1-27-1999

Arbiter, January 27

Students of Boise State University
This man almost died on Mt. Everest—and now he's a motivational speaker

5

Taxing Hope for fun and profit

9

Cover: BSU student featured in *Sports Illustrated*, and we don't mean the swimsuit issue

10-11

Obi Wan Kenobi caught with cigar

12
Lucinda
Williams

with special guest
Patti Griffin

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The Arbiter is the official student newspaper of Boise State University. Its mission is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues affecting students, faculty and staff. 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 $1.00 each, payable at The Arbiter office. All articles written by Arbiter staff are copyrighted by The Arbiter.

Letters policy: Letters should not exceed 300 words in length, should be typewritten and must include a phone number for verification. Guest forums are welcome. Contact the editor in chief prior to submitting commentaries.

Do you and just two of your closest friends know about an upcoming event on campus?
Want some more people to come?

Announce events at
http://arbiter.idbsu.edu/eventform.htm
Select-A-Seat temporarily shuts down to become Y2K compliant

Because of a software upgrade, Select-A-Seat’s computer system will remain down for what an expected two to three days starting Jan. 25.

The reason for the software upgrade is to make the Treasure Valley’s computerized ticketing network Y2K compliant, says Rod Edmiston, Select-A-Seat Director of Ticketing. An additional benefit, he said, will be “increased functionality which will allow for better customer service.”

“We are confident that the upgrade will be completed in three days or fewer,” says Edmiston. “Worst case scenario is that the upgrade will take as long as three days, but with the speed of our system we believe we can do it in two.”

Should the upgrade take less time than expected, Select-A-Seat staff members will contact the outlets and venues to resume online ticket sales, Edmiston says.

The Select-A-Seat box office at the Boise State Pavilion will still accept orders for all events at its ticket office windows and by phone. Orders will be filled from requests when the system is up, and tickets can be mailed or left at will call. All other venues will offer walk-up and phone order for their events only.

Select-A-Seat outlets in Albertson’s, WinCo and Paul’s Market in Kuna will not be able to take any orders during the time the computer system stays down. Customers wanting to purchase Boise State basketball tickets will be directed to the university’s athletic office at the Varsity Center.

Japanese students to experience Western life through exchange program

Twenty-nine students from Asia University in Tokyo, Japan, will join the Boise State University campus community in February for a month of language instruction and cultural exchanges.

Despite the loss of AUAP, foreign exchange enrollment is up 5 percent this year to 237 students.

Boise State recently signed an agreement with Asia University to host students annually under the Junior College Asia Program. The program offers a version of the Asia University America Program, which Boise State hosted last year when Japanese officials canceled the year-long exchange program because of wanting student interest in foreign studies.

The Japanese students will live on campus with American roommates and attend cultural events and intensive English classes. The students will remain on break from their classes in Tokyo while staying in Boise, and they will pay Boise State academic and housing fees.

Molly O’Shea, who coordinates the program for Boise State’s Division of Continuing Education, said that Asia University sought a chance to renew ties with Boise State after canceling the AUAP exchange. Asia University was consistently pleased with the student experience at Boise State, and BSU benefited from the cultural addition to campus, she said.

Despite the loss of AUAP, foreign exchange enrollment is up 5 percent this year to 237 students. About 30 Boise States students will study abroad this spring.

Two unique summer study/travel experiences in Europe

The University of New Orleans announces the 24th session of its annual International Summer School in Innsbruck, Austria during the summer of 1999. About 250 students as well as some 30 faculty/staff members will live, learn, and travel in the magnificent setting of the towering Tiroler Alps in the “Heart of Central Europe.”

Participants can earn up to ten semester hours of credit, selecting from over 50 courses offered in a wide variety of subject areas. Courses focus primarily on the cultural, historical, social, political, and economic issues of U.S./European relations. All instruction is in English, and course work is complemented by field trips and European guest lectures which are integral parts of the academic program. A special aspect of the program will be the return of Senator Paul Simon as a guest lecturer.

The 300-year-old University of Innsbruck is only a short walk for the many inns, cafes, and beer gardens in the “Old Town” of Innsbruck, a two-time Winter Olympics site. Three-day-weekends offer ample time for students to travel to many different destinations in Europe, to hike in the Alps and even to ski the nearby glaciers. From Innsbruck, the efficient Eurail system reaches all of Austria and much of Europe within a few hours. “Spending the summer in Innsbruck, Austria was one of the most broadening experiences of my life, not only educationally, but socially and culturally as well,” says Meg Hanks, a former participant. “If I ever have the chance to go again, I’ll have my bags packed and ready in no time flat.”

The International Summer School is a wonderful opportunity to travel, learn, and earn semester credit hours in a rich and beautiful European setting, alive with dramatic current events. The session convenes July 4 and ends on August 14, 1999.

Enrollment is limited, so interested students should apply as soon as possible. For a full color brochure and course descriptions write to: The International Summer School, PO Box 1315, New Orleans, LA 70148; call the University of New Orleans’ Division of International Education at (504)280-7116, FAX (504)280-7371, or by email at: lelpmc@uno.edu. The Division also has a web site that includes more information on a multitude of other International study/travel options: http://www.uno.edu/-inst/Welcome.html.

The University of New Orleans is also offering, for the second time, a fantastic international study/travel adventure to the city of Prague. After 24 years of successful operation in Innsbruck, Uno decided to extend its selection of overseas opportunities to include a unique summer series of seminars in what is perhaps the most beautiful city in all of Europe—Prague in the Czech Republic.

Students participating on the new Prague Summer Seminars program will spend four weeks in the “city of magic” exploring the many attractions (museums, concerts, cafes, pubs, etc.) that this historic and scenic city has to offer, all the while participating in what promises to be a series of stimulating and interesting seminars and lectures on the literature, history, culture, music, politics, society, and life of Prague and Central Europe. This is also an excellent program for anyone interested in creative writing or improving their writing skills.

Like the International Summer School, enrollment is limited in the Prague Summer Seminars. Interested students should contact the University of New Orleans’ Division of International Education at the above mentioned address, phone number, fax, or web site. Be sure to mention your interest in the Prague Summer Seminars.

Glacier park to hire 900 college students for summer jobs

College students from across the country are being sought for summer jobs at one of the nation’s most spectacular national parks.

Glacier National Park, located in the northwest corner of Montana, is best known for its rugged mountain wilderness and its historic lodges. Glacier Park,
Inc., is looking for students to fill more than 900 summer jobs in all segments of the hotel and hospitality areas.

Since the early 1900s, it has been a tradition for college students ... to work at the park while enjoying a number of outdoor activities.

Jobs include a large variety of hotel positions such as hotel front desk clerks, room attendants, cooks, wait persons and tour guides/drivers. Many students also participate in the guest entertainment, which includes American Cabaret Theater, another Glacier Park tradition. Employees are needed this year from early June to late September. The company is especially interested in students majoring in hotel/restaurant, culinary arts, travel/tourism, accounting majors, and music and theater.

The seven hotels and lodges and the famous red vintage tour coaches operate throughout the 1.4 million acres of Glacier National Park. Since the early 1900s, it has been a tradition for college students from across the country to work at the park while enjoying a number of outdoor activities such as hiking, riding, and fishing in one of the nation's last examples of pristine wilderness.

According to Dale Scott, president of Glacier Park, Inc., the opportunity to work at Glacier affords students educational opportunities in more ways than one.

"You can get much needed job-related experience in a variety of areas, which can help with a career later on," says Scott. "But you can also get life experience education by working spectacular natural surroundings and through developing a camaraderie with co-workers who come from around the world."

For details on jobs and salaries, call Glacier Park, Inc., at (602) 207-2620, write Glacier Park, Inc., 1850 North Central, Phoenix, AZ, 85077-0924 or visit their Web site at www.gpihr.com

Boise State nursing
Professor Pam Gehrke wins national award

Pam Gehrke, a professor of nursing at Boise State University, was awarded the 1998 Public Health Nurse "Through her creative teaching and service, [professor] Gehrke has made contributions to public health nursing. "Through her creative teaching and service, [professor] Gehrke has made contributions to Idaho residents and to public health nursing," said Kathleen May, a professor of nursing at the University of Arizona and chair of the awards committee.

According to APHA, Gehrke was selected for her work in several areas of the community health-care field as well as her work as an educator.

Gehrke was cited for her innovative teaching strategies, including creative clinical sites for students. She also served as faculty advisor or co-advisor on several student projects, including:

- A project on detecting asthma in schoolchildren and improving school attendance.
- A project presented to the Idaho Association of School Boards and Idaho School Administrators that focused on suicide awareness and prevention.
- A project, which won an Idaho Public Health Association Student Award of Merit, that addressed issues to prevent firearm accidents among children.

In addition, Gehrke was recognized for writing a number of articles and making presentations that address community health concerns, which included her participation as a representative of the Idaho Immunize by Two Coalition in a televised debate on immunization.

APHA described Gehrke as having "enhanced the quality of care delivered to Idaho residents" and being a "compassionate advocate for the people of Idaho."

Gehrke joined the department of nursing at Boise State in 1987. She earned a master's degree from the University of Portland.
MLK brings tolerance to the day

Barry Malone
News Writer

The Boise State University Student Union building brimmed with community members of all ages on the morning of Monday, Jan. 18. Hundreds of human rights supporters turned out for the tenth annual Boise observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Numerous citizens joined Boise State students in the traditional march to the capitol building, creating what was estimated by many participants as the largest turnout ever.

The Student Union Building greeted the marchers with signs and banners designating supplies. Snacks for hungry activists were donated by the campus food server, Fine Host. A majority of enthusiasts took advantage of the materials provided, illustrating a diverse collection of slogans supporting human rights, ranging from "Idaho is too Great for Hate" and "Equal Rights for Everyone" to "Stop the War on Drugs" and "Animal Liberation/Human Rights Celebration".

ASBSU President Christine Starr provided motivational words to the eager assembly. A brief speech on the campaign to ensure minimum wage to farm workers and a song accompanied Starr's address. The crowd turned into a boisterous frenzy as they were led out the patio doors of the SUB to the main campus walkway. March advocates were greeted by a police escort who directed traffic around the marchers. The route followed from the Capitol Boulevard bridge to the capitol building itself.

"It is important to recognize the need for more human rights protection and education. It's a really inspiring feeling to see so many people who are concerned and understand the necessity of action."—Daniel Wolf

Thousands gather to take part in Human Rights Day, which Gov. Dirk Kempthorne redeclared an officially state-recognized holiday.

The first of the speeches would have come from the absent Boise State President, Dr. Charles Ruch. After several minutes of searching for Ruch, the remainder of the talks were given before festivities were taken inside the capitol for the formal address from Gov. Dirk Kempthorne. The Capitol rotunda overflowed with anxious supporters on all three levels. Native American music filled the space while the expectant participants awaited Kempthorne's presentation.

Kempthorne cited the excitement and importance of Human Rights Day, re-declaring it an officially state-recognized holiday.

Human Rights Day marked success for supporters and promoters alike and an important step in a necessary process of change, noted one BSU student.
A peaceful journey from Ireland: Sociology professor draws from own experience to promote non-violent problem solving

Jessi Loerch

Angie Blain remembers walking through Dublin City with her mother during World War II. Hand in hand, they discussed the current war and bomb shelters in the city. Blain still recalls her mother saying, "War will only end when all the women in the world rise up and say 'No more'!"

Blain, now an adjunct sociology professor at Boise State, took this philosophy to heart. Through her own peaceful activism and the study of other methods and teaching, she promotes the cause of peace.

Blain's sociology course, "Women as Peace Activists" introduces students to a feminist perspective on war and peace. The class discusses wars from the Greeks to the present. Using both local and international examples, Blain shows her students various nonviolent methods of solving problems, emphasizing to her students the power of the individual.

Blain grew up in Dublin, Ireland where she lived in crowded tenements with no privacy. To escape she would watch American films and especially enjoyed seeing the wide open spaces in Westerns. She immigrated to America at the age of 18 and arrived in New York with two dollars in her pocket. She gradually made her way further west until arriving in Idaho 25 years ago. She considers herself an "Irish Idaho Spud."

After hearing war stories from both her grandfather and father, who fought during World Wars I and II, Blain concluded that fighting accomplishes little except destruction, and fails to end racism, imperialism or inequality. And because of the human drive for revenge, war often sows the seeds for even more wars.

Blain concluded that fighting accomplishes little except destruction, and fails to end racism, imperialism or inequality. And because of the human drive for revenge, war often sows the seeds for even more wars.

Blain's own memories of World War II leave her all the more concerned that women unite as peace activists.
Boise State’s infamous add/drop lines, stretching the length of the Administration Building before the start of each semester, have just gotten shorter. No longer will students have to wait until people who registered but changed their minds about attending classes are purged from the rolls, following the fee payment deadline.

At least, that’s the plan of Vice President of Student Affairs Peg Blake.

When Blake first saw the lines before the start of the fall 1998 semester, she could not believe it.

“Students have better things to do with their time than stand in line,” Blake avows.

Sympathizing with them, she set out to change the system. Her plan, which goes into effect with the May 28 fee deadline for the Summer 1999 semester, should ease how long students must wait to find out if openings remain in the classes they need. Fees must be paid by the deadline or the university charges a $50 late fine. Blake hopes people will take responsibility for the agreement they enter into with Boise State when registering for classes. As with any other bill, when the due date passes, the school will assess late fees on each account.

Blake’s plan will, she believes, cut down on the number of students who register but never pay. Those who cannot attend classes need to let the university know when circumstances interfere with their education plans, preferably as soon as possible.

As the registration office receives these changes, employees drop students from classes, creating openings for others waiting to get in to those same courses. The new system will end the mass purging from the rolls that occurs following the fee payment deadline each semester at Boise State.

The Jan. 1999 due date saw 1,700 students purged. Last fall, 1,800 students were erased.

“Students at Boise State are incredibly patient and understanding,” Blake said. “But these lines are outrageous.”

TRANSLATION:

"Pass it on—
Pharoah says
The Arbiter
doesn't suck anymore!!"
Students catch a break with changes in the tax laws for 1998

Doreen Martinek, News Writer

A new tax break, available for the 1998 tax season, helps students out by allowing deductions for tuition and fees for higher education. Two new benefits, resulting from the 1997 Clinton plan for tax credits, offers students or their families up to a 20 percent deduction of educational expenses when figuring income tax.

The Hope credit may be claimed only for tuition or fees paid after June 30, 1998. For most students this includes only those payments made for the Fall 1998 semester. Eligible students may claim up to a maximum amount of $1,000 credit for tuition and fees per year. The credit amounts to 20 percent of the first $5,000 paid during the tax year.

Unlike the Hope credit, students eligible for the lifetime learning credit include those:

- registered for only one or two classes
- beyond the first two levels of post secondary education

The Hope credit may be claimed for all of 1998. This includes payments made for educational fees or tuition in 1998 for the spring, summer or fall semesters.

Eligible students may declare up to $1,500 as a Hope credit. The credit amounts to 100 percent of the first $1,000 paid, plus 50 percent of the next $1,000.

Students eligible for this tax credit must be:
- either a freshman or sophomore in college
- enrolled in a program which leads to either a degree or certificate
- be enrolled as at least a half-time student, and,
- be free of any felony drug conviction for possession or distribution.

The lifetime learning credit may be claimed only for tuition or fees paid after June 30, 1998. For most students this includes only those payments made for the Fall 1998 semester. Eligible students may claim up to a maximum amount of $1,000 credit per year. The credit amounts to 20 percent of the first $5,000 paid during the tax year.

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The Hope credit may be claimed for all of 1998. This includes payments made for educational fees or tuition in 1998 for the spring, summer or fall semesters.

These education credits only apply to people who have an adjusted gross income of fewer than $40,000 or, if a joint return, $80,000. Those persons with adjusted gross incomes of $40,000-50,000, or $80,000-$100,000, must declare a lesser amount. Anyone with larger adjusted gross incomes cannot claim either the Hope or the lifetime learning credit.

Also, only people who itemize their income tax deductions may claim these credits. In addition to Schedule A, Form 8863 must be filled out and attached to Form 1040.

Publication 970 explains each of the requirements for the educational credits in detail. The publication and form may be ordered by telephone at 1-800-829-3676, or the IRS web site at: http://www.irs.ustreas.gov

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Berto demonstrates why he's ranked among the NCAA's top scorers.
Berto leads Broncos' slaughter of Nevada.

State's own supernova national prominence

people and have fun and learn new things."

Bergerson acknowledges his innate athletic ability, though not without some prodding, but believes his presence on the court owes more to his insatiable desire to continually improve.

"I feel like God's given me some talents and I feel blessed for the talents I've got, but he's given me some other things too, like a sense of commitment and determination and a good work ethic," says Bergerson, adding, "Talented athletes come a dime a dozen nowadays. It's all about your work ethic that determines how far (your talents) are going to take you."

Bergerson, who is averaging 20 points per game this season, has led Boise State to a 13-2 record and a first-place finish in the Big West Conference. He has been named the conference's player of the week in five of the last six weeks.

"I want to play on a winning team, regardless of whether I play a lot or I don't play at all. I want to learn. I want to play where there's some good players and good guys, guys who are going to be able to show me the ropes and help me to get better."

State basketball games on a year-to-year basis know how inconsistent fan participation can be—here one day and gone the next. But during his three-year career at BSU, Bergerson has noticed that trend beginning to change. He thinks the changes are due in large part to the presence of "The Zerkies," Boise State's obnoxious, smack-running members of the student section.

"I think the Zerkies have just been so positive for us. I feel bad that we've lost a couple games this year because maybe they put it on their shoulders or something. All we talk about in the locker room is "The Zerkies this and The Zerkies that." They've helped the atmosphere here tremendously. On nights when we only have four or five thousand fans in attendance, the Zerkies make up for that "cause they're on people and they're loud!"

As for his dream of playing in the NBA, Bergerson notes that he's not giving it much thought. "That's all that matters to me. That's all that matters to me. Everything's going pretty well for me."

Immediately following graduation, Bergerson plans to take a short but well-deserved break from the court.

"The first thing I'm going to do is go home and spend some quality time with my family and the people I love. I haven't really been able to do that since I was in high school. After that, I'm just going to take it easy."

"I'll get some tryouts and take advantage of whatever comes to me."

Note: After suffering their first conference loss to Utah State on Thursday, the Broncos rebounded in a 77-52 slaughter of Nevada on Saturday night. Roberto Bergerson led all scorers with 25 points.
President looks to get unzipped by sexual scandal; is this how people in the 70s felt?

Asencion Ramirez  
Columnist

I gambled wrong a few months ago, thinking that the quest for a political science degree put me on the inside track on the whole impeachment affair. I firmly said, to a group of friends, that I didn't think the impeachment proceedings would be carried this far. I figured it was an election ploy by Republicans that backfired, especially after former Speaker Newt Gingrich got himself martyred. I felt like a Minnesota Vikings fan confidently predicting Elway versus Cunningham as the highlight of Super Bowl XXX.

Now I feel a little bit like a horse's behind, but at least I didn't lose any money on the impeachment. How many Vikings backers can say that?

During the summer a friend passed me a copy of All the President's Men by Woodward and Berstein. The detailed fall of Richard Nixon enlightened and frightened me at the same time. The presidency compromised by conspiracy, election tampering and obstruction of justice attacked the very essence of our democracy. However, I couldn't draw a correlation between compromis- ing the government and covering up a tryst.

Maybe that best characterizes the current state of the American public. Divorce and marital infidelity are so commonplace that people brace for it beforehand by way of prenuptial agreements. Extramarital affairs have become so frequent that we don't even fault our philandering president. Clinton enjoyed high public opinion ratings even as the House voted to impeach the man. Frankly, the public didn't care that he was cavorting around the Oval Office like it was a swinging bachelor pad. The public doesn't care that he lied under oath to cover his trail.

Maybe there's justification for this public disinterest. After all, the presidency of William Jefferson Clinton appears to run parallel to the tenure of Special Investigator Kenneth Starr. They will go down in history, forever linked together. Starr plays Darth Vader to Clinton's Obi Wan Kenobi. Billy Jeff's election led indirectly to the appointment of an investigator to dig through his past and sink his presidency. "Mr. President, this is your office. These are your secretaries. And this, this is your special investiga- tor. Again, congratulations on your election, but don't talk to the investigator without first consulting your lawyer and remember to use a coaster. The desk is real oak."

How can a guy work like that? He was set up to fail from the beginning, by partisan efforts. One can't help but extend the fool some measure of sympathy.

Maybe he did bring the entire investigation down on his head. If the average person were being scrutinized by the Internal Revenue Service the last thing she would do is continue to accept large monetary gifts from clients suspected of being friendly with the mafia. Yes, Clinton's affair lacks that kind of drama, but one would think that while being persecuted by Starr he would cease and desist in anything remotely illegal or immoral. He should have known better.

However we look at it, the public ends up losing. There are more reasons to distrust and hate the government in Washington. The president lies and cheats. Partisan politics take a front seat to pressing domestic and international matters. Is this how the 70s felt, only with less sex and somewhat better music?

Maybe this epitomizes the American experience. In the January 19 Idaho Statesman, the Life section contained a concise breakdown of presidents and their scandals. Apparently all American citizens have been warranted to view their leaders with some disgust and disdain.

Maybe it's about time to elect a woman.

In Memoriam

Boise State mourns the loss of former Emeritus professor of Teacher Education, Pat Bieter, who died in a car accident late Sunday afternoon, January 24, along with his wife, Cloise. During his tenure at BSU, Bieter also worked with the Studies Abroad program, taught Basque and even served as a coach. After his retirement, Bieter ran for the Idaho Legislature, serving two sessions as a Democrat. And on the side, he played jazz at Noodles restaurant.

Our hearts go out to the Bieters' families.
Seeing red

Lesleigh Owen

A
fter two and a half hours of
heavy-duty lobbying, I felt
like a well trained dog. Sit,
smile, speak, look pitiful, herd
legislators back into the conver-
sational flock. Scrubbing off my
"Hi, will you help pass this legis-
lation?" smile, I exited the
Capitol through the west
entrance and took my place by
the bell to wait for the marchers.

Not five minutes later, I
heard them.

"Martin Luther King! I have a
dream! Martin Luther King! I have
a dream!"

"What do we want? Human
rights! When do we want 'em?

One, two three. I am free!
Now!"

"One, two, three. I am free!

One, two three. I am free!"

When my friend
Joe joined me on the steps, I
handed him a legislative pam-
phlet and told him I could hear
them all the way down the road.

"And you know," he said,"not everyone was chanting. If
we could have got everyone to
sing the same chant all at once,
the whole town could have heard
us."

Members of United Vision for
Idaho and Idaho Women's
Network, Hewlett Packard
employees, BSU students and fac-
ulty, Idaho and non-Idaho citi-
zens: about 1,000 bodies clogged
Capitol Boulevard before con-
verging on the Capitol steps on
Monday, Jan. 18 to pay homage to
MLK, Jr. and human rights.

Like good little rally attend-
ees, we cheered, lis-
tened, sang "We Shall Overcome." Meanwhile, several
groups and individuals
strained their
arms to keep
their banners and
signs aloft:
"Diversity Rules!
"Minimum Wage
Farmworkers"
"Bilingual,
Raza Humana."

Afterward, we poured into
the rotunda, listening first to
Native drumming and later to
Dirk's gubernatorial rap.

At the end of the day, I'd
filled two pages
with notes, quotes
and song lyrics. My
margins brimmed
with the gov's
comments on the
gender equality
woven into our
state seal and the
backs of my
papers' sporting
banners and
weather
reports.

Throughout my
note-taking cam-
paign, however, the only sen-
tence I'd bothered to underline
and bracket with asterisks was
Joe's quote on chanting.

His remark reminds me of
one of my favorite bumper stick-
ers. On a red background, small
white letters read: "If every one
of us were red on the same day,
you'd be amazed how large my
family is."

It's not that I'm urging
everyone to do something
drastic like go out
and buy a red
sweater... or pair
of pumps. Let's
face it; some people are born
into red and some achieve it.

Many shouldn't even try.

Listening to those chants;
joying down Joe's flash of brilli-
tance, squishing myself between
persons and pillars to hear Dirk's
proclamation brought me to a
deeper understanding of my fel-
low citizens. Many of my Boise
neighbors, I realized, aren't.
jaded, apathetic ER-addicts. In fact, I'm positive I spotted some blood lust on many a seemingly innocent face during the rally. People are dying to unite on some teeth-rattling, fist-shaking issues. It's just that most of us spend so much time stuck behind our desks, the wheels of our cars and our make-up mirrors that we seldom have the chance to exchange greetings with our neighbors, let alone join them in chanting: "2, 4, 6, 8, Idaho's too great for hate!"

Not that we necessarily enjoy keeping to ourselves. The Human Rights March, Sunday religious services and Monday night football all prove that. Sadly, short of rolling naked in ochre and running up and down the streets in search of comrades, most of us remain ignorant of the route leading to Kinship Avenue.

Ever eager to improve the condition of la raza humana, I composed a list of activities designed to eject us out of our papasans and into the waiting arms of one another:

1. Edgycate yourself. Yeah, I know: bo-ring. But hey, it's hard to fight for your rights if you're not sure which rights you got and which you ain't. Attending college isn't like making a drug deal: here's the money, now gimme the stuff. You determine the potency of the "stuff" you're receiving and in what dosages to consume it. Best of all, there's no need to enroll in a twelve-step program at the end of your four-year stint!

2. Attend an organizational meeting. On-campus or off, this is one of the best-ways to meet like-minded people. Fill out those student organization interest cards and give them a chance to show off their fancy letterhead in writing a response letter.

3. Speak up in class. Not only is it great practice for public debates, but you meet the most-inspired and mind-numbing souls when you pipe up. Both flavors are tremendous fun.

4. Turn off the TV once in a while. Walk, drive to Coffee News, share a pint of Ben & Jerry's with your best friend. Icksnay on the cobby.

5. Learn another language. Just imagine how many cultural doorbells this will ring. Besides, don't tell anyone I told, but studies show that bilingual students tend to rake in higher grades than their monolingual counterparts. If funds and time forbid, buy an English-to-Spanish dictionary and try to interpret the soap operas on the Spanish channel (I said turn it off "once in a white!"

6. Abandon some of your niches. Instead of your usual tuna on wheat with a bottle of olj, visit the Koffee Klatch for lunch. Forget Saturday night bingos; instead, try shuffling those nassy size eights on the Balcony Club's well-polished dance floor.

7. Attend rallies. To paraphrase Joe, nothin' says solidarity like several hundred cheering, fist-shaking regular folk, nobody addressing your pet issues. Organize your own rally!

8. Refuse to allow people to ignore you. Hundreds of thousands of people stuffed into a few square miles leaves us all in the grip of one heck of an elevator effect. You know what I mean: everyone staring straight ahead, pretending a fascination with anything but the people whose breaths are tickling the backs of their necks. Smile at people you pass. Strike up conversations with your server, classmates, your dance partner at The Balcony.

9. Become politically active. If you're a real people-person, perfect your humble-but-determined expression and move your representatives to tears with your tales of the welfare recipient's plight. Find the politician whose vision of humanity matches you own and jump on her or his campaign train. Attend city council meetings. Learn at whom to boo.

10. Stick up for the underdogs. Start by defending them in conversations. Graduate to discussing their experiences with them. In no time at all, you'll find yourself on the front line, using the first nine suggestions to battle for their rights.

Some of these proposals may not have formed the exact fabric of Dr. King's dream. Thinking back, in fact, I'm positive I never saw the words "haunting the Koffee Klatch" or "outwitting the elevator effect" written among his list of visions for humanity. Still, I think he would have given our attempts to capture the spirit of diversity two thumbs-up.

The great things about becoming involved with the family outside: not only are we observing a unique vision of ourselves reflected in a new pair of eyes, but we're raising our voices and filling cities with our songs of unity.
The State of the Union: good things good, bad things bad

Since 1993, my embrace of each new year is inevitably delayed until the State of the Union address has been delivered. Only then am I able to convince myself that the horrors of yeaster-year lie behind me and that hope springs eternal.

I suppose his speech this year sounded no more tedious or meaningless than his prior excursions into rhetorical twaddle. He still made statements like, "Today's income gap is largely a skills gap," which demands the question: when wasn't it? The skillful have always ascended; the incompetent have always descended. Or was there a time in which income gaps were caused by calculated disparities? And as usual, he was showered with thunderous applause amid such laughable banalities as, "We need to support what works and to stop supporting what does not work." Haven't seen such oratorical flourish since Gerald Ford courageously announced, "I have a tummy ache, Betty."

But the chief executive's latest state-of-the-union prattle was uncommonly disconcerting, because it didn't need to exist. The Constitution simply says the president shall tell Congress about the state of the union "from time to time." It doesn't say, "... every damn January for at least an hour and a half." The Founding Fathers wisely allowed for extenuating circumstances to be navigated. For instance, if he's on trial in the Senate, the chief executive can wait before presenting a speech to his jurors. It's akin to O.J., during mid-trial, suiting up in his Buffalo Bills costume for the Super Bowl while Johnnie Cochrane takes the jury to the game so they can watch Juice catch a football and see how dreamy he is.

Nonetheless Clinton spoke, and I can't change it. I can, however, comment upon it. First of all, to paraphrase Lillian Hellman, every word that left Bill Clinton's mouth was unconstitutional—including "the" and "and." But nobody cares about that silly stuff anymore. Just ask any teenager—1970's retro is "in;" the Constitution is "out." So I'll limit my remarks to a few of Clinton's vapid platitudes.

At one point, the Commander Impeached told us, "As everyone knows, our children are the targets of a massive media campaign to hook them on cigarettes." Everyone knows this? Call me sheltered, but I haven't seen any ads for Hacking-Cough Barbie. ("Includes a pack of toy cigarettes, plus three real Marlboros—just to get your kids started.")

He implored us to bring pride and respect back to the family farm with something called "crop insurance," sponsored, of course, by the federal government. Yeah, that should bring pride back to the farm. ("The corn ain't growin' this year, Mabel. Remember when that used to mean I couldn't provide for you and the kids? Well, thanks to the Clinton Administration's Farm Safety Net, we'll double our income without having to shuck one dang cob! Now let's break out the Jerry Springer tapes—yee haw!")

My favorite line of the night was: "All teachers should know the subjects they're teaching." Naturally, it was greeted with frenzied cheers and claps.

But it isn't difficult to get a lot of applause if you're pointing out people in the audience who are more respected than yourself. The next time I do a set of stand-up comedy, I'm going to bring Milton Berle with me, just in case a joke fails.

President Clinton assimilates this tactic quite well into his performances. If the saving-Medicare-and-Social-Security bit loses anybody's attention, simply take a moment to acknowledge Sammy Sosa in the crowd. You'll be applauded. If the audience gets tired of hearing about the PLO, gesture toward Rosa Parks. Tipper Gore, by the way, ironically forced her to stand up. Isn't that what immortalized Ms. Parks in the first place—refusing to feed a Jumbo Jack to Gandhi.
Busta Rhymes back with more innovations

Erica Hill
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The third time’s the charm for rapper extraordinaire Busta Rhymes. The Brooklyn native recently released his third solo album Extinction Level Event (The Final World Front), Rhymes’ most explosive CD to date. The 19 song disc features innovations from Rhymes himself but also showcases the talents of an eclectic all-star cast. Among the highlights is a duet with rock icon Ozzy Ozborne in “This Means War.” Rhymes says the song was a remake of Ozborne’s “Iron Man.”

“I remember when I first heard the song ‘Iron Man.’ The lyrics like ‘Is he live or is he dead’ just affected me. The power he puts behind it, the intensity, the effect—it’s the same way I approach my shit whether I’m recording or performing.”

Rhymes also pairs up with Janet Jackson in “What’s It Gonna Be,” Mystikal from Master P’s No Limit Posse in “Iz They Wildin Wit Us & Gettin Rowdy Wit Us.”

But the MTV and radio hit “Gimme Some More” has provided Rhymes’ best showcase for his vocal pyrotechnics, something he has been working on since his early days in the group The Leaders of the New School. They first debuted in 1990 but Rhymes didn’t break out until his solo performance in A Tribe Called Quest’s “Scenario.” It was then that audiences saw his potential for success lay in a solo career.

Making that transition has allowed Rhymes to develop his talents naturally.

“I try to represent myself in a way that’s not going to let people down, but at the same time I’m never going to do the same old shit.”

Don’t you be lookin’ at me like that.

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Broncos fall back to earth after first conference loss

Josh Jordan

Last Thursday's basketball game at the Pavilion between Boise State and the Utah State Aggies came across as a match-up of two teams going in very different directions.

The Broncos opened the season by winning their first four Big West conference games and 11 of their first 14 overall. Utah State entered the Pavilion with a 1-3 conference record, having lost four of their previous five matchups. By the end of the evening, the trends for both these teams would come to an abrupt end.

Roberto Bergersen scored the first five points as the Broncos built an early 7-3 advantage but Utah State's full court pressure helped them stay in the game, and with 9:40 left in the half, Boise State held a slim edge at 12-11.

Just as the Aggies seemed to take away the momentum, the Broncos went on a mini-run highlighted by a soaring alley-oop from Gerry Washington to Bergersen. Boise State built their lead to as many as eight in the half behind the scoring of Bergersen and the surprising rebounding of Washington. Utah State stayed close though as the Broncos were up 29-23 at the half.

Utah State started the second half with a highlight reel dunk by forward Troy Rolle, and then forced a turnover courtesy of their full-court press. Once again the Broncos appeared to weather the storm as Trevor Tillman stuffed the Aggies' offense twice in one possession, initiating a fast break lay-in by Delvin Armstrong.

Five minutes into the half, C.J. Williams hit Bergersen with a nifty no-look pass and Boise State extended their advantage to seven at 38-31. Utah State wouldn't die, showing the tough defense and strong rebounding that helped them beat nationally-ranked Utah earlier in the season. The resulting four-minute scoring drought for the Broncos gave the Aggies' a 39-38 edge with just over ten minutes remaining in the game.

The game was tied at 47 when Gerry Washington fouled out with 5:39 remaining on the clock. This proved a costly loss for the Broncos. The Aggies doubled and triple-teamed Bergersen down the stretch and nobody for Boise State stepped up. The Broncos were handed many opportunities but failed to cash in from the free throw line or behind the arc.

When the final buzzer sounded, Boise State's eleven game conference home winning streak was over with this 58-52 loss to Utah. Bergersen put in a game high 22 points while Pharoah Davis led the Aggies with 17. Utah State improved to 9-7 overall, 2-3 in conference, and the Broncos fell to 11-4, 4-1 in conference with their next match crucial one against Nevada in the Pavilion on Jan. 23.
Nevada opponent pointing the wrong way—no wonder they lost!

Kejuan Woods, number 13, takes it to the hole.

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