

2-14-2001

Arbiter, February 14

Students of Boise State University

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the **Arbiter**



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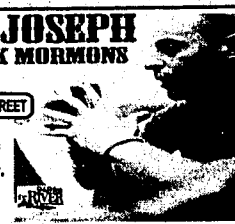


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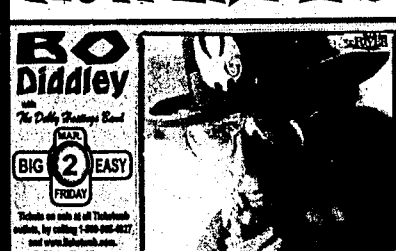
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on the over

Monologues give vocabulary to world of vaginas

Little coochi snorcher, cunt, twat, pussy. Over one hundred nick-names refer to "down there," but playwright Eve Ensler found few women are comfortable saying the v-word let alone talking about what's "down there." BY CARISSA WOLF ...page 18

oices

Women's athletic program falls short of national standards

Although the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee is exploring the best ways to expand the Women's Athletics program at Boise State, it is presently not up to par with the legal stipulations of Title IX. Idaho's metropolitan university has left women on the sideline, gazing longingly at the goal of gender equality. BY JERILYN GROW ...page 7.

letters...page 4. editorial...page 5. streetwise...page 6. guest opinion...page 6. guest column...page 7. commentary and perspectives...page 8. inside reports...page 9.

ews

ASBSU senator writes resolution attacking "indifference" of Boise State administrators

ASBSU Senator-at-Large Bradley Saito, elected for his second term last fall, introduced a resolution backing up Student Body President Nate Peterson's decision to "sever ties" with BSU administrators who he said showed a "lack of concern for student interests." BY SEAN HAYES ...page 11.

on campus...page 10. student government...page 11. clubhop...page 11. calendar...page 12

ports

Bronco ballers split pair of home games

The Boise State men's basketball team hosted a pair of conference foes headed in different directions last week in the pavilion. Thursday night Cal State Fullerton came to town with their 9-16 record, followed by the 17-3 UC Irvine Anteaters for Saturday's contest. By JOSH JORDAN ...page 14.

tudent Life

Ramen Noodles: Basic fast food offers inexpensive solution for college students

When Matt Singleton was 13, his older sister turned him on to some things she found at college. But she gave them up after graduation. Singleton, now a senior at Western Kentucky University, has developed a twice-a-week habit. BY TAYLOR LOYAL ...page 16

food...page 16. parenting...page 17. dating...page 17

iversions

Sledding isn't just for kids anymore'

Sledding is the perfect extreme sport: fast-paced, nerve-wracking, calorie-burning, adrenaline-pumping, high-flying flirtation with death that in all but the worst cases leaves collarbones and wrists intact. BY KATE HOFFMAN. ...page 24

on stage...page 18. music...page 23. outdoors...24. on disk...page 25.

The Arbiter

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Letters should be of 300 words in length or less.

The Arbiter reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. The Arbiter reserves the right to refuse to publish letters for any reason.

Please include both your day and evening telephone numbers for verification purposes.

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No help from the U.

I'm a student here at BSU, and I live in the dorms, which one I won't say, but in the end you'll probably figure it out. I've made friends here, plenty of them. One of them I was a really good friend with him. Until December. This is when he attempted to take the friendship too far. The specific events of this aren't necessarily important at this moment, so I'll leave them out. What is important is the considerable amount of apathy in our society as a response to what happened.

My friend sexually harassed, assaulted me, whatever. He did it. He caused emotional damage to me which I'm still not sure the full depths. I lost this person I thought was a friend, and I lost a big piece of me.

This is where my problem comes in. I pressed charges, of course I did. As a progressive person I could see no other solution to this situation. He needed to have a full understanding of the damage he caused me. Unfortunately I had no idea it would only cause me more damage.

Since the filing of the charges, I've seen other forms of harassment from people I've never met. I'm told I'm stirring up trouble. I'm told it's not that big of a deal that my person was violated. I'm told that what I'm feeling isn't as significant as I'd like to think. What a crock. People now avoid me, people glare at me. Am I not the victim? Was I not the one violated?

I'm not saying I don't see where these people are coming from. The person who did this to me has friends, I was one of them. They see it as him losing his home, his place of education.

Whatever. It's his problem, he did the action... Right?

The system at BSU also has some basic flaws which all of us I'm sure have experienced at one time or another, so in depth discussion over them isn't necessary. My serious problem comes from the fact that I will NOT know the outcome of this. Unless the guy who did this tells me, I won't know. I'm the victim, yet it's seeming more and more like I

L to the Editor

have no rights.

All I'm asking for here is to feel like someone is standing next to me fighting for my person, and me. However, I'm starting to feel more and more like I'm standing alone. I'd like to thank the Women's Center for their support, but one department out of how many? Not very good odds.

Thanks.. Just needed to get that off of my chest I guess.:

Meghan Johnson

Vaginas are sacred

A Feb. 8 article in the *Idaho Statesman* discussed the BSU Women's Center's upcoming theatrical production, "The Vagina Monologues," quoting its sponsor who was surprised at the "overwhelming positive response" to the play, assumed because they have heard of no opposition to it's near debut in Boise. I would like to write and inform its producer there are people who disagree with its title and content.

After a discussion with a helpful woman at the Women's Center, reading the *Statesman's* article and a conversation with one of the actresses, I have learned that this production's purpose is to enable women not to see their bodies negatively. The method by which they intend to achieve this end is by having women reading portions of what real women have said about their own bodies. Those bringing this production to Boise hope to 1 - have the women leaving feeling they can freely discuss their bodies and be proud of their uniquely feminine anatomy and 2 - make people aware of the effects of the media's portrayal of women and of abuse to women.

Though the intentions are to be commended, this

approach lacks respect for that which is sacred and acts only as an emotional springboard on which to develop a temporary motivation that rarely, if ever, could lead to a permanent, internal change. Emotional motivation does NOT equal change. I do not doubt that the women sponsoring and participating in this production truly believe they are doing a service to women. And I do not doubt that they are well-intentioned women, most likely a great portion of which have "overwhelming abuse stories" of their own. I also do not doubt that the production will leave many women feeling they can more freely talk about their bodies casually because they will have a newfound pride in their anatomy, BUT, this production's result of encouraging women to speak of things that are sacred in a casual (profane) way does not lead to the end result they are aiming for.

One might criticize my perspective for only pointing out

faults and not suggesting a solution that might create this permanent, internal change. It is not my intent to merely find fault. I do know of a way to help a woman rise out of low self-worth. It is to help her understand she is a daughter of God - created by Him quite purposefully and individually. She is of much worth to Him. With that understanding, she can overcome any odds and become the person she chooses.

Femininity is beautiful and it is SCARED. The female body is a remarkable creation (as is the male body) and should not be a source of shame. Abuse of any kind is wrong. These statements are true, BUT from what I could discover in my "research," "The Vagina Monologues" only 1 - desecrates by making casual and 2 - fails to heal permanently the wound of low self-worth.

Anna Hammari
BSU Alumna

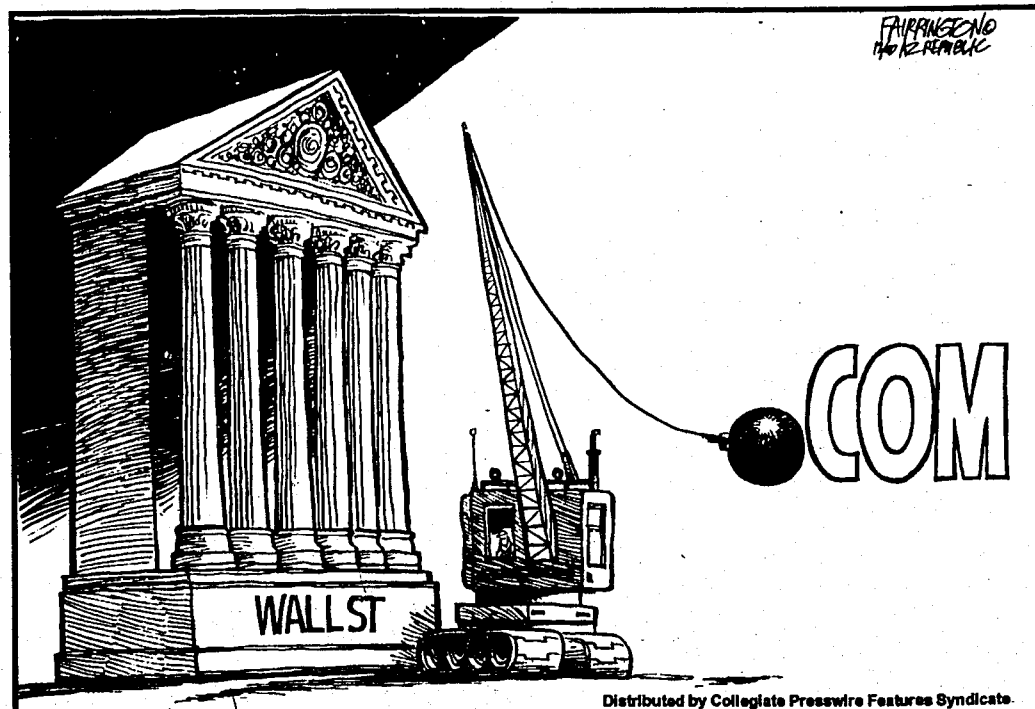
Students should be key in BSU president's decision-making

I remember about a year ago during my first semester at BSU when my Sociology 101 professor, Dr. Wallace Pond, told the class that we were the sine qua non of Boise State, meaning that we, the students, were necessary to the existence of the university. I thought about that as I read *The Arbiter* article (Jan. 31, 2001) detailing the decision of ASBSU President Nate Peterson's decision to sever bureaucratic ties with the BSU administration.

Although I'm unconvinced at this point whether or not that was the right decision for our president to make, one thing I am certain of is that I did not like BSU President Charles Ruch's responses. In particular, I take issue with his comment about the students only paying for 35 percent of their education.

I am willing to acknowledge that President Ruch is correct, in that we students do NOT pay 100 percent of our educational costs. Most of the rest is covered by scholarships, vocational rehabilitation, the GI Bill, etc.

Despite this, I think that President Ruch's decision not



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L to the Editor

to consider the needs and concerns of the students as his top priority is, in effect, biting the very hand that feeds him.

The money for our education may not come exclusively from our own pockets, but the money does come for the purpose of OUR education. The money would not be there if the students were not attending the school. Dr. Pond was correct; the students of BSU are a necessary component of the university.

Without us, this school cannot exist and the faculty and staff of Boise State could not be employed here. The money isn't FROM us, but it's damn sure meant to be used

FOR us!

Since the school cannot survive without the students, it is imperative that the needs and concerns of ALL the students of Boise State be the very highest priority of the faculty and staff, especially President Ruch. ALL major decisions regarding the university should be made with the question, "How will this affect the students," in mind. So, if an overwhelming majority of students voting in favor of one measure or another fails to hold any sway over Mr. Ruch's decision making process, then he's making a BIG mistake. Just remember, Mr. President, that biting the hand that feeds

you is all well and good...but there's nothing stopping that hand from biting you back!

Perhaps ASBSU President Peterson's decision is the correct one. Perhaps it's a major act of stupidity. It's too early for me, or anyone else, to say for sure. However, it is certain that something had to be done, because it is quite obvious to me that President Ruch is more concerned about that other 65 percent of the money than he is about what that money is supposed to be used for.

I, therefore, shall stand behind Mr. Peterson's decision, be it genius or folly. The university is here for the students. Let's all make sure that the faculty is aware of that.

Sincerely,
Brian Sherman

Frustration warrants radical student action

Last month, ASBSU President Nate Peterson made a truly radical move. After months of shifting through the bureaucratic hoops of Boise State University and sitting on impotent administrative committees, Peterson concluded the voice of students at Boise State is stifled.

Though Peterson's public conclusion that it was "necessary to sever bureaucratic ties from the greater part of the BSU administration" was bold, and his withdrawal from administrative games radical, the root of Peterson's dissent is nothing new.

Last month was not the first time students cried for a more powerful voice. And Peterson is not the first to find that student power does not accompany student dollars.

Two years ago another group of students was also asking, "Why not? We are paying for the education."

Through the magic of the dedicated fee process, \$35,000 a year automatically drained from students' pockets into Boise NPR's corporate vacuum. No vote, no voice, no power, no say-so followed this money.

In 1998, Boise State Broadcasting Coalition (BSBC) members pointed out that \$4 from every student feeds Boise State Radio's \$1.3 million annual budget, yet KBSU carried few student produced programming hours and students held little influence in program decisions and station policies.

BSBC members argued students paid their dues and it was time for them to speak. The group sought total access and total control of one FM station under the argument that students fund a major portion of KBSU operations, and a chunk of the station's programming should be controlled by students.

With a well-developed critique, BSBC took action.

Armed with budget reports and faculty allies, BSBC launched its Student Radio Now! campaign, which aimed to provide students with "unfettered access and direct control of BSU Radio."

Members spent much of that year organizing educational and awareness events, open forums, research projects and student support.

When BSBC was told more money would be needed to accomplish their goals, they held fund-raisers. When the administration was slow to support additional student programming, BSBC members launched KSUB, a closed-circuit radio station, in the Student Union Building. When BSBC's objectives were met with administrative skepticism, the two sides sat down to hash out questions of control versus access.

BSBC spent more than four months spinning the wheels of bureaucracy - but they didn't do it alone. Hundreds of students demonstrated their support at fundraisers.

BSBC action was evident throughout campus - through KSUB, ASBSU candidate platforms, posters, flyers, pamphlets, petitions, and through the passion and dedication of an ever-growing group of students committed to bringing student voices to the airwaves.

On March 25, 1998, BSBC members got what they wanted. Administrators and radio faculty members told them to design an infrastructure to pave the way for new student programming. Today, students have a new radio production class and access to 14 hours of programming on KBSU's 730 AM. Though student radio producers say 14 hours is not enough, they are still hours ahead of where they were in 1998.

BSBC had a strong critique, clear goals and an effective means of action carried out by dedicated students.

BSBC and Nate Peterson share the same doubts about the bang students get for their bucks, and both want more student influence into university policy.

We feel Peterson's move to sever ties is well-founded and based on a sincere desire to better serve the students of Boise State University.

Peterson's sound critique and ambitious ends, which the Arbiter supports, now need a means.

His cry of frustration requires a call to actions as specific as those sought by the radio students in 1998.

A well-devised plan of action, suitable for a busy commuter student population, could be a rallying cry for radical and meaningful change.

Editorials reflect the opinion of the Arbiter Editorial Board.

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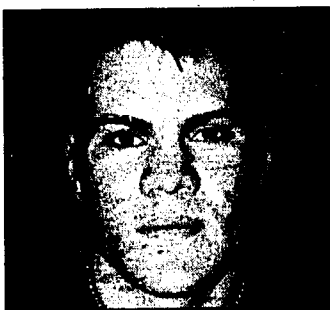
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Street Wise

Would you ever want to be rich and famous? If so, why?

Street Wise by Daniel Wolf
the Arbiter



Cliff Kalin – sophomore
“Well of course, because I can change my whole life. That makes it easy.”

Laurel Oaks – sophomore
“Yeah, but not for the happiness part, because it would be fun to provide myself with what ever I needed at any moment for my family.”



Chuck Aguilar
“I don’t know about being famous but definitely rich. To get whatever I want, take care of whoever I want.”

Kreed Kleinkopf – junior
“Of course. It’s the American Dream.”



Women are not live blow-up dolls

by Jesselin Anthony

Poor misguided fellow. Among other things, Jeff Feeley seems to think that men rape women because they have no control over their own raging hormones (guest opinion in The Arbiter, Jan. 31, 2001). The entire essay is an embarrassment to both men and women. It presents men as unfeeling brutes who cannot keep their penises to themselves and women as mere vessels for male sexual gratification.

Feeley’s attitudes hearken back to the old stereotypical myth that if a woman decides not to have sex with a man who is hot and bothered, he will develop agonizing pain in his genitals that can only be relieved by the woman giving in to his demands. At this point, the story goes, the man will start whining: “Baby, if you don’t give it up right now I’m going to get blue balls” (insert gasp of horror from the woman) “that’s right: If I get blue balls, Little Henry here will practically shrivel up and die.”

According to the myth, if the woman is evil enough to still say no then she deserves to be date-raped.

Of all the lame excuses men give for rape, sexual deprivation tops the list. Other far-fetched justifications include what the victim was or wasn’t wearing, or where the victim was at the time. In a triumph of circular reasoning, a rapist often justifies his actions by arguing that “she wanted it.” With this assertion the rapist can deny that he actually violated another human being at all. In his mind, the act of rape is indistinguishable from the interaction of consensual sex.

In reality, rape has nothing

to do with sexual frustration. If the problem was simply about the need for orgasm, there would not be a problem. Many rapists have access to consensual sex, but it is not what they are after. Every would-be rapist has access to the quickest way to relieve sexual tension: masturbation. Yet rape persists.

Rape is a hate crime, not the predictable outcome of a bad case of blue balls. A rapist seeks to dominate and humiliate another human being in a futile effort to release misguided rage or feel better about himself. A man who rapes is a cruel, selfish, unfeeling guy who may just happen to have been bored at the time. Whatever the circumstances, the rapist is the one doing the violating. He is not some poor misunderstood slob that we should all feel sorry for because he was somehow thwarted in his more honest attempts to get it on.

Not only does the “sexual-frustration causes rape” argument essentially blame the victim, it completely ignores the impact the rapist has on his victim. There are few, if any, adverse consequences for the rapist, while a woman who has survived one of his sadistic, self-serving encounters has to cope with quite an aftermath. In addition to the painful and terrifying violation of the rape itself, she has to deal with its damaging effects for years.

In the short term, she will have concerns such as possible pregnancy or infection as well as stress both from the original trauma and from having to defend herself to almost everyone. Rape is one of the few crimes a survivor has to prove happened because most people

do not want to believe that men are capable of raping women. It is much easier for people to try to find a way, no matter how ridiculous or far-fetched to make a woman responsible for a rapist’s behavior.

Over time, a woman who has experienced rape will have to re-establish things she used to take for granted, like trusting people or feeling safe in the world. Her sense of autonomy will be shaken. Feelings of sexual freedom that she had before will no longer be readily accessible to her. Often she will be forced to second-guess her own experience when people do not believe her account of reality or make harsh judgments about the circumstances of her rape. A woman who has survived rape has to somehow restore a fractured self-worth, an arduous process that far outweighs any excuse a man can come up with for raping her in the first place.

A man who truly feels confident about himself will not rape. A man who sees women as fellow human beings will not rape them, whether he has a lover or not. An emotionally and mentally healthy man will not turn to rape if a woman isn’t in the mood. A well-balanced man does not justify the existence of rape. Instead, he feels sick at the thought that it still goes on. Even further down to the road to self-actualization, a man may consider speaking out against rape, whether other men tease him for it or not.

Jesselin Anthony dropped out years ago and since graduated elsewhere, but in a lovely twist of fate may end up returning to BSU after all.

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Guest Column

Black History Month prompts reflection, pride

by Yonina Robinson

Thursday began this year's celebration of Black History Month. Throughout my school days and collegiate years, several of my teachers and professors have asked me to try to remember the first time I realized I was black. That task was virtually impossible.

That's like trying to recall the first time I remembered breathing. There was never a time when I wasn't aware I was black.

But, I do recall growing up in Alabama for the past 21 years. I never witnessed the lynchings, hazings or beatings and no white person ever called me a "nigger." I went to a predominately white elementary school in an extremely wealthy white neighborhood. My parents raised my sister and me to be nice to all the other boys and girls.

"Jesus loves the little children — all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white. They're all precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world," my Sunday school teacher sang to us.

My mother was my Sunday school teacher until I was 12 years old, so I never paid too much attention to the fact the other little girls were white and I was black. We all got along and played together.

But over time, I began to notice that the white children got picked up by their parents in nice cars or they walked home, which was less than a mile from the school. But the black kids rode a bus to Mary B. Austin Elementary School, which was miles away from home. That would have been a long walk home for us, but I don't think any of us cared too much. We liked riding the bus. We learned all kinds of jokes and sang songs and shared homework and stories from school. Riding the bus was the best experience ever. But it still seemed odd to me that only black kids rode the bus. Oh well, maybe only black kids rode the bus, I thought.

Besides, sometimes my mother would pick my sister and me up from school, so that myth wasn't totally true.

Hillsdale Middle School was different. It was there that I realized white kids rode the bus too. I didn't know why. But they did, so I figured my method of thinking was just the naiveté of a child. A lot of things didn't make sense to me as a child growing up in Alabama — I wasn't about to spend my nights wondering why only black kids rode the bus to Austin and white kids rode the bus to Hillsdale. Also, it didn't make much sense why a middle school had a plaque that said "Hillsdale High School."

It must have been Easter 1995. I went to my neighbor's house, the former Sen. Michael A. Figures. Somehow we started talking about Mobile's school system and he finally answered my childhood naiveté questions. First of all, the plaque made a lot of sense when he said he almost graduated from Hillsdale.

He explained to me in March 1970 when Mobile finally ended segregation in the school system, the Hillsdale High students were transferred to Shaw High School, which was predominately white, and Hillsdale was turned into a middle school. And in order to desegregate the middle school, they bused white kids from other neighborhoods to Hillsdale. It was then I realized why every day for four years I remember Mr. Kelly faithfully busing about 60 black kids from Toluminville, a black neighborhood, to Providence Lane so that we could attend Austin.

I would have loved to see the expression on some of the teachers' faces the first time they saw about 60 little rowdy black kids coming to Austin. Oh, the alumni who rolled over in their graves that day!

When I was eight years old, I never thought my attendance at Austin was the result of

desegregation efforts. I enjoyed going to Austin. We were the "Think-Write School." It was there where I first developed my love for writing.

And my desegregation role didn't stop at Austin. Over the years I learned my magnet high school, LeFlore, was the result of a desegregation case in Mobile. To make both parties happy, the city added more features and better classes at a black school in order to attract white students from other areas. It didn't work too well at my school because my graduating class was less than 10 percent white.

As I'm sitting here reflecting, I feel a great sense of pride and accomplishment, much the way Mr. Kelly probably felt in taking all of us to Austin. My daddy said when he was in school it was just an unwritten rule in Alabama that white and black students didn't go to school together. And less than 15 years later, there I was going to a school that my father had never even heard of because it was so exclusive.

There are still neighborhoods I won't go to at night when I'm in Mobile. I will never forget the Ku Klux Klan rally that took place the summer before I left for TCU.

But Mobile has come a long way since March 1970. We still have our share of hate crimes. During the early 1980s, Sen. Figures prosecuted members of the KKK for the hanging death of a black man in Mobile who was walking home from his job at the downtown newspaper. And there were customers this summer at the bank talking down to me because I'm a black woman.

So, I guess there'll never be a time when I don't realize I'm black. But thanks to people like Sen. Figures, Mr. Kelly and my daddy, I've never been more proud to be black.

Yonina Robinson is a writer for the *Daily Skiff* at Texas Christian University. Article reprinted with permission.

Guest Opinion

Women's sports below federal goal

by Jerilyn Grow

Special to the Arbiter

Although the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee is exploring the best ways to expand the Women's Athletics program at Boise State, it is presently not up to par with the legal stipulations of Title IX. Idaho's metropolitan university has left women on the sideline, gazing longingly at the goal of gender equality.

In high schools across the United States the phrase "Title IX" is commonplace, like the meatloaf and reincarnated spaghetti that plagues the cafeterias. Public schools are rarely questioned on their Title IX compatibility as long as there are an equal number of athletic teams for both genders.

Boise State has a great athletic program, distinguished by recent Humanitarian Bowl victories. The average person concerned about Title IX compliance might simply tally up the number of women's sports compared to those offered for men. One might assume that the school is more than accommodating as it has more female athletic teams than male. Go Broncos! But is an equal sum of athletic opportunities all that federal regulations call for?

The section of an Educational Amendments law passed by congress in 1972 which has become known as "Title IX" means a whole new ballgame for a growing university like Boise State. Since its birth, this gauge for gender equality in federally-funded institutions has met much controversy and was at one point shelved in response.

The majority of complaints against the regulation were that the support of female athletics would take money away from men's athletics. Of course it would, taxation takes money away from the rich but it doesn't take a political science major to figure out that the government isn't necessarily wrong in doing so.

Just as most poor college students wouldn't sympathize with the wealthy during tax season, female athletes didn't sympathize with the men hoarding funding. Nevertheless, both the Reagan and Bush Administrations chose not to enforce the law. What does this have to do with Boise State? More than you might think.

The Civil Restoration Act of 1988 brought Title IX back onto the playing field. After years of oppression, the reinstatement of the regulation could have brought even the toughest football player to tears as he kissed a portion of funding goodbye. Although budgets for women's athletic programs have increased tremendously, the smurf-turf athletics program faces a much greater task.

Title IX specifies that participation of women on varsity teams must be "substantially proportional" to the enrollment of female undergraduate students. BSU, which is bursting at the seams with increased enrollment, is gaining more female students than male. The percentage of female athletic involvement at Boise State lingers below 40 percent. Approximately 20 percentage points of difference between female athletes and student enrollment does not satisfy the given requirements of the law.

Give your significant other a Vagina Valentine 'Monologues' play will demystify women's genitalia

by Lesleigh Owen

Are you a lesbian who's disgusted with your exclusion from mainstream celebrations of Valentine's Day? Are you a heterosexual woman or man looking for a unique present for your significant other? Are you tired of such lame gifts as tiny valentine hearts that taste like hardened toothpaste? Or are you a swinging single who treasures nothing more than the opportunity to drink in some culture? This Valentine's Day, give yourself and your loved ones the gift that everyone can enjoy. Nothing says, "I love you" quite like tickets to "The Vagina Monologues."

Sure, the name alone is enough to raise your significant other's eyebrows; after all, this little theatre production is nothing if not blunt. Tell your partner not to worry; this remains one of the few plays that successfully juggle education, empowerment, and entertainment. It features 17 skits, most of them monologues, all centering on... well, duh. The

playwright, Eve Ensler, interviewed hundreds of women and compiled their stories, individually or in mosaics, into one powerhouse of a play.

I have to admit, I'm a long-time fan of the 'Monologues.' I first heard about them in one of those "Is feminism dead?" articles that appear every few years to give us feminist columnists high blood pressure and writer's cramp. "Is this what feminism has become?" the article sniped. "A bunch of women lolling about onstage, thinking up new labels for their vaginas?"

"My God," I thought, "I hope so!" My head swam, my vision blurred. I could just picture a woman, standing defiantly before the audience, demanding they forget the niceties and just give her vagina a good stare. I imagined two women onstage, bandying about slang words for "vagina," giving the terms a good airing, shaking the wrinkles and the sting right out. What reverent,

The spot

unifying images. What radical kicks in the pants.

The 'Monologues' gently clear a space off the table before plopping women's genitalia down before Goddess and country. Oh sure, like obsessing over women's bikini area represents some new conceptual feast, but the bodies in the play aren't our usual bleached, plucked, augmented, sanitized, and decorated fare. By thrusting into the limelight menstrual spotting, vaginal wetness, pubic hair, and clitoral masturbation, the play dares us to identify ourselves and our mothers, sisters, and partners

onstage. It presents an alternative, non-commercialized, non-eroticized, and realistic view of the female body, one that finally gives voice to the idiosyncrasies and commonalities of every woman.

I first found myself in "I Was Twelve, My Mother Slapped Me," a four-woman skit that highlights many women's coming-of-age stories. I read it with wonder, sighing in amazement and relief that I hadn't been the only guilty 11-year-old with blood-stained panties stuffed under the bed.

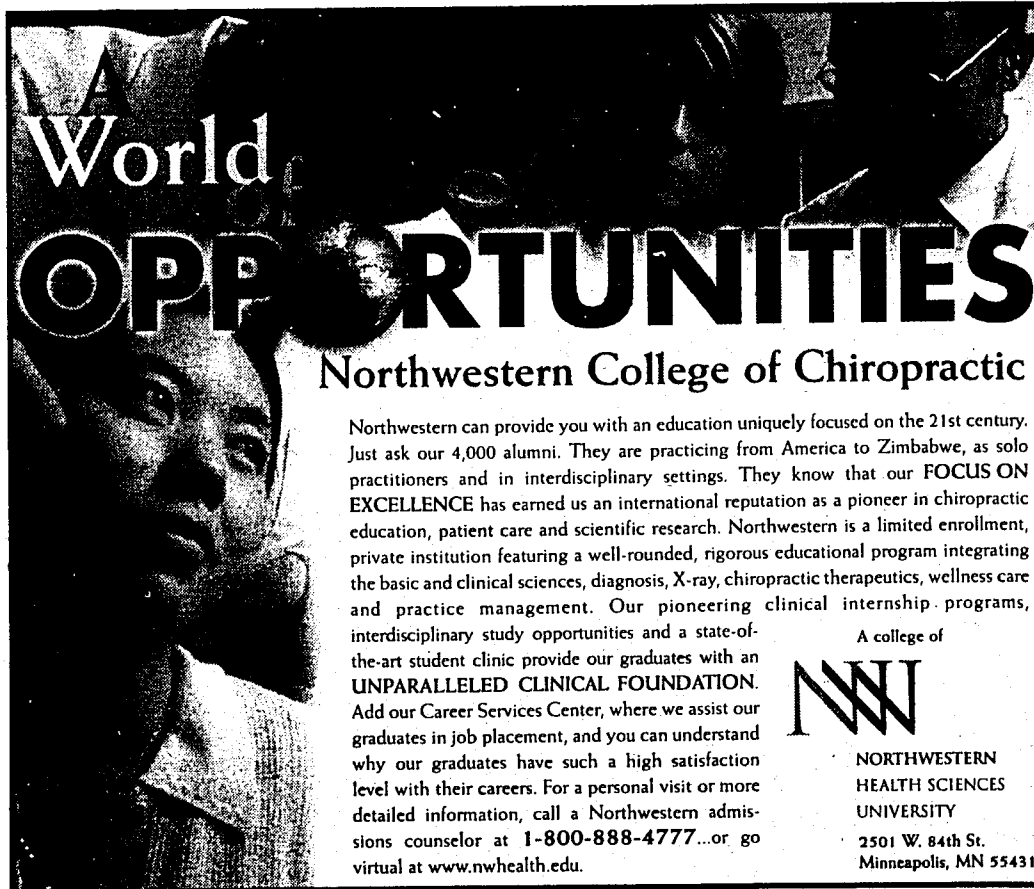
Of course, men aren't exempt from the play's mes-

sages. I recently heard a man comment that the secrecy, the parental misinformation of "When I Was Twelve" smacked strongly of his own experience with the old, "if you touch yourself down there, son, you'll (fill in the blank)..." lecture.

One of the most delicious monologues is "Reclaiming Cunt," a short piece that makes up for in gusto what it lacks in length. The woman not only articulates the c-word over and over — she revels in it, rolls it around on her tongue, bites into it like a ripe fig. In her utterances, she reclaims the power of life and sex, snatching that word from those who would profane it and wrapping herself in its luxuriousness.

If the play gives women and men the long-awaited go-ahead to celebrate women's bodies, it also honors the variety of women's experiences with them. Ms. Ensler seems

cont. on pg. 9



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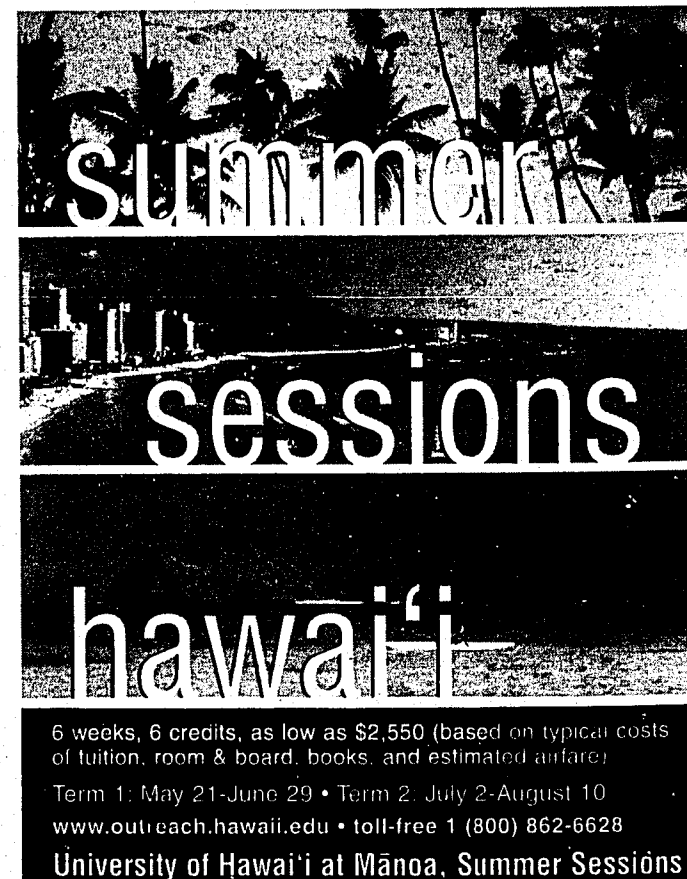
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Inside Reports

Library offers new online services for students

by Janet Strong

Two years ago Albertsons Library wired all of the study rooms and several open spaces on the second, third and fourth floors to provide Internet connections for laptop computers. As laptops proliferate and more web based indexes and databases become available students might like to take advantage of the Web accessibility with their own equipment. Using a personal laptop allows the flexibility of using word processing to write a paper near the print resources and also to check for Web delivered resources.

Connecting to the Web with a personal laptop is easy: the laptop must have a proper-

ly set network interface card (NIC) installed, a category five network cable (the ends are wider than telephone cable) and TCP/IP (internet protocol) address automatically. Maps of the jack locations and complete information are available in the library.

The library now has over 70 indexes and databases available via World Wide Web delivery for student and faculty use. Most of these resources allow use from off campus. To use these indexes, point your favorite web browser to <http://library.boisestate.edu>, click on the box "Indexes, Abstracts and Databases" and

choose an appropriate index. Most indexes have online help; however, if you need additional assistance, contact the reference desk.

The library is open over 100 hours per week. The reference desk is staffed most of the hours the library is open. The circulation desk, curriculum resource desk, and the microforms room are all staffed from open to close. Remember to never hesitate to ask for help.

Janet Strong is the orientation librarian and coordinator of user service for the Boise State University Albertsons Library

The F-Spot cont. from pg.8

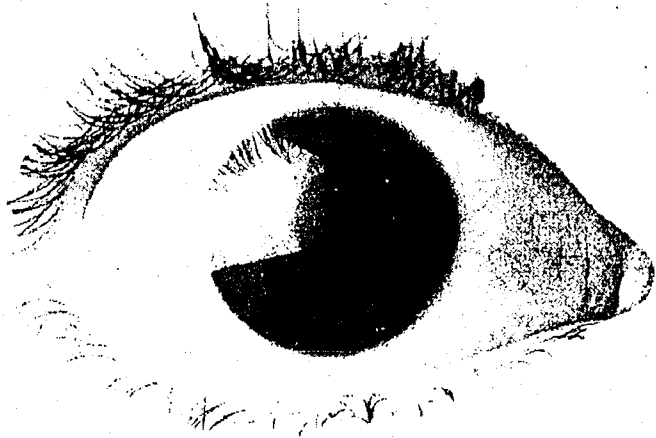
to grasp the shocking concept that not all vaginas are white, and many remain quite happily man-free. Some of the characters are women of color, some are lesbians, one is homeless. Some are virgins, some "love sex," one is a professional dominatrix. Those characters represent women we know, women we love.

I've read a number of reviews on the 'Monologues,' all ranging from whoops of joy to outright shock. "Do they really need to, you know, use that, that *word* so many times?" many blush. You can practically feel their knees slamming together.

With all due respect, I just don't think these reviewers get it. See, I had a professor once who said we girls and boys needed to repeat information at least 21 times to pound it into our noggins. Think of how many times you've heard the words "vagina" and "cunt" used pejoratively, clinically, or otherwise reductively. Eve Ensler grabs hold of those words and embraces them like long-lost friends, revisiting them again and again. By the end of the play, "vagina" has lost its taboo, lost its baggage of shame and secrecy. Ms. Ensler has rebirthed those terms and their conceptualizations, connecting them with such affirming emotions as wonder, sexiness, and pride. By the end of the play, these new associations have engraved themselves into our wee brains, becoming parts of our vocabularies and mindsets.

The final skit in the play portrays a grandmother who relates the story of her granddaughter giving birth. At first, I wondered why Eve placed a birthing scene at the end of the play, and then the light bulb went on. The grandmother, that wise crone, brought all of us full circle, painting for us in graphic, Technicolor detail our own rebirth into a new understanding and awareness of the joy, beauty, delicateness, and resilience of every woman's body.

SPB Presents:



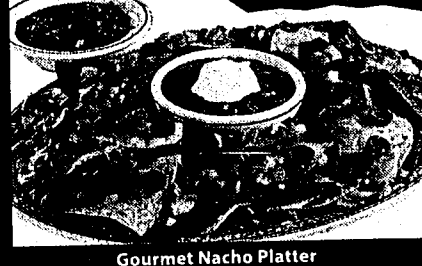
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The 15th Annual ASBSU Outstanding Faculty Recognition Dinner

The 15th annual ASBSU Outstanding Faculty Recognition Dinner will be held on March 6, 2001. This dinner is held to recognize outstanding Boise State University faculty members who have shown remarkable dedication and commitment to the students of Boise State University. Students may pick up nomination forms from the SUB Information Desk, the Bookstore, the Library, or the ASBSU Information Desk. (Faculty may nominate other faculty with the endorsement of a student.)

All nominations must be submitted to the ASBSU Student Union Desk in the Student Union Building no later than February 16, 2001.

If you have any further questions please contact Sakaria (ASBSU Executive Assistant) @ 426-3843.

Attn.
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on campus

Look Mom, no wires!

Students catch up on their email at SUB

by Christina Latta
the Arbiter

You might have noticed the new computer consoles outside the Bookstore in the SUB -yet another chance for you to keep up with your e-mail. The computer consoles at Cyber Cafe, Too, as the stations are called, are not your everyday stations; however. Rather than being connected to the Boise State network through old school wires and plugs, these consoles are connected through a wireless network.

Zak Young, the information technology coordinator for the Student Union, said that the plan has been in the works for quite a while.

"We needed a test station to see how it would work," said Young.

Instead of sending signals through cables and wires, the new stations use high frequency telephone signals to communicate with the network. All are tuned to the same frequency, which is much higher than most normal phones.

So far, Cyber Cafe, Too has been running smoothly. The consoles at this station have the same capacity as computers at the original Cyber Cafe.

Users have the ability to surf the web, check e-mail, and tool around on the Boise State network. The original stations use standard technology, however, and are not part of the wireless experiment.

The success of Cyber Cafe, Too has inspired plans for further use of wireless technology throughout the SUB. Currently, only one base unit has been installed. This single unit allows wireless communication throughout the center area of the SUB, as well as covering the entire downstairs dining area. The unit allows communication indoors within a radius of 250 feet and more outdoors.

Wireless communication is not limited to the consoles, however. Anyone can purchase wireless cards for his or her laptop, which allow communication directly with the network. The cards work with both PC systems and with Macintosh-based platforms.

Future plans for wireless technology in the SUB include installing more base units to increase coverage. Also, the success of the SUB project may make wireless technology possible all over campus.

photo by: Ted
Harmon the Arbiter

Selland humanitarian award deadline is Feb. 23

The deadline for nominations for the fifth annual Larry Selland Humanitarian Award is Feb. 23 by 5 p.m. In 1997 the Boise State Women's Center created the award in honor of Larry G. Selland, former Boise State dean, executive vice president and interim president. Selland died of cancer in 1996.

The Selland Award honors those who exemplify Selland's

caring nature, his compassion, his integrity and his encouragement to women and people of color. Two awards are given each year, one for a student and one for a faculty or staff member. To be eligible, a student must be a current BSU student in good academic standing and employees must be currently employed at BSU.

To submit a nomination or for more information, contact Melissa Wintrow, Women's Center director, at mwintrow@boisestate.edu.

News
Bucket

Boise State announces spring enrollment figures

A decrease in the number of part-time students has led to a slight dip in Boise State's enrollment compared to last spring, school officials said.

This semester 15,853 students are taking courses, 134, or .8 percent less than last spring's record total.

Boise State students are enrolled in a total of about 160,000 credit hours, which matches last spring's record. The university's full-time equivalent enrollment is down by four students from last spring at 10,080.

This spring Boise State enrolled 13,405 undergraduate students, 1,556 graduate students and 892 applied technology students.

Additional information is available on the Web at <http://news.boisestate.edu/newsrelease/february01/enrollment.html>

Food Court offers new veggie items

Ginger Creek Grains & Greens, a new rice bowl/salad bowl kiosk in the Union Food Court, is now open.

Ginger Creek offers a variety of Mediterranean, Oriental, and Cajun entrees. Ginger Creek is open weekly during lunch hours and is located where Rapz used to be. Customers can still receive a Rapz wrap at the Moxie Deli.

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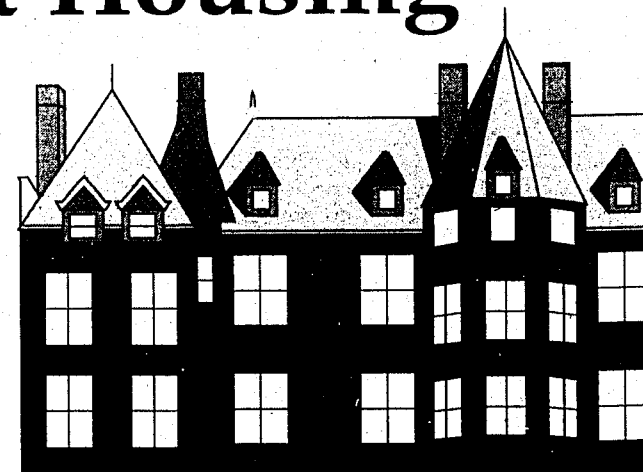




photo by: Ted Harmon the Arbiter

ASBSU senator writes resolution attacking "indifference" of Boise State administrators

by Sean Hayes

ASBSU Senator-at-Large Bradley Saito, elected for his second term last Fall, introduced a resolution backing up Student Body President Nate Peterson's decision to "sever ties" with BSU administrators who he said showed a "lack of concern for student interests."

The resolution, addressed to — among others, BSU President Charles Ruch and Vice President of Student Affairs Peg Blake, lists its purpose as "to let the administration of Boise State University be aware that they have failed to acknowledge or care about the concerns of students."

Saito uses strong words to criticize several departments and committees on campus. He

cites the Department of Campus Safety as showing "an inability to control bike theft," and says that it has shown "little presence" on the campus. He writes that the Registrar's Department and Financial Aid Services are not "student friendly environments," and make "critical mistakes" in aid and registration policies. He criticizes the executive administration, including Ruch, as prioritizing profit over students.

He also mentions his dissatisfaction with the signing of a new grade replacement policy which is not retroactive, a point Peterson emphasized in his Jan. 25 "State of the Student Body" address.

The resolution stipulates

that ASBSU will resolve to "constantly remind" the administration that student interests should be paramount in decision making, or "Boise State University will face an extremely difficult future."

Having passed the first reading of legislation, the resolution is now headed to committee where changes may be made. President Ruch has called Peterson's move to sever ties risky, saying, "If (student) concerns are not on the table, they're not going to be represented." Vice President Blake has said that her door is open for students.

The Club Hop

Club to build home for Mexican family over Spring Break

by Sunny Beach
Special to the Arbiter

Spring Break, for some students is a chance for relaxation, partying, and just having fun. For the members of the Intervarsity Christian club it's a chance for them to help others. This March, the members of Intervarsity are going to sunny Mexico. They are packing light with their luggage including sleeping bags and hammers. That's right, I said hammers.

For them Spring Break is a chance to help others. They are spending their vacation in Mexico, helping build a house for a family that is in need.

The students leave on March 25 and will return on March 31. During the week-long trip, the students will help build a 12-by-22 stucco house. The house will have only two rooms, two windows, and one outside door. The entire process takes four days. The family receiving the house assists with the building of it.

Anna Shoemaker a BSU student who has done this before, described the past trips as a real eye-opener "because you see poverty like you have never seen before."

The students will sleep in tents while in Mexico.

Although they will not receive pay for their hard work, the students leave knowing they have helped someone who is less fortunate. For them that's enough of a reward.

you were born a reporter?

- ☐ are you curious?
- ☐ do you ask questions?
- ☐ are you a critical thinker?
- ☐ can you observe?
- ☐ can you write?

answer key

if you answer yes to two or more of the above questions, it is your civic duty to share your gifts with the world.

The **Arbiter** is currently hiring reporters.

No experience necessary.

will train. call 345.8204

photo by: Ted Harmon *the Arbiter*

ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

Feb. 14

"Love is a Many-Splendored Thing" concert by Boise Master Chorale, Special Events Center. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$5. Call 344-7901.

Student Recital, Audra Connolly, piano, Morrison Center Recital Hall. 7:30 p.m. Presented by Boise State music department. Free. Call 426-3980.

Feb. 15

Betty Swift Foundation will be presenting a Magic Show in the SUB from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 16

Faculty Artist Series, Morrison Center Recital Hall. 7:30 p.m. Featuring Jeanne Belfy, oboe. Presented by Boise State music department. Tickets: \$5 general, \$3 seniors and free to students and Boise State faculty and staff. Call 426-3980.

Vocal jazz concert, Morrison Center Main Hall. Presented by Boise State music department. Tickets: TBA. Call 426-3980. CANCELLED.

Feb. 17-18

"The Vagina Monologues," a play based on interviews with hundreds of women, explores questions often pondered but seldom asked, Special Events Center 7 p.m. Feb. 17, 2 p.m. Feb. 18. Presented by the Boise State Women's Center. Cost \$3-\$8 at Select-a-Seat, 426-1766, www.idahotickets.com, or at the door. Call 426-4259.

Feb. 17

Boise Philharmonic, Morrison Center Main Hall. 10 a.m. and 8:15 p.m. Featuring Susan Talley, organ. Free pre-concert lecture, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: call 344-7849.

Feb. 20

SPB film, Special Events Center. 7 p.m. Presented by Boise State Student Programs Board. Tickets at door: \$2 general admission, \$1 students. Call 426-4636.

Feb. 20-21

"Jekyll and Hyde," Morrison Center Main Hall. 8 p.m. Presented by Theater League of Idaho. Tickets: \$25-\$42.50 at Select-a-Seat, www.idahotickets.com or call 426-1110.

Feb. 21

Concerto Aria Competition, Morrison Center Recital Hall. 7:30 p.m. Presented by Boise State music department. Free. Call 426-3980.

SPORTING EVENTS

Feb. 15

Boise State wrestling vs. Fresno State. 6 p.m. Call 426-4737.

Feb. 16

Boise State men's tennis vs. Montana State, Boas Tennis Center. Call 426-4737.

Feb. 17

Boise State men's tennis vs. Utah State, Boas Tennis Center. Call 426-4737.

Boise State gymnastics vs. Fullerton, UCSB and SPU, The Pavilion. 7 p.m. Call 426-4737.

Feb. 21

Harlem Globetrotters, the Pavilion. 7 p.m. Tickets: \$8.50-\$50.50 at Select-a-Seat, 426-1766 or www.idahotickets.com.

LECTURES

Feb. 15

Lecture by Len Jordan, developer of Real Audio software, Special Events Center, 1:40-2:55 p.m. College of Business and Economics Distinguished Speakers Series. Call 426-1125.

WORKSHOPS

Feb. 16

Second annual Safety Awareness Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Pavilion. Sponsored by BSU Office of Risk Management and Audit Services. Free. Call 426-1533.

Feb. 16-19

Idaho Progressive Student Alliance will be having a workshop on Progressive Advocacy Training from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the SUB

Feb. 19

Theatre Majors Association will be having the Young People's Theatre Project from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the SUB.

FEB. 19-24

Engineering Week, various on-campus events including Science Competition Day Feb. 24. Call 426-4432.

Feb. 20-21

The Power of Technology, BSU Bookstore. Software demonstrations and discounts. Microsoft software demonstrations from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Feb. 21. Presented by BSU Bookstore. Free.

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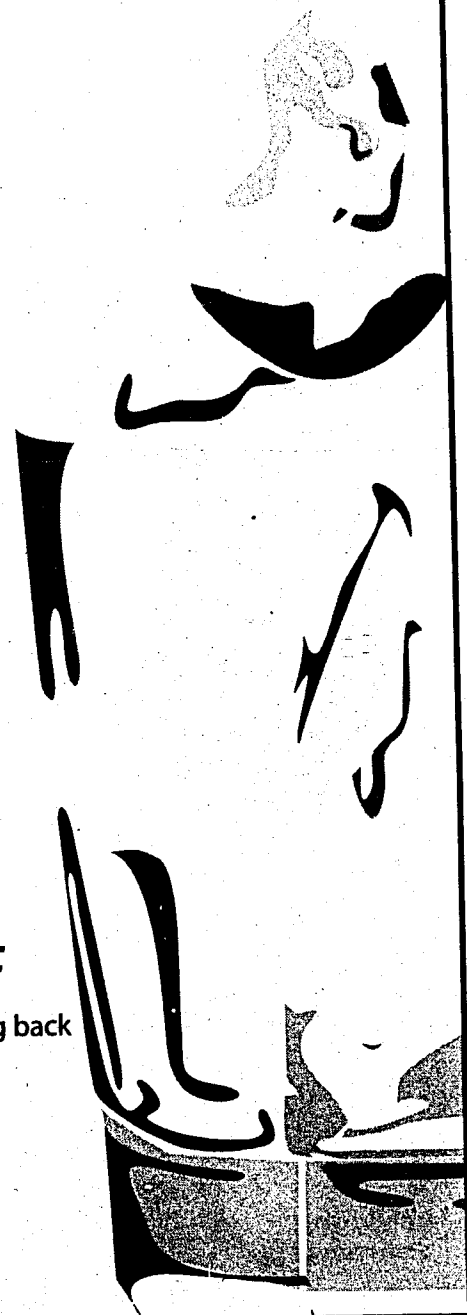
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Free beer till someone leaves to pee

March 8th 9:30 p.m.



Bronco ballers split pair of home games

by Josh Jordan

The Boise State men's basketball team hosted a pair of conference foes headed in different directions last week in the pavilion. Thursday night Cal State Fullerton came to town with their 3-16 record, followed by the 17-3 UC Irvine Anteaters for Saturday's contest.

After playing just one game in the previous two weeks a well-rested Bronco squad awaited Cal State on Thursday evening. The two squads had faced each other the previous week in Fullerton, with Boise State pulling out a victory. The Titans came to town hoping to return the favor on the Bronco's home court but it quickly became apparent who the better team was. Cal State didn't make a field goal for the first seven minutes of the game as Boise State raced out to a 9-1 lead. Ryan Dillon, who had a career high 32 points on 10 three-pointers in the previous meet-

ing was able to hit two treys to keep the Titans close early in the first stanza.

With just under seven minutes remaining in the half and the Bronco lead narrowed to two at 18-16 Abe Jackson started a Bronco run that wouldn't end until the half buzzer sounded. The Eagle Idaho native scored all seven of his first half points to trigger the Bronco's 12-2 run that gave them a 30-18 lead at the midway point.

The twelve-point cushion was never really threatened again. A Trevor Tillman dunk pushed the Bronco lead to 42-27 with just under fifteen minutes remaining and the Titans began going through the familiar motions of another lopsided loss. By the time Boise State had put the finishing touches on their 75-55 win many in the announced crowd of 7,405 had gone home. Jackson paced four Broncos in double figures scor-



photo by: Jordan Mardis the Arbiter

Richard Morgan goes to work inside looking for two points. Richard Morgan added a total of 12 points to the Bronco's score against Cal State Fullerton during Thursday's game.

ing with a game high 19 points. As a squad, Boise State shot a season high 60.5 percent from the field and appeared to be clicking on all cylinders heading into the Irvine game on Saturday night.

Boise State's torrid shooting continued into Saturday's contest. Unfortunately, the Anteaters had a hot hand as well. Both squads shot over 63 percent from the floor in a

half that saw 19 ties or lead changes and no advantage that was larger than three points.

Kejuan Woods, returning to action after serving a two game NCAA-imposed suspension for a class scheduling mix-up, proved his value to the squad early and often in the contest. With Irvine working hard to keep Jackson from getting good looks at the basket, Woods came off the bench to hit four of his first five shots and take on some of the scoring responsibility. He and teammate Delvin Armstrong each had 9 points as the Broncos entered the locker room up by a point, 36-35.

The second period of the game had a playoff feel to it that even the mild mannered Pavilion crowd seemed to feed off of. For the first time this season, the fans in attendance had a positive influence over the game, an important fact not lost on coach Rod Jensen, "Our crowd, I want to thank them,

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they were terrific tonight." He said, "It was loud, it was a good crowd in there."

While many of the 8,327 ticket holders were vocal in their support for the players and got downright noisy during some key defensive moments, someone forgot to tell the Anteaters' Jerry Green that he was playing in a hostile environment. He put on a one-man show in the second half, refusing to allow the Bronco lead to grow. After a fast-break lay-up by Woods gave Boise State a 61-53 lead with 9:58 on the clock, Green scored the next seven points to keep Irvine in the game. His three-point play with just over three minutes remaining gave the Anteaters their first lead of the second half. But Green's role on this night was far from finished.

Woods was able to give the Broncos a lead with 1:43 left on the clock by swiping the ball from Green and making the two foul shots that ensued after he was fouled. After the two teams traded turnovers, Irvine's Malachi Edmond floated a running lay-up into the hoop that tied the score at 79. Boise State had a shot to win it at the buzzer, but Armstrong was unable to get his shot off cleanly and the two squads headed to the bench to discuss the looming five-minute overtime period.

Irvine scored the first five points of overtime and it appeared as if they might run away with a victory. A short jumper from Jackson followed by a block from Tillman and a huge three point shot by Armstrong suddenly found the score tied again and fans braced themselves for an exciting finish. Ben Jones made a difficult shot over Jackson to give the lead back to the Titans, 86-84 with 1:28 on the clock. A Bronco Turnover followed by an Irvine miss gave Boise State the ball and a chance. Jackson ran around a well placed screen and drilled his first three point shot of the game. The crowd erupted as Jackson thrust his fists into the air, as if to say "finally". Now it was Green's turn. The Anteaters had 13 ticks on the clock and everyone in the gym knew the 6-4 junior guard from Pomona, California would be taking the last shot for his team. Bronco defender Joe Skiffer stayed with Green as he juke left and then right, before pulling up from the three-point line and knocking down the shot with a hand in his face. Said Jensen about the last shot by Green, "We've got

our best defensive player against their best offensive player and the [offense] happened to win this one. Joe was right there he, [Green] made a tough shot and my hats off to him, he did what a great player does."

Armstrong likes the defense his team played down the stretch and acknowledged the tough shot made by Green, "We played them to the best of our ability and he got the shot up and it went in." Said the senior forward who finished with a career high 24 points, "We're real confident in our defense and I still can't believe he knocked that shot down."

Tillman's chance to tie it at the buzzer fell harmlessly short, and U.C. Irvine escaped town with an 89-87 victory.

Slightly dampened by Green and the loss was the great game played by two Bronco players. Kejuan Woods had a career high 26 points to go with Armstrong's 24. Green finished with a game high 31 including 13/14 shooting from the free-throw line.

Irvine improves to 18-3, tied with Utah State for first in the Big West Conference with a 10-1 league mark. Boise State falls to 5-5 in conference play, just one game behind third place Santa Barbara in the loss department. Next the Broncos travel west for a Valentines Day showdown with Long Beach State before returning to Idaho for a showdown with the Vandals on Saturday night in Moscow. The next Bronco home game is on February 24 against Utah State

Bronco Wrestlers Defeat Portland State, 35-13

A pin by Gabe Vigil, and technical fall victories by Kirk White and Rusty Cook, guided the Boise State University wrestling team to a 35-13 Pac-10 Conference win over Portland State University on Saturday. Vigil pinned KC Banks in the 141-pound weight class at the 4:17 mark of the match. It was Vigil's third straight pin, and his fifth of the season as he improves his record to 17-4.

White and Cook both picked up their 21st win of the season with dominating performances at the 157 and 197 pound weight classes, respectively. White, ranked fourth by InterMat, recorded his technical fall victory with a 23-7 score over Eric Arbogast at the 5:24 mark of the match. White's record is now 21-2. Cook, ranked fifth by InterMat, posted his technical fall win at the 6:04 mark with a 22-5 score over Randy Davidson.

The 22 point victory improves Boise State's dual match record to 8-2, and 6-1 in the Pac-10 Conference.

Portland State falls to 4-9-1 overall, and 2-7 in the conference.

Boise State's other victories came from Collin Robertson, 19-6 over Robert Lynn at 149 pounds; Casey Eager, 3-2 over Chris Parker at 165 pounds, and forfeits for Charlie Griggs (133 pounds) and Bart Johnson

(heavyweight).

Portland State received its team points with a 3-2 win by John Fasana over Ben Vombar at 125 pounds, a 14-1 major decision by Quinn Collett over Jon Terry at the 174 pounds weight class, and a forfeit for Jeremy Wilson at 184 pounds.

Boise State has one remaining dual match of the regular season when it plays host to

Fresno State University on Thursday (Feb. 15). The match will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Bronco Gym.

Max Corbet writes for the Boise State Athletic Dept.

Ben Vombar represented Boise State against Portland State's John Fasana last Saturday night in the Bronco Gym. Vombar lost his match 3-2.



photo by: Ted Harmon the Arbiter

BSU's Trevor Tillman keeps calm and looks for an open man despite the presence of an UC Irvine player lurking behind him.

photo by: Ted Harmon the Arbiter



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Ramen Noodles: Basic fast food offers inexpensive solution for college students

by Taylor Loyal

When Matt Singleton was 13, his older sister turned him on to some things she found at college. But she gave them up after graduation. Singleton, now a senior at Western Kentucky University, has developed a twice-a-week habit.

He said he eats Ramen Noodles because they are cheap and easy to cook (Ramen Noodles cost about 15 cents at places like Wal-Mart and take three minutes to make).

Singleton was at Rodes-Harlin Sunday afternoon talking to his girlfriend, Michelle Weaver, while she worked at the front desk.

Weaver, a sophomore, said she didn't even know Ramen Noodles existed before she

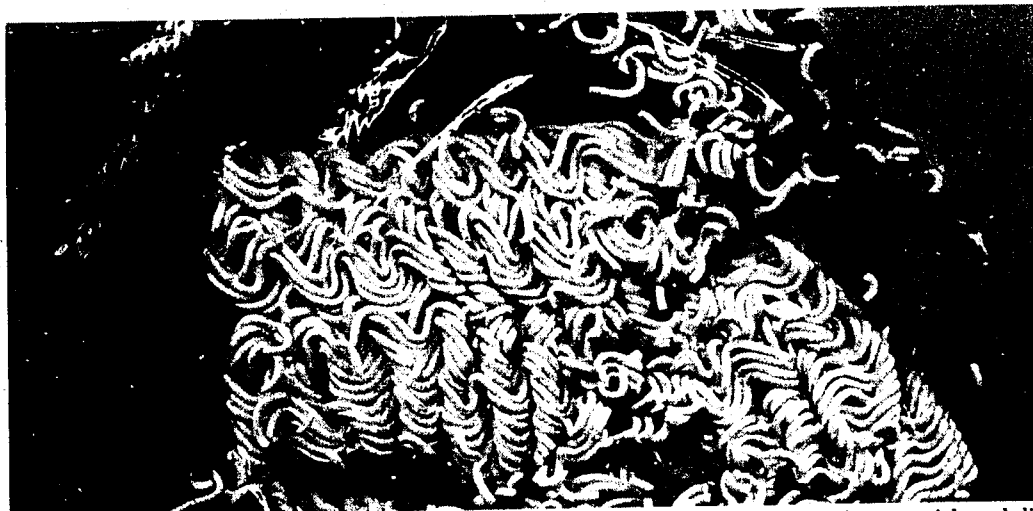
came to Western. She also said she doesn't know who Momofuku Ando is. Even though many students eat Ramen regularly, they don't know Ando.

"He's my lord and savior," said Ron Konzak, author of *The Book of Ramen*.

Ando is the pioneer of the packaged noodles. And Konzak is one of his biggest fans.

After World War II, food sources were few and far between in Japan. Ando answered the rumbling stomachs with noodles, packaged and put on the market as an instant dinner.

The instructions were simple enough. Put the noodles in a bowl of boiling water and



wait three minutes.

In 1958, Ando's company, Nissin, developed the first instant Ramen — Chicken Ramen.

"I like the different flavors," Weaver said, naming off some of the simpler recipes like chicken, but she said she has a beef with eating her noodles seafood style. "Yuck. I don't like Shrimp Ramen."

"I don't think I'd like that either," Singleton said.

To Konzak, Singleton and Weaver are amateurs. Lightweights, if you will.

Konzak is far beyond the basic bowl of Ramen. He knows things — things the average Ramen-eater may never know.

He remembers when Ando's invention first came to America in the '70s.

"When I saw them, wow, I went out and got them," he said. And he hasn't stopped buying them since.

At age 65, he's been to Korea, Japan, Hawaii and different parts of Europe to sample ramen.

He knows that in Singapore, they call Ramen "Maggi Mee." He knows that in Britain they sell it in cups, not packages. He can even tell you about the Shin-Yokohama Ramen Museum in Japan that stays open until 11 p.m. because it's so popular.

The strangest thing Konzak's ever tried: Ramen Dessert. This is when he combines ramen with orange juice, sour cream and whipped cream.

Another unusual recipe: Ramen On A Stick. Deep fry

ramen, put it on a stick and dip it in caramel.

Sometimes when he's too busy for creativity, he resorts to mixing Ramen with carrots and peas. When he has a little more time, he boils the noodles, then strains and fries them with whatever leftover veggies he can find in his fridge.

And all the while, he's watched Ando's daydream float into a worldwide trance.

There is a video game in Japan where you can win points by eating the most Ramen Noodles. And a theme park called "Ramen Town."

But back at Rodes-Harlin, the level of enthusiasm for noodles is low.

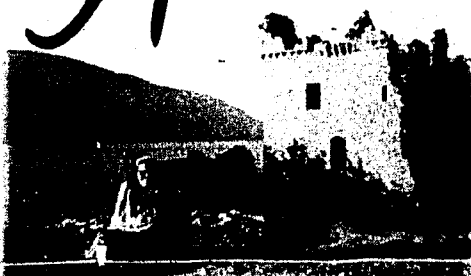
"They're good enough to eat if you're hungry," Weaver said while pointing out that she probably won't eat them after she graduates.

When asked about his intentions to continue consuming Ramen after college, Singleton had a similar reply.

"No," he said, looking over the desk at Weaver. "My wife's gonna cook for me."

by Taylor Loyal is a writer for the *College Heights Herald* at Western Kentucky U. Article reprinted with permission.

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Real Education for the Real World

Because, I said "No" | A parent's forum

by Casey Burkett

It has been brought to my attention that in my efforts to create this forum I may have offended the majority of the audience I was trying to reach. I think this is an inevitable aspect of discussing parenting.

I know parents in general feel strongly about the decisions they make for their children, and not all parents agree on the best course of action in providing superior rearing for their children. This is perfectly understandable, because if the choices you make as a parent are proved to be poor ones, then you in turn feel like a bad parent; and no one wants to think of themselves as bad parents.

The issue brought up in a response I received is my hasty description of daycare. I would have liked to print this response in full, and as justified and articulate as it was, its length exceeded the space I am allotted. So, instead, I will present as best I can the concerns of the reader and a response to them.

A full-time student and parent of two who utilizes daycare to ease stressful schedules, wrote to me saying my words describing daycare as "scary" and caregivers as "strangers" were inappropriate. She agrees we need this type of forum, but feels I suggested that people using daycare are throwing their children to the dogs. She goes on to present two situations, each to the extreme of positive and negative (positive being daycare, negative being without).

Each situation was mildly far-fetched, and I think just used to make a point. As a parent who has tried both options, she goes on to say that trying to go without daycare pushed her and her child to the brink of insanity. She cites that children are affected by parental stress,

and toddlers have no respect for homework. She suggests that my marriage and studies will suffer and that daycare may not be the right choice for me, just an option that many loving parents use to ward off the insanity of juggling schedules.

First, I want to say I have the utmost respect for daycare workers. These people are an asset to our lives. They are very strong and commendable people, whom without, many parents couldn't survive. And, I know many parents are left without a choice, and many children are unaffected by daycare. But, this is not always the case, and I feel if you don't have to use daycare, if you can keep your child at home for at least the first two or three years, then you should.

I am willing to sacrifice whatever it takes to give my child those first few years at home. I think it expands the lifetime bonds between parents and their children. It keeps them from feeling abandoned or dropped off, and prepares them better for pre-school and learning in general. Yes, at times other aspects of my life suffer, but not to the extent to cause harm to the daily life of my child. To be honest, I have one of the most pleasant kids I know. He wakes up happy, goes to bed happy, and the majority of the day is spent playing and laughing (of course there is always the exception, and with terrible twos coming who knows what's going to happen). And, you know what, it's tough, it is really tough. I have thought about and seriously researched daycare, and determined that the cost is not worth the benefits: not just financial costs, but emotional and physical.

This is the choice my family has made. It's not intended to

insult people making other choices; it is just one opinion. Plus, there is a trust issue here. I can't leave my child with relatives and not worry extensively about him. I can't imagine the day pre-school starts and I have to leave him. I know I am way too over-protective, but this child is my life, and if anything happened because of a situation I placed him in, I couldn't live with myself. And, as a person living in the world today, I look back at the years when I was in daycare (I remember them fondly) and think, the world is such a drastically different place now. It is so much more frightening, and if I can shield my child from that for as long as possible then bring on the drain; bring on the days that never end, the constant struggles, I can handle it, but he's not ready for it.

Now, I want to say again, speak your mind. Send in whatever you want. Give me another view of daycare, or change the subject. I would like to recommend submissions be approximately half a page typed. I know it's a constraint, but that's all the space I have. One subject I have been particularly concerned with lately, and would like views on, is how do we teach our children about diversity, and not to be racist? My multi-ethnic studies class has continued to bring up this idea of institutionalized racism in America. I think the only way to change this is to keep the minds of our children open to diversity, to teach them they can be a part of change. But how exactly do you do that in such a racist culture? Send submissions to BecauseISaidNo@hotmail.com, and I look forward to hearing your views.

GLBT dating life differs widely at colleges

by Richard Lazarus

HANOVER, N.H. - The bad news is gay and lesbian dating at Dartmouth closely resembles that at colleges ranked among the worst for gays. The good news is that some people think things are getting better.

"Dartmouth has a very small pool," said Doug Mastin at a recent Dartmouth Rainbow Alliance meeting, "or, I should say, a small 'out' pool."

Being "out," or openly homosexual, can make a big difference in any gay or lesbian college student's life.

Having a small "out" pool — and, according to many at the DRA meeting, a large number still "in the closet" — makes Dartmouth similar to schools like Duke University, which is ranked among the worst colleges for gays.

Like Dartmouth, Duke has a conservative reputation. Often, students feel intimidated about coming out.

Ironically, students at both schools say coming out can be rewarding. "I've had nothing but positive experiences here," said Jules Sewer, co-president of Gothic Queers, Duke's gay and lesbian organization.

Duke was ranked as the fourth worst college for gays by the *Princeton Review's* "The Best 331 Colleges, 2002 edition."

"There's a difference between dating at Dartmouth and dating someone who will admit you're dating," said Kristen Foery, DRA's co-chair.

Because of the small group of out students, said Sewer in comments similar to those by Dartmouth students, "you all tend to become friends before you have a chance to date."

Students deal with the small pool in different ways.

"People import," said Sheila Hicks, "they find people that aren't at Dartmouth."

These can include students from other colleges, friends of friends, or people from gay or lesbian students' hometowns.

Dartmouth's rural environment is definitely a factor. Sewer says she was surprised at the number of homosexuals in Durham, the town near Duke.

By contrast, homosexual students at the DRA meeting cited Hanover as a good place to shock the locals. Large cities like Boston provide both constant activity and anonymity, which can help those just coming out.

The level of openness in a college affects and is affected by what Mastin calls "the alphabets" — on-campus organizations, whose names often reflect a movement-wide acronym obsession, that offer anything from support groups, campus visibility drives, to social gatherings and political activism.

At Dartmouth, most organi-

cont. on pg.22

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Diversions

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Monologues give vocabulary to world of vaginas

Cast says 'creative activism' educates and empowers

by Carissa Wolf

Little coochi snorcher, cunt, twat, pussy. Over one hundred nick-names refer to "down there," but playwright Eve Ensler found few women are comfortable saying the v-word let alone talking about what's "down there."

"I was worried about vaginas. I was worried about what we think about vaginas, and even more worried that we don't think about them... So I decided to talk to women about their vaginas, to do vagina interviews, which became vagina monologues... At first, women were reluctant to talk. They were a little shy. But once they got going, you couldn't stop them," writes Ensler in her introduction to the "Vagina Monologues."

The play, dubbed "creative

activism" by director and BSU Employee Development Specialist Janet Summers gives a peek into what's "down there" and what happens to millions of women's cunts, twats and pussys.

The mostly amateur cast members who give life to what's "down there" are more passionate about the play's content and message than adding a line to an acting resume. The grueling three-week rehearsal schedule has student, faculty and staff cast members running lines for several hours a day and on some days, practicing 20 different kinds of moans in the ASBSU Forum.

"I related to a lot of this stuff," said Jennifer Jenkins. "So many times throughout the play I just wanted to start cry-

ing. It's so emotional. I almost can't handle it."

Three weeks into rehearsal, the monologue, "My Vagina Was My Village," which recounts one woman's rape in the war-torn Middle East, still draws tears from cast members eyes and evokes somber stares at the ground.

Communication student Sam Garcia said she couldn't read the part all the way through when she auditioned. "I just cried." Kleenex was plentiful at the first rehearsals.

"This (play) is (about) how women feel. This is what they experience. This is the torment they go through. This is their happiness," said cast member Liberty Leeds.

Leeds, who has acted in other productions, said the cast

is unlike others she's been a part of. "Every cast develops a sort of closeness. But I think there's even more in a cast of all women. Some people think women are all competitive, but from the first audition, we totally felt comfortable with each other."

Most cast members have never been on stage or performed in front of a group. Those with theater experience under their belts say the audition was unlike any other they've seen. Competition gave way to cheering and encouragement. Theatrical ambition gave way to the spirit of activism.

"The Vagina Monologues' create a space wherein women can reunite with themselves and one another and as such provides a means for creating both individual unity and collective solidarity," said cast member Sarah Mawhirter.

"As a consequence of living in a society whose institutions are rooted in patriarchal ideology, women become alienated - physically, mentally, emotionally, intellectually - from themselves as well as from other women... ("The Vagina Monologues")... honors both

diversity and commonality."

The monologues are based upon hundreds of interviews with women of various ethnicities, ages, and life experiences, "yet each piece explores issues relevant to all women - specifically those relating to having a vagina," Mawhirter said. "As a result, this play acknowledges and celebrates differences among women while creating a sense of unity and solidarity by equally acknowledging and celebrating our common ground."

Betty Hecker, cast member and director of Affirmative Action at BSU says bonding between the cast was instant. She said the universal content of the play helped solidify bonds.

"I didn't expect this sort of closeness to develop so quickly with the group. I didn't expect such identification with some of the younger women."

The monologues force women to ask themselves, just as Ensler asked the women she interviewed, "If your vagina got dressed, what would it wear?" And "If your vagina could talk, what would it say?" After all, "A woman's private parts are like the Bermuda Triangle - no one ever reports back," writes Ensler.

Some cast members report the monologues have changed their relationship with their own vagina.

"I'm so much more open about my period and everything," said Fatima Mohammadi. "And I was in Winco the other day." She wanted chocolate. And she found her self standing in front of the bulk bins.



Members of the Vagina Monologues cast from left to right: Arantza Ugalde, Sue Chew, Samantha Wall, and Megan Minister.

photo by: Jordan Mardis the Arbiter

"I turned around (and yelled), 'Tiffany! Do you know what you did bringing a woman on her period to the bins at Winco? This is dangerous! All these guys were like, 'Oh my God.'"

Mohammadi said the play helped her find newness in her spirituality. She said at first, she spiritually struggled whether she should take a part. But she realized, "I was given this by God. It was really empowering."

Cast member Claudia Scott, who works in Albertsons Library during the day said the play, "Is for anyone with a vagina and anyone who knows anyone with a vagina."

The play is, after all, about vaginas. If it could happen to a vagina, it's in the monologues. The monologues step alongside women's life through childbirth, periods, sexual arousal and rape.

"Coochi snorcher" is such an

important piece because it's about somebody learning to love a part of her that for so long had been a bad place. That's so important for women who have been abused . . . it radiates to their own self-esteem," Scott said.

Hecker said many women who have been sexually assaulted can't tell others what happened to them, "because they don't have the words." She said the monologues help contribute to a vocabulary women are missing to describe their lives. "If you have never used the words 'vagina' and 'labia', how are you supposed to describe being raped? . . . The monologues give women permission to use that vocabulary . . . that's one part of feminist liberation that hasn't taken place."

Hecker said, "A lot of times women . . . can't say the word 'penis' out loud. They don't know how to describe their body. They have never looked at their vagina. For me, (performing in this play) is sort of for them."

Slices of vagina life are slated to move across the SPEC stage Feb. 17 and 18, to a sell-out audience. In celebration of V-Day, a day aimed at bringing issues of violence against women to national attention, profit from The Vagina Monologues will fund Women's Center violence awareness projects. Tickets are on sale at the Information Desk in the SUB.

Open forum opens vagina monologues

by Wendy Venable

"The Vagina Monologues is a play that's very powerful and there are many deep messages within it," Women's Center Coordinator Melissa Wintrow told a small gathering of people who came to discuss "The Vagina Monologues" at an open forum Feb. 8.

"Before we have the production of the play, we believed it was really important to have an opportunity to talk openly," she said. Although organizers say no objections over the upcoming performance were brought to their attention, the open forum was held to "pave the way of understanding."

The play won the 1997 Obie Award and has been given a spotlight on shows such as Oprah Winfrey and Rosie O'Donnell. This month it is being performed at colleges across the country in celebration of "V-day."

Eve Ensler, the playwright, based the contents of her work on actual interviews with hundreds of women about their bodies, their sexuality, and how they felt about themselves. She brings understanding and an honest connection between individuals in the form of an open dialogue set on stage. "We're bringing this to Boise State University and to the city of Boise, not to shock anybody, but really to educate and to raise awareness," Wintrow said about the controversial aspects that the play might bring into view.

"The title causes some people to stare," but she also added, "some people rejoice in jubilation."

The panel of guests at the open forum ranged from actors, to the director, to the Student Body President. Questions were asked and answered as openly and honestly as the play itself has been presented to the audience.

Tickets for The Vagina Monologues can be purchased through Select-a-Seat and is open to the general public. Promoters say the production contains adult content and deals with sensitive issues. "Misinformation, myths and misconceptions lead to negative self-esteem," Wintrow added, but, "we really invite you to come to the play, listen to them, open a dialogue from the Monologues."

Learn more about "The Vagina Monologues" by visiting www.vday.org and www.vaginamonologues.com

"The Vagina Monologues" will be on stage Saturday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 18th at 2:00 p.m.



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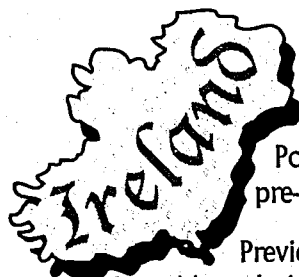
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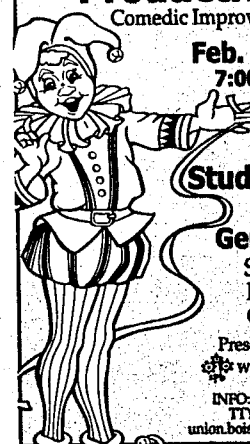
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Arbiter

Canceled 'Vagina Monologues' spurs forum at St. Mary's College

by Colleen McCarthy
The Observer (U. Notre Dame)

(U-WIRE) SOUTH BEND, Ind. - St. Mary's College students, faculty and staff expressed discontent regarding the administration's decision to prevent "The Vagina Monologues" from being performed on Saint Mary's College campus Wednesday in a speak-out facilitated by student organizers.

After receiving letters from alumnae, College President Marilou Eldred told student organizers this week "The Vagina Monologues" would not be performed on campus this year. Alumnae, the Board of Trustees and members of the Parents Council expressed concerns about performing the play at Saint Mary's after seeing a letter from a former professor, E. Michael Jones, detailing certain aspects of the play that he said went against Church teaching. The discussion gave members of the Saint Mary's community the opportunity to react to the decision and voice their opinions about the play.

One of the discussion's facilitators, Saint Mary's student Julie Frischkorn, expressed concern that the administration had only heard mostly negative feedback. Other students questioned whether students behind the effort to have the "Monologues" on campus had a

chance to refute what they saw as false claims about the play that were presented in Jones' letter that ran in The South Bend Tribune.

"There was a letter written by the Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination to the Alumnae Board, Parents Council, and the Board of Trustees and we sent it to the President's Office to get approval to send the letter to these individuals describing the play and why we felt it was valid and necessary to present on campus," said Frischkorn. "However, the letter was never sent because the administration was not willing to have it sent. I received a phone message from Dr. Eldred saying that approval for the letter was denied."

Although Eldred was unable to attend the forum due to prior commitments, Linda Timm, vice president of Student Affairs was in attendance. She emphasized that her role at the discussion was not to provide answers to specific questions.

The administration received a number of letters and phone calls regarding the play after it was performed last spring and Eldred responded to each, said Timm.

Timm said Eldred told her that she believes there are other ways dialogue can be continued to raise awareness about rape and address issues of sexuality.

"Why are 'The Vagina Monologues' out of all the other non-Catholic things on campus being cracked down on?" said Poynter. "Why not ROTC, which is definitely against Catholic social teaching. We need to ask ourselves what is the agenda of those saying 'no' to this play."

"Her [Eldred's] position has been that this one-way dialogue has begun to be opened but there must be more inclusive ways to open the dialogue other than through the play," said Timm.

Molly Kahn, student representative to the Board of Trustees said although she saw the play last year and it was a positive experience, she said there is a need to take into account what those outside the immediate student body.

"There are people including parents, supporters of the College, and former students in that outer Saint Mary's community and many question how we can continue to engage in a dialogue about sexuality and

rape awareness. But is the only way to do that through 'The Vagina Monologues'?" said Kahn. "The administration is open to talking about sexuality and there are many ways we can do that."

Senior Katie Poynter questioned how much influence those outside of the student body should have.

"The decision making process is being made by people not going to this school, who are not in school here right now and who are giving money," said Poynter. "We need to ask ourselves that if these people are not thinking as we are, do we want this to be the overriding influence on decisions made on this campus?"

Others raised questions about having the 'Monologues' on campus because they contain material some see as contrary to Catholic teaching such as issues of masturbation and premarital sex, both by heterosexuals and lesbians.

"Education is supposed to be wholesome, so if you are going to put on 'The Vagina Monologues' there needs to be something else performed too," said junior Akmaral Omarova.

If assuming 'The Vagina Monologues' does go against

Catholic social teaching, Poynter said there are many other non-Catholic activities that take place on campus.

"Why are 'The Vagina Monologues' out of all the other non-Catholic things on campus being cracked down on?" said Poynter. "Why not ROTC, which is definitely against Catholic social teaching. We need to ask ourselves what is the agenda of those saying 'no' to this play."

Other objections were raised over the presentation of the play.

For Mary Dugan, a Saint Mary's sophomore who saw the play last year, it was not a positive experience.

"I went to see it and I didn't enjoy it," said Dugan. "As far as it being a statement for women, focusing on the vagina is not the right way to go about doing that. There are other ways to talk about sexuality. If we are focusing on rape, as some parts of the play does, why focus on the vagina that is the source of the violation? There were too many vulgar parts for me."

A Saint Mary's staff member questioned if the audience for the play was too narrow.

"There are women on this campus who saw the ads for the play last year and were offended and wouldn't go because they thought it would be an in-your-face feminism approach to these issues," the staff member said. "I think the shock value alone attracted like-minded people and those who knew about the issues already. But people with conservative attitudes who could have spoken to the issues in another way chose not to be a part of the play. I'd ask you to continue to try to broaden the approach so as to include these other people in this dialogue."

Emily Koelsch, one of the facilitators of the forum, responded to their concerns.

"I went to see it and I didn't enjoy it," said Dugan. "As far as it being a statement for women, focusing on the vagina is not the right way to go about doing that. There are other ways to talk about sexuality. If we are focusing on rape, as some parts of the play does, why focus on the vagina that is the source of the violation? There were too many vulgar parts for me."

cont. on pg. 22

Canceled 'Vagina Monologues' cont. from pg. 21

"I respect your opinions and that you [Dugan] attended the play and made a decision about what it was about for you," said Koelsch. "But is it fair not to have it at all because it was not a positive experience for you? Is it better to have the play so people can go and potentially benefit from it?"

For senior Cassie Carrigan, the benefits of the play outweigh the negatives.

"This play is a great way to talk about sexuality and to raise money for Sex Offense Services and the Campus Rape Alliance," said Carrigan.

"The play is a better way to get people's attention because most are more likely to go to a play rather than a speaker or symposium on sexuality or rape awareness. No one is

required to go and see 'The Vagina Monologues' and if anyone has problems with it, they don't have to attend."

Several in attendance raised the issue that by not allowing 'The Vagina Monologues' to be presented was an act of censorship by the administration.

"I've been a member of the faculty at Saint Mary's for 20 years and I'm also a board member of the Indiana American Civil Liberties Union," said faculty member Bob Hall. "This issue regarding the content of the play is the most blatant example of outright censorship I have seen in a long time. This is pure and simple an issue of being denied the freedom of expression. I ask the members of the administration in attendance to ask

"This issue regarding the content of the play is the most blatant example of outright censorship I have seen in a long time. This is pure and simple an issue of being denied the freedom of expression..."

the President to rescind their denial of allowing the play to be performed in order to avoid the possibility of denying our students to be free-thinking leaders."

English professor Rosalind Clark also raised concerns over

issues of censorship and the message this sends to those outside of Saint Mary's.

"I want to point out that we are in the process of hiring a women's studies program coordinator, and I've been informed that one of the questions potential candidates have been asking is whether there is censorship of women's studies at Saint Mary's," said Clark.

"What will we tell them about censorship at Saint Mary's? Especially since a let-

ter to the Parents Council, alumnae, and Board of Trustees from students was censored and not allowed to be sent?" she asked.

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cont. from pg. 17

zations are like Queer Peers or Questioning and Curious, which offer support for homosexual students, or organizations like DRA and its graduate student equivalent, Green Lambda, which tend to be like groups of friends meeting.

The organizations used to be "we're in your face, we're gay, woo hoo," said Foery, but now they have become more support-oriented. "Being loud can be intimidating" for those considering coming out, said Kamil Walja.

Schools like Wesleyan have a very active political aspect. "That's part of the culture," said Gentry. At schools like Mt. Holyoke, where clear support for homosexuality is widespread, support meetings tend to be empty.

One thing gay Dartmouth students all agreed on with enthusiasm was that their situation was generally improving. The entering class was a major factor in this.

"This is the first time so many openly gay freshmen have come here and are participating in the DRA," said one homosexual student.

"If you're out when you're starting out (at college), it's so much easier," Sewer said.

This is because students can gather a network of others that don't object to their sexual orientation, and because it bypasses the complicated problem of coming out to very old, close friends who can react unpredictably.

At Dartmouth, straight students "are much more aware" than in the past, of homosexual's perspective, Mastin said.

Richard Lazarus is a reporter for The Dartmouth at Dartmouth College. Article reprinted with permission.

Tales from Drawing Flies

by Jim Toweill

Local band Drawing Flies, one of Boise's few purveyors of crazy technical death metal, agreed to take time out of their evil doings for this interview. Pregnant women, or anyone else who might be allergic to extreme sarcasm should stop reading now.

Jim: OK, so what are your names and what do you play?

DF: Gus-Vocals, Brent-drums, John-guitar, Dave-guitar, Zakk-bass.

J: How did the band form initially?

DF: Our lead guitarist was dumped by his girlfriend and ran off into the woods.

J: Is it hard to be a death metal band in Idaho?

DF: We thought it would be but we've had a pretty good

response so far. We'll see...

J: Where are the bullet belts and corpse paint??

DF: We can't afford them yet.

J: What do your lyrics deal with for the most part?

DF: Getting screwed over.

J: Any songs that deal with the tragic emotional discomfort that generally accompanies disembowelment?

DF: Blah..blah..blah..blah.... disembowelment.

J: Am I correct in assuming that most of you guys more or less grew up in the punk scene?

DF: Pretty much. We all played in punk rock bands previously.

J: Is there a drawing flies 7" or album on the horizon?

DF: We have a recording planned for Spring. It'll probably turn out to be a full-length because our songs are so damn long.

J: How do you feel about the learning channel?

DF: We all really like watching TLC, especially the surgeries.

J: If you could talk sh-t about any band in the world, who would you talk sh-t about?

DF: Here goes: Metallica, Limp Bizkit, 311, and every boy band except 98 degrees 'cause they're hot.

J: Do any of you attend BSU?

DF: Some of us used to, but no, not currently.

J: Make up your own question and answer it!

DF: OKAY!

DF: Have any of you ever finished a Big Jud's burger and fries?

DF: Zakk did it twice and Dave lied and said he did.

DF: If you guys weren't in a death metal band, what would you be doing?

DF: Zakk- watching wrestling John- still in the

woods Dave- exploring sexual fetishes Brent- drinking vodka and breakdancing Gus- making quilts at a sweatshop

DF: Are you guys planning a group suicide on Oct. 31, 2010?

DF: No, but good question.

Drawing Flies will appear at the Sotano on Saturday, Feb. 24 with Blood Party and Wake the Dead. They'll also be appearing at Bogie's Battle of the Bands on Sunday March 25, with seven other acts.



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'Sledding isn't just for kids anymore'

by Kate Hoffman

Winter has settled in, and droves of Idahoans are loading up gear and heading for the hills in pursuit of one of the season's most popular extreme sports. Banish those images of skiing and snowboarding from your minds; forget about snowmobiling or - shoeing and ice-rappelling or - fishing. The sport of which I speak can be every bit as adrenaline-charged as these others, yet harkens back to days long before most dreamed of college: sledding.

Whereas one might search only a few places to find skiers and snowboarders, there are hundreds - perhaps thousands

- of largely undocumented sledding hills along the highways and byways of Idaho's Rockies. Advertised by word of mouth or found through sheer serendipity, they are easily identifiable after a weekend rush by the hard-packed runs etched into the snow, the tracks left by armies of boot-clad feet in the long haul to the summit, the blackened fire pits dug into the icy snow.

There is one such place nestled along a back road somewhere north of Idaho City: a massive hill tattooed by a dozen runs, towering above an isolated little hollow dotted with

Sledding is the perfect extreme sport: fast-paced, nerve-wracking, calorie-burning, adrenaline-pumping, high-flying flirtation with death that in all but the worst cases leaves collarbones and wrists intact.

erstwhile bonfires. Stumbling upon this spot during the week, one might assume that its discrete location prevented all but an intrepid or lucky handful

from utilizing it.

That weekend, however, the place is transformed into a bustling community of sledding. Dozens of trucks and SUVs line up along the entrance to the valley, and groups numbering from two to twenty congregate around smoldering fires. The pristine white slope has changed into a multicolor anthill, alive with creatures struggling up and sliding down. There are couples, families, church groups, hyperactive adolescent herds. At least half of the sledders are college aged.

Perhaps because of this, the harmless fun most people remember from their childhood has metamorphosed into something much more dangerous. In an apparent bid for the 2001 Darwin Awards, some of these "extreme sledders" sculpt trenches and ramps in the slopes and climb ever higher before throwing themselves, often headfirst, down the hill on flimsy sheets of plastic or over-inflated inner tubes. These thrill-seeking hooligans rocket down the run, reaching unknown reckless speeds before they hit their own booby traps. Small ramps rattle their bones or send them flying several feet before they smash down, sometimes backwards but still going strong.

Larger ramps catapult the sledder airborne, often somersaulting midair before the sled or tube is roughly torn away by air resistance and the pilot crashes onto the icy hard-packed snow. Landing on an outstretched hand or flailing foot, he lies motionless, twisted and mangled at the foot of his

self-made destruction. Flopping awkwardly down the rest of the hill, his sled comes to rest against his side like a wounded cowboy's concerned horse. It is as if the inanimate piece of plastic or rubber knows that, through its fault, the being which gave it life is now lifeless. In the midst of all the whooping and hollering, a bubble of silence descends upon the crumpled sledder and his anxiously watching companions.

And then, as effortlessly as if rising from a feather mattress, the sledder leaps to his feet with an exultant howl and thrusts two miraculously unharmed fists upwards. Blame it on some guardian angel for brain-addled adrenaline addicts or on multiple layers of polar fleece and Gore-tex, but the worst of Mother Nature and inexperienced engineering leave the sledders virtually untouched.

Sledding is the perfect extreme sport: fast-paced, nerve-wracking, calorie-burning, adrenaline-pumping, high-flying flirtation with death that in all but the worst cases leaves collarbones and wrists intact. Which is, of course, just as well. Just imagine hobbling into a lecture and trying to explain that your crutches are the result of a sledding accident. Those uninitiated into the world of extreme sledding would never understand.



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Strato'loungers' new CD avoids common pitfalls

by Jim Toweill

The Strato'loungers' new album, *Breakin' Down The Blues* is packed full of traditional-sounding blues tunes straight out of Boise.

The band's sound is tight, clean, and not especially intrusive. The production is crisp and clear. Every note is in the right key, every solo is placed at the appropriate time, and the lyrics aren't so cerebral as to compromise a relaxing, pleasurable listening experience.

There are some occasional lyrical twists, like (from 18.5—a song dealing with California's disappearance into the ocean), "It was San Andreas' fault/That's what they say/No matter who's fault it was.../They're all swimming in the bay." Subtle puns like this are what make the narration an essential part of the Strato'loungers experience.

Challenging musical ideas

are quite often distracting and detract from the overall aesthetic of blues. One would not be able to 'lounges' if he or she had to contend with distracting, impassioned solo excursions while listening to this disc. Fortunately, these five Boiseans seem to have had this idea in mind when creating the album. Ben Burdick's guitar work carries a smooth, leisurely tone throughout, winding its way through the safe and halcyon scales that are the watermarks of blues.

Paul Peterson's vocal work is extremely accessible and as non-confrontational as possible, drawing the listener into a comfortable world of fun, and painless, temporary sorrow. Most will find his voice warm, and somehow familiar, like an old friend. There's none of that crazy, out of control, overreaching spontaneity that some

singers like Diamanda Galas use to get their 'artistic' visions across.

Some blues musicians try to tinker and toy with the structure of the blues, adding new sounds, radically different concepts and raw emotional content. Adjustments of this sort can often be unsettling, difficult to swallow, and much too demanding on the listener. The Strato'loungers avoid all these hellacious pitfalls—they understand that the true purpose of music is to entertain, not to edify, challenge, or upset the listener.

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- 5 Deadly
- 11 Not taped
- 12 Compare
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- 15 Egyptian city
- 17 Toothpaste type
- 18 Polite word in Italy
- 22 Late
- 24 Relish
- 25 Top card
- 26 Lamb tender
- 27 Miser's problem
- 30 Rural sights
- 32 Detect
- 33 Dr.'s org.
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- 38 Make couples
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- 44 Bombarded
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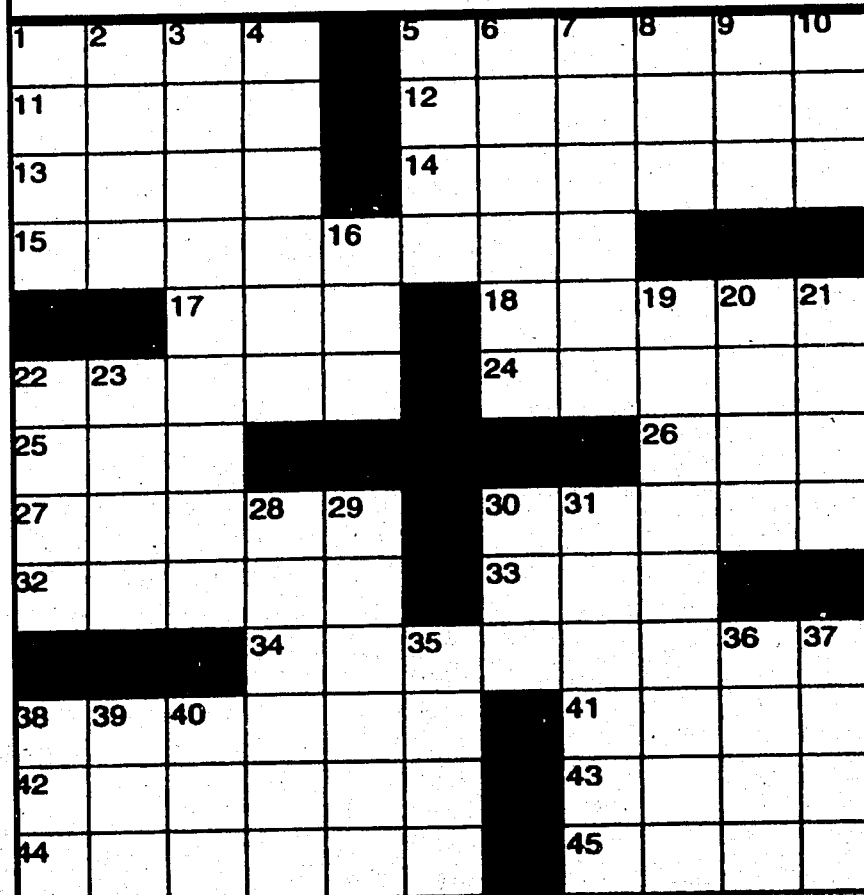
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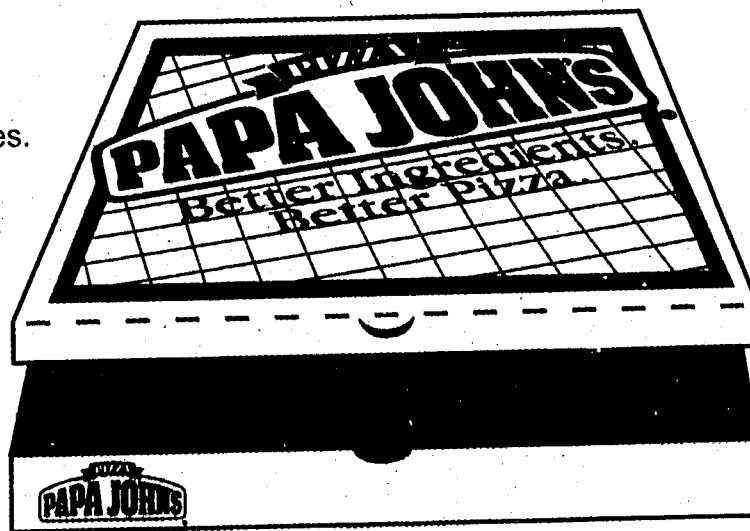
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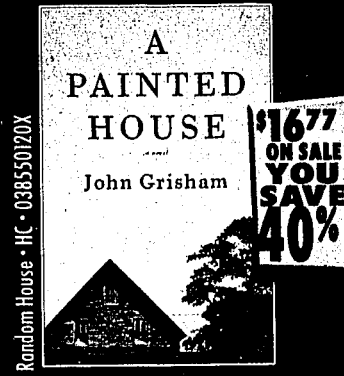
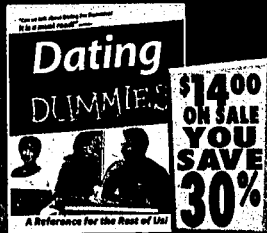
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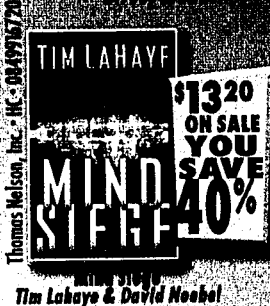
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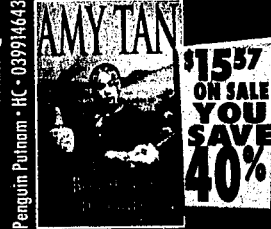


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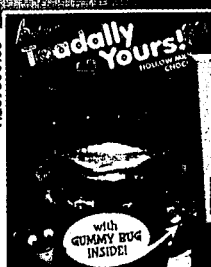
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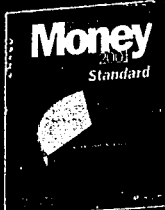
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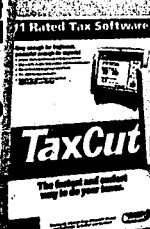
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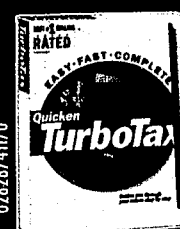
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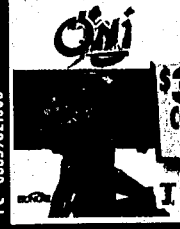
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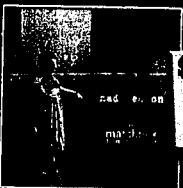
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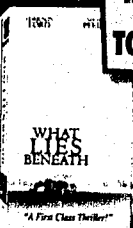
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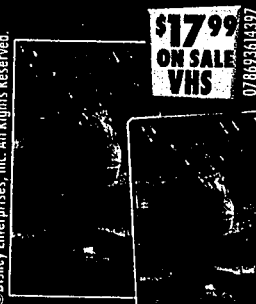
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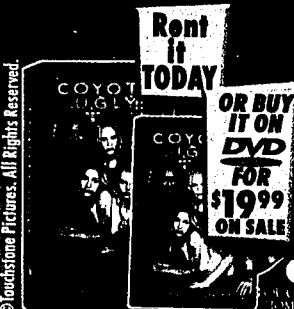
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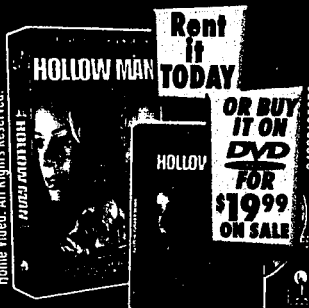
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