

2-25-1998

Arbiter, February 25

Students of Boise State University

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The Arbitrator

FEBRUARY 11/25 FREE

WAR! & BSU

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COVER DESIGN BY JOHN TONE/RONNY JOE GROOMS

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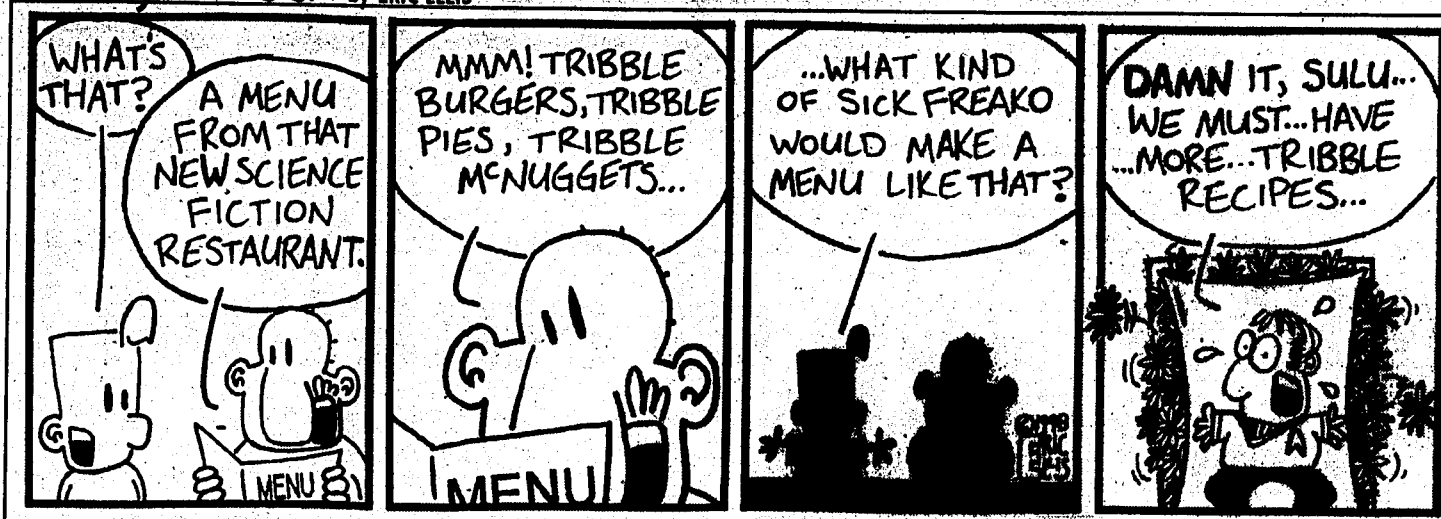
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Fishbowl

by ERIC ELLIS



The **arbiter** is the official student newspaper of Boise State University. Its mission is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues impacting the community. The arbiter's budget consists of fees paid by students and advertising sales. The paper is distributed to the campus on Wednesdays during the school year. The first copy is free. Additional copies cost \$1 each payable to the arbiter offices.

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TOP 10

Top Ten reasons not to go to war with Iraq

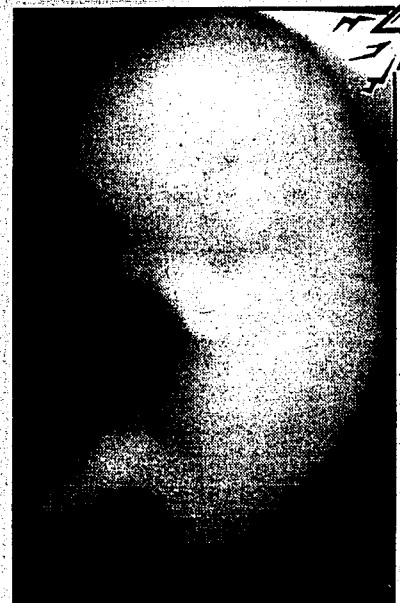
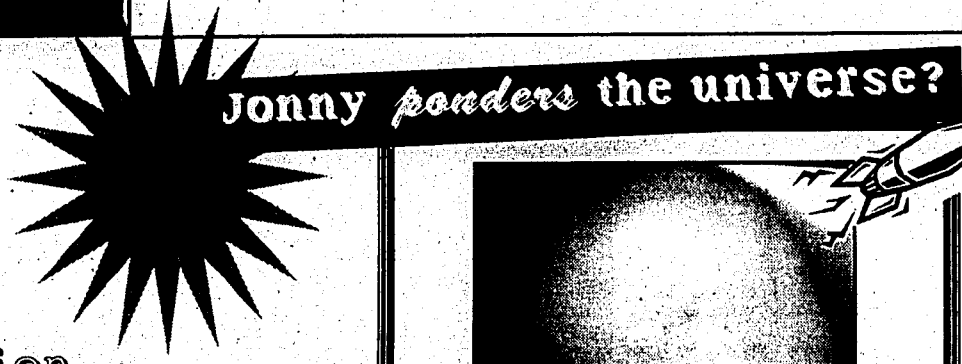
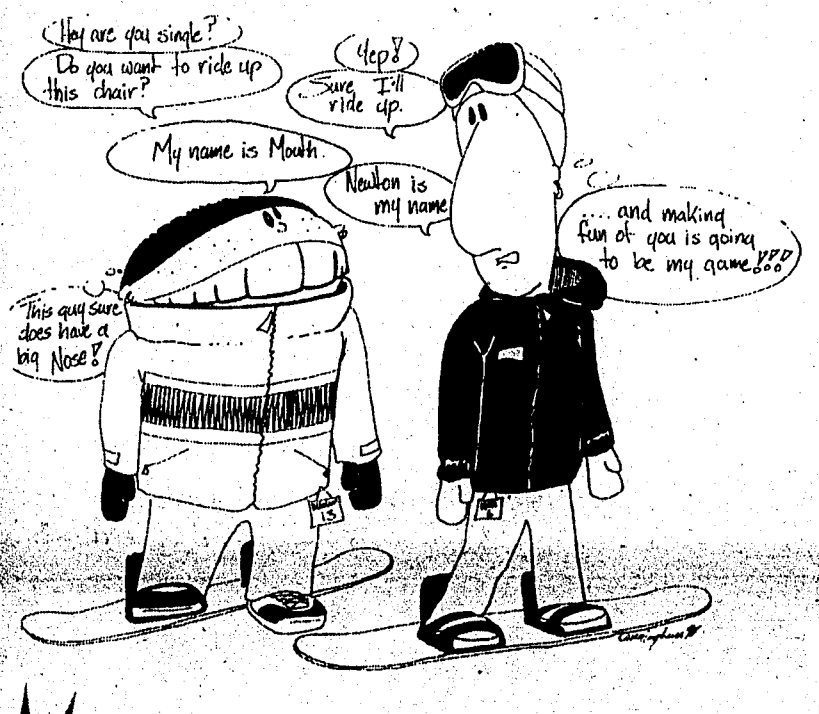
By ASENCION RAMIREZ
OPINION EDITOR

10. It's unlucky to go to war in even-numbered years.
9. Remember the Alamo?
8. Our resources are better spent preparing for a war against the Martians.
7. There are not enough targets for our smart weapons to blow up.
6. Colin Powell has retired.
5. It would only hurt ratings for the upcoming NCAA basketball tournament.
4. El Niño thinks it's a bad idea.
3. The Iraqis don't want Winnie the Pooh back.
2. The pay-per-view sales have been slow.
1. Sequels are never as good as the originals.

The **arbiter** welcomes Jeremy Lanningham and his comic **Chair 6**, featuring tales of knuckle dragging, ride'n adventures illustrated by two characters with local color.

Chair 6

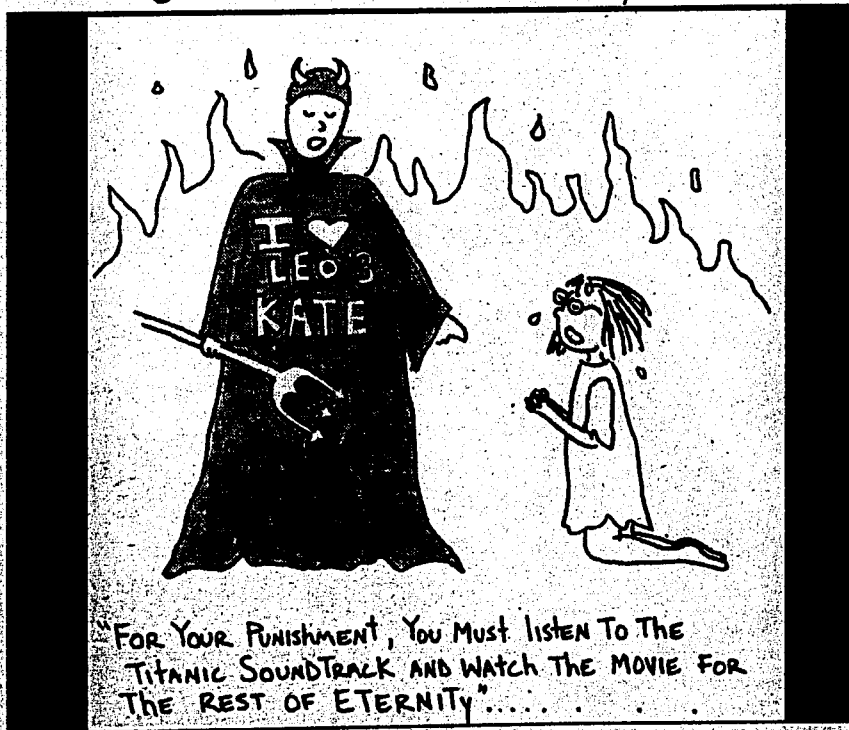
by JEREMY LANNINGHAM



Many times, grasping the Universe's boggling vastness is complicated by its dual microscopic and finite existence. Is your universe one of expansiveness or the miniscule?

Higher Education

by LISA GOETZMAN



The source for NEWS at BSU

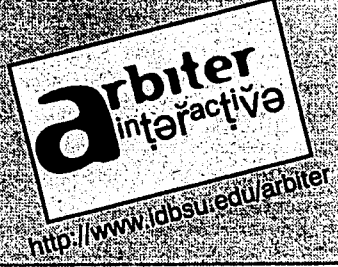
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! OPINION !!
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The lighter side of abortion

by DAMON HUNZEKER
COLUMNIST

As a 26-year-old unmarried man with no kids, I don't spend a lot of time thinking about getting old. In fact, since high school, I've pretty much felt the same physically—until now. Things are beginning to change. First of all, either I'm going bald or my bathroom floor is growing hair.

I think the former possibility seems more likely. However, for some reason, I have no problem accumulating unwanted hair on other parts of my body, such as my back and—as I noticed yesterday morning during a moment of terror—in my nose. Trust me, it's disturbing to discover nostril hair. There's not much you can do with it. I applied some hair spray and blow-dried it, but nobody even noticed the effort I put into improving my appearance.

Also, my stomach is misbehaving. A few years ago, when I began losing sight of my feet in the shower, I simply abstained from hamburgers for a few days and my waist contracted back to a manageable size. But nowadays, regardless of how carefully I adjust my con-

sumption of Jumbo Jacks, my gut stubbornly resists shrinking. It seems to defiantly announce, "I, Damon's stomach, shall cling to four inches of a pudding-like texture."

Despite these disillusioning physical impairments, I still feel young. But a few days ago, in one of life's rare, defining moments, I was forced to confront the unforgiving brutality of time. A kid who couldn't have been older than 10 looked at me and shouted "Old people suck!" Initially, it was endearing, kind of like the first time someone addresses you as "sir." So I laughed pleasantly and said, "I'm probably not much older than you. I'm 16." Presumably, I thought, he would absorb the ironic subtext beneath my comment and laugh with me, maybe even decide I'm one of the 'cool' older people. Instead, he clenched his teeth like a wounded pitbull and emitted a litany of obscenities I'd never even heard of when I was 10. It sounded something like this (I'll clean it up for the sensitive readers): "Horsecrap! You're not 16—you're freakin' old! You're gonna' be bald and fat! You'll be using friggin' Rogaine for the rest of your life, frickhead!"

So I stuffed him in a garbage can and threw it off a bridge.

Actually, I was stunned and a little hurt. Consequently, I hid under the bed for three days affixing nose hairs to my head. After I regained my composure, however, I

began to reflect upon the delicate innocence of childhood. What happened to it? And why do we reflexively protect children? On TV, they're portrayed as cute little comedians. Politicians proclaim every noble government program is "for the children." Lighters are now equipped with child-proof features. (I think Bic should develop flame-retardant kids, instead.)

Anyway, I've discovered the solution—more abortion. But I'm not advocating the standard abortions. Currently, the argument is centered on a limited premise: does life begin at conception or at birth? I disagree with both premises. I think life begins at 18. I mean, a fetus hasn't even done anything to piss you off yet. Wait until it wrecks your car and your insurance rates increase. Then you have a reason to abort. Or, for instance, if a fetus reaches the age of, oh, let's say 10, and it says you're bald and fat, I say begin the abortion proceedings.

Of course, perhaps the parents wouldn't want to abort their 10-year-old fetus. But people are having kids at a young age these days, so, if we're lucky, the parents of these adolescent heathens will also be younger than 18. If so, we should enact a federal agency to abort them, too.

I realize my plans will probably never work, but we all need to dream. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to fill my tub with Rogaine and enjoy a nice bath.

Clinton on Iraq- how close is war?

by ALLISON WORNELL
COLUMNIST

Why doesn't the general public know exactly why our nation is considering war with Iraq? What does the US stand to gain by bombing Iraq? Why is Saddam Hussein such a threat to the US.?

These are a few questions that linger in my mind when the word "Iraq" is spoken. I don't know exactly what we will accomplish by "blowing them off the map."

To my understanding, we don't know where these deadly substances such as "growth media," used to cultivate biological spores, are being kept. That is the reason we need the inspections. What if we do find out where the substances are being kept: are we going to bomb that one sight? What if Saddam won't let the U.N. in to look around? Clinton threatens to attack if Saddam doesn't divulge the information about the whereabouts of the substances.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is headed to Baghdad for what may signify the last try at a diplomatic solution. What are the possibilities Saddam will let the U.N. look wherever they want? Since he has been so stubborn in the past, I don't think the possibility appears high. And what if Saddam says no? Are we going to tell him that was his last chance and now we're going to bomb his country to smithereens? Is the visit by Annan the last straw? And how many more times is Clinton going to warn Saddam?

According to The Idaho Statesman, Clinton tried to answer some of these questions in his address Monday night:

"If Saddam rejects peace and we have to use force, our purpose is clear. We want to seriously diminish the threat posed by Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program. We want to seriously reduce his capacity to threaten his neighbors."

makes good on his own promise.

With the total number of US. troops in the Gulf at more than 25,000, it seems Clinton is serious about his threats. Hopefully things will be resolved peacefully. If not, let's at least get rid of Saddam Hussein forever.



Saddam Hussein could end this crisis tomorrow simply by letting the weapons inspectors complete their mission. He made a solemn commitment to the international community to do that and give up his weapons of mass destruction. One way or the other we are determined to see that he

Oscars, shmoskars: the really good movies get ignored

by ASENCION RAMIREZ
OPINION EDITOR

I was listening to the radio the other day and heard some woman bragging that she had seen *Titanic* ten times and was preparing to view it again. All I could think about was a large, icy Coke and all the water in the last few scenes. The one, and only, time I watched the movie, I ordered a small Sprite and still had trouble concentrating for its last three hours. Honestly though, why would anyone want to spend an entire day (30 hours for someone who has seen the movie 10 times), sixty-five plus dollars (can't forget popcorn, soda, hot dogs, and nachos), and risk exposure to countless theater seat cooties?

Also, I have to say I wasn't all that impressed with the James Cameron's "epic drama." I believe the majority of the praise lauded on Cameron is simply because he made the damn thing work. He took forever to complete pro-

duction, spent too much money and nearly drowned his cast, but, somehow, managed to make bajillions of dollars out of the entire affair. The movie-going audience is simply dumping more and more rewards on Cameron in the friendly, accepted, capitalistic manner. Why else would so many people turn out, over and over again, to see a movie where the boat sinks and the good guy dies?

Anyway, the meat of the matter is that good movies get constantly overlooked by the rotten Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences because the general public seems content to jump on bandwagons. It seems so easy to fall in with what pop and entertainment magazines proclaim worth watching, that the unadventurous never expose themselves to quality films. Besides, the Academy uses pathetic pigeonholes to categorize awards. What is best supporting actor anyway? It's like the "Dean Martin" award for playing an excellent straight man to the Jerry Lewises of the world.

For instance, there ought to be an Oscar for the best gunfight in an action movie. There are a few standouts

from the last few years that come to mind, never recognized by the narrow-minded academy. Kurt Russell in *Tombstone*, Bruce Willis in *Last Man Standing*, Antonio Banderas in *Desperado* and John Cusack in *Grosse Pointe Blank* have all gone unrecognized for their ability to handle a Smith and Wesson.

The Academy should also recognize people for their ability to deliver snappy one-liners. Of course Ahnuld would be a regular nominee; heck it's easy when all your dialogues are composed of one-liners. Standout Bruce Campbell, for his work in *Army of Darkness*, should have several Oscars on the mantle of his home.

People should have more fun with their movie viewing and not worry about pretentious little factors such as best cinematography or musical score. It's a shame when the elites can dictate what is deserving of our time. It's shame when good people don't get recognized for being the best at what they do. Wouldn't it have been beautiful to see Jesse Ventura walk off the stage holding an Oscar high for his delivery of one-liners in *Predator*?

Road rage is a symptom, not an illness

by BRANDON NOLTA
COLUMNIST

Do you have a Triple A card moldering in your wallet? Ever wanted to know where your fees go? Decided that paying that yearly pittance isn't worth the effort of writing the check? Well, worry no longer; have I got news for you.

Having nothing better to do this month, the Triple A Association has officially taken a stand against one of the more daunting issues of the age: road rage. That's right, it's now officially a "Bad Thing." To counteract this heinous plague, a series of public announcements has been released to the airwaves, chock-full of fascinating tips and suggestions. Among these are: take more time to get where you're going; listen to soothing music; refrain from obscene gestures, and take those darn handguns out of your car.

These all sound like good advice, but they don't really address the basic issues behind road rage. In the vast majority of cases, especially the extreme ones that led to injury or death, I would bet that nearly all can be traced to the same root issue: human stupidity. We've all seen them, old people who drive like they expect the Grim Reaper to meet them at their destination, the jerk who crosses lanes like he's trying out for the long-awaited sequel to "Top Gun" and those idiots who think the left lane is theirs alone. Running into these worthless clods poses a daily hazard.

Does the Triple A make a stand against these idiots? No; they counsel patience, forgiveness and deep breathing to resolve these ills. That's just dandy as far as it goes, but it deals with the symptoms, not the cause. Don't tell me to stay calm. Mother Theresa herself would flip some of these bastards off if she had to drive around here. Granted, urban areas have it worse. Motor around the metropolitan Seattle area sometime, and you'll reach the same conclusion I did: getting a driver's license in Washington requires a certificate signed by your doctor giving proof of a pre-frontal lobotomy. Still, the problem is getting worse, not better.

If road rage has become a serious enough issue to bring up in the popular media, it's well on its way to becoming serious enough for the government to start issuing legislation. This will probably compound the situation until it approaches intolerance; that's just the nature of government. So, before this gets out of hand, I'd like to offer a simple suggestion that may help with the problem. That suggestion can be summed up in three words: stop outlawing stupidity.

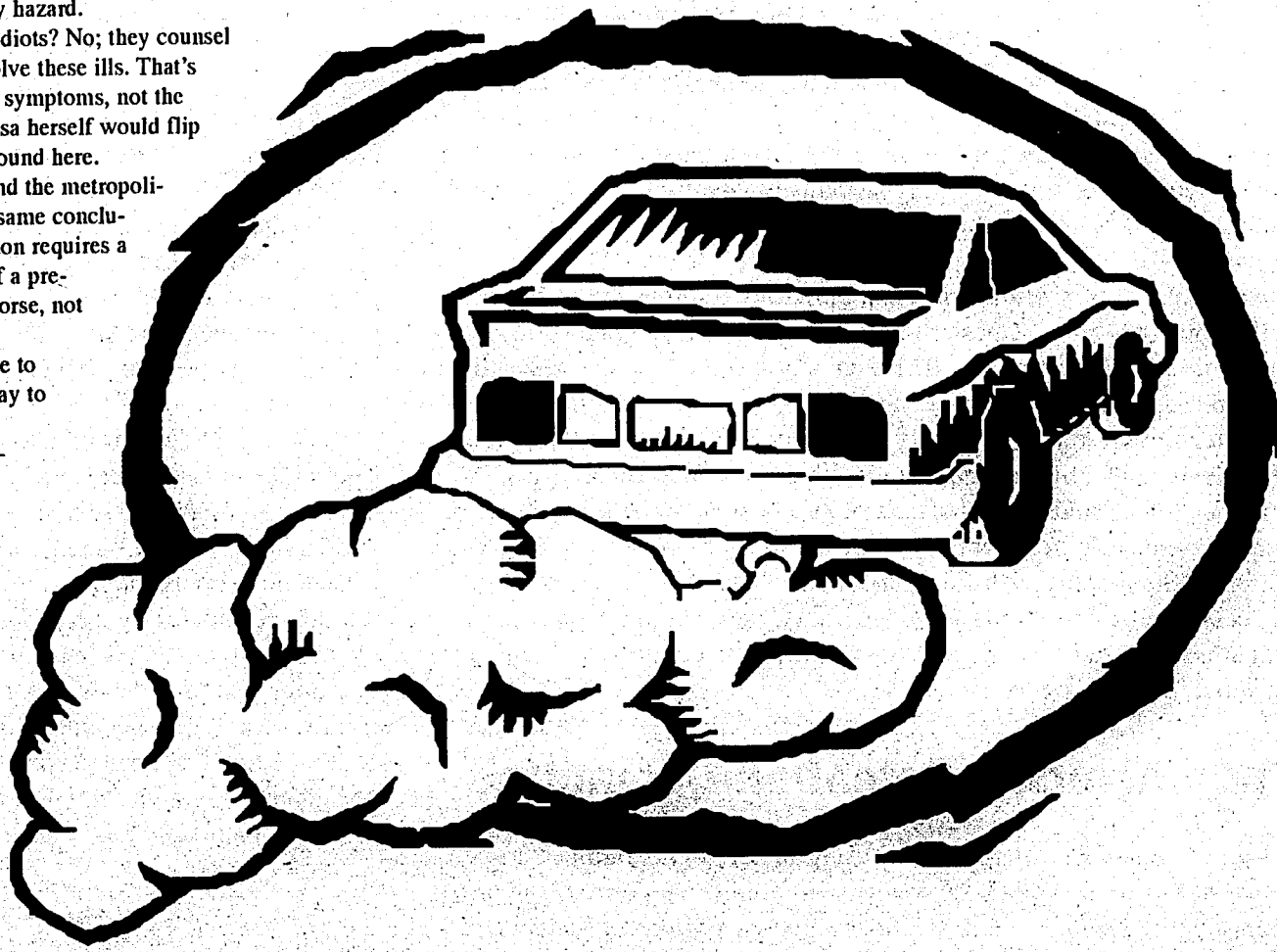
Rescind seat belt laws. Do away with helmet laws. Legalize marijuana; in fact, allow it to be sold on the corner by Jim Bob and his cousin Billy Ray. Stop picking on the tobacco industry and let them continue unfettered. Lower the drinking age to 16 or so. Oh, and one more thing: refuse medical treatment to those people who are injured by their own stupid actions. Let me illustrate precisely what I mean with an example: a drunk driver runs a stop light. He hits another man crossing the intersection legal-

ly, broadside. Both men are severely injured. Both go to the hospital, right? Wrong; let the drunk drown in his own blood. Take the other guy to the hospital and get him fixed up.

Seems extreme, doesn't it? Maybe it is. I would like to think we wouldn't have to go that far. Still, if we want to reduce problems like road rage, we have to start penalizing the stupid people. Sure, we all do stupid things at times. I'm no exception, and regardless of who's reading this, neither are you. Doesn't matter: if you habitually do stupid things, you should be shown the error of your ways.

Before the Triple A works itself into a righteous snit trying to resolve the burning question of frustration on the highway, it should consider this view. Behaviors such as driving slowly in the fast lane are, theoretically at least, a ticketing offense. Let's see more of that. Instead of PSAs saying, "Be calm. Be friendly," let's see one that says, "Get your slow ass out of the way before somebody ventilates your brain. If you're too stupid to get out of the way, you're too stupid to drive." Hell, here's something radical—teach people courtesy and common sense when they take their driving tests. Make it part of the tests. It may take a while, but the benefits will roll in.

Life is short enough without having your time wasted by the actions of the clueless. Tell the Triple A to do something about that.





Dear "Negative Nancy",

I would like to respond to your February 11 column on Spirit Day at Boise State. I hope this will brighten your day.

First, some clarification on our retention rates: the one-year retention rate was 59% for full-time freshmen entering in Fall 1996. What that rate indicates is that 59% of those students were still enrolled as of Fall 1997, which of course means that 41% were no longer enrolled. For your interest, the most common reason given by students who drop out of Boise State (as shown by research studies conducted by Marcia Belcheir, Coordinator of Institutional Assessment) is conflict between demands of a job and college (47%).

The main direct objective of our fairly extensive recent retention efforts is not to maintain or increase enrollments (although we are interested in that since it affects our budget). The main objective of our retention efforts is to assist students in attaining their own educational objectives, as is reflected in recent statements disseminated by the University Retention Committee, which I chair. I am appending those statements to this message; I would be delighted to see them published by *The Arbiter*.

Secondly, BSU Spirit Day was not conceived in a "BSU Front Office," by which I assume you mean that it is the idea of the central administration. BSU Spirit Day was conceived by Diane Applegate, the administrative secretary in the office of our Academic Support and Student Orientation Programs. Diane was not thinking about how to increase sales at the BSU Bookstore. She proposed BSU Spirit Day when she became aware that research shows that a sense of community and identification with the university are the main factors in student success and retention.

Diane worked for me for two years in the office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, dealing mostly with student issues, and I can tell you that I know of no person at the university more willing to go out of her way to help students and provide them with excellent services. I suggest that if you want to get a real sense of what we're trying to do in relation to retention, you should stop by her area and meet Diane and Janey Barnes, Director of Academic Support and Student Orientation Programs. I also would be glad to meet with you any time to answer any questions you have about retention.

ALAN BRINTON
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
ABRINTON@BSU.IDBSU.EDU

2 letters. . . .



Dear "Nancy":

Though you are very facile with words, you need to work on your use of data. Your statement that 59% of freshmen didn't return in the spring is way off the mark. Over the past five years, we have found that 80% of new fall freshmen return in the spring (while 20% don't). One year later, about 55% are still here (and 45% are gone). While these numbers aren't great, they are far better than the number you quoted. They are also numbers that have remained quite consistent and well-known over the past five years.

MARCIA BELCHEIR
COORDINATOR, INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT

Student Retention at Boise State University

Boise State University is committed to providing high quality academic and technical programs which are accessible to students, and to providing an environment and services which facilitate the successful and timely completion of these programs by students. Student retention in the primary sense refers to persistence of students through to the attainment of their own educational goals. An essential aspect of addressing the issue of retention and of measuring the effectiveness of retention efforts is helping students to identify their educational goals and plan wisely for their attainment.

In a secondary sense, student retention means continuation of students at the university from semester to semester until timely graduation from a degree or certificate program. This end is best served, on the whole, by an emphasis on students' own educational goals. Therefore, the university's retention efforts focus mainly on factors which promote the success of students in identifying and attaining their own educational goals. Continuation of students at the university is a significant determinant of total enrollment figures, which in turn significantly impact funding. Thus, all university employees have a stake in the success of retention efforts. Successful retention efforts serve the primary mission of the university, which is to educate students, and they also positively impact funding for its activities and programs.

The University Retention Committee

The University Retention Committee is an advisory committee composed of faculty and other representatives of university offices and programs whose operations and activities significantly impact student retention. The work of the committee is a cooperative effort between academic

affairs and student affairs, each of whose efforts are essential to addressing issues of retention and student success. The committee reports to the Provost and makes recommendations to the Provost, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and others who oversee retention activities. The committee has a significant role in developing retention strategies, evaluating ongoing retention efforts, and proposing and evaluating proposals for new retention initiatives. Retention Committee members also inform the Provost and others about the impacts or likely impacts of retention efforts on their own offices or programs, and about likely impacts of activities of their own offices or programs on retention or on retention initiatives. Committee members also play an important role as advocates for retention efforts and in informing their constituents about retention issues and initiatives. Retention Committee meetings provide a forum for discussion of retention issues and problems.

December 1997 major initiatives originating in the University Retention Committee in recent years include First Year Experience Seminars and Clusters, an Academic Advising Task Force (and, subsequently, the Academic Advising Council), and creation of the position of Director of Academic Support and Student Orientation Programs. Examples of issues recently considered by the committee in its discussions include the effectiveness of midterm grade reports as a retention strategy, the implications of elimination of an advisor signature requirement for registration, the significance of new general associate degree programs in relation to retention, university core course attrition rates, the significance of local and national research findings on student retention, and the role of faculty and of alternative teaching strategies in student retention.

Student Computer Purchases task force needs comment from faculty, staff and students

by KELLY HILLINGTON-TEAL
NEWS EDITOR

The ASBSU and BSU Faculty Senate recently concluded their Task Force on Student Computer Purchases and have published an interim report. The document states that members followed through with BSU President Charles Ruch's charge that the Provost, ASBSU President and Faculty Senate President recommend whether BSU should require students to purchase laptop computers beginning in the year 2000.

The task force asked two questions: 1) Is it desirable to require students to purchase laptops? and 2) Is this requirement feasible for both students and Boise State?

The committee looked into three major areas of both questions, considering the pros and cons of each. These include infrastructure, student issues and costs, and faculty issues.

For the first question, the task force found that an infrastructure advantage to students buying their own computers is that it would increase university support of the committee. The survey also found that a common problem of students is inadequate support on the matter of infrastructure, the task force could find no downside.

Next, under "Student issues and costs," members liked the idea of 24-hour/seven day access to educational computing resources. They said the requirement "promotes minimal technical competence for all graduate students and adds value to Boise State degrees."

That report also says laptops would increase student communication with faculty and staff and could lead to an increased sense of belonging at the university. It also states that the requirement could boost the potential for enhanced classroom instruction.

The number of cons in this case equaled the pros. The task force pointed out that there could be "unmet student expectations if computer use is not sufficiently utilized by the university." It also thought duplicate costs might turn up for students who already own a personal computer.

Members then focused on part-time, transfer and

low-income students, stating that the requirement would impose hardships on them and may discourage enrollment at Boise State. In addition, the report says, if employer needs vary so much by department and college, that students will be discouraged from changing majors or from taking courses outside their major department/college.

Next, the committee looked at faculty issues. On the positive side, laptops would mean "another teaching tool and access to worldwide educational resources." They would also increase a professor's ability to respond to changing technology requirements and needs within their discipline.

The task force determined that increased communication with students could lead to higher retention rates and the establishment of a common technology base.

On the other hand, laptops could lack applicability in selected courses. Also, the committee saw a possible lack of perceived value in the institution as noted by lack of recognition in current promotion and tenure documents. Annual evaluations are

Members stated that some faculty find little value for computers in the teaching/learning process. Finally, the task force noted that a common technology base may not prove sufficient for all disciplines, and officials had determined on the merit of a common technology base.

Next, the committee addressed the question of the feasibility of a requirement for students to purchase laptops in the year 2000.

"PROS: none," the report states. It found that start-up costs, including hubs, network upgrades and ports and outlets in classrooms and other buildings, would initially cost about \$9.4 million. That money would require a significant reallocation of resources throughout the university.

Members also cited ongoing costs, such as staffing and training, of at least \$5.8 million annually. They said these resources would also demand redistribution of monies throughout Boise State.

Under "Student issues and costs," the task force stated one plus: that the BSU laptop requirement may increase a student's loan eligibility.

However, they said the high cost of laptops works against most students, and "many" will not qualify for

additional financial aid. The report also speculate that students with personal computers would have to deal with duplicate costs, and the university would have to increase student fees to support additional infrastructure. Members added that a laptop requirement might increase student loan debt.

Finally, when addressing faculty issues, the report found a single positive reason for bringing laptops into the classroom: it may encourage increased faculty utilization of technology.

The remainder of the report indicated negative responses to the proposed requirement. The task force claimed current computers and technical support at the university remain suitable. Members also noted a lack of university consensus on the value of technology to promotion and tenure decisions, pay increases, technology budgets, etc.

They stated there is inadequate faculty training time and resources by the year 2000.

The task force now seeks input from students, faculty and staff. Feel free to fill out the following form and return it to the Task Force on Student Computer Purchases, Office of Information Technology B-116, Boise State University, Boise, ID 83725 by March 1, 1998. Attach additional pages as needed.

____ Faculty _____ Staff _____ Student

Is it desirable to require students to purchase laptops in the year 2000?

____ Yes _____ No

Is it feasible to require students to purchase laptops in the year 2000?

____ Yes _____ No

Other issues recommended for consideration by the task force:

ASBSU President TJ Thomson says he takes a neutral stance on the laptop requirement.

"I will base my vote in committee on the response I receive from students on the survey," he comments.

BSU works with Defense Department to evaluate educational needs of military children

by Carissa Wolf
NEWS WRITER

Boise State University's Institute for Instructional Technology and Performance Improvements works to maintain the educational needs of school-aged dependents of military personnel and other federal employees who live and work overseas. In the process, ITP enhances BSU's international reputation.

As military 'brats' follow their parents from assignment to assignment, some eventually get shipped overseas, to remote military bases with limited educational personnel. Isolation and a small number of instructors forces the Department of Defense Educational Activities (DoDEA) to implement innovative and technological teaching methods within military base schools.

Distance learning via computer and the Internet serves as one alternative for DoDEA when it comes to traditional classroom instruction.

Though distance learning has earned a place as one of the most technologically advanced educational resources, DoDEA still questions its effectiveness. In an attempt to devise an effective strategy for using distance learning, DoDEA looked to BSU's ITP Institute for answers.

Currently, the ITP, in collaboration with Arlington, VA.-based Management Systems Training and Technology Co., conducts research evaluation of the DoDEA distance learning program. The College of Engineering's master of science in instructional and performance technology department administers the ITP Institute.

More than ten years ago, ITP Institutes began as a small program which focused on audio and video edu-

cation research and evaluation. Since then, it has evolved to meet the instructional, communications and performance needs of businesses and corporations through research, training and evaluation.

Through ITP Institute, the College of Engineering has offered a Distance Education option for more than nine years. The organization's experience, says IPT Institute manager, Kelly McCune, provided BSU with the edge when DoDEA sent out bids for the distance learning research.

"We've really been in the business of providing distance education via the computer for as long, or longer than anyone else. . . and I think that's one of the reasons we were hired to do this contract," McCune says.

The institute put together a team of BSU faculty, staff and graduate students to visit DoDEA schools and Area Service Centers in Europe and Asia. In December, continued to next page

PHOTO BY KEASA HOLLISTER

schools in Germany, Bavaria, Italy and Okanawa to evaluate the current use of DoDEA's distance learning systems.

The team found that military schools primarily use distance learning only if traditional instruction is not available. But McCune insists the method provides many resources to students regardless of the availability of orthodox teaching methods. According to McCune, only a small portion of military base students take advantage of distance learning.

"We found that a lot of the emphasis was on using distance learning if no other options were available. Our belief is that distance learning is a valid instructional method regardless if [education] can be offered traditionally," he says.

McCune adds that studies indicate students can gain the same, if not better, educational benefits through distance learning as through traditional public schooling.

"Study after study has shown that it doesn't really

matter what the subject matter is. What matters is who the [distance learning] instructor is and how well the course is designed. You can get the same outcomes from traditional as well as distance learning. So it is an option in its own value," McCune explains.

Given the remoteness of many overseas military schools, students find themselves learning from a small staff and few diverse course offerings. However, through distance learning, they can expand their areas of study and even opt for advanced placement courses, an opportunity not generally open to military students.

Distance learning offers an even more valuable asset to students in the form of a sense of community for students shuffled around different military bases, says McCune.

"[The students] have a loss as far as a sense of community. . . they move quite often. . . sometimes in the middle of the year. . . The distance learning offers them the opportunity to create a sense of community. Because even if they moved they were still in commu-

nication with the same students on line," McCune says.

Because distance learning requires interaction, students can send questions to instructors and peers over the Internet, receiving an almost immediate response. Even as they transfer bases, they maintain the same classmates and instructors. This creation of a virtual international classroom overcomes gaps in space and time, establishing an ongoing learning and social connection.

Opponents of virtual instruction often argue the impersonal interaction between student and computer potentially damages to a young person's development and social maturity. McCune and his colleagues found that theory false. Shy children or those with learning disabilities flourish in a virtual classroom, whereas normally bright and outgoing students tend to remain equally challenged and stimulated online.

"We find that people who are out-

English professor returns to teaching after semester in England

by DOREEN MARTINEK
STAFF WRITER

Sabbaticals do not equal vacations, says Dr. Lonnie Willis of Boise State University's English department. He finds it discouraging when people ask whether he had a good time or enjoyed his trip.

"Sabbaticals are not a time for hard-pressed teachers to relax," says Willis. Instead, he explains, they afford teachers and scholars the opportunity to conduct research, and pursue their academic writing.

Willis spent the fall of 1997 doing all three.

Willis traveled to England late last year to finish a research project on the "Thoreau Centenary," a celebration held in July of 1917 honoring the anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's birth.

Scholars met to deliver speeches, read their own works, and offer reports on Thoreau's work. The "Thoreau Centenary" also led to the publishing of many new essay collections honoring the American author.

"There was an explosion of new interest in his works in Britain, much more than in the United States at the time," Willis comments. "This was a period when the Labor Party was very strong in Britain."

He explains that the British working class was intrigued by Thoreau's back-to-nature undertakings, which spoke of a simpler life. Then World War I took place and, afterward, Thoreau's reputation lagged due to changed lifestyles.

While in England, Willis finished a lengthy manuscript about the events of the Thoreau Centenary and submitted it to the American Transcendental Quarterly for

publication.

This was not his only project while on sabbatical, however. Willis conducted research at the British Library for several journal articles and also finished a novel he started writing about two years ago.

This story takes place in Boise, Idaho. Willis labels it a crime novel with a "private eye as the protagonist. A 'punker,' his sister, an evangelical preacher, and a group of white supremacists make up the rest of the cast," he reveals.

His book was finished, but Willis says he did not know how to go about publishing it, "so I talked to Mitch Wieland." A published author, Wieland also teaches fiction writing at BSU. With his colleague's help, Willis now has the first few chapters ready to send to agents for advice on how to proceed.

Willis' sabbatical, however, was not all work and no play. He did find time to enjoy some theatre, travel the countryside by train, and tour the former estates of Virginia Wolfe and Winston Churchill. Willis also considers Kew Gardens, a park-like arboretum with extensive flora and fauna, a favorite spot to visit.

One of the highlights of Willis' journey included an excursion to Cambridge. There, he visited the 17th-century author, John Milton, and the 19th-century author, Charles Dickens. Willis also met up with BSU Assistant English Professor Selander, who currently teaches staff at the American Embassy and air bases throughout England. Selander returns to BSU in 1999, after fulfilling a two-year contract to teach in Cambridge.

Willis says he filled Selander in on the latest BSU news.

"Selander," Willis says, "is, as Mark Twain would say, 'an innocent abroad'."



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20

The prospects of another war with Iraq:

Boise State military students face problems, options

BY KELLY MILLINGTON TEAL
NEWS EDITOR

The possibility of another war with Iraq looms heavy on nearly everyone's mind, but perhaps heaviest on those of people in the military as well as their families. Over 100 Boise State University students could be directly affected by a war against Iraq, not only in terms of deployment, but also when it comes to taking care of grades and school records.

BSU Veterans Coordinator R.K. Williams says that, given the current crisis, the only students the government might soon call on for service are those enlisted in the Army National Guard. He also says that, according to numbers in his computer, 141 BSU students stand a chance of serving in another Gulf War.

In 1991, BSU students who fought in Operation Desert Storm had to convince the university that the government had ordered them to war and that they needed a tuition refund. Dr. David Taylor, Vice-President of Student Affairs, says those students received refunds with proof of military orders. They also had to decide between a withdrawal or an incomplete on their transcripts.

If the US goes to war with Iraq and some BSU military students must serve, Taylor says they will receive a full refund, minus a \$25 administrative fee. As for grades, students usually have to ask each professor for cooperation.

Depending how late into the term a war crisis might occur, military students can choose between a withdrawal or an incomplete. If the term is only a few weeks old, Taylor says students should opt to withdraw, as if they had not enrolled that semester.

However, if war breaks out several months in to the term, "to save their grades, they should take incompletes and return later," Taylor recommends.

This depends primarily on a professor's cooperation. Taylor explains that some classes require almost perfect attendance, such as speech or science courses. A professor could assign homework to a student to turn in before deployment,

or they could refuse to negotiate and advise the student to retake the course.

Edgar Tuttle, an elementary education major, dealt with such an instructor several years ago, "a real stickler," he says.

At the time, Tuttle served in the navy. His superiors ordered him to a four-day weekend drill in Seattle but one professor required near-perfect attendance. Tuttle says he offered to show his orders to the instructor, but the man said "he didn't care what the problem was."

Tuttle served his time in Seattle, but still wonders why the professor was so harsh on him. He speculates that he probably held anti-war sentiments and took them out on Tuttle.

Tuttle now serves as a soldier in the Armored Cavalry Unit of the

Army National Guard. He says he wants to clarify that any statements he makes regarding the military's approach to the Iraq crisis represent no more than his own opinion.

"The Air Force would probably be deployed first," Tuttle says. "I think [the government] probably does not want ground troops in there as much as possible...because of nerve and biological agents."

Tuttle speculates that if the US government authorized air raids on Iraq and ground troops were stationed there, it could pose a great danger to soldiers. He theorizes that if a bomb hit a bunker containing biological agents, ground troops would "run the risk of being exposed vicariously."

Due to advanced war technology, though, Tuttle says the need for ground

troops has decreased substantially. The last time the government used a large number of ground troops was during the Vietnam War, he says.

Although he feels uncertain as to whether the government will send Idaho guardsmen to Iraq, Tuttle says that if they do go, they will be ready.

"There's a lot of support with the Idaho



unit," he says. "In the short time I've been there. . . I've seen a level of readiness that's really high, and the confidence level is high."

Tuttle explains that two types of military units from Idaho could go to Iraq. Air Force personnel from Mountain Home would probably make up the first kind. Then, if the US government decided it needed further support, it would probably send the Air National Guard which flies A-10 Thunderbolt airplanes, popularly coined Warthogs.

"We probably wouldn't go as armored until late in the conflict, if at all," Tuttle says.

The likelihood that Tuttle will serve in another Gulf War doesn't appear high, but the thought bothers him more now than it did seven years ago. This time, Tuttle is a husband and a father.

"I have a fear that if I go and some adverse thing happened, I wouldn't be able to come back to my child," he says. "It's . . . knowing that [Saddam] employs weak and shaky strategies. . . It is kind of interesting to think of dying fighting versus dying because someone breathed contaminated air."

Tuttle's devotion to the military has not faltered, but it has turned into what he calls a double-edged sword.

"I got involved with the military so I could feel good about myself and be involved in the protection of the country, to support something I believe in. But I also support my family."

Tuttle adds that, in spite of the risk of death, he would fight in a war against Saddam Hussein, so Hussein "wouldn't adversely affect my child's life."

He again emphasizes that chances remain slim he will go to Iraq, but he has had to ease his wife's mind over the prospect.

"My wife has mixed feelings," he says. "I've communicated to her that the likelihood I'll go again is narrow. . . She doesn't think about it as much as I do now, I think. . . but she obviously doesn't want her daughter not to have a father."

Tuttle also works for a small company and coaches tennis at a local high school. He finds that his service in the military sometimes conflicts with other responsibilities, but has learned "to work it out with all parties

involved." He says his understanding employer recently voiced no objection to Tuttle's request for 10 weeks off next summer so he can attend Officers Candidate School.

For now, though, Tuttle continues with school and the remote possibility that he may be called to the Gulf.

"It's a sick, weird, twisted thing, war. But it's necessary sometimes," he concludes.

However, if war breaks out several months in to the term, "to save their grades, they should take incompletes and return later," Taylor recommends.

Local Pulp

National photographers 'Share the Light' at BSU

by ERICA HILL
ARTS EDITOR

Photographers from around the nation entered nearly 400 professional and amateur photographs in the juried art exhibition currently on display at the Boise State University Student Union Gallery. The jury selected 46 photographs for the exhibit. Winners have been announced, naming three Boise photographers in the top four of the professional category and two in the amateur level. All four of those selected for honorable mentions were from Boise as well.

The best of show in the professional category was "Angel #2" by Sandra Merritt of Boise. Merritt photographed a woman in her early twenties being engulfed in wings attached to her back. She contrasted a gray background with the white of the angel wings to give the illusion of glowing wings. Merritt delicately placed subtle tints of color throughout the black and white photo.



A pale yellow highlights the angel's hair, a flimsy coat of pink lines her lips and a slight tint of peach accents her skin. The photo was one in a series which portrayed the same angel in different positions. The first in the series "Angel #1" was presented next to the winner but did not place in the competition.

Boise professional photographer Camille Thom received third runner up with her abstract photograph "Guardian of the Forest." Thom superimposed an image of a woman with a glowing halo onto a picture of a warped forest. She cut the picture in three sections and displayed each in a jagged manner.

Mark Hardy of Eagle received Best of Show in the amateur category with his photo "Samuel's Dream." Hardy used black and white film in his portrayal of an innocent child sleeping, contrasted against his shadow on the wall. Again, this use of light made the child appear as if illuminated.

Many of the photos displayed in the gallery were of people and the human figure. The photographers played on the beauty of human anatomy more than simple landscapes. The exhibition featured \$850 in prize money and will remain on display through February 26.

Ben Folds Five releases Boise-inspired album

by ERICA HILL
ARTS EDITOR

"It just sounded good," was the reason given by music culture's newest sensation Ben Fold's Five, for the inspiration behind their name. In fact, they derived it from a band member and, according to drummer Darren Jessee, added the five "because it sounds better than Ben Folds Three." This band has released their newest album *Whatever and Ever Amen* after an initial debut in 1995 with their self-titled album. Ben Folds Five hails from Chapel Hill, N.C. where they converted their small house into a recording studio. Both albums were recorded in this house.

This three-man dynamo emerged recently on radio waves around the country with "Brick." The song is actually about front-man Ben Fold's twelfth-grade experience of taking his girlfriend to get an abortion. The song doesn't actually take a stand on the issue but sounds quite sad. Folds says the song "is self explanatory" about the trials he and his girlfriend had to encounter during and after the procedure. Lyrics such as, "As weeks went by/ it showed that she was not fine./ They told me "Son, it's time to tell the truth and/she broke down/ I broke down/because I was tired/of lying" illustrate the pain Folds felt.

The rest of the album is not quite so depressing. "Song for the Dumped" provides a perfect example of this with its warped blues piano tunes and lyrics like, "I wish I hadn't bought you dinner/ right before you dumped me on my front porch./ Give me my money back/ and don't forget to give me my black T-shirt." Folds said their drummer, Darren Jessee, wrote this song after a nasty breakup with his girlfriend. "[He] just got dumped and scratched out some angry lyrics and gave them to me. It was a joke, but was coming from a real place." He described the subject of the song as "a satire on the obtuse male anger of being dumped, but still caring about the girl who dumped you."

Folds described the remaining tracks as "punk rock for sissies." This analogy proves true when looking at the instruments the band uses. Folds plays piano, Robert

Sledge takes the bass and Darren Jessee handles drums. The light punk sound is directly related to the absence of a guitar. But the band's utilization of their three instruments creates a successful sound combination.

All three members of the band sing, but Folds performs lead on most of the 12 songs. He said his influences both lyrically and musically include Cole Porter and The Clash, but his biggest inspiration comes from Boise local band Built to Spill. It seems almost a norm for this band to play a cover of "Twin Falls" from Built to Spill at virtually all their concerts.



Cold Mountain a moving, beautiful novel relevant to today

by KELLY MILLINGTON TEAL
NEWS EDITOR

Don't allow the relatively slow pace of Cold Mountain, a first novel by newcomer Charles Frazier, to fool you. Rarely does such a beautiful, breathtaking book come into print these days.

Based on local history and family stories passed down by Frazier's great-great grandfather, Cold Mountain details the story of two main characters' lives, Inman and Ada. The first chapter begins with Inman's point of view, Ada narrating chapter two, Inman chapter three and so on.

The novel relates the story of a wounded soldier who walks away from the Civil War and sets out for home and his sweetheart, Ada. Inman's journey through the devastated South interweaves with Ada's efforts to revive her father's farm with the help of her friend, Ruby.

"As their long-separated lives begin to converge at the close of the war, Inman and Ada confront the vastly transformed world they've been delivered," states the jacket cover.

The beginning finds Inman in a hospital in the South with a life-threatening neck wound. When he took the wound,

"...his two nearest companions pulled away his clothes and looked at his neck, they had said him a solemn farewell in expectation of his death. We'll meet again in a better world, they said. But he lived as far as the field hospital, and there the doctors had taken a similar attitude. He was classed among the dying and put on a cot to do so. But he failed at it. After two days, space being short, they sent him on to a regular hospital in his own state."

Inman sneaks out of the hospital, an offense the Home Guard considers army desertion. He begins his remarkably long journey home to Cold Mountain, walking. The book focuses largely on Inman's odyssey, as well as the literary idea of a quest and the end which it seeks. Along the way, Inman encounters several characters of note, who contribute to his thinking and life. Characters to keep an eye out for include the Indian ferry girl, the preacher, the goatwoman and Sara.

Frazier's use of dialect and subtle humor helps create a style and voice that compels the reader to keep turning the pages. The dialect never strikes the reader as pretentious, as if Frazier was trying too hard to convey a backwoods person's education or lack thereof. Along those same lines, Frazier does not attempt to inject his characters with attributes inconsistent with their background. Each person in this novel comes across as unique, no one stale or contrived.

Ada serves as a wonderful example of what a first novelist gone wrong could do to a character, but what Frazier did not. Ada is the typical rich girl, this time from Charleston, South Carolina. Most writers stereotype this type of figure into assuming "highfalutin" roles, turning them into static people who refuse to associate with anyone not in their class, or do anything supposedly beneath their social standing.

Frazier avoids this archetype with wonderful

results. To be sure, Ada's father, Monroe, has made certain his daughter received the finest education. He even encourages her to learn and read more than was considered decent for a woman of that time. Ada disdains the shallow people with whom she shares social status, taking pride in her knowledge, and even provoking political and theological arguments at formal parties.

While Ada is still a teenager, Monroe takes a position as minister of a Cold Mountain church, moving his daughter to the mountains with him. Monroe's doctor has diagnosed him with consumption and urged him to live in a slow-paced environment. The move, and

Monroe's inevitable death, marks the beginning of Ada's transformation from a girl who depends on others to a self-reliant woman.

Frazier aptly chronicles Ada's thought processes which, while never immature, evolve into the sensibilities of an intriguing, intelligent woman. When Monroe dies, Ada inherits her father's large farm, which she leaves untended for months because she does not know how or what to plant. Then, just as she considers returning to Charleston, Ada meets a drifter, Ruby, who knows how to work the land. The two strike a

deal: room and board for Ruby in exchange for help running the farm.

This relationship proves central to the book. Once Ada figures out that Ruby refuses to be treated as a servant, the two become friends. Ruby teaches Ada more than farming techniques—she instructs her on how to survive. Ruby shows Ada how to identify plants, animals and directions, skills necessary in their surroundings. But she also affirms herself as Ada's best friend in a harsh, unfamiliar world.

Frazier also uses Ruby as comic relief for Cold Mountain and as a rock for Ada. Ruby's seemingly brusque demands that the two work long hours each day in the field each summer benefit Ada more than she initially realizes.

Perhaps Frazier's greatest literary accomplishment in Cold Mountain, next to the storyline, comes from his use of description:

"He was a fat soft thing, broad-arsed, as if he had been raised on a diet of meal and fat-back. He had titties like a sow that pushed out his shirtfront and flapped when he walked. His pants were tucked into his boots and bloused out above them, and his tiny feet were hardly big enough to bear up his weight. His hair was the next thing to white and his skin was greyish, so that overall he gave the impression of a china plate filled with biscuit and sawmill gravy."

As for the title, Cold Mountain stands for the literal mountain in an unnamed southern state where Inman grew up and the town Ada moved to in her late teens. Symbolically, however, it becomes the joining place for these two souls; it signals the end of Inman's long journey home and the small community where Ada spends her life.

Although published last year by Atlantic Monthly Press, Cold Mountain does not seem to have garnered the intense recognition it so rightly deserves. Several critics have praised Frazier's novel as one of the great accomplishments in American literature.

Inside the jacket cover, reviewer Larry Brown writes, "This is one of the best books I've read in a long time, and I cried when it was over. It's simply a miracle."

His words convey the profound impact Cold Mountain exerts on the reader. Frazier has revealed sage insights into humanity's relationship to the land and the dangers of solitude. He also keenly observes a society undergoing change. Even though Cold Mountain takes place over 100 years ago, it speaks deeply to our time.

Inside the jacket cover, reviewer Larry Brown writes, "This is one of the best books I've read in a long time, and I cried when it was over. It's simply a miracle."

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Pearl Jam returns to form with *Yield*

by JOSH CASTEN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

In the past few years, Pearl Jam has put out two albums that did pretty poorly, relative to their own standards. *Vitalogy* and *No Code* had some bright moments, but suffered from a lack of consistent energy, and the band seemed to be reluctant to really pull out all the stops. Let's hope it was a phase. Their newest album, *Yield*, seems to make that case. Indeed, the band is in fine form, putting together arguably their best album to date. The disc serves as a distillation of their first four albums, a potent blend of rock, anthemic balladry and whimsical tomfoolery.

Pearl Jam makes their case early, with the slash-and-burn guitars of the opening track "Brain of J," and moves quickly to "Faithful," a song very much in the early P.J. mode, complete with a drawn-out, riff-filled jam replete with raging guitars and outrageous drum work.

"No Way," a piece penned by rhythm guitarist Stone Gossard, showcases the band's freedom to roam, featuring a looping verse and chorus, with healthy doses of sicked-out fuzz tone.

"Pilate" and "Do The Evolution" continue the edgy rock groove the band explored on *Vitalogy*. "Do the Evolution," with its jazz-inspired chords and distorted vocals, lays down a fierce edge to accompany its acerbic lyrics, distinguishing it as the best rock track on the album. "I'm ahead, I'm a man/ I'm the first mammal to wear pants, yeah/ I'm at peace with my lust/ I can kill 'cause in God I trust/ It's evolution, baby," croons Eddie Vedder. Later, he continues "I'm a thief, I'm a liar/ There's my church where I sing in the choir."

The band takes these edges to the extreme with the shifting rhythms of " " and the spoken-word stream of consciousness piece "Push Me Pull Me," material that harkens back to *Vitalogy* without turning off the listener.

Pearl Jam takes it slow with the gorgeous "Low Light," played with refreshing subtlety and patience, and the somewhat silly "All Those Yesterdays."

The real strength of this record, though, is the melodic, emotionally charged material that Pearl Jam does so well. "Given To Fly," "MFC" and "In Hiding," in the mold of songs like "Jeremy" and "Dissident," are the kind of songs that the band has shied away from recently, and the wait is well worth it. Even though they may have gone through a period of resentment over it, it seems the band has come to realize it's what they do best.

Throughout, Pearl Jam are at the top of their game musically, keeping strong claim to being one of the best three-guitar bands going. The material is played with a variety of tone, technique and voicing that keeps it interesting, but they succeed most greatly by not roaming too far from a core style, as they did with *No Code*. Vedder also turns in another brilliant vocal performance, ranging from the throat-shredding screams of "Do the Evolution" to the soft harmonies of "Low Light," and all of the emotions inbetween.

Pearl Jam is now getting set for their world tour, among speculation of a new video. Hopefully, their old fans will listen up and catch the power, grace and spirit of *Yield*, quite possibly their best effort yet.

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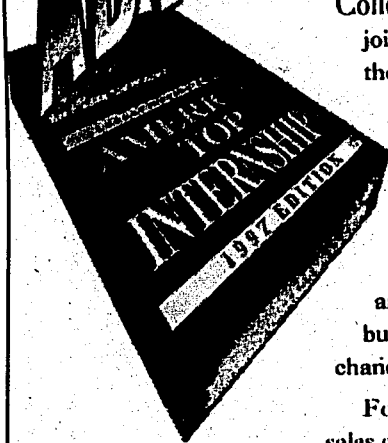
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Aries: (Mar. 21—Apr. 19) Learn to sing "Oh Canada" this week for a future endeavor.

Taurus: (Apr. 20—May 20) Find out the connection between the phrases "sexual scandal," "military action" and "rising polls."

Gemini: (May 21—June 21) Today is Ash Wednesday; be sure to buy a package of cigarettes.

Cancer: (June 22—July 22) Truth is the filling found in Twinkies. Too bad it's in an unusable elemental form.

Leo: (July 23—Aug. 22) A wise galaxy once said, "Building balsa wood steps to the center of happiness will never save you from deleterious lawsuits."

Virgo: (Aug. 23—Sept. 22) Third-party mediators have volunteered to ease tension the U.S. and Iraq. You should visit the Over 19 adult shop to alleviate your tension.

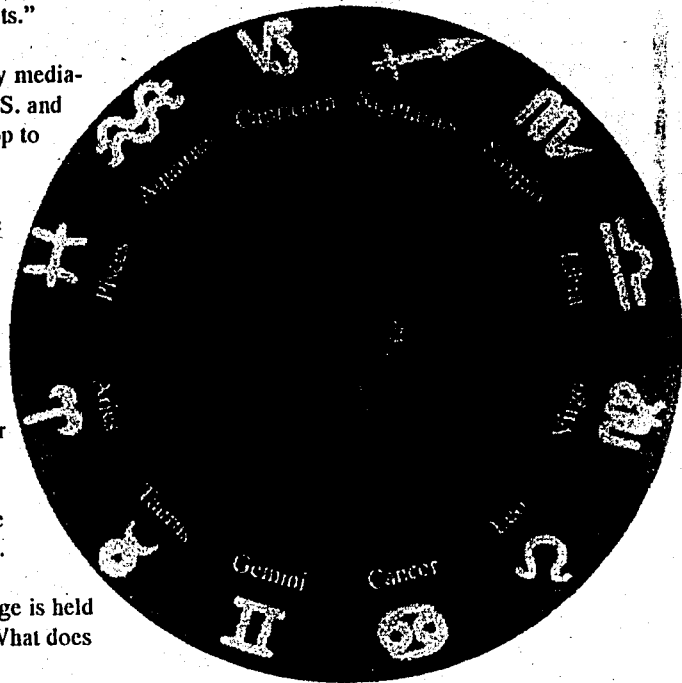
Libra: (Sept. 23—Oct. 23) "Please use other door" is the cosmos' way of saying "You're a pastel elephant breathing honey down the wrong tube!"

Scorpio: (Oct. 24—Nov. 21) Find out the connection between the phrases "sexual scandal," "media frenzy" and "U.F.O. cover up."

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22—Dec. 21) If life gives you lemons, sell them and buy a cola.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22—Jan. 19) Revenge is held in high regard throughout Arabic culture. What does your culture do for you?

Aquarius: (Jan. 20—Feb. 18) There are 309 days left in 1998—party like it's 1999!



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SPORTS

Home is where the Heart is

by TODD ANDERSON
SPORTS WRITER

Just trying to stay afloat and keep their heads out of the water, the BSU men's basketball team headed into two crucial games last week after coming off a horrid road trip. Tied for fourth place in the division and facing elimination from the conference tournament, the Broncos needed to pull out all the stops as they faced the top two teams in the east division.

It's been a case of the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde syndrome this year. All season long they have played well at home, but poorly on the road. The same held true again last week as Boise State knocked off Nevada and Utah State, avenging two earlier losses this season. The Broncos won, so that tells you right there that the games took place in the Pavilion.

Against the Utah State Aggies, the Broncos came out with intensity and aggression. They knew they were better than the thirty-one point shellacking they had taken from these same Aggies down in Logan, and they wanted to prove it.

BSU jumped out to an early four point advantage after a Roberto Bergersen jump shot, and a steal and lay-up by Gerry Washington. The lead hovered around five points for all but the last minute of the first half. That's when Mike Tolman hit a 21 foot three-pointer to give the Broncos an eight point advantage at 29-21 going in to the locker room. Tolman went 2-4 from three point land during the first half.

The second period was one that tested the Broncos both physically and mentally. All game long BSU applied the in-your-face style of defense that has become a trademark for the team. They were able to keep it up for the entire 40 minutes and, in turn, forced Utah State into 23 turnovers for the game.

Though the defense was there, the offense lacked a bit in the final ten minutes. Boise State finished the last seven minutes and 46 seconds of the game without completing a field goal. In that stretch they only scored six total points, all coming from the charity stripe. A lead

PHOTO BY JOHN TONE



Mike Tolman dishes inside

that once stood at 14 was cut to three, with only 50 sec

onds left in the game and the 10,401 rowdy fans getting restless.

There was never any reason to worry though. BSU was at home and nothing stands in their way on the Pavilion floor. For once, mental stability at the end of a close game gave the Broncos an edge as they knocked

down crucial free throws and stifled the Aggie comeback bid. The final buzzer sounded and Boise State came away with a 57-49 victory in front of the largest home crowd in two years.

Bergersen finished the night with 23 points, though only shooting 9-22 from the field. Tolman ended up with ten points after fouling out of the game. Kenny Van Kirk finally came to life with a nine point, five rebound effort along with two blocked shots. It might not sound impressive, but it is for Kenny.

The win over Utah State, coupled with the victory over Nevada earlier in the week, still leaves Boise State tied in fourth place with two games to go. Traveling to Stockton, California on Thursday, the Broncos face the Pacific Tigers. Pacific holds first place in the west division, and, enough has been said about how BSU plays on the road.

After that, the biggest game of the season awaits. The

Vandals come to town Saturday night in a game that might decide the final spot in the conference tournament. Game time is set for 7:35 in the Pavilion and a sellout would really be nice, as it is the final home game for seniors Bergersen, Tolman, Mike Hagman and Kenny Van Kirk. Seniors Steve Shephard and Justin Lyons are applying for medical red shirts and one more year of eli-

BSU women closer to title

by TODD ANDERSON
SPORTS WRITER

The Boise State women's basketball team put the clamps down on the New Mexico State Roadrunners and came from behind for a huge conference win last Sunday. The victory keeps BSU in first place in the eastern division of the Big West conference.

Trailing for most of the game, the Broncos didn't plow ahead until the 2:15 minute mark in the second half. Alicia Sumlin scored six points on three straight trips down the floor to tie the game at the 2:30 mark. Once BSU took the lead they held on to it for

good by playing intense defense and making their free throws during high-pressure situations. The combination forced NMSU into 32 turnovers in the game.

Boise State was energized by Stephanie Block, who scored 18 points and pulled down five rebounds. Sumlin tossed in 11 points but was big on the boards, grabbing eight. Kim Brydges also notched up 11 points and Tonya Gray chipped in eight of her own.

BSU now hosts the Pacific Tigers on Thursday night, the last home game of the season and last chance to see the seniors in action. After that, the Broncos travel to Moscow to take on the Lady Vandals in a game that could ultimately decide the first place seed for the entire eastern division.

Bronco Briefs

by TERRY CHRISTENSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

This week's Bronco Briefs are more to the business than the entertainment side.

• Unless you've been lying in a comatose state the last 30 days, you should know the NCAA Tournament returns to the BSU Pavilion this year.

Boise State will play host to the first and second rounds beginning March 12. The BSU Campus Safety relays the following information:

"There will be 250 parking spaces east of the Pavilion unavailable for general permit holders on March 11-14, 1998. These spaces will be reserved for NCAA game officials, media, VIP's and teams. Please plan to utilize other general permit areas on these days. The NCAA tournament is a showcase event for the Boise area. Your cooperation is

appreciated and goes a long in making this event an overwhelming success story."

• For all the intramural participants who have suffered lack of coverage this semester, Nate Peterson has joined the sports department and will begin with feature stories about intramurals beginning with the next issue. I think you will find Nate an excellent addition to our staff.



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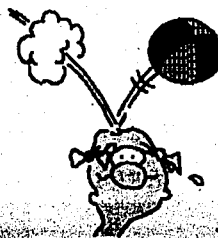
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BSU Gymnasts finally host a home meet

by DANA HILDEMAN
SPORTS WRITER

It was difficult to find a parking space in front of the Pavilion last President's Day. Even though classes were canceled and many students took the day off, over 1,000 people came to watch the first Bronco gymnastics home event since January 17.

The Broncos took on the Southern Utah Thunderbirds and the Seattle Pacific Falcons in a dual meet. It was no surprise that the Broncos walked away victorious, continuing a streak they started back at the end of January.

First up for the Broncos was vault, an event in which they hit all six performances and earned the top two finishes. Coach Sandmire claims "There is still room for improvement for the team on vault. Cleaner landings would net higher scores." Try telling that to Johnna Evans and Carrie Roelofs, who took first and second places with scores of 9.750 and 9.650 respectively. Roelofs even performed, for the first time in BSU history, a new move called the Yurchenko Full Twist. Third place went to Dawn Kisselburgh from Southern Utah, with a 9.625. After completing the opening rotation BSU stood in first place overall and momentum had been established.

The lasies then moved on to bars, where the team looked solid and again nailed all six performances. Roelofs earned first place with a 9.850 score, followed by Evans 9.800 and third proved a tie between Diana Loosli and Seattle Pacific's Deni Boswell; they both tallied a 9.750. Still holding on to first, the Broncos traveled to the beam.

Sandmire knows the beam exercise decides the outcome of the meet, so there is little room for error. Kelly Martin led off and received a 9.700. Feeling comfortable with their advantage over the Falcons and Thunderbirds, Sandmire let Loosli take a chance by adding a difficult new move to her performance. Loosli lost her balance and the score was subtracted from the team's cumulative points. The remaining Broncos on beam scored 9.725 or better. Evans earned first with a 9.800, Roelofs second 9.750, with Kerry Jacobson and freshman Jessica Berry tied for third with 9.725 each.

Final rotation for the Broncos was the floor exercise.

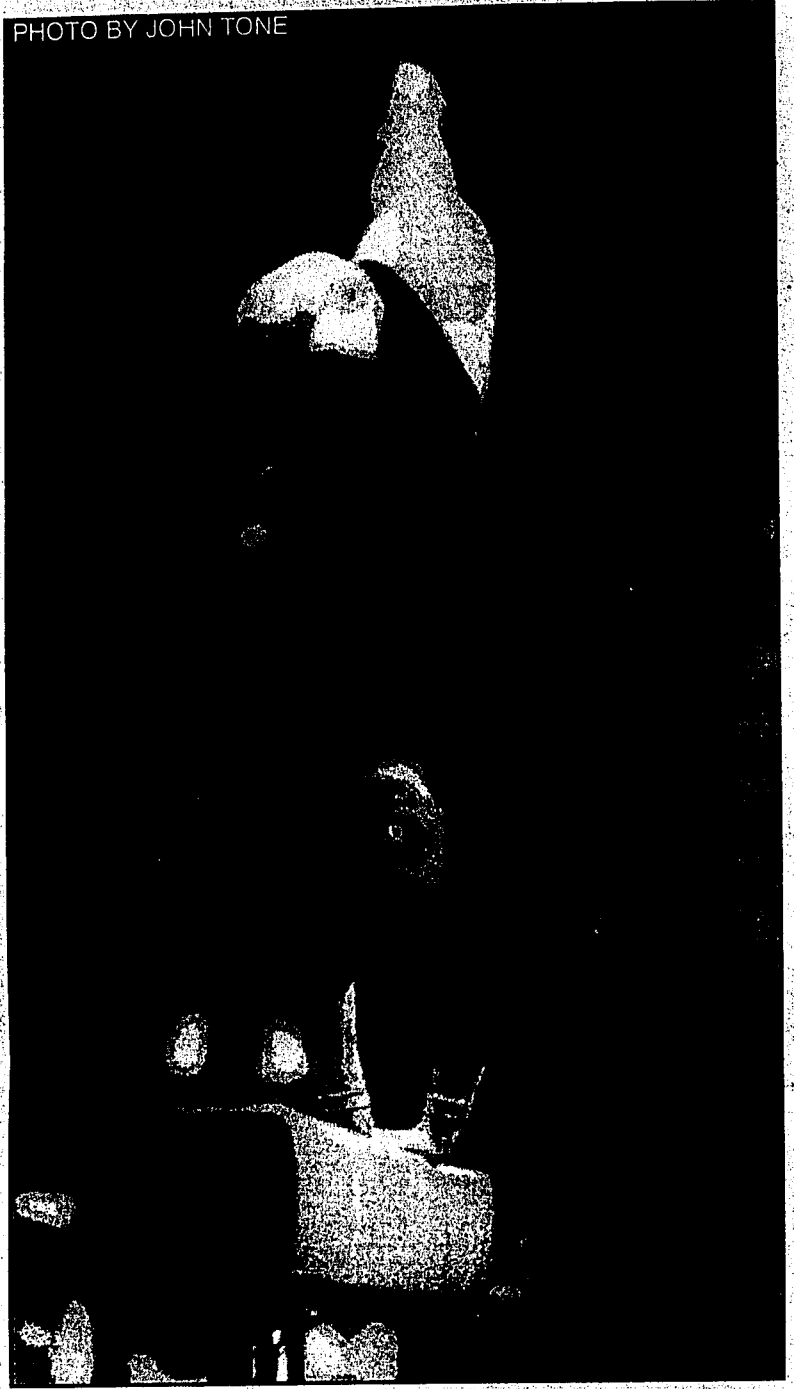
Debbie Thompson led off with a 9.650, earning her second place. Louise Cashmere performed a new routine to the BSU fight song, which brought the crowd to their feet and clapping. Loosli rallied after her previous performance on beam, putting up a 9.650 tie for second with Thompson. Seattle Pacific's Boswell took first with a score of 9.700.

The team scores announced at the end of the evening confirmed what the crowd already knew. All-Around first place went to Roelofs who totaled 38.425 points; Jacobson earned a close second with 38.150; and Kimberly Nomura from Southern Utah finished third with 37.800. BSU tallied a season team high 193.125, followed by Southern Utah at 190.475; third belonged to Seattle Pacific with 185.725.

Sandmire credits the win to the team's good attitude, relaxed state of mind and depth. Exhibit performances at the meet earned scores as high as those already competing. Sandmire says, "It is encouraging to know that there are so many gymnasts I can fall back on when someone is injured or not up to peak condition. Plus it makes them practice harder to keep their places in the lineup, which results in better performances when it really counts."

Boise State will be home again on February 28 to host Denver, a previous regional qualifier. The meet begins 7 p.m. in the Pavilion.

PHOTO BY JOHN TONE



Kelly Martin manoeuvres on the beam

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U-Wire News from around the country

The taping of KWSU's "Your Voice" talk show on Wednesday night examined some concerns of Black athletes at WSU. PULLMAN, Wash. —

PULLMAN, Wash. —

The program, titled "The Impact of Sports in the African American Community: Past, Present, and Future," was hosted by Lee Jones, who expressed the reasoning behind selection of the show topic.

"We hope to have an informative dialogue regarding the (issue)," said Jones, the director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services. "This has become a very hot topic today."

The event was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services in conjunction with the celebration of Black History Month.

Guests included Byron Hurt, a former starting quarterback for Northeastern University. He now works at his alma mater in Boston, Mass., researching sports in society.

At the beginning of the forum, Hurt said he is concerned that the sports industry damages Black America and gives an insightful synopsis showing this interaction with sports.

"(Black children) know more about Hakeem the Dream than Martin Luther King's dream," he said. "They know more about Shaquille O'Neal's house than how to build a house."

Keith Harrison, a professor in the Department of Leisure Studies and Kinesiology at WSU, agreed with Hurt that sports has an "astronomical effect" in the African American community.

What most people do not realize though, he said, is that Blacks started off in sports such as boxing, horse-racing, and bicycling - not in major sports such as football and basketball.

With these examples in mind, Hurt said this myth is perpetuated by the media. These stereotypes of Black males touched a personal base with WSU football player Da'vid Evans, who represented Black student athletes in the talk show with teammate Terrell Henderson.

They talked about their experiences as college student athletes. Evans and Henderson both graduate in the spring, defying the statistic that about 70 percent of student athletes in predominantly White schools fail to graduate.

The pair answered questions posed by the audience on issues ranging from paying athletes for playing to the media's effect on children looking for a role model.

Harrison ended the hour-long forum by offering strategies to end the stereotype of the Black male athlete.

He suggested teachers dress students with doctor's coats rather than basketball jerseys to "broaden out the scope" of opportunities for young people to be successful without relying on overrated sports accomplishments.

Prop. 209 supporters launch legal defense effort By Justin Giovannetone

THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS) 02/20/97

(U-WIRE) DAVIS, Calif. — SACRAMENTO —

California state Rep. Bernie Richter unveiled a Proposition 209 legal defense effort at the State Capitol on Tuesday with Richard Delgaudio, president of the Legal Affairs Council.

The legal defense plan, authored by 18 representatives and eight senators from the California Legislature, was formulated in response to a federal judge's Dec. 23 ruling that halted implementation of the proposition because of concerns about the initiative's constitutionality.

Californians passed Prop. 209 — also known as the California Civil Rights Initiative — last November, voting to ban race or gender preferences in public hiring, contracting and school admissions.

"It isn't fair and it isn't right that, once again, a federal judge has turned the will of the California voters on its ear," Delgaudio said at the press conference. "It isn't fair or right that one federal judge has, once again, prevailed over the clearly constitutional judgment of the voters of a state."

Judge Thelton Henderson, who ruled in the case, said in December that "as important as the will of the people is, the will of the people must always be kept in harmony with the federal Constitution."

Richter, who was the primary author of the initiative, said at the conference that the defense effort will include an "offensive" legal action strategy to implement the proposition.

"Our brief will not be a brief in defense of 209, but it will be a brief on the offensive, in which we will be attempting to enforce 209," Richter said.

The "offensive" action that Richter plans to take includes filing amicus curiae legal briefs in the name of the legislators involved in the effort.

The amicus curiae briefs, one of which was filed two years ago in an attempt to implement Prop. 187, attempts to enforce portions of the initiative by forcing courts to rule on individual cases involving the initiative.

The legal defense effort, which Richter claims already has 30,000 supporters, will also undertake a massive advertising campaign to gain support and financial backing for the effort.

"We're taking our case to the people of California," Richter said. "The constant denial of (quotas and preferences) by the highest officials in the state, including the chancellors and presidents of great educational institutions made it very difficult to get people to understand what (Prop. 209) was all about."

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bucket continued Flicks theatre hosts Jewish film festival

by ELLI McLAUGHLIN SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

March 3 at the Flicks Theatre in Pullman will host a Jewish film festival. The films will show at the following times:

Sunday, March 1: "Saint Clara" at 1 p.m. (Best Picture, 1996)

"Pig Farmer" at 3 p.m.

"Days in April" at 7 p.m.

Monday, March 2: "Death Heaven" at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3: "Like a Bride" at 7 p.m.

The Flicks is located on Myrtle Ave. at the Galaxy restaurant. The festival costs 10 and tickets are available at the door for special details, contact (509) 534-1111, pullman Flicks and manager at 509-534-1111.

hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Sample sounds and tastes of Hawaii during Lu'au in March

Bonnie State University's Hui Aloha student organization is sponsoring a month of cultural celebrations. The "Spirit of Hawaii" comes alive on the BSU campus.

Lu'au 1998 "The Spirit of Hawaii" will be held from 5-9 p.m. March 15 in the Jordan Ballroom of the Student Union Building.

Children and BSU students pay \$8 for tickets to the dinner and show, and faculty, staff and general public pay \$15 and are available at the Student Union information desk. A student ID is required for discounts. Call 535-4117 for more information.

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