

2-10-2003

Arbiter, February 10

Students of Boise State University

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The Arbiter

Vol. 15

Monday, February 10, 2003

Boise State University

Student fees to match peer average

Index plan won't account for income differentials

By Brandon Fiala
The Arbiter

Student fees at Boise State might be indexed to peer-institutions by Fall 2004, increasing fees to close a 12 percent gap between BSU and schools in other states.

Indexing fees means raising student fees to match peer-institutions.

In one scenario, fees will rise 33 percent over three years, according to a model discussed at a State Board of Education meeting in December.

According to the model, potential peer institutions include the University of Alaska in Anchorage, California State University in Fresno and others.

The State Board has accepted a peer-indexing model, and is waiting for Idaho university presidents to select peer-institutions, said Keith Hasselquist, chief fiscal officer of the Board of Education.

The Board will review peer groups in June. If accepted, the Board will develop policies to implement indexing, Hasselquist said.

Once indexing starts, fee increases are dependent upon peer-group averages. The current model assumes a 7 percent annual increase.

Hasselquist said Board members asked university presidents to develop a system to benchmark fee increases. As it stands, insti-

tutions can request up to 10 percent annually.

"Recently, the institutions have been coming with high increases, and the Board wanted to create some mechanism to determine what fees should be," he said.

Provost Daryl Jones said Board members also wanted to provide predictability to students.

However, fee indexing has proven exceedingly complex - and contentious.

President Charles Ruch said choosing an index might even be impossible.

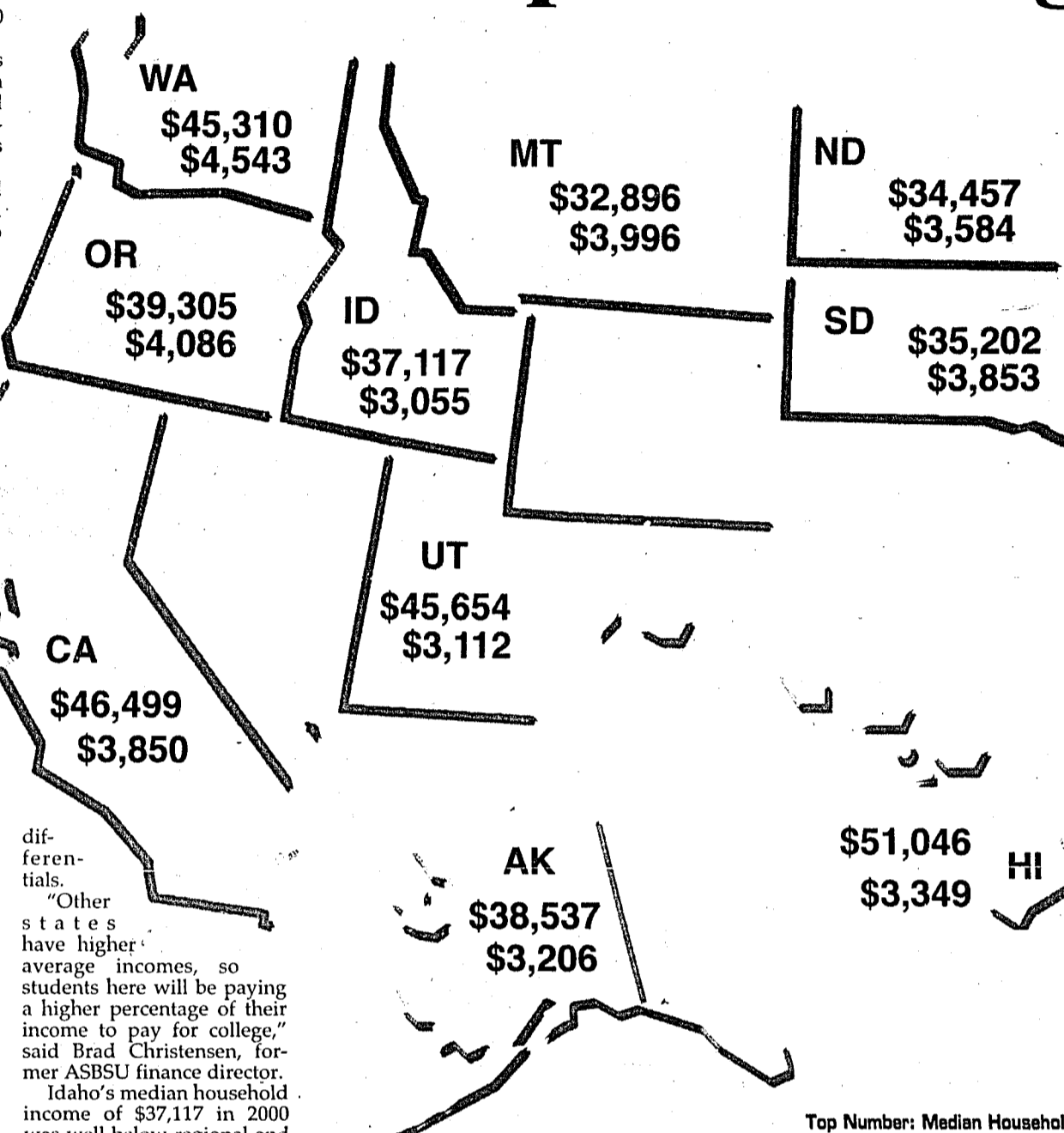
Some faculty members believe indexing fees unfairly targets students.

"I think it is hypocritical to justify charging students more because other states do, while at the same time providing fewer resources than other states do," said Craig Hemmens, an associate professor of Criminal Justice Administration.

Hemmens said although Idaho faculty salaries are less than peer average, Board members balked when asked to raise salaries.

"The Board said they don't use indexing for that ... What this shows is that the Board is willing to use student fees at peer institutions to justify a fee increase when the same school administrators refuse to use peer institutions to justify increased funding for Idaho schools or faculty salaries."

Student leaders have criticized fee indexing because the proposed model fails to account for income



Other states have higher average incomes, so students here will be paying a higher percentage of their income to pay for college," said Brad Christensen, former ASBSU finance director. Idaho's median household income of \$37,117 in 2000 was well below regional and

See Fees page 3

Top Number: Median Household Income
Bottom Number: Average Public University Tuition & Fees
Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

International Programs meets federal requirement

Patriot Act demands new system

By Casey Wyatt
The Arbiter

A new federal electronic registration system is up and running at Boise State University Admissions and International Programs, but some administrators have mixed feelings about it.

Christy Babcock-Quintero, BSU international student advisor, said the new system conflicts with her role as an advocate for the international students at Boise State.

BSU implemented the system in August, well ahead of the Jan. 30 deadline required by the USA Patriot Act.

The Student Exchange Visitor Information System, is intended to streamline the flow of information about exchange students to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

But the new system has placed administrators in an awkward position. SEVIS, which puts international stu-

dent's personal information at the INS's fingertips, requires certain domains be filled out, leaving others optional.

Babcock-Quintero won't be reporting any personal information that isn't explicitly required because she doesn't have the time, she said. She is also concerned about her relationships with students.

"The problem is that we're here to be the students' advocates. (The system) puts us into an immigration policeman's role," she said.

Within 30 days after each semester starts, International Programs must certify the individual physical presence of over 300 international students.

Babcock-Quintero sees many of them often, and certification for those students is easy, she said. But she may not see others for extended periods and that presents a problem.

"You can't just use e-mail," she said.

International Student Admissions Coordinator Debbie Lareau has also been using the system.

She said the system works smoothly, but her contact with it has been minimal because she only admits international students and doesn't follow up with their progress.

Lareau said she only enters required information because she doesn't have access to extra information.

There are no set policies on what, if any, optional information should be entered about international students. There has been no official training on the system for Boise State administrators.

Trang Doan, a senior international student, works in the Women's Center and Multi-Ethnic Center. She said that she has felt increased pressures as a foreigner after Sep. 11. Doan said special rules dictate different details of her life in America.

"You can't work off campus ... they keep an eye out on you. I know (Babcock-Quintero) feels awkward about it all," she said.

Although SEVIS has complicated Babcock-Quintero's relationship with her stu-

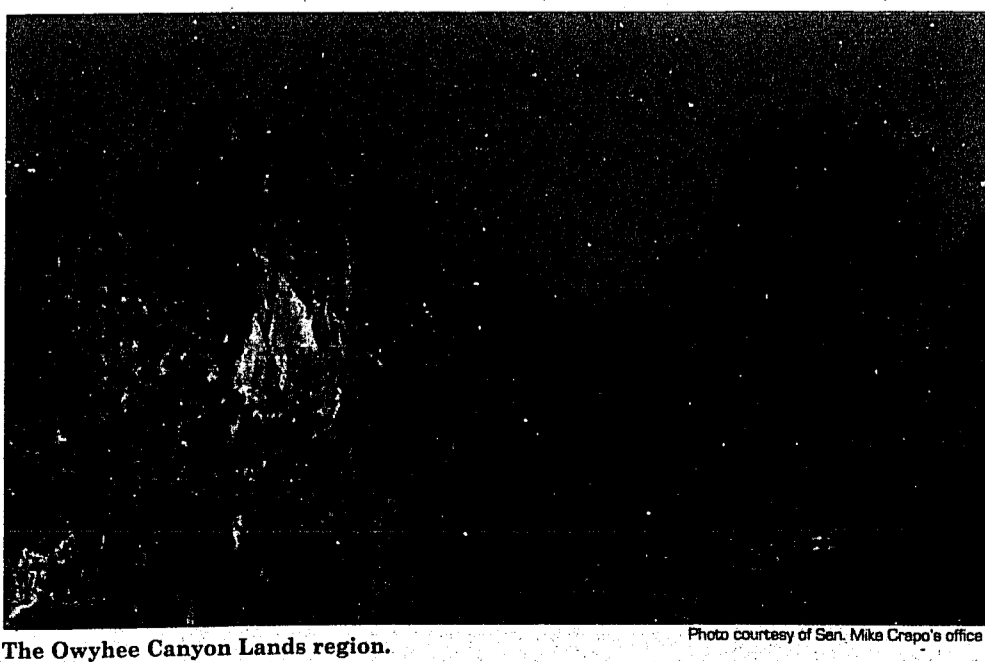
dents, the system grants her a certain capacity to serve students.

For example, the INS has ruled that international students must take a full course load. But if a student doesn't need to attend school full-time in their last semester, Babcock-Quintero has the authority to issue a waiver.

The American Council on Education has made an effort to address concerns about the new system for some time.

Terry W. Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, testified to Congress recently about the importance of international students in America's colleges and universities.

"We are deeply concerned that efforts to implement SEVIS without preparing campus officials and exchange visitor programs ... this will reduce the enormous benefits that the United States has historically enjoyed from welcoming visitors to our shores," Hartle said.



The Owyhee Canyon Lands region.

Photo courtesy of Sen. Mike Crapo's office

Plan to protect the Canyonlands gains varied support

By Jason Kauffman
The Arbiter

A wide range of special interests groups, facilitated by Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, has come together to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands.

This 10-member working group, known as the Owyhee Initiative, involves special interests, such as environmental groups, motorized recreation groups, ranchers, the U.S. Air Force, and the Owyhee County Commission.

Among the most remote and pristine areas remaining in the contiguous 48 states, the rugged Owyhee

Student government improves recycling program

By Linda Cook
The Arbiter

At the start of Spring 2003, ASBSU installed approximately 24 new recycling receptacles throughout the Student Union Building.

ASBSU Recycling Coordinator Greg Bridges said student government hopes that convenient recycling stations will reduce both waste and waste disposal expenses for the university.

"You have to pay to throw away, but you get paid to recycle," Bridges said.

Three bins are located at each new recycling station. The bins are color coded for their intended purpose. Green bins are for newspapers, brown bins are for plastics and red bins are for cans.

Bridges said there has been an increase in the amount of recycled materials, but said the full impact will not be certain for some

time. Previously, there were no recycling bins in the SUB, although some buildings on campus maintained their own.

"There's been a recycling program; it's just not very efficient," Bridges said.

Bridges said one aim of the new program is to make recycling stations more easily accessible to users.

"It needs to be convenient for it to work," he said.

Bridges decided to start with one building at a time. He chose the SUB because he feels it attracts the widest variety of students.

Although Bridges will leave his position at the end of the semester, he hopes the next recycling coordinator takes the program to other campus buildings.

Currently, all money earned from the recycling program goes back into the

See Recycle page 3

Canyonlands region covers large parts of southwestern Idaho, southeastern Oregon and northern Nevada.

The impetus for the Owyhee Initiative resulted from a perception common among many in Owyhee County that at some point the Canyonlands would see some form of national designation. The initiative was seen as a way for locals to have a say in the planning process.

According to Crapo, the process has shown significant promise because everyone involved has been respectful of the widely divergent points of view brought by working group members.

"One of the things that I have learned in this process, where you try to get all the

parties together to reach common solutions, is that it takes a lot of time," Crapo said.

Crapo said that often the most difficult part of such processes is finding agreement among such divergent points of view.

"It's very difficult to bring all those points of view together and find those areas of agreement where you can build consensus," Crapo said.

Participants in the initiative have brought concerns to the working group that range in scope from new wilderness designations, to protection of historic ranching uses, to allowing continued use by motorized recreationists.

See Canyonlands page 3

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Campus Shorts East

NYU professor says NASA runs shoddy program

NEW YORK—A New York University professor and aerospace historian lashed out against NASA on Wednesday, criticizing the space program for a "perpetual lack of direction."

William Burrows, a journalism professor in the Faculty of Arts and Science, charged that NASA has run "a very, very slipshod program" since its inception. Burrows' comments were made during a journalism department presentation at Carter Hall.

Burrows, a nationally known writer on the space program, said the Columbia space shuttle's mission was little more than a public relations event meant to disguise the fact that the agency had no viable research to do.

"Seven people got killed on Saturday hauling spiders, ants and mosquitoes into orbit," Burrows said.

"That happened because they were running out of missions for the space shuttle."

Many Americans do not know or care about NASA missions, Burrows said.

"The dilemma the space program has had since the beginning is that there is no large constituency for space travel," Burrows said.

NASA administrators have recruited women, minorities and members of the general public to travel on the shuttle in an unsuccessful attempt to make people relate to space travel, he said.

Factions inside NASA also hamper the space program, Burrows said.

Among the agency's differing agendas are opening space travel to tourists, focusing solely on scientific experiments, mining resources from the solar system and studying how to protect the planet from catastrophic events like asteroids or nuclear war, he said.

Anti-war protesters arrested in Sen. Kerry's office

BOSTON—Two of three anti-war activists were arrested Tuesday afternoon in a peaceful anti-war demonstration inside U.S. Sen. John Kerry's office.

The three protesters, members of the Massachusetts Green-Rainbow Party, demanded that Kerry sign Senate Resolution 32, Sen. Edward Kennedy's resolution requiring congressional approval before a war on Iraq, according to participant Patrick Keaney, 33, of Brighton, who was arrested.

"We were dissatisfied with John Kerry's leadership," Keaney said.

According to Keaney, Kerry gives public impassioned speeches against military force in Iraq, yet votes to support war in the Senate.

When the three activists arrived at Senator Kerry's

office, they were welcomed by his office workers, according to Keaney. Aides said they respect the activists' rights and even admired their actions, he said.

After a couple of hours, however, aides said they did not want the public to hear about the demonstration, Keaney said. First avoiding police action, they said they would stay with the protesters, but they could not use the restroom. If they left the room, they would be locked out and unable to return.

"A battle of will quickly became a battle of bladders," Keaney said.

But Keaney began calling reporters, using his cell phone "as a conduit to the outside world," he said.

Once office workers realized the potential publicity, they decided to put an end to it by arresting the two of them, Keaney said.

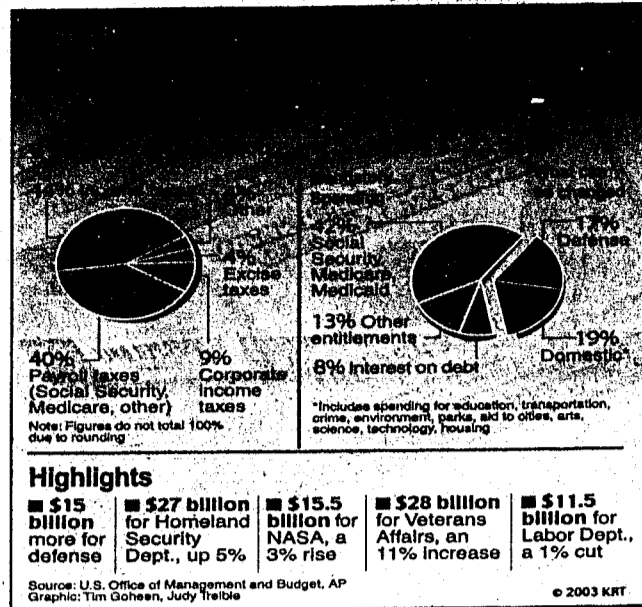
Keaney was arrested, along with another activist, Matthew Osborn, 24, of Brookline, Mass. The third activist, Michael Gainer, 28, of Boston, used the restroom at one point and was locked out, although he participated for much of the time.

Sen. Kerry's office could not be reached for comment regarding the protest.

Midwest

Bush team seeks time in U-M admissions case

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—President George W. Bush asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to hear his



arguments criticizing the University of Michigan's admission system as an illegal quota system.

U.S. Solicitor General Ted Olson, acting as Bush's agent, asked the court for 10 minutes during oral arguments on April 1 to expand Bush's arguments.

The arguments, detailed in legal briefs filed with the court last month, claim that U-M's law school and undergraduate policies unfairly reward or penalize students based on race.

Olson was reportedly unhappy that Bush's briefs did not ask the court to overturn the 1978 Supreme Court decision in the Bakke case, which struck down quotas but permitted the use of race as a factor in admissions.

As an attorney in private practice, Olson represented two of four white plaintiffs in a case filed in 1992 against the University of Texas School of Law. In arguments before the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, Olson argued that diversity did not justify the use of race in admissions. In 1996, the court ruled the admissions policy unconstitutional.

U-M spokeswoman Julie Peterson said the school is prepared to answer Olson's arguments. U-M has denied its admissions systems use quotas.

News shorts are compiled by Brandon Fiala from KRT and U-Wire news services.

News Bucket

Concert benefits orphaned children

Each year, poverty, natural disasters, and tragic circumstances continue to fuel the orphan crisis. Meanwhile, six million people of childbearing age in the United States alone struggle to become pregnant, many unsuccessfully.

A quintet of five world-class musicians will perform at The Orphaned Children's Benefit Concert being held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at the Boise State University Special Events Center, where 438 seats will be sold at \$50-\$200 a seat.

Tickets can be purchased at CASI Foundation For Children located at 2308 N. Cole Rd, Suite E, or charged by phone at 208-376-0558.

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Recycle from page 1

ASBSU recycling account. Last semester, the amount earned totaled about \$500, but Bridges is aiming higher. He hopes BSU can gain

the financial benefits of a good recycling program, such as the University of Oregon, the University of Colorado and Rice University have. "Lots of major schools

already have this system figured out," he said. After looking into programs at other universities, Bridges decided that recycling would be a good investment for BSU.

Ryan McMullan, recycling coordinator for Rice University in Texas, said Rice recycles 29 percent of its waste, which saves Rice thousands of dollars each year.

McMullan said that from July 2000-June 2001, Rice University saved \$19,000 on waste disposal and earned approximately \$4,800 from selling the recycled materials.

In the following fiscal year, the market for recyclables fell, but Rice's recycling effort still saved the university \$10,000 on waste disposal.

There are about 4,000 students at Rice University. Boise State serves over 17,000.

The money for the recycling bins came from a donation from the Coca Cola Company, which gives \$10,000 per year to ASBSU's recycling program.

During Fall 2002, ASBSU approved spending \$5,000 of the donation on the new recycling stations. The bins themselves cost up to \$200 each.

Campus Crime

Jan. 23, 9 p.m.

A male was arrested after burglarizing a vehicle in the parking lot of Towers Dorm.

Jan. 24, 3:30 p.m.

A theft of a backpack occurred in the library. The suspects were caught trying to sell the stolen textbooks back to the Bookstore.

Jan. 25, 11:30 p.m.

Two people were arrested on outstanding warrants when their car was stopped by the Kinesiology Building. The third occupant of the vehicle was arrested for her involvement in a stabbing that occurred in the county.

Jan. 26, 2 p.m.

A theft was reported at the Towers. Hubcaps were stolen by unknown suspect from the victim's car. This occurred sometime after 11 p.m. on Jan. 25.

Jan. 28, 9 a.m.

Another graffiti incident was reported at the Tennis Bubbles. It occurred over the weekend: Words and symbols painted on the storage shed.

Jan. 29, 9 a.m.

A harassment incident was reported by members of the Education Department. There is an ongoing investigation into a violation of court order as a result of this.

Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.

A bicycle rider and a vehicle collided on Theater Lane. The bicyclist suffered minor injuries.

Fees from page 1

national averages, according to a study by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

However, Idaho's cost of living was also the second lowest of the 11 western states in 2001, according to the ACCRA Cost of Living Index.

Hasselquist said although the proposed indexing model doesn't account for income differentials, Board members have considered fees as a percent of household income in the past.

Christensen said creating proportionally higher fees could create a long-term problem for the state.

"Raising fees is the last thing we want to do. Idaho is already near the bottom of western states in the proportion of high school students who go on to college."

Hemmens said fewer students could attend college as a result of indexing.

"We must also consider the impact that a dramatic fee increase will have on the ability of Idaho students to

attend college at a time when wages are not increasing and access to adequate financial aid is increasingly hard to come by."

Hasselquist said although he doesn't deny the added financial burden on students, he doesn't expect fee increases to slow enrollment.

"Historically, there is no elasticity of demand. You can raise fees and the demand will still be there."

In addition to student and faculty criticism, administrators question whether a single policy can address multiple variables, such as a funding inequity among Idaho universities.

"It's not a simple thing to index. If everyone is on the same index but the base is not correct when you start, then all the index does is tie you to an unfair comparison," Jones said.

"This is relevant to the State Board's consideration of funding equity. One of the dangers of inflexible indexing would be that the inequity gets built in

permanently."

Jones said it is unclear how indexing would accommodate the funding inequity.

President Charles Ruch emphasized the difficulty of applying an indexing model to all Idaho public universities, including the University of Idaho, Idaho State and others.

"All of the institutions are very different institutions with very different fee histories and current economic situations, and to find one model that fits all is a real challenge, if not impossibility," Ruch said.

When the university presidents presented their indexing proposal to the Board of Education, many questions still remained.

"We wanted to find out if Board members were interested in it before we committed significant staff time to the plan," Ruch said.

Because of the remaining questions, Ruch said indexing might not be applied until fall 2005.

University presidents

chose indexing out of many options, including an index specifying matriculation fees should be a certain percentage of appropriated funds, an index to total education cost, a matriculation fee as a percent of non-education costs and an inflationary index that would approximate the consumer price index plus a percentage, according to the minutes of a September Board meeting.

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Canyonlands from page 1

"We are fortunate that in these areas of trying to deal with environmental and economic concerns there are often a lot of areas of overlap where we can find solutions that are win-win," Crapo said.

"It is finding those solutions that are win-win and then developing the confidence of those involved in those solutions that takes the time. I really do believe that we have the potential for some breakthroughs."

Once specific agreements have been reached, the results will be presented to Sen. Crapo in the form of legislation that he will then present to Congress.

John McCarthy, policy director for the Idaho Conservation League, a member of the initiatives working group, said their main objective is to promote increased protection for the Canyonlands.

"Our objective is the protection of a large part of the wild sagebrush ecosystem and actually have some wilderness legislation," McCarthy said.

In recent years issues related to the cattle industry in Owyhee County have received increasingly close attention.

According to McCarthy, the position the ICL takes in relation to grazing in the Owyhees has more to do with increased public involvement in proposed grazing management decisions.

"We're not trying to shut down grazing, but we would like to see grazing improved and the process for public involvement in grazing management positions improved," McCarthy said.

McCarthy said that the goals of the environmentalists have evolved over time to include an interest in promoting a long-term stewardship group after legislation is passed.

"For both conservation and community interests, we need to look at some kind of long-term cooperative stewardship council or stewardship group," McCarthy said.

But the Owyhee Initiative has not been without its share of controversy.

According to Katie Fite of the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, her group has been specifically excluded because many consider their views too extreme.

"It has not been an open collaborative process as it has been billed from the beginning," Fite said.

Fite said that areas of specific contention include what the CIHD considers to be proposals that would harm public lands values.

"In some ways, the kind of wilderness that the Owyhee cattlemen would agree to would be demeaning, they would undercut the very word 'wilderness,'" Fite said.

According to Brett Nelson, a liaison to Boise State's Campus Greens, the Idaho Green Party's main objections with the initiative have to do with legislation that gives away too many environmental protections to achieve consensus.

"The main objections are allowing grazing and giving away too many things to release language," Nelson said.

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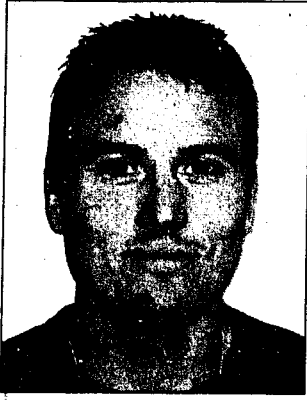
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BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

Taxes, morning radio and rebel alliance



By Pete Espil
Humorist
The Arbiter

Governor Dirk is raising taxes in Idaho. I know this is disturbing to some of you but personally I don't have anything to say about it. I'm much more concerned about other, more important issues facing Idaho and, more specifically, Boise.

For instance, when I moved here this past fall, I

was very upset about not being able to find a rock radio station that played rock music in the mornings.

For the last 22 years of my life, I have gotten up in the morning to the sound of classic rock. However, upon arriving in Boise, all I could find were stations that whittled away the a.m. hours with penis jokes that would only be funny if I were still in junior high.

I was at my wit's end and had almost resorted to listening to country music, when I stumbled upon a station called *The Point*.

This station (99.1 FM) has all the makings of a great rock station. They play "rock's greatest hits" and specialize in the hard rock of the '80s.

For you younger readers, the '80s was a time when bands could sing — and play their instruments.

Unfortunately, '80s music became obsolete when a garage band named *Nirvana*

made it seem cool to not take showers, scream instead of sing and play their instruments about as well as any fifth-grade band student. To date, I have not heard any *Nirvana* on *The Point*. Some things are still sacred.

The Point also has a DJ that is mentally unstable (another mandatory element for a good rock station).

His radio name is J.R. He refers to his listeners as "the rebel alliance" (J.R. is also a *Star Wars* fan). When he isn't playing rock music on his morning show, J.R. passes the time by making fun of everything, including but not limited to, other DJs in town and Britney Spears.

Sometimes you can't tell which he is making fun of, but since the other DJ's in town and Britney Spears have about the same amount of talent, I guess it doesn't matter.

I enjoyed listening to *The Point* so much, that I called J.R. and asked if I could come

do a morning show with him for an hour. He agreed once I promised to bring him a large platter of biscuits and gravy.

We spent our time on the air talking about old heavy metal singers like Ronnie James Dio, who J.R. affectionately calls "the evil hobbit," and making fun of people who write mean letters to *The Arbiter* about me because they don't like my articles.

Nevertheless, in spite of how successful J.R.'s show is (it airs from 6 to 10 a.m.) other so called "rock stations" continue to get high ratings despite the fact that they DON'T EVEN PLAY MUSIC IN THE MORNINGS!! Call me crazy, but if a station is going to call itself "Idaho's best rock," I expect to hear some hard pumping rock 'n' roll in the morning when I turn it on!

Oh well. It may never make sense to me, but if a rock station can get top ratings without playing rock

music, maybe other businesses could use the same kind of formula to make money and boost the economy in Idaho so that Dirk doesn't have to raise taxes. I even have an idea to help "Dirk Vader" get started on this new financial plan of mine.

How about if Idaho (specifically Boise) were the first state to have gas stations that don't sell gas! Gas is so expensive anyway that everyone would save money in the long run.

We could put one of these "gas free" gas stations on every single corner of Boise. One would always be only a block away.

Instead of buying gas there, you could just go in and buy a variety of products, all of which are priced at five times the amount you would normally pay if you bought them anywhere else.

Oh wait, this won't work, I forgot that we already have Albertsons.

Unfortunately, '80s music became obsolete when a garage band named Nirvana made it seem cool to not take showers, scream instead of sing and play their instruments about as well as any fifth-grade band student.

Porn damages humanity, cheapens women

Guest Opinion

By John C. Thompson
Student

Por-nog-ra-phy (pôr-nog-râ-fee)
n. 1. Sexually explicit pictures, writing, or other material whose primary purpose is to cause sexual arousal. 2. The presentation or production of this material—
Dictionary.com

No matter what the explanation for porn, whether it is a justifiable entertainment for consenting adults, a lonely excuse for testosterone-driven teenagers, a viable form of sex education or a twisted form of the joy of sex, porn is part of the American culture.

According to an article run in the *New York Times*, titled the "Naked Capitalist," the porn industry is worth between \$10-\$14 billion dollars. That's more than the annual revenue of the NFL, NBA and MLB combined. But because it is part of our culture, we've accepted it as an

individual's right and as long as it doesn't become violent, or affect the non-consenting, it's OK.

Humans have always demanded prostitution and peep shows. Porn is nothing new. Titian, the famous neo-classical painter was commissioned many times to paint erotic bedroom pieces. Guidobaldo, Duke of Urbino, when negotiating with Titian to purchase his *The Venus of Urbino*, referred to the painting simply as the "naked women."

Why do people turn to porn? Let's ignore the fact that porn does affect the non-consenting, and look at the issue assuming that only consenting adults are affected.

Could it be, that people turn to pornography because they are lonely and lack the

relationships, sexual and otherwise, to be satisfied with life? I know from my experience that this was the case. Instead of working to create new relationships, I lived vicariously through the pictures of beautiful women on the Internet and felt trapped in an imaginary world.

After six months, I was fed up with that lifestyle (and honestly, became frightened by the perversion creeping into my mind) and through the help of friends, was able to separate myself from my porn addiction.

Does pornography affect our culture? Whatever we may think, porn is highly addictive, especially coupled with masturbation. We are a culture hooked on the display of unrealistic images of women, men and relation-

ships. People are not "play-mates" or "pets," and when we begin to value humanity only from the neck-down, we find that our view of individuals becomes distorted and dysfunctional.

Our society cannot fill its mind with unrealistic and fictitious pictures of sex, without those pictures beginning to affect all of its relationships.

We all smirk when we hear the rhetoric of the All-American politician who is introducing legislation to censor the Internet, thinking that he probably has his own dirty little secret.

However, let's step back from our apathy and reconsider why we have accepted porn: What has been porn's affect on our lives? Censorship is not the answer, but could it be that we are using pornography to escape real relationships?

Could it be that we have been affected more deeply by pornography than we realize? Could it be that we are being used by an industry not interested in personal freedom, but in their bottom-line?

Letters to the Editor

We encourage readers to respond in letters for publication. Letters must be 300 words or fewer. Please include your name, daytime telephone number, major field of study and year in school. Please direct all letters to editor@arbiteronline.com. Letters are subject to editing. The Arbiter cannot verify the accuracy of statements made in letters to the editor. Columnists' views do not necessarily represent those of the Arbiter editorial board and staff.

The Arbiter

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The Arbiter is the official student newspaper of Boise State University. Its mission is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues affecting the BSU community. The Arbiter's budget consists of fees paid by the student body and advertising sales. The paper is distributed Mondays and Thursdays to the campus during the academic school year. The first copy is free. Additional copies can be purchased for \$1 apiece at the Arbiter editorial office.

Submit letters to the editor to:
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U.S. shouldn't head into war with empty boat



By Edwin Subasic
The Arbiter

The United States' lack of support from its European allies for the war against Iraq should worry American politicians and the American public, but President Bush doesn't seem to be bothered by this lack of support.

Relationships between the U.S. and its allies in Europe are worsening, but Bush is making it clear that he doesn't respect their opinions on a potential war with Iraq, mostly because of his belief that America is the preeminent superpower in the world.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of the Social Democratic Party ran an anti-war campaign against the conservatives in a tight election last year.

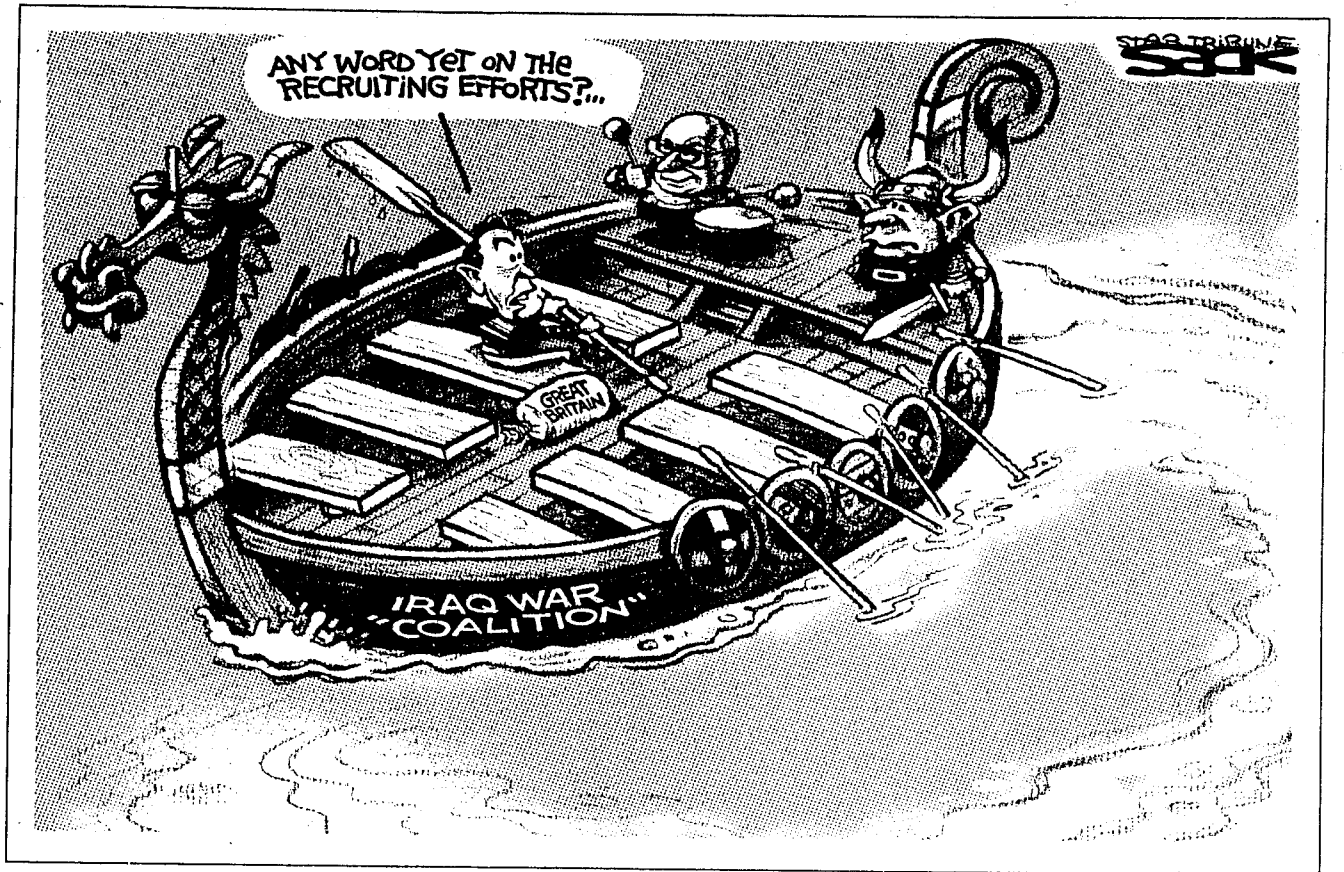
He promised German citizens that Germany would not be involved in a war against Iraq. This promise

won him the election in a country where President Bush is often perceived as an arrogant Texas cowboy. The German public is clearly against war with Iraq.

Politicians use war so that we forget our own problems and spend money to serve the interests of multinational corporations. These corporations hide behind politics while pursuing their ambition - OIL!

The French have similar opinions. They don't believe the Iraq issue to be the black-and-white truth that U.S. politicians say it is, with good and evil clearly distinguishable.

The French government is against a military action in Iraq, but who knows why they are doing it? Is it because of French public opinion, or because the U.S. won't let them participate in the exploitation of the oil in the Persian Gulf?



Bush's only strong ally is British Prime Minister Tony Blair. But, Blair is sinking in British public opinion polls and losing his constituency.

Politicians would rather not discuss public opinion. Everybody knows the opinion of regular citizens don't count for squat. The amount of support for Bush's politics and the war with Iraq is falling. And it's obvious to

everyone the real reasons for a war against Iraq.

Public opinion in the U.S. is changing, yet that doesn't concern Bush and his Cabinet. They know once a war against Iraq starts, most of the U.S. public will support Bush for patriotic reasons.

The importance of public opinion will decline even more once the war captures

the attention of U.S. citizens. Serious domestic economic problems will be ignored then lost in the shadow of war.

Politicians use war so that we forget our own problems and spend money to serve the interests of multinational corporations. These corporations hide behind politics while pursuing their ambition - OIL!

The problems of ordinary people in the U.S. are ignored. Their protests against this inevitable war are not heard. The collective opinion of people in other countries is not effective either, because who are they anyway?

Let's not forget, the people of the U.S. represent every country in the world.

Letters to the Editor

Chocolate vaginas are in poor taste...

I am disgusted at the lack of compassion in reporting that we see in *The Arbiter*. As the nation is coming to grips with the greatest disaster in the space program since the Challenger disaster in 1986, *The Arbiter* chooses to place this half-page story on the second page of their paper.

In comparison, the *Idaho Statesman* not only dedicated the front page of their paper, but also two full pages within to this world tragedy. Instead of focusing on this terrible disaster, readers of *The Arbiter* were greeted on their front page with pictures of chocolate vaginas.

I cannot believe the decision was made that a photo of chocolate vaginas was more newsworthy than the death of seven astronauts, including the first Israeli astronaut.

When I turned on my television Saturday morning, I did not see Tom Brokaw mention chocolate vaginas being sold by the BSU Women's Center. Instead, I witnessed a tragedy.

This issue of *The Arbiter* is now part of Boise State University history. For generations to come, let it be known that according to *The Arbiter*, BSU students felt that a chocolate vagina was more important than the lives of seven astronauts. Although I agree that women should be proud of their bodies, what about the bodies of seven dead astronauts?

If this is the kind of journalistic refuse that my fees pay for, I want a refund! I hope that Boise State was not planning on reaching into my pocketbook as an alumnus to support this effort. I urge everyone who feels as offended as I to close those checkbooks and not support this kind of "education."

Carson Howell
Student, biology

No sympathy for Morse...

I would like to make some comments in regard to the article about Kelly Morse's frustrations with the Financial Aid Office.

First off, Ms. Morse ... I would like to take a moment to see if I understand your problem correctly. You (and only you) waited to turn in

the appropriate verification paperwork until the beginning of the semester, which resulted in your aid not being ready to pay fees by the deadline. Due to not having financial aid ready to disburse and you not making other arrangements for payment you were assigned a late fee. This late fee in turn created a service indicator that prevented you from registering for the present semester.

You are a senior Ms. Morse ... which of the above came as a surprise to you? I don't see how any of your concerns lay fault on the Financial Aid Office. Numerous students are selected for verification each semester and as long as you apply early and submit the appropriate verification documents ASAP you should expect your financial aid to disburse on time and could have avoided this mess all together.

I feel the customer service representatives in the Financial Aid Office, as well as in other offices at this university do a wonderful job providing excellent customer service. David Tolman is one of the best directors of Financial Aid has seen in a long time and he, as well as his staff, are equipped with years of knowledge that help that office run as it does.

Next time ... perhaps you'll remember that each person in that office is a person (much like yourself) and maybe you can try being a little nicer.

Lindsay Ihli
Student

The Arbiter is wrought with inaccuracy...

I have great respect for college newspapers and the powerful role they serve as watchdogs. But with that power comes responsibility.

Is the staff of *The Arbiter* cognizant of this awesome responsibility? There are several articles in this year's paper that make me ask this question, the most recent being the Feb. 3 article concerning the Financial Aid Office.

A disregard for accuracy is demonstrated by the fact the director's name is misspelled 5 times. That would be excusable if the reporter attempted to write a fair, objective article. But the lead paragraph tips readers off that this is not the writer's

intention. "Anyone who has applied for financial aid knows the process is as much about dealing with bureaucracy as it is about demonstrating need." So much for a balanced news story.

An objective article might have noted the complaints of the two students, but also mentioned that complaints about financial aid are far fewer than in years past.

An objective article may have pointed out that while some customers are unhappy, the office processes thousands more applications, responds much quicker, and awards many millions more dollars in aid than it did just a few years ago.

But my point does not concern the financial aid office - I know the staff there are working hard, are dedicated, and are committed to continually improving. My point is about *The Arbiter*.

Is it equally dedicated to fulfilling its role? Is it taking seriously its responsibility to report news fairly, accurately and objectively? Or is it looking to hastily throw together articles deliberately aimed at yielding grabby headlines?

As a former news editor, I want to be an advocate for *The Arbiter* and the important role it plays as both a learning laboratory for students as well as a responsible watchdog for campus affairs. The paper can win me over by committing itself to high journalistic standards, starting with its next edition.

Mark Wheeler
Dean of Enrollment Services

Thanks for printing Jerel Thomas...

Thank you very much for

having the wisdom to bring Jerel Thomas' commentary back to the pages of *The Arbiter*. For readers such as myself, who make it a point to visit establishments like Papa Joe's where *The Arbiter* is distributed, this is cause to celebrate and fatten up on pasta and conservative thought.

Kevin Warnock
University of Idaho alum '83

A plethora of unanswered parking questions...

What economic and social role does parking tickets play at BSU?

1. How many cars have been towed from BSU each year?

2. How much money has been given back to BSU parking from the towing companies each year?

3. How many tickets have been written each year?

4. What percentage of BSU parking income comes from parking tickets?

5. How many jobs does BSU parking provide? How many student jobs?

6. How many general parking places are available on campus? How many permits are sold to full-time students? How many permits are sold to part-time students? How many complaints are received?

7. How many private parking places are available on campus? How many permits are sold to full-time students? How many permits are sold to part-time students? How many complaints are received?

8. How many free parking places are available on cam-

pus? Who may use them?

10. How many hand-capped places are available on campus? Are they free?

11. Has there ever been any merit to students' complaints that certain meters were not accurate? How much was collected from those meters? How much was collected on an average from other meters?

12. How many off-campus students ride to school on bicycles?

13. If bicycles could be parked in safe and secure cubicles how many students would ride them to school? What might the cost be per bike?

14. How many students ride each day on the shuttle?

15. How much does the shuttle program cost per rider?

16. How many students ride the BUS?

17. How much does the BUS program cost per rider?

18. Which famous BSU parking person said, "They are the criminals, not us" about students claiming the meter or reader was wrong?

Sonia Martin
Student, social science/public affairs

Clarification

In regards to the Feb. 6 article, "Panelists discuss U.S. foreign policy," Ali Ishaq was participating of his own volition and not acting as an ABSU representative. *The Arbiter* regrets any confusion it may have created.

Editorial board notes

The *Arbiter* serves as a media outlet for print journalism at Boise State. We are the university's official, twice-weekly newspaper. Since we are not a daily paper, like the *Idaho Statesman*, we cannot, and do not, cover breaking national and world news.

This does not mean we do not care about issues that affect us all, but we leave such coverage to mainstream media outlets.

Since *The Arbiter* is a college newspaper, and we are not professional journalists, making mistakes is part of the educational process. Essentially, this is a journalism laboratory.

Producing a twice-weekly newspaper with a skeleton crew is a daunting task, considering Boise State does not have a school of journalism. So we appreciate your patience and understanding, because our learning process as student journalists hangs on the laundry line for all to see.

Also, we want to clarify that Viewpoints is an opinion page and not hard news, and the editorial columns, unless otherwise stated in Our Take, do not reflect the opinion of the editorial board.

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E-mail: sports@arbiteronline.com

Poor shooting leads to loss for Broncos

Broncos unable to capitalize at home against the WAC's top team

By Phil Dailey
The Arbiter

On Saturday night in front of the largest Pavilion crowd of the season, the Boise State men's basketball team had the opportunity to shut down the top team in the Western Athletic Conference.

The Broncos (10-11, 4-7 WAC) went into halftime down by one point against Fresno State (17-4, 10-2) and looked as though they had a real shot at beating the upstart Bulldogs.

That thought came crashing down as the Boise State shot a miserable 23 percent from the field in the second half, which included a dismal nine percent from 3-point range.

"It was one of those nights from a shooting aspect," Booker Nabors said.

Nabors scored 11 points in 25 minutes for the Broncos.

"They played good defense, but I think we had an off-night," Jason Ellis said.

With 1:05 left in the game, the Broncos closed the gap trailing 48-51, but the combination of missed Bronco shots and Fresno State making crucial free throws, ruined any chance of a win. Fresno State defeated Boise State 59-52.

The Broncos played solid defense all night, which was reflected in Fresno State's poor shooting as well, but the Bulldogs gained a distinct advantage out-rebounding the Broncos by 19.

"We just weren't moving them out of their spots," Ellis said. "They're so big, it was hard moving them out."

Ellis ended the game with six rebounds and team high 14 points.

Despite poor shooting the Broncos played strong staying with the Bulldogs in a game that saw 12 lead

changes and five ties, but like past games this season, the Broncos were unable to knock down key free throws.

Boise State shot 67 percent from the free-throw line, missing eight, including three that were on the front end of a bonus shot situation.

Ellis, who made all eight of his free throws, is uncertain why the Broncos have struggled from the foul line this season.

"We work on them a lot," Ellis said. "We need to relax a little more."

6-foot-9 Hiram Fuller, who scored 12 points and added game high 13 rebounds, led the Bulldogs. Renaldo Major led all scores with 18 points on the night.

The Broncos are now in seventh place in the WAC and will once again be on the road this week as they take on Tulsa on Thursday and Rice on Saturday.

"We still have seven games to, it's not over," Ellis said.



Photo by Ted Harmon, The Arbiter
Jason Ellis goes for two points against Fresno State's Hiram Fuller and Noel Felix on Saturday night.



Fresno State Defeats Boise State In Women's Basketball

The Fresno State Bulldogs defeated the Boise State Broncos in women's basketball Saturday afternoon by a score of 67-51. The Broncos return home to host Tulsa and Rice next weekend.

Fresno State led Boise State by five at halftime, 33-28, and then pulled away in the second period. Boise State had two players in double figures in scoring - Camille Woodfield had 13 and Cariann Ramirez added 10. Jamie Hawkins led the Broncos with 12 rebounds and added nine points. Woodfield and Hawkins each dished out three assists. Two Broncos fouled out in the game - Simone Grant and Cariann Ramirez.

Fresno State was led by Omelogo Udeze who had 16 points and 12 rebounds. Java Johnson added 14 points and 10 rebounds. Lindsay Logan had 13 points and four assists.

Fresno State improves to 12-9 overall and 6-5 in the WAC. Boise State is to 6-15 overall, 2-8 in WAC play.

Bronco Men's Tennis Loses to Harvard

The Harvard men's tennis team defeated Boise State in singles Saturday afternoon, at the Murr Center Tennis Courts in Cambridge, Mass.

At No. 6 singles, Chris Chiou was leading 5-3, 15-love before his opponent was forced to retire with a knee injury. Boise then went up 2-1 after Marcus Bernson beat Jonathan Chu at No. 1 singles, and Thomas Schoeck edged George Turner 6-3, 6-4 at No. 3. The Crimson wrestled the lead back as Cliff Nguyen captured a 7-6(3), 6-4 victory at No. 5 singles over Matias Silva, and Mark Riddell beat Mahmud Rezk at #4 singles 6-4, 6-3.

David Lingman lost his first set 7-5 to Guillaume Bouvier at No. 2 singles and then traded service games until 5-all when he broke serve to win the second set 7-5. He then won the third set 6-2.

Bronco Women's Tennis Team Defeats Idaho State and Gonzaga

The Boise State women's tennis team swept Idaho State and Gonzaga Saturday at the Boise State Boas Indoor Tennis Center. The Broncos won both matches by a score of 7-0 without losing a set all day. The other match Saturday was a 6-1 win for Gonzaga over Montana State. The Bronco now gear up to battle Hawai'i tomorrow at noon at the Boas Indoor Tennis Center.

-Broncos Sports Information

Top world marks highlights United Heritage Invite

The top 35-pound weight throw in the World, the top collegiate mark in the men's 400-meter dash, the World's second best marks in the men's 200-meter dash and the men's shot put, the second best USA mark in the women's shot put, two individual Boise State University wins and one Bronco record highlighted the day at the United Heritage Indoor Track and Field Invite.

Libor Charfreitag posted best mark in the World this season in the men's 35-weight throw with a mark of 82-1.50 (25.03 meters). Charfreitag, a volunteer assistant coach at Southern Methodist and a five-time

NCAA Champion in the hammer and weight throw, entered the event at the Idaho Sports Center on Saturday already holding the best mark in the World this season at 81-6.75 (24.86m).

Ashton Collins of Texas posted the top collegiate time of the 2003 season in the men's 400-meter dash at 46.24.

Corey Nelson, a volunteer coach for the Broncos and a two-time NCAA All-America at Boise State, posted the second fastest time in the World this season in the 200-meter dash at 20.82. Darvis Patton of the United States currently has the top World mark at 20.73.

John Godina posted the second best mark in the shot put for the 2003 indoor sea-



son on Saturday at 67-2.25 (20.45m). A three-time World Champion in the shot put and a two-time medal (silver in 1996 and bronze in 2000) at the Olympics, Godina's throw on Saturday

is just four feet short of current World leader Kevin Toth who has a mark of 71-2.50 (21.70m).

Seilala Sua won the women's shot put with a mark of 57-8.25 (17.58m). Her throw is the second best mark in the USA this season to Andrea Blewitt who has a season best of 57-8.50 (17.59m).

The two Bronco winners on Saturday were Kenny Johnson and Abbey Elsberry. Johnson won the men's triple jump with a leap of 50-2.50 (15.30m); while Elsberry won the women's 20-pound weight throw with a toss of 63-1.50 (19.24m).

Sadie Sweet broke her

own indoor record in the women's pole vault with a vault of 12-2 (3.71m) to place ninth. Sweet held the indoor record at 12-1.50 set during the 2002 season. She also holds the outdoor record at the same height of 12-2.

Saturday's meet was the final competition for the Bronco men and women's team before the WAC Indoor Championships which start on Feb. 27. Boise State will host this year's conference meet on the Jacksons Indoor Track at the Idaho Sports Center.

-Bronco Sports Information

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Mend opts to brings dark electronica back home

By Lauren Consuelo Tussing
 The Arbiter

In a town whose local music talents ranges from peppy jam bands to pissed off progressive metal, the electronic music scene has had little chance to surface from the underground. But, local electronic trio, Mend, just may be the band to break through.

More unusual than their unique style of dark, atmospheric electronic music is the fact that, for a local band, Mend is virtually unknown in their own hometown.

But their gothic, rhythmically driven music (think Depeche Mode or KMFDM minus heavy guitar riffs) has given them a loyal following in the electronic-friendly city of Salt Lake.

This band is just about the least ordinary band you will find (or, more accurately, won't find) in Boise.

The trio, who began in 1998 as a four-piece band called Fade, met through mutual friends in Boise, and started playing music together. When the singer split after about a year of singing with Fade, the band decided to take on a different musical forte.

"We discussed going into a darker direction, and low and behold we became Mend," band member Todd Mahoney said.

Instead of trying their luck on the not-so-electronically-friendly music scene of Boise, the band decided to head to Salt Lake.

"We shied away from it [playing in Boise] originally just because of the lack of appreciation for that style, and it was just overwhelming in Salt Lake. It just made more sense to invest a little more to travel a few extra miles to get a better response. But we're going to start branching into doing Boise a lot more," Mahoney said.

Mend hasn't performed in Boise yet, but they played

twice in downtown Nampa at Jubal's Palace on 4th St. Instead of playing at a smoke-filled bar where the audience is more concerned with socializing than the music, this venue was more conducive to audience response.

"We had a good reception both times," band member Corey Hennis said.

Although the band listens to all genres of music, they collectively agree on electronic music as a favorite.

"I've been a big fan of electronic music just from as far back as I can remember," Hennis said.

Mend's influences range from the biggest names in the underground electronic scene to Black Sabbath.

"That's a funny influence to have. People don't expect an electronic band to be a metal fan. But, for me personally, I've always been a big heavy metal fan from way back," Hennis said.

"I draw a lot of influence off of heavier music and I try to put that in when I'm writing songs. It kind of gives it a darker edge, but I love electronic bands too. I'm a split personality when it comes to that."

Mend strongly adheres to a self-sufficient methodology. Not only do they promote themselves and take their own promo photos, but they also record their own music.

After spending money for time in local studios, the band decided to invest in recording equipment. Hennis describes the process of learning how to use all the gear as an "educational experience."

"A lot of the songs that are on the CD [In Spite of it All] are the 5th generation because the recording of the first songs, we recorded, were a little rough," Mahoney said.

Aside from the crucial aspect of the club scene in Salt Lake City, Mend also attributes the Internet to a



Mend is fixing to develop a bigger local following.

Photo by Jeremy Branstad, The Arbiter

part of their success.

"The Internet, the way it is now, plays a big part in music and availability of music. They've had the Internet radio stations... as a way to get your music out there in other cities. People that host these radio stations will be able to play your music so you're genre of music is getting to those people who like that kind of thing," Hennis said.

"That's the amazing thing about the Internet... you can have several thousand fans, but they're spread out all over the world. You can have a huge following, but it's so

vast that the support isn't centrally located," band member Chet Slater said.

Another thing about the band that isn't "centrally located" is their collective singing effort. They have no lead singer/front man. On their album, In Spite of it All released last June, whoever you hear singing is the man who wrote the song.

Despite a loyal following in Salt Lake, the band doesn't expect super-stardom in their immediate future, and they don't plan to quit their day jobs.

"We play dark electronic music. We have no aspira-

tions of becoming rock stars," Mahoney said.

"You're pretty much not destined for radio stardom when you're in this genre," Slater said.

"For right now, I kind of view the music as more of a hobby, or something to keep me sane after having to work a day job. I'm content. I'm at a point in my life where I'm content no matter what happens," Hennis said.

Despite Mend's humble demeanor, the band has big plans for the near future.

Mend is kicking off the Convergence 9 dark arts festival in Las Vegas, Nev., on

April 24 at the club Entombed.

The band is also planning to include a track on the soundtrack for the independent film Graphic Fantasy [Starlam3pariahs]. The soundtrack, on Double Zero Records, is scheduled for release later this year.

In Spite of it All ...
 Mend's full-length album is available at most major music stores in Boise. The CD is also available for purchase at adifferentdrum.com

'Shanghai Knights' delivers fun

By Phillip Wunch
 The Dallas Morning News

Shanghai Knights is more of the same. In this case, that's good enough.

The movie reteams those bouncing boy-o's of Shanghai Noon, Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson, and transplants them to foggy London.

They cross paths with an assemblage of famous Brits, ranging from Queen Victoria and Arthur Conan Doyle to Jack the Ripper and a youthful Charlie Chaplin.

Even in such historical company, Jackie and Owen hold court with the audience, making viewers so comfortable that last names seem a needless formality.

The two play off each other much more naturally than Owen did with Eddie Murphy in I Spy, or Jackie with Jennifer Love Hewitt in The Tuxedo.

Jackie's fight scenes are among the best in his American film inventory. They also allow him to salute his old movie idols.

A revolving door routine rekindles the Keystone Kops, and Jackie gets to hang from Big Ben in the manner of Harold Lloyd.

He even performs a Gene Kelly homage, using various umbrellas as weapons to the tune of "Singin' in the Rain."

Owen's gift for looking appealingly flummoxed triumphs over some dubious dialogue. As soon as "automotives" and "moving pictures" are mentioned, you know he will dismiss them as mere facts.

Even worse, his arbitrary treatment of little Charlie Chaplin seems harsh and bullying. In the inevitable closing outtakes, Owen reads his dialogue with the young sprout and shouts, "This is so mean!"

He's right, but his innocent facial expressions help lighten the mood.

The movie begins in deceptively dignified fashion. In China, Jackie's estranged father is slain, and Jackie's athletic sister seeks vengeance. It seems

that the patriarch was the guardian of the Imperial Seal, which has now fallen into the evil hands of Lord Rathbone, a name that old movie buffs will appreciate.

The dastardly Rathbone is last in line for Queen Victoria's throne and plans to use the seal's mythic powers to wipe out the entire royal family, leaving him as the only possible heir.

Director David Dobkin keeps things moving at a brisk pace, although some of the gags fall flat. The musical soundtrack, which includes "Winchester Cathedral" and "England Swings," is just a tad

too obvious.

As Jackie's sister, Fann Wong has the lithe skills one would expect of such a sibling, plus the romantic allure that would attract Owen.

As the nefarious Lord Rathbone, Aidan Gillen delivers appropriate sneers and looks like a younger, meaner Alec Baldwin.

Aaron Johnson plays the young Chaplin with both dignity and energy.

Shanghai Knights delivers what is expected. Future collaborations may not be so lucky, but for now, familiarity breeds affection.

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- October 23, 3:30 pm
- February 11, noon
- February 12, 3:30 pm

Goal Setting

- November 19, noon
- November 20, 3:30 pm
- March 4, noon
- March 5, 3:30 pm

Officer Transition

- December 10, noon
- December 11, 3:30 pm
- April 8, noon
- April 9, 3:30 pm

In the An Feng room of the Student Center for more information.

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Deadline to submit ads is Monday, February 11 at 5:00 pm.

Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

thing over here, look over there.

Today's Birthday (Feb. 10). Family takes precedence this year. Don't have one of your own yet? No guarantees, but it looks like a good bet that you'll be happily committed by this time next year. Interview solid intellectual types who like to play games and love it when you win. (Not always, of course.)

To get the advantage, check the day's rating; 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
- Today is an 8 - You're more effective at receiving information now than you are at dispersing it. Ask questions and take notes.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
- Today is a 5 - Now is the time to ask for that promotion or raise. Or maybe you could get a little more out of your retirement fund. Investigate, then instigate a change for the better.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
- Today is an 8 - Travel and long-distance business should go well today and tomorrow. If you want more of some-

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
- Today is a 6 - Worries may have you second-guessing recent actions. Don't fret. Do the homework. If you've made a mistake, you can fix it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
- Today is an 8 - There'll be quite a lot of discussion, some of it heated, as a group endeavor gets going. Proceed, but make sure that cooler heads prevail.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
- Today is a 6 - If you're well prepared - and you usually are - the inspection should go just fine. Even something you were worried about should go flawlessly.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
- Today is a 10 - In order to solve a problem close to home, you may have to go far away. Expand your search for the answer.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
- Today is a 5 - Are you thinking about dipping into savings to fix something broken at home? Does it really need to be a top priority? Pay off an old bill first.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
- Today is an 8 - You're a pretty good talker, but you may have met your match. If the other person isn't listening, save your opinion. Wait until you're asked.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
- Today is a 5 - You should be very productive, and there's plenty of work to be done. Make sure you get the instructions right so that you don't have to do anything over.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
- Today is a 9 - You're back in the groove - effective, smart, attractive and creative. Accept a challenge. You're up for it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
- Today is a 6 - It seems there's more talk than action now, but try not to be dismayed. It's necessary to communicate carefully in order to prevent confusion later. Listen.

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DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

MY MEDICATION MAKES ME HAPPY DESPITE MY EXOSKELETON, BAD JOB, AND SOCIAL LIFE.

IF CHEMICALS CAN CHANGE THE WAY I THINK AND WHAT I ENJOY, THEN FREE WILL MUST BE AN ILLUSION.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR SOUL?

I'M AN ENGINEER.

I HEARD YOU HAD A COLD.

IT WASN'T A COLD.

I WAS ADDICTED TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND I GREW AN EXOSKELETON. I'VE BEEN IN REHAB AND SURGERY FOR SIX MONTHS.

JUST TO BE CLEAR: CAN I CATCH ANY OF THAT BY TOUCHING THE COFFEEMAKER AFTER YOU?

WILSON: DIRECTOR

I NEED TO CHECK A FEW THINGS BEFORE WE HIRE YOU.

GIVE ME BLOOD, HAIR, AND URINE SAMPLES, FINGER-PRINTS, SOCIAL-SECURITY NUMBER, PAST EMPLOYERS, AND PAST LOVERS.

BEFORE WE STARTED DOING ALL OF THIS CHECKING, DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WAS DESPICABLE?

YES

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Crossword

ACROSS

- Pitcher's miscues
- Maglie and Mineo
- Self-images
- Argentine plain
- issue forth
- Cry of pain
- Of the eyes
- Used a loom
- Okinawa port
- Dish from the Ukraine
- Comic Skelton
- Penetrated a thick skull?
- Like easy-care clothes
- Scoundrel
- Ride the wind
- Terrible ruler?
- Con quarters
- Hawaiian feasts
- Ivey or Elcar
- Threesomes
- Ritzy wheels
- McCowen and Guinness
- Treat for Rover
- Robed
- 4-string guitars
- Huckle, IN
- Tasty tidbits
- Demolishing
- Frozen over
- Cristobal-Balboa link
- Swear, casually
- Nuzzle
- Structure starter?
- __ mater
- Boot tips
- Scornful look
- Not so hot
- Health resorts
- Short and direct

DOWN

- Political coalitions
- Greek letter
- Caesar's language
- Ornamental trinkets
- Close to air-traffic
- Stitched
- Hog-wild
- Enraged
- Guides
- Long time between dates?
- Highway safeguard
- Orange color
- Sheltered from the sun
- Participate in charades
- Orchestra member
- "Peaches and Pears" painter
- Action word
- George or T.S.
- Actress Lupino
- Actor Kilmer
- Blood vessel
- problems
- Solitary
- Actress Thurman
- Make lawn repairs
- Missionary Junipero
- Spread slowly
- Tilts
- Bigot
- Aluminum silicates
- Eye: pref.
- Nose into
- Surmise
- Nostrils
- Angry gaze
- On the briny
- Disorderly situation
- Paulo

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Solutions

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ACROSS
1 PITCHER'S MISCUES
2 MAGLIE AND MINEO
3 SELF-IMAGES
4 ARGENTINE PLAIN
5 ISSUE FORTH
6 CRY OF PAIN
7 OF THE EYES
8 USED A LOOM
9 OKINAWA PORT
10 DISH FROM THE UKRAINE
11 COMIC SKELTON
12 PENETRATED A THICK SKULL?
13 LIKE EASY-CARE CLOTHES
14 SCOUNDREL
15 RIDE THE WIND
16 TERRIBLE RULER?
17 CON QUARTERS
18 HAWAIIAN FEASTS
19 IVEY OR ELCAR
20 THREESOMES
21 RITZY WHEELS
22 MCCOWEN AND GUINNESS
23 TREAT FOR ROVER
24 ROBED
25 4-STRING GUITARS
26 HUCKLE, IN
27 TASTY TIDBITS
28 DEMOLISHING
29 FROZEN OVER
30 CRISTOBAL-BALBOA LINK
31 SWEAR, CASUALLY
32 NUZZLE
33 STRUCTURE STARTER?
34 __ MATER
35 BOOT TIPS
36 SCORNFUL LOOK
37 NOT SO HOT
38 HEALTH RESORTS
39 SHORT AND DIRECT
40 HOG-WILD
41 ENRAGED
42 GUIDES
43 LONG TIME BETWEEN DATES?
44 HIGHWAY SAFEGUARD
45 ORANGE COLOR
46 SHELTERED FROM THE SUN
47 PARTICIPATE IN CHARADES
48 ORCHESTRA MEMBER
49 "PEACHES AND PEARS" PAINTER
50 ACTION WORD
51 GEORGE OR T.S.
52 ACTRESS LUPINO
53 ACTOR KILMER
54 BLOOD VESSEL
55 PROBLEMS
56 SOLITARY
57 ACTRESS THURMAN
58 MAKE LAWN REPAIRS
59 MISSIONARY JUNIPERO
60 SPREAD SLOWLY
61 TILTS
62 BIGOT
63 ALUMINUM SILICATES
64 EYE: PREF.
65 NOSE INTO
66 SURMISE
67 NOSTRILS
68 ANGRY GAZE
69 ON THE BRINY
70 DISORDERLY SITUATION
71 PAULO
    
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