

11-3-1999

Arbiter, November 3

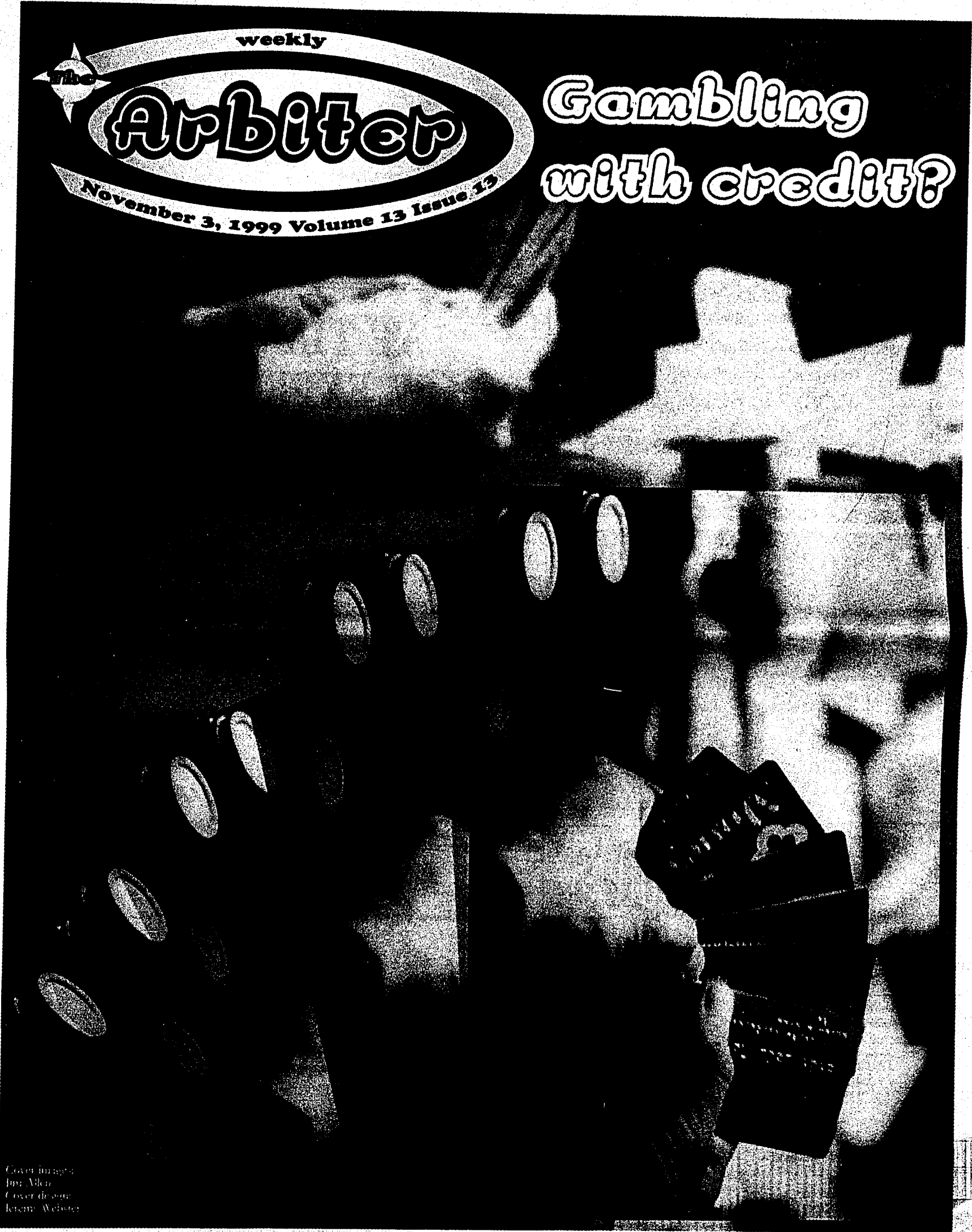
Students of Boise State University

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weekly
The Arbitrator
November 3, 1999 Volume 13 Issue 13

Gambling with credit?

Cover images:
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from the editor

I stumbled upon a sad commentary on today's lack of responsibility while visiting with Duane Ayers, the election board chair for ASBSU last week. He told me they planned to offer a series of cash prizes in an attempt to increase voter turnout.

The fact we even have to motivate people to care about their environment makes me wonder what kind of a world I live in. Creating excuses such as "my voice doesn't count" or "one vote doesn't really make a difference" constitutes poor reasoning for laziness. I have yet to miss voting in an election and it sickens me that some people never exercise this right. Their reason usually

sounds something similar to "it doesn't matter" or "voters don't really decide the election." It is true that some electoral systems represent the populace better, but does that mean our society should throw up its hands and say "Whatever happens, happens?" How disgusting.

I vote because I refuse to buy into the defeating notion that my voice and opinion don't make a difference. I refuse to allow someone else to decide what's best for me and the issues I consider important. And I know my vote does count.

So shame on you if you didn't vote in the Nov. 2 city council elections, and I hope you redeem your sense of responsibility and activism by marking a ballot in the ASBSU elections next week. I will.

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news

Too many students, too few elevators.

Please limit elevator to 12 individuals per load

to prevent possible malfunction.

cover

Credit card debt: love to buy, hate the bill.



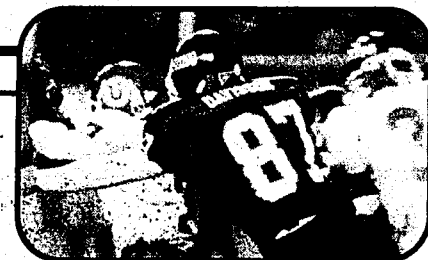
age

Tibetan monks head to BSU.



sports

Broncos no longer undefeated on the road.



The opinions presented in advertisements, editorials and cartoons within reflect the views of those who created them and are not necessarily the views of *The Arbiter* or its staff

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.

Biters of the week goes to Joslyn Seyfried, Stephanie Pittam, Brad Arendt and Doug Dana for their tireless efforts in putting out *The Arbiter's* first Winter Recreation Guide. Thanks to their work, Arbiter readers will know where to ski and snowboard for cheap!

ASBSU takes action on complaints of disrespect in Financial Aid office

Student complaints over poor relations with the staff at the Financial Aid office has prompted ASBSU legislators to pass a resolution calling for the department to improve its customer service.

Hannah Bankhead
news writer

ASBSU legislators hope to shake up staffing procedures in the financial aid office. Last Tuesday the ASBSU Senate unanimously approved resolution number three. The measure concerned what many consider a signifi-

cant problem in processing of financial aid on campus.

The resolution claims that "students are not being treated with respect when dealing with Financial Aid employees."

The sponsor of the resolution, Senator Joel Spring, reasoned, "I heard claims that students have been yelled at

and spoken to in a harsh manner. They don't seem to be willing to help out the students. By taking this action we are saying we want to see an improvement in the Financial Aid office."

Freshman Jarrod Mosier agrees with Spring's claim. His dealings with the office have not been smooth.

"[The financial aid office] came up with different numbers so I couldn't understand where the money is now or where it is going."

The resolution calls for the financial aid department to hire more staff and provide better training to serve the students of Boise State in a more professional manner.

According to the department's director Lois Kelly, "I cannot disagree

about the need to provide good customer service. We strive to provide adequate training for the staff, but we still have a few areas that need improvement."

Recent department staff evaluations have come up with several ideas to help make the office run more smoothly, including stream lining extra request documents, awarding financial aid packages earlier and, most importantly, adding new staff members, Kelly explains.

The department requested permission to hire new employees for the next school year.

The board is expected to make its decision some time later this year.

Kelly went on to state that if the board approves the

request, the new employees would handle walk-in students, answer phones, act as customer service representa-

"I heard claims that students have been yelled at and spoken to in a harsh manner. They don't seem to be willing to help out the students. By taking this action we are saying we want to see an improvement in the Financial Aid office."

tives, complete paper work and also specialize in a variety of office areas as needed.

ASBSU elections include cash prizes

As a means of encouraging students to participate in the ASBSU senator at large election on Nov. 10-11, a drawing will be held after the election to award three cash prizes to voters.

The election board decided to take the money normally allocated for the voter bowl, which rewards clubs for getting students to vote, and instead give it directly to voters.

Three cash prizes will be awarded: \$100, \$50 and \$25.

Duane Ayers, election board chair, hopes students become informed voters.

He encourages them to learn about the candidates by reading voter education pamphlets or attending the forum for senate hopefuls on Nov. 2 at 11:45 on the Bravo stage in the SUB.

He hopes the cash awards encourage more students to vote. Ballots can be filled at the Student Union, Business Education Multipurpose and Applied Technology buildings along with the Morrison Center and Pavilion Auxiliary gym.

The corral returns

In the 1940s, Boise Junior College students would gather in the old student union "Corral" to eat, meet friends and spend free time. Fifty years ago, the Corral occupied what's now the communications building. This year, organizers hope to recapture that spirit in the practice field next to Bronco Stadium.

The Boise State Alumni Association sponsors an astronomy and sumo wrestling while KJEC Radio and the Boise State Alumni Association will be involved with the Corral.

playing live every week. Student organizations such as ASBSU and SPB participate with various activities.

Encouraging Boise State students and supporters to get in touch with their inner school spirit, the Keith Stein Blue Thunder Marching Band and the Boise State Spirit Squad stage a pep rally at the Bronco Corral. Fans can practice their stadium yells and sing the fight song.

The Bronco Corral gives the feelings of the former corral before every home game for free.

Accreditation board recommends academic changes

Jim Steele

news writer

Although the evaluation committee already came and left, Boise State won't know until December whether reaccreditation by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Colleges lies in its future.

The 15-member evaluation committee examined Boise State from Oct. 25-27, making sure that the university was making progress toward goals identified five years ago when

the school last received accreditation, and looking for any other deficiencies at the university.

The Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges will make the final decision on whether to reaccredit Boise State when it meets on Dec. 2-3 and evaluates the committee's findings.

"Boise State's got to be one of the most dynamic and rapidly changing institutions in the Northwest," Dr. Michael Malone, the chair of the evalu-

ation committee and the president of Montana State University - Bozeman, says. "I'm impressed by its plan. For all its growth, it's still a regional institution."

Before the committee left, Malone reported six commendations and seven recommendations first to President Charles Ruch and then to students and faculty.

Boise State was commended for its strategic plan, an institution-wide commitment to the Southwestern Idaho area,

student participation in campus improvements, a library that has become an integral part of the university's campus programs, the College of Engineering's approval by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, and for developing a Ph.D. program in the Department of Geosciences.

Deborah Carver, who evaluated Albertson's Library, commended the facility. "I've been very impressed by the efforts to try to address the

new programs as well as the changing emphasis within some of the programs. I think the efforts that have been made so far are laudable," she says.

Boise State does, of course, have room for improvement. The evaluation committee's recommendations include improving student services proportionally with student growth, improving academic advising, encouraging more professional development and training of adjunct faculty, making more progress in outcomes assessment, establishing a culture of graduate education as these programs increase, providing more services to assist the faculty with research programs, and working on guidelines for the transfer of vocational-technical credits into four-year academic programs.

"We're much impressed by the remarkable velocity of change," Malone says.

Daryl Jones, Boise State's provost, says the evaluation went well. "I thought it was an excellent visit and it showed the institution is very dynamic and progressive and has achieved many of its goals."



Photo by Jim Allen The Advertiser

College students from across Idaho marched to the Statehouse Oct 29 to protest the decreasing amount of allocations to higher education. Organizers hope demonstrations such as this will convince legislators to increase funding.

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**CRIME
REPORT**

10/01	Grand theft (bike) Education Building	10/03	Student Union Building	10/08	Malicious injury to property 1421 Campus Lane	10/15	Burglary 1464 University, Room 107	10/24	Driving while suspended University/Grant
Littering University west of Grant	Petit theft (bike) Education Building	10/05	Petit theft 2133 Campus Lane	10/09	Bike theft Chaffee Hall	10/16	Petit theft Student Union Building	10/26	Aggravated battery Morrison Hall
Fail to carry driver's license Joyce and Yale streets	Grand theft (bike) Education Building	10/07	Driving without privileges River Street/10th	10/12	Bike theft Student Union Building	10/20	Bike theft Chaffee Hall	Trespassing 1021 1/2 Vermont	
False information to officer Joyce and Yale streets				10/13	Att Vehicle Burglary 860 Sherwood	10/22	Driving without privileges Capitol/Battery	Resisting arrest Michigan/Belmont	
Theft								Possession of drug paraphernalia Capitol/Battery	

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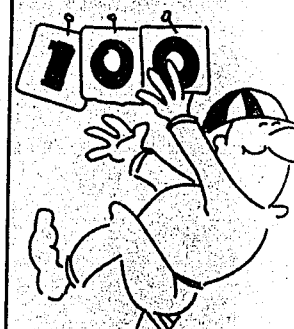
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? Ask The Real Deal ?

Jim "the Real Deal"
Steele

What's wrong with the eleva- tors in the edu- cation building?

The three elevators in the education building have been lifting students up to the seventh floor for over 20 years and are beginning to show their age.

"We're apparently approaching the end of the life for those elevators," Larry

Blake, Boise State's Director of Facilities Planning believes.

The elevators began showing their age during the last few weeks. At one point, according to some students, none worked and everyone ended up taking the stairs.

A suspected short in the education building's north elevator causes problems. During the semester break, that motor will be repaired at a cost of approximately \$15,000. Aging parts also cause the problems in the other two elevators.

"We have some old equipment that is failing and

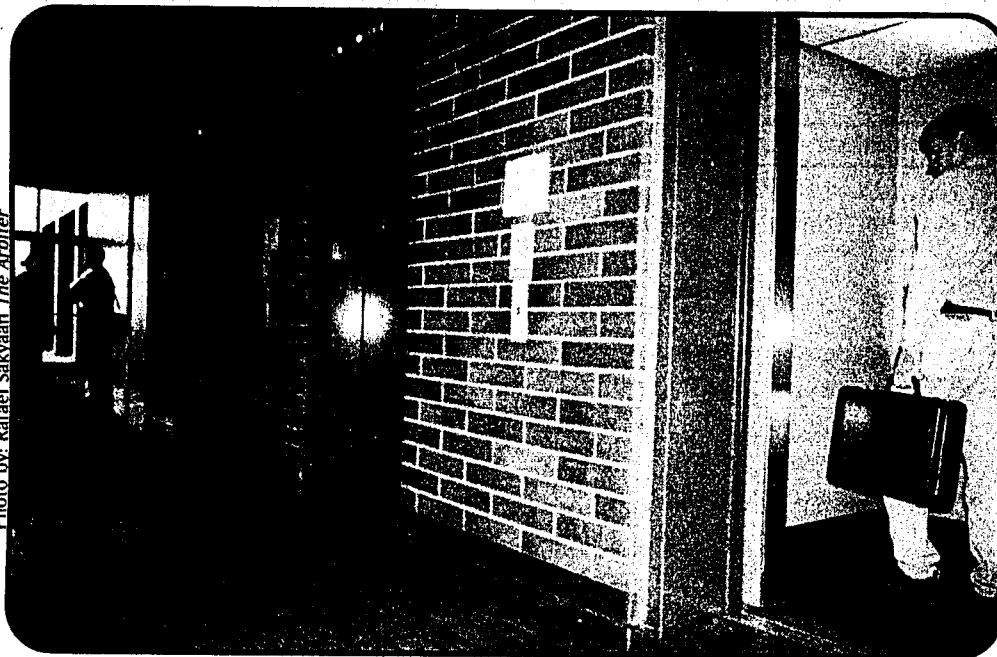


Photo by: Rafael Sakvaan, The Arbiter

we're replacing parts as they fail," Richard Lewis, the business manager of Boise State's physical plant, says.

Thyssen Elevators pays for the repairs as part of their \$35,000 contract to maintain the university's elevators.

Boise State will request money to replace the aging elevators from the Idaho Legislature in Boise State's fiscal year 2002 budget, but funds might not become available until the summer of 2001. Lewis esti-

mates the repairs will cost about \$100,000.

When one elevator quits running, riders cram into the other two, exceeding their capacity, which makes one of those more likely to fail.

"The problem has sort of compounded itself that way," Lewis says. "I know that's hard to do but we need some help from the students [in not overloading the elevators]."

Boise State's elevator problems are not limited to the

education building. Some high school students are suspected of damaging the wiring in one of the Albertson's Library elevators. They stopped the elevator between floors, committed the vandalism, forced the doors open and got out.

Boise State hasn't caught the culprits but Lewis estimated the damage could cost the university a couple of thousand dollars to repair.

Boise State to host third annual health fair Nov. 17

The public is invited to attend the third annual Boise State University Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Jordan Ballroom of the Student Union.

The event, sponsored by health promotion students at Boise State, will feature a wide variety of local health-care and health-promotion vendors. The objective of the fair is to help increase awareness of health and wellness on the campus and in the community.

Experts in areas such as nutrition, stress management, illness prevention, health screenings and fitness will be on hand to provide information and distribute materials. Several of the vendors will be on hand to provide information on the health fair.

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Maintenance crews have posted signs
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Have a question?

If there's something you want to know, whether related to Boise State or not, ask the Real Deal.

E-mail your question to JimSteele@Juno.Com; bring your question to The Arbiter's offices across from the Student Union Building; mail it to 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID 83725; or fax it to 426-3198.

Nursing students help kick off Safe Kids project

Justin Endow

ase writer

Danika Yost, 7, didn't care too much about the oversized billboard displaying the cartoon-like kitchen. All she wanted to do was wander around the Boise Towne Square mall with her dad. But when nursing student Karla Churchill introduced her to the Wacky House of Hazards, Yost showed everyone what she knew about home safety.

"Right now, one in two childhood injuries is caused by preventable accidents in the home. The Safe Kids project aims to try to change that."

Last Saturday a number of Boise State nursing students volunteered to help run the house for Home Safety Day, an event organized by Churchill as

part of her senior nursing project. She worked side by side with employees of Central District Health in recruiting, organizing and coordinating with the media.

The safety day acted as the kickoff event for the Boise arm of the National Safe Kids Campaign, a pilot project chaired by former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and sponsored by Ronald McDonald House Charities and Housing and Urban Development.

Children visited the safety booth and display throughout the day, taking the opportunity to learn what they can do to keep their homes safe.

Kids walked around the four rooms depicted on the billboard, placing large stickers of smoke detectors, medicine cabinet locks, outlet child-proofing plugs and emergency numbers lists. The volunteer students guided the youngsters, explaining why certain safety appliances belonged in certain places.

In the evening the volunteers also ran trick-or-treating for the kids.

"We hope this display helps to get families' attention," says Churchill. "Right now, one in two childhood injuries is caused by preventable accidents in the home. The Safe Kids project aims to try to change that."

Starting next week, Churchill and a number of trained volunteers will visit 120 homes chosen by HUD. They plan to look through homes and point out potential problem areas, offer solutions and provide safety equipment when applicable.

"We don't want people to think we're doing inspections," Churchill asserts. "This is for their benefit, for their children's safety."

Next spring, the home site volunteers will return to the homes and perform follow-up assessments to determine if the aid made a difference. If the program proves successful, the Safe



Photo by: Rafael Sakyaa The Arbitrator

BSU nursing volunteers taught kids about preventing accidents during last weekend's Home Safety Day.

Kids campaign will stretch into a full-blown national project. Right now Boise ranks as one of only a handful of pilot cities.

If Safe Kids can go national, many more children like Danika Yost will enjoy the opportunity to learn what they

can do to make their homes a little safer.

Boise State nursing and health students will continue to promote awareness and involvement in this campaign Nov. 17 at the campus Health Fair.



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Idaho's Latin America trade mission creates student exchange for BSU

Amy Wegner

news writer

Boise State University just signed a five year student exchange agreement with the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), a Mexican university located in the city of Guadalajara, in Idaho's sister state of Jalisco.

The agreement contracts an exchange of five students between BSU and ITESM over the next year.

Adriana Medina, a senior majoring in International Business, was the first student Boise State sent to Guadalajara as a pilot to test the exchange program. "Going to Guadalajara was life changing. Studying in another country makes a person go beyond his own narrow-mindedness," she noticed.

"Mexico was amazing because the business field there isn't centered around the United States. It gives a whole different perspective to international business and relations."

This student exchange agreement allows business, engineering and communications students to attend the top ranking business university in Mexico. Students who qualify can attend the Guadalajara campus while paying Boise State fees and being able to register for next semester classes at Boise State.

Academic records, fluency in Spanish and career goals are all evaluated before a student gets chosen for this opportunity.

Stephanie Hunt, program coordinator of the International Business Consortium,

says, "In this program, we hope to expand the horizons of the students, develop scholarships to help the students financially when they go to Mexico, start a faculty exchange program, and hopefully even consider joint research projects between the faculty."

Hunt and four other Boise State faculty members traveled with Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's trade delegation to Mexico and Costa Rica. They signed the agreement as Jalisco celebrated "Idaho Week."

ITESM is a network of twenty-seven universities across Mexico, all highly acclaimed for their superior technology program. The universities regularly offer classes through the Internet and television to keep the different universities linked and

provide a better, more varied education. The university flourishes in high-technology with almost as many computers available as there are students.

So far, Boise State has sent two students to Guadalajara, and received one exchange student. Boise exchange students may live on campus in dorms or with a native family in Guadalajara.

The program also gives them the chance to take tours and learn about Mexico's culture.

Medina highly recommends studying abroad. "It teaches us about how other people live, and the beauty of diversity. The United States is so rich capital-wise but we have *no culture as Americans, where Mexico has thousands of years*

of history and culture."

Medina stayed in Guadalajara for six months and shared an apartment with three other girls. Raised in a bilingual household, she did not have much of a problem with the language and was thrilled to learn more about her Hispanic heritage and culture. Taking three classes kept her busy, but she also made time to work as an intern at EMEX, a company that exports mangos to other countries.

Medina was the first student to go to Guadalajara from Boise State and went to ITESM without knowing anyone there. But she was happy with that challenge, as she comments, "Because I didn't know anyone, I was forced to go out and make *new friends. That experience was so good for me.*"

Nursing professor captures prestigious award

Laurie Meisner

news writer

"...to do and perform all things necessary to encourage, uphold and dignify the profession of teaching."

From Carnegie Foundation of the Advancement of Teaching motto

Associate nursing professor Pam Gehrke was the recipient of the Carnegie Foundation's Idaho Professor of the Year award. For the second consecutive year a BSU professor received the award. Last year, political science professor Stephanie Witt won the honor.

"We have wonderful teachers here. It's time for BSU to have the recognition we

deserve," says Gehrke, a 12-year professor.

Along with Gehrke and Witt, Boise State professors Greg Raymond and Tom Truskey have also received the Idaho Professor of the Year award.

Bob Evancho, who sat on this year's nominating committee, notified Gehrke of her nomination last spring. "He worked with me to put together a portfolio of my work and accomplishments." Administrators and students also submitted letters. Last year the American Public Health Nursing Section chose Gehrke to receive the Creative Achievement Public Health Nursing award. She strives for

creativity in her teaching style.

"I try to be interactive [with my students] using real problems and issues," she reports. "I do a lot of questioning, especially why."

Her focus lies in community health nursing, where she is able to take her profession to new heights. Currently she remains active in the Boise School District as a nurse and chair of the safety committee at her son's elementary school.

In addition to serving in hospitals, Gehrke has worked at the Fred Hutchinson Bone Marrow Transplant Center, as well as in Astoria, Ore. with mariners. "It was different to care for people of other cultures," she notes. Gehrke, a northern Idaho native, contin-

ued her education in Oregon. She completed her bachelor's degree at Southern Oregon University in Ashland and finished at the University of Portland with her Masters. She hopes to continue with her education and earn a Ph.D.

"I have always wanted to teach," she explains. "I really like helping students. Their

knowledge is useful in policy making."

The most demanding part of her job, says Gehrke, is finding time to accomplish everything. She's active and devoted to her job, community and mostly her family. She looks forward to watching with her husband as their son and daughter grow up.



Broncos edge out Utah State in crucial Big West match-up

Pete Erlendson

sports writer

The Boise State Broncos left their tricks in Boise, but treated themselves and BSU fans to the football team's first road win of the season.

Boise State beat a solid Utah State team 33-27 Saturday afternoon in Logan. With this victory the Broncos improve to 6-3 overall and 2-1 in Big West play and remain in control of their own destiny as long as they win their remaining three games of the season.

The offense started the game a little flat, but managed to put up 10 points in the first quarter. Despite many dropped passes by BSU receivers and a offensive line that allowed six sacks, quarterback Bart Hendricks was 22 of 41 passing, throwing for 292 yards, one TD and one interception.

"Bart was fabulous today," praises head coach Dirk Koetter. "Bart's toughness and his competitiveness were awesome today.... That guy's a competitor."

I-D-A-H-O, Idaho, Idaho went down, down, down! The Vandals lost to New Mexico State, a team that beat a ranked Arizona State earlier in the year, but has since struggled. Final score — NMSU 42, Idaho 14. I predicted Idaho to "improve to 4-0 in conference play," instead the Vandals fall to 3-1 in the Big West Conference and 5-3 overall.

Arkansas State pulled off a victory in the closing seconds on a 26-yard touchdown with 19 seconds remaining in the win over Louisiana-Lafayette 31-27.

Nevada rebounded from last weeks walloping from BSU, as the Wolf Pack knocked off North Texas 41-28.

Saturdays game features a 1:05 kickoff against the Arkansas State Indians. The Broncos — with renewed confidence — will whack the Indians 38-6.

Two home games left in the season — support your Broncos and bring many friends

Hendricks proves game in and game out that any success the Broncos may have depends largely on the play of their junior quarterback. When the starting QB is on the mark, BSU wins. But when Hendricks struggles Boise State loses, as the UCLA, Hawaii and North Texas games proved.

"It's great for our guys to know they can not only play with the lead, which we had done before, but to come back after falling behind like we did, that was huge too."

As Hendricks' pass completion ratio shows, his wide receivers dropped quite a few balls, but when the catches were needed the Broncos receiving

corp came through big

Jay Swillie caught a couple of huge throws come crunch time. The freshman had 4 receptions for 64 yards.

Freshman Lou Fanucchi also grabbed some important tosses, as did senior Mike Davisson and sophomore Brian O'Neal, who scored BSU's only touchdown of the third quarter.

Boise State's receivers could have a break out game this Saturday as they return to the comfortable confines of Bronco Stadium. BSU's previous two home games saw the offense score 93 points while the defense allowed only 24.

"Our defense played well when they had to," describes Koetter. "They got us some turnovers early in the game that let us get the lead. It's great for our guys to know they can not only play with the lead, which we had done before, but to come back after falling behind like we did, that was huge too."

Now that Boise State has gotten the road monkey off their back, they can begin to prepare for Arkansas State, who comes to Boise this weekend with a record of 3-6. The game represents the penultimate home game of the season for the Broncos with New Mexico State traveling to the blue turf on Nov. 13.

Arkansas State sent Idaho into overtime back in mid-October and could prove obnoxious for the Broncos, but this is a must win game. Their backs are still against the wall and will continue to be until the early evening of Nov. 20 — the battle of BSU and Idaho in the great state of Washington.

But that game is in the future, until then the Broncos should worry about the present.

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Red-shirt freshman Jay Swillie had 4 catches for 64-yards and no touchdowns, but had a couple of huge receptions in double coverage. He made the grabs, despite knowing he would be taking a huge hit following the catch.

He had only 7 receptions prior to the Utah State game.

A upper class reception performance for such a young talent — tremendous.

Swillie came to the Broncos from Bellarmine High School in Tacoma, Wash. Swillie is the tallest of the Bronco wideouts at 6-3 and he owns a vertical leap of 35 inches.

He received first team All-Narrows League honors as both a junior and a senior. As a senior Swillie caught 37 passes for 638 yards and had 47 pass receptions as a junior for 739 yards.



"We had a million chances to fold today," says Koetter. "First of all we should have knocked them out in the first half. We had to settle for too many field goals instead of finishing in the red-zone.

"But, when the pressure was on us in the second half, when the old Boise State would have folded these guys hung in there and that was a great job coming back and what a team win."

Dave Stewart

sports writer

Volleyball

Boise State 3
Idaho 1

Boise State 1
(19) Cal Poly 3

Soccer

Boise State 0
Florida International 3

Football

	1	2	3	4	F
Boise State	10	6	7	10	33
Utah State	0	7	20	0	27

1st Quarter

BSU - Calaycay 44 yd field goal 5:39
BSU - Malaythong 2 yd run (Calaycay kick) 0:36

2nd Quarter

USU - Pierson 17 yd pass from Crosbie (Bohn kick) 9:13
BSU - Calaycay 32 yd field goal 5:08
BSU - Calaycay 28 yd field goal 0:00

3rd Quarter

USU - Hicfia 0 yd fumble recovery (Bohn kick) 14:33
USU - Brown 5 yd run (pass failed) 8:13
BSU - O'Neal 25 yd pass from Hendricks (Calaycay kick) 5:07
USU - Brown 1 yd run (Bohn kick) 0:59

4th Quarter

BSU - Reed 77 yd run (Calaycay kick) 7:54
BSU - Calaycay 43 yd field goal 4:38

	BSU	USU
First Downs	26	15
Plays	42	38
Yards	210	119
Time of Possession	24:00	18:22

Bosnian native brings team handball to BSU

Lisa Britton

special to the arbiter

When Mirsad Hajro moved to Boise seven weeks ago, he realized no one here knew the sport of team handball. So, to remedy the situation, he took the initiative and formed a team handball club at Boise State.

A combination of soccer and basketball, team handball originated in Germany in the 1890's and is very popular throughout Europe.

"Handball is to Europe what American football is to the US," says Hajro.

Originally from Bosnia, Hajro moved to the United States from Germany where he was attending school.

Hajro began playing team handball while in elementary school and has since played for a total of 12 years. While in Germany, he competed in the German National League for a year and a half.

The club has officially existed at Boise State for about three weeks and though none of the people who signed up for the sport knew how to play, Hajro says with time and practice anyone can learn the sport.

"Once we start to play and learn steps and tricks, then it is more fun and easier to understand," affirms Hajro.

Attempting to generate interest in handball, Hajro began by putting up flyers all over campus. Though seven people have already joined the club, Hajro says at least 15 play-

ers are needed to play a game. Up to this point, the club members have been training for the day when they can play an actual game.

Another obstacle for this new club involves the auxiliary gym where the team holds practice. The gym isn't the correct size and doesn't have the right lines painted for team handball. According to Hajro, a

The club has officially been here for three weeks and this is the first time it's been introduced at BSU. So far seven people have joined, but he needs at least 15 players to play a game.

regulation team handball court should be roughly the size of two basketball courts with two goals at each end.

Since Boise State doesn't own any of the needed equipment for team handball the club plays with Hajro's supplies. He says it is ideal for everyone to have their own balls, but until then the group will get by with what they have.

More players are needed, so anyone interested in joining the club can call Mirsad Hajro at 465-4435.

SPASTIC with plastic

Sean Hayes

news writer

Leslie Tavares never needed a credit card until she came to BSU. Tavares is a rising junior, with good class standing. On top of a full course load she works twenty to thirty hours a week in the financing department of a local business. She got her first credit card at the age of 25 to help with school expenses. After that, more and more offers for credit came, including a Citibank card with a \$5,000 limit. Today, Tavares has four credit cards and carries a debt of over \$6,200.

Tavares remains fairly confident she can pay off her debt. At her job, she works to help people with their own credit ratings. "I have a lot of credit," she says, "but I know how to manage it. I've seen

some really horrific credit bureaus."

According to the Nellie Mae company, a non-profit provider of student loans, the average debt load of undergraduate students is \$1,283. Graduate students carry a median of \$2678. Tavares' debt places her in the range of 14-percent of undergraduate students with debts between \$3,000 and \$7,000. Over 60 percent of undergraduates own credit cards. Twenty percent have four or more.

A study by Robert Manning of the Consumer Federation of America claims that credit card debt accounts for student drop-out, bankruptcy, poor grades and even, in a few nationally known cases, suicide. Manning says that credit card companies targeting students on college campuses "now pose

a greater risk than alcohol or sexually transmitted diseases."

Tavares acknowledges that her grades suffer this semester with the amount of work it takes both for living expenses and to pay off her credit cards. "If I have to work extra hours to pay rent, it's either that or go to class. Usually, work wins out."

Tavares needed credit cards to pay medical bills when a condition caused her to make frequent trips to the doctor. She admits, however, that some of her credit cards financed trips, gambling and bar tabs. Money she receives from financial aid only postpones bills for a month or two, she says, and then she needs to make up the difference on her own.

The rising epidemic of credit card debt for college students led to the expanding business of firms specializing in debt consolidation. These firms generally work with credit card companies to have interest rates reduced to allow a client to pay down their balance.

"Sometimes college students will actually use credit cards to live on while they're going to school," Jason Bish, credit counselor, explains. "There are a lot of them where financial aid is not enough, so they have credit cards available to use for expenses."

Bish says that when a college student comes to a firm such as Debt Reduction Services, generally their balance is between five and ten thousand dollars. "It's not just college students either," Bish says. "It's the American population. We used

to be a saving nation, now we're a spending nation." He says that for every \$1 earned, the average American spends \$1.10.

"Credit card companies targeting students on college campuses now pose a greater risk than alcohol or sexually transmitted diseases."

Part of the reason a record number of college students carry such high debt is the aggressive marketing on college campuses by credit card firms. Companies that come to universities sometimes offer free gifts, and often do not check whether a student can pay off the balances they offer.

For this reason, Dennis Meunier, vice president of United College Marketing Services, reports that over 430 U.S. colleges banned credit card marketing on campus. He says the reason for such restrictions is because high debt levels lead to many students dropping out of school. Credit vendors may still access Boise State students on campus.

A suicide last year came to national attention, underscoring the damage high debt can do to a college student. Sean O'Donnell, a National Merit Scholar and student at the University of Texas, killed himself due to an accumulation of over \$10,000 in debt.

His mother, Janne

O'Donnell, told Dateline NBC that her son felt a sense of shame about his debt. "He thought he wouldn't get into law school," she said, "We couldn't afford to pay for it... He felt like a failure at age 22." She reported that her son received his first credit card at the age of 18, and afterwards other companies bombarded him with offers.

Credit counseling agencies urge students to never use cards to pay for necessities, such as rent and groceries. Balances should be paid, whenever possible, in full every month. Jane Schuchardt, of the National Endowment for Financial Education in California, told *U.S. News & World Report*, that those who pay only the minimums may "end up spending \$10 for a gallon of milk." The article stipulates that credit cards should never be used for anything "you can eat, wear or listen to."

Tavares urges students to resist the temptations she fell for. "If you get a big balance," she says, "ask them to lower it. You'll say 'Oh, I won't spend it all,' but you will."

Bish reminds students that debt from credit cards can hurt their future chances of earning credit. Even if a student applies for a credit card they don't accept, creditors take note of the amount of financial risk a student is willing to take on.

"Debt can really prohibit or make it harder to get things that are going to come up," Bish says, "Maybe a car. Maybe a house. You're really mortgaging your future carrying around a large debt."

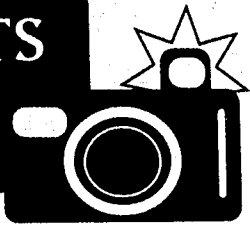


Photo by Rafael Sakyaan The Arbiter

Leslie Tavares is one of many students today who have raked up an enormous amount of debt.

SNAPTHOUGHTS

by: Rafael Saakyan



Do you have a credit card and how much do you owe?



Dottie Lester
Freshman

"No, I don't have any."

Thomas Minnick
Senior



"Several, I owe much less than I could borrow."



Ansarul Haque
Sophomore

"Yeah, I just got it last week and already spent \$300."

Cindy Testin
Sophomore



"Yeah, I owe like \$290."

Handy tips to avoid credit card debt

Sean Hayes

news writer

Never apply for a credit card you don't plan to accept. That free John Belushi T-shirt won't look so tempting once you're aware that companies will see it on your credit report. Jason Bish says that if a creditor observes that you've applied for thousands of dollars in credit, even if you never use it, you may be considered a credit risk.

Experts urge students to keep only one card at a time. If possible, students may hold a second one only for emergencies. Even the minimum payments on a stack of credit cards can add up quickly.

Nellie Mae advises that students create budgets to keep track of what they can afford each month. Stay aware that interest is charged on everything not paid in cash. In

addition, some companies raise interest if a bill isn't paid on time. Most companies charge fees for late payment or for exceeding the credit limit.

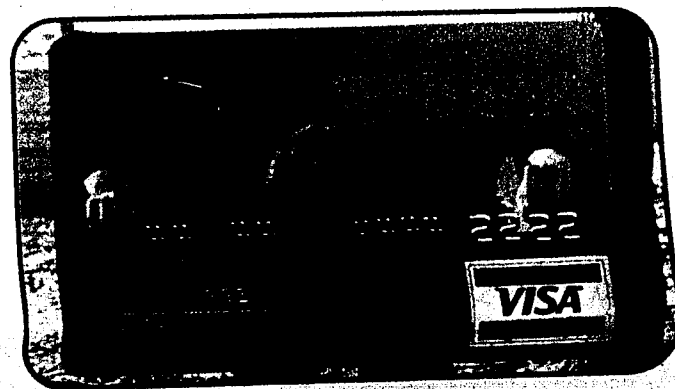
Experts urge students to keep only one card at a time. If possible, students may hold a second one only for emergencies. Even the minimum payments on a stack of credit cards can add up quickly.

Consumer Credit Counseling says warning signs for negative debt spending include using cards to pay rent and other necessities, making

only minimum monthly payments and getting cash balances from one card to pay off another. Experts encourage paying balances in full each month, and never buying what you can't pay for.

A tip suggested to *The Arbitrator's* editor-in-chief is to keep the credit card in a jar of water in the freezer. Once you want to make a purchase leave the card out to thaw. Placing a credit card in the microwave to speed up the process would demagnetize it. Like the waiting period for gun purchases, extra time to think may prevent impulsive actions.

For those already in trouble, consider a debt consolidation service. Additional resources include Debt Counselors of America at 1-800-680-3328 or the National Foundation for Consumer Credit at 1-800-388-2227.



The top 10 things you need to know to be credit wise

1. Create a budget so you'll know what you can afford.
2. Pay your bill on time, every month.
3. A simple rule: if you can't afford it, don't charge it.
4. Always pay more than the minimum due or pay off the balance entirely.
5. Interest charges are always added when your bill is not paid in full.
6. Know your credit card interest rate, statement due date and credit limit.
7. Fees are charged if you pay late and/or exceed your credit limit.
8. Trouble paying? Seek assistance before debt gets out of hand. Contact Debt Counselors of America at 1-800-680-3328 or the National Foundation for Consumer Credit at 1-800-388-2227.
9. A poor credit history can hurt your chances of getting an apartment, a car loan and in some cases can even affect your chances of getting a new job.
10. Before you move, notify the card issuer, in writing, of your new address.

From the United States Student Association and MasterCard International. www.credittalk.com

Deprung Loseling monks visit BSU

Jessica Holmes

a&e writer

Men in saffron robes will soon walk the halls of BSU. The monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery come to campus Nov. 3-6 to raise awareness of the plight of the beleaguered inhabitants of Chinese-occupied Tibet.

The Chinese government invaded Tibet in the 1950's and continues a policy of cultural genocide, destroying monasteries, resettling Chinese citizens in the region and brutalizing the Tibetans who remain there. In the 46 years since the invasion, an estimated 1.2 million Tibetans have been killed and hundreds of thousands imprisoned.

"This can become a springboard for change all over the world and exemplify non-violent struggle and using compassion to stop hatred."

After forty-six years of heinous human rights violations, this decade alone witnessed the wave of American sentiment crash on the Tibetan border. This is the decade of the benevolent celebrity. Beastie Boy Adam Yauch, while hiking in the Himalayas in 1992, became interested in the Tibetan plight after meeting and talking with some of the country's refugees. Yauch instituted a relief organization called the Milarepa Fund, and began the Tibetan Freedom concert, which coalesces the gurus of pop (U2, Red Hot Chili Pep-

pers, REM, Bjork, Alanis Morissette) in one large arena to coerce fans into relinquishing their hearts and wallets.

"If everyone focuses simultaneously on this issue, then Tibet will quickly become free," said Yauch at the 1996 Tibetan Freedom Concert. "This can become a springboard for change all over the world and exemplify nonviolent struggle and using compassion to stop hatred."

Tibetan refugees have become celebrities in their own right. The fourteenth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, who fled to India in 1959, has written numerous books and commonly appears between the pages of magazines.

In 1999, on the fortieth anniversary of the Tibetan national uprising, the Dalai Lama, while giving a speech that recognized the rise in awareness of the Tibetan situation, said, "The plight of the Tibetan people and our non-violent freedom struggle has touched the hearts and conscience of all people who cherish truth and justice. The international awareness of the issue of Tibet has reached an unprecedented height since last year. Concerns and active support for Tibet are not confined to human rights organizations, governments and parliaments. Universities, schools, religious and social groups...have also come to understand the problem of Tibet and are now expressing their solidarity with our cause."

Monks, after suffering through the dark of oppression, now begin to shine in the limelight. The Drepung Loseling monks recorded five CDs, two of which achieved the top ten



Deprung Loseling monks share their culture with audiences world-wide.

listing on U.S. new age charts. The monks have performed at concerts and festivals with Paul Simon, Patti Smith, Natalie Merchant and the Beastie Boys, even reciting a prayer at the 1998 Tibetan Freedom Concert.

This fame comes out of a tragic past. The Drepung Loseling monastery, one of the five great Gelupka monasteries of central Tibet, was founded in 1416. Before the Chinese Communists closed it in 1959 during the Mao invasion, more than 10,000 monks received training there in the spiritual and philosophical traditions of Tibetan Buddhism, as well as the sacred performing arts. The invasion swept most of the monks in the

monastery to death or concentration camps, but 250 of Drepung Loseling's members escaped to southern India, where they erected a replica of the original monastery.

Now the Sixth World Tour of Sacred Music/Sacred Dance for World Healing brings the monks to cities across America in effort to spotlight, once again, the suffering in Tibet.

This includes a lecture titled "Political Climate in Tibet" on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Special Events Center during which experts on the social atmosphere of Tibet will discuss recent political and economic strife within the country. More importantly, however, stu-

dents may actually witness the cultural reasons for the preservation of Tibet. The monks will display their traditional heritage in activities such as the ancient art of mandala sand painting, which will be displayed in the Visual Arts Center Gallery 1 from Nov. 1-5, and a Saturday concert Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. titled "Sacred Music/Sacred Dance for World Healing" in the Special Events Center, which delves into the rhythms of ritualistic forms of song, chant and dance. Tickets are available at Select-A-Seat for \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students, faculty and staff.

...five small steps for Crash Four, one giant leap for Boise music

Justin Endow

a&e writer

Step one: Crash Four builds local fan base playing coffee shops. Check.

Step two: Crash Four records demo and plays Boise State University campus again and again. Check.

Step three: Crash Four lands gigs outside the Treasure Valley. Check.

Step four: Crash Four hones considerable skills, records studio album. Check.

Step five: Crash Four wins rave reviews and parlays that into regional, even national success. In progress.

If the future fits together as well as the past has for Kelly Martin, Jake Ransom, Harley

Wright, Steve Poole and Becca Gourley, Crash Four needn't worry about what's to come. The band that has developed into arguably Boise's most recognized and undoubtedly most talented act can take the stage this Friday with confidence when they host their first album release party at Live Wire.

Their debut full-length studio disc, . . . *five small steps*, crackles with surprisingly deft musicianship and songwriting for an inaugural work. The band displays only one small chink in the armor—they fail to fully explore the vocal talents of violinist Gourley. This one oversight feels like a significant missed opportunity; however, it hardly hurts the overall integrity

of the work.

Gourley's abilities do come out in background duties on a number of songs, including "Push and Bury" and "What About How," a recording that could dominate local rock radio given half a chance.

Martin and Ransom share lead vox duties, and both occasionally get overshadowed by the exceptional musical movements. Martin's vocals finally command attention on "What About How" and the sorrowful "Without End." He seems to feel these lyrics much deeper, and it shows in his performances.

Ransom also sings with more emotional intensity on some tracks than on others.

"2000" and "Shallow Two" showcase his vocal chops best, at times demonstrating voice qualities similar to Live's Ed Kowalczyk.

Nearly every song on . . . *five small steps* grips the listener. The only tracks that fall a little short, "Showdown" and "Changes," both exhibit some fine work by drummer Wright, but neither offers much beyond that in the up-tempo mix of guitars. These songs simply don't present the same polished, professional sound that resonates throughout the rest of the album.

Musically, Gourley's violin attracts most of the public attention, and she proves why in every song. But no one should

overlook the other four skilled members of Crash Four. Martin and Ransom's rhythm and bass guitar impress, Wright's skin-pounding deserves notice and Poole's lead guitar and mandolin, while not showcased often, work particularly well in conjunction with the violin. This band has matured well beyond the metal sound that once dominated Martin, Poole and Ransom's music.

Watch this group closely over the next couple of years. They very well may become the act that catapults the Boise music scene onto the national map.

Crash Four will perform Nov. 5 with special guest Ernest Orange beginning at 9 p.m.

History and personalities at BLT

Russ Crawford

A&E Writer

Lettice and Lovage promises to delight all those who see it. Written by Peter Shaffer (*Amadeus, Equus*), this family fare comedy finds its way onto Boise Little Theater's stage for the first two weeks of November.

Director Jack Leonard labels *Lettice and Lovage* a "story of black and white...of color versus drab." The play features essentially two main, conflicting personalities. Tour guide Lettice Duffet, played by recent BSU graduate Janet Summers, habitually accompanies her passion for history with theatricality and flamboyance. This embellishment of past events clashes with the temperament of Lotte Schon, actress Sue

Galligan's grave character.

Lettice's downfall appears to be her proclivity of finding a norm but elaborating it to a "point of gross but beautiful exaggeration," says Leonard. Schon, Lettice's boss and head of all historical archives in England, fires Lettice for these uninhibited history lessons. This initial conflict leads to a court trial and finally a resolute lawyer's desire to uncover the true facts.

Lettice and Lovage contains numerous historical allusions. It seems to parallel a segment of England's own history when Richard III was beheaded. Oliver Cromwell soon reigned, and England quickly became a gray, stagnant place. With Lettice's firing, the archives suffer and fades into colorless.

Ultimately, the story transforms into one of the human spirit. Through a mutual bond, both characters learn deeper meanings in life. Lettice's free spirit cannot be squelched, and though Schon persists in taking her history seriously she develops a new outlook on her involvement with people. She changes in the play, and her prudent treatment of history soon equals her dealings with people.

Kevin Kimsey, Angela Kimsey, and Kelly Cook also make appearances on stage. BLT offers seven more showings. Nov. 4-6, 11-13 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 2 p.m. \$8 for reserved seating, \$6 for students and the Sunday matinee.

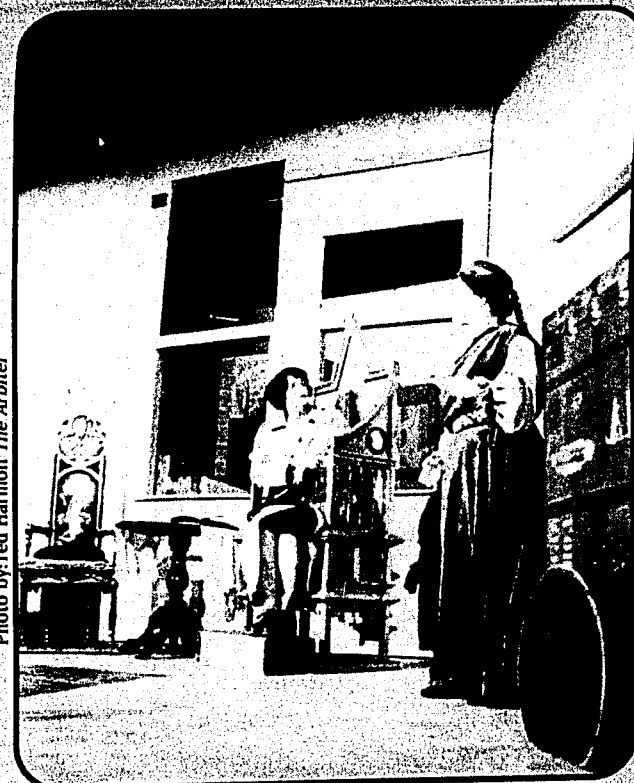


Photo by: Ted Harmon The Arbiter

The *Lettice and Lovage* cast prepare for their November performance at Boise Little Theater.

New Hoag novel delivers mystery, intrigue

Brittney Raybould

a&e editor

Tami Hoag continues her streak of writing suspenseful, nail-biter fiction with *Still Waters*. It takes place, appropriately enough, in Still Creek, Minn., a small town located in Amish farm country.

The main protagonist, Elizabeth Stuart, raises the eyebrows of locals by being new to the area and buying the town's run-down newspaper.

As editor-in-chief, she alienates a few of the citizens by digging into stories they would rather leave alone. Her widely publicized divorce from a national figure, which made every newsstand in the country,

stirs up more negative opinion in the conservative community.

Elizabeth hopes to make

This novel will appeal to a wide range of audiences not only because it tells a good story, but it also provides the suspense and intrigue readers look for in a good mystery.

a new start, not only for herself, but for her teenage son, who is

fighting some of the darker demons associated with being a confused and unhappy teenager.

Elizabeth must face the disdain of the general populace, but she falls under the scrutiny of the local sheriff, Dane Jantzen, an ex-athlete whose career was cut short by an injury.

Scrutiny turns to suspicion when Elizabeth stumbles on the body of a local developer with his throat slit. Suddenly, the local editor becomes the main headline, and Elizabeth finds herself butting heads with Dane as she tries to cover the biggest story to ever hit this small community.

Dane doesn't want his main witness compromising his case, but with Elizabeth trumpeting the First Amendment, he realizes he is fighting a losing battle.

Elizabeth's son doesn't help the situation by hanging out with the main suspect in the murder and continually trapping himself in lies.

When it looks as though the murderer has fixed his/her sights on Elizabeth, things start to get hairy. Someone trashes the newspaper office and Elizabeth's star reporter and friend gets attacked pursuing a lead. Elizabeth finds herself questioning everything and everyone as time passes and the

murderer remains unapprehended.

Hoag's style of twisting and turning leaves the reader guessing throughout the identity of the actual murderer and the real motive behind the act.

Still Waters follows Hoag's previous bestsellers *Ashes to Ashes*, *Cry Wolf*, and *Guilty As Sin* to name just a few.

This novel remains exciting from beginning to end. It will appeal to a wide range of audiences not only because it tells a good story, but it also provides the suspense and intrigue readers look for in a good mystery novel.

I give *Still Waters* two thumbs up.

KQFC, Boise State Athletics and the Boise State Alumni Association present:

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Bringing Out the Dead offers grim glimpse of urban life

Dominik Brueckner
a&e writer

Bringing Out the Dead offers a first-hand look at a part of reality that fortunately few people get to see. No, it's not the realm of the dead, although this topic remains central to the film. It's the urban jungle that brings too many people too close to this realm far too soon.

Hell's Kitchen doesn't belong to the parts of New York City where a tourist would feel comfortable getting lost, especially at night. In the New York of the early 1990s, drug dealers and prostitutes, crime and gang wars dominate the scene. In the middle of this Frank Pierce (played by Academy Award-winner Nicolas

Cage), a paramedic, works the night shifts driving his ambulance through the streets of Manhattan. Frank is torn between his love for the job and the immense emotional toll it takes out of him. "Saving lives is like falling in love," he says. "It is the greatest feeling in the world." Along with this comes a strong sense of frustration and burnout when Frank realizes he hasn't saved a life in a long time. His hope of getting fired for showing up late to work, and his dedication to help those who need it the most show his inner struggles that eventually lead him to the brink of collapse. Symbolically, the face of one girl who died in his arms continually comes back to haunt him.

The movie spans fifty-six hours in Frank's life, two days of fatigue and insomnia, and three nights of duty. The three partners in the ambulance represent the different attitudes towards the job. Larry (John Goodman) manages to detach himself from his job to the extent that he can take naps during the shift. The hilarious Marcus (Ving Rhames) gets along with a mixture of humor and faith in God. And Tom (Tom Sizemore) reacts with a mixture of violence and disgust hard to understand, unless you deal with these tragedies day in day out.

One of the patients Frank desperately tries to save is the father of a young woman, Mary Burke. They grew up in

the same neighborhood, and his helpfulness creates a special bond between them. They find solace in each other and in their shared desperation and loneliness. In the end, they redefine the term "sleeping together" in a completely non-sexual sense, adding a hopeful tone to Frank's pessimistic outlook.

Martin Scorsese directed classics like *Goodfellas* and *Taxi Driver*, which actually has many parallels to this movie. As expected, his efforts are extraordinary. The cinematography includes many fast-forwards with the ambulance racing through the dark streets slow motions when Frank observes people on the sidewalk or even cameras turned

sideways, perfectly conveying the pulse and speed of the life encountered. This movie is realistic down to the smallest details. The scenes at the hospital, the people on the streets, even garbage was added to the streets of Hell's Kitchen that look a lot cleaner today than in the early nineties.

Considering the dark topic of the movie, the humor becomes the major factor relieving the tension in the movie. Nicolas Cage, the perfect cast for the torn protagonist, delivers another astonishing performance. This is true not only for him, but for the entire cast and crew: *Bringing Out the Dead* brings out the best in them. Rating: R.

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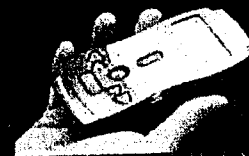
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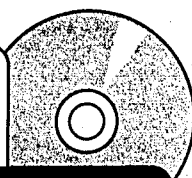
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sound CHECK

Russ Crawford

A&E Writer

Nothing New, Nothing Innovative From 311

Five-member group 311 released its sixth CD titled *Soundsystem* on Oct. 12. In com-

parison to the band's successful 1995 triple platinum, self-titled CD, *Soundsystem* sounds more like plain old sound. Nothing new and nothing innovative.

Listeners may immediately recognize the second track, "Come Original." The

song's choppy, pseudo-reggae feel does not impress. It does, however, convince listeners that the band and its producers can indeed generate a loose and obvious imitation of real reggae, with little or no authentic reggae influence apparent in the track.

The CD does fittingly reach a high point in the center with two songs. "Life's Not a Race" reveals some clever lyrics and allows for vocalist SA Martinez to showcase his talents. Meanwhile, 311's second attempt at reggae nears success with "Strong All Along." The song more closely resembles a true reggae, with wildly varying beats complementing the fast-paced, poetic words.

Guitarist Nick Hexum says, "Our goal was to make a really kick-ass rock record—a little less experimental and more raw." If Hexum meant "under cooked" when he said "raw," he chose the right word. 311 must have rushed this CD through production.

The album's unchanging, middle-of-the-road energy level risks losing listeners' attention. Except for a couple glitches, the

songs become indistinguishable from one another. Most of the tracks could serve as pretty good background music for scenes in coming of age, high school movies. And that's it. Rating: 5 of 10.

Primus – The True Ace of Bass

When somebody mentions Primus, do you think of novel and outstanding bass play? It seems the band will never change that. Their newest release, *Antipop*, retains those identical bass-driven hooks and much of the same dark, comical relief they has stamped as its own.

"Electric Uncle Sam" opens the CD with frontman/bassist Les Claypool's fingers working overtime. He reaches for and finds an industrial, ripping and thumping effect in his bass play.

"Natural Joe" follows next and perhaps describes what the song itself entails for the band: being natural and going back to the roots. We hear the typical, old-school Primus with Claypool providing his famous slow-paced and loping

bass instrumentals.

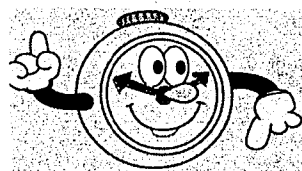
With the lead singer's voice sounding whiny and nasally, the vocals step up into somewhat of a filler role. The band probably includes vocals because of what the industry expects of them. Outside the evident comic value, the lyrics fail to provide any important, thematic message for listeners.

The title track highlights the CD but falls short in its own respect. A set of bells sets an unmistakable, ominous tone for the song, but again the vocals snap listeners out of that mode in a hurry. Every song seems to be characterized similarly. Each begins strong and with incredible promise but eventually wane. If the band could keep their intensity, power and mystique from start to finish in every song, this CD would be phenomenal.

With only brief instances of brilliance, this album will not make its way into my CD player very often. The diagnosis: more consistency and fewer lyrics. Maybe rename the band: Les Claypool and Co. Rating 7 of 10.



311's sixth album doesn't offer much more than middle-of-the-road energy.



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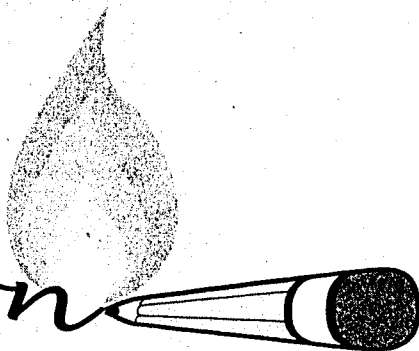
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Damon



Bookstores for Dummies

Damon Hunzeker

Columnist

Among my various trades I've always wanted to incorporate the savage toil of working in a bookstore. I pictured myself browsing through the aisles with a notebook by my side, perusing the great works of literature for ideas. Then a customer or two would enter and I would allow my creative fluids to simmer while helping the patrons locate books. We would discuss—perhaps argue, perhaps align our sentiments—things of the bookish persuasion. Once alone again, I would turn the stove of erudition back on high and stir my thoughts.

After countless unsuccessful attempts, sometimes going so far as to actually fill out applications, I retreated into my fortress of blankets and abandoned all hope. I don't know why I had never been hired at a bookstore but suspect it had something to do with my inability to read. I was busy with swimming lessons when I was supposed to be learning how to decipher the strange shapes people commit to paper, so I simply never got around to

escaping the fetters of illiteracy. I did, however, learn how to write; I just can't read. I have no idea what any of this says. (Never mind. I just figured it out. Wow, this is some horribly derivative tripe I'm writing.)

Anyway, now, finally, somehow, my dream has become reality. I work at a bookstore—except the job doesn't even closely resemble my aforementioned, recurring daydream. Perhaps it relates to the unpleasantness of working in one of those big giant super magic stores. I won't reveal the name of the store for whom I work, but it rhymes with "Narnes and Boble."

The discourses upon fine literature for which I hoped haven't quite materialized. Basically, if I work there much longer they're going to have me convinced that *The Pokemon Handbook* is a real book. Nobody purchases anything good. The other day, a man nearly restored my faith in the reading public by picking up a Mark Twain book.

"Are you finding everything you need?" I asked.

"Um ... is this his greatest hits?"

"Twain didn't put out a greatest hits package."

"Oh. Well, does this have the story about Pokemon in it?"

"Are you thinking of Huckleberry Finn?"

"Are you making fun of me?"

"No, I—"

"I need Pokemon cards!"

"What the hell is Pokemon?"

"You work in a bookstore, and you don't know what Pokemon is?"

"All I know is you're in the Mark Twain section and—"

"Shuttup! Shuttup! Pokemon!"

I decided to leave at that point, mistakenly dismissing him as a deranged anomaly among the book world. Then somebody approached me and asked, "Excuse me, where's the Pokemon section?" "I'm sorry, I don't work here," I lied. "But I think that guy over there yelling at *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* can help you."

The few people who actually intend to read, rather than look at pictures of strategy guides for video games, are unable to think for themselves. They're all sent to the store

from a mysterious leader who controls their thoughts. The leader, I believe, is named Oprah. They seem to hear voices from this Oprah person. I encounter the following inquiries, with subtle variations of the theme, no less than 80 times a day:

"Hi, do you have that book Oprah was talking about?"

"Can you tell me where the latest Oprah recommendation is?"

"Did you see Oprah yesterday? She said we should read this book ... I can't remember the name or the author, but it has something to do with carbohydrate addicts."

The mindless minions routinely march in and look for this silly carbohydrate book. Evidently, they're addicted to carbohydrates. Aha! It all makes sense now—potatoes cause people to hear mysterious voices from someone named Oprah.

The few people who actually intend to read, rather than look at pictures of strategy guides for video games, are unable to think for themselves.

This morning I heard a customer tell his wife, "I don't know why we're here. You can get most of this stuff on the Internet nowadays." I'm sick of these people, the morons who think everything can be done on the Internet. ("What are you doing with that Kleenex? A little behind the times, aren't ya? You can blow your nose on the

Internet nowadays. Just click the browser icon, type in snot.com, reboot your hard drive, download the application program, then pick up your mousepad, stick in front of your face, and blow. It's that easy!")

This brings up another category of book patrons: the micro-losers. These are the people who walk into a giant bookstore beneath paintings of Shaw, Orwell, Woolf, Hemingway, Kafka, and then proceed to the computer section to sift through such catchy titles as *How to Use Webscan Visual Link Version 8.3*, whereupon they buy 60-pound, 2000-page, \$90 "books" so they can learn how to run a soon-to-be-obsolete program from an even-sooner-to-be-obsolete book. But it's important, because computers have eliminated so much paperwork.

Before I left today I foolishly thought I'd found someone with functioning neurons in her head. She said, "Hi, I'm a poet, and I'm looking for a few books to improve my writing. Can you help me?" Relieved, I cheerfully embraced the opportunity. "I would love to help you," I said. "You're the first person I've met today who appreciates the English language. And a fellow writer, too! What can I help you locate?" She pulled out a piece of paper, presumably acquired from the Internet, and began to read off a list of titles: "Uh ... *Chicken Soup for the Poet's Soul*, let's see... *Iambic Pentameter for Dummies*, um ... and *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Rhyming Stuff*. Do you have those?"

All I wanted to do was go home, relax, and click open a copy of paradiselost.com. (Is that last thing a dot or a period?)

The **E**spot

Lesleigh Owen

Columnist

William Shakespeare said: "All the world's a stage/ And all the men and women merely players." While Billy-boy likely intended the message to apply to life itself, he couldn't have better summarized Comm 101 if he'd tried.

Learning to speak before people is one of the few perks allowed us students during our four-year-plus prison terms. How many speaking phobes, after all, will ever experience the exhilaration of wowing a rally crowd, a classful of eager students, or her/his fellow Americans during the state of the union address?

My future-Pulitzer-prize-winning sister teaches a Comm 101 class; once in a while, if I'm real good and eat all my zucchini, she lets me help prepare her lessons and grade her tests. (Enter my twisted world, stage right.) Last week, she asked the students in both her classes to jot down their greatest fears of public speaking. As someone who spends two nights a week slapping semi-coherent words on a computer screen in hopes of enlightening, enlivening and indoctrinating my fellow students, she recruited me to play the part of speech-instructor.

So here I am, instructin'.

After much chin-scratching and brain-tapping, I decided to begin with speeches' functions. Yeah, yeah, getting the point across is all well and good, but unless your point sticks in the minds of your audience like tater tots to their ribs,

All the world's a stage

not too many will resurrect your speech when they're eighty-nine and reliving the highlights of their fruitful lives.

Oh, I know it sounds like yet more speech-related pressure: gee, Les, in addition to remembering to spit out my gum, dress in something tidier than sweats and mismatched socks, make eye contact and become notecard-emancipated, you want me to pull a Laurence Olivier? On the contrary, my little chiclets, the truth will set you free. Taking my advice allows you to become the stage-hogging, attention-seeking, kudos-winning center of attention you know lurks in your darkest, innermost recesses.

Take a second and imagine yourself grabbing a brewsky with your buds after your last class on Friday. Now picture — okay, you can stop thinking about the friends and beer now — now picture yourself talking with Aunt Thelma about Cousin Dawn's root canal. The situations call for different behaviors, different personas. All the world's a stage, and one of the best moments to build your own character comes as you stand before a roomful of people, yakking for five-to-seven minutes on the joys of key-making.

Remember all those times your parents and friends clucked their tongues and chastised you for not "acting like yourself" with your new romantic interest? Well, sisters and brothers, you've finally reached a safe harbor where no one judges you for dabbling outside the boundaries of your other, more familiar roles. Public speaking allows you to con-

sciously develop your own persona. It rewards you for role infidelity.

See how wrong you were for hating public speaking?

The students' number one speaking fear includes not having enough information. One student, a man after my own heart, even wrote: "What am I gonna do if I run out of BS?"

Doubt me not, grasshoppers: the basics cover such fears. Remember all the times your friend or significant other told you either to shut the hell up or at least allow others a chance to speak? Keeping that image fresh in your little melon, now try and tell me you can't fill hours with the sound of your voice.

Or, on a more concrete level, simply step up the brainpower. After years of moaning about your lack of creativity, face the fact that you, too, possess the secret power of wringing ideas from that mound of grey jelly sloshing between your ears. Crank up the creativity knob and turn unfamiliar speaking topics into familiar ones.

Imagine, for example, that I finally get my Ph.D. and become your Communication professor (I get to imagine, too, you know). I point with the finger of doom and ask you to deliver a three-minute speech on the water buffalo. An avid motorcyclist but completely unfamiliar with the intricacies of water buffaloes, you nonetheless stride to the front of the room. For the next three minutes, you yammer on about how riding a water buffalo to school instead of your motorcycle helps you save the environment,

diminish traffic jams and save money on parking permits. Now imagine I force you to discuss quantum physics. After a moment, you begin reminiscing about that early-90s show "Quantum Leap," which fascinated you with its theories of time travel — when you weren't drooling over Scott Bakula.

The second highest-rated fear among sissy's Comm 101 students: stuffing info within narrow time limits. Or, for those of you who find annual exams more appealing than public speaking, it's facing the nightmare of filling those minutes with a jumble of facts. Unfortunately, I left my time-constraint magic wand in my other jacket. My sage advice on time limits: work within them. Personally, I always write a much longer speech outline than necessary. I cram tons of examples and amusing anecdotes into my speech and then decide beforehand which ones to cut if my time runs short. Not too gimmicky, I know, but I've always found it handy-dandy.

The third worst Comm 101 fear involves a poor audience response. Speaking generally, audiences act as mirrors. If we portray a confident persona, even our stupid jokes will elicit some response (hopefully, short of rotten vegetables, a twice-mentioned fear among the students). If we avoid eye contact, hunch over and speak in a halting tone, even a speech written by Jerry Seinfeld will send our audience sailing to Sleepyland.

One of my favorite tricks includes prepping myself with dramatic interpretations. Grab your high school copy of *Romeo*

and *Juliet*, *Catcher in the Rye*, or some Stephen King book written in the first person. Read it out loud with all the emotion you can muster. Really ham it up. Then, remind yourself that giving a speech is simply a slightly more spontaneous version of this drama fest.

The fourth greatest fear among her students includes their own lack of preparation. Luckily, I have the perfect cure: Prepare!

In conclusion... No, way! Yuck! Don't even think about using such a mechanical phrase. As any Comm 101 prof will hammer into your head, if you can't end your speech with a bang, at least manage to logically summarize. Remember, however, that your creativity knows no bounds. If at the end of the speech you feel compelled to sum up by means of some elaborate analogy, go for it. If you feel inspired to wrap everything up with a quote from Sylvia Plath or an improvised dirty limerick, do it. If your mind abandons you near the end of your speech with no clever conclusion in sight, scrape something together, end with a resonant tone and then ask: "Are there any questions?" Cheap trick, but a great safety net.

In short... Just kidding. Remember that you have control of the stage and have finally found the medium to help you share your brilliance with the world. Shove unfamiliar topics into familiar frameworks, no matter how odd the connection. Perhaps most importantly, encourage the audience to leave their vegetables at home.

Are there any questions?

PUZZLE

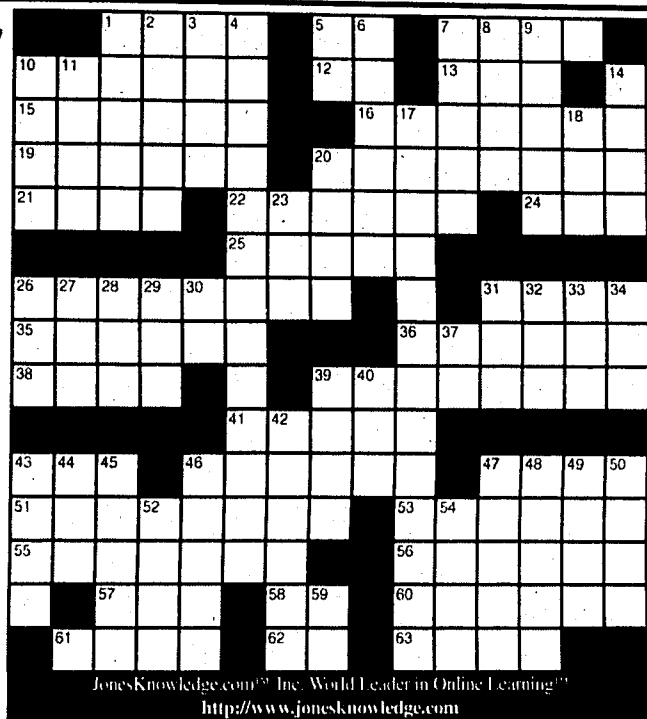
October 28, 1999

ACROSS

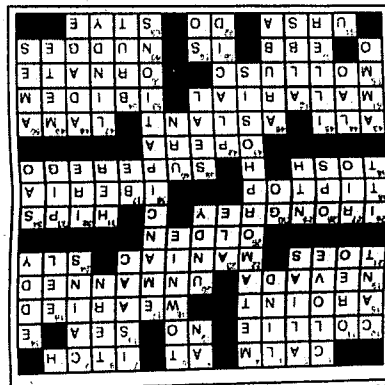
1. Before the storm
5. "She'll be there" 3 p.m.
7. Seven year
10. Lassie
12. Opposite of Yes
13. There are seven
15. Begone! (Imperative verb)
16. Mentally exhausted
19. State next to California
20. Without people
21. A ballerina dances here
22. Madman
24. Wily
25. Long ago times
26. Hair color
31. Rose
35. The highest point
36. Spain and Portugal
38. To neaten
39. The conscience
41. Carmen, e.g.
43. Baha
46. Obliquely
47. Tibetan priest
51. Unwholesome
53. "In the same book"
55. A clam
56. Overly showy
57. A tide
58. Present indicative of he
60. Prods
61. A major star
62. Hair style
63. Eye ailment

DOWN

1. Piece of garlic
2. False name
3. Opera singer Jerry
4. Change from one stage to another
5. Actinon chemical symbol
6. One not living on campus
7. Managing Editor of "Sports Night"
8. Sea bird
9. Percentages of Irish farm crops
10. Whining speech
11. Nabisco cookie
14. Whirl
17. States of being free
18. Elongated fish
20. One puts this on first
23. Malt beverage
26. Hotel parent company
27. "Learn it to"
28. Roman Goddess of plenty
29. A degree
30. Pass this and get \$200
31. Female
32. Rage
33. Young swine
34. Portuguese saint
37. To occupy a space
39. A stamp
40. Where ashes lie
42. A NY lake
43. Military supplies
44. A people of Northern Thailand
45. Sicker
46. Island in the New Indies
47. A 30's dance
48. A traditional saying
49. Allot
50. Singing brothers
52. Priestly garments
54. After shave brand



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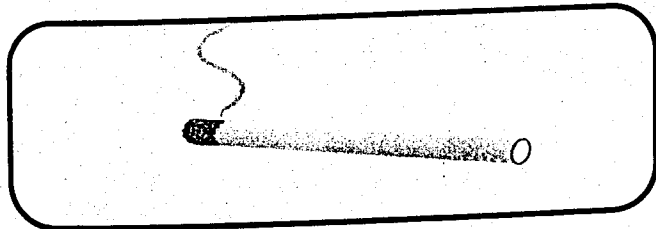
Topical top five courtesy of Shawn and Chris from the Eagle 96.9

Today's topical top five topic . . . top five advantages of having beer and wine at the Pavilion!

- 5) Watching drunks fall out of the balcony adds extra entertainment value!
 - 4) Increased revenue for BSU because when you've spent \$45 for a concert ticket, \$4.50 a beer seems cheap.
 - 3) If the game gets boring you can hold a belching contest.
 - 2) More hecklers at the Ice Capades.
- And the number one advantage to having beer and wine at the Pavilion...now that alcohol's on campus, gambling and prostitution can't be far behind.



All the news that fits, we print!



A quest for the joint

Marijuana activist Michael Dee can't seem to get busted.

Dee wants to challenge legalization laws and has been attempting to go to jail for possession but officers refuse to

haul him away.

Dee stood on a Maine sidewalk last week grasping a marijuana plant and yelling at motorists to call police but all authorities did was tell him to stop blocking traffic.

Police Chief Michael Chitwood says if Dee wants to be arrested, maybe he should get a bigger plant.

When you have to go...

A Pennsylvania judge has ruled if you have to go, you don't have to blow.

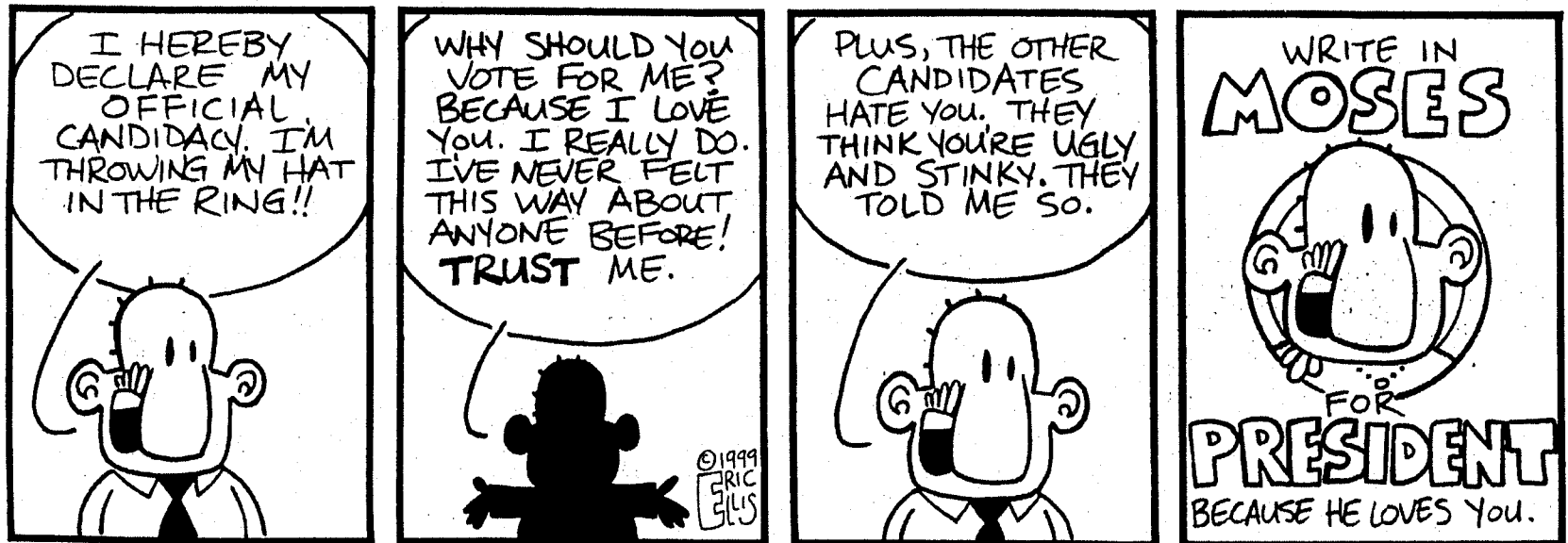
John Carlin lost his license for not completing a Breathalyzer test because he had to go to the bathroom.

Carlin says he kept telling the officers he had to "go real bad."

The judge offered him some relief, ruling Carlin had a valid physical reason for not complying with the police order.

Fishbowl

By Eric Ellis



YOUR

UNREAL

HORRORSCOPE

WOULD YOU LIKE FRIES WITH THAT?

Mark Holladay

recovering trickaholic

Capricorn: (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The stars have some really good advice for you this week!

Aquarius: (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down, unless you've got an upset stomach from eating too much candy.

Pisces: (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Work on saving the salmon. Ask for a few extra lemon wedges for the to-go box too.

Aries: (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

The next interval someone asks you for the time reply, "in which dimension?"

Taurus: (Apr. 20-May 20)

If you ever got caught doing that your mother would put you in a time out for sure!

Gemini: (May 21-June 21)

Never use a melon-baller for those kinds of activities.

Cancer: (June 22-July 22)

Hey lazy, start your spring cleaning now!

Leo: (July 23-Aug. 22)

A mind is a terrible thing to waste. A small dipping bowl filled with marinara sauce will do the trick!

Virgo: (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

This week think outside the box. Better yet, think outside the basement your parents kept you locked up in until you were nine.

Libra: (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Your name is an Internet porn site! Just type www.your-firstname.com—tell your friends!

Scorpio: (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Your Internet .fling will become a nationwide bestseller but you'll never see any of the money.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

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Start date: ASAP Job Number:
3132 Wage: Dependent upon
experience Hours/Week: 6
hours per week Primary
Duties: Working with profes-
sional design studio library
management. Minimum Quali-
fications: Applicant must be
organized, efficient, detail ori-
ented, a self-starter with proper
grammar and reading skills.
**Must be able to work well with
designers and independently.**
Filling skills as well as other
general office work skills are a
plus. Must be 18 years of age,
and provide own transporta-
tion for errands.

Job Title: Receptionist
Start date: ASAP Job Number:
3108 Wage: \$7.50 per hour
Hours/Week: Long term tem-
porary M-F. Candidates must
be able to be on-call. Primary
Duties: Answering phones,
switchboard, and assisting in
the mailroom. Minimum Quali-
fications: Same as above.

Job Title: Administrative
Assistant Start date: ASAP Job
Number: 3105 Wage: Nego-
tiable Dependent upon Experi-
ence Hours/Week: Up to forty
hours flexible schedule will
work around class schedule.
Primary Duties: To handle
Linux guru and NT adminis-
tration as well as HTML pro-
gramming a variety of other

administrative duties as
assigned. Minimum Qualifica-
tions: Experience with Linux
required.

WORK STUDY;

Job Title: Stage Manager
Start date: ASAP Job Number:
2487 Wage: \$ 6.50
Hours/Week: Average 10-12
hr/wk; evening and weekend
concerts Primary Duties: Set
stage and lights, assist musi-
cians/artists with department
performances/recitals Mini-
mum Qualifications: Able to
work with public in a profes-
sional manner

Job Title: Winter/Public
Relations Intern Start date:
ASAP Job Number: 2041
Wage: \$ 5.15 + depending on
experience Hours/Week: P/T,
flexible hours, will work around
school schedule. Primary
Duties: **Will gather informa-
tion on campus events, write
press releases, and help coordi-
nate media coverage.** Minimum
Qualifications: Need to be pro-
ficient in English, writing and
grammar.

Job Title: Photographic
Darkroom Technician Start
date: ASAP Job Number:
1840 Wage: \$5.75/Hour
Hours/Week: Arranged
between 8am-5pm, Monday
through Friday Primary Duties:
Black and white print enlarging
and film processing. Occasional
photography assignments. Min-
imum Qualifications: Introduc-
tory photography course
recommended.

**Make a dif-
ference!!
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<p>Grand Papa One Extra Large Two Toppings \$11.99</p> <p><small>402</small> Limited Delivery Area • Coupon Required Excludes all other offers. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at participating locations. Customer pays all applicable sales tax. Additional toppings extra.</p>	<p>Family Special™ One Large with The Works™ & One Large Two Toppings \$17.99</p> <p><small>354</small> Limited Delivery Area • Coupon Required Excludes all other offers. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at participating locations. Customer pays all applicable sales tax. Additional toppings extra.</p>

ATTENTION EMPLOYEES AND FULL-TIME STUDENTS OF BSU

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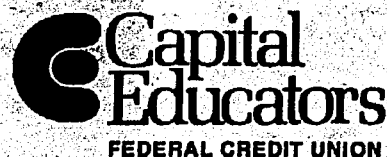
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