4-30-1997

Arbiter, April 30

Students of Boise State University

Although this file was scanned from the highest-quality microfilm held by Boise State University, it reveals the limitations of the source microfilm. It is possible to perform a text search of much of this material; however, there are sections where the source microfilm was too faint or unreadable to allow for text scanning. For assistance with this collection of student newspapers, please contact Special Collections and Archives at archives@boisestate.edu.
Virtual University: can it change the world?
Opinion

Don’t leave the kids stranded

By William Hart

All right. Enough is indeed enough. While not all of us agree with the idea of the messenger being affiliated with the ultra-conservative organization Focus on the Family, Milton Creagh has come, put in many a good word for non-drug use, and now he is gone. Now it’s time to follow up on Creagh’s motivations.

You see, it’s dandy for a motivational speaker to motivate kids and adults to forsake drug use, or to quit using, as the case may be. And it’s more than dandy for kids to share their pain with Creagh to begin the healing and turnaround process.

But the beginning is where the community support seems to end. Anyone who has been to church camp knows the drill. Screwed-up kids go to the mountains for a week. They listen to lots of inspiring talk and get “fired up” about their lives and whatever deity in their lives. They try to change.

Then the newly-changed kids return to their unchanged homes. They stick to their ideals for about one week, when their old habits reappear. They begin to justify why it’s OK to do the things they declared they would no longer take part in. And justification becomes the same old habit. So they wait for church camp to roll around the next year to set them straight.

Well, who can afford for Millon Creagh to roll around once each year to set our kids back on track? It’s time for those same community members who attended Creagh’s programs to implement follow-up programs to decrease the number of kids—and adults—who will return to their old drug habits.

We haven’t studied any follow-up programs that would be best to use. We do know, however, that people needing to change their lives can’t do it alone. Statistics show failure rates are highest when the needy have to rely on themselves. Therefore, we have a couple ideas we hope will be taken to heart by the community. For helping those who, right now, can’t help themselves.

Whether you like it or not, churches have a large impact on Boise’s community. Church leaders need to set up and hold weekly, bi-weekly or monthly support meetings for kids and those adults who want to stay off drugs. Leaders and volunteers need to get involved with these kids’ lives as friends. Possibilities include having game nights or movie nights, and sponsoring race teams. Give the kids a reason to positively occupy their time.

Because it is also an integral part of the community, the YMCA should designate nights for the same kinds of activities churches should hold. Of course, there are always limited supplies of money, but money is not the issue—the issue is to help keep kids off drugs. Charge a small admission fee if necessary, but try raising money with help from the same businesses who brought Creagh to speak in Boise.

Taking care of the kids and adults who need to stop using drugs is a big, big job. But you can’t just tell someone to stop doing something like drugs without providing the support, friendship and rehab programs crucial to making quitting a reality.

Editorials reflect the opinions of The Arbiter’s editor in chief and section editors.
Tree convicted on all charges
by Damon M. Hunezker
Columnist

The following headline is in; it was in The Idaho Statesman a few weeks ago: "Tree Kills Four Girls on Way to School." I think this is a testament to the effectiveness of Earth Day. As any good environmentalist will tell you, all living organisms are important. We're all guests upon this planet. In short, trees are people, too. Why should they be denied the opportunity to get an education? And why shouldn't they be able to commit murder?

Well, finally, trees have acquired equal rights. Evidently, they're going to school now. But that privilege demands certain responsibilities. They shouldn't be killing people. I realize it's probably difficult for a tree to understand moral issues. After all, they're just emulating us. We go to school, and we kill each other.

Nevertheless, we make distinctions between good people and evil people. Eventually, this principle will have to be applied to trees. Basically, good trees go to school; bad trees kill young girls.

And what about the judicial mess? Trees haven't been introduced to our way of doing things. This particular tree, the murderer, will have to stand trial eventually. I mean, he can't be that hard to catch. But I'm worried. The tree won't understand how to behave in court.

I suspect the transcript of the trial will reveal a lot about humanity as well as plant life.

PROSECUTOR: "Did you kill these girls?"
TREE: "Hell no! I'm sick of the cops breathing down my neck! Look, I was minding my own business, on my way to school, when suddenly, these chicks started tugging on my branches. I fell over and smashed 'em. What's a tree gonna do?"
PROSECUTOR: "So you admit to killing them?"
TREE: "I didn't admit to squat, copper!"

Editor's note: actually, BSU students have an excellent chance of getting published. The Arbiter has published all but one of the letters received from students this year.

Ramirez's column crosses the line
For the past few weeks I have been reading with interest the things your writers have had to say about free speech, and for the most part, I agree with them. Until now, that is. Now I'm sitting with "The last thing I'll be saying about nerds" in front of me. While I still believe that censoring Asencion Ramirez would be more evil than printing inaccurate news, I also feel I should exercise my right to free speech and let you know how I feel about this.

I have a problem with two things. First, Asencion Ramirez thinks an inability to distinguish between serious news and some people's opinion is a serious problem. Okay, but do you know what else is a problem? A total lack of respect for any opinion not your own. Mr. Hasket took offense and took steps to clarify the situation. In doing so, he exercised his right to air his opinion. Another problem would have to be that Asencion Ramirez thinks a right to air an opinion is not universal.

Second, Asencion Ramirez says we could all write a letter about being "King for a day" and The Arbiter might publish it. Or they might not. There is no guarantee that those of us who are not Arbiter employees will get our opinions published. Asencion Ramirez is an editor with a column. I am a student with no contractual employment connections to The Arbiter whatsoever. Who is more likely to be published? The fact is, Asencion Ramirez has a greater right to air his opinion than I do. I'm not saying this isn't deserved, but it should be taken into consideration.

I've been a free speech advocate for years. I've always said the answer to offensive speech is counter-speech, and I'm not changing my mind. This is just my counter-speech. It seems like the writers at The Arbiter keep exercising their free speech rights at other people's expense. This is the kind of "free speech" that gives people like me a bad name. I'm tired of hearing you people whine about your rights to bully other people in your columns. Give it up! You still have your column and your rights, and you've been using them to trample on people. If you can't deal with it, fine. I don't think I'll be getting a mature response anyway.

-Tara Diane Manabey
BSU student

whine about your rights to bully other people in your columns. Give it up! You still have your column and your rights, and you've been using them to trample on people. If you can't deal with it, fine. I don't think I'll be getting a mature response anyway.

PROSECUTOR: "I'm not a cop, I'm a lawyer. Just answer the question."
TREE: "How the hell do I know what you are? I'm just a tree, man!"
PROSECUTOR: "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I ask you, does this tree look innocent? You've already witnessed his quick temper."
TREE: "Hey! I didn't ask for equal rights. You gave them to me. Earth Day sucks! I'm going back to absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen for your sorry species."

Anyway, before we allow trees to assimilate with our world, I think they would benefit from a brief lesson in acceptable behavior. So here's a message for all you trees:

You don't kill people in our world. If you do, you'll end up like O.J.—bankrupt. OK, maybe that's a bad example. After all, we make money out of you, so you guys probably aren't in a hurry to get rich. But murder is still wrong.

In our world, you can't just stand in one place all your life, staring at the stars like a zombie unless you're in a suicidal cult.

And finally, be cool—stay in school.

Pederson and Christine Starr, put in hours of time and unequaled dedication toward making this election run smoothly and efficiently. I hope they all realize there are people out there who are appreciative.

Finally, I would like to thank Houston Nutt. Coach Nutt made it very clear from his arrival in Boise that he expected the football team to be active participants in student life at Boise State University, both on and off the field. This became a reality when nearly 100 percent of the football team voted in this election.

It is the dedication of people such as these that makes my time at BSU an enjoyable and educational experience, in and out of the classroom.

-Carly Renfro
BSU student

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Gag me!!!
The elections are over and the circus atmosphere that surrounded campus has been packed up and taken home, and yet there is still so much to do. Appreciation needs to be extended to the people who made it all happen.

Senator Jason DiEiver made it a goal to increase voter turnout in this election to 2,000 voters. He dedicated not only his heart and soul to educating BSU students about the importance of voting, of making our voices and concerns heard by those who have the ability to do something about them. His tenacity and ambition in striving to achieve something so he fully believes in it in perhaps one of the greatest lessons I will learn in my college career. He made me a true believer that life is our greatest teacher. I want to thank him for all that he has committed to doing as a representative of the student body. The fact that we have someone out there looking out for our best interests even when we don't ourselves is a testament to the type of person he is.

Another body of students that deserves recognition is the members of the Elections Board. Chair Jillian Gronski and her staff, Jenni Eighmy, Joseph Frye, Mickey

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University selects dean

Mark Wheeler has been selected as Boise State's dean of enrollment services.

He was chosen following a national search to replace Steve Spafford, who will retire this year after 25 years at BSU.

Wheeler, who has been an assistant dean of admissions since 1991, will lead BSU's transition to an enrollment services concept where students can receive financial aid, admissions and registration information in one location.

He will be instrumental in the development of Project ACCESS, the new computer system for registration, financial aid and other student services. Wheeler will also supervise admissions and new student information offices.

A graduate of Lakeland High School in Rathdrum, Wheeler earned his bachelor's degree in English from BSU in 1989. He received his master's degree in public administration in 1996.

He was an admissions and financial aid counselor at Lewis and Clark State College in Lewiston before coming to BSU in 1990 as an admissions counselor.

Pending State Board of Education approval, Wheeler will assume his new position July 1.

Faculty receive grants

Boise State University faculty members have been awarded half of the 14 research grants given this year by the State Board of Education. BSU faculty members received seven grants totaling $217,200.

"The large number of BSU recipients is really indicative of a growing interest and involvement of faculty and research activities," said Alan Brinton, associate vice president for academic affairs. Funding for each BSU project ranges from $27,500 to $33,100.

Each year the board, through its Special Research Grant program, awards funds based on the recommendations of a panel of peer evaluators from outside the state.

BSU students will be involved in many of the research projects. Faculty selected were:

Leslie Alm, political science, will focus on bringing about a greater understanding of how scientists view their role in environmental policy-making as is pertains to acid rain. Alm will use his results to analyze why it is so difficult to reach scientific consensus on important environmental problems in Idaho, the United States and North America.

Patricia M. Dorman, sociology, will study the benefits provided by Idaho employers that are considered "family friendly." Dorman believes that recruitment and retention of productive employees will depend on progressive company policies that recognize the important interrelationship between work and family.

Mike Markel, English, will conduct research and write a book that integrates ethics more directly into the education of apprentice technical communicators. The book will explain new approaches to ethical-decision making and analyze common situations faced by technical communicators.

Carol Martin, English, will conduct research to prepare the Clarendon Edition of George Eliot's Adam Bede for publication by Oxford University Press. Adam Bede helped establish Eliot's reputation as one of Britain's great 19th century writers.

George Roberts, art, will explore the possible uses of Du Pont's Riston and other photo-polymer film technology in the creation of fine art prints. For the past 50 years, printing techniques have changed very little. In recent years, however, new uses have been discovered for Riston as a printing-making media.

Susan Shadle, chemistry, seeks to gain an understanding of one aspect of damage to DNA, a process which can lead to genetic mutations or carcinogenesis in cells. The project uses reactions between metal compounds and DNA to investigate whether the sequence of a particular length of DNA influences its sensitivity to damage.

Michael P. Zitrinsky, history, will gather information for a book-length history of American Protestant missionaries in Iran in order to uncover and explain the historical roots of late 20th century U.S. relations with Iran.

Truck driving program to offer training

The BSU professional truck driving program will offer a 20 week evening and weekend course beginning May 19 and ending Oct. 3. The training will be followed by a required six-week paid internship with the motor carrier of the student's choice.

All 20 weeks of the initial instruction will include training Monday and Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. The first four classes will include 10-hour classes on both Saturday and Sunday. The next seven weeks will then switch to 10 hour training on Saturday or Sunday. The following two weeks will again have 10-hour classes on both Saturday and Sunday followed again by seven weeks of the Saturday-Sunday option.

The BSU professional truck driving program has placed graduates with major freight carriers throughout the western and southwestern United States, Hawaii and Alaska.

For more information call 466-2020 or 1-800-442-3221.

Institute on China and Japan slated for June

Business leaders, educators and students will have a unique opportunity to learn more about China and Japan this summer during a week-long educational conference sponsored by the Boise State Division of Continuing Education.

Experts from BSU, other universities and the business world will share their knowledge of the two countries during "International Institute: China and Japan," which will be held in the BSU Student Union June 9-13.
Speaker addresses area drug problem

by Erin Burden
Staff Writer

Genuine concern combined with a bit of humor and a plan of action makes Milton Creagh one of the leading motivational speakers the "war on drugs" has in its arsenal. On April 23 Creagh, in cooperation with KTVB Channel 7 and Boise State University, began speaking to high school and junior high school students from Boise and the surrounding cities. His presentations were held in the BSU Pavilion and the Idaho Center.

Two days were spent lecturing to students without threats or scare tactics but with understanding and explanations. The sessions themselves became wrought with emotion as a result of realizations on how far the problems have gone and who it has affected.

Friday's lecture to business owners and civic leaders was somewhat different, however, because of Creagh's stress on the importance of their involvement. According to the U.S. government, Americans are among the top six percent of the population consuming more than 50 percent of the world's supply of illegal drugs. Creagh said 70 percent of those drugs are used by people in the work force, and those in the work force must be adults.

"Kids buy a little bit of dope, but adults buy a whole lot of dope," said Creagh to accentuate the point. With parents coming home using drugs no amount of the

Student organization reunites

by Carissa Wolf
Staff Writer

In an effort to unify communication department students and bridge the gap between department faculty and students, a reformed Communication Student Organization met April 16. The club is working on generating plans that will put some life back into the club and department.

CSO was an active club on campus five years ago, but in recent years interest has dwindled leaving a handful of interested students. Despite announcements and flyers of the meeting throughout the communication building, only six students showed up for the latest meeting.

Given such a small turnout for the semester's second meeting, adviser Rick Moore and the half dozen students questioned if the department should have such a club.

"If this club disappears ... [communication] students will no longer have a voice," Moore said. The students agreed and decided to devise plans for next year that would enable communication students to network with each other and create a link between faculty and students. CSO members also elected officers to lead next year's club.

Melissa Albert, who was elected administrative coordinator, joined the club looking for a support system within her field of interest and a chance to network with other communication majors, something she finds difficult on BSU's non-traditional, commuter campus.

"Sometimes it's nice to be able to talk with people who are studying communication, but sometimes I find that hard to do, even with people in my classes. A chance to network with other students would be helpful in finding out what other classes and professors are like," said Albert.

CSO members are taking their needs and what they thought were general needs of communication students into mind when addressing CSO goals and plans for the upcoming year. Ideas that would promote the communication department and networking between members were addressed as well as ways that could heighten communication between faculty and students.

Tentative plans to elect a student representative to attend department faculty meetings are underway. CSO members are hoping that this sort of measure will provide a link between professors and students, providing a chance for general student needs to be addressed by the faculty. CSO also discussed the possibility for holding a book swap/sale, socials and creating a mentor program.

CSO is planning one more meeting before the end of the semester, and is primarily focusing on renewing interest in the club and getting funding from ASBSU.

New phone policy affects flexibility, dialing off-campus

There's good news for students, faculty and staff living outside Boise. It's no longer a long distance call to Caldwell, Emmett, Idaho City, Melba, Middleton or Nampa. And there's no need to dial 1-208- to any of these areas.

The new calling area went into effect Friday, April 25. Local long distance charges still apply to other portions of the state. Pre-programmed speed-dials will need to be reprogrammed on phones and faxes.

Also, effective May 21, dialing off-campus from campus phones dialing will require '9'. Campus phones currently need '9' before the seven digit number. The change is due to the number of accidental phone calls made to 911. Dialing 911 is no longer dependent on initially dialing '9'.

Callers are urged to stay on the line if the mistakenly call 911 and explain to the operator that they have misdialed.

Students recommend gun safety curriculum

by Tiffany Wren
Staff Writer

Five senior nursing students at Boise State University have conducted extensive research that could have statewide implications in regard to teaching gun safety and accident prevention in Idaho's schools. The students presented their findings on April 23.

Pam Molcock, Teresa Smith and Terri Waterberg are hoping to gain support from the Idaho School Board Association to develop a statewide gun safety program for elementary school students.

According to their research, which began this past February, gun accidents among the nation's youth have decreased 15 percent since gun safety programs started in schools nearly a decade ago, but Idaho accidents have increased. Numbers from Idaho's Center for Vital Statistics show 244 Idahoans under the age of 19 died firearm-related deaths during the years of 1985-1995. Only 65 of those deaths were accidental.

None of the states require programs to teach kids the dangers of guns, and many children have started using guns on their own. The Eddie Eagle Program and S.T.A.R. (straight talk about risk) are two current curriculums the nursing students feel are effective for grade school children, K-6. They propose these programs be taught a minimum of one hour per school year in Idaho.

"Education is the key to prevention of accidental shootings," said Molcock, a senior nursing student involved with the research.

She presented the two programs to be "used to reinforce gun safety and provide kids with a strong foundation of firearm knowledge and accident prevention."

The students said kindergarten is a good level to start teaching the curriculum because it will make an impact on them before they become adolescents. The programs are adaptable to most classroom settings and cost $5 to $20 per video.

The two programs instruct children to avoid any form of contact with a firearm. They stress critical thinking skills, conduct role playing in the classroom and demonstrate the realities and risks associated with playing with guns.

"Guns are not toys," Smith said. "We need to teach the children that guns can cause serious injury and even death if not handled properly."

The programs also stress that parents also play a major role alongside the curriculum in teaching their children awareness of guns.

Right now Idaho doesn't have any laws that mandate teaching gun safety.
The institute is designed to provide a dynamic cross-cultural learning experience for those likely to interact with the people of China and Japan professionally and otherwise. In an increasingly international world, teachers, professionals, and others will benefit from the institute's emphasis on how we come to understand others and how they come to understand us.

The keynote address will be by Richard Madsen, professor of sociology, University of California, San Diego. Other speakers include Wong Zheng from Stanford's Institute for Research on Women and Gender; Steve West of the International Institute of Language & Culture; Louann Sowles, vice president and manager of international operations for Key Bank of Idaho; and Bill Burns, Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet Asian Alliance manager.

Among the many topics offered are aesthetic principles of art and architecture, philosophy and religion, travel logistics, Chinese/Japanese influences on Boise, current international issues and world trade issues.

Morning sessions from 9 a.m.-noon are followed by a 90-minute lunch break. Afternoon sessions are from 1:30-5 p.m.

Fees for the institute are $275 for the full week. Participants may also register for individual half-day sessions at $35 each or full-day sessions at $60 each. BSU undergraduate and graduate credits are available as well. For more information or to receive a registration form, phone BSU Continuing Education at (208) 385-1709 for fax (208) 385-3467.

Student AA meeting available

Looking to control an alcohol problem or are you a recovering alcoholic? Help is available at the BSU Student Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

Students are invited to come by the Student Union Annex, behind the Multi-Ethnic Center on Michigan Street every Monday through Friday at noon.

For more information call Phyllis Sawyer at the Wellness Center 385·4105.

Out of Doors

Activities abound first weekend of spring

by Clint Miller

Outdoor Editor

Spring is that special time of year when trees start turning green again and people commune in the parks, when frisbees get dusted off and mountain bikes roam free once again on the Greenbelt. It's a time for concerts, races, water balloon fights, all accompanied with the occasional downpours that come with the season.

Earth Day was celebrated with three events. The first official ASBSU Earth Day was held last Friday, here on the campus. On Saturday, Alternative Earth Day was recognized at Julia Davis Park and so was the official Earth Day on Sunday, April 22. The mix of sun and rain made all three events somewhat challenging, but a mix of bands and speakers gave messages about earth awareness and entertained those who braved the elements.

ASBSU Earth Day reached students on campus by informing them about what steps are being taken to clean up the BSU environment. Signatures were collected from students supporting campus-wide recycling. Green ribbons were also given out to students who pledged to find alternatives to driving their car to school on Earth Day. Many promised to carpool from Meridian and Nampa while students living in Boise committed to riding their bicycles to the campus.

All over Idaho mountain bike races are beginning again. The BSU Outsiders plan to take a few trips to some of these great events. Interested riders can call Clint Miller at 385-1725. Mountain bike training is also happening. Now that it is starting to clear up trails will be ready for riding. Any one interested in riding with the BSU training group can leave a message for Jonny Houston at 345·8204.

Runners are flocking to spring races. April 19 saw the 20th Race to Robie Creek. The 13.1 mile course started at Fort Boise where the pre-race festivities brightened a cloudy day. Peel-off tattoos and the 20th birthday cake were the appetizers for the race. The course follows Rocky Canyon road, climbing the hill to Aldape.

Race was fun but party was funner.

PHOTO BY CINN MILLER

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SPRING
continued from Page 7

Summit. Reaching the peak provides an emotional rush. Packs of runners stuck together and encouraged each other on to the end. Friends and family awaited racers as they crossed the finish line. Cheers rose from bystanders along the side of the road. After the race, runners and spectators relaxed and ate a filling meal complete with baked potatoes and fish chowder.

With all these great events on one weekend, no one in Boise had time to stay at home. And, spring is just beginning. Soon the band shell in the park will be ringing with music. Campers will spend every free day out in the wilderness. The River Festival will bring all those annoying people back to town. It’s only the start.

How to protect your bike from cops and thieves
by Clint Miller
Outdoors Editor

While it’s fun to take the bike out, some little steps will improve your chances of keeping that vehicle and help avoid the other potential hazards of cycling.

If you plan on riding after dark, you must have a head light and reflectors. People walking on the Greenbelt are hard to see on those dark nights. Failure to comply is also a violation of the law and the police have no problem with slapping down a $35.00 ticket on your already light finances. Moo’s Cycle in Hyde park or World Cycles on Eighth Street offer a good selection of lighting devices.

Be careful where you leave your bike as well. This is the time of year when the bike strippers come out. They might not get the entire vehicle, but it is annoying not getting to ride because of missing tires. Quick release seats and tires are the most frequent victims to these bike nappings. Remember to lock your cycle. Another good deterrent is getting rid of those quick releases and using the old-fashioned nut and bolt style spires to hold those tires on.

AUAP students go on llama trek
by Clint Miller
Outdoors Editor

April 26 found BSU Asian University American Program students enjoying the unique side of Idaho, a llama trek around the Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park. BSU staff and students collected for this opportunity to learn about other cultures in the beauty of Idaho’s outdoors.

We left Boise early and headed out to Mountain Home where the llamas and guides waited for us. It didn’t take long to get the animals on the trail. The weather was warm and the atmosphere friendly, both making for a pleasant hike. Much of our discussions were about travel and seeing the world. The guides told us stories about taking animals on long trips in the Frank Church Wilderness area. The llamas wore easy to lead and we took turns at the helm of the pack train.

Lunch was prepared at the base of the large dune. Stoves were set up and students helped cut onions and peppers for quesadillas. Oysters and sardines provided a treat that could be added at the eater’s discretion. Everyone enjoyed German chocolate cake for dessert. The llamas sat in the bushes and munched on leaves, looking on at us with contented faces.

After lunch a slide show explained the history and life around the park. The dune was created by the Bonneville flood 50,000 years ago and the acid wind pushes more sand up its top. The air currents give the dune its shape. Wind blowing from the southeast will drive some sand away while gusts from the northwest blow it back to the dune. The area’s vegetation and insects are on display for the intrigued students.

Llamas are the perfect pack animals. Smaller than horses, they eat less and just graze lightly as they walk the trail. Their calm disposition makes them easier to use than mules. Padded feet let them walk on the ground with few harmful effects to the trail. These animals could pack up to three quarters of their body weight while carrying up to 100 pounds of gear. They walk at a slow, easy pace and don’t scare very often. Smart, they don’t take off suddenly. When they felt threatened, the llamas let out a chirping sound. The Asian students characterized them as “cute.”

Anyone else interested in participating in a llama trek can contact Highbinder Llamas Inc. in Meridian, 208-455-9035.
Will Western Governor’s University replace traditional institutions?

by Mary Dehary
Staff Writer

Many students’ class schedules conflict with their lifestyles, making it impossible to finish a bachelor’s degree in four years or fewer. That’s why Gov. Phil Batt united with his counterparts from 13 western states to search for an alternative to lengthy college careers.

The result is the Virtual University, now called the Western Governor’s University.

The WGU is an educational system provided almost exclusively via telecommunications and the Internet. Participants in WGU programs will take courses at their convenience from their personal computers in their homes or offices.

WGU students will not have to arrange their lives around class schedules. Instead, they can complete their education by making time between their other activities.

Graduation from the WGU is contingent upon passing certain tests. Associate’s degrees and work certifications earned through the WGU will not be based on the number of credit hours or classes taken, and the time it takes to obtain a degree depends on the skills of the student. Rick Merritt, WGU information officer, said software cost are still unknown and it hasn’t been determined whether there will be a general tuition to attend the virtual university.

Merritt said the use of technology in higher education is becoming more common.

“Many institutions offer classes at a distance which do not require learners to be at the same place and taking classes at the same time. Another concept is that learning does not take place in the classroom. That is why WGU is a competency-based system where learners will be able to demonstrate their skills and earn credit for those skills,” Merritt said. “WGU will provide access to those who previously have been unable to attend traditional higher education programs.”

The technology-based university was the brainchild of Colorado’s governor Roy Romer and Utah’s governor Mike Leavitt, as well as a collaboration between the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

WGU Interim President Jeff Livingston in Utah and Interim Chief Academic Officer Bob Albrecht in Colorado are pursuing the possibility of the WGU achieving accreditation. They have met with the heads of the accrediting agencies covering the 13 states signed on to the university.

One concern with the virtual university concept is the ability to transfer from a traditional university to the WGU. Merritt said it is the goal of the WGU to be accredited, and when that occurs a degree earned through the WGU will be transferable to other institutions.

Gov. Batt signed the Memorandum of Understanding in June 1996, pledging to provide $100,000 to support the implementation of the WGU in Idaho.

Each governor in the Western Governor’s Association signed the same memorandum and agreed to provide equivalent financial support. The 13 states currently signed on to the WGU are Idaho, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Batt is also on the board of trustees which was designed this spring. The board is comprised of the governors of the 13 states plus an optional educational representative for each state appointed by its governor. Idaho will be represented by Brandon Marion, executive director of the State Board of Education.

In addition to the $100,000 promised by the states to implement the virtual university plan, the governors have agreed to secure at least one center in each state that will serve as a local access to the WGU’s services and software.

Some of the office spaces have already been donated by various entities throughout the states. The Huntsman Corporation provided space for the WGU’s corporate and administrative headquarters in Salt Lake City. Colorado Community College Occupational Education System offered space on campus for academic development offices. Sun Microsystems Computer Company gave computers and software for the corporate and administrative offices in Salt Lake City and Denver.

In addition to office space, the WGU needs $8 million to start up. Along with the financial support pledged by each participating state government, the WGU received grants from philanthropic organizations such as The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which donated $500,000; $250,000 from the AT&T Foundation; $500,000 from IBM; $500,000 from International Thompson Publishing; and $150,000 from the Educational Management Group—a unit of Simon and Schuster Publishing. Merritt said the university will rely on other private donations to get up and running.

Rick Bailey, AT&T’s law and government affairs vice president, said of the WGU, “It’s a bold, ‘break the mold’ approach to higher education in western states, and we’re very excited to be a part of it.”

Western Governor’s Association spokesperson Karen Deike said the WGU is seen as a new element in education. It addresses those needs currently not met by existing universities, but WGU is not meant to replace traditional institutions. It will broaden access to people who can’t be a part of the campus experience. Deike said the WGU will also serve as a supplement for life-long learners.

Deike said the WGU will eventually offer degrees equivalent to a bachelor’s, but the programs will most likely still occur through participating universities via satellite. Not all courses offered will be solely on the Internet. Deike said this type of learning is different from regular distance learning because it is competency-based, rather than credit-based.

“The WGU is being described by many higher education experts as one of the most promising and extensive distance learning efforts in the country,” said Gov. Batt.
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BSU Radio Club hosts amphitheater concert

by Erica Hill
Staff Writer

Advertised as a "three-to-sunset" concert in BSU's own Centennial Amphitheater, Boise State Broadcasting Club's presentation of five local bands on April 25 provided a unique collaboration of the best Boise has to offer. With bands such as Pomegranate Purple, Supplefunk, Four Girls Drive, Left Coast, and the mainstream-bound Built to Spill, the afternoon recital offered a diverse amalgamation of funk, punk, lounge, jive and progressive alternatop. BSU's radio club fused these assorted bands in an effort to promote their club and KBSU radio station, and provide the university community with some fun.

That's right, utterly free. Donations, raffle tickets, and T-shirt sales did help out with minimal expenses but the radio station provided a free PA system while the bands agreed to play absolutely gratis.

Although Built to Spill was the obvious highlight of the show, the bands which preceded them certainly rose above the daunting title of "opening acts." The first to perform was the two-man sensation named Pomegranate Purple. With one on a singular bongo drum and the other playing a common acoustic guitar you'd think the intended melody. This horrid timing was demonstrated when the drummer sped up her tempo while the rest of the band struggled to catch up. In fact, they were so lost they had to lay their sheet music out in front of their instruments. Needless to say, it didn't seem to help very much. The underdeveloped, throat-based vocalization and symbol crashing drums were also two prominent indicators that this band could certainly use some remedial work.

Left Coast was already known as the band Built to Spill suggested be on the ticket. So obviously they were expected to sound as close to astounding as possible, and they were. The simplistic drum riffs combined with raspy punk style grit created an overall melodic, positive tone. The overemphasis on one of the two guitars, however, overshadowed the drum and bass led rhythms. This was solely due to the shoddy sound system which plagued the entire production. The earsplitting treble distorted the overall sound, overpowering the vocals, and completely consumed the bass. Left Coast, however, was certainly not at fault for the horrid noise emanating from the PA system. In fact, they fared quite well considering what the had to work with. But hey, who's complaining? It was free, right?

Now to get to what everyone had come to see, Built to Spill. Opening with songs from Perfect From Now On, frontman Doug Marrard apologized to those who had seen them perform recently, as they were playing the same set of songs from their last three gigs at the Neurolux. Nobody seemed to mind. In fact, the new self-proclaimed Built to Spill groupies shook in their seats when they heard the commercially successful single "Untrustable." Marrard must have known fans would beg to hear that single, so he got it out of the way by playing it third. After pleasing the radio buffs, Built to Spill got down to business. Their usual method of not relying on loud, obnoxious raucousness to promote themselves came off as utterly appropriate in the amphitheater setting. As usual, their break beats were clean and their switches in tempo did not waver in mainstream. In a trademark that seems to be tagging itself to Built to Spill, the group played their last song like a 15-minute jam session—full of progressive tempos and rhythmic overtones.

For a first shot at producing a concert, the BSU radio club proved quite impressive. Their hard work and extreme patience in the dealing with the university also shone through in this fantastic day-long production. Only the glitches in equipment distracted from the afternoon's events.

Liner Notes

Brando's to host weekly improv troupe performances

Beginning First Thursday May 1 and continuing every Thursday after, BSU students can join the fun with Funny Business at Brando's Ballroom.

Funny Business is a professional improv comedy troupe featuring some actors who are also BSU students. Among the cast members are Dana Madden, Rebecca Prescott, Nick Garcia and Dwayne Blackaller. Madden wrote the award-winning play "Drop," which featured Garcia and Blackaller. Prescott was last seen in the Morrison Center main stage production of "Cabaret."

Improv comedy is a format where the audience provides a topic or suggestions to the actors, who immediately perform short skits based on these ideas.

BSU Alumni Jenny Sterling, who runs the troupe, says "the great thing about improv is that the show is never the same twice. People can come to see the show again and again, and it'll be different every time. This is a type of comedy that appeals to all ages and all types of people."

Funny Business will perform at Brando's Ballroom at 202 N. Capitol. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m., with the show starting at 8:30. Admission is $5.00 and cocktails are available.

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Hootenanny 11

Hootenanny
A CARNIVAL OF SORTS

of a crafty keyboard player, bass, drums and saxophone, played only three songs yet ran as long as Pomegranate Purple. Their extremely lengthy tunes allowed them to continually play with melodies and rhythms. Though their timing seemed a bit off during the first song, and despite a failing sound system, Supplefunk presented lounge music at its best. The lack of lyrics forced listeners to concentrate on the tempo shifts and funky break beating rhythms. The most promising addition to Supplefunk was the highly talented saxophone player Eric Burnhard, now serving double duty for both Supplefunk and the even more popular Boise band Mosquitoes. Burnhard, as usual, did not disappoint fans when he performed a nearly three minute solo.

After an hour of energizing progressive disco-jazz, the mood was taken to a completely different realm. Four Girls Drive slowed down the party and literally emptied the amphitheater out. A complete lack of cohesion in every one of their songs robbed each of its intended melody. This horrid timing was demonstrated when the drummer sped up her tempo while the rest of the band struggled to catch up. In fact, they were so lost they had to lay their sheet music out in front of their instruments. Needless to say, it didn't seem to help very much. The underdeveloped, throat-based vocalization and symbol crashing drums were also two prominent indicators that this band could certainly use some remedial work.

This was solely due to the shoddy sound system which however, overshadowed the drum and bass led rhythms. It's still the best kept secret in Boise.

Brando's Ballroom 202 N.
Capitol. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m., with the show starting at 8:30. Admission is $5.00 and cocktails are available.

Hootenanny
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Across from Koppels Browesville
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Canadian writer Sharon Butala to give reading May 2

Canadian writer Sharon Butala, author of an award-winning memoir of midlife change shaped by the Western landscape, will give a reading at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 2, at the Log Cabin Literary Center, 801 S. Capitol Blvd. Admission costs $4 general, $2 to Log Cabin members at the door.

Butala led a promising academic career in the city to marry a man who lives on a remote cattle ranch in Saskatchewan. Her evocative and moving book Perfection of the Morning: A Woman’s Awakening in Nature chronicles Butala’s emotional and spiritual struggle to adapt to this new rural lifestyle. The book was published by Hungry Mind Press in St. Paul, Minn.

Like Annie Dillard, Gretel Ehrlich and Terry Tempest Williams, Butala explores the corner of the world she calls home. Butala is the author of five works of fiction, including a short story collection, Fever, winner of the 1992 Authors’ Award for Fiction. A second memoir, The Coyote’s Morning Cry, is a best-seller in Canada.

For information, call the Log Cabin Literary Center at 331-8000.

NEW LOOK JAYHAWKS release Sound of Lies by Josh Gotten

Hootenanny Editor

When Mark Olson left the Jayhawks a couple years ago, it was naturally assumed that the band was finished. Its strength was essentially Olson and Gary Louris, probably one of the finest songwriting duos in the last ten years. Their mix of country, folk and rock, highlighted by harmonizing vocals, made the Jayhawks one of the finest groups around. After finally releasing a single that got some airplay (“Blue”), it looked as though they were on the verge of something big, until Olson left.

After a period of reflection, the remaining members chose to try again and it looks like their destiny may still be realized. Louris is now the lead singer, with keyboardist Karen Groberg and drummer Tim O’Reagan providing backing vocals.

The sound has been revamped a bit, with straightforward rock in “Big Star” and “Think About It,” and a touch of weirdness with “Poor Little Fish.” The classic elements remain, though, with the haunting “The Man Who Loved Life” and the title track. For the most part, the band rides the mellow rock groove that’s somewhere between Grant Lee Buffalo and Counting Crows, and do it well.

Quite simply, the Jayhawks still are among the elite of their genre, although they are a bit less dynamic with the absence of Olson.

The band’s sound has also changed in their approach to dynamics, with a number of songs that ride mellow, easy-going verses and erupt with glorious, rauous choruses in “Trouble” and “Haywire.”

Although some of the magic may be gone, Olson’s departure did not leave a great void. The rest of the Jayhawks have bucked up and diversified to put out a solid release that stands shoulder to shoulder with their previous efforts.

Premiere of Smilla’s Sense of Snow to benefit the Log Cabin

The Fick’s will hold a sneak preview of Smilla’s Sense of Snow, a contemporary thriller based on the best-selling novel by Peter Hoeg, at 7 p.m. tonight, as a benefit for the Log Cabin Literary Center.

The film stars Julia Ormond as scientist Smilla Jaspersen, an expert on glaciologists and the family friend of a young boy who dies mysteriously. Although the police insist the death was an accident, Smilla travels from Copenhagen to the ice fields of Greenland and the North Atlantic to discover the truth.

Directed by Billie August (My Life as a Dog), the film also stars Gabriel Byrne, Richard Harris, Vanessa Redgrave and Jim Broadbent. Rated R.

Admission is $15 non-members, $10 Log Cabin Members. Tickets are available in advance at the Log Cabin Literary Center, 801 S. Capitol Blvd. For information, call 331-8000.
The Boise State football team wasn't just another practice last Friday night; it was a chance for Head Coach Houston Nutt to say what he expects from the Broncos during the upcoming football season. The group of devoted fans who showed up at Bronco Stadium to watch the annual blue-orange scrimmage enjoyed the game and cheered the Broncos.

"We've improved a lot since the first scrimmage and that's key," said Nutt. "They (the team) showed a lot of enthusiasm and I think that's important."

Nutt was right. Enthusiasm was abound on the field and the players seemed to have a new sparkle in their step. Why not? With a new coach and new players, it was apparent a new era is on the brink.

Two players stood out at the scrimmage and will be key names to look for in the upcoming season: first-team freshman quarterback Nate Sparks and sophomore running back Nicko Tatum.

"Nate has a strong arm but has to learn where to go with it," said Nutt. "Nicko is a good tailback and has done an excellent job."

Other Broncos to watch for (to name a few) in the fall: Reggie Ethridge (Sr./RB); Brian Steger (Sr./LB); Chad Heingartner (Sr./LB); Jim Brekke (Jr./TE); Tony Mamaril (Jr./WR); Todd Belcastro (Jr./PK); Ryon Stearns (Jr./LB); Ross Farris (So./LB); Bryan Johnson (So./LB); Nate Colhe (So./TE); Zeke Johnson (Fr./WR); Aristotle Thompson (Fr./LB); and Shaunard Harts (Fr./WR).

"We'll set some goals and carry them on to two-a-days and we'll be much better," Nutt said.

The Boise State women's tennis team, ranked 51st nationally, was crowned Big West Conference Champion this past Sunday in Ojai, Calif.

Going in as the number one seed, BSU defeated defending champions UC-Santa Barbara 5-0 in the quarterfinals of the league tournament. On Saturday they continued their winning spree by defeating Nevada, 7-1, in the semifinals. Sunday was the big day: a faceoff for the Big West crown against sixth-seeded University of Idaho. BSU beat Idaho 3-0.

BSU Head Coach Jim Moortgat was named the 1997 Big West Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. BSU's number-one player, junior Gayleen McManus, was selected the league's Player of the Year.

The win is the third straight league championship for the Broncos women's tennis team. The Broncos won the 1995 and 1996 Big Sky Women's Tennis Championships before joining the Big West this season.

-- Amy Butler

3 Broncos post NCAA provisional marks

Boise State tracksters Niamh Beirne, Cormac Smith, Josh Danielson and Casey Fischer traveled to Walnut, Calif., on April 18 to compete in the Mt. Sac Relays. Three of the competitors posted NCAA provisional marks.

Beirne broke her own school record by placing fourth in the invitational 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:33.98. Smith placed 15th in the mile and sixth in the 3,000-meter run, finishing at 9:39.71 and 10:34.62, respectively. Danielson, who placed fifth in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:31.98, also posted a personal最好.
The Arbiter seeks an Art Director for the 1997-98 academic year.

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The deadline for listings is 5 p.m. Wednesday, one week before desired publication date. Be sure to include the event's time, date and location, as well as a phone number to contact for more information, before faxing or delivering listings. Listings are free to BSU student organizations. Events venues should call 345-8204 to find out how to get their listings in the Calendar every week.

Wednesday, April 30

**ROSARY** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 11:50 a.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**WEDNESDAY MASS** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, noon, 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**COMMUNICATION SERVICE** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 12:10 p.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**SIGN LANGUAGE SILENT LUNCH** sponsored by BSU Student Special Services, noon to 1:30 p.m., SUB Johnson Room. Bring your own lunch!

**LECTURE/SLIDE PROGRAM** "ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOUTHERN IDAHO" sponsored by the Anthropology Club and Anthropology Department as part of Idaho Archaeology Week, 5 p.m., SUB Hatch C Ballroom, free.

**SPB FAMILY ACTIVITIES** COMMITTEE MEETING, 3:30 p.m., SUB Senate Forum Room, for information call Sonia at 385-3655.

**SPB SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING,** 3:30 p.m., SUB Foote Room.

**SPB CONCERTS COMMITTEE MEETING,** plan the BSU Unplugged Series and concerts for students, 5 to 6 p.m., SPB Offices in the SUB.

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**BEDTIME STORIES** at Borders Books-Music-Cafe, features The Boy Who Ate Words by Thierry Dedieu, 7 p.m. in the Children's Amphitheater, 1123 N. Milwaukee St., 322-6668.


**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 7 p.m., 1915 University Drive, 343-2128.

**Thursday, May 1**

**ROSARY** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 11:50 a.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**COMMUNICATION SERVICE** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 12:10 p.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**ARCHAEOLOGY LABORATORY OPEN HOUSE**, sponsored by the Anthropology Club and Anthropology Department as part of Idaho Archaeology Week, 1 to 5 p.m., Hemingway Western Studies Center, free.

**FRENCH GUITARIST ELISABETH BLIN** at Grey Jewel Gallery on Idaho Street, 6 to 9 p.m., 344-5823.

**Friday, May 2**

"THE INDIVIDUAL VS. THE GROUP" presentation, sponsored by 008, a small group communication project, 10:30 a.m., Hatch Ballroom, free.

**FRENCH GUITARIST ELISABETH BLIN** at the Trolleyhouse on Warm springs Avenue, 7 to 9 p.m, 344-5823.

**FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE** at BSU Stake Center, corner of Boise Avenue and Juinila.

**Saturday, May 3**

**FRENCH GUITARIST ELISABETH BLIN** at Borders Books-Music-Cafe, 7 to 9 p.m., 1123 N. Milwaukee St., 322-6668.

**ADAN** at Flying M Espresso & Coffee House, 8 to 10:30 p.m., Fifth and Idaho streets.

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**Sunday, May 4**

**LDS CHURCH SERVICES** at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the LDS Institute, 1939 University Drive, or BSU Stake Center, 2150 Boise Ave.

**NATIVE AMERICAN AA MEETING,** 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1005 S. Michigan St. (Little Red House behind the Women's Center/The Arbiter), call Wesley Edmo at 286-9696.

**SUNDAY MASS** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 7 p.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

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**Monday, May 5**

**ROSARY** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 11:50 a.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**COMMUNICATION SERVICE** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 12:10 p.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING** features speakers on topics of importance to adult students, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., SUB Johnson Dining Room, 385-1583.

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**Tuesday, May 6**

**ROSARY** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 11:50 a.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**COMMUNICATION SERVICE** at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, 12:10 p.m., 1915 University Drive (across from the Administration Building), 343-2128.

**BSU VOLUNTEER SERVICES BOARD MEETING,** get involved with a service-learning organization that coordinates students with local and regional volunteer projects through agencies and individuals, 3:30 to 5 p.m., SUB Chief Joseph Room, 385-4240.

**STUDENT PROGRAMS BOARD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING,** hear upcoming event plans for students, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., SUB Senate Forum, 385-3874.

**BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRIES JAM SESSION,** offers Bible study, praise and worship, 7 p.m., SUB Fams worth Room.

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