

2-19-2004

## Arbiter, February 19

Students of Boise State University

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FEBRUARY 19, 2004

# The Arbiter

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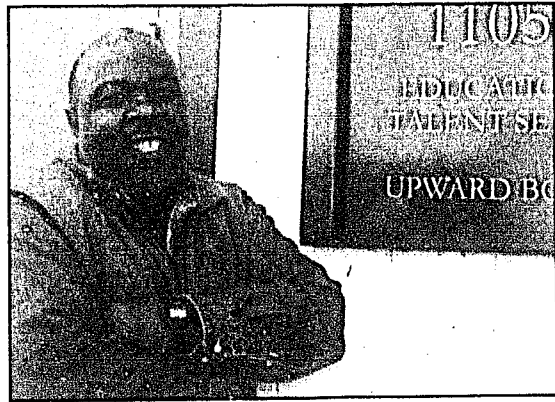
## BSU black students make history

BY CHARLIE CLAYTON  
News Reporter

**T**hough stereotypes of Idaho as a culturally homogeneous state tend to obscure the past and present contributions of influential black leaders in Boise, many black students, faculty and staff at Boise State have been making history.

Black students have dedicated their time and energy to making Boise a city that shines with the pride they feel for their culture by taking part in organizations such as the Black Student Alliance, created in 1977 with the purpose of developing anti-racism tactics. And many of the black historians of BSU have contributed their sports skills, while developing race relations as part of a team.

Here are the stories of three such historians and some their contributions to Boise State and the wider community.



### Keith Anderson

Keith Anderson attended Boise State University from 1977-1980 and graduated with a communication degree. Anderson was the first black man from BSU to have his own television show, *Praise Time Video*, aired on KBCI, Channel 2, Friday nights. He also published his own book, *A Field Day*. He is currently adapting this story into a screenplay.

Anderson's day job is here on the BSU campus as part of an educational and economic-based search for first generation prospective college students. This program has affected more than 1,500 students in the Treasure Valley.

Some students know him as Professor Anderson. He has instructed Teaching Speech Communication for 15 years. He also hosted the special topics class, *Understanding and Disassembling Racism*. Anderson lectures in a seminar on "Fighting Against Racism" and is working on his doctorate in educational leadership, with emphasis on multiculturalism.

For eight years Anderson contributed a religious column to the *Idaho Press Tribune*, an activity he still enjoys when he feels particularly inspired. Of his contributions, Anderson said he is most proud of his ability to offer an interracial relationship with the middle and high school students of suburban Idaho.

"I am an ambassador for black relations. I might be the first black person these kids interact with," Anderson said.

### Faida Muzaliwa

Faida Muzaliwa graduated from Boise State in 2003 with a degree in finance and accounting. Muzaliwa was involved in multiple organizations throughout her collegiate career at Boise. She was a volunteer at the Black History Museum, a board member of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, and served as president of the BSU Black Student Alliance.

Muzaliwa also served on the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Celebration Planning Committee, and for a laugh, she was the comedy coordinator of the Student Programs Board. So why did she align herself with so many groups?

"My involvement with the BSA and other organizations at BSU which afforded me the opportunity to promote my culture have made me a better person," Muzaliwa said.

For her hard work and dedication, Muzaliwa was recognized by the BSU Women's Center in 2002 as a Woman Making History. She attends the University of Denver, seeking a master's degree in taxation.

### Chris Childs

NBA player Chris Childs rewrote Bronco men's basketball records during his attendance at BSU from 1985-1989. He is the only player in the team's history to start every game in his four-year career and he took advantage of every opportunity in those games to insure his legacy.

Childs is the third leading scorer in history with 1,602 points, leads BSU in free-throw percentages, making 359 out of 436 attempts, he leads in three-point field goals made, 163, and steals, 215.

With Childs' leadership, BSU won three Big Sky Championships, made two NIT post season appearances, and made one trip to the NCAA National Tournament. Childs received the league's most valuable player award after his senior year at Boise State.

Childs has played for three NBA teams: New Jersey Nets, New York Knicks and Toronto Raptors. His nine year career includes six post seasons for a total of 73 games.

## LEFTOVER SALMON

ON THE FRONTLINE OF BLUEGRASS



KRT PHOTOGRAPH BY KAREN T. BORCHERS/SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Ann Marie McMartin, 18, and Brittainy McMartin, 21, celebrate their marriage at San Francisco City Hall on Monday, February 16, 2004.

## IDAHO LEGISLATORS FIGHT TO PASS ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE BILL

BY MONICA PRICE  
News Reporter

Reaction to the Idaho Legislature's decision to pass House Joint Resolution No. 9, the controversial state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, passed on the house floor of the Idaho State Legislature Wednesday, 53-17 in favor of the bill.

Idaho law already states marriage is an institution for a heterosexual couple. Thus, the decision to pass HJR9 doesn't change Idaho law in any way, Rep. Henry Kulczyk (R-Dist21).

"It's an insurance policy," Kulczyk said.

The legislator took it upon himself to propose a constitutional amendment officially banning gay marriage. Kulczyk believes allowing gay marriage would be an attack on traditional Idaho families.

Kulczyk worked with attorneys when creating the bill to make sure the wording was clear in its intention.

"It's not something I did lightly," said Kulczyk.

Rep. Robert Ring (Dist. 10) was among the few opposed to HJR9.

"The rationale that was given since Massachusetts passed the gay marriage law is it will happen in Idaho...Idaho is not Massachusetts," said Ring.

Ring argued that current Idaho law forbids marriage, and that putting an amendment on the November ballot is a lot of money to spend to alienate a part of the population and create an additional barrier for something that isn't a problem.

"I see no reason to hurt a bunch of people's feelings over something that doesn't amount to a hill of beans," Ring said.

Ring is certain that HJR9 will pass the Senate and be on the November ballot. It will be an economic boost for the folks that make yard signs, Ring said.

Gays in Idaho are deeply offended that a constitutional amendment excluding marriage rights to individuals based solely on sexual preference would be considered by the Legislature. They feel that marriage is a right they are entitled to and this could be the last big civil rights battle.

"They not giving us a chance to organize and show our strength... they're pushing it through quiet-

ly," BGLAD President Jessi Strong said.

Gay marriage isn't just about the rights of couples but families as well; the children of gay couples are also being affected, said Strong.

Kulczyk insists HJR9 is not about hate, but citizens such as Strong wonder how could it be about anything else.

"They [legislators] want to make us second class citizens," said Strong. "I love Idaho. My family is here, I was raised here, but if HJR9 passes into law I don't

know if I could live here anymore."

"It's a simple matter of equal rights for everybody," Idaho ACLU Executive Director Jack Van Valkenburg said. "We are going to do everything we can...to convince the senators that this is not only unnecessary but going to be very harmful."

Van Valkenburg also commented that the amendment won't likely reduce the possibility of a court challenge to anti-gay marriage laws.



Hundreds of same sex couples waited in line for hours to apply for their marriage licenses and to say their vows at San Francisco City Hall.

## BSU professor receives National Science Foundation grant

BY JOY FUGATE  
News Reporter

Boise State University Electrical Engineering Professor Elisa Barney Smith was awarded a \$400,000 National Science Foundation grant, more specifically in the form of a Faculty Early Career Development grant. This award will help advance the new development of optical character recognition (OCR) systems, the project on which she is currently working.

Optical systems work by recognizing individual characters of written word and allowing them to be converted into a digital format. Thus, hundreds of thousands of books, journals and other printed work can be saved into an electronic database, making access far easier.

Barney Smith further explained her work and the challenges therein.

"Pages are decomposed into words and letters that are compared to templates to identify each character. These templates

are too broad and can lead to errors. For instance, the [current] system can't always distinguish between a printed 'e' and 'c'. We hope to develop a system to tell the model that maybe the 'c' won't have the bar across the top of the letter, and be able to distinguish between the two letters by other features."

Also, modern documents are frequently reproduced by faxing or photocopying and these processes make the documents "all but impossible for machines to read with our current technology," according to Barney Smith.

And, says Barney Smith, the development of better OCR technology will have a wide range of applicability. For instance, the F.B.I. currently has between 30 and 90 million documents in need of review for counter-intelligence content, to see what is being shared. Better OCR technology would make that process easier and faster.

With the help of OCR, The Department of Energy released 42 million documents pertain-

ing to radioactive waste management under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. In the tobacco litigation process, 39,000 documents were released to the public using the current OCR technology.

The process can put together and analyze the information used to sort through millions of documents to compile relevant information. Everyday documents will be converted from paper form to digital form, so that we can easily access the information.

The National Library of Medicine has requested that future versions of the Medline article index be converted using the OCR format. Utilizing the current OCR to sort its journal articles has already reduced the time it would normally take to do so by 75 percent and Dr. Barney Smith's work could improve upon remaining bottlenecks.

The five objectives of the project are: modeling for print, scanning, photocopying and faxing, all so that calibrated defect models can be developed. Statistical validation is necessary for these mod-

els so that other researchers can use them to conduct continued experiments. Determinations of how models can be used to best improve OCR accuracy will assist in carrying the work forward.

The educational component of Barney Smith's project aims to bring study of OCR into undergraduate courses, and she wants to develop a course on "Engineering for Educators," so those majoring in education can understand, appreciate and educate all students about engineering applications.

In addition, "the proposal seeks to address the well-documented weaknesses in math, science and technology education and the under-representation of women and minorities in engineering," Barney Smith hopes to have a sample section of this course by Fall 2004.

The \$400,000 averages to a yearly amount of approximately \$80,000 per year for five years. Currently, one graduate student and two undergraduates are working on this project.

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# Warren, a Snowmobile Haven

BY MICHELLE SELLS  
Outdoor columnist

I'd like to start off this article with some facts about the sport and its enthusiasts. According to a snowmobile fact book, snowmobiling is a serious sport and source of revenue in the state of Idaho. In the 2002-2003 season, there were over 50,000 registered machines in this state alone. As I explained before, these registration fees pay for the maintenance and grooming of the trails that these individuals use. Nationwide, the average snowmobiler spends about \$4,000 dollars a year on his sport and an average of 7.2 nights per year in a resort/motel. Most snowmobilers are married with children and their average age is 42. Almost 50% of people involved in the sport are fifty or older.

Idaho currently has 7,200 miles of snowmobile trails. Some snowmobile trails are county roads that are not maintained by the county in the winter like Warren Wagon Road and others. Instead, they are developed by snowmobile clubs in cooperation with state and local governments. These groomed trails offer benefits to other recreationists as they can be used in the summer months for hiking, biking and horseback riding.

I had never really considered the revenue brought to our state by snowmobilers until I saw the parking lot from which we started our trip. There must have been six dozen vehicles in the area and almost every vehicle carried more than one snowmobile.

These recreationists came from all over the west to enjoy this particular trail system. A few of these vehicles were motor homes and campers but the majority of them were pickups. The city of McCall would obviously benefit by this influx of people but there are other places and people who benefit as well including Burgdorf Hot Springs, The Secesh Stage Stop and the living ghost town of Warren.

Now, to continue where I left off. After spending a very comfortable night at Burgdorf

we headed out to meet Becky and Les at the Secesh Stage Stop. The Stage Stop is a refuge for snowmobilers to warm up with hamburgers, coffee and hot chocolate. Owners Becky and Terry work very hard at making visitors feel comfortable and welcome. I don't know if I was just especially hungry or if it was really the best hamburger that I have ever had but it was awfully good. While we ate I soon came to realize the importance of the Stage Stop, it is not just a stopping place for visitors but a gathering place for the locals few who choose to stay in the area all year round. These intrepid individuals have to band together somewhat in the winter because living here is not always easy. For example, supplies can only be brought in by sled or plane in the winter months and so residents often travel together for convenience and safety. The character of the Stage Stop and its people make this a unique and wonderful place.

Soon, we were on the trail again and headed to Warren. It is difficult to describe the feeling of "flying" through the countryside but I would describe it as freeing. No longer do I feel trapped by winter. I now know that, no matter the time of year, I can get to almost any destination I choose. The winter snow adds dramatically to the experience and in no way diminishes it.

According to a pamphlet produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Payette National Forest, Warren was established in 1862 by James Warren who erected a cabin after gold was discovered in the area. A village soon emerged from the wilderness. In 1862 the towns population was over 2,000 souls. Populations came and went and included a large number of Chinese in the 1870's. The population today is 12-16 year round and 45-50 in the summer months which gives Warren the distinction of being a living ghost town.

Today there are about a dozen historical buildings and sites. Most of these sites are about one hundred years old, because most of the original

building of 1860's were destroyed by a large fire in 1904. One building that remained intact was the Warren school house built in 1868. When it was opened it catered to four students and had a yearly budget of about \$150. The school was added to in the 1930's when dredging came into use and the population soared again. It is interesting to note that the Warren School sign has entertained a misprint for over one hundred years, the "N" in Warren has been backwards since the buildings construction.

The other sites in Warren are equally historically and special and include The Warren Guard Station circa 1918, the office/residence of the local Justice of the Peace Andy Kavanaugh, a barn built in the 1870's intended to defend settlers from the Sheepeater Indians, a historical cemetery, the Assay office circa 1890's, The Warren Tavern circa 1912, The Warren Tavern now a private residence, The Warren Dance Hall circa 1905, and others. It is about a quarter-mile tour to see almost all of the main part of town. Most of these historical place are now privately owned so please remember to be respectful of the owners rights.

We stopped for lunch at the Warren Winter Inn to warm up. This café is much like the Stage Stop in its feel and importance. Historical artifacts are on display and the building itself is antiquated. Pictures of residents and visitors alike occupy much of the wall space. Here, as every where that we visited that weekend, great pains were taken to make sure that anything we needed we got. While at the inn I spent some time perusing a book comprised of newspaper clippings from Warren's historical past and many of the headlines were greatly amusing. One such was a mention of snow so deep that residents had to tunnel out their doors to other businesses and neighbors but many of them were equally tragic like the many children's lives lost over the years. These types of entries were too numerous to count and make a person instantly

realize the hardships these pioneers endured.

Before we left Warren Becky, our guide, had us make one more stop at the Back Country Bed and Breakfast. This is the last place on the trail where snowmobilers can find a place to spend the night. Owners Leland and Betty Canner have been in Warren for almost ten years and love every minute of it. Betty is a fantastic cook and often treats her guests to home baked breads and goodies like apple dumplings and nectarine cobbler. The B&B is affordable, comfortable and well worth a stop.

The last leg of our journey was to be an animal finding expedition near Hays Station on the Salmon River side of the mountain. This part of the journey required some sled shuffling because we would have to leave the groomed trail and the touring sleds would sink in the powder. Les' sled was made for just such a purpose and so we climbed onto Becky's sled and Les and Becky broke trail while we followed. Perhaps 20 minutes into the ride we encountered a moose on the trail and a moose lower in the canyon. We stopped our sleds and spent the next 20 minutes ogling the animal and taking pictures. It was a this time that Becky told me, "this is why I snowmobile."

From what I've seen and come to know, snowmobiling is an excellent way to see and experience our winter countryside. It is a family sport and a passion that seems to span the generations. It seems most snowmobile riders are avid nature lovers. So, take the chance and experience Idaho winters in a very personal way.

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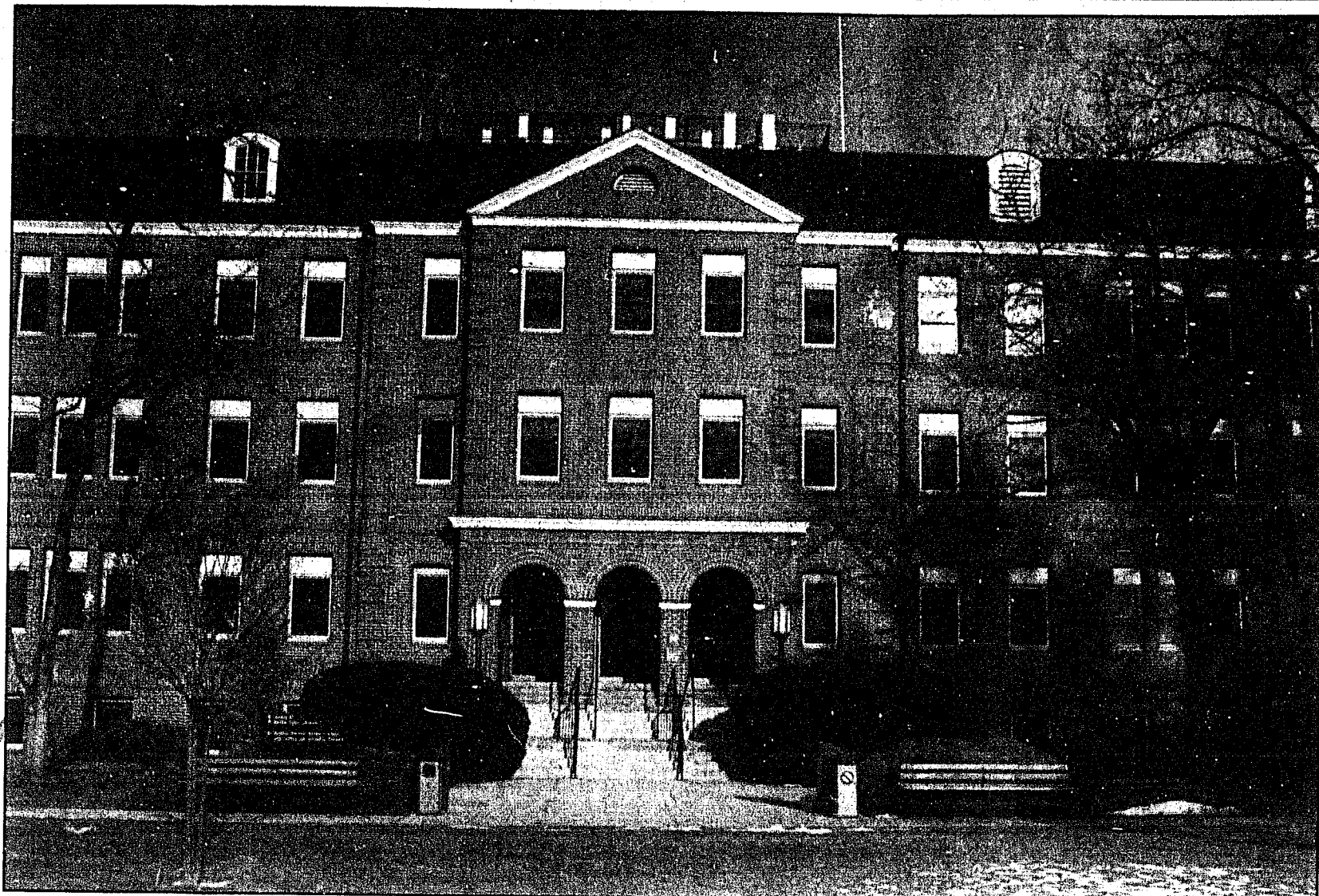
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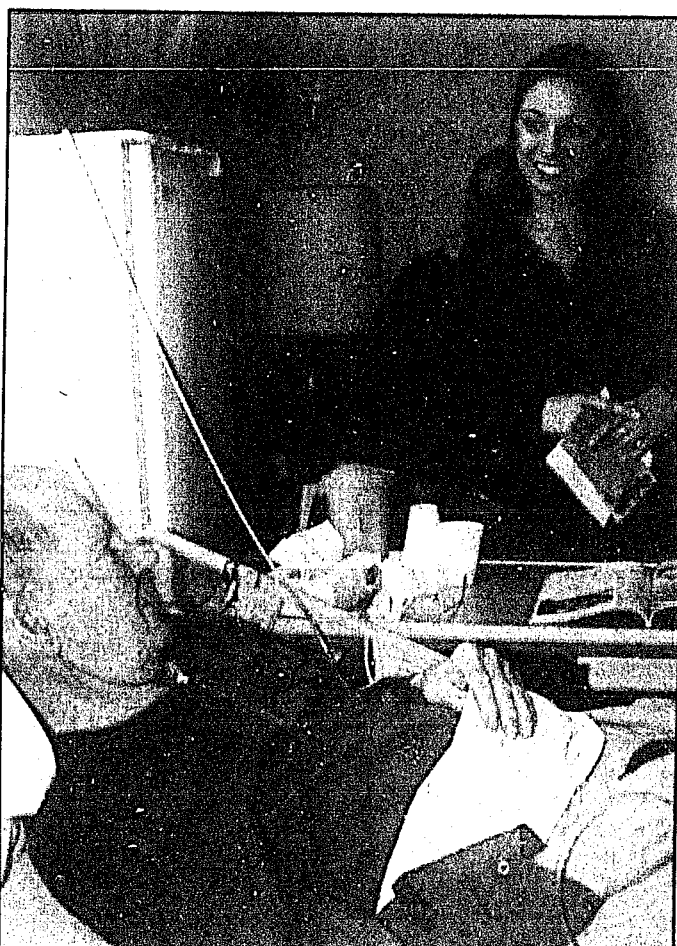
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Veterans Memorial Hospital on a chilly Feb. Friday.

PHOTOS BY EMILY DESLER/THE TRIBUNE

# Valentines for vets



**T**he sisters of Boise State Sorority Delta Beta Nu, spend the Friday before Valentine's Day warming the heart of veterans at the Veterans Memorial Hospital home on 5th St. This is an annual event for the sisters of DBN.

As the girls went through the echoing halls, the sounds of their voices broke the stagnant quiet. "it's a great way for the girls to make an impact on society and to realize what these men have sacrificed for their country," said Dawn Green, founding member.

Green spent the time talking with Clarence Jennings, former navy commander about his favorite team, the Seattle Mariners. Jennings was a pilot with the Blue Eagles and was one of the few select that rose through the ranks to the position of commander.

New Mexico native, and communication student Dawn Green, 23, presents a valentine and conversation to resident Clarence Jennings, former navy commander.



Colleen Rosandick, 19, music major, participates with her sorority sisters in making valentines for veterans. Rosandick has taken part in the community service for two years now.

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**WHAT THE BIBLE REALLY TEACHES**

Before the Earth, planets, and the stars were ever created, there was the Almighty God Jehovah, who always was. Then Jehovah God created His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ) the Word, and they Together created the Heavens, the Earth, and the angels. -Colossians 1:15-18

One of these angels was appointed to rule over man. He was a high-ranking cherub called Lucifer. Lucifer rebelled and misled Eve. After this, Lucifer was known as Satan, Serpent, Dragon, and Devil. -Ezekiel 28:13-15

After Lucifer's rebellion and the downfall of mankind through disobedience of Adam and Eve, the Almighty God Jehovah promised to bring forth a Holy One who would rule the universe and mankind under Jehovah God in righteousness. That Holy One is the Only Begotten Son of Jehovah God, the Word, Jesus Christ, who was sent to Earth to become flesh and choose his government from among mankind, consisting of those who would believe upon Him. The world, however, hated Him. They crucified Him, and He returned to the right hand of His Father Jehovah in Heaven until the appointed time of His second coming. -Acts 3:20-23 & Luke 4:43

At Christ's (Jehovah's Son's) second coming, this wicked system of things will be destroyed, and His righteous, faithful followers will be resurrected from their graves to live forever, some in Heaven and some on Earth. -2 Peter 3:7-13

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## ASBSU stiffens student orgs

**BY ALI SOHAIL ISHAQ**  
President, ASBSU

The main reason ASBSU exists is to facilitate the activities and existence of student organizations. The Financial Advisory Board populated by ASBSU Senate is acting recklessly and unfairly in limiting clubs to just \$2,000 in matching funds. This arbitrary \$2,000 limit imposed by certain senators is all the more demeaning, considering ASBSU lobbied student

organizations to support our fee increase. ASBSU justified this fee increase on the grounds that clubs need more funding; and we needed to and wanted to deliver it. Clubs are doing bigger and better things and therefore need increased funding.

Limiting clubs forces them to cut down on their activities. These activities, community events, tournaments and conferences yield positive dividends for all Boise State students by getting our names and successes into the local and national

community. The values of our degrees go up when Boise State's Advertising Association, Debate Team and Civil Engineering Society sweep national tournaments as they've done in the past. Instead of penalizing clubs for certain Senators' own lack of action on ASBSU financial code and for the supposedly sacrosanct ASBSU contingency budget, we need to stop this nonsense RIGHT NOW.

There are legitimate reasons for decreasing club funding, such as irrespon-

sible actions by current club officers or members. To all the clubs who've been denied full funding despite meeting the ASBSU community service and matching funds criteria, please contact me immediately. To any clubs who need help, many members of ASBSU who are on your side. Contact me or ASBSU VP Jim Wolfe right now, call us: 426-1553 or by email: aishaq@boisestate.edu

### This Island, Idaho

By M. Flinn



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage readers to voice their opinions for publication. Please submit letters to the editor to editor@arbiteronline.com and include name, contact number and standing at Boise State University. Letters may be subject to editing. The Arbiter cannot verify the accuracy of statements made in letters to the editor; they reflect the opinion of the writer. Readers may also post their comments at www.arbiteronline.com

## Sex column needs to cover all sides

Dear Editor,

If Dr. Drew was really looking out for students, she/he would give all the facts on risky sexual behavior like anal sex and the increased risk of disease/infection to the giver and receiver as well as physical complications hemorrhoids and such. Free speech should also cover all the facts. If I turned in a research paper with so narrow of a viewpoint without all the information for and against an attitude or action, I could see my grade now: D-

Good advice covers the pros and cons, and covers more important things. What about women coerced into actions like this because they think they love and want to fulfill their partner even though it is inspired by lust and not loving care in building a relationship? Is this narrow viewpoint good for them?

Give both sides of an argument and let the reader decide. The objectifying attitude of women that the people who write to Dr. Drew show is pretty sad and Hugh Hefner would be proud. In the end, those who make mistakes or good decisions because of theories spouted to them will be judge.

**SHELDON SPACKMAN**  
Student

## Kudos for Kari

Dear Editor,

I may not be a student at BSU, but I am a college student attending the University of Idaho. Several friends recommended Dr. Drew's column to me, so I checked it out, as well as the letters that the column has generated. I must say that I am amused. First of all, I would like to commend Kari on a job well done. Even though she has only written a few columns so far, I can see that she has a lot to offer the sexually curious community. Kari's laid-back humor offers us a fresh way to view and relate to subjects that we would normally ponder only behind closed doors. In today's society, where everything is subject to scrutiny and criticism, Kari is not afraid to approach topics that are considered taboo, and that is exactly the attitude we as college kids need.

I was a little annoyed by some of the recent letters to the editor that take a stand against the column. People need to realize that this column is written for a student newspaper. Being a college student who associates with other college students everyday, I can safely say that sex is a topic that comes up quite a bit in casual conversation. This may be a shocking fact to some, but, YES, college students are having sex. I am in no way saying that EVERY college student is having sex, but there are quite a few enjoying it. I know that there are those who choose not to, and I respect that. But for those of us who are engaging in "the most animalistic act we as humans can legally perform", as Dr. Drew so

wittily stated in her first article, we are not ashamed to admit we enjoy it. Dr. Drew's article educates and informs readers on topics I think are very relevant to her target audience. Many people have questions or concerns regarding sex but are too shy to directly ask. Kari provides a medium for these people to educate themselves without embarrassment. Sex is not a topic in which "ignorance is bliss." In the case of sex, ignorance can lead to disease, pregnancy and abuse among other things. To those who protest the articles: do you honestly believe that your disdain for other's lifestyle choices is valid enough to justify the ramifications of lack of knowledge? Because of this lack of knowledge, many people may have a very limited idea of what sex is. Sex is not disgusting, nor is it evil. It is a very natural, emotional aspect of life. Hopefully, in reading Kari's article, people will feel more comfortable discussing the subject and educating themselves.

Another thing that upset me was the fact that the article is offending people. I have a bit of advice for those people: don't read it. Kari is not responsible for what you read, she just writes it. If something offends me, I disregard it; follow my lead.

Kari, thank you for your bold approach to this subject. My friends and I really enjoy your column and we are looking forward to future installments. Don't stop!

**MELISSA COLLINS**  
Student, University of Idaho

## Meaning of 'caucus'

Dear Mr. Ed(itor),

So I was watching the Super Bowl the other day. I'm not sure if anyone else saw the game, but the weirdest thing happened during the half-time show. I know the break in the football game is supposed to be all-exciting and keep people glued to their seats, but what I saw really threw me for a loop. I had just sat back down on the couch with three brownies in my left hand and a wad of Doritos in my right, and I happened to glance up at the screen. There was a lot of crazy music playing and I was sort of on a sugar high from the previous eight brownies, so I can't be sure of what I saw. But I swear that when I looked up, I saw Willie Nelson!

Can you believe that? What is that guy, like a hundred and twelve years old? Before the show was over, I was on the phone to the ASPCA. We shouldn't treat our elderly like that in this country.

Speaking of old people, looks like it's election year again. Time for caucuses to spring up on every channel on cable. Seems like everywhere I look, there's another caucus staring me in the face. Y'know, I was once a twelve year-old, and the first time I heard the word "caw-cuss," I snickered under my breath. Sorta sounds like it could mean something else. But I'm an adult now. I know this because when my father lectures me, he now says, "Travis, you are...you are...a... (gulp)...young...adult now." Anyway, adults research stuff, right? So I thought I'd put my money where my mouth sometimes is, and

look up that funny, funny word.

Get this! The word "caucus" doesn't come from any form of the word "caw" or "cuss" or "wiener." Come to find out, the term was coined in 1988 when then-Democratic front-runner Michael Dukakis was campaigning for office. A certain lead Republican official made an off-hand remark that Democrats should, "do a 'kaw-ks' every year." The comment was leaked to the media and Ronald Reagan, of course, stepped in to hush the incident. If you don't know, he starred in such films as "Bedtime for Bonzo," "Tugboat Annie Sails Again" and most notably "You Voted for Me; Deal With It." Anyway, despite the secret service's best attempt to shoot everyone who heard the political slur, word got out, and now today, America will forever pair politicians with caucuses.

In other news, NASA is further exploring Mars with its rovers Spirit and Opportunity, relaying amazing pictures from the Red Planet. Current President Bush seems optimistic about the whole thing, and what it means for the U.S. space program as a whole. I'm interested to see what happens. But deep down, the twelve year-old in me just wants to hear him talk about the problems associated with holding a caucus on Uranus.

So anyway, if anyone has any more brownies, let me know.

Sincerely,  
Travis Estvold

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### Editor-in-Chief

**ANDY BENSON** x105  
editor@arbiteronline.com

**Advisor**  
DR. DAN MORRIS x107

**Managing Editor**  
JESSICA ADAMS x106

**News Editor**  
GRETA KRANZ x102  
news@arbiteronline.com

**REPORTERS**  
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Michelle Sells  
Monica Price  
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Bethany Maille  
Joy Fugate  
Kyle Gorham  
Trevor Horn  
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**COLUMNISTS**  
Aubrey Salazer  
Dr. Decatur Reed  
Esther Tolson  
Kari Drew

**Sports Editor**  
ANDREA TRUJILLO x103  
sports@arbiteronline.com

**A&E Editor**  
CRYSTAL THOMAS x104  
diversions@arbiteronline.com

**Photo Editor**  
MARY DAWSON x121

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## LEFTOVER SALMON: ON THE FRONTLINE OF BLUEGRASS



Bluegrass performers Leftover Salmon spic up the stage at the Big Easy Friday night.

PHOTOS BY KRISTA ADAMS/THE ARBITER



PHOTO BY EMILY DESLER/THE ARBITER  
Junior Bethany Adams, theater major, plays the role of Sarah, a supportive girlfriend in the final scene Junior Luke Messengill, who plays Holden.

## Theatre Students play selected for national finals

BY TREVER ALTERS  
A&E Writer

Adam Harrel, a theatre major at Boise State University, is taking theatre at BSU to a whole new level.

Originally from Louisiana, Harrell is a transfer student from Centralia Jr. College in Washington. Harrell recently finished writing his play, *Alone and Hated*. This is a special piece for Harrell and BSU because it is a national finalist for the David Marc Cohen award for playwriting. The award is a reading-based honor that the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. presents to the finest play written nationwide. Harrell's play is also currently in the running for the National Student Playwriting Award and the Mark Twain Award for comedy.

This week the cast and crew will take the play to the American College Theatre Festival. If they do well in the regional finals, they will head to Washington D.C. for the national festival.

Harrell wrote *Alone and Hated* as a one-act play for the Theater Majors' Showcase last spring at Boise State. He has spent the last several months working on it and turning it into a full production. He entered it into the festival in December, which started the excitement for the play.

Last Sunday, Harrell and crew put on a benefit performance at the Morrison Center. All proceeds went directly towards arriving at the festival.



PHOTO BY EMILY DESLER/THE ARBITER  
Junior Adam Harrell, is the mastermind of the play, "Alone and Hated" playing at Boise State.

*"Alone and Hated"* is a comedy about a film writer who is riding on the success of his last piece. As the play begins, the audience sees him working on his next big "Hollywood movie." As the writer searches to find the perfect ending to his story, he finds that everything he writes leaves the main character of the script "alone and hated," just as he is himself. In his haste to finish the film, he pushes away everyone that is close to him. Now he must resolve his own selfish isolation before he can tackle the script.

*Alone and Hated* is a far cry from Harrell's first play, "Love or Baseball," which he was just happy to see performed at the junior college level. *Love or Baseball* may be a dark part of Harrell's history, but *Alone and Hated* is a shining example of the student's capabilities.

Harrell credits a great department and a talented cast, including Luke Masengill in the lead role, for the success of his play. He doesn't mention the presence of well-developed characters and an intriguing plot, but rest assured, *"Alone and Hated"* has all the elements to do well at the American College Theatre Festival.

BY DAN MCNEESE  
A&E Writer

Colorado bluegrass jamsters Leftover Salmon performed at The Big Easy last week. Having performed numerous times in Boise, it's a mystery why the band's music isn't synonymous with The Big Easy name by now. Although derived from the heart of the Rocky Mountains, their music can stand impressively with the best of the Mississippi

delta scene.

Spitting out a wide array of music to play hacky-sack too, Leftover Salmon played an energetic set for a nearly-packed house, with a great vibe from the crowd of 20 somethings.

Although their lyrics were vaguely personal, the band concentrated on high octave jamming for the sea of spun monkeys who waded in a bluegrass tide. Switching from lower blues to banjo-driven leads,

Salmon became reminiscent of a speed-driven 'Deliverance' theme song that never seemed to end.

With a largely upbeat set, Leftover Salmon could produce a sound track to a Dukes of Hazard reunion sequence or a promo for Nascar. The basis of which would be the banjo player, whose motivation differs from Primus' Les Claypool but whose playing style is still shockingly similar.

With a newly reformatted lineup, Salmon's guitarist Vince Herman describes the band as "larger, bigger, louder and faster." If Friday's performance demonstrated anything, it was that they stick true to a self-imposed profile. Leftover Salmon played a rocking show and it is difficult to imagine the band any louder or faster without changing their hippie demographic.

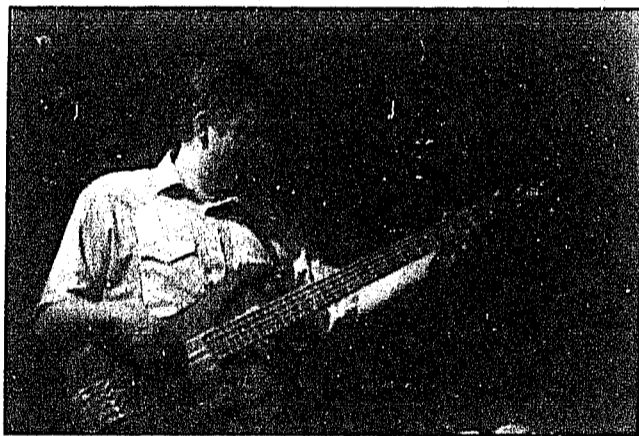
They could always be larger or bigger, though. Of what they lacked, horns would've been something they could have

managed. These guys are talented enough to pull off multi-band-mate switches to have room for a brass section, but one can only wonder how 'big' these guys would have been if it were 1967.

Leftover Salmon is familiar to jamming with the likes of major name musicians like Bela Fleck, John Popper and Waylon Jennings, so they are no strangers to playing in sync to different styles of blues and country. In doing so, they create their own style of funk.

Trying to play at as many music festivals as possible in a year, it becomes no wonder why the atmosphere at any one of their shows is so festive. Leftover Salmon merely plays the soundtrack to a great party where most of the guests are more into the sounds of the band itself.

Herman spoke with me about the band's origins and causes.



Gred Garrison

## THE INTERVIEW

**Dan McNeese:** For the most part you guys are from Boulder, right?

**Vince Herman:** Yes.

**DM:** How do you think this new set up differs musically from what it was in the 90's

**VH:** Well, more guys in the band have a music degree.

**DM:** Two albums ago you had Blue's Travelers' John Popper come in and help you...

**VH:** Right

**DM:** Who would you like to work with that you haven't worked with yet?

**VH:** I'd sure like to do something with Jackson Brown. That'd be my favorite person to work with. He's a great singer and songwriter.

**DM:** How did you guys come up with the name Leftover Salmon?

**VH:** Well, it was a combination of the

Left-Hand String Band and a band I had called the Salmon Heads and in 1990 we got together. It was only going to be one gig so we put together the name for the two bands and came up with the name Leftover Salmon. We went with it ever since.

**DM:** Have you ever heard of the band Leftover Crack?

**VH:** Yeah.

**DM:** Well I don't know if you know much about Idaho, but you guys are called Leftover Salmon and Idaho spawns a lot of salmon and they all go to the ocean but they can't get back to Idaho to spawn because of all the dams on the Columbia River. Would you ever use your bands' name as a platform to protest dams on the Columbia?

**VH:** Uh, we haven't used it specifically to protest. We have been involved in organizations that bring together a lot of different groups that are working on a solution. The Save Our Wild Salmon organization pulled together 40 groups, from travel fishermen

to commercial fishermen and all kinds of folks. The only people who weren't on board were the power companies. So yeah, we've done benefits for those kinds of things and one of our records has a tribute to wild salmon on it.

**DM:** Do you know who Helen Chenoweth is?

**VH:** Yeah, I do.

**DM:** Really? That was a fictitious question. I didn't expect you to know. Would you ever use a picture of a bunch of dead salmon at the bottom of a dam for an album cover?

**VH:** [Laughs]

**DM:** No?

**VH:** Maybe.

**DM:** Any final words that you want mentioned?

**VH:** Get down to the Big Easy and go big.

## NEW BOOKS

BY NANCY PATE  
The Orlando Sentinel

### MURDER AND REVENGE

"Hell at the Breech" by Tom Franklin (HarperPerennial, \$12.95): Franklin made his debut with the acclaimed short-story collection "Poachers," and his first novel is another winner. Set in his native Alabama in the late 1890s in a rural area known as Mitcham Beat, the tale springs from actual events. When an aspiring politician is murdered, his friends, mostly poor sharecroppers, form the Hell-at-the-Breech gang and terrorize the locals they hold responsible. Then the town of Grove Hill strikes back with its own posse. Franklin's characters include an aging sheriff, a teen-age orphan, a ruthless detective and a widowed midwife. For the paperback, Franklin has included "Christians," another Mitcham Beat story as a coda.



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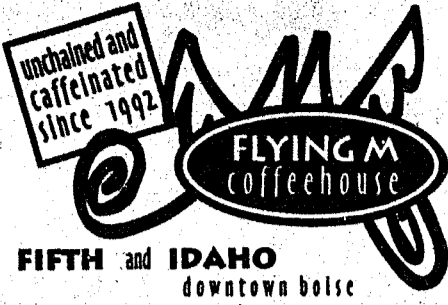
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# Chocolates and diamonds and bears, oh my!

Discovery Center hosts  
Valentine's Day bash

BY MELINDA TAYLOR  
A&E Writer

At the Discovery Center of Idaho guests can have a glass of wine, puzzle their minds, try on a diamond ring and sample countless chocolates, all in one place.

Janine Boire, DCI director, said the children's center's most recent 21-and-over event, "Chocolates and Diamonds," was so successful that it may become an annual

occasion.

The glittering evening was strategically scheduled the week of Valentine's Day. Beyond sampling, guests were able to purchase the Treasure Valley's best chocolates, wines and diamonds. Roses were also available to complete the array of traditional romantic gifts. However, the atmosphere was far from serious. All the fun gadgets and gizmos known to the Discovery Center were on display. With rooms full of grown adults, the "oohs" and "ahhs" weren't only for the diamonds and chocolates. Volunteers in silver-sequined vests guided guests to the center's favorite

attractions, daring them to lie on a bed of nails or showing them the secret to a mirror illusion. One couldn't help but feel like a curious kid again.

"The community support was extraordinary," said Boire, who's already brainstorming ideas for next year's gala.

The list of companies that committed time and effort towards the event helped to make it successful, Boire said.

With their next adults-only evening, "Picture Perfect," DCI invites guests to bring photographs to be critiqued. Professionals will be available to assist budding photogra-

## 'The Dreamers' puts NC-17 rating in the spotlight

BY GEORGE M. THOMAS  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Fox Searchlight has done something with "The Dreamers" that no other major studio has done since 1997: It has released a movie with an NC-17 rating.

"The Dreamers" tells the story of a brother and sister in Paris who begin to explore their sexuality together with an American student they befriend.

Fox Searchlight chose to release the movie, which features full frontal male nudity and male masturbation and has incestuous overtones, uncut based on its director's past.

Bernardo Bertolucci also directed the 1972 Marlon Brando film that many regard as a masterpiece, "Last Tango in Paris."



Michael Pitt, center, stars with Eva Green and Louis Garrel in the movie, "The Dreamers."

KRT HANDOUT PHOTOGRAPH VIA FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

While the overall quality of "The Dreamers" is questionable, it at least speaks to an adult audience without pandering and provokes thought.

"I find it gutsy beyond belief that any studio would touch a movie today that is rated in a way that basically closes the door on any segment of their target audience," said Roger Moore, a film critic for the Orlando Sentinel. "Everything is toned down or toned up to an R or PG-13 because that's who their audience is."

Since the rating system's inception in 1968, 69 percent of the movies have been rated R or PG-13. In 2002 alone, 65 percent of the top 20 films were rated PG-13, according to the Motion Picture Association of America.

Dale Pollock, a producer of

movies such as "The Mighty Quinn" and "Set It Off" and current dean of the School of Filmmaking at the North Carolina School of Arts, suggested that another factor is at play as well: the media. Many news outlets don't accept ads for NC-17 films.

"It's still the old stigma of the forbidden. This (an NC-17-rated movie) will appeal to a prurient audience," Pollock said. "To me, it's a very outmoded way of looking at things. The advertising aspect of media has not caught up with the rest of publishing."

But getting an NC-17 rating for violence is rare. Pollock said it is one of the big contradictions in America: the fact that violence essentially gets a free pass in the ratings system, while human sexuality does not.

# Up & Coming

Open Mic Night

**What:** BSU's Open Mic Night offers up the microphone to talented musicians, poets and performers.

**Where:** Student Union Brava Stage

**When:** Thursday, Feb. 19 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Free parking is available in the Student Union visitor lot. For more information or to reserve your spot, call 426-3049.

The Vagina Monologues

**What:** A BSU Women's Center presentation, "The Vagina Monologues" is part of the V-Day 2004 College Campaign, a worldwide movement to stop sexual violence against women and girls. The goal of the production is to educate the community by talking positively and openly about women's bodies. Twenty actors, a mixture of BSU students, staff and community members, comprise the cast. The play will be directed by Jodie Swanson, who graduated from BSU in December with a bachelor's degree in theater arts.

**Where:** Student Union Special Events Center

**When:** Thursday - Saturday, Feb. 19 - 21 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available through Select-a-Seat, \$10 general admission and \$5 for students.

For more information, visit <http://womenscenter.boisestate.edu>

Food, Song and Dance Festival

**What:** The BSU International Student Organization invites the community to take a trip around the world without leaving the Treasure Valley. The annual Food, Song and Dance Festival provides an opportunity to experience fine cuisine and entertainment from different continents. Entertainment for the festival will include a number of cultural groups from BSU. This year's festival is dedicated to Trang Doan, a BSU student leader who recently passed away in a car accident.

**Where:** Student Union Jordan Ballroom

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.

Tickets available through Select-a-Seat, \$12 for adults, \$8 for children under 12 and students with ID. A table for eight can be purchased for \$85 through the International Programs Office. Call 426-4259 for more information.

Poetry Contest

**What:** A free poetry contest open to Boise residents. The International Library of Poetry has announced that Boise poets, particularly beginners, are welcome to compete for their share of over 250 prizes. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page.

**Where:** To enter, send one original poem, any subject and any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19919, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

**When:** Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet - [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com) - by May 31, 2004.

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## Po Boyz Studio offers comprehensive recording facility

BY DANAKA OLIVER  
A&E Writer

Boise will soon be home to a high-tech multifaceted recording studio fully loaded with equipment not previously available in Boise studios, though standard in the big city.

Kevin "Taco" Boose, who came to Boise from Las Vegas, owns Po Boyz Studio and is building a fully digital and analog studio from the ground up with the help of some other Vegas and California imports. These cats are actually in there cutting wood and putting up walls!

Po Boyz boasts 24 track, 32 track, and unlimited track recorders along with the Roland Phantom and Triton studio keyboards. The studio also offers a MPC4000 beat machine, in addition to other standard equipment such as Protocols LE and MIDI. Boose has the capability to transfer back and forth between digital and analog as well. The studio will be set up to record individual artists in one recording booth and groups in another, but will not initially be set up for live bands.

To begin, a three-man production team will weave their magic for the studios: Lo, from Las Vegas, B-Wag, an import from LA and owner of Sydefx Entertainment, and Taco. They will work on their own "pet" projects while recording for a growing clientele. Currently, emcee Willie BoBos is the main project, with Mad Man stepping to the mic in the next couple of months. BoBos has a demo out right now that you can pick up for \$3 at the studio while supplies last. The demo will also be available after March 1 at [www.poboyz.com](http://www.poboyz.com).

Taco and his boyz will offer a mix of services including recording for demos, commercials, and production. They will also have beats for sale starting at a low introductory rate of \$50. Other introductory rates include \$25 an hour for 24 tracks of audio recording or \$40 an hour to record with Protocols LE.

Boose plans on selecting a couple of kids from the community to help them get material together to record and perform it as a way to give them some direction.

"I want them to be a part of something," he says. Boose will also release a Po Boyz compilation CD with selected local artists that come in to record and whom he feels are really "doin' thangs" with their music.

Po Boyz Studios will be located at 5771 Overland next to Video Vixen and plans to open their doors for business March 1.



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# Killing the video star?

Upstart cable channel Fuse is putting the heat on video giant MTV

BY CARY DARLING  
Knight Ridder Newspapers  
(KRT)

The billboards started popping up around Manhattan on May 12.

Here was Sally Struthers, getting her beg on, trying to save an endangered species: the music video. "Every Day, thousands of music videos go unplayed. Please help save music videos," she implores. "Watch Fuse."

One of the billboards - huge, inescapable, like the monolith in 2001 - just happened to be right outside the Times Square offices of MTV.

Then there were the coffee cups. Two million of them. Handed out around New York, emblazoned with the phrase, "Where's the M in empte-vee?"

And so was born Fuse, the upstart, 9-month-old, New York-based, cable music channel that's starting to pump up the volume and attract a lot of attention, and not just for its smart-aleck ad campaign.

According to Crain's, an industry publication, Fuse ended 2003 with a 20 percent gain in subscribers and now is available to 36 million households.

A sampling of teen tastes conducted in October by media analyst Jack Myers, who interviewed more than 1,300 teenagers, ranked the network sixth among the 35 broadcast and cable networks included in the study. Among teen girls and all 15- to 18-year-olds, it came in at No. 1.

Fuse is already branching out to concert sponsorship, slapping its name on tours by Staind, Deftones and the current Simple Plan/MxPx run. Upcoming is the Crystal Method tour.

While Fuse has a long way to go before attaining MTV's name recognition and clout - the landmark network is in more than 86 million homes, spinoff MTV2 is in 50 million homes, and MTVU, on college campuses, was just launched - it has

both music fans and music-industry watchers buzzing.

"Even though their ratings are a fraction of MTV's, their audience is extremely loyal," says Myers, publisher of the Jack Myers Report and the Teen Media Brand Tracker Study. "They've tapped into a market that MTV has ignored, that is looking for new music."

It's all sweet music to the ears of Marc Juris, the man charged with taking a well-regarded but obscure video-music channel, MuchMusic USA, an offshoot of the Canadian MuchMusic video channel, rebranding it, and getting people to watch it. He's doing that by playing videos and forging nonmusic programming, such as "The Osbournes" and "The Real World," which has dominated MTV's schedule in recent years. Beyond that, he made the station interactive: Fans can go online and vote on videos, purchase or sell "stock" in bands, or dedicate videos to significant others and friends.

"What I saw was an opportunity to give viewers a true voice in the way the music network would be programmed," says Fuse President Juris. "The Internet obviously has been disruptive in the way business is conducted. But there was a great opportunity to harness that power."

Like Frodo bearing the ring, Fuse has started to attract the attention of the big boy on the block: MTV. According to a report in the Los Angeles Times, MTV parent company Viacom, which reportedly has contracts with record companies giving Viacom channels exclusive rights to the labels' videos, lately has been enforcing this provision. That means they have claimed first rights to Radiohead's "There There" and Beyonce Knowles' "Crazy in Love" among others. (MTV declined to comment for this story.)

But Juris is not worried. "That has no real direct impact, because our whole brand is about up-and-coming new music," he says.

Fuse is also seeking audiences that MTV might only address on its niche channels, such as MTV Espanol - channels that may not be widely available. Fuse is pursuing the "urban Latino" crowd with a Monday night show, Marcha, dedicated

to Latin alternative rock.

"I realized there was no Latin alternative music being aired and there was so much of it out there," says Marcha creator/producer Moira Noriega.

Tomas Cookman, head of Los Angeles-based Cookman International, which oversees the careers of such popular Latin rock bands as La Ley, Aterciopelados, and the electronica Nortec Collective, is a Fuse fan. "It's more in line with (the bands') natural audiences than going to Miami and doing the (Spanish-language) morning shows," he explains.

For all the shots Fuse takes at MTV, and even with the rumors of new music channels being developed by the Universal Music Group (1 A.M.) and the Playboy Channel (H.Y.P.E. TV), Juris says there's enough room for everybody.

"MTV is a very different network than we are," he says. "They have different expectations. They're building a large, youth-oriented network. We're building a new music network. We're building a multidimensional music brand. That's a very different model and point of view."

"I have a very basic philosophy: If I'm only looking at MTV, MTV2 or MTVU as my competition, I'm looking at the world with blinders on. Here's the competition: everything. Video games, DVDs, the online world. A teenager has a lot of things taking that time. It's not about one TV network. It's about the world of choice."

So what about those ads, then? In addition to Struthers, others have featured Hair Club for Men founder Sy Sperling ("Fuse - looks natural even when wet") and Tammy Faye ("I've seen the light. It was on TV and it has music videos on it. Fuse - No. 1 with Tammy, who is No. 3 with drag queens").

"We just like to have a sense of humor and be playful," Juris explains. "But you know what? The music network ain't playing music and we are. Clearly, it's a competitive point with us. We hear it from record companies and people: You play music. (Until now) there's somehow been broad public acceptance of a music network not playing music."

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## Steinbrenner does what it takes to win

BY BILL PLASCHKE  
Los Angeles Times

With all the sports world in a gasp, the gravel-filled drawl of a baseball man fills the phone. "You have good timing," Buzzie Bavasi says. "I just wrote him a note."  
Him, meaning a man derided across the landscape today for supposedly smothering our national pastime with his oily wallet.  
Him, being a man who supposedly just stole an October baseball championship days before the first suntan.  
Him, meaning George Steinbrenner.  
Whom Buzzie Bavasi loves.

"I wrote to him, 'George, I don't know why anybody complains about you,'" Bavasi relates. "Nobody gets mad when you come to play their teams. Nobody gets mad about selling all those extra tickets."  
While many looked at a pinstriped Alex Rodriguez on Tuesday and saw greed, the former longtime Dodger general manager saw greatness.  
"George Steinbrenner wants to win more than any other owner I've been around," Bavasi said. "Walter (O'Malley) wanted to win, but he wouldn't pay that money. George will do whatever it takes."  
Agreed, and today I will write whatever it takes to convince

SEE YANKEES next page

## Women's tennis to host Boise State Quad

BY TREVOR HORN  
Sports Reporter

After a week of rest, the Bronco women's tennis team will be back on the courts this weekend, hosting UC Santa Barbara, Colorado State and Montana State at the Quadrangular Invitational starting tomorrow at the Boas Indoor Center.

The Broncos are lead by senior Jemima Hayward, who was named Western Athletic Conference Player of the Week three weeks ago. Hayward is ranked 6th in the central region in singles competition by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. And when paired with Erin Polowski, the two rank 7th in doubles play.

Polowski also holds her own on the court. The senior from Boise, is ranked 8th in the central region in singles play.

The two are the lone seniors this season, and understand the importance of being the leaders of a young, talented team.

"I just hope they can see what can be expected. Like I had to go up and play the lower ranks, so I could get to where I am now. Hopefully they are looking to us," Hayward said.

After the break, the Broncos are looking forward to playing for a home crowd.

"The teams spirits are really good. Everyone's excited about this weekend," Hayward said.

Montana State comes in this week after taking a three-week break between competitions. The Bobcats went 1-3 over the weekend, winning their last match versus Nebraska-Wesleyan. Colorado State is coming off their first win of the season versus Texas Tech. With the win at the Air Force Academy, the Rams come in this weekend with a 1-2 re-

cord overall lead by Emily Kirchem and Dasha Zhurin. Kirchem, the freshman from Fairview, Oregon, is ranked 18th in the central region by the ITA. Zhurin is currently ranked 24th by the ITA in the central. And the Guachos of UC Santa Barbara come in this weekend after a win at home versus Cal State Northridge. The Guachos are lead by sophomore Marielle Gruenig. The Switzerland native is ranked 29th in the west region.

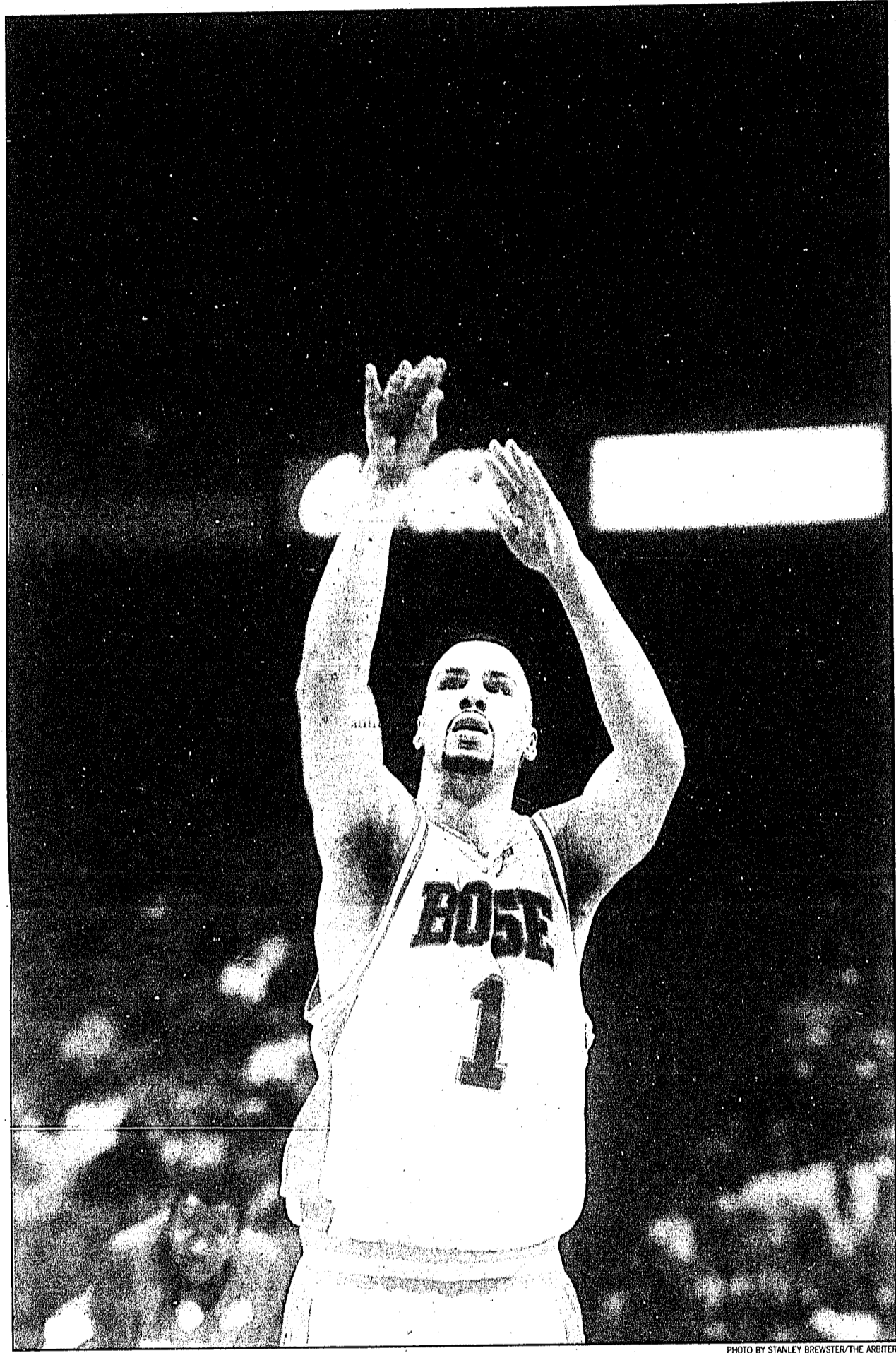
The Broncos season has been promising so far. The Broncos are currently 5-2 as a team, and have moved up five spots in the national team ranking since the beginning of the season. After losing the first game during the Oregon trip two weeks ago to the University of Oregon the Broncos upset then 41st ranked Minnesota along with the following win versus Portland. Besides the Oregon loss, only 20th ranked BYU has taken down the Broncos this season.

"We need to get business done," Hayward said.

With the win versus Minnesota, the Broncos are looking to make a stronger stance in the central region, and in the WAC. The team understands the importance of taking advantage of winning every match. As all three teams come in this weekend unranked, Hayward and the entire team realize they are the hunted, and not the hunter.

"We realize they have more to lose," stressed Hayward.

The Broncos will start the invitational at 2 p.m. Friday versus UC Santa Barbara, and will continue at the same time Saturday versus Colorado State. The Broncos will then face Montana State at 1 p.m. Sunday afternoon.



Senior guard Bryan Defares and the Bronco men's basketball team will face off against San Jose State on Saturday at the Pavilion. The team hopes to hold onto their fifth place position in the conference, providing them with a better seed in the WAC tournament, which kicks off in March.

BY MANDY JO DANCER  
Sports Reporter

The Boise State men's basketball team hopes to clinch another win Saturday afternoon when they host San Jose State in the Pavilion at 2 p.m.

After their big win against Fresno State on Valentine's Day (55-44), the Broncos improved to a tie for fifth place in the WAC with only three weeks remaining. The next three weeks are crucial for the Broncos because only the top six teams will secure a bye in the first round of the conference tournament. The last four teams are forced to play in a pig-tail game in order to advance into the bracket.

The game will be important not only to the team, but also

to senior guard Booker Nabors who, after Saturday's game, needs only 39 points to become the 14th Bronco to score 1,000 career points. Nabors has five regular season games left to reach the 1,000 point mark. Senior Bryan Defares isn't far behind Nabors with a career total of 950 points, leaving him with 50 points remaining.

The last time the Broncos (15-8 overall, 7-6 in WAC), faced the Spartans, Boise State used their perimeter shooting to defeat San Jose State 70-54. Seven Bronco players made at least one three point shot, making it the best long-distance shooting performance of the season.

"Eleven three's helped us stretch out the lead," head coach Greg Graham said.

Ironically, Graham, was an assistant coach for San Jose State during the 1985-1989 seasons.

The Spartans threw away their best shooting performance (60.9 percent) with 20 turnovers. The loss to the Broncos was only the third time San Jose had shot more than 50 percent from the field.

Jermaine Blackburn led the Broncos with 12 points, including two of the team's three-point field goals. Boise State will have to play this one without Blackburn, who, after dislocating his shoulder against Rice last week, is expected to be out for the remainder of the season.

Center Eric Walton led San Jose State in scoring with 15 points and eight rebounds, but fouled out with five min-

utes left in the game. Marquin Chandler, who added 13 points for the Spartans, followed Walton.

San Jose will be ready for Saturday's challenge. The Spartans, who have gotten off to a slow start this season, ended a 13 game losing streak on Saturday when they defeated Louisiana Tech 56-53 in overtime.

After Saturday's game, the Broncos travel to SMU to face the Mustangs, followed by the Bulldogs from Louisiana Tech. March is just around the corner, which means conference tournament play will soon be underway.

Will March Madness make it to Boise? It has a ring to it. Maybe even some conference championship bling?

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HOROSCOPES By Linda C. Black Tribune Media Services Today's Birthday (Feb. 19) This year, you have the uncanny ability to prove things that were previously unknown. Scientific insights come in your dreams. Nebulous facts are proven to your satisfaction, and eventually you prove them to all. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging. Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is a 6 - It's always darkest before the dawn. That's what they say, anyway. Remember that, and toss away your sorrow. Relax and let the transformation take place. Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is an 8 - Your assignment for the next few weeks is to stash away as much as you can. If you and your partner do this for a while, you'll have abundance later on. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 6 - You're not quite ready for the final inspection. Someone is likely to find something that has to be done before you get that last stamp of approval. Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is an 8 - Just when you were at the top of your game, a new twist is introduced. There'll be more work for the next several weeks. Good news: It's the creative kind. Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 6 - You've been through some tough times lately, but conditions are changing in your favor. For the next few weeks, love and support will be there, rejuvenating your energy. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8 - Grab as much information as you can. You'll find a good use for it. Conditions keep on changing, however. Your next assignment is close to home. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 6 - You'll find it easier to absorb new material over the next several weeks. Get books on, or take a class on, whatever has been giving you fits. Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is an 8 - You're entering a pragmatic phase, and not a moment too soon. Ideas are abundant, but which of them will bring in the biggest profit? It might be a trick that's untried. Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 6 - It's always darkest just before the dawn, and you're coming into your own. Show courage when facing your trepidations, and ask them for a gift. (c) 2004, TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES INC. Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

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