tale of love and romance.

In November the department turns to the powerful The House of Bernarda Alba by Federico Garcia Lorca. Ann Hoste will direct this tragedy that explores the power struggle between the women in a household after the death of the family patriarch. Darkness of heart and the yearning for freedom are at the forefront of this unforgettable story. Local professional actress Carole Whitefeather is scheduled to perform the role of Bernarda.

Klautech returns to the Morrison Center’s main hall in March to direct Gilbert and Sullivan’s HMS Pinafore or The Long that Loved a Sailor. This comic opera is a hilarious send-up of rank and privilege in Victorian England. With a cast of over 60, including the characters of Dick Deley, Ralph Backstairs, and Little Buttercup to name a few, and with the joint efforts of BSU’s Department of Music, HMS Pinafore promises to delight young and old alike.

The current President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel, wrote the final Theatre Arts production of the 2000-01 season, The Memorandum. Ann Klautech directs this lacerating parody of bureaucracy. Within a faceless institution, certain factions try to establish a new language for greater efficiency. As the language becomes more and more of an obstacle, it seems to meet with less and less resistance. Havel takes a deep look at the illogical and impersonal world of the modern bureaucracy.

The close relationship between Theatre Arts and the Idaho Shakespeare Festival (ISF) has led to a special benefit performance at ISF in September. The Festival will be producing the musical Pump Boys and Dinettes throughout the month. Proceeds from the September 10 performance will go toward the Theatre Arts Special Guest Artist Endowment.

The evening will be catered by Ca Crea and will include a silent auction. The BSU Alumni Association will sponsor the event.

Visiting alumni, plays from Shakespeare to Havel, 50 years of history, alumni-related events and ISF promises a regular Theatrical Feast on campus this Fall. Be sure to visit the Morrison Center lobby for dates and times for any play or event.

Painter Lora Stoyanova draws from life
by RyaAnn Neff

Art is something that Lora Stoyanova has been involved with since she first got her hands into something that left marks behind. Raised around galleries and artistic people, Lora became a professional artist while attending in high school in Bulgaria. Lora currently shows her work at The Basement Gallery in downtown Boise.

Lora says ideally she would like to be a famous artist, but she says, "You never know if I’m going to work in McDonald’s or something." Lora has been working toward a visual arts degree at Boise State for two years since she moved here from Bulgaria. She says, "It’s hard to know what she is going to do with her degree, she is just enjoying the moment and all of the possibilities that are out there.

Lora says her motivation the painting shown came from the book “The Little Prince” by Antoine de Saint Exupery. Lora says, "I think very few people will get excited about this work because there is a cultural barrier in understanding it." She says in the atmosphere she lived in "The Little Prince" is a well-known book, and the painting is hard to understand if you haven’t read the book.

The painting is roughly four feet wide and four and a half feet tall. Lora says her work is mainly abstract expressionist, and it depends on color combinations. She says she prefers warm muted colors, but says she can be wild and crazy with high key, high value, and high contrast painting. Lora says she is mainly working with oil painting for school. "Right now I find oils most versatile, although before I was working extensively with pastels. I count oils as the master medium, but I am in the processes of discovering and rediscovering." Lora says that it’s so happy about having reproductions and photographs and unoriginal art then we will just have a fast food version of art in our lives.

If you would like to see more of her work you can email Lora at lora@mcu.net.

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Talent makes stops in sweaty basements and shops

by Jim Toweill

The term, "local music" is often synonymous with phrases such as: "those guys should have stayed in the garage", "Built to Spill", or "my boyfriend has this band...".

While all of these are true to some degree, I believe everyone should experience the collective entity that is "local music" for themselves, before making their own rash generalizations. So, I've decided to make a humanitarian effort to save our "local" musicians from unsubstantiated insults, the scourge of small crowds, and possibly eternal obscurity, by providing some valuable and lesser-known information. Think of this as an expose of sorts; this is the stuff that the Statesman won't tell you, for fear that Michael Deeds will have something new to bitch about.

Hell, I shouldn't have to mention where the CD Merchant is located (15th and Main). Two super-rad guys, Rob and Eric are kind enough to hold shows in their store. In addition to "local" musicians of all genres, some cool touring acts have stopped in to play the Merch: Hot Water Music, Piebald, Pedro the Lion, among many others.

If you're looking to dig deeper into hip-hop than the 'up in smoke' tour, check out JD and friends, which is right next door to the CD Merch at 15th and Main. Right now, this seems to be the center of Boise's small but solid hip-hop scene, although they do crossover into ska once in awhile with Los Mosquitones (who tend to bust out the drunken rhymes every once in awhile).

Next up is the world-famous House of Rock (517 S. 16th), which is actually a large garage, connected to a house—hence the name. This place has been going strong for about 4 years now, and has held some of the best shows I've ever had the chance to see in Boise. All different kinds of local and touring bands have played here: punk, ska, hardcore, metal, acoustic, experimental, and some that are simply unclassifiable. Seeing 5 or 6 bands of different genres and even of different nationalities in one night is not uncommon at this place; that is, if you can stand the very sweaty and often crowded atmosphere. On rare occasions nudity and vomiting have been known to occur here, but don't let that stop ya.

Another venue that is attached to a place of residence is the Sotano, (119 N. 8th) which, despite the fancy name is a large basement with low ceilings. There are some pretty swanky decorations down there though. Generally the Sotano seems to cater more toward the indie-rock crowd, though they do hold poetry readings, and I saw a pretty crazy hardcore/meat show there awhile back. I've never seen any nudity here, but it's bound to happen eventually.

Finally, we have Rob and his dojo. Yet another venue that is part of a house, this is an actual karate dojo which is converted into a gathering place for "local" bands and their hordes (oh, dozens) of fans. Despite being located a couple of miles south of Boise, (8010 Desert) the turnout for the dojo shows is fairly high and they're always a lot of fun; the crowd is hardly ever afraid to get into the music.

That's it for now. Now get off your asses and go watch some bands! Information about the shows happening at these places can usually be found on flyers at the Record Exchange, at www.angrypotato.com, or by emailing me at jtoweill@hotmail.com.

In the coming months I'm going to be doing profiles on various individual artists and bands, so no one will be able to claim ignorance of our local talent. If you would like to see an artist featured, feel free to email me, and I'll see what I can do to track them down.

Interview continued from 34

JB: I thought you were going to talk about touring and shit. Thanks, Jim. The Boise Weekly is running a cover story about me and my involvement with house shows and shit. That's pretty wild, eh?

JT: What are some of the aspects of touring that you find particularly interesting?

JB: The fact that it is very hard for me to get along with others in small spaces. I think it is hard for a lot of people. As I get older I think a lot more before I freak about something. Arguing is never fun, and I seem to be realizing this more and more as I get older. I was raised by a mother who was very strict on "not making a mess" and that has seemed to rub off on me, but I'm trying to rub it out of me. The best part of touring is meeting a lot of people who are just like you. Struggling to live and play in bands and set up shows, put out records the whole deal. In every city that I have been to in the US there is a "House of Rock". The people in each of these "House of Rocks" will feed and let a complete group of strangers sleep in their house. I find that interesting and amazing.

JT: And this is off topic, but what's that tattoo of the blender all about?

JB: I got it 5 years ago when Adversives were on tour in Ohio. I had been thinking about it for about a year, although I tell most people that I got it on a whim because my mom told me not to get anything stupid tattooed, which is true but I did think about it for a long time. I have been thinking about getting another appliance, and I want to but tattoos are SO hip right now it makes me want to vomit. I would love to get a toaster or a can opener, but I don't want to be a part of the hipster revolution of tattoos. Have you noticed that? And it seems the Boise weekly is one step ahead of me, but tell me something that you're not going to tell them, so I can feel like I got some sort of exclusive scoop?

JT: The guy from the weekly just emailed today and said it would probably be three weeks or so. I haven't done a formal interview. He has just been asking me about the house shows and shit.

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The Cosmic Fishtank

by Kate Hoffman

Virgo: Fall is here, which means you're in your prime. Just don't let the little people get you down; they're just jealous. But you already knew that.

Libra: This week it feels like work is a four-letter word. Put that inertia to good use by developing your personal philosophy. (Yes, "sleep good" counts.)

Scorpio: Hot enough for you? No? Nevertheless, beware of physical and emotional heat. Spontaneous human combustion hasn't been scientifically dismissed, and you're a prime candidate this week.

Aquarius: Are you raining on your own parade? Stop! There's no excuse for ruining a perfectly good street party. Accept your fate and go dancing on it.

Pisces: Unleash the superhero within and put that pent-up energy to good use. If that means wearing tights and rescuing stranded kittens, so much the better.

Aries: You must learn to control your rage, or your rage will control you. Tempting as it seems, avoid throwing heavy items at people in Financial Aid.

Leo: Before you convince your roommates of your bon vivant tendencies, consider safety. Aren't those clothes heaps a fire hazard—or a dorm war waiting to happen?

The Arbiter does not recommend readers make any financial, romantic or class scheduling decisions based on this forecast. All information is unscientific and based solely on intuition.

Top

The Top Ten Television shows if America were at war.

10.) Survivor
9.) Martha Stewart's bunker living
8.) Geneva Convention Violation Blooper and Practical Jokes
7.) Making the duration
6.) Who wants to be a Millionaire's son and avoid the draft?
5.) Bob Villa's this old bomb shelter
4.) Jeopardy
3.) Greed
2.) Wolf Blitzer live
1.) Hanson Live in concert--DMZ tour

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7 Ox of legend
11 "I, Robot” author
12 Tennis star Lendi
13 Ralph Fiennes movie
15 Goose eggs
16 Needy
18 Hearts, for one
21 Sentence to failure
22 Loewe’s partner
24 High card
25 “You betcha!”
26 Summer sign
27 Musical transitions
29 Lane’s co-worker
30 Gillian’s role on “The X-Files”
31 Toppers
32 Serving aids
34 Ralph Fiennes movie
40 Keats creation
41 Tooth layer
42 Actress Heche
43 Marbles, so to speak

DOWN
1 Corpulent
2 Bat wood
3 Deceit
4 Brazilian river
5 Beau
6 State
7 Pacific coast region
8 “Maria”
9 Saloon
10 Print units
14 Snout
16 Walked the waiting room
17 Greek letter
19 Cove
20 Adolescents
21 “__ Kapital”
22 Guitarist
23 Nonsense
25 Long
28 Wild
29 “The Big Chill” director
31 Wild laughter
33 Epochs
34 Workout site
35 Great weight
36 Stumpy’s pal
37 French pal
38 By this time
39 Cunning

WEED: Cane in the far corner
12 Thelma & Louise
20 Sacred place
21 "Raiders of the Lost Ark"
22 "Ferris Bueller"
23 "A Beautiful Day in the Life"
24 "The Shawshank Redemption"
25 "Titanic"
26 "Forrest Gump"
27 "Star Wars"
28 "Juno"
29 "The Godfather"
30 "The Dark Knight"
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32 "The Matrix"
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