

2-26-2004

## Arbiter, February 26

Students of Boise State University

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# The Arbiter

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 26, 2004



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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 45

## ASBSU dispute turns physical

*Senator investigated for  
allegedly slapping colleague*

BY ANDY BENSON  
Editor-in-Chief

The ASBSU election season reached a boiling point last Wednesday when Leah Sweat, ASBSU senator, allegedly slapped ASBSU Senator and presidential candidate David Morriss repeatedly -- resulting in an investigation by the Ada County Sheriff's Office and a BSU Code of Conduct complaint. The exchange took place outside the ASBSU offices, near the double doors by the Student Involvement Center, and stemmed from tension between Morriss and Sweat regarding stances on student radio and the Dr. Martin Luther King/Human Rights Celebration.

Sweat denied she slapped Morriss, characterizing the incident as: "A touch that lingered for two seconds, long enough to say, 'Honey, I'm going to campaign like hell to make sure you don't get elected.'"

Senator Pam MaGee, who witnessed the exchange, disagreed with Sweat's description. MaGee said she observed Sweat and Morriss engaged in an acrimonious discussion prior to the slapping incident.

"They were both pretty heated at the time," MaGee said.

The verbal altercation prompted Rob Meyer, associate director of Student Union and activities, to intervene. Meyer said he told Sweat and Morriss, "There's no need to raise your voices. It's only the first day of elections," referring to the start of the ASBSU election period. Meyer added that Sweat and Morriss left the building at that point.

MaGee said that after Morriss and Sweat exited out the doors, she observed Sweat grab Morriss by the jacket with both hands, then slap Morriss in the face three times. Morriss said he was slapped three or more times, momentarily knocking him off balance.

The altercation stemmed from ongoing tension between Sweat and Morriss concerning student

SEE DISPUTE page 2

## ASBSU financial board suggests decreased club funding

*Informal policy supported in Senate,  
opposed by executive branch*

BY KYLE GORHAM  
News Reporter

The ASBSU Financial Advisory Board has recommended lowering the cap on matching funds for Boise State student clubs and organizations in FY 04-05, citing a potential student government financial crisis.

The FAB's informal suggestion to decrease the maximum amount of matching funds was met with support from the ASBSU Senate, but has faced opposition from the executive branch.

Currently, ASBSU matches student fundraising efforts up to \$3,000 per year; the proposed decrease would cap matching funds at \$2,000 per year.

Although both legislative and executive branches recognize the possibility of a budget crisis this year, President Ali Ishaq and Vice President Jim Wolfe said the recommended decrease in matching funds is unnecessary, citing the approval of a student fee increase for ASBSU.

Wolfe said ASBSU garnered support from student clubs and organizations last semester for the 2004 - 2005 student government fee-increase proposal.

ASBSU Senator-at-Large Robert Green said although the Idaho State Board of Education approved the ASBSU fee increase, monies won't be deposited until the start of FY 04-05 on July 1.

Members of FAB are worried that ASBSU will dip into a reserve account known as the 'contingency fund' near the end of this fiscal year if student government does not tighten its purse on matching funds.

However, FAB's recommendation is unofficial and the board doesn't make final decisions regarding the budget.

The board submits recommendations on the amount allocated for clubs to next year's student government president and vice president. The ASBSU president makes final budgetary decisions; but the senate must approve the executive budget.

Wolfe noted that it would be unwise for ASBSU 2004-2005 presidential hopefuls to support the proposed decrease in matching funds because members of clubs and organizations constitute a large percentage of voters.

However, Green said there is a real need for student government to decrease the cap on matching funds near the end of the fiscal year.

In the last three years, ASBSU has dipped into its contingency fund -- savings required by ASBSU constitutional law -- to keep the amount of funding for clubs constant.

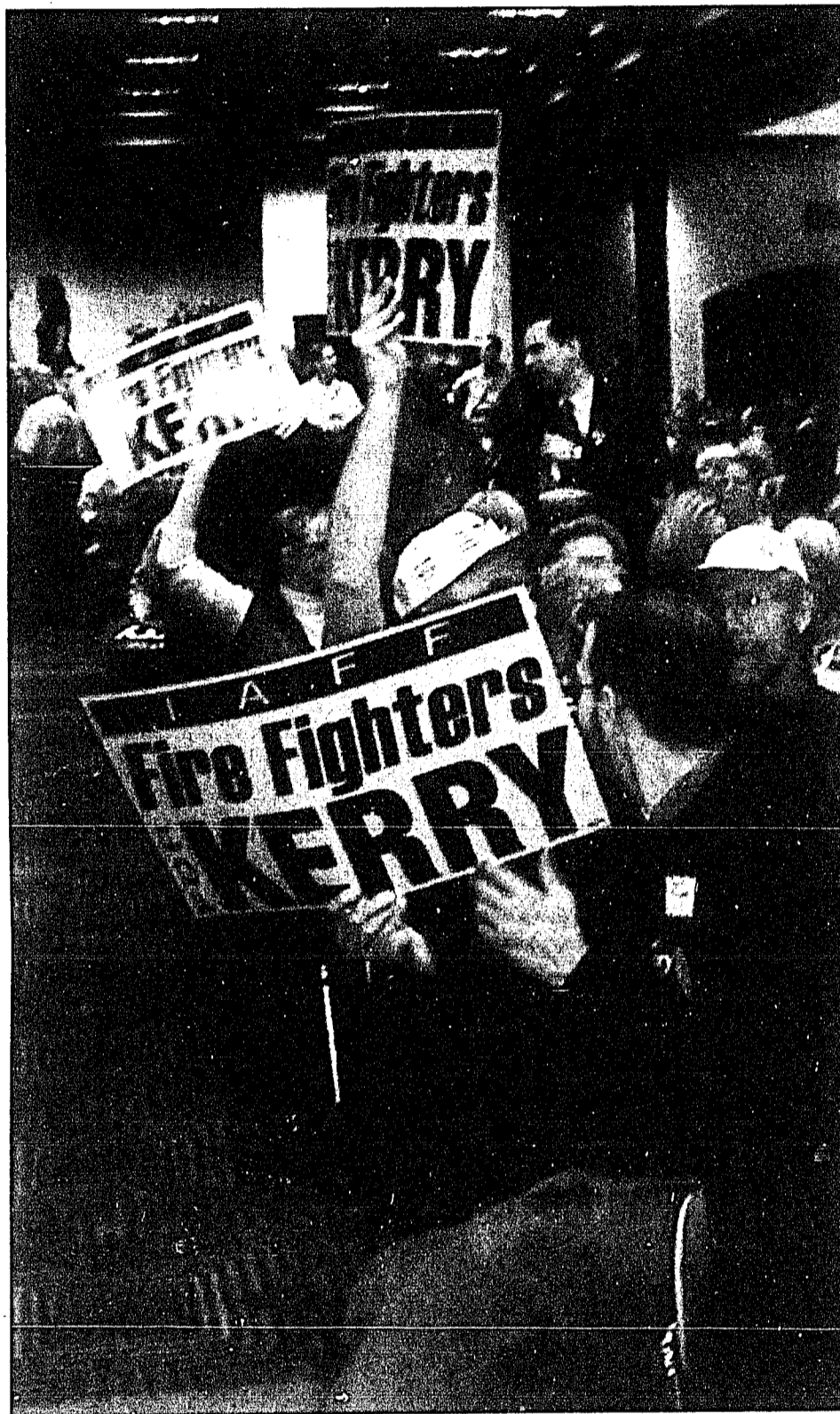
The problem, Green said, is that the contingency fund is dwindling.

SEE ASBSU page 2

THE ADA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

## Kerry claims caucus

BY KYLE GORHAM  
News Reporter



A record number of Idaho Democrats flooded the Student Union Jordan Ballroom to participate in the Ada County Democratic Caucus Tuesday night.

Ada County Democrats packed the Student Union Building Tuesday night to take part in the Ada County Democratic Caucus. With nearly 1,500 attendees, the floor of the Jordan Ballroom was reduced to standing room only.

Organizers for the event said the attendance was close to three times that of any other Ada County caucuses in recent years. For Congressional District 2, which includes Boise State and the North End of Boise, an enthusiastic crowd voted for their democratic presidential candidates and voiced confidence for their party's success in this year's election.

The final results reflected a nationwide trend of support for presidential candidate John Kerry. District 2 will send 51 delegates to the state convention. Kerry received nearly 47 percent of their votes, which earned him 27 delegates to bring to the Idaho State Democratic Convention from District 2.

John Edwards finished second, gaining 14 delegates and coming in with 25 percent of the vote.

Howard Dean, who recently dropped out of the race, earned 10 delegates and received nearly 18 percent of the vote.

District 1 will send 61 delegates to the Idaho Democratic Caucus, with 11 representing Dean supporters, 17 backing Edwards, and 33 endorsing Kerry.

Statewide, Kerry also received the most votes coming in with 54 percent from other Idaho caucuses.

John Edwards came in second in Idaho with 22 percent of the vote.

Overall, 382 Idaho delegates were chosen to participate in the convention at Pocatello in June.

These delegates will go on to select Idaho delegates to the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston on July 26-29. These delegates will vote between the Democratic candidates to determine which candidate becomes the Democratic candidate for President in 2004.

Of the 4,335 delegates nationwide, Idahoans will represent less than 1 percent of all Democratic Party delegates. Eighteen of the 23 Idaho delegates are divided proportionately to the number of delegates chosen for each candidate in the caucuses.

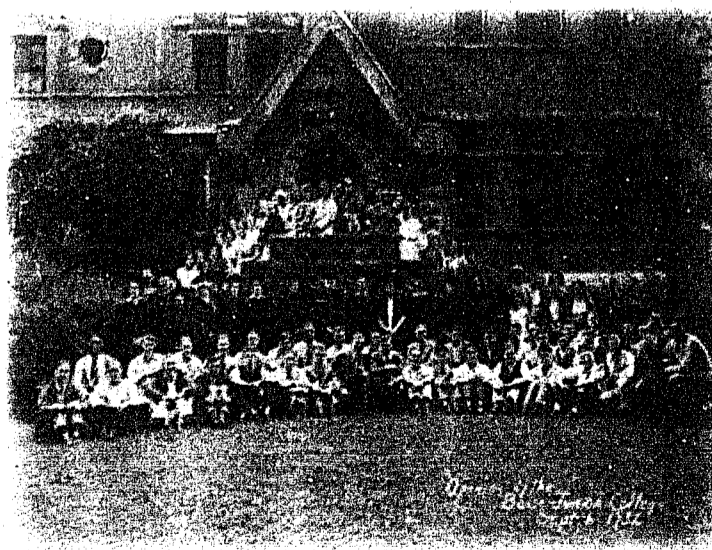
## Humble beginnings, honorable achievements: BSU celebrates 30 years

BY MONICA PRICE  
News Reporter

Although Boise State University is celebrating its 30-year anniversary as a university this month, its history goes back much further. Boise Junior College had only a glimmer of hope when it opened its doors in 1932. The country was living out the ravages of WWI and an economic depression when Boise State University began to take form.

The University students attend today comes from humble beginnings. Boise State University began as St. Margaret's Hall, which was a girl's school run by the Episcopalian Church. In September 1932, the now coed college commenced classes in St. Margaret's Hall with 104 student and 14 courses.

Bishop Middleton S. Barnwell was the driving force behind the creation of Boise Junior College. The Episcopalian Bishop dreamt of a liberal arts college in Boise, though the idea was met with some resistance from a skeptical population.



In the beginning teacher salaries were low compared to other higher education institutes. The Pocatello faculty salary for junior colleges ranged from \$1,500 to \$3,000 in the early 1930s. Boise Junior faculty started out at \$1,000 with room and board.

In 1934 the college became a private corporation. A year later Bishop Barnwell resigned his post as director to Bishop Fred Bartlett. With the pass-

ing of such an influential hand at BJC so came onto the stage another who would mold BJC for decades. Eugene B. Chaffee became the president May 15, 1936.

With soaring enrollment and pressure from St. Lukes Hospital who wanted St. Margaret's Hall for a nursing school, Boise Junior College began to look for a new home. The school didn't look far, just to the other side of the Boise

River, the old airport. The 110-acre site was given the BJC by the City Council in 1939.

A \$260,000 taxpayer bond was issued to pay for the new campus. In the fall of 1940 classes began on the new campus. In 1941 BJC became a fully accredited public institution. During the 1940s BJC was the pearl of the community. Boise's movers and shakers attended lavish benefit dances. College events made the newspaper regularly.

Two years before Pearl Harbor BJC offered flight instruction. The Civil Aeronautics Authority selected BJC for pilot training because of good flight weather and a portion of the campus had already been used as an airfield.

As men enlisted to fight in WWII the face of BJC became distinctly feminine. Nine professors and President Chaffee joined the military. Francis Haines who was a veteran of WWI was named acting president. As colleges around the country closed due to lack of students, who had chosen to serve their country, BJC sur-

SEE CELEBRATION page 2



# Idaho Salmon/Steelhead have seen better days

BY MICHELLE SELLS  
Outdoor Columnist

As a sportsman, I have been to Riggins and seen first-hand the people who have come to depend on sport fishing for a living. This is reason number one to save our salmon/steelhead. I have also been to Black Canyon and the site of Bell Rapids in Hagerman, where anadromous fish used to be. This reason is number two to save these fish. As a state, we cannot allow the steelhead and salmon to go the way of the sockeye. These fish are a part of our heritage, as well as a significant source of our revenue.

It is estimated that Idaho and northeast Oregon are responsible for nearly two thirds of the spawning/rearing habitat necessary to support the Columbia River Basin fish population. Earlier this year, the Bush administration proposed an additional \$10 million dollars of funding be added to the \$90 million already annually contributed to the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund. In the past, the dollars from this fund were only granted to the coastal states of Oregon, Washington, California and Alaska. Idaho is not a coastal state, and because of that, did not qualify for funding. Now, however, that may change and Idaho could benefit from this money which has been used, for the most part, to improve habitat in the lower Columbia River. And while Idaho has many suitable rivers and streams, it does not have a high rate of returning fish (when compared to the number of fish Idaho produces each year).

Several of Idaho's hatcheries are devoted to producing steelhead and Chinook salmon smolts. These hatcheries include the Pahsimeroi, Sawtooth, and Rapid Rivers. Tom Rogers, of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, provided some round numbers of steelhead and Chinook salmon smolts produced by both state and Federal hatcheries. Idaho annually releases 7.8 to 8 million steelhead smolt and 10 million Chinook salmon.

In the calendar year of 2003, approximately 98,000 adult hatchery and wild Chinook salmon were reported at Lower Granite Dam. In the same year, adult steelhead were reported to number about 177,000 at Lower Granite. Lower Granite Dams are the last of the dams that must be crossed before reaching Idaho waters.

The McCall hatchery's focus is on producing Chinook salmon.

claim the mortality rate to be as high as 80 percent. Historically, a smolt's journey took one to three weeks but now can last up to 3 months. Smolts navigate by following spring runoff to the ocean. Dams create warm pools that may confuse and delay a smolt's progress. In addition, reservoirs are full of predators that smolts would not normally have to deal with in such a great concentration.

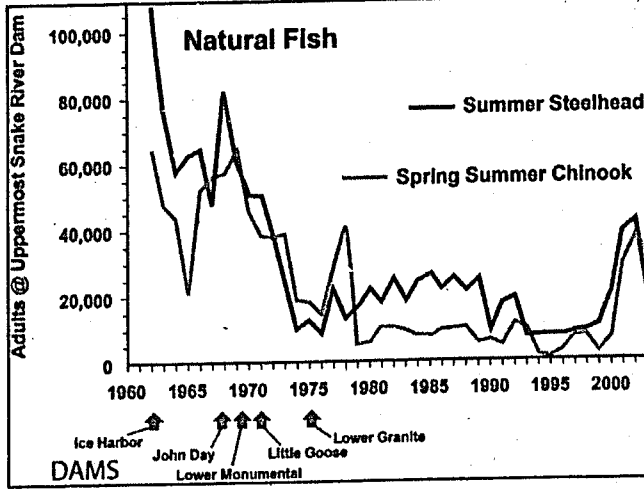
istration and would be happy to receive a slice of the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund but it is still just a proposal and not a guarantee. The conservation groups are equally happy about the opportunity to revisit the idea of dam breaching but fear another rehash of the same old arguments. The longer these issues are debated and revisited the longer Idaho's anadromous fish suffer declining numbers.

We have seen better fish returns in the last four years, but in 1980's and 1990's were particularly dismal with only about 20,000 summer steelhead and Chinook returns. Recently the Bush administration claimed improved return numbers as a victory for their management plan. Bill Horton from IDFG contends, "To call it recovery we have to get more wild fish back. The reason that numbers have improved in the last few years is due improved ocean conditions. Not management."

In 2001, adjunct faculty member Dr. Don Reading compiled data regarding economic activity during the salmon season only. He estimated that during this brief period \$46.2 million was generated in this state alone. And, this figure does not include revenues generated by the steelhead runs.

From the research, it is clear that Idaho is doing everything possible to maintain a healthy population. This state produces millions of smolt each year in the hopes that a few thousand will return, but recovery means a growing population of wild fish - not just maintaining a hatchery population. Each year, the number of wild fish that return declines. Evidence shows that the dams on the Snake River are detrimental to these populations. And yet, very little is done to solve this problem.

As a state, Idaho has a lot to lose. If these salmonoids (and the issues that involve them) are not managed properly we will lose them. They will go the way of the Sockeye and the Coho. Last year two Sockeye returned to this state -- meaning, that they are nearly extinct in this area.



on. This hatchery produces one million smolt a year and hope for an adult return of 8,000. This is dismal return of less than 1 percent. At this rate, it will be impossible to restore a healthy population to Idaho.

It is generally accepted that the dams are responsible for a great percentage these low-return numbers. The IDFG fishing regulation manual itself says, "Construction of dams and reservoirs on the lower Snake and Columbia rivers has been the primary cause for the decline of Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead. Dams and reservoirs have created unfavorable migration conditions, especially for smolts, the young salmon and steel head going to the ocean" Smolts must pass these dams on their way to the ocean as well as navigate them as adults on their return journey.

Mortality rates are high. Idaho based conservation group Idaho Rivers United

"Flushing", a method for moving the smolt, has shown the most promise in terms of success. Through tagging, scientists now know what time of day these fish prefer to make their runs. Flushing is allowing the dam to spill over enough water to allow safe passage for a large number of fish. But, this too has proved controversial - especially in areas that suffer from drought.

The Bush administration salmon recovery strategy has focused on improving habitats, limiting harvest and hatchery operations since 2000. Dam breaching under this administration was not considered an option. In 2003 a federal judge ruled that the federal plan for the Snake and Columbia rivers violated the Endangered Species Act and ordered the Bush administration to rewrite it by June of this year.

The state of Idaho is glad to be recognized by the Bush admin-

## ASBSU

from page 1

"That's what we dealt with this year, we knew in next year's budget the money wasn't going to be there to do that again," Green said.

Green and other supporters of the decrease believe the ASBSU fee increase and other possible cuts in student government spending will prevent a permanent decrease in matching funds for clubs and organizations.

ASBSU Chief of Staff and FAB Chair Jerilyn Grow said senators are having difficulty coming to an agreement on the issue.

"The problem is trying to anticipate what the amount of money is going to be, and how

we are going to fairly divvy that money up," Grow said.

Grow said it's possible FAB and ASBSU may begin to scrutinize club spending. Grow said she has been working on a solution both the executive and legislative branches can agree upon.

"I think the senators will work it out," she said.

Wolfe was confident student government will be able to give the clubs what they need. Wolfe, a presidential candidate for next year, said if elected, he would not heed a recommendation by FAB to decrease club funding.

## Dispute

from page 1

fees for student radio and the Martin Luther King Jr./Human Rights Celebration. Morriss opposed a dedicated student fee for student radio, calling the proposal incomplete and somewhat irresponsible. Sweat was a driving force behind the student radio fee.

In addition, Morriss opposed a dedicated student fee for the MLK/Human Rights Celebration. In a written statement to the Executive Budget Committee, Morriss wrote:

"It is simply absurd to take a concept or an idea as large and magnificent as Human Rights and tie it to one individual." Morriss opposed a mandatory student fee for the celebration, stating to The Arbiter, "If the celebration is about human rights, what about the right to give to the cause or not?"

Morriss' comments and actions regarding the MLK/Human Rights Celebration were labeled "seemingly racist" by Sweat.

"Her favorite word for me is Nazi," Morriss said.

Morriss said he spoke with Blaine Eckles, BSU student conduct officer, after the incident and requested a code of conduct hearing. Morriss said he then filed a complaint with the Ada County Sheriff's Office after speaking with Eckles.

The Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation into the incident and reported their findings to the Ada County Prosecutor's Office. A spokesperson for the prosecutor said the report is still in the initial screening phase and no decision has been made yet whether to press charges against Sweat.

## Celebration

from page 1

service Chaffee returned to lead BJC.

Bronco Stadium was inaugurated in 1950 when the Broncos beat Modesto Junior College 33-13. The biggest milestone in recent history was 1965, Boise Junior College was given four-year status and changed its name to Boise College at the same time mini skirts were

exposing coed legs. Darylene Armstrong, whose husband was stationed at Viet Nam, was the first senior to register.

Boise College continued on the path of higher education without incident until 1974 when Cecil Andrus signed a bill and these halls became Boise State University.

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KRT PHOTO BY KARL MONDON/CONTRA COSTA TIMES  
Bridget and Bethany Wylie-Chaney hold son Reed after being legally married in San Francisco, California, on Friday, February 13, 2004.

## State pushes attack on gay unions

BY MAURA DOLAN  
Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO -- California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said Monday that he would go to the California Supreme Court this week and ask the justices to decide whether marriages between gays violate the state's Constitution.

If the justices agree to hear the case, the rare move could bypass lower courts that are currently considering whether San Francisco officials can give marriage licenses to same-sex couples in defiance of state laws that limit marriage to "a man and a woman."

San Francisco officials argue that the state law is at odds with the state Constitution's ban on discrimination.

"The Supreme Court has the authority to stop a charter city's violation of state law, and that immediate action by the highest state court is necessary because this is a matter of statewide concern and urgency," Lockyer's office said in a prepared statement.

Lockyer said the state would file its petition on Friday with the court, which has the final say in disputes over the meaning of the California Constitution. The court has no legal deadline for acting on such a petition and may direct a trial judge or the Court of Appeal to review the legal issues first, he noted.

Lockyer's statement that the issue was one of "urgency" seemed at odds with his position as recently as Friday.

In response to a letter from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Friday demanding that he act "immediately" on the gay marriage issues, Lockyer had said that there was no public emergency involved in the marriages and that legal challenges already in the courts would be adequate to resolve the issue.

The case will almost certainly confront the justices with at least two constitutional issues. One was raised in Lockyer's statement -- whether San Francisco officials have the right to go against state law by issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The other is

the issue city officials prefer to emphasize -- whether the constitution's guarantee of equal protection trumps those laws.

Opponents of gay marriage have been hoping to get the case to the high court as quickly as possible. Six of the court's justices are Republican; one is a Democrat. The court is generally considered by legal experts to be moderately conservative.

Two lawsuits against gay marriage and a separate suit by San Francisco challenging the constitutionality of the state's marriage laws are now pending in San Francisco Superior Court. A hearing has been scheduled for March 29.

Before announcing his legal action, Lockyer said that he had expected California's courts eventually would reject same-sex marriage and invalidate the licenses of the more than 3,000 gay couples who have been married here.

"He is confident the courts are going to rule the law is only marriages between a man and a woman are valid in the state of California," said Halle Jordan, Lockyer's spokeswoman.

Lockyer predicted the demise of gay marriage in California while visiting Santa Clara County to give a speech. His remarks triggered immediate criticism from one of the gay-rights groups that is defending the marriages in court.

"The state's attorney general should understand better than anyone that local officials must abide by the state Constitution," said Jon Davidson, a senior lawyer for Lambda Legal, which defends gay rights in court cases across the country.

Protecting constitutional rights is "a duty the attorney general shares, and we're disappointed he seems unwilling to fulfill it," Davidson said.

In other developments Monday, a group opposed to gay marriage moved to prevent San Francisco Superior Court Judge James L. Warren from hearing the group's challenge of same-sex nuptials.

Each side in the legal dispute is permitted one challenge, which is automatically granted, to remove a judge.

Unless the state Supreme

Court grants Lockyer's petition to take over the case, the gay marriage dispute will probably be heard by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ronald Quidachay, an appointee of former Gov. Jerry Brown and a strong advocate of diversity on the bench.

A spokesman for San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera said the city has no objections to Quidachay.

The city previously had asked to have two lawsuits against gay marriage consolidated before Warren.

Warren had the first hearing on the marriages, but "now Judge Quidachay is equally up to speed on the case, and the city's position is that it has no preference for one over the other," said Matt Dorsey, Herrera's spokesman.

Warren, an appointee of former Gov. Pete Wilson and the grandson of the late U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, had given the city until March 29 to argue why gays should be allowed to continue to marry. That remains the next scheduled hearing in the case.

Liberty Counsel, one of the groups challenging San Francisco's gay marriages, had filed the motion to disqualify Warren.

A spokesman for the group declined to say why Warren was unacceptable, and the motion also failed to explain why Warren was deemed "prejudiced" to the group's lawsuit.

Liberty Counsel and the Alliance Defense Fund, both legal advocacy groups that represent the rights of religious traditionalists, have filed suit against San Francisco to stop the marriages.

San Francisco brought the attorney general's office into the case by filing its own suit challenging the constitutionality of California's marriage laws.

Meanwhile, San Francisco on Monday began requiring couples who want marriage licenses to make appointments. Only 56 appointments will be granted each day. The city was marrying several hundred gay couples a day.

## X-Rays show a star unraveling

BY KATHY SAWYER  
The Washington Post

What could turn a star into something resembling a strand of spaghetti?

X-ray observations from instruments in orbit have confirmed astronomers' long-held theory that a supermassive black hole will rip apart and partially gobble up any star that edges too close to its enormous gravity.

Astronomers announced last week that NASA's Chandra and the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton, both X-ray observatories in space, had detected just such an occurrence, in the form of a dazzling flare of

X-rays at the heart of a distant galaxy.

The X-ray burst was the star's "last cry for help" before remnants of it fell into the monster's maw, said Guenther Hasinger, of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics (MPE) in Germany. The star had suffered an extreme form of tidal disruption, a gravitational effect similar to that of the moon's influence on Earth's oceans--only much more violent. "Stars can survive being stretched a small amount," said Stefanie Komossa, also of MPE. "But this star was stretched beyond its breaking point."

The stretching was caused by the differences in gravitational

force on the front and back of the star.

The advanced instruments showed that the flare emanated from the site of a black hole with 100 million times the mass of the sun, and detected the precise signature astronomers had predicted for the environs of a black hole, thus ruling out other possible explanations.

Scientists have been hungry for such observations, to help them determine how black holes grow and to provide insights into the extreme physics around these bizarre collapsed objects, so dense that not even light can escape their gravity.

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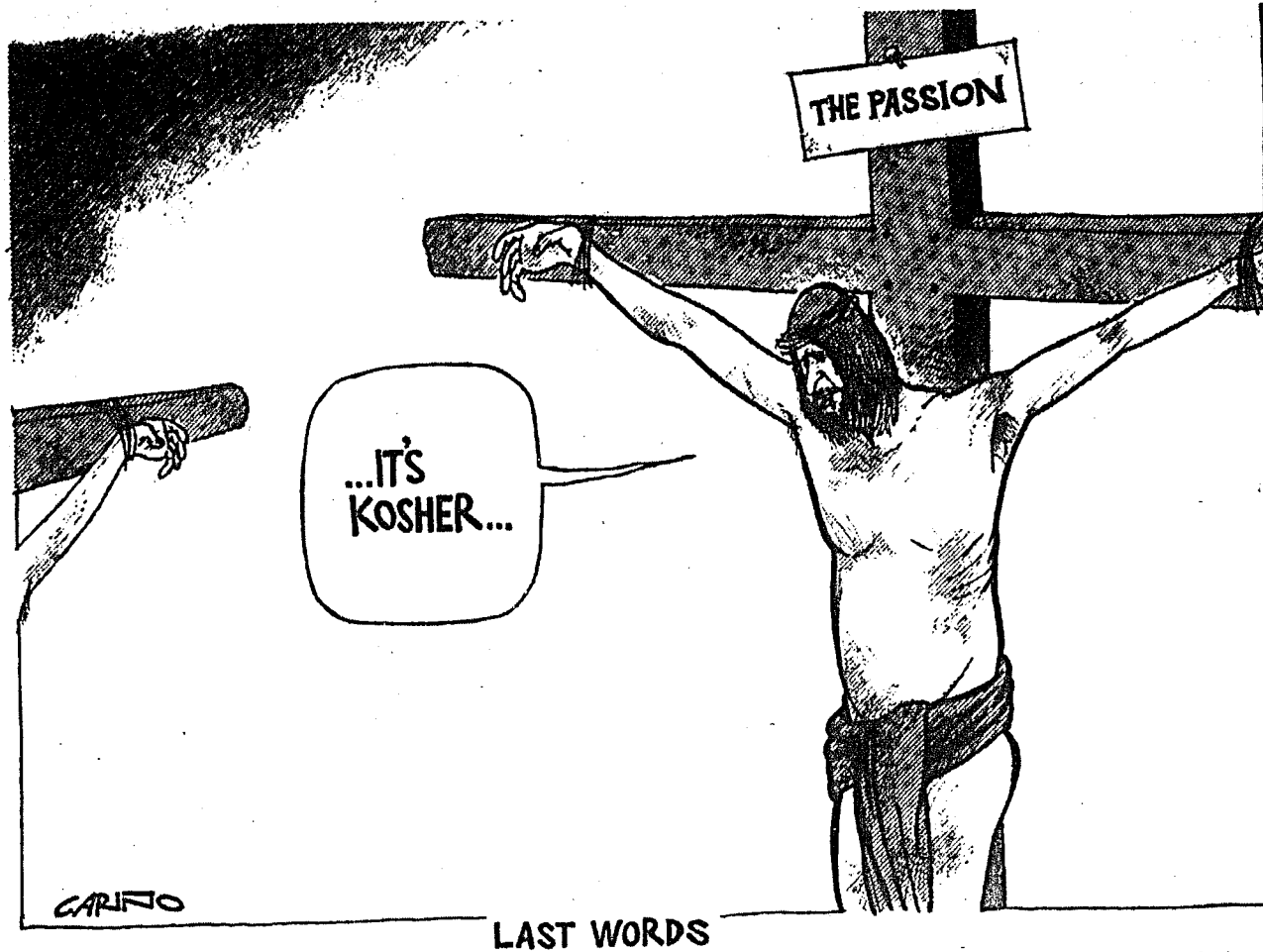
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

## ASBSU wants to address online math classes

To all Math 108 students at Boise State:

I've been receiving some very decentralized and informal feedback about various problems that students are having with online math classes at Boise State. I think the problem is a lot more widespread and I'd like ASBSU to address it in a more formalized manner.

I'm inviting any of you who have trouble with online math classes to email me by Friday, February 27th. If enough students e-mail me, ASBSU will prioritize and begin addressing the issue. So, if you have a problem, please e-mail me right now, don't delay or you might forget: aishaq@boisestate.edu

All Sohall Ishaq  
President, ASBSU

## Porn dangerous to young students

To Karl Drew:

I'm a parent of a BSU student who while visiting the campus picked up a copy of the Arbiter and read your column. I realize you are not directing your remarks to my age group, but it's dismaying to me that young, impressionable students will read your column and could make a mistake in judgment by thinking there is something wrong with themselves if they find porn repulsive, offensive, loathsome. Porn has nothing to do with love, trust, security, respect, consideration, etc., and everything to do with exploiting others for one's own selfish interest, while degrading both the participants and the viewers to object level.

Participating in or viewing porn never, ever leads to healthy, uplifting relationships. It's a fact that porn can become addictive; much time and money is dedicated to retraining the behavior and even the thinking process of those who have been sucked into porn's abyssal pit.

Shame on you for encouraging the watching of and participation in pornography, and shame on The Arbiter for wasting valuable space on such misguided counsel.

Suzanne Walker  
Aloha, Oregon

## Some truth about Ronald Reagan

BY TAYLOR NEWBOLD  
a.l.p.h.a. Co-chairman/HIV Counselor

At a 1986 centenary rededication of the Statue of Liberty, Ronald Reagan and his wife were sitting next to French President Francois Mitterand and his wife, Danielle. Bob Hope was on stage entertaining the all-star audience. In the middle of a series of one-liners Hope quipped, "I just heard that the Statue of Liberty has AIDS but she doesn't know if she got it from the mouth of the Hudson or the Staten Island Fairy." As the television camera panned the audience, the Mitterands looked shocked. The Reagans were laughing hysterically.

The month I was born was the month the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced cases of AIDS in hemophiliacs as a result of factor

SEE REAGAN next page

# Won't get fooled again

BY SEAN C. HAYES  
Special to The Arbiter

In an act of "unrelenting determination and unmitigated ego" - to quote a song from "Chicago" - consumer advocate and maniacal narcissist Ralph Nader announced his intentions last Sunday to assist the Bush/Cheney campaign in '04.

As a bit of personal history, back in '00 (an appropriately named election year since it was a contest between two zeroes), I was among the 2.8 million duped into voting for Nader. I can't even blame a hanging chad malfunction, as I actually had to flip over my ballot envelope and write in Ralph Nader's name. I may as well have written in Ralph Wiggum.

I'm not as guilty as I should be for my terrible lack of foresight. I was encouraged by my Malcolm X-loving leftist roommate at the time that as Bush would surely carry Idaho anyhow, and as Gore had then achieved the impossible in selecting a running mate even duller than he was, that it would be a political statement to vote for Nader. It would show the inevitable President Gore that there existed a bloc of dissatisfied voters on the left less than thrilled with the Republican Lite platforms of his candidacy.

It turns out the statement I made voting for Nader was: "Bush for president."

Although I can understand the virtues of a third party renegade candidate in some elections; in this particular election, it makes absolutely no sense. Don't take my word for it: in a recent issue of the leftist Nader-loving magazine "The Nation," a staff editorial puts it this way: "The overwhelming mass of voters with progressive values...have only one focus this year: to beat Bush. Any candidacy seen as distracting from that goal will be excoriated by the entire spectrum of potentially progressive voters." Besides which, the editorial goes on, the paucity of votes Nader is likely to receive in this election will hurt any left-wing third party candidacy prospects in the future.

Democrats are, naturally, furious. U.S. district attorney Elizabeth Holtzman told salon.com that

Nader is, "nothing but a shill for George Bush. A shill, period." Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico told the Associated Press that Nader's candidacy was, "a total act of ego."

Even supporters of the Green Party, for whom Nader ran last election, have begun to lose faith in their former candidate, and Public Citizen, an organization founded by Nader, threatened to take his name off their letterhead should he run for president.

Howard Dean who unlike Nader currently sports a cadre of supportive liberals had the good sense to stay out of the race as a third party candidate. And if - as CNN keeps telling us - voters were turned off by Dean's irate behavior, what are they to make of Nader? Without Lieberman to compare him favorably to this time, Nader has the peevish, shifty-eyed character of an office shooter. His disheveled mop of gray hair combined with slightly menacing dark eyebrows make him look like the Scottie dog from "The Lady and the Tramp." If Nader succeeds in anything this election, it will be to provide lots of great fodder for late night comedians.

For Nader's part, he believes that Gore cost Gore the election in '00, although Nader surely cost Gore New Hampshire and Florida. He says that to call a third party a "spoiler" is to relegate them to "second class citizens." "America does not belong to two parties," he writes on his web site www.voteNader.org.

You could have fooled me. Idealism is a fine thing to offer for inspirational purposes, but it hardly drives people to the polls. Nader could achieve far more as an advocate and an activist than he ever could becoming the Lyndon LaRouche of the current election cycle.

Four years ago, George Dubya told voters that he would be a "uniter, not a divider." And he was right. Americans left, moderate and independent are united: united to bounce out his Dominion Christian, O'Doul's-drinking, flight suit-wearing ass out of the White House.

Nader claims to want "new voices and fresh choices" in Washington: he can start by endorsing a candidate, not becoming one.

## The Arbiter

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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  
Jason Bright  
Michelle Sells  
Monica Price  
Amber Fugger  
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Danaka Oliver

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  
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# Not all economic signs are pointing to recovery

BY JAY HANCOCK  
The Baltimore Sun

The crummy employment market isn't the only thing casting doubt on President Bush's perception that "the economy is growing" and is "going to get stronger."

The low-inflation alarm is still blaring, too, although most have stopped listening.

Core inflation -- the rise in consumer prices minus those for energy and food -- was just 1.1 percent in January compared with the same month in 2003, according to a report Friday.

Along with equally tiny bumps in December and November, that was the smallest year-over-year increase in the core rate, to put it in technical terms, "since the Beatles were on the Ed Sullivan show," says Standard & Poor's economist David Wyss.

Inflation emits important information about supply, demand and the money pool. And it's still broadcasting the message we started hearing shortly after Sept. 11, 2001: America, you have way too many workers and factories and -- still! -- not enough consumption of goods and services.

Economists had hoped higher inflation would signal growing demand for products and a dwindling supply of idle workers and business assets -- the foundation of a sustained recovery.

It hasn't happened. There has been an almost relentless drop in the core inflation rate during the past two years.

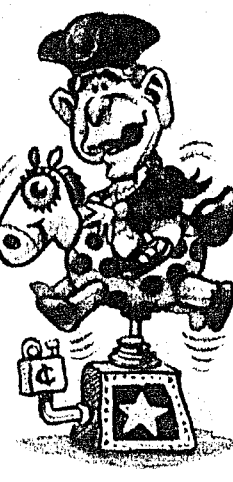
"None of the fundamental problems have gone away," says Lacy H. Hunt, a former Federal Reserve economist now with Hoisington Investment Management in Austin, Texas. "We're choking on debt. There's no pent-up demand for cars and houses. We've got excess capacity in manufacturing. We've got excess capacity in the labor markets."

True, some analysts see inflation stirring in the

**2.6 MILLION JOBS ARE COMING!**  
**2.6 MILLION JOBS ARE COMING!**



**I MEAN, LOTS OF JOBS ARE COMING... LOTS OF..**



**MAKE THAT SOME JOBS, ARE, UH**



**MY JOB... I'M HOPING TO HANG ON TO MY JOB...**



overall consumer price index.

Friday's report showed general prices jumping at an impressive annual rate of 6 percent. But that was driven mostly by energy costs and says more about what's going on in China and Saudi Arabia than the U.S. economy. It won't persist, which is why many economists prefer to screen out volatile food and energy prices and eye the fundamental core rate.

It's also true that commodity prices have

soared, which some believe could bleed into retail costs. The Commodity Research Bureau's spot-price index has popped by 18 percent since last summer. Gold is up 20 percent since early last year. We know about oil.

But as the American Enterprise Institute's John H. Makin points out, higher U.S. commodity prices can be explained mostly by a weaker dollar. Measured in euros, he says, commodity prices have been stable.

And commodities are a little part of the economy, anyway -- only one-tenth of the cost of production, Hunt says.

Nobody at the Federal Reserve has worried much lately about deflation -- falling prices -- at least not out loud. But Friday's report underscores the fact that the meager rate of increase in consumer prices is still very close to the Fed's panic level.

Fed Governor Ben S. Bernanke, the central bank's chief deflation worrywart, has said he's uncomfortable with core inflation below 1 percent. He's perilously close with the results issued Friday, and by another measure core consumer inflation was under 1 percent in the fourth quarter.

The closer inflation gets to zero, the higher the likelihood that prices will start to fall, depressing profits and buying power, boosting the relative size of debts and killing consumption as shoppers realize they can get bargains by waiting.

Deflation, one of the most poisonous aspects of the Great Depression in the 1930s, was basically caused by a shrinking money supply as too few dollars chased too many goods.

Guess what? Despite Alan Greenspan's heroics, two key measures of the U.S. money supply contracted in the fourth quarter at the fastest rate since measurement started in 1959, Hunt says.

Depression-style deflation is probably impossible now because we are no longer linked to an inflexible gold monetary standard. Even so, weak inflation is telling us some disturbing things.

It's saying workers are in such great supply, thanks to unemployment, that companies can hire them for a song. It's saying plants and inventories are so numerous that retailers needn't get into bidding wars to stock their shelves. It's saying the economy has a way to go before it enters a full recovery.

Hancock is a financial columnist for The Baltimore Sun

## Reagan

from previous page

VIII blood product contamination. At that time the term AIDS didn't exist but rather was termed Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID). The following opinion piece is not meant solely as a blatant tirade against the right-wing. It is meant to spread the unequivocal truth of a history which many of us have either forgotten, wish to forget or have no clue about. President Ronald Wilson Reagan has been in the news lately both nationally and locally. Last year Republican Representative Mark Souder pushed for the replacing of FDR's profile on the American dime with that of Reagan's. A movement that did nothing more than make some headlines and piss off a lot of Democrats. The CBS miniseries of the lives and years of presidential office of the Reagans was pulled from the network's lineup and dumped on its sister cable outlet, Showtime. The biggest complaint about the series wasn't the acting -- he apparent "inaccuracies" of the script accuses President Reagan of religious intolerance and prejudice against homosexuals. Specifically mentioned is a scene where Nancy asks her husband to do something about people with AIDS to which he responds, "Those who live in sin shall die in sin." I'll agree that Reagan's religious background and beliefs had little to do with his response to the AIDS epidemic. It was his sickening lack of leadership which paved a road to prodigious setbacks for HIV/AIDS research, discrimination against people with AIDS and a lack of outreach for prevention and education work. His response to the epidemic could at best be termed "negligent genocide."

Legionnaire's Disease afflicted 34 white, male delegates of the Pennsylvania Department of the American Legion in 1977. The federal government spent over \$2 million but still could not find a cause. Between June 1981 and May 1982 the CDC spent less than \$1 million on AIDS which was then approaching a thousand cases and \$9 million on Legionnaire's which infected very few. Back then more than half of all those with AIDS would die, a mortality rate far greater than that of Legionnaire's. Evidence of financial setbacks are shown in memo after memo in the CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) showing a terrible need and continued rejection of funds. A supplemental appropriations bill in 1982 would become the start of the Reagan administration's ritual of fiscal games. The administration would oppose the extra money earmarked towards AIDS saying that its agencies had all the money they needed. Once money was passed by congress the administration would make the money available much later than scientists and other health professionals needed it. The Reagan administration would never ask for the money and insist it didn't want it, but thanks to early AIDS heroes such as

Bill Kraus, the money would be forced upon the government anyway.

In October of 1982 the press went ballistic when cyanide was discovered in some Tylenol capsules. Federal, state and local authorities were immediately on hand to coordinate efforts in states thousands of miles from where the tampered boxes of the pain reliever appeared. No action was too extreme and no expense too great in order to save lives. The conclusion of the investigation, after millions of dollars were spent, yielded nothing short of a theory that the cyanide-laced capsules were the work of some lone crackhead. This was a clear sign of what the government could, with the approval of the powers that be, do when its citizens that mattered were dying of something unknown and frightening. Strangely, no one affected by the deadly Tylenol was gay or an injecting drug user. Another example of the Reagan administration's "smoke and mirrors" effort against AIDS can be found in the archives of New York University's budget documents which goes into details outlining a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases or NIAID's memo regarding its spending on AIDS. It reads, "The level of support of NIAID's portfolio for studies relevant to patients with AIDS is approximately \$26 million." The operative word in the previous sentence is the word "relevant". Deeply hidden within the document is the agency's admission that it was solely devoting only \$750,000 of funds directly to intramural AIDS research. Since the common cold technically breaks down the immune system, NIAID simply claimed that such studies were "relevant to patients with AIDS" even if the research was only tangentially related to the syndrome. This may not have been the work of Reagan himself but would NIAID have gone to such great lengths to pretend to be fighting a disease if Reagan and his administration actually showed genuine support for such efforts?

The sum total of the U.S. government's attempt in March 1983 to prevent the spread of the AIDS virus came in the following Public Health Service announcement, "Members of high-risk groups should be aware that multiple sexual partners increase the probability of developing AIDS." It was not until October 1987 that President Reagan publicly spoke about the epidemic. By the end of that year 59,572 AIDS cases had been reported and 27,909 of those women and men had died.

No, it is not fair to put all the blame on Reagan or his administration. Some blame goes to the gay community who refused to believe that the closing of bathhouses was in the best interest of their health but rather a right-wing move to shove them back in the closet. But what if the cause of AIDS had been discovered earlier and there had been definitive proof that it was sexually transmissible? Definitive proof could not

have come without money from the government to scientists and their agencies to show that it was caused by a virus. A virus with a latency period much longer than most viruses and a type most scientists didn't know much about. Would that have been enough to persuade at risk groups to develop safer behaviors rather than just watching their friends and loved ones die? What if the media had not been so reluctant to write stories on gay men and intravenous drug users? It was not until the mid 80s, when the numbers of heterosexual's dying of AIDS began to increase, that the headlines started rolling. If in the months following Sept. 11, 2001 a new disease started killing off men of Persian descent, would the government have acted with similar indifference? What did homosexuals ever to our country to deserve such treatment?

The power of the president is immeasurable. With one stroke of a pen another country's government can be eradicated, disease tracked down and annihilated, massive amounts of relief given to those in the world who suffer needlessly, and so forth. Throughout all the hell that the AIDS epidemic brought in the 1980s Reagan was silent. When Rock Hudson, a friend and colleague of the Reagan's, was diagnosed with AIDS and died in 1985, Reagan said nothing. When family friend William F. Buckley, in a March 18, 1986, New York Times opinion article, called for mandatory testing for HIV and said that HIV-positive gay men should have this information forcibly tattooed on their buttocks, Reagan was silent unless you count the immediate chucking which I'm sure ensued. I can understand the fear of AIDS. Everyday I still hear ludicrous inaccuracies about HIV and AIDS. I can understand how complicated and confusing the whole situation was though I, like many of you, was just a baby when these events were occurring. But I cannot comprehend such a level of gross intolerance and indifference even when politically motivated. Now that President Reagan's days are numbered as his Alzheimer-ridden brain slowly deteriorates, I hope that he is sorry for the things which he is responsible for. It isn't so much that Reagan did nothing to stop the epidemic, it's that he did not do enough. Not even close to enough. I often wonder what the AIDS pandemic would look like now if we did not have Reagan as our nation's leader at the time of the AIDS outbreak. What if the transfusion he received following his assassination attempt had contained HIV-tainted blood? Would he have had an easier time stepping in the shoes of the afflicted and making the right decisions? Groups who continue to praise this murderer and celebrate his memory cannot and should not merely overlook these deplorable indictments. May we all learn from his perfect example of the high price of disdain, ignorance and apathy towards others.

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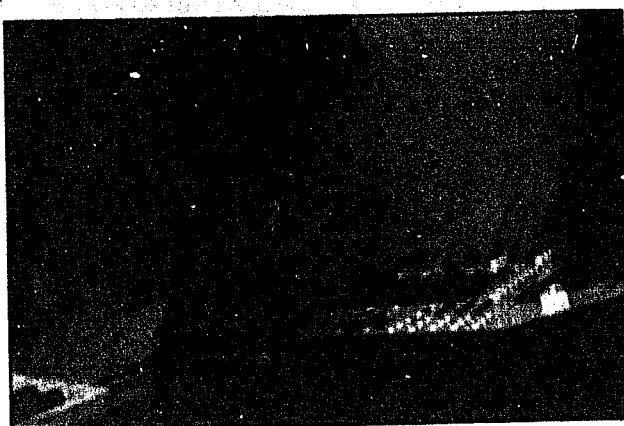
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## Rapper/producer Lo relinquishes rapper lifestyle for music

BY DANAKA OLIVER  
A&E Writer

Producer/artist Lo sits on the couch in the lobby of Po Boyz studio taking a drag from his cigarette, enjoying a quick break after days and nights of nonstop beat-making. Originally from St. Louis, Mo., Lo came to Boise via Las Vegas. The man just got into town a few weeks ago and has barely stepped foot out of the studio since. He's been in a zone. His hoody sweatshirt and lack of bling-bling attire are an ode to the gritty beat-maker's art.

**Danaka Oliver:** What artists have you produced so far?

**Lo:** Actually, none who are prominent today. A lot of underground artists like Payback, and Bam from St. Louis. All on the production tip, but I'm an artist myself.

**DO:** So you rap too?

**L:** I did a compilation called "Silence of the lames" a while back.

**DO:** Where can we check it out?

**L:** On the web site IUMA.com (Internet Underground Musician Archive)

**DO:** What are you listening to right now?

**L:** I don't have a CD player. Other artists cloud my vision. But if I did have some it would be UGK, Mos Def, skill craftsmen ... true artists.

**DO:** What brought you to the BOI?

**L:** This dude here. [Indicates studio owner "Taco"] We came here to pioneer the land.

**DO:** So tell me what your current chosen profession is a result of.

**L:** I guess you could say I was pretty much born to do it. No training. From artwork to music, it's just in a brother.

**DO:** How did you learn to make beats then? I mean, you can't really read to learn how to make hype beats, that's like someone telling you how to have sex!

**L:** Okay, you got that understood. My first set of drums was a series of cardboard boxes at age 5. When I was 7 I got a standard trap set, beat up. Then playing in church. Then a promoter next door who was a cousin to Mike Hammond from Parliament and worked with Earth Wind and Fire started to kinda' mentor me. I learned a lot from those guys.

**DO:** Have you checked out Funkmaster Flex's Digital Hitz Factory on playstation yet?

**L:** I don't too much get off into video games and stuff. Since we've been here I've only been as far as the 7-Eleven here in the same parking lot once. I'm tired, but ecstatic.

**DO:** Last year producers like Sam Sneed, Midi Mafia, and Red Spyder made a lot of noise, how do you plan to sound off in 2004?

**L:** Well, um, basically my formula consists of musicianship. I think that's what's missin' in the field. Live instrumentation. A formula for building a strong beat. There are a lot of people who like that type of music. It's not just about the beats. It's all about the music.

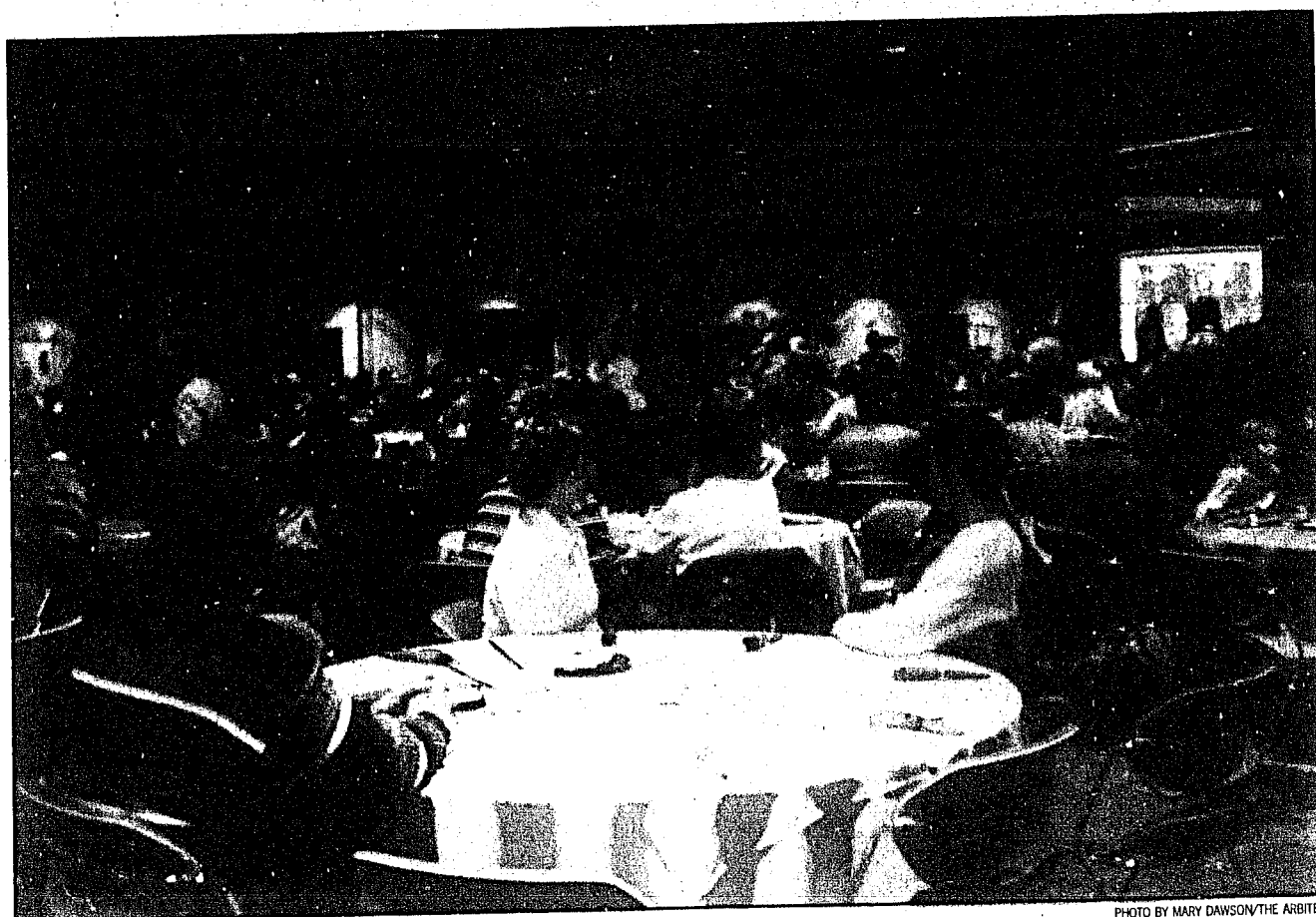
**DO:** What do you think of Boise so far?

**L:** I don't think of Boise. I think of loops, metroms, sounds, midi ... but it doesn't have anything to do with potatoes or Boise.

**DO:** It seems everyone isn't living what they rap these days. It's a lot of entertainment. What about you?

**L:** This I can take back to the Lords of the Underground. I live it, I eat it, I breath it, I sleep it ... well I don't sleep, but I see music in colors. Words are music to me. Everyone I have met in the music field has been by chance. That hour, that moment, that place. The entity above isn't going to just let me sit back and do nothing. It's in me, it's in my veins.

# From the runway to the buffet line: Cultures unite



The 25th annual Food, Song and Dance Festival presented by the Boise State International Student Association was sold out Saturday. The event was in memory of international student Trang Doan.

## Annual Food, Song and Dance Festival celebrates diversity

BY MELINDA TAYLOR  
A&E Writer

The International Student Organization recently held their 25th Annual Food, Song and Dance Festival, an event that initiated a weeklong dedication to honoring the 30th anniversary of Boise State University. In lovely taste, this festival was dedicated and devoted to the beloved and missed Trang Doan, the late International Student Organization leader.

The sold-out event symbolized the impact of the International Student Organization on campus life at Boise State. With a waiting line that extended down the hallway, the ballroom held over 400 guests, who came together to honor students from more than 15 countries. It was a beautiful banquet where International Student Organization members led the public "around the world in 180 minutes."

A student committee has been meeting to work on the event once a week since last fall. They did all of the planning, publicity and production, as well as the cooking, which started three days prior to the event. How did they choose the menu of Mexican chocolate cake, empanadas, sweet and sour pork, Arabian rice, and chicken mole, you might ask? Well they held a "food-tasting party," where students brought in dishes representative of their heritage and voted on favorites. The end result was a delicious buffet.

In addition to the great dining experience,



Russian student Mikhail Zhukalin lead singer of the band Dormidont Committee belts out the blues with a cultural twist.



One of the highlights of the event was an international fashion show. Here a student models a traditional flamingo dance costume.

the evening included an international fashion show, auction, and live entertainment. The fashion show exhibited the elaborate dress of the native countries that the international students represent and included between 30 and 40 models. Each wardrobe was fascinating, decorative, and lit up the room.

Emcee's Ashwini Vittal and Sujeevan Nagendran auctioned off their own friends to sit with guests and share their culture and experiences. Sachin Ruikar of India brought the committee a bid of \$20, while Yoshi Arima of Japan honored a table that donated \$27.

Many students also raffled cultural souvenirs, including charming traditional ornaments from countries such as Spain, Germany, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Peru, to name a few. Performances from Dormidont Committee, Suseel Indrakanti, the Boise Folkloric Cultural Organization and Hui-Aloha completed the colorful and fascinating event.

International Student Advisor Christy Babcock-Quintero was ecstatic about the evening's turnout.

"This activity just pulls the international students together. It unifies the group, and they feel so proud," Babcock-Quintero said.

And a culturally rich evening that brings funds to the committee, all while fusing and celebrating the passions of students from all over the world, is definitely something for everyone to be proud of.

## Up & Coming

### Julian Marley and the Uprising Band

**What:** Son of the late reggae legend Bob Marley, Julian Marley brings his rasta party to the Big Easy in Boise for what is sure to be a royal

reggae performance.

**Where:** The Big Easy  
**When:** Thursday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets are \$15 at Ticketweb

### Ground Score

**What:** Mostly rock inspired, Groundscore incorporates the distilled grooves of reggae and funk with the subtle flares of jazz and latin styles. The extensive original song base offers a diverse and dynamic experience that has been shared and enjoyed by an equally broad base of people.

**Where:** Tom Grainey's, 109 S. 6th St.  
**When:** Thursday, Feb. 26 at

9 p.m.

### New York Society of Illustrators Annual Exhibition

**What:** Art exhibit and discussion of work on display by BSU associate professor and noted children's book illustrator Bill Carman.

**Where:** Hemingway Western Studies Center, Gallery 2

**When:** Friday, Feb. 27, 4-6 p.m.

### Merry Widow

**What:** Bedazzling in her

beauty, bewitching in her wealth. Besieged by a myriad of suitors. This merry widow dances and parties her way through intrigues, both personal and international as even nations compete for her fortune! Franz Lehár's most popular operette is extravagantly visual with music that will fill you and thrill you and trill in your mind long after. Presented by Opera Idaho.

**Where:** Morrison Center Main Hall

**When:** Friday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.  
Tickets are \$22-\$59, available at Select-A-Seat

### The Crystal Method

**What:** The bright, neon lights of Las Vegas can be heard, within the rumbling break beats and metal-edged synth melodies of the electric duo known as the Crystal Method.

**Where:** Big Easy

**When:** Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets are \$20 at Ticketweb Boise State Art Gallery

### Accepting Exhibit Proposals

**What:** The Student Union Art Gallery at BSU is accepting

proposals for exhibits in the 2004-05 schedule. Proposals will be accepted from student, alumni, faculty, community and regional artists.

**Where:** To obtain an application form and/or exhibit guidelines, contact the Student Activities Office at 426-1223.

### The Wailers

**What:** The original band of the legendary Bob Marley.

**Where:** The Big Easy  
**When:** Monday, March 1 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets are \$20 at Ticketweb.



# Teitur fills void of skill in pop music



Faroe Islands native, Teitur.

PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSAL RECORDS

BY DAVID HABBEN  
Arbiter Staff

With the growth and popularity of so-called "coffee house" music, it's become easy to pass by every solo guitar act without a second thought. So when I heard the name Teitur (pronounced tie-tor) and saw a humble looking young man take the stage in faded jeans and t-shirt, I didn't expect much.

I didn't expect to be caught like a deer in headlights listening to the creative melodies somehow coming from six simple strings on an old guitar. I didn't expect to hear lyrics sung with such pure emotion and sincerity that the listener becomes drawn into the heart of their performer. Such was my introduction to Teitur.

Critics worldwide have lauded Teitur's first album, *Poetry and Aeroplanes*, and slowly his music is beginning to ease its way into our local radio stations. Songs like *You're the Ocean* and "Sleeping with the Lights" feature a more upbeat mood, somewhat of a rarity from a melancholy 25-year-old. The album itself

certainly won't get you ready to run a marathon, but they will certainly cool you down afterwards.

In an industry filled with overnight "talent," Teitur carries with him a breath of fresh air by filling a void of musical tradition. He has worked hard to create music that is a reflection of himself as a performer, as well as his heritage. Leaving his home in the Faroe Islands, near Denmark, at 17, Teitur played wherever he could. Working weekend jobs in order to write during the week, his hard work was rewarded when he was "discovered" while doing radio work. From singing with his family in Denmark, he has traveled worldwide and just recently finished a tour opening for John Mayer.

*Poetry and Aeroplanes* is a beautiful collection of talent, effort, and skill. Teitur's songwriting ability and skill as a musician may not make the next edition of TRL, but maybe that's not such a bad thing after all. Let the pop stars keep their trendy clichés, but leave the real quality to those who will appreciate it.

# Miracle tells honest tale of 1980's Winter Olympics

BY DAN MCNEESE  
A&E Writer

Considering that it's hockey season and the Stanley Cup playoffs are approaching, Disney's *Miracle* is a timely release. Staring Kurt Russell as the late hockey coach Herbert Brooks, *Miracle* is about the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team and their unexpected win over the former Soviet Union.

At a time when communism was the biggest threat to our freedom fries and the U.S. only talked about going to war with other countries - namely the USSR - the United States' hockey team was training hard for the 1980 Winter Olympics.

An honest depiction of the 1980's, *Miracle* sets the feel for the overwhelming challenge the U.S. underdogs undertake in playing the world's best hockey team at the time - the Soviet Union.

Based on the actual 1980 hockey team that defeated the Russians in the Olympics, this movie is predictable in that oh-so-adorable Disney way and is even dubbed as *The Mighty*

*Ducks 4* (though the second and third sequels were forgettable). Many of the scenes in *Miracle* are astonishingly reminiscent of *The Mighty Ducks 2*.

But make no mistake, the events in *Miracle* actually happened - well before the ducks were thought of in the back of Michael Eisner's cronies' minds. If anything, the story of the 1980 hockey team was the inspiration for *The Mighty Ducks* movies.

With better ice-rink lighting than the first *Mighty Ducks*, *Miracle* lacks enough hockey in the first hour and a half. Excessive concentration on the character development of the key players takes away from the end of the film, especially when the end is already known.

With the exception of Kurt Russell, (who could be cast as Dan Hawkins if they ever made a movie about the Bronco football team), the rest of the hockey team were primarily real hockey players who can also act. Disney lucked out by getting actors who could play hockey to fill in the casting gaps, and the results were better than most people

expected.

A hard thing to do in movies is to keep the action suspenseful when the finale is predictable, especially when there's a lot of personal intensity crammed into two hours. *Miracle* solves this problem by not including action until the end. Instead, it contemplates the political and personal aspects of the game.

And though the U.S. won the gold in the 1980 Olympics, it wasn't by defeating the Soviets; it was by defeating Finland. However, the movie ignores the Fins.

*Miracle* climaxes during the semi-finals when Disney exposes Russia as the enemy (which they were at the time), but showcases much suspense during the game. Still, it could have incorporated more of an Olympic theme to highlight the significance of the games.

This movie is best espied if you are a hockey or sports fan, or you were around during the 1980 Winter Olympics. And even you were only into the first *Mighty Ducks* movie, you'll appreciate this movie for its *Rocky*-like story line.

How well the movie was made: ★★1/2

How well I liked it: ★★1/2  
Scenes reminiscent of 'The Mighty Ducks': 12

*Writers note:* Like most major films today, *Miracle* was filmed on tape, and then transferred to film. This becomes somewhat bothersome if viewed from a megaplex movie screen such as those at Edwards. The final product has a characteristic choppy-effect during action sequences. The format is easier on the eyes and more suitable for compact theater screens like those found at The Real Theatre and Northgate Cinemas.

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# Oscar Promotion Denounced as an 'Attack Ad'

JOHN HORN  
Los Angeles Times

**HOLLYWOOD** -- With less than a week to go to the Academy Awards, an Oscar advertisement promoting "House of Sand and Fog" is being denounced for breaching campaign protocol by implicitly asking people to vote against "Cold Mountain" co-star Renee Zellweger.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said Monday it is considering a number of penalties against DreamWorks, which released "House of Sand and Fog" and purchased the advertisement in last Friday's trade newspaper Daily Variety. The academy's penalties could include steps as minor as canceling some of DreamWorks' Oscar-night tickets to as major as disqualifying one of the studio's films from awards eligibility.

The one-page DreamWorks advertisement was taken out to promote Iran's Shohreh Aghdashloo, nominated for best supporting actress for her performance opposite Ben Kingsley as his character's wife, Nadi, in "House of Sand and Fog." But unlike other Oscar ads, the ad specifically and re-

peatedly features mentions of Aghdashloo's main rival for the award, "Cold Mountain" co-star Zellweger.

The DreamWorks advertisement includes excerpts from four newspaper, magazine and television reports that say that Zellweger "will win" but that Aghdashloo "should win." Every excerpt but one includes Zellweger's name. "It's certainly a new and unwelcome step downward in campaigning," said Bruce Davis, the academy's executive director, who called it "an attack ad." He said he had spoken with several Oscar voters over the weekend who reacted to the ad "with varying degrees of surprise and amazement."

DreamWorks apologized for the advertisement, saying it was never intended as a criticism of either Zellweger or her film. "The ad was a mistake. It shouldn't have happened," said studio co-founder Jeffrey Katzenberg. "In a year in which everyone has pledged to take a higher road, we made a very bad and ill-advised mistake." The ad and its condemnation will probably have an insignificant impact on Oscar voting and on Aghdashloo's prospects, as most academy members al-

ready have submitted their ballots. Polling closes Tuesday at 5 p.m. The Oscars will be held this Sunday.

The academy in July adopted new rules in the hopes these campaigns would turn more diplomatic. But Davis says that some awards promoters can and have interpreted the regulations as loosely as is expedient. "Discussing concepts like fair play and decorum with certain marketing people is like discussing salad with your cat," Davis said. He said the timing and the nature of a penalty against DreamWorks, if in fact there will be one, has yet to be determined.

Zellweger, who has been nominated for three consecutive Oscars, is aware of the ad and "disappointed" by it, a spokeswoman said. Her "Cold Mountain" performance has won an array of awards, from the Golden Globe to the Screen Actors Guild award.

The flap places DreamWorks in an especially awkward position as Zellweger performs one of the lead voices in the studio's animated film "Shrek 2," due in October.

"We can be accused of stupidity, but not maliciousness," DreamWorks marketing head



KRT IMAGE

Terry Press said. "It's an ad promoting Shohreh. We didn't take out an ad saying, 'Don't vote for Renee Zellweger.' If we're in business with Renee Zellweger, why would we do this?"

Miramax, which released "Cold Mountain" and has feuded with DreamWorks in past Oscar races, declined to comment.

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# Reviews of new pop music releases

KNIGHT RIDDER  
NEWSPAPERS

**SOUNDTRACK "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy: What's That Sound?" Capitol ★★**

The first Fab Five, Duran Duran, regroups its original lineup for the first time in nearly 20 years to cut a catchy new dance-pop tune, "Sunrise," for the soundtrack tie-in to the TV makeover show in which a group of gay men, also dubbed the Fab Five, teach straight men how to live.

The TV show has the shelf-life of bread but this mostly appealing dance disc has many uses.

One: Use it to reacquaint yourself with Duran Duran. The Britpop group wasn't that bad and this new song is quite good in a pure pop sense.

Two: Work out to it. Thumping dance tracks by Basement Jaxx, Kylie Minogue, Ingrid, Junior Senior and Elton John and a New Wave-like bauble from OK Go make 20 minutes on the treadmill zip by. (By the way, yes, that Elton John, thanks to the inclusion of "Are You Ready For Love," a long-forgotten track originally recorded in 1977 with Spinners' producer Thom Bell and a recent surprise smash hit in England upon its remix and reissue.)

Three: Exercise your pointer finger by jabbing the remote's skip button when some of the CD's lesser tracks run out of steam. (Begone Sting, Jamelia and Prophet Omega.)

Four: The booklet includes the Fab Five's Hip Tips for better living. Learn how to make a cocktail ("Use only the best ingredients," suggests Ted Allen ... well, duh!); look like a rock star with the use of the right pair of sunglasses according to Carson Kressley; and this helpful hint from Jai Rodriguez on how to open a CD: "Slide the bottom of it across the edge of a table."

Of course, shouldn't that Hip Tip be printed on the outside cover before you struggle with the infernal plastic and tape?

**KINKY "Atlas" (Sonic360/Netwerk America) ★★**

Kinky's sophomore effort "Atlas" exemplifies the eclectic, all-embracing spirit driving alternative Latin music these days. This quintet of Monterrey, Mexico natives mixes an assortment of styles — including rock, funk, jazz, norteno, quebradita

and Colombian cumbia — with its dance/electronic core to create multilayered, kaleidoscopic songs with a vibrant, sparkling and intensely danceable sound.

Kinky clearly went into the studio willing to take chances and shoot for a unique, original sound: Teeth-baring electric guitars mesh with electronica grooves, while thumping techno beats interlock with timbales and drums, taking the listener on an exciting sonic journey full of unexpected and exhilarating twists and turns.

Kinky also deserves credit for addressing unconventional topics, such as Mexico's current president, the nature of time, air travel and the monotony of life. The group also gets points for abstaining from vulgarity (don't be misled by the group's name) and for writing songs both in English and Spanish. The lyrics, however, could be a lot tighter and snappier.

In short, "Atlas" is one of the best Latin music releases of the past few months and a joy to listen to.

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BOISE STATE

# William Hung offered bangin' record deal

ZAP2IT.COM  
(KRT)

The music industry has always had three paradigms: You can take somebody who looks great and sounds great and you make them a star. You can take someone who looks great, but can't sing and engineer their vocals and make them a star. Or you can take someone who sounds great, but looks so-so and work on their image until they become a star.

Enter the Notorious William Hung. The celebrated "American Idol" reject is on the verge of being made into a star specifically because he neither sounds, nor looks the part.

On Wednesday, Fuse music network and Koch Entertainment surprised Hung

with the offer of a record contract and music video production deal.

The University of California, Berkeley civil engineering major had just completed a performance of "She Bangs" at half-time of the UC Berkeley men's volleyball game when the offer was presented. If Hung accepts the deal, he will receive a check for \$25,000, a deal with Koch and a music video for his first single, which will air on Fuse.

"As the underdog music video network, Fuse instantly identified with William's drive to do his best and 'have no regrets at all,'" says the network's president Marc Juris. "Every one of us is joyfully guilty of singing our favorite song at the top of our lungs with wild abandon, all the while completely off key

and uninhibited. That's what William did and instantly won the hearts of America."

Hung gained his extended measure of fame after his San Francisco audition for FOX's reality juggernaut "American Idol." While his performance of the Ricky Martin hit "She Bangs," may not have suggested that Hung had any future as a singer or dancer, his reaction to judge Simon Cowell's sarcastic barbs showed humility and humanity.

He has become the subject of countless Web sites and has made many public appearances as a result. His "Idol" rendition of "She Bangs" is available on the Internet in several different remixed forms.

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Jason Kucma is a Third-Year student from Medford, N.J. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

"The only thing that has ever captured my attention was studying the human body. The more I learned in school, the more I needed to know. The most logical step for me was to become a Doctor of Chiropractic so I could truly help people."

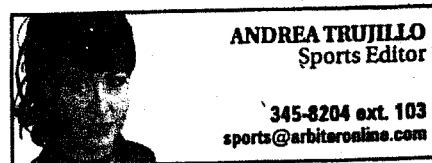
Before making his decision to attend Logan, Jason visited nearly half of the chiropractic colleges in the United States. "Logan is in the perfect location in a safe, residential area. The Admissions staff are very friendly and helpful and the faculty are excellent."

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Jason Kucma  
Third-Year Student





## WAC CHAMPIONSHIP STARTS UP AT THE NAMPA 'BRONCO BARN'



PHOTO BY STANLEY BREWSTER/THE ARBITER

The WAC Track and Field championships begin today at Jackson's Track, at the Idaho Center in Nampa. The site has played host to some big names and some big schools all season long. But whoever performs this weekend will walk away with bragging rights, and more importantly - the conference championship.

BY TREVOR HORN  
Sports Reporter

Jackson's Track, at the Idaho Center in Nampa, plays host to another top-quality competition beginning today -- but this time it's for all the marbles. The Western Athletic Conference track and field championship begins today at noon, lasting until 5 p.m., featuring the women's pentathlon and the men's heptathlon.

Following the best season for Boise State under Head Coach Mike Maynard, the Broncos are vying for the WAC title.

"The women's team is the best since I've been here. The men are leading the WAC in five events. Just a phenomenal season," Maynard said.

The women's side of the team has been lead all season by all-academic weight thrower Abbey Elsberry. She is currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in women's weight throw. What's more remarkable is that Elsberry finished her four-year career at Boise State with a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. After graduating in December, Elsberry is working on her graduate degree while

finishing her senior season as the anchor for the women's team.

Along with Elsberry, freshman Miruna Mataoanu has been producing top marks, and showing Coach Maynard that she is the real deal.

"She fantastic! Her performance has been spectacular, and her attitude is top-notch," Maynard said.

Maynard's strong words are matched evenly by her performances on the field. Mataoanu is currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the WAC in the high jump, at 5'10." Her 39'5" in the triple jump is the 4<sup>th</sup> best mark in the conference this season.

The women's team has only one top mark in the WAC, so the understanding is that the entire team needs to contribute to win the championship. Elsberry and Mataoanu are in the lead, next to Jackieann Morain, who is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the WAC in the 400-meter dash. Coach Maynard realizes that it will take the other athletes on the women's side to raise their top notches this weekend. Rebecca Ward-Gyunette is 4<sup>th</sup> in the 800-meter race, and along

with speedsters Faith Evans and Stacy Bolstad will need to give their best efforts to give the Broncos a good chance to win.

"It would take some very special performances from the women's team, but our ladies feel they can go for the championships," Maynard said.

The men's side is looking for a strong chance to take the title. Lead by All-American triple jumper Kenny Johnson, and returning 200 and 400-meter WAC champion Ray Ardill, Johnson has the top leap in the triple jump this season, while Ardill looks to repeat as the champion in both races. Along with the top marks in the WAC, Ardill's times are also NCAA provisional marks. Johnson's triple jump is also a provisional mark.

Forest Braden has lives up to his name this season -- he is running. Braden currently is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference in the mile and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 3000-meter. Even though he does not have the top marks, Maynard knows that who ever races against Braden this weekend will not have it easy.

"He will go into the race with nothing but winning on his

mind," Maynard said.

Speedsters Andre Summers and Antoine Echols are anchoring the sprinters. The two of them are 1-2 in the 60-meter, and a part of the 4x400 relay that is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the WAC.

The competition for the Broncos this weekend looks to be neck and neck. UTEP and Rice University will bring the bulk of the competition. 2003 champions SMU have been struggling all season and do not look like a threat to Maynard and the Bronco staff.

With all of the excitement that has surrounded the entire team, there is excitement that is just as big of a concern as Jackson's Track. The facility is such a hot bed this season for some of the best collegiate athletes, that the track has been unofficially renamed, 'Bronco Barn'. And these Broncos are looking to show they are the best, while doing it in their own back yard.

Fans can catch the field event finals starting at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, finishing at 8 p.m. All track finals will be Saturday evening starting at 5 p.m.

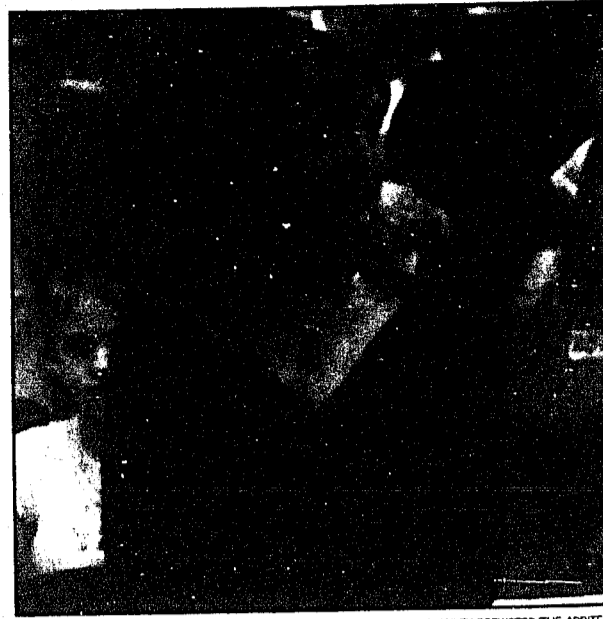


PHOTO BY STANLEY BREWSTER/THE ARBITER

Head gymnastics coach Sam Sandmire has taken the gymnastics program from good, to virtually unstoppable in the past 17 years. Her squad wraps up the 2004 season on March 12, and is the favorite to repeat as Western Gymnastic Conference champs. But Sandmire is focused beyond the conference title. Her goal - an NCAA regional qualification.

## Sandmire's record speaks for itself

BY AMBER FUGER  
Sports Reporter

Yvonne "Sam" Sandmire is coaching her 17<sup>th</sup> season at Boise State, and is on her way to leading the defending Western Gymnastic Conference champs to a repeat title. Although the gymnastics program does not receive the national recognition or ESPN coverage granted the football team, the gymnastics team is enjoying the most success of any Division 1 team in Boise State history.

With the season well under way, Sandmire keeps the team focused week in and week out. Sandmire envisions more than a repeat championship -- she expects nothing less than an NCAA regional qualification. In order to manage this, the Broncos have to produce six of their highest scores in the toughest environment -- on the road.

But Sandmire knows this isn't a pipe dream; it's a well within reach. She sees a lot of potential in the 2004 Broncos, and Sandmire said the girls capitalize on their abilities with an equivalent work ethic.

So how did Sandmire end up as one of Boise State's best coaches? Sandmire graduated from Arizona State University in 1978, where she was team captain for three years. She was named all-conference two years, and each year she competed she was a national qualifier. While living in Arizona she also competed for the Desert Devils -- a club gymnastics team coached by Stormy Eaton. Sandmire said Eaton was

SEE SANDMIRE page 10

## There's no hiding at the NFL Scouting Combine

BY BOB GLAUBER  
Newsday

LA Times-Washington Post News Services

Michael Turner was warned about it by players who already had gone through it. They told him how it would feel standing almost naked in front of 200 or so men staring at every part of your body.

It didn't make it any easier.

The running back from Northern Illinois stood next to a stage and took off his shirt. Then his shorts. Then his socks. He walked onto the stage in front of the men. Alone.

He remembered the advice of a friend: Don't look at anyone's eyes. He stared above the crowd and stood there. They measured his height. They told him to stretch his arms out to the side as far as he could and measured his arms. They weighed him.

It was over in less than a minute. He will never forget the embarrassment. "You feel like a piece of meat," he said. "Like a car or something that's going to get sold at auction."

Welcome to the NFL Scouting Combine, where more than 300 draft-eligible college players come to be weighed and measured, probed and prodded, timed and tested in front of hundreds of coaches, scouts, personnel men, trainers and doctors.

For six days, players are herded before their prospective employers, go through dozens of interviews, perform various tests that measure speed, strength and skill, take an intelligence test and undergo physical evaluations so rigorous they often are left astounded. And exhausted.

"It's quite unsettling for a young man walking in for the first time, stripped down to his underwear, having coaches, directors of player personnel, general managers staring at him, looking at his body from any angle," said Alan Herman, an NFL player agent. "It's something you can never prepare someone for. The players recognize that they're being treated perhaps as someone would look at a steer in a cattle auction or a horse in a yearling sale. It's an awakening for them that this is truly a business relationship."

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SEE COMBINE page 11

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# More challenges lie ahead for Lady Broncos



PHOTO BY STANLEY BREWSTER/THE ARBITER

BY MANDY JO DANCER  
Sports Reporter

The Boise State women's basketball team faces their next two big challenges tonight and Saturday. The Broncos, after having a bit of a tough season so far, host two strong teams starting with Southern Methodist University tonight, followed by sixth-ranked Louisiana Tech University on Saturday afternoon in the Pavilion.

The Broncos, who have had their fair share of let downs this season, have their work cut out for them in these next two games. Although SMU suffered their first home loss in a WAC play this season to La Tech on Saturday (89-79), the Mustangs have shot 44.6 percent from the field, including 44.1 percent from three-point range in their past six WAC games. The Mustangs have also won by an average of 14.8 points per game.

The last time Boise State played SMU in January, the Mustangs managed to score 12 points before the Broncos ap-

peared on the scoreboard. SMU hit 7 of 12 shots from three-point range, and had an overall average of 62.5 percent from the field. The Broncos had an average of 22.6 percent.

peared on the scoreboard. SMU hit 7 of 12 shots from three-point range, and had an overall average of 62.5 percent from the field. The Broncos had an average of 22.6 percent.

It wasn't just SMU's offense that helped them defeat the Broncos. The Mustang's defense dominated Boise State, causing back-to-back turnovers, which resulted in 12 turnaround points for SMU.

Boise State will have the advantage this time around however because the SMU is known for defending their opponents on their own court. Their only home court loss was this past weekend when they played sixth-ranked La Tech, losing 89-79, dropping the Mustangs to 12-11 overall and 8-6 in the WAC. The Broncos will have the home court advantage tonight, and plan to use it to help gain a win.

The Broncos are coming off of another defeat, which came on Saturday to San Jose State, 58-48, putting them at 7-17 overall and 4-11 in the WAC.

Thursday's game will be the second-to-last home game for the Broncos, the last being Saturday's game against favored La Tech. After this week, the team will be back on the road for their final conference game to face the Miners from UTEP.

## Sandmire

from page 9

an inspiration to her, impacting her coaching philosophy by proving to her that you can have a blast while you compete.

This attitude is widely visible in Sandmire's coaching methods evidenced at Boise State. Junior Carla Chambers, team captain for the Broncos, said

Sandmire drives the team with her unbelievable optimism and unyielding enthusiasm.

"She is wild and happy which makes the team comfortable in competition," Chambers said.

Sandmire encourages her squad to enjoy their time as Bronco athletes. Perhaps this is due to the fact that her collegiate years were such positive experience. Sandmire acknowledges that her college competitions were the highlights of her career.

As a youth Sandmire had gymnastics on the brain all of the time. The Arizona State gymnastic team was comprised of both men and women, which Sandmire said made for some wild and crazy nights. Some nights the carefree Sun Devils would drive across the state to the Santa Monica Pier, where they would compete with other schools in the Santa Monica Gym Fest. This competition was an unsanctioned NCAA meet. Imagine it. The oceanfront of Venice beach was the arena, and the sand served as the mats.

"We were doing things that I probably never would have attempted," Sandmire said. Sandmire's college career proved to her that gymnastics was her true calling. She knew she could never live without the exhilaration that the sport provided her. She knew every time she stepped to the mat, she had to stay involved in gymnastics.

But Sandmire's path didn't lead her directly to the Treasure Valley. In 1986 she was named Gymnastics Coach of the Year in Montana. Sandmire served as a judges' assistant at the 1987 Pan-American Games where she officiated with for-

mer Boise State gymnastics coach, Jackie Carringer. The two became good friends over the years. Carringer was offered a position to coach in Australia. When she decided to take it she called Sandmire and encouraged her to apply for the head coach position at Boise State. Sandmire had always wanted to coach and live in the west. It seemed like a perfect fit. Sandmire came to Boise State in 1987 from Helena, Mont., where she was the owner/director and head coach at Mount Helena Gymnastics Academy.

But Sandmire is a more than a coach. She is more than the Bronco's biggest cheerleader -- members of the squad say that she is a guiding force for them in gymnastics and in life. Kristin Gaare, Corrina Lewis and Carla Chambers said they can confide in their coach about anything. She encourages them to do well in life, and is somebody they can turn to as a friend and a mentor.

As a proof-positive result that Sandmire's coaching philosophy works, consider Sandmire's gymnasts' success -- on and off of the mats. In the past 16 years, student gymnasts at Boise State have received NACCG All-American Scholar Athlete Awards. Anne Staker was awarded a \$5,000 NCAA post-graduate scholarship for outstanding achievement in the classroom as well as in competition. This honor is reserved for one athlete in the entire country each year. In 1995 another Bronco gymnast under the guidance of Sandmire received high honors. All-American Julie Wagner was the 1995 Idaho's NCAA Woman of the Year. In 1998 Johanna Evans, another Sandmire pro-

eny received the award and also earned the \$5,000 NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship. In 2001 another Bronco gymnast, senior Annie Kaus was honored as Idaho's NCAA Woman of the Year.

Sandmire accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. In 1998 Sandmire received the Pride of Boise award in the category of athletics during Boise River Festival. She also has served on the boards of directors of Parents and Youth against Drug Abuse and the Idaho Women's Challenge.

Sandmire, admittedly, is driven by the success of her gymnast and her colleagues. But Sandmire has had some pretty good mentors of her own to look to for guidance. Boise State's head athletic director Gene Bleymaier has been an influential person for Sandmire.

"He never says it can't be done," said Sandmire.

Bleymaier was one of the main supporters in both Beauty and the Beast matches, which Boise State now boasts as "ground-breaking collegiate competition." Boise State was the first school to hold such a competition, in which two NCAA sports compete at the same time, in the same venue. The determination of Bleymaier proved to be successful for the teams and the school, bringing in a crowd of over 2,000 screaming fans.

As the Broncos continue the 2004 season with the inspirations of Coach Sam Sandmire, their sights are set on the ultimate prize; repeating the championship. Sandmire's optimistic coaching methods can only continue to improve the already thriving Bronco gymnastics program.

Sandmire said to be the best there has to be a balance. Sandmire's success provides a strong argument that this balance is found in working hard, and having a good time while doing it. After all, how could a team enjoy victories if they weren't having fun?

Even if they lose, the Broncos take the loss as an opportunity to learn and improve. They strive to improve in every aspect, and Sandmire is the driving force that keeps the team motivated to be the best they can be. And judging by the 2004 Broncos, that's pretty darn good.

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# Men's tennis takes win streak on road

BY JEREMY RASMUSSEN  
Sports Reporter

The Bronco men's tennis team will take a four-match winning streak to New Mexico tomorrow night to face the Colorado Buffaloes, followed by a match with the homesteading Lobos on Saturday. Boise State men's tennis is 7-3 with all three losses against top-15 teams in the Indoor Championships. "It helped our team a lot to play those Goliaths in Seattle. Every one else seems like mere mortals after the experience," Bronco Coach Greg Patton said. Currently, the Broncos are ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation and are coming off impressive victories last weekend in Utah. Prior to matches, Patton was

sent to the emergency room to get 10 stitches in his head after an incident in the weight room. It seemed to have worked as a motivator, as the team dominated the courts at BYU, defeating the Cougars 6-1 and shutting out Utah 7-0. They hope to carry that momentum into New Mexico this weekend.

"If that's what it takes to motivate the team, I'll be hitting my head a lot in the weeks to come," Patton said.

As for this weekend, Boise State will match up with Colorado first tomorrow night. The Buffaloes are 4-3 with losses to three top-15 teams, much like the Broncos. The losses came to Baylor, TCU and most recently, Texas A&M. The Broncos will next face a

solid New Mexico team, who is ranked 58<sup>th</sup>, on Saturday. Boise State senior Guillaume Bouvier will face a tough draw against Divan Coetzee, who is ranked 27<sup>th</sup> and was recently honored as Player of the Week in the Mountain West Conference. The Lobos look to make up for last year as their last loss came to the Broncos in last November's regional playoffs. Since then, the Lobos have one three straight and currently sit at 4-1.

"It would be a great boost for the team if we could go down there and take another one for them at home in the higher altitude," Patton said.

Recently, Patton has swapped his number two and three singles players, due to the red-hot

play of sophomore Thomas Schoeck. Schoeck is currently playing the number two spot and Matias Silva is playing three. Schoeck has been showing his worthiness in both singles and doubles in weeks prior.

"I think the reason the weather has been warm lately is because of all the heat Schoeck is generating," boasted a proud Patton. "He's on fire."

The Broncos are improving their game and gaining momentum as the weeks pass. They hope to take this new strength into Albuquerque tomorrow. After the back-to-back matches this weekend, Boise State will travel to California to play Santa Clara and Fresno State next weekend.



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## Combine

from page 9

ness relationship. NFL teams spend vast sums of money for players entering the league, and they want to make sure the investments will be worthwhile. So they gather each year at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, where hundreds of the nation's top prospects are brought in for a job interview like no other.

Boston College guard Chris Snee discovered that early in the process. On Wednesday night, just a few hours after he arrived, he went to a nearby hospital for a series of X-rays of his knees and back. Later, he was hooked up to a machine that measured the strength of his knee joints. He was there for six hours.

"It's all medical, all the time," Snee said. "I'll tell you, that machine is not pleasant. They move your knee in all different directions. It's pulling and pushing everywhere."

"It's almost like they know more about you than you know about yourself," Arizona State guard Regis Crawford said. "It's a little surreal to see other people take so much interest in everything you've done in your life. They asked me about an injury I had as a freshman."

If there is something wrong, they'll find it. On Friday, Purdue receiver John Standiford went to the hospital because doctors were concerned about his wrist. Indeed, he had fractured it.

In the eighth grade. Uncovering such intimate details about a player's health is actually the main reason behind the combine. Because the injury factor is so prevalent in football, and because a player's condition is paramount in any team's decision about whether to draft him, the combine amounts to an enormous medical clearing-house.

"We examine a guy from head to toe," Jets team internist Dr. Elliott Hershman said. "MRIs, X-rays, CAT scans, whatever test we feel is appropriate, we'll give." Doctors and trainers are free to test a player's knees, ankles, joints -- anything. A player can go through a day having as many as 32 doctors put his hands on just about any part of his body to check for any malady.

"It's definitely weird," Snee said. "You're just sitting there, and (medical people) are coming up to you rubbing your knees this way and that. One guy's finished, and then someone else comes next."

The physical condition of players is what created the idea of the combine in the first place. Before this gathering was started in 1979, there were three scouting services that held try-outs and physicals for players.

But that became too cumbersome, especially if teams wanted players to come in for follow-up visits.

"More than anything, it started when (former Kansas defensive back) Nolan Cromwell was hurt in the middle of his senior year (in 1976)," said former Cowboys personnel director Gil Brandt, now a pro football analyst for NFL.com. "After the season, people are flying him all over the country to see how his knee is doing. Here's a guy who arrives in Dallas at 7 a.m. after an all-night flight with an arm full of X-rays, and he's got to go through the same thing with us. We figured there has to be a better way, and this is what we came up with. It's a lot more practical and inexpensive doing it this way, and it's easier on the players to come to one place instead of going all over the country getting checked out."

A meat market? That's the way it has been described for years, although Brandt doesn't see it that way. "I disagree with that meat-market treatment," he said. "I would equate it with a job interview where we place an ad in the paper and 75 people are up for that position. I think the players realize that this is their job opportunity interview. As far as they're concerned, this is like being made available to take a job at Newsday."

"But if this is a meat market," he said, "then they sure as hell serve filet mignon."

The combine has evolved into more than a massive medical checkup. It has become a non-stop series of medical, physical and psychological tests aimed at giving teams the best possible means of sizing up how good -- or bad -- a player will become in the NFL.

The workouts are conducted privately, out of the view of reporters. Teams prefer that players aren't subjected to any outside pressures when they run the 40-yard dash, do the weight-lifting portion or test the various individual skills that are tailored for each position.

"It's a chance to see what kind of shape a player is in, and whether he's training for the things that are going to be demanded of him in the NFL," veteran Giants scout Terry Shea said. "I think it's good for both sides. We get to see the players, and they get to see us and get a feel for what we're all about."

But even with all that, there are plenty of mistakes on draft day. First-round picks turn into disappointments, mid-round picks turn into stars, and players who weren't even invited to the combine make NFL rosters and become quality performers.

"I remember what coach (Chuck) Noll used to say about this," said Bills president and general manager Tom Donahoe, a former Steelers personnel man

when Noll was the coach. "You don't really know what somebody's like until you live with them. Until you live with that draft choice and spend time with him day-in and day-out, you don't know what he's like. So you can do all the homework conceivable, but there's still an element of guesswork."

The combine is an exercise in removing as much guesswork as possible. The medical evaluations. The weight lifting. The 40-yard dash. The individual drills. Add to that the intense psychological profiling and individual interviews that help teams determine whether a player has the right makeup for the NFL.

One of the few big-name players to work out at this year's combine was Iowa tackle Robert Gallery. The decision might have paid off, because he ran a 4.95 in the 40-yard dash, an exceptional time for a 6-7, 323-pound lineman. "I thought he had an outstanding workout," Giants Coach Tom Coughlin said. The Giants are thought to be interested in Gallery as a possible choice for the fourth overall pick.

Those who don't work out generally do so at what's called "pro days" at their colleges.

One reason for blue-chip players' increasing reluctance to work out is previous instances of players whose stock has fallen at the combine.

Case in point: In 1985, when wide receiver Jerry Rice was coming out of Mississippi Valley State, he ran a 4.6 at the combine. Scouts were so concerned that he dropped to 16th, where he was taken by the San Francisco 49ers. All Rice did was turn into the greatest receiver of all time.

But it can work in reverse, too. In 1995, when Boston College defensive end Mike Mamula was coming into the NFL, he wowed scouts with a terrific workout. Eagles Coach Ray Rhodes remarked afterward that Mamula "showed the eye of the tiger." The Eagles took him with the seventh overall pick, but Mamula was overmatched in the NFL and quickly turned into a disappointment. He is out of football.

The interview process at the combine has become an increasingly important component. "The meetings to me are very important," Jets Coach Herman Edwards said. "I like to see if they look me in the eye. I like to see how a guy shakes your hand. That's when you can learn about a young man. If you ask him a question, are his eyes wandering all around the room? Does he fall asleep? I've seen guys fall asleep in 15 minutes."

"It's all a part of the overall mosaic of the scouting process," Colts GM Bill Polian said. "The combine is a very important part, but certainly not the only

part. You do learn a lot about guys, but I think the most that you learn about players is what you see when they play."

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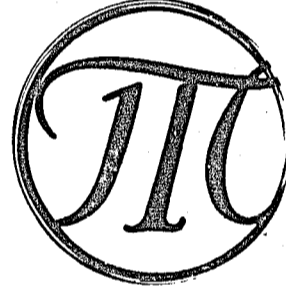
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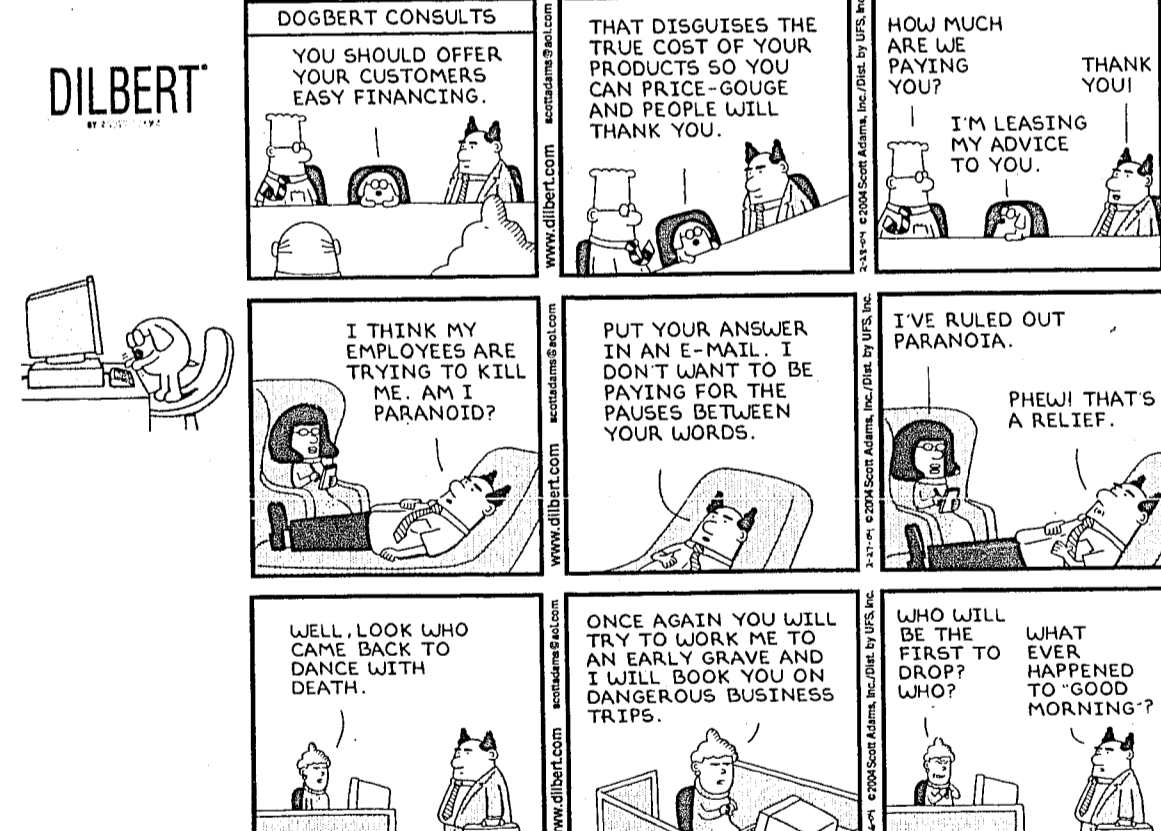


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"AH-HA!"

## HOROSCOPES

**By Linda C. Black**  
Tribune Media Services

**Today's Birthday (Feb. 26).**  
The "scientific method" is just a tool that you can use when Muses aren't whispering in your ear. Trust the latter above the former. Your greatest discoveries this year come along uncharted paths. 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 a 7 - Is money burning a hole in your pocket? Are you giving too much away? If it's for a good cause, use this as an excuse to take on an extra job. The more powerful you become, the more is requested of you. And it's fun.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**  
Today is an 8 - You feel pressed by some promises made in the past. Take care of those obligations early so that you'll have time to play with your friends.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)**  
Today is a 5 - You may have to stop and think before you speak, and that's a good thing. Consider the listener's perspective carefully, and watch him or her for clues.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)**  
Today is a 7 - Someone you care deeply about is still being slightly aloof. It won't do any good to grovel. You're more attractive when you stay busy. Assist one who appreciates.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
Today is a 6 - Concerns about money dampen your naturally cheerful attitude for a while. This is a temporary condition, and it's good for you. Concentrate on making dough.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
Today is an 8 - If you follow your heart, you'll wind up miles away from where you began. Your curiosity is liable to lead you far off the beaten path. Better pack a lunch.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
Today is a 5 - Keep costs down. The challenge is to use your talent instead of your savings. You're inventing most of what you need anyway, so why not just invent it all? Use things you have around the house.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
Today is an 8 - Your communication skills have just gone up a notch. You'll notice that the words will come quite easily for the next couple of weeks, especially where loved ones are concerned.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
Today is a 6 - Focus on the task in front of you, and don't let yourself get distracted. Pour yourself into your bed tonight, exhausted but satisfied.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
Today is a 9 - You could have a brilliant idea that helps you get over the top. Ask for a miracle; you're due. Follow your intuition.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
Today is a 5 - There's more of value in your own back yard than you may have imagined. Improvements there will bring comfort in unexpected ways.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
Today is a 9 - You learn best when you have a good tutor, a person you can trust to lead you in the right direction and ask the tough questions, making you think. Luckily, you now have such a tutor.

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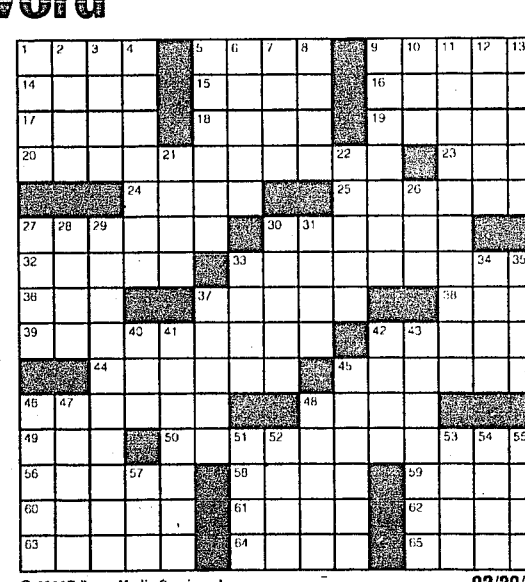
### Crossword

ACROSS

- Energy food, for short
- Between-meals munchie
- Grouchy Muppet
- On the less windy side
- Carpeting measurement
- Mariner's malarkey
- Rich, dark soil
- Window ledge
- Mail unit
- Eye-opener, for many
- Animation art
- Arkin or King
- Stoppers
- Kitchen ring
- Forage crop
- Delete
- Ring
- Coop product
- Cautious
- Bite the dust
- Pay back
- Asimov's genre
- Sibling's daughters
- Aviators
- French brandy
- Walt Kelly's comic strip
- Nexus of activity
- Dishwater container
- Chopin piece
- Sentry's order
- Biblical garden
- Psychiatrist Alfred
- Frankenstein's aide
- Heavy reading?
- Voting places
- "Da Ya Think I'm ..."
- Like molasses in January

DOWN

- Math subj.
- Baseball family name
- Gather in
- Laments
- Winston Cup org.
- Starry hunter
- Egotist's main concern
- Fifty percent
- Keep an eye on
- Take a load off
- Morning alarm, for many
- Come to terms
- Film spoofs
- Run away
- Jet black
- Former power grp.
- Bock or porter
- Strong inclination
- DeNiro film
- Fischer's game
- Folk wisdom
- Pierre's pop
- Hoist
- Kauli garlands
- Susan of "All My Children"
- Hr. fraction
- Lab glassware
- Small storage
- rooms
- Verse
- Cut-price
- Surpass
- Flower of Texas
- won't hurt a bit
- Pet canary's digs
- Object of worship
- Verne's captain
- Had the answer
- Dolores Rio



02/26/04