

4-28-2005

Arbiter, April 28

Students of Boise State University

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The Arbiter



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Randall's road trip

Broncos re-claim WAC Title

culture p.5

sports p.8

Health insurance survey turnout less than hoped

BY RANDALL POST
News Editor

Of the 1,000 students surveyed only 150 responded to the student health insurance survey. The survey was to determine students' knowledge of the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). A story about the survey ran in the March 31, 2005 issue of The Arbiter.

Jason Hendrickson, the student who helped spearhead the survey, said the response was not what he and others involved with the survey had hoped. Hendrickson also said the low response might not give them an accurate understanding about how the 5,000 students currently enrolled in SHIP feel about student insurance.

Questions were asked about what level of understanding students had about SHIP, the SHIP web page, and how students would rate using SHIP.

Of the responders, 63 percent were female, 68 percent had used SHIP, and about 48 percent were in their first year of SHIP enrollment.

Students were also asked to give their comments on SHIP, one student said:

"The insurance provided by BSU is a shame to rip off students. The one time I needed it [the insurance] I was denied coverage. I suppose if you have specific problem, you see a specific doctor, and they provided you with a specific diagnosis...you might be covered...but God forbid you have an actual medical emergency that needs to be taken care of."

Another student said:
"None of these choices fit what I'd prefer. I feel I pay enough that I should be able to see the doctors I need to see...without having to pay as much as I do now. Specialists are not covered at all."

Most of the students surveyed wanted both dental and vision coverage. Hendrickson said the Health and Wellness Center is looking into the Willamette Dental of Idaho that would cost students \$34.50 a semester. Under the Willamette plan x-rays, exams, and local anesthesia would be covered. Office visits would cost \$10 per visit.

Hendrickson said he called around to local dentists to compare the Willamette plan to no plan. Fillings, under Willamette would cost \$20, local dentists said it costs \$150. Root canals under Willamette would cost anywhere from \$100-150, local dentists price them at \$400-\$600.

Hendrickson said he was looking into AmeriPlan, which could give students a discount card to help cover dental, pharmacy, chiropractic and vision.
Hendrickson said there will be a new bid for student health insurance come this fall.

SUB director interviews at Nebraska

BY MARY GRACE LUCAS
News Writer

Leah Barrett, the director of the Boise State University Student Union and Student Involvement, is making headlines this week at a University in Nebraska. She is one of six candidates in consideration for taking a similar position at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

According to The Daily Nebraskan, the UNL student

newspaper, Barrett was interviewed on Tuesday by three representatives of the Association of Students of UNL. The interview ended with Barrett asking the student senators questions about what the hot-button topics are on their campus.

Pat McEvoy, senator from the UNL College of Arts and Sciences, was one of the three student government representatives that spoke with Barrett. said that

Barrett was a pleasure to interview. "It was nice to hear that she wanted more direct involvement with the students."

There may be a few differences between Barrett's current role and the job she is a candidate for. Where BSU has an older, sometimes less active population, McEvoy said UNL has an active student population. "It's a very involved campus."

But McEvoy said Barrett could

bring a lot to the table at UNL. "It's refreshing to see someone wanting to hear the needs of the students."

Earlier this year, Barrett was selected by a search committee at UNL as one of six candidates for the job.

According to the BSU Cultural Center Web site, Barrett has been at BSU since 1998. Prior to her work here, Barrett has worked for student affairs at such schools

as the University of Wyoming, the University of Arizona and Valparaiso University.

As for this new post Barrett is seeking, no direct comment could be made on her status as a candidate or whether Barrett is one of two front-runners.

McEvoy said his interview with Barrett will aid in the selection process. "We're writing an ASUN stance on it so that the student voice can be heard."



BSU sophomore Kevin Sing illegally parks his car in the Albertsons Library parking lot in the space that started it all.

Saw: BSU parking horror story to boot

Sophomore Kevin Sing pays the cost for cutting loose

BY MARY GRACE LUCAS
News Writer

"Well, I'm going to need a cordless saw" sophomore Kevin Sing told the man behind the register at Tate's Rents on Broadway Avenue in Boise.

"For what?" the man replied.

For this:
On Dec 6, 2004 around 9 a.m., Sing said he walked up to his car in the Albertsons Library parking lot and noticed the metal mark of the Boise State University Parking and Transportation Services Department attached firmly to his right, rear tire. He had been booted.

"I was pissed!" Sing said. "I was fed up with BSU parking and I wasn't going to tolerate their shit."

Sing said he then devised a plan to boot the boot without paying the tickets and removal fee. And thus unfolded the following series of events.

Sing said he drove to Tate's Rents and for the fair price of \$15 he rented a sawzall. Being a mechanical engineering major, Sing appeared to have no problem sawing the boot squarely in half.

Sing said the swing process took about 40 seconds and when all was sawed and done, he left the park-

ing lot with the goal of welding the boot back together and placing it back in the parking space minus the car it had once hugged. He also noted that no one stopped him in the process, though he was in a very visible area.

"I'm sure people around me noticed," Sing said. At the time, Sing said he didn't know what consequences lay in store for him. When his phone rang a while later, he said he began to get some idea.

On the other end of the receiver, a police officer asked him to return to that ill-fated parking space.

"I just tried to play it off, like, 'What boot?'" Sing said. Unfortunately, said Sing, he wasn't able to pull one over on Boise's Finest. He said he was informed that if he left the area a warrant for his arrest would promptly be issued. Sing says he decided it might be wise to comply.

Upon his arrival in the parking lot, Sing said he was met by and subsequently searched by two police officers. Sing said the trio of troopers then searched and photographed his car and then asked Sing to explain himself.

At this point, said Sing, he came clean with the officer, who let him home go with the single charge of misdemeanor injury to property. Along with the fine of \$150, for the ticket, Sing would be paying out big bucks to seemingly anyone and everyone involved in the process.

As of Monday, April 11, Sing paid the \$531 cost of repairing the boot, the \$50 for the tickets he had racked up, and, ironically enough, a boot removal fee of \$50. Sing said the removal fee was a humorous, albeit annoying extra charge, as he had plainly removed the boot himself.

Other charges include the costs of 60 hours of community service, court fees, and, of course, the eight hours of anger management class, which Sing jokes may keep him in check if another parking infraction were to occur in the future.

"Maybe it'll teach me some coping skills," Sing joked.
As for BSU parking, while no comment was issued on the specific case, the department did emphasize its position on the consequences of illegal parking.

Jared Everett, the director of public safety, risk management, and transportation, said three separate incidents of damage to parking boots have occurred in his two years at the department. But Everett said this is a relatively low number.

His estimation of the total number of boots placed on cars in the past two years sits at between four and five hundred, which totals out to anywhere between zero and four boots placed daily.

Everett said the overall lesson here is that there are certainly

See Parking (page 3)

Campus Lane renamed Cesar Chavez Drive

BY DUSTIN LAPRAY
News Writer

What's in a name? A memory? A history? Yes, and so much more.

The Faculty Senate and now the Associated Students of Boise State University Senate voted to support changing the name of Campus Lane to Cesar Chavez Drive, so that the name "Cesar Chavez" should become permanently engrained within the fabric of BSU. The university desired to find a path to honor this man, and it has, by giving him a street of his own.

Campus Lane borders BSU on its northern side, running parallel with the Greenbelt and the Boise River. It is the longest street on campus.

The gripe students attending Tuesday's ASBSU Senate meeting had with the name change was that it was not a more public street, or a new street, somewhere more students could see the name.

The resolution the Senate passed says that Chavez was a true American hero, a civil rights activist, and a pioneer in the fight for farm workers' rights. The resolution states that the name change would encourage more diversity and education into Chavez's cause. Chavez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton. The award is the highest civilian honor in the U.S.

About 25 students and faculty attended the meeting in the Student Union Forum to form the gallery. Most came in support of the resolution and raised a raucous applause when the resolution passed 13-1, with one senator absent.

The following are statements in support of the resolution by the gallery and the Senate:

"You [the Senate] speak of tradition. This is an opportunity to create a new tradition," said Ariel Anderson. Anderson also suggested naming other streets after social leaders such as the late Robert F. Kennedy.

"By naming a street after [Chavez], we would create an educational opportunity," said Megan Egbert.

"This is an opportunity to honor someone who expressed his life through helping others," said

Robert Beruth. "He died poor, but he died rich with friends and the people he helped."

Beruth claimed it significant to name the street after someone who had given his life to a cause, not one that paid to get his name on a building.

"His name has transcended national borders," said Sen. Dang Du, while addressing the Senate and the gallery. "Look at these students. They don't come with pitchforks; they come armed with pens and notebooks and a concerned voice."

"I don't think naming a street after him is enough," said Sen. Christian Busnardo. "Cultural ethnicity is a delicate subject. It shouldn't be." Busnardo assured the gallery that although most of the students at the meeting knew who Chavez was, there are a great many students around campus that do not.

Dick Baker, a sociology professor at BSU, addressed the Senate, answering why the "back alley" of BSU was chosen to take on Chavez's namesake. He said that he had asked Boise State University President Bob Kustra for funding to hire artists to create murals and display their work along the future Cesar Chavez Drive, so that the street would transform into an educational avenue proving to "be a tribute worthy of his name."

"I think that very few students know what that street is named now," said Sen. Textie Evans. "More people would hang out there if they knew."

Students living in the dorms would also have their mailing addresses changed to Cesar Chavez Drive.

"He changed my life," said Sam Byrd, owner of Diversity Works, a cross-cultural consulting firm. "He came. He inspired. He led. He provided the model, the values, the philosophy. He has helped others realize their lives through helping others."

Byrd came to Idaho at age nine and was the only one of his 30-member migrant family to graduate high school. Byrd quoted Chavez, "All we have is our life."

For more information about Cesar Chavez, try any search engine and you can find more than half a million links to the man's name.

Grads' choices shaped by uncertainty

BY STEVE QUINN
[NAT]

DALLAS - They arrived at college campuses in the fall of 2001 ready for a life of independence.

But this would be an extraordinary fall term for a freshman class expecting to be ensconced safely in college.

Before completing their first set of final exams, a perfect storm of economically crippling events struck, starting with the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

Then unemployment hit a five-year high in October, and Enron Corp.'s bankruptcy kicked off a series of corporate scandals. Stocks sank deeper into a bear market.

What these students, now graduating seniors, experienced in their freshman year led to stark changes in schools of thought, classroom discussions and, in many cases, career choices.

Although the job outlook for spring graduates is considered the brightest in three years, the impact of that dark period persists.

"I should be going into the business world," said John Goodrum, a Southern Methodist University senior who opted instead to pursue being a legislative aide on Capitol Hill.

"I think that 9-11, plus the war and the administration, invoked a passion about my going up to

Washington to see how everything works, having a closer view of what other people who make a difference do."

This certainly isn't the first time graduates entered the workforce after the nation spent years in tumult, as it did during the Vietnam War and Watergate. But this period still stands out, says Carl Van Horn, director for Rutgers University's John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development in New Brunswick, N.J.

"I can think of other periods equally charged, but the pillars of the economy seemed to be collapsing, so it's probably been a more sobering and maturing ex-

perience for students," he said.

"There's always been a perception of happy days on college campuses, but this period they lived through would not allow indulgence of adolescence and fantasy like, say, the 1970s and 1980s did."

Some among this senior class opted to learn about Middle East history or upgraded a minor to a major course of study. Others made deeper changes as their college careers matured.

They became fascinated with public policy; they envisioned careers in criminal justice or government work; they developed a tolerance for opposing views.

See Grads (page 3)



The University of Texas at Dallas hosted a job fair at its Richardson Campus for students who have graduated or are close to completing their courses of study.

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world

50 die, 230 injured as train slams into building in Japan

AMAGASAKI, Japan — A seven-car train on the JR Fukuchiyama Line derailed and crashed into an apartment building Monday morning in Amagasaki, Japan, killing 50 passengers and injuring about 230.

The front four cars on the train, which were carrying about 580 passengers, ran off the tracks before the front two cars slammed into a nine-story apartment building east of the tracks after ripping through a parking lot on the north side of the building. The front cars were crushed against the building, leaving many passengers trapped for several hours.

The train's 23-year-old driver, Ryujiro Takami, was seriously injured, according to the police.

The accident occurred at about 9:20 a.m. when the train was en route to Doshishamae Station in Kyoto Prefecture from Takarazuka Station in Hyogo Prefecture.

The train was traveling around a bend to the right at the time of the accident. West Japan Railway Co. said the speed limit at the turn was 70 kph, or about 43.5 mph. According to calculations by JR West and another organization, a train would need to be traveling faster than 133 kph (82.6 mph) to derail at the spot. But the railway firm said it was unsure what speed the train was traveling at the time of the accident.

Hyogo prefectural police questioned the train's 42-year-old conductor. The police quoted the conductor as saying, "It looked like the train was running a little faster than usual, so I wondered if the operator attempted to make up for the delay."

national

Penn State student dies in house fire

A 21-year-old Penn State student died and four others narrowly escaped injury Sunday morning in a downtown house fire.

Christopher Raspanti, an electrical-engineering major from Bucks County,

national

was found dead on the top floor of the three-story brick house. The house was home to six students.

Two borough sanitation workers first reported the blaze about 6:40 a.m., when they saw fire and thick smoke pouring from the house. They and a taxi driver dashed inside and began pounding on doors, police said.

"All indications are that everyone was sleeping," borough police Chief Tom King said. "They were awakened by yelling or heat in the house."

People close to Raspanti said a party had been held at the house Saturday night and early Sunday morning. Others familiar with the circumstances said that as many as 12 people may have been dozing inside when fire broke out.

Police arrived at the scene about two minutes after the sanitation workers called 911, according to a news release. As officers evacuated the house, fire and smoke blocked the stairs leading to the third floor, King said.

Two of the five people on that level jumped about 12 feet to a porch roof below, King said. He said another two managed to escape down the stairs earlier.

Raspanti was discovered in his bedroom, on the west side of the attic. King said police are investigating why he did not escape.

An autopsy was performed at Mount Nittany Medical Center. Findings are expected in four to six weeks, police said.

NASA still wrestling with issues of safety, dissent

HOUSTON — Space shuttle program managers on Tuesday and Wednesday will try to answer a basic question: What's the precise risk of launch debris poking yet another fatal hole in a shuttle, as it did to Columbia in 2003?

The way NASA resolves that issue will help answer another basic question: Has the space agency fixed its basic safety and management culture, whose blind intolerance of dissent investigators blamed for the Columbia disaster?

NASA's pre-Columbia safety culture, investigators concluded, was "reactive, complacent and dominated by unjustified optimism" and didn't account for lower-level engineers' worries.

For the past month, NASA engineers

national

have sparred over risk and debris. This week, as they prepared for closed-door meetings at the Johnson Space Center, NASA managers say that they are handling dissent and risk differently.

The real test will come with the scheduled May 22 launch of the shuttle Discovery after 27 months of downtime.

One outsider hired to talk to NASA officials in November 2003 on the need for change found a deeply divided, underfunded and dysfunctional space shuttle program.

John Logsdon, a member of the accident investigation board, said he sees signs of healthy dissent and debate in NASA.

"To me this is an indication of positive culture change," Logsdon, the director of the Space Institute at George Washington University in Washington, wrote in an e-mail response to questions.

local/bsu

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Music and More at Boise State May 1

Music, dancing and authentic Mexican food are just some of the highlights of Boise State University's Cinco de Mayo 2005 Fiesta from noon-6 p.m. Sunday, May 1, on the Student Union Patio. The fiesta is presented by the Boise State Organización de Estudiantes Latino-Americanos (OELA) and is open to people of all ages. All events are free; food prices vary.

The Fiesta's entertainment includes a car show, folkloric dancing and the Miss Cinco de Mayo Pageant. The community is invited to participate in cultural contests, face painting, arts and crafts, piñatas and more. The Fiesta is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Mexican-American culture.

Pfeiffer, Clark, Hanna recognized as 2005 Foundation Scholars

Three faculty members have been named as 2005 Foundation Scholars. The awards have been given annually since 1992 for ongoing com-

local/bsu

mitment, expertise and accomplishment in teaching, professionally related service, and research and creative activity.

Sona Andrews, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said a strong faculty is key to the university's success. "It is our faculty who create a rich learning environment for our students, advance the boundaries of knowledge and serve their professions," she said in a prepared statement.

This year's recipients are: Teaching: Ron Pfeiffer, kinesiology; Service: Cynthia Clark, nursing; Research and Creative Activity: Charles Hanna, physics

Strategic Directions Forum scheduled May 2 in SUB

During the month of March, Boise State faculty, staff and students participated in campus conversations on what it means to be a metropolitan research university of distinction and what it will take to get there.

Every student, faculty and staff member was invited to participate in one of 30 focus groups to share views on this topic. The sessions engaged about 500 individuals and provided information critical to the Strategic Directions process.

Provost Sona Andrews will lead a Strategic Directions forum from 4-5 p.m. May 2 in the Student Union Hatch Ballroom. Everyone is invited to attend this session where Andrews will share the themes that have emerged from the focus groups, explain next steps, and respond to questions.

VSB Service Saturday

The Volunteer Service Board will be hosting Service Saturday this weekend starting at 9 a.m. Anyone interested should meet at the Brava Stage in the Student Union Building. Participants will have the opportunity to choose from several service projects they would like to assist in. Projects will take about four hours to complete.

what the?

I'll get you, little fishy... Ka-booom!

After eluding capture for years, the most wanted man in Albania went trout fishing in a lake in the town of Bajram Curri, using dynamite to blast the fish out of the water.

Alas, he misjudged the time it takes for a fuse to burn down, and was still holding the explosives when detonation occurred.

I'll show you incompetent, splat!

A former elementary school teacher in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., carried a grudge for 30 years over poor job performance evaluations, and finally lashed back at former colleagues and bosses who he felt did him wrong.

Over the past two years, the now-72-year-old man threw roofing nails on their driveways and splattered their garage doors with paint.

He is being evaluated by a team of mental health professionals.

Aw come on, just one more break

Police caught a man breaking into a car in Ilidza, Bosnia. They booked him and let him go. A few hours later, they arrested him again after he got into an accident while driving a stolen car. They booked him and let him go again. A few hours after that, they arrested him for breaking into an apartment. This time, they locked him up.

There's no use trying to fight it

An inmate, serving time in Santa Cruz, Calif., for selling and transporting heroin, was allowed to leave the prison to go to a family funeral. When he returned 12 hours later, suspicious authorities had him X-rayed just to see if he was up to his old tricks. He was. Inside his stomach were 17 grams of black tar heroin and 20 grams of marijuana.

He was given laxatives and an enema, and, police said, he "gave it up within five hours."

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 TIGER ARMY SAT 5-7
 MUDVAYNE TUE 5-10
 AFBOWAN WED 5-11
 CLUB FRESH WED 5-11
 M.S.I SUN 5-15
 CLUB FRESH WED 5-18
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Parking (from page 1)

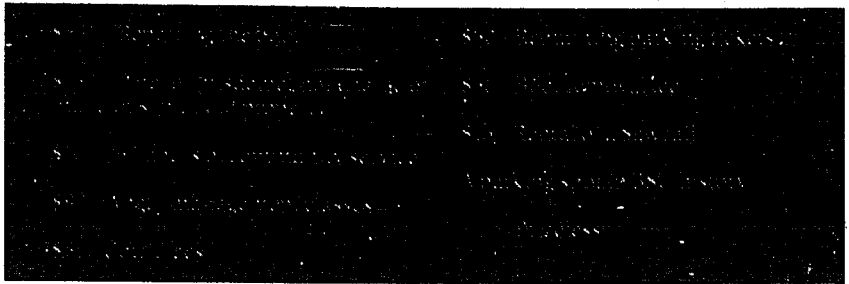
more appropriate avenues for dealing with a situation like Sing's. Everett said that students who would like to dispute parking charges can approach an independent parking citation appeals committee for clemency. The committee, according to Everett, will evaluate the claim and determine if the fine must be paid.

This afternoon at 3:00 p.m., the Parking Advisory Committee will be meeting in the Student Union Building. These meetings generally take place on the fourth Thursday of each month and students are welcome to sit in.

Everett said these meetings are where parking policy is created and students could benefit from taking a closer look at the multitude of services provided by his department.

As for the idea of breaking out of a boot instead of paying the fees, Everett said, "It's not worth it."

Laughing all the way to the now-empty bank, Sing may not fully agree. He said he still feels that, despite his residence hall parking pass, parking in general at BSU is insufficient, and for him it's a daily question of "Where can I get parking for free today?"



Grads (from page 1)

Kim DeBlance, 22, a Southern Methodist University senior studying marketing and psychology, says she became more interested in politics after Sept. 11.

"It didn't make me want to have a degree in government or corporate finance, but it made me pay more attention to it and realize the importance of it in whatever I do, even in business," she says.

Sarah Riedel, a senior at the University of Texas at Arlington, says she's using the attacks as a foundation for her pursuit of a criminal justice career.

Her initial interest in the FBI blossomed into a passion for international affairs work with the CIA. She plans to take a year off before applying to graduate school at Texas A&M University.

"What happened that day pushed me toward that goal in criminal justice," she said. "It's one of those things you never forget, and in criminal justice, it's still a current issue; it's in most of the current textbooks."

Undaunted by the attacks, many students fulfilled their original plans, and some pursued longtime wishes to study abroad at a time when international travel generated concerns.

They learned about other nations' viewpoints, especially after the United States invaded Iraq, and were willing to listen to opposing political opinions. "People

two years younger, I think their view of 9-11 comes through a smaller lens," says Gaines Greer, 21, a Southern Methodist University senior majoring in English and German. "As opposed to my friends who are seniors, conservative and here when it happened, you don't see younger people thinking outside the box as much."

As the fallout from Sept. 11 started to settle, more problems arrived. On Dec. 2, Enron filed for bankruptcy, a precursor to the exposure of corporate malfeasance at other companies.

The result: Lesson plans underwent some heavy rewriting, and students learned about current affairs, sometimes when the course description called for something else.

Many students say the lessons from Enron may be the most important they took from the fall of 2001.

"I'm taking a property and liability insurance class, but we are still focusing on business practices," said Lauren Heger, a University of North Texas senior who landed a job with Hanover Insurance Co.

"Even the stuff that (New York Attorney General Eliot) Spitzer is doing today has been put into focus by my teachers."

For three years, these students saw the graduates before them

struggle to find work as layoffs mounted, doors closed and older workers took entry-level jobs to get by.

But enough time has passed for this year's seniors to enjoy a recovering job market, says John Challenger, chief executive at Chicago-based outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc.

Challenger says the job market for entry-level workers is expanding as employers "rebuild bench strength" depleted from record downsizing.

"Graduates should be emboldened by the fact that the unemployment rate among those holding a bachelor's degree and higher fell to 2.4 percent in January, which is the lowest this figure has been since August 2001," he said.

In a recent report, Challenger projected the education and health care fields to be among the biggest job gainers over the next seven years.

Business graduates will also fare well, but Texas Christian University senior Marcus Qualls says he's willing to wait a few more years for the market to settle further while he considers graduate school.

"From what I'm seeing, businesses are still acting like they are walking on thin ice," said Qualls, a political science and economics major. "People are nervous about

keeping their jobs, and businesses are nervous about hiring more people, but I still think we are coming out of it."

Somegrads, such as the Beltway-bound Goodrum of SMU, will not enter the workforce in their intended field of study; a move that Challenger says is safe.

"What is vital is getting into the workplace to start gaining general on-the-job experience," he said. "Future employers want to know that you are able to meet deadlines, work within a team and that you understand how business works."

It's advice Amanda Besch, a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas, might follow. Besch will receive a master's degree in humanities and literature.

"It's been more difficult because I'm in a program that doesn't fit easily with job descriptions the way it would if I had a business degree," she said.

Luciana Middlebrooks, a University of Texas at Dallas senior majoring in criminal justice, plans to balance an internship with some time off, then pursue a law degree beginning in 2006.

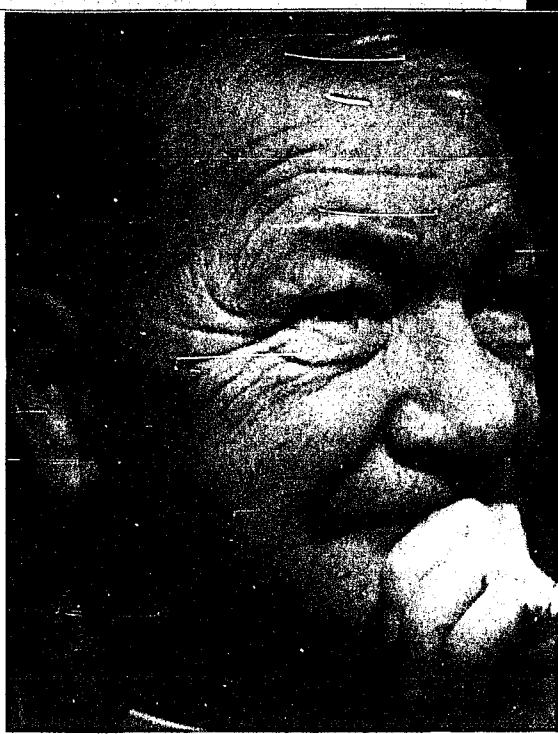
"I need to take advantage of what we have here, so many opportunities," she said. "It's important that we take things day by day."

Even as the job market recovers, Challenger says the fall of

2001 won't soon be forgotten by the Class of 2005.

"First they saw their older brothers and sisters go through the whole dot-com exuberance thing," Challenger said.

"Then they saw the emptiness of that, especially in light of what it exposed about that era through Enron and WorldCom and others. That's hard to forget."



Dr. Bernard Archbishop Price looks thoughtful after his interactive discussion on Ancient Christianity and Homosexuality. The discussion was held in the Special Events Center on Tuesday evening.

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OPINION

4 THE ARBITER | APR 28 2005

Ann Coulter is a hurtful brand of pundit

BY RUBREY SALAZAR
Columnist

She was recently interviewed by Time magazine, and her image was bestowed on the cover. Ann Coulter, the demagogic ultra-conservative who is deeply despised by liberals for her lippy radicalism towards anyone left of John Ashcroft, has apparently made a legitimate profession out of hate. Evidently, Time must really be scraping the bottom of the yellow journalism barrel for their cover stories these days, if they are featuring a woman whom Jerry Falwell calls in the Time article, "a little aggressive."

What surprises me is how easily her ad hominem, screwball attacks have taken hold in America. Is this what public political discourse has been reduced to? An

educated woman of impressive resume status goes on talk shows to display her ignorance by spewing sensationalist sound bites, like "I think a baseball bat is the most effective way these days [to talk to liberals]" and "I'm so pleased with my gender. We're not that bright." Coulter has also written a few books on these subjects as well.

Throughout her books, which include titles like, "Slander: Liberal Lies About the American Right" and "How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must)", Coulter rattles the cages of liberal-thinkers with inciteful barrages. There is not a shred of regard or empathy for the other side of the coin, and she wallows in grossly offensive statements like a pig in warm mud. I suppose I am fascinated by the fascination. Maybe her no-

toriety has partly to do with her looks.

Coulter is an emaciated leggy blonde with a penchant for Ally McBeal power suits, the ones

Even the most pious fire and brimstone religious zealot would shy from saying as Coulter did, "God says, 'Earth is yours. Take it. Rape it. It's yours.'" Coulter seems to be the dangerous lunatic.

where the skirt just barely covers her skeletal derriere. In the Time article, the writer John Cloud at-

tributes Coulter as having a "willowy, sex-kitten pulchritude" and also wrote that she has "an aura of privilege [and] wealth." To me, Ann Coulter looks much like the women you might find in a back-water Nevada brothel. A pack-a-day, over-wrought, mouthy "lady" of the night with poorly dyed roots.

She did get crooked on white Bordeaux during her interview with Time magazine. White Bordeaux to Thunderbird wrapped in a brown paper bag is not a far leap if she ever buckles under the pressure of her controversial iconic existence. To not take her seriously, is advice better taken by herself. Coulter should try and avoid sleeping with the gin, or taking the "Limbaugh Ludes" (Vicodin), that will be just the angle her liberal fan base

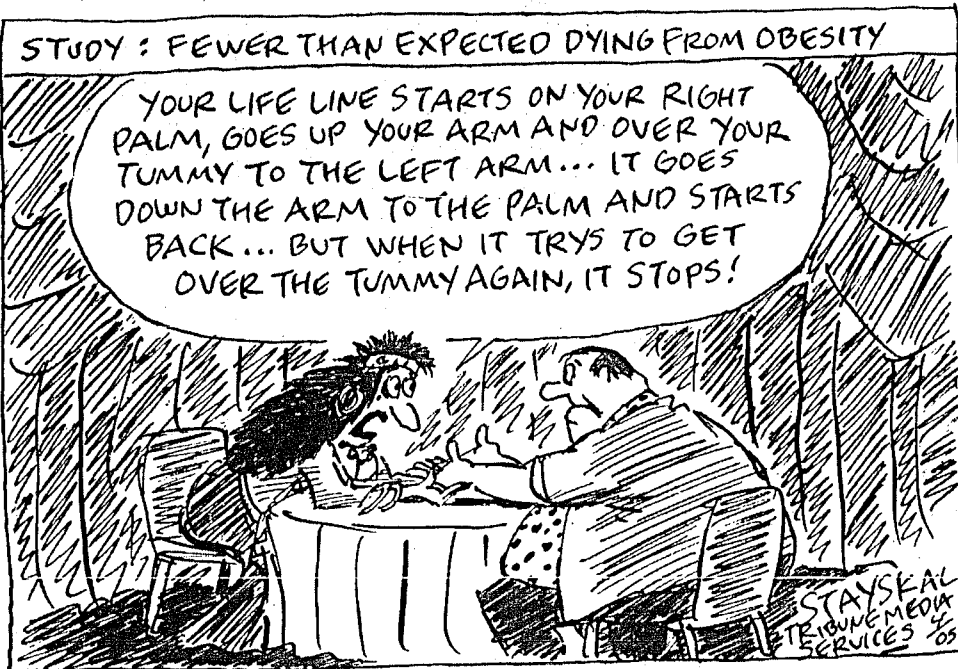
needs to discredit her entirely. Even if she holds it together, her name is only about five famous minutes away from becoming an FCC indecency violation.

Let's talk about Coulter's state of mind. Coulter insists it is liberals who are in need of a mental overhaul. She told a Frontpage Magazine reporter last year, "Liberalism is a mental defect. Liberals are wracked by self-loathing as the result of some traumatic incident. ...There was an absence of the sort of trauma that would deprive me of normal, instinctual reactions to things." Interesting. To be perfectly certain, not even the hardest nosed, far-right conservative would suggest that the United States nuke North Korea for fun. She is definitely lacking in international relations skills. Even the most pi-

ous fire and brimstone religious zealot would shy from saying as Coulter did, "God says, 'Earth is yours. Take it. Rape it. It's yours.'" Coulter seems to be the dangerous lunatic.

Metaphorically, she is a terrorist of ideas and has her bony fingers poised over the button that would detonate any and all freedom of thought. Conservatives, liberals, and everyone in between should worry about her level of celebrity. This country needs a civilized exchange on politics, which includes a modicum of deference.

Ann Coulter is not just snickering at liberals on her way to the bank, she is also toasting the appetite America has for the unintelligent rabble-rousing she so deftly produces. Hopefully her stock of white Bordeaux runs out soon.



Disaster by design: Confusing new food pyramid misleads

BY TIM RADAK
[KAT]

It took four years and a whopping \$2.4 million, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture has finally rolled out a redesigned version of the Food Guide Pyramid. Unveiled April 19, the new "MyPyramid" is supposed to offer Americans clear guidance on how to eat a nutritious diet and maintain a healthy weight.

But somewhere, somehow, this ambitious renovation project went terribly wrong. As a nutritionist, I think the result is an unsightly graphic that seems almost deliberately calculated to confuse and mislead consumers struggling with obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related illnesses.

The old pyramid, which was created in 1992, had flaws, and many consumers simply did not follow its advice. But it did offer one clear message: Eat more foods (such as vegetables and grains) from the wide spaces lower on the pyramid and fewer sweets and other foods from the narrow spaces near the top.

The new version, however, is a puzzling mess. The pyramid has been flipped over on its side. A prism of six colors now shoots through the inside, and a stick figure runs up a set of stairs to the top. In its simplest form, the new graphic does not feature any food icons for easy recognition. Instead, it offers color-coded wedges without pictures or labels.

Designed for the USDA by Porter Novelli International, a PR firm that has also worked for McDonald's and the Snack

Food Association, the new pyramid sports the slogan "Steps to a healthier you." But the new design actually represents a giant step backward on several important nutrition issues.

First, it's clearly intended to convince consumers that there are no bad foods. That message may please Porter Novelli's food-industry clients, but it's not consistent with the scientific evidence. All foods are not created equal when it comes to promoting health and preventing disease.

We've known for decades that saturated fat and cholesterol are key risk factors for cardiovascular disease, the nation's leading cause of death. Unfortunately, the new chart itself offers no warnings about these food constituents or the foods that contain them, though mild cautions can be found in the fine print below the larger version.

It's particularly disturbing that the milk group cuts such a broad swath through the new design. The USDA is now recommending three servings of dairy a day, even though fluid milk is already the largest source of saturated fat in children's diets, according to the National Institute of Child Health and Development.

The full-blown version of MyPyramid even features images of high-fat cheddar cheese. Not pictured are more healthful sources of calcium, including some soy foods. The 50 million Americans who are lactose intolerant will find this focus on dairy products particularly hard to stomach.

Second, MyPyramid doesn't offer a clear guide to healthy weight

loss. From the National Weight Control Registry to the China Health Study, research suggests that people who maintain a healthy weight over the long run tend to eat a low-fat, plant-based diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Such habits also reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

But MyPyramid offers no clear advice about choosing low-fat foods from plant sources. Instead, it seems to suggest that Americans can regularly eat high-fat fried chicken or lunch meat as long as they climb some stairs now and then. That's not a solution to our nation's weight problem - it's a recipe for expanding it.

Somewhat better advice, including tips on vegetarian diets, can be found on www.MyPyramid.gov, the new USDA Web site that lets visitors enter personal information to create a pyramid to suit their particular age and habits.

But such online resources don't meet the needs of consumers who do not or cannot use the Internet. What the country really needed was a simple graphic conveying a clear message about how to improve our eating habits.

By that measure, MyPyramid may be the most unsuccessful government construction project ever.

About The Writer

Tim Radak, nutrition director of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, 5100 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20016; Web site: www.pcrm.org.

Drought country here we come

BY ZACH UHLMANN
Columnist

Boise is fast approaching a seriously nasty dilemma that will put Idaho farmers and residents to the test. With a historically dry winter and shallow snowpack depths, Boise residents could see some changes in the water bill and a possible shortage of water supply.

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, nearly all of Idaho is on pace for a water shortage. Their analysis relies on assigning certain watersheds with a Surface Water Supply Index value based on both their pre-runoff reservoir storage (carryover from last year) and forecasts of spring and summer stream-flow. The numbers go from -4.0 to +4.0. The Boise region's SWSI is a -3.1, and water shortages for the Boise region occur anywhere below a -2.1. This potential shortage should hit farmers before it hits everyone else, and I think the water policy makers at Idaho Water Resources are on the right track with their recent water allocation decision.

The debate is already on the table as to whether farmers have the right to aquifer water or if Idaho residents should get priority. Irrigation to farms in Idaho already consumes 93% of water use in the state, while city populations use some of the remaining 7%, according to the Idaho Statesman. That is why Idaho Water Resources ordered 1,297 Eastern Snake Plain groundwater users to shut off their wells if they can't provide spring users with 133,000 acre-feet of water

this year.

To put 133,000 acre-feet of water into perspective, consider that the total of Boise River Reservoirs eclipses at a little more than one million acre-feet of water. So it's a lot of water being confiscated. Water rights leans on the credo, "First come, first served." Farmers who have more recently purchased and cultivated lots will inevitably be the ones stuck with parched, cropless farmland.

It's tough to decide who should lose their water, especially when it applies to farmers who need water to preserve their economic livelihood. But with a drought year like this one, which is preceded by a couple of years of semi-drought, water becomes the focus of a thirsty feeding frenzy.

Fortunately, Idaho policymakers understand the importance of water and the balance that must be struck between consumers and farmers when water supply is scarce. Low snowpack has a more painful trickle down effect than the way water trickles down from the mountains into creeks and rivers. With low snowpack and meager winter precipitation, people can expect water shortages, wildfires, and weaker recreation. The fact is, drought is good for nobody. It's terrible for farmers, it's expensive for us, and it's depressing for anglers, kayakers, wake-boarders. The only benefit it yields is more money for firefighters. The effect most people will notice is an increase in water costs.

The drought has been eminent since late January when Idaho, Washington, and Oregon realized that this winter was not just a late-

bloomer, it was a no-show. Luckily for water supply and St. Patrick's Day, March follows February, and when March came, it brought us the first month of 2005 with near-normal precipitation. Another positive for the Treasure Valley is that we don't live in Northern Idaho. Northern Idaho is at 50% snowpack. Central Idaho is at 60%-70% snowpack, while Southern and Eastern Idaho is between 70% and 85%.

For anyone interested in knowing where their water comes from, I'd be glad to tell you. United Water Idaho, which is a subsidiary of a French Company called Suez (the world's second largest water company), controls and treats Boise's water. Farmers, on the other hand, get their water from canals and irrigation, which is publicly owned and much cheaper. The water bills you pay go to United Water Idaho, and they will be the ones who ultimately dictate the cost of water.

It's going to be a hot, dry, and expensive summer, so all the help Boise can get is much appreciated. Thanks to Idaho Water Resources for laying down the law and regulating on someone besides college kids. As Warren G says, "Regulators ... we regulate any stealing of this property, and we're damn good too. But you can't be any geek off the street. You gotta be handy with the steel if you know what I mean. You gotta earn your keep. REGULATORS, mount up!" IWR definitely mounted up, and it's great we have Regulators out there watching our backs and keeping lawns lush, showers flowing, and slip 'n slides on the sales rack at Wal-Mart.

Have something to say?

Guest opinions of no more than 500 words may be submitted for publication on any topic. Letters to the editor must not exceed 300 words and must include the writer's full name, city, state and major (if applicable). All submissions are subject to editing. Both guest opinions and letters to the editor may be sent via e-mail at letters@arbiteronline.com.



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culture



So, anyway...

BSU's NSAC team got hosed!

BY TRAVIS ESTVOLD
Culture Columnist

I'm a marketing student, yes, I've mentioned it before. And according to the adviser for Marketing 401/402, local businessman Jay Longwell, his classes are the best experience BSU marketing students can have preparing for a life in the biz. Sure, there'll be stress, he said last summer, but it will be worth it to take part in the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC).

So let me describe the layout of the class a bit. 401/402 is a two-semester, year-long class in which students take a crack at helping a national company that wants to get college students' input on what it should do in its advertising campaigns. The first semester is devoted to researching who they are selling to, what do these people like, how do they reach these people, where are they located, etc. The second term is for formulating a detailed plans book outlining the strategies involved in the process, then developing a 20-minute presentation that will be shown in front of judges at a regional competition. (That may not sound like much, but believe me, it is a loooong process.)

This year, the NSAC District XI regionals were held right here in Boise, a fact that Longwell used to boost the urgency of the Boise State team. "We don't want to lose on our home turf," he kept uttering. And everyone on the team bought into it.

The 13 individuals in the class, including myself, pulled together through hell and high water - and what could be called a boatload of personality (and scheduling) conflicts - and developed a phenomenal campaign for this year's client, the venerable Yahoo!, geared toward teens. Though it seemingly came together at the last moment, it was spot on. It addressed all of the client's goals and delivered it to them in a gorgeous package. It addressed the problems Yahoo! has had at reaching teens and repackaged their products into a new site, selling the concept of freedom. Going about a week straight without sleep, the team's graphic designer and account executive pushed the limits of human capacity to get the plans book done in time, and the rest of the team followed suit.

We showed up to the regional competition last Friday tired and nervous, yet well-prepared and full of confidence. After drawing to determine in what order schools would present, we ended up second out of seven attending teams. When our time came, our speakers nailed the presentation. We had awesome music playing ("Get Free" by The Vines), subtle, clever commercials (that featured "teens" dancing by themselves, in a field, and while vacuuming), and a slick powerpoint show.

The rest of the day we hopped from presentation to presentation, and two others stood out in our collective minds as being high-caliber. U of O's squad, hailing from one of the most highly touted advertising schools in the country, was very professional, and Montana's was solid on all bases.

Conversely, we chuckled at the seeming lack of insight by U of I, who tried to be clever in marketing the Yahoo! exclamation point,

and all out laughed at Portland State (the team that edged out BSU for the top spot last year) for their bizarre tagline "Click On, Click In, Click Ass."

Judging took place that evening, and the winners were announced at the gala dinner. Third place went to U of I. What the...? We looked around a bit, partially stunned. Their campaign was called "Sha-dunk," the apparent sound made when you draw an exclamation point with a really loud pencil (!). Second place went to BYU-Idaho, for their campaign surrounding driving and granting a Yahoo! license to teen users.

We held our breath, certain that BSU or U of O would be announced next. And the winner? Portland State! Uhhhhhhhhhh... What? What the...? Huh? Yes, the rest of the teams looked confused as well. The team that thought "Click Ass" was a good fit with Yahoo!'s current position as the "Life Engine," and who dared to show dancing robots and flirty Oompa-Loompas in their commercials, covered up the Yahoo! logo in their print ads with a sticker, and who furthermore claimed in their presentation that "teens love puzzles," took home top honors for our district.

I'm not sure what the judges were drinking, but I know that I don't want any. It obviously kills brain cells. Maybe it was anti-freeze? It's supposed to taste sort of sweet; that's why dogs lick it off the driveway on occasion.

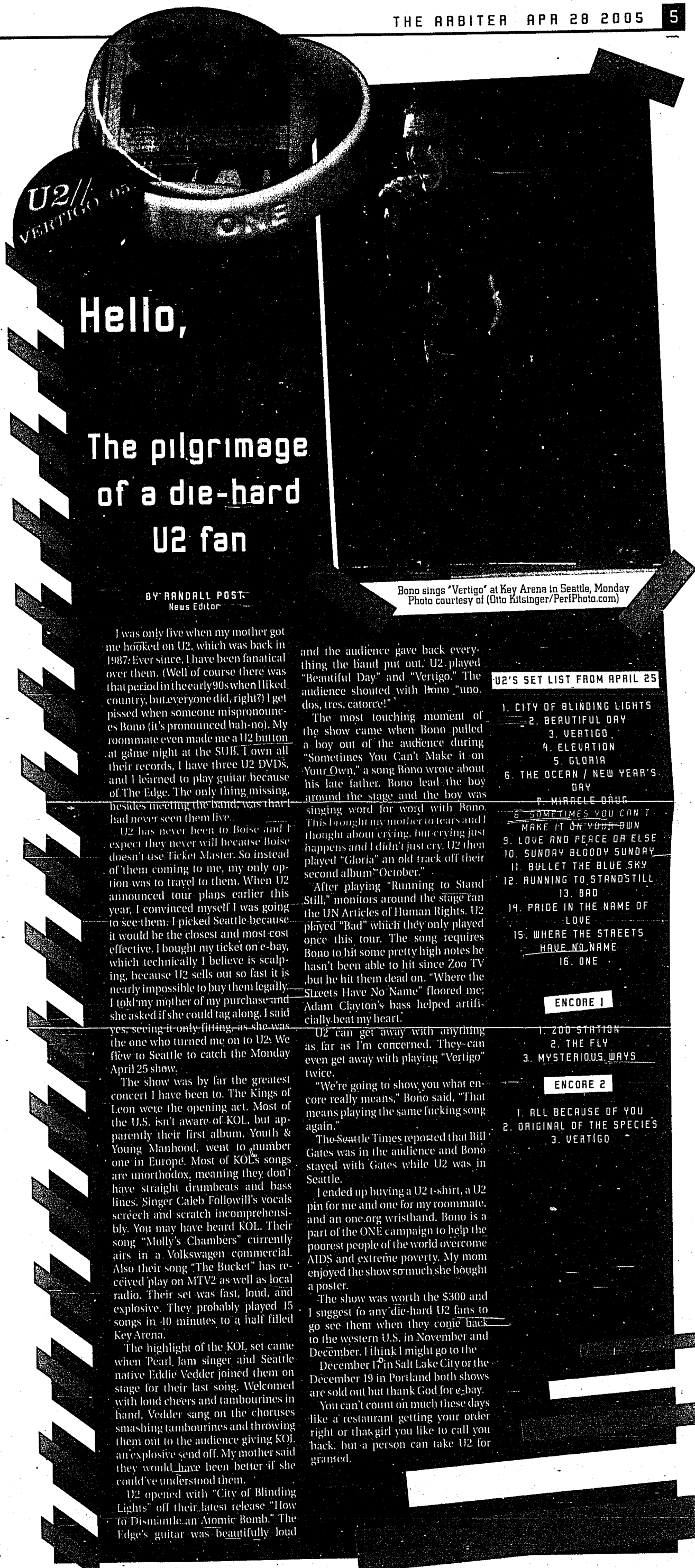
In the critique of our team the following morning, what the judges told us flew entirely in the face of the client directives delivered to all the teams at the start of fall term: Don't be funny, don't change the Yahoo! brand image, and engage teens. Turns out, they wanted something "out there." They wanted the envelope pushed. Essentially, in my view, they wanted a pile of crap. I just wished they had told us sooner. I could have taken a dump on a blank piece of paper in the first couple weeks of the term, mailed it in, and saved myself the sleepless nights.

So, anyway, I'm not bitter. And don't get me wrong; all seven of the regionally-participating teams should be commended. It takes a huge commitment to the cause to put together a year-long advertising pitch, and all seven produced some amazing results.

It's the judges that that drove me nuts. (There was even a Simon Cowell-esque character judging, if you can believe that, and he was just as annoying.) So I tell you what, next year, when the judges show up to the regional competition, the drinks will be on me. Antifreeze on the rocks for all!

(On one final note: I would like to make a pitch to students about signing up for next year's Marketing 401/402 class. It truly is a one-of-a-kind experience.

Under Jay Longwell's expert tutelage, you will learn an unbelievable amount about marketing and the advertising business. And FYI, the team is comprised of the cream-of-the-crop of marketing and design students. If you are at all interested, you should either contact a member of this year's team, Mr. Longwell, or virtually any professor in the marketing department.)



Hello,

The pilgrimage of a die-hard U2 fan

BY RANDALL POST
News Editor

I was only five when my mother got me hooked on U2, which was back in 1987. Ever since, I have been fanatical over them. (Well of course there was that period in the early 90s when I liked country, but everyone did, right?) I get pissed when someone mispronounces Bono (it's pronounced bab-no). My roommate even made me a U2 button at game night at the SUB. I own all their records, I have three U2 DVDs, and I learned to play guitar because of The Edge. The only thing missing, besides meeting the band, was that I had never seen them live.

U2 has never been to Boise and I expect they never will because Boise doesn't use Ticket Master. So instead of them coming to me, my only option was to travel to them. When U2 announced tour plans earlier this year, I convinced myself I was going to see them. I picked Seattle because it would be the closest and most cost effective. I bought my ticket on e-bay, which technically I believe is scalping, because U2 sells out so fast it is nearly impossible to buy them legally. I told my mother of my purchase and she asked if she could tag along. I said yes, seeing it only fitting, as she was the one who turned me on to U2. We flew to Seattle to catch the Monday April 25 show.

The show was by far the greatest concert I have been to. The Kings of Leon were the opening act. Most of the U.S. isn't aware of KOL, but apparently their first album, Youth & Young Manhood, went to number one in Europe. Most of KOL's songs are unorthodox, meaning they don't have straight drumbeats and bass lines. Singer Caleb Followill's vocals screech and scratch incomprehensibly. You may have heard KOL. Their song "Molly's Chambers" currently airs in a Volkswagen commercial. Also their song "The Bucket" has received play on MTV2 as well as local radio. Their set was fast, loud, and explosive. They probably played 15 songs in 40 minutes to a half filled Key Arena.

The highlight of the KOL set came when Pearl Jam singer and Seattle native Eddie Vedder joined them on stage for their last song. Welcomed with loud cheers and tambourines in hand, Vedder sang on the choruses smashing tambourines and throwing them out to the audience giving KOL an explosive send off. My mother said they would have been better if she could've understood them.

U2 opened with "City of Blinding Lights" off their latest release "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb." The Edge's guitar was beautifully loud

and the audience gave back everything the band put out. U2 played "Beautiful Day" and "Vertigo." The audience shouted with Bono "uno, dos, tres, catorce!"

The most touching moment of the show came when Bono pulled a boy out of the audience during "Sometimes You Can't Make it on Your Own," a song Bono wrote about his late father. Bono lead the boy around the stage and the boy was singing word for word with Bono. This brought my mother to tears and I thought about crying, but crying just happens and I didn't just cry. U2 then played "Gloria" an old track off their second album "October."

After playing "Running to Stand Still," monitors around the stage ran the UN Articles of Human Rights. U2 played "Bad" which they only played once this tour. The song requires Bono to hit some pretty high notes he hasn't been able to hit since Zoo TV, but he hit them dead on. "Where the Streets Have No Name" floored me; Adam Clayton's bass helped artificially beat my heart.

U2 can get away with anything as far as I'm concerned. They can even get away with playing "Vertigo" twice.

"We're going to show you what encore really means," Bono said. "That means playing the same fucking song again."

The Seattle Times reported that Bill Gates was in the audience and Bono stayed with Gates while U2 was in Seattle.

I ended up buying a U2 t-shirt, a U2 pin for me and one for my roommate, and an one.org wristband. Bono is a part of the ONE campaign to help the poorest people of the world overcome AIDS and extreme poverty. My mom enjoyed the show so much she bought a poster.

The show was worth the \$300 and I suggest to any die-hard U2 fans to go see them when they come back to the western U.S. in November and December. I think I might go to the December 19 in Salt Lake City or the December 19 in Portland both shows are sold out but thank God for e-bay.

You can't count on much these days like a restaurant getting your order right or that girl you like to call you back, but a person can take U2 for granted.

Bono sings "Vertigo" at Key Arena in Seattle, Monday
Photo courtesy of (Otto Kilsinger/PerfPhoto.com)

U2'S SET LIST FROM APRIL 25

1. CITY OF BLINDING LIGHTS
2. BEAUTIFUL DAY
3. VERTIGO
4. ELEVATION
5. GLORIA
6. THE OCEAN / NEW YEAR'S DAY
7. MIRACLE DRUG
8. SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T MAKE IT ON YOUR OWN
9. LOVE AND PEACE OR ELSE
10. SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY
11. BULLET THE BLUE SKY
12. RUNNING TO STANDSTILL
13. BAD
14. PRIDE IN THE NAME OF LOVE
15. WHERE THE STREETS HAVE NO NAME
16. ONE

ENCORE 1

1. ZOO STATION
2. THE FLY
3. MYSTERIOUS WAYS

ENCORE 2

1. ALL BECAUSE OF YOU
2. ORIGINAL OF THE SPECIES
3. VERTIGO

Boise State Radio organizes Arbor Day planting

BY TRAVIS ESTVOLD
Culture Editor

According to arborday.org, "The last Friday in April marks the 133rd anniversary of the Tree-Planting Holiday!" So, in case you have been hibernating with Punxsutawney Phil since the beginning of February, then tomorrow is your chance to wake up, get out, and plant a tree. The site continues, "The idea for

Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska. A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet it was the lack of trees that led to the founding of Arbor Day" in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton.

His legacy lives on, and Boise State Radio is doing their part to stimulate student interest on campus for tomorrow's holiday.

At 9:30 a.m., a group of about 12 individuals will begin plant-

ing four trees around campus - two Linden trees (one at the south entrance to the Liberal Arts building and one at the east side of the Culinary Arts facility), one Maple tree (at the north end of the Science and Nursing building), and one Deodar east of the Automotive building.

Boise State Radio's Vida Smith said of the group's motivation: "We wanted to do something that helped the environment, but also

beautified the campus." With only four of the necessary 12 volunteers currently signed up, Smith is looking for additional helpers to help make this project a reality, and "to be a part of something good." T-shirts will be given out to volunteers.

For more information or to get involved, call Vida Smith ASAP at 426-3663.

Janey & The Professor

by B.E.E.M.

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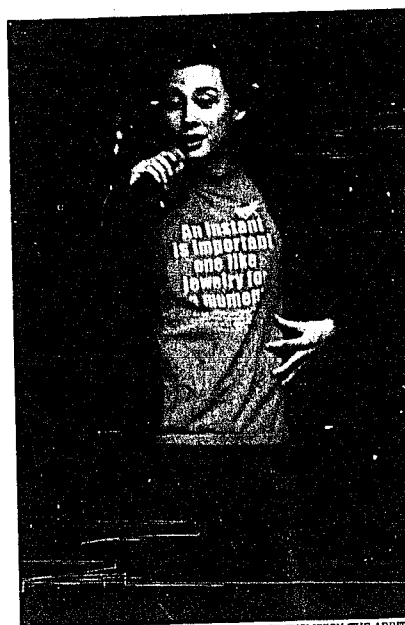
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Toast & Roast

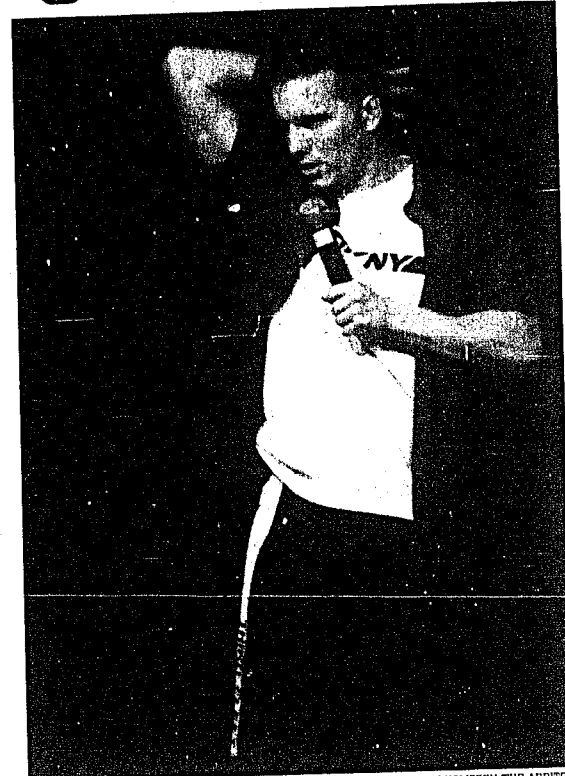
NAUGHTY or NICE,
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Monday Night Laughs



KT Tataru (above) engages with the crowd at the third and final Monday Night Laughs in the Jordan D Ballroom.



Zack Miller (right) engages with the crowd at the third and final Monday Night Laughs in the Jordan D Ballroom.

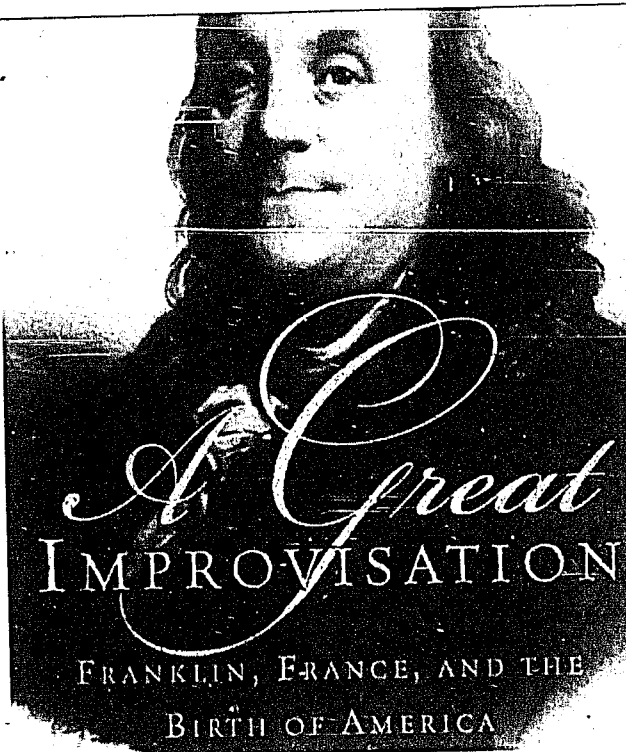
"A Great Improvisation" gives new insight into Franklin's work in France

BY MARIJANE WEITENSTEINER
Culture Writer

In Stacy Schiff's newest book, "A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France and the Birth of America," readers get a different look at Benjamin Franklin's trip to France as one of America's first ambassadors. Franklin was ambassador to France from 1776 to 1785, but most Americans know very little about what he did there, who his friends were, and what happened afterwards. This book gives those answers and plunges into the timeline of the American Revolutionary War and into the life of one of the country's most famous founding fathers.

The text covers little known facts about Franklin's friends, his health, and how his choices affected those around him. Among those who were closest to Franklin during this time was one of his grandsons, Temple, whose father had been disowned by Benjamin Franklin because of his loyalties to the king and his basic attitude toward his father. Temple Franklin is just one of the interesting and vocal people that readers encounter during the trip through France.

As I read through the book, I found it surprising how little many of Franklin's American comrades thought of him. Many



thought he was a pompous, talkative, foolish, conceited old man who simply thought himself brilliant, when in fact Franklin was brilliant.

Franklin wasn't paid for the time he spent abroad due largely to the many enemies he made during his life by the way he acted and carried out business.

Benjamin Franklin died on April 17, 1790, in his home in Philadelphia, Pa., but his brilliant actions, inventions, and the government he helped found and represent in France, still live on.

The Pita Pit

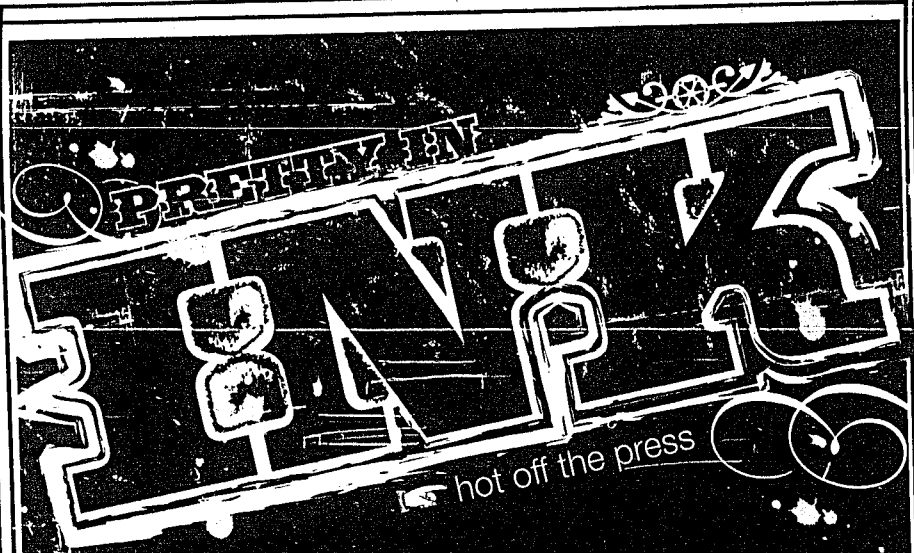
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May 5, 2005

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Speakers @ 7:30pm



Art Department



BOISE STATE

NCA

Where's the action?

haop in rhe netr pesen dæxp...

TODAY (4/28)

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the REC patio

Cycle learning center. The Outdoor Program is conducting a drop-in clinic on how to fix your bicycle, every Thursday for the rest of the term. Mechanics will be on-site to teach problem solving and minor adjustments, and to help identify larger problems. One note: you can't drop off your bike; the clinic is interactive. And it's free!

7:30 p.m. in the Morrison Center

The Spencers' Theater of Illusion. Infusing magic with movement, cloaked in music and woven with physical expression, The Spencers' Theatre of Illusion takes their audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. As easily as they conjure amazement, they create intimate, compelling portraits that run the gamut of emotions—from "side-splitting" comedy to "on the edge of your seat" high drama. Tickets are \$20, \$18 and \$15, with discounts available for children 12 and under.

FRIDAY (4/29)

6 p.m. on the quad

VSB's Shack City. The homelessness awareness event that was scheduled to occur Friday, April 8, has been rescheduled for April 29. Students are encouraged to come out, spend the night in a city of cardboard, and experience what it's like to live on the street. Building materials will be provided, but participants should bring warm clothes and bedding. For more information, call 841-1402, or visit arbiteronline.com for the archived story entitled "VSB set to 'shack up' in quad tomorrow."

8:30 - 11 p.m. on the roof of the Education Building

Night sky viewing with telescopes. Come check out Boise's gorgeous night skies. Though participation is free, a \$2 donation is encouraged. For more information, call 850-2655.

SATURDAY (4/30)

9 a.m. in the Student Union Building, near the Brava Stage

VSB Service Saturday. Join in this unique way to meet other volunteers while participating in service projects around the community. A free breakfast will be served at 8:45. Call 426-4240 for more information.

8 p.m. in the Morrison Center

"Friends of 'The Bob and Tom Show.'" Drew Hastings, Pat Godwin, Mike Birbiglia and Henry Phillips will be doing stand-up comedy. Tickets are \$24.50.

MONDAY (5/2)

7:30 p.m. in the Morrison Center

Mary Chapin-Carpenter and Mindy Smith in concert. Tickets are \$35 and \$25.

TUESDAY (5/3)

6 p.m. at The Venue

Bury Your Dead, The Red Chord, A Life Once Lost and If Hope Dies in concert. Tickets are \$10, and the first 100 concert-goers who come through the door get a free sampler CD from Metal Blade records.

No jalopies for these students

BY LESLIE BRODY
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

HACKENSACK, N.J. - Alex Tsaor loves his sporty black Audi S4. It has soft leather seats, satellite radio, all-wheel drive, and a moon roof. When leased last fall, it was worth more than \$50,000. Tsaor says he earned it - by pleasing his parents with As and Bs in school.

In the wealthy enclaves of north Jersey, 18-year-old Tsaor is hardly unusual driving a prestige car at a tender age. His beloved Audi has good company in the seniors' parking lot at Tenafly High School. One recent afternoon, the 122 cars sparkling in the sun included 13 BMWs, eight Mercedes-Benzes, seven Lexuses, and six fellow Audis, plus a sampling of Volkswagens and beefy sport-utility vehicles.

"It's Tenafly," Tsaor says with a shrug. "It's one of those towns where you're pressured, kind of obligated to get a nice car. Your friends have a nice car, you have a nice car. It's a social thing."

"Girls see you more," he adds. "They see you have a nice car; they know you're rich."

And fast. As Tsaor squeals out of his parking spot, he swerves to avoid a car backing up. The noisy scene is commonplace after the last bell rings at affluent local high schools, where students often boast more expensive rides than their teachers.

Across the country, the number of cars sold to teens has zoomed, from 4.76 million in 1985 to 7.78 million in 2003, according to CNW Marketing Research, which tracks auto sales. So has the share of parents footing the bill. Twenty years ago, parents fully paid for 19.5 percent of teens' cars. By 2003, that had risen to 38 percent.

Yet only a tiny slice of all those motoring American teens are driving prestige or luxury cars - just one in 100, according to CNW. That would seem to indicate North Jersey's youth are especially well-wheeled.

The parents who are willing to sign the leases or sales contracts say they are seeking safe cars for their kids, but others say such reasoning is misguided.

Side airbags, anti-lock brakes, and other safety features are easy to find on moderately priced cars, notes Phil Reed, a senior editor



Alex Tsaor, 18, outside his family home in Tenafly, New Jersey, with his leased 2004 Audi S4 on Tuesday, April 5, 2005.

at Edmunds.com, a car rating service. He says he's frequently "stunned" by the high-end cars parents are buying for children.

"There seems to be a tendency, especially for dads, to want to buy cars they think will make their sons or daughters popular," he says. "I think it's a huge mistake, but the whole concept of buying a car that will make you happy is deep in the American psyche."

Reed also warns against giving teens sports cars: "If you buy a teenager a performance car, he'll drive it like a performance car. That's the last thing you want."

Andrew Troyano, a senior at Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan, N.J., has an inkling. He got a ticket for driving his black BMW Z3 convertible at 39 mph in a 25 mph zone.

"Cops always follow me as soon as they see me," he says. Others confess - with a hint of pride - that they often speed.

Some students work for their wheels. John Swierkocki of Wayne, N.J., paid \$6,000 toward the 1999 Land Rover his parents bought last month for his 17th birthday, paying \$20,000 second-hand. He made \$4,000 as a golf caddy last summer and plans to earn more to put in a sound system. "I'm half spoiled," he says with a smile.

Scott Covitz, 18, juggles two jobs - one at a gas station, the other at a telemarketing firm - to cover the insurance and \$320 lease pay-

ments on his 2004 Infiniti G35, which cost roughly \$40,000. His teachers at Northern Valley "assume I'm a spoiled rich kid, but my dad makes me pay for it," he says. "I take pride in paying for it myself."

Others treasure nearly new hand-me-downs from parents or siblings. Sarah Brennan, a 17-year-old at Northern Valley, is thrilled to have her brother's black 2001 BMW 330Ci while he's at college.

"I'm really lucky," she says. "It's every teenager's dream." The sense that passers-by might judge them harshly - or that jealous students might "key" their cars - upsets some of the young drivers. They say they study hard and help their parents by chauffeuring siblings around.

Some families aren't comfortable talking about these cars at all. Several parents never responded to a reporter's query about the high-end cars they had given their teenagers. Four who did call back declined to discuss their choices. As one father tartly put it, "What I do for my kids is nobody's business."

And some students admit feeling sheepish when they pass teachers in cheaper cars.

"I kind of feel a little awkward," says Nima Zahedi, a 17-year-old Tenafly junior who switches between his parents' two Mercedes. "They probably think, why does a

junior have this kind of car?"

But another Tenafly student, who owns a BMW - and whose mother insisted that he not be identified - has no such qualms. "They chose to be a teacher and knew what kind of salary they were choosing," he says. "I know teachers who drive BMWs, too."

Brook Zelcer, an English teacher at Northern Valley, drives a 1999 Toyota RAV4. Growing up in Fair Lawn, N.J., he says, he was happy to use his family's clunker - a Buick Skylark. Now, he says, it's disturbingly common to hear students say, "I got in an accident in my BMW, so my dad bought me another one."

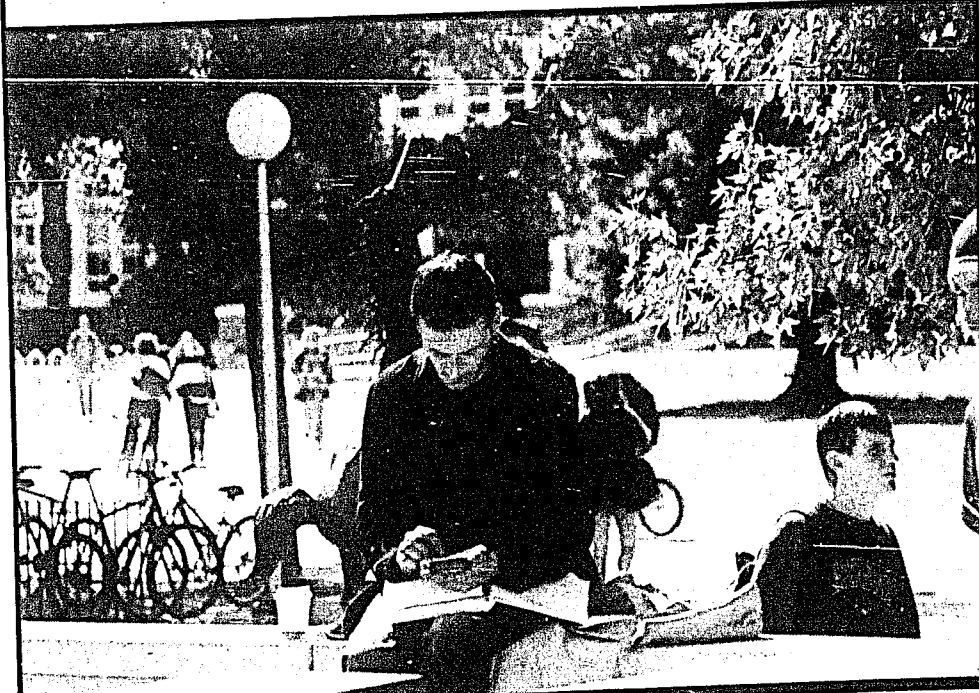
Zelcer says lessons about the value of saving and charity - and the downside of buying more than you need - are often ignored.

"Their parents' voices speak through them. They say if you work hard for your money, why can't you spend it the way you want? All kinds of rationalizations to justify selfish behavior and indulgence," he says.

Indeed, for these families, the ritual of buying a first car may be one of the rare areas where teens and parents are thinking alike.

Students argue their parents are "wrong about everything," Zelcer says, "except when it comes to politics or ways to spend money. Then it's 'my father or mother knows everything.'"

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sports

8 THE ARBITER | APR 28 2005

[SIDE-LINE]

Bronco men's ranked 14th

The Boise State University men's track and field team fell into a three-way tie for 14th in this week's Trackwire 25 rankings. The poll is based on projected NCAA national championship meet scores.

The men's team is tied with Mississippi State and the University of Michigan with 18 points. The Broncos were ranked 13th in last week's poll. The University of Arkansas continues to hold down the number one ranking with 69 points.

Three members of the men's team are ranked in this week's individual Trackwire standings. Gabe Wallin, the defending NCAA national champion in the javelin, continues to be the top ranked javelin thrower, with a season best mark of 258 feet, 6 inches. Mattias Jons is second in the hammer with a throw of 227-10, and Scott Viafore is 10th in the javelin with a throw of 225-2.

On the women's side, Neely Falgout is ranked ninth in the javelin with a throw of 165-10, and Miruna Mataoanu is 11th in the high jump at 5-10.75.

In this week's NCAA descending order list for individual events, three Broncos are listed in the men's javelin. Wallin has the country's top javelin throw, while Viafore is ranked 12th nationally and fourth in the West region. Nate Putnam is listed 33rd nationally and 12th in the west region, with a throw of 209-8.

Jons has the country's second best hammer throw and the number one mark in the west region. Men's discus thrower Staffan Jonsson has the nation's 22nd best mark at 181-2 and the ninth best throw in the west region.

On the women's side, Falgout's javelin throw is the 11th best in the country, and third best in the west region. Mataoanu has the country's 18th best high jump, and fourth best mark in the west region.

The track and field teams are back in action this Sunday at the Cardinal Qualifier at Stanford University.

Men's tennis signs Feeder

The Boise State men's tennis program has signed Kean Feeder, one of the top junior players in the country, to a financial aid tender. Feeder, from Portland, Ore., will join the Broncos in the fall of 2005 as a sophomore. He is currently finishing his freshman year at Cascade College in Portland.

Kean won several tournaments and a number of national championships in his junior tennis career and was ranked in the top five nationally. He was a member of the US Junior National Team (2000-03).

"Kean is one of the premiere young tennis players in the nation. He adds a gourmet spice to our menu that will help make the Bronco program a dynasty," Boise State coach Greg Patton said.

The Boise State men's team won the 2005 WAC championship this past weekend and is currently waiting to see if the team will get to host an NCAA first round match the weekend of May 13-14.

Broncos re-claim WAC title, but the story does not end there

BY AMBER FUGER
Sports Writer

A week in Hawaii right before the end of the semester would seem like a vacation for most college students, but for the Boise State men's tennis team, the week they spent in Hawaii was more of an adventure. Head coach Greg Patton said that the team was all about getting down to business. The Broncos took care of business in a dramatic fashion that only Patton's army could pull off.

Last Saturday, the Broncos found themselves in a tight situation after losing the doubles point to Tulsa. Boise State's fate rested on the shoulders of six individual Broncos. Four of those six had to win their singles matches in order to advance to the Western Athletic Conference championship match.

At the no. four spot, senior Ikaika Jobe came through for the Broncos defeating Tulsa's Diego Camacho 6-4, 6-4. Then, senior Beck Roghaar came through at the no. six spot, beating Andy Connelly of Tulsa 6-3, 6-2. Freshman Eric Roberson played a tough match at the no. five spot to pull out the win over Tulsa's Lucques Maasdorp 7-6, 6-4. All the pressure of winning this crucial match shifted onto the shoulders of junior Thomas Schoeck. Playing with aggression and mental clarity is tough in a tight match, but Schoeck was able to push past his fatigue and win the match 7-5, 7-5 over Ricardo Soriano of Tulsa, advancing the Broncos to the title match.

Sunday, the Broncos were faced with the challenge of stripping the conference title from Rice. Defending champions Rice won the title in 2004, but the Broncos won the title in 2003 and were eager to re-claim it. Down two breaks at the no. one, two, and three doubles spots, the Broncos found themselves in a bind, but were able to bring it home and clinch the doubles point. "Winning the doubles point against Rice was critical. ... It really was the key to winning the match," Patton said.

The match was far from over, and



The 2005 Boise State men's tennis team won the WAC title, and now wait to see if they will host the opening rounds of the NCAA tournament. Courtesy Hawaii Athletics

the Broncos had to make sure to shut Rice out in the singles matches. The final outcome came down to the two freshmen, Shields and Roberson. "His [Shields] brain was sharper than a Swiss Army knife. ... He was exhausted and still tortured his opponent to the point of hospitalization," Patton said.

Shields defeated WAC Player of the Year Robert Searle of Rice 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-2. Schoeck defeated Tony Haerle of Rice 6-0, 6-3. Rice was able to win at the three, four, and six spots. The critical match for both teams came down to the no. five spot. Surrounded by fans and teammates, Roberson and Rodrigo Gabriel battled it out in 35 minutes of intense college tennis, but only one could claim victory. Roberson won the

match and the title for the Broncos as he closed out match 1-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

The Broncos are once again WAC champions. Shields was named WAC Freshman of the Year and is a member of the 2005 All-WAC First Team, along with doubles teammate Schoeck. Senior Matias Silva is on the All-WAC Second Team, and Patton has been named WAC Coach of the Year.

The scenario may seem like the perfect ending to an outstanding 30-7 season, but the Broncos are greedy, and they want more. What Patton would like to see is the first round of the NCAA national championship to be played in Boise. Finishing 30th in the nation, the Broncos get an automatic bid. What would be even better is to

have the Broncos competing in nationals. Shields and Schoeck finished 10th in the nation for their dynamic doubles play. Shields also finished 45th in the nation for his singles play, and as a team, the Broncos finished 30th, so the collegiate team is in, a singles player is in, and a doubles team is in. "BSU will be well represented," Patton said.

The final chapter of the 2005 BSU men's tennis team epic drama will be written in the middle of May. The first and second rounds of the NCAA national championships will be May 13-14 or May 14-15. The finals will be held May 21-30 at Texas A&M. As to whether Boise State will be hosting the first round, stay tuned.

Have no fear, "Underdogs" are here

BY TREVOR HOAN
Sports Editor

Given the fact that Boise State football players have sat and waited during the last two NFL drafts without a single name called, one would think the NFL wants nothing to do with this program.

Yet, this week, four former Broncos received phone calls from teams expressing interest in them via free agency.

Last season, Ryan Dinwiddie went undrafted, following his stellar career as a Bronco. The NCAA all-time leader in passing efficiency is now playing in NFL Europe via the Chicago Bears. The same Bears that gave Tim Gilligan a shot last season and drafted Brock Forsey the year before. Now, it's Tyler Jones' turn to get a shot from the Bears.

"I think that the scouts that are responsible for the Chicago Bears like Boise State and like how we are coached here," Chris Carr said.

Three other Broncos received free agent contracts this week. Return specialist Chris Carr is headed to the Bay Area for the Oakland Raiders' three-day mini camp this weekend in hopes of making the team. Four-year starter Gabe Franklin will be in southern California, after signing a contract with the San Diego Chargers, and Lawrence Bady will get his shot with the Atlanta Falcons.

Bady may have the toughest time making the roster of the four players, but he has a familiar face waiting for him in Atlanta. Former Boise State wide receivers coach Robert Prince was the driving factor in getting Bady his shot with the Falcons. Prince, who is now a member of the coaching staff in Atlanta, was Bady's receiver's coach during his junior year at Boise State, and the same season Bady led the nation in yards per reception. Now, reunited with his former coach, Bady is ready and willing to give it all.

"I'm very excited. This is the time of

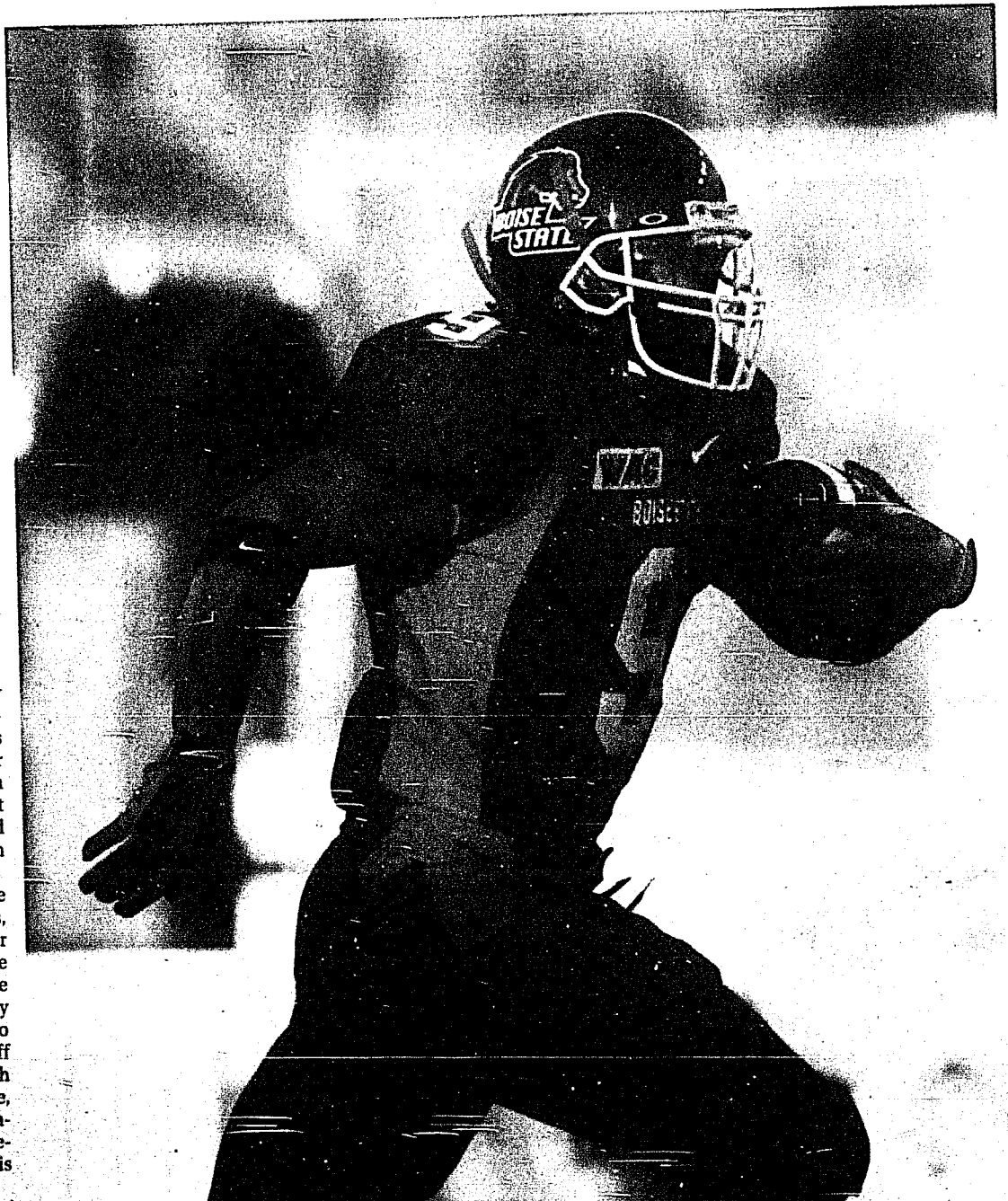


PHOTO BY STANLEY BREWSTER/THE ARBITER

See Underdogs [page 12] Lawrence Bady (5) is one of four former Broncos from the 2004 WAC championship team to sign free agent contracts in the NFL.

this week in SPORTS

Track and field
Sun., Cardinal
Qualifier
Stanford
University, Palo
Alto, Calif.

Men's golf
Sat-Mon., WAC
championships
Ruston, La.

Bronco men's golf heads to WAC championship

BY JEREMY RASMUSSEN
Sports Writer

Boise State's men's golf team will tee off on Monday, May 2, in the 2005 Wells Fargo Western Athletic Conference Men's Golf Championship Tournament. The team will travel to Choudrant, La., as Louisiana Tech will host the tournament at the Squire Creek Country Club.

The Broncos finished last year's WAC tournament tied with Fresno State in fourth place. SMU was crowned conference champ last year and will be looking to repeat while fending off the 2003 and 2002 champions, Fresno State and Tulsa. At last year's tournament, Tulsa's David

Inglis became the second golfer in NCAA history to win is conference title four years in a row. The only other player to do it was pro golfer Justin Leonard at Texas.

2004 All-WAC First Team honoree Graham DeLaet is red-shirting this year with plans to return to the Bronco team next season when they host the WAC championships here in Boise.

"He has definitely been missed," head coach Mike Young said of DeLaet. "It makes a 15 to 20 stroke difference in the tournaments without him here."

The Broncos came away with a second place finish in the Bronco Round-Up last October here in Boise. BSU Juniors Brett Kleinkopf and Jason Williams

both placed in the top 10 at fourth and ninth to help the Broncos' standing. Another Bronco junior, Adam Choy, is the team's top finisher from last year's WAC title, where Choy finished tied for eighth. Choy leads the Broncos with three top 15 finishes this season, highlighted by a tie for sixth at the Miranda Falcon Invitational at the beginning of the season.

The Broncos closed out the season with a 17th place finish at the Ping Cougar Classic and a ninth place finish in the Wyoming Cowboy Classic. Williams and Freshman Matt Hastings were the Broncos' top finishers as they tied for 48th in the BYU tournament. Hastings picked up a top

10 finish in the Wyoming tournament, finishing eighth. Fellow freshman Nick Travers also had a successful tournament as he finished tied for 42nd.

Hastings' showing at the Cowboy Classic could have wound up much better for the freshman if it weren't for a little bad luck. A pitch onto the green on one particular hole would have put him in position to birdie had it not struck another ball and rolled out of bounds to cost Hastings two strokes. He ended the hole with a double bogey. The birdie would have given him a three stroke swing and possibly won him the tournament.

"Right now Matt Hastings is our best player," coach Young

said. "He started coming on late in the fall and never looked back. He kind of reminds me of DeLaet when he was a freshman."

Coach Young has been leading the Bronco men's golf team for a few years now, after many years with the wrestling team. This year's team being so young, with freshman like Hastings and a solid core of juniors coming back next year when DeLaet returns, coach Young will have something to look forward to in years to come after what he hopes will be a successful showing on Monday.

the roche approach



Say what?

Lacrosse is the next big thing?

BY MIKE ROCHE
Sports Columnist in Shock

Lacrosse is the next big thing? Let me just cash my chips and tip my waitress. Lacrosse is the next big thing? I just canceled my Sports Illustrated subscription. Lacrosse is the next big thing? Look out Mexico, I'm moving in.

The April 25 issue of Sports Illustrated featured a nine, yes, nine page lacrosse story from Alexander Wolff. He described the sport as "the fastest growing" and "cool." He might actually be right about the first part, off base with the latter, and completely wrong in his entire motive for his argument. Lacrosse is the next big thing? I believe they said the same for Ryan Leaf, Alex.

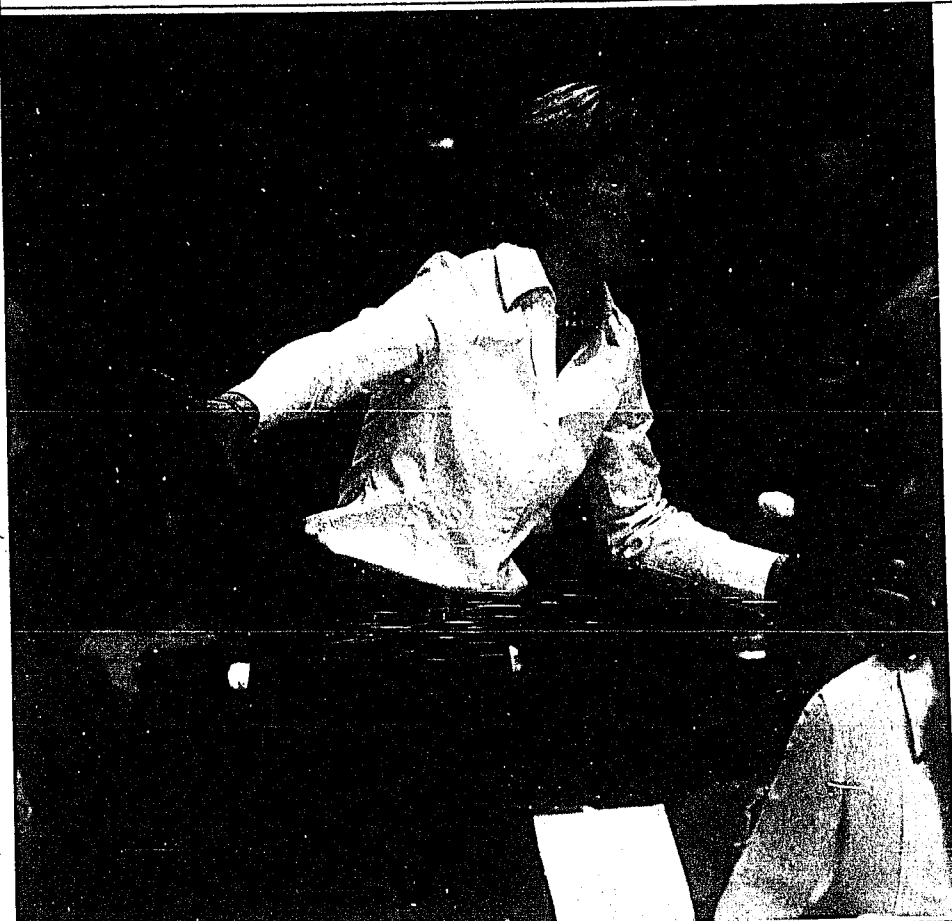
It has been hard to ignore the sudden manifest destiny of this Ivy-League concoction of athletics. For whatever reason, many westerners are ditching their old passions and picking up pool cleaners. While some time ago you could only see it on ESPN, usually between Syracuse and Virginia, now every campus is filled with teams - a nice recreational activity, but far from a large market moneymaker. Lacrosse is the next big thing? Not happening.

The popularity has been largely credited to ease and simplicity of the game. That might be a plus for those looking for a new athletic confidence booster, but definitely not for the sport itself. Simplicity lowers sporting value or to quote Jimmy Dugan, "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard... is what makes it great." If some little league drop out can get a lacrosse scholarship, you can't call it the next big thing. If you can hand Reggie Bush a stick and two seconds later see a superstar, you can't call it the next big thing.

Before the Lax nation aims their wickets and shuttlecocks at nonbelievers, realize that this sport doesn't have the identity to gain attention from spectators beyond the East Coast. What is lacrosse anyway? They take a little basketball, a little soccer, some hockey, and a kiddo version of football and call it original. It's like taking the entire top shelf, pouring it in one glass, and expecting everyone to slug it down. You might get the guy with "college" written across his black shirt to play ball, but most bar patrons will take one look and move on. Lacrosse nuts may call this game composite, but most others call it soccer with sticks.

You might also want to second-guess comparing your sport to hockey, Lax fans. That stock is isn't exactly rocketing right now. Plus your sport is hockey sans ice, skates, speed, fluidity, skill, talent, toughness, tradition, and Lord Stanley's cup. But who needs all of that? Everyone prefers watching the schoolyard version anyway, right?

I must admit lacrosse is an improvement from the last big thing... skateboarding. Believe it or not, that is the direction it's heading. It was about 1995 when the rest of world drank the extreme sport Kool-Aid. It got its own Olympiad, its own marketing niche, its own terminology, and still you can't walk through a supermarket without seeing "X-treme toothpaste." Lacrosse is now the reflection of the new preppy takeover. They'll start putting lacrosse sticks on Abercrombie models if they haven't already. All these kids dressed like Kanya West with their pink polo collars stuck up will soon jump on-board. Lacrosse is the next big thing? It might be the next big fad, but not the next big sport. Say what you want Alex. Fill up my sports mags with lacrosse coverage. Take over ESPN before football even starts. Tell me to dust off my old croquet trophy and compare me to Tiger Woods. Go right ahead. Lacrosse is the next big thing? Now you've gone too far.



Boise State women's basketball head coach spoke with officials at Colorado State regarding the head coaching vacancy.

Warden speaks with Colorado State

[and the returning players speak out]

BY JE T'RAME DAVIS
Sports Writer

While the ladies from the Boise State women's basketball program continue to feel the loss of six different players, four to graduation or exhausting their eligibility this summer, one thing continues to ring loud and clear: college basketball teams are never the same from year to year. Seniors leave the program and freshman join.

This is an annual process. Heather Little is a junior, heading into her final season in Bronco Hoops. Little is one of two left on the team that was not recruited by head coach Jen Warden. Over the last few years, Little has seen many come and go.

"People are going to come and go, whether they stay in the program for all of their college years or not. Sometimes they leave early. It's just their road. As a team and a program, the people who are here are who we have to work with. We have to focus on us now."

Amanda Stewart is a freshman, heading into her second season as a true recruit: recruited for this style of play by the current coaching staff. Amanda Stewart moved her way off the bench as she started in a crucial game against LA Tech. Stewart whole-heartedly agrees with Little. "When we ended the season, we weren't surprised [to see some ladies leave the program.]"

In a time where the women's basketball team could show evidence of disarray and struggle, the ladies are actually closer than ever.

Warden describes it well when she says, "There is a new emphasis on commitment to

each other and to the team. It just goes to show that when loyalty is tested, it comes back stronger."

Junior guard Lynette Grondin, the second and last player not recruited by Warden, agrees with her coach. She does well applying some life principles in her statement,

"You can't succeed with negative attitudes on a team. Whether you are at work or school, you have to be happy with where you are at. You have got to be happy to succeed. The eight returners believe 100 percent in the coaches. We are willing to work hard and take the criticism we need to improve."

It frustrates me when people say that the coaches push us too hard. A coach is supposed to push. We can't be pushed to the next level alone. Everything that has happened in our program shows how strong coach Jen Warden is. After all of that, she is still able to motivate us and listen to us."

News went out Tuesday that coach Warden was in contact with Colorado State University. CSU lists Warden as a candidate for a head coaching position. Warden commented, "it is simply a conversation right now. It isn't something worth making a big deal out of."

Even so, Grondin took the time to explain that it takes that belief in the team and the coaches to be successful on the court. If the comments continue to fly, it hurts the team, not just the coach. We believe in this program. For those that don't, that is okay. Not everyone will. What makes it not okay is when those that don't believe keep trying to take down those that do."

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Broncos take a chance on controversial Clarett with last pick of day

BY FRANK SCHWAB
The Gazette

The Denver Broncos didn't have a first-round pick Saturday, but they might have stole the show at the NFL draft by picking troubled Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett with the final selection of the day.

Clarett, who was drafted at the end of the third round with the 101st pick, overshadowed Denver's first three picks, who were all cornerbacks. Denver, which traded its first-round pick to Washington early last week, also selected Oklahoma State's Darrent Williams (second round, 56th), Washington State's Karl Paymah (third round, 76th) and Maryland cornerback Dononique Foxworth (third round, 97th).

Clarett's off-field problems and his slow 40-yard dash times - he ran 4.72 seconds and 4.82 seconds in his two attempts at the scouting combine in February - had many experts predicting Clarett would be a late-round pick. Clarett said he couldn't imagine a better situation than landing in Denver.

"I've been waiting for this day for a long time," Clarett said. "It finally happened, and Denver will win more ballgames with me there."

The Broncos were so enamored with what Clarett did as a freshman in 2002 when he helped Ohio State win a national title that they didn't want to take the chance he would be off the board when they made their first pick Sunday, in the sixth round at 200th.

"He hasn't played for a couple of years, but we feel like if he did play in those two years, he could have

easily been a top 10, top 15 pick," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "We think he has that kind of running skill."

Clarett sat out the 2003 season, when Ohio State suspended him after he was accused of taking improper benefits. Clarett then challenged the NFL's rule, which states a player must be three years removed from high school to enter the draft. He initially won a court ruling, but the NFL won an appeal, so Clarett sat out the 2004 season as well.

Shanahan said he had no problem with Clarett off the field. Broncos running backs coach Bobby Turner stayed in contact with Clarett for the past two years, and the team feels it knows Clarett well enough to gamble a draft pick.

"You don't get too caught up in [Clarett's off-field issues]," Shanahan said. "I know his situation, what happened. The slate is clean. We're giving him an opportunity."

Before the Broncos picked Clarett, the Broncos addressed their needs at cornerback.

Williams was Denver's first pick, but he was chosen mainly for his ability on special teams. Williams will immediately become Denver's starting punt and kickoff returner. Williams averaged 21.9 yards per punt return in college, including three touchdowns. He averaged 20.8 yards per kickoff return.

Not knowing if Williams had the height at 5-foot-8 to be the third cornerback in Denver's nickel defense, Shanahan also selected Paymah and Foxworth, who have more size.

"We feel he can help us, number



Despite sitting out one season of college football, Maurice Clarett was drafted by Denver.

1, in special teams," Shanahan said. "The question mark is how long does it take for a defensive back to come in and work within your system and feel comfortable with it. You can never answer those questions, but you can answer the question, 'Can a guy return punts and kickoffs?'"

Williams will have a chance to prove he can play cornerback, but he is short for the position. Williams doesn't have many worries about contributing, though.

"A lot of people knock my height, and they are going to always knock my height, but I play with all heart," Williams said. "I feel I'm one of the best corners in this draft."

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Costas is waiting to hear his role on NFL telecasts

BY DAN CAESAR
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The shuffling of the deck in the NFL's television arrangement for 2006 and beyond has fanned the rumor mills as far as who will man the broadcast booths.

Will one or both members of ABC's "Monday Night Football" team of Al Michaels and John Madden move to NBC, which will start airing Sunday night games?

Will they switch to ESPN, which will end up with "MNF"?

Will Madden slide back to CBS to form a three-man crew with Jim Nantz and Phil Simms? Will Marv Albert return to NBC to broadcast its games?

Will ESPN's Sunday Night team of Mike Patrick, Joe Theismann, and Paul Maguire be shifted to Monday, or will some or all them be looking for work elsewhere?

Will any of Fox's lead broadcast-

ers (Joe Buck, Cris Collinsworth, Troy Aikman) be affected?

What about some kind of role for prominent players who recently retired or might do so after next season, such as Emmitt Smith, Brett Favre, and Jerome Bettis?

And on ... and on ... and on.

But the safest bet seems to be that Bob Costas will be involved in NBC's coverage, although it is unclear what his capacity would be: pregame/halftime show host or play-by-play announcer.

"I think it would be disingenuous to say that there won't be discussions, and that there's not a good possibility of me being involved," Costas said. "But exactly what form that will take and when it'll shape up and be announced, I don't know except to say there's no rush. The first real broadcast is a year and a half from now."

Costas' contract expires next

spring, as does his deal with HBO, for which he starts a new talk show next month. But he's been with NBC for 2 decades and said he's excited that the NFL is returning. He's extremely versatile, being adept at the host job (something he does with the Olympics and did with the NFL from 1984-92) as well as the play-by-play role (he's been in that lead role with NBC for baseball and basketball).

NBC Sports president Dick Ebersol was in meetings Thursday and unavailable for comment. But earlier in the week, he told the Chicago Tribune: "We'll certainly talk to [Costas]. He has been our lead dog for more than 20 years."

Although it's been seven years since NBC had the NFL, Costas has been involved in covering the league for the past two seasons as host of HBO's "Inside the NFL." And he sounds like he'd be happy in NBC's studio again for the new

Sunday night package.

"I wouldn't have wanted to go back to do the Sunday morning and afternoon [studio] shows, because I did that for so long," he said. "And 'Inside the NFL' truly represented something different. The Sunday night package, depending on how they approach it, could also represent something considerably different in content and approach."

Still, Costas said that while others in the business are in a frenzy about the movement, he's calm.

"I'm not going to spend a whole lot of time thinking about it," he said. "But there's going to be some reshuffling here. And there's a lot of different ways the pieces can move around the chessboard. I'm sure a lot of phone calls have been placed in a lot of different directions. Agents, broadcasters, executives, producers, and newspaper men's lines are burning."

Baseball nicknames needed; good ones a dying breed

BY JEFF PASSAN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Gone are the days of the Splendid Splinter, the Yankee Clipper, the Sultan of Swat - the nicknames that made baseball's luminaries sound so regal, so un-touchable.

So heroic. Today we have the Pronk. He sounds nothing like a superhero. He is a breakfast cereal or a car part or a disease.

OK, that's not fair to the Pronk, still known to his mother as Travis Hafner and known around baseball as the Cleveland Indians' designated hitter. At least Hafner has a nickname, the longtime baseball tradition that has, by and large, turned into a blase amalgam of first initial, shortness and last name.

A-Rod? Gag us. "It's baseballish to have nicknames," Hafner says. "There's room for more. Most people have their last name with a 'Y.' That's kind of cool, too, I guess."

No, it's not. "OK, it's not," Hafner says. "I'll

take mine."

Bless Hafner for that. Only a few classics remain among the barren nickname landscape. Roger Clemens is still the Rocket, slinging BBs and winning his seventh Cy Young last year. Randy Johnson is still the Big Unit, years after compact teammate Tim Lincecum saw him and said, "You're one big unit!" And Frank Thomas, when he's healthy, is still the Big Hurt, a nickname gleaned from Chicago White Sox broadcaster Ken Harrelson.

And then, well, there's the Pronk.

"The year before I came to Cleveland, I was playing with the [Texas] Rangers, and Bill Selby was sitting on their bench," Hafner says. "Selby called me a 'project.' I came to camp next year, and Selby called me 'project' all the time. A lot of people just called me 'donkey.' Guess I'm a big dude."

"Selby one day said, 'What's up, 'donkey'?' I'm like, 'You're the 'project' guy. You can't call me donkey. Why don't you put them together and call me 'Donkject' or 'Pronkey'?"

"Pronkey turned into El Pronko. And that turned into the Pronk."

A sneaky bit of computer graphic work done on Buck's computer, no less, allowed Affeldt the next day to post a side-by-side picture of Buck and his digital counterpart in the clubhouse.

Reservation gave way to Buck's tolerance - and even encouragement - of the nickname.

"With a last name like Buck, I've been called far worse," he says. "Mr. Incredible ain't too bad."

Hafner understands. He's gone through a few nicknames. At Cowley County Community College in Arkansas City, Kan., friends called him Dakota. Because he was, you know, from North Dakota. Even more original were those who called him Hugh. Like Hugh Hefner. Because, you know, his last name is Hafner.

Those didn't stick for the same reason most baseball nicknames these days don't: They're boring, simple, bereft of originality. They're not the Big Train or the Say Hey Kid, Leo the Lip or Sudden Sam, Cool Papa or Rabbit.

"A nickname's not a nickname,"

Royals pitcher Zack Greinke says, "unless it's good."

Which returns us to the Pronk. For baseball today, it is a good nickname. The lyrical names of yonder are gone with the day when baseball players needed offseason jobs. Anything new and fresh is welcome.

Around Cleveland's Jacobs Field, banners hang with pictures of different players and their first names. All except one.

"On mine," Hafner says, "it says Pronk."

And so begins the Pronkization of Cleveland. Following a 28-homer, 109-RBI season last year, the 27-year-old Hafner expects there to be Pronk T-shirts at the stadium this year. In the same city that sold a candy bar named after Albert Belle, a chocolate confection bearing the Pronk's likeness can't be far behind.

Not that Hafner minds. "It's everywhere," he says. "Got it on my phone message: 'You've reached the Pronk, leave a message.'"

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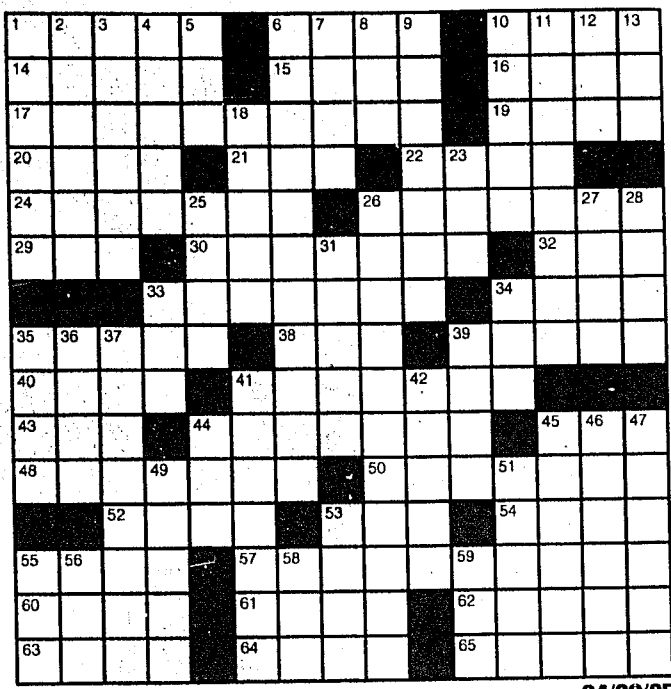
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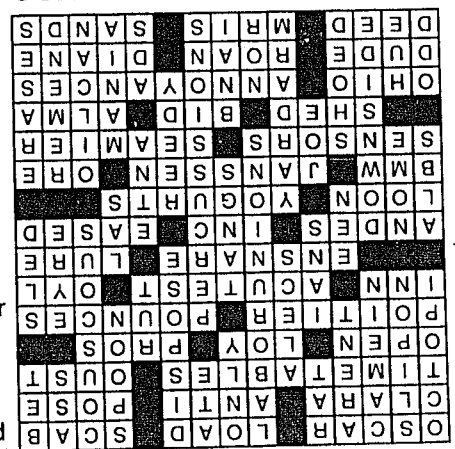
- ACROSS**
 1 Movie award
 6 Insert ammo
 10 Indication of healing
 14 Santa __, CA
 15 Opposing
 16 Strike a stance
 17 Amtrak schedules
 19 Toss out
 20 Aboveboard
 21 Actress Myrna
 22 Good points
 24 "Lilies of the Field" star
 26 Springs and seizes
 29 Wayside stopover
 30 Most perceptive
 32 Popeye's Olive
 33 Trap
 34 Tackle-box item
 35 Chilean range
 38 "Monsters, ___"
 39 Palliated
 40 Web-footed diver
 41 Curdled milk snacks
 43 Ger. automobile
 44 David of "The Fugitive"
 45 Lode load
 48 Detectors
 50 More sordid
 52 Lean-to
 53 Bridge action
 54 Soprano Gluck
 55 Louisville's river
 57 Pet peeves
 60 Weekend cowboy
 61 Colorful mount
 62 Ladd or Lane
 63 Exploit
 64 Med. scans
 65 Uses emery
- DOWN**
 1 Couple with 16 arms?
 2 Easily donned garment
 3 Entered
 4 ___ you the clever one!
 5 Squealer



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04/28/05

Solutions



- 6 Organized workers
 7 Just
 8 Had lunch
 9 Arrange
 10 Stirring device
 11 North African dish
 12 Ninnyhammer
 13 Play the horses
 18 Baldwin and Guinness
 23 Deep track
 25 Holm and Hunter
 26 Noisy collisions
 27 Bronte's Jane
 28 Winter coaster
 31 Sharp tastes
 33 Post-dusk period
 34 ___ Palmas
 35 Priests' robes
 36 Iditarod finish
 37 Negative aspect
 39 Sicilian tourist site
 41 Square-sail support
 42 Full of rushes

- 44 DiMaggio or Montana
 45 Tin Man's need
 46 Repair again
 47 Expunges
 49 Furnished with footwear
 51 Hysteria
 53 B'rith
 55 Offbeat
 56 Color property
 58 Here-there link
 59 Spots on TV

horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
 Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (04-28-05).
 A scientific strategist is your inspiration this year. You can get farther with this person's coaching than you ever would on your own. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
 Today is an 8 - A high-energy connection brings new responsibilities. You've got the backing you need, so don't shy away from the problems. You like playing games with high stakes.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 Today is a 6 - Your advice is required on a big purchase. Be watching out for those who haven't got a clue. Advise restraint.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
 Today is a 7 - Confer with your mate before buying anything, or making new investments. Otherwise, another is likely to spend more than you have.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
 Today is a 7 - Consider taking on a partner to share your heavy load. Don't get somebody who'll boss you around, unless you're tired of making decisions.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Today is a 9 - The fun part could take up more time than it should. Do the hard part first. Before you know it, you'll be languishing in blissful satisfaction.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Today is a 6 - Tidy up the place so you can entertain tomorrow. You'll have your choice of going out or staying in. Give the latter top priority.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Today is a 5 - Prepare for your next shopping excursion by figuring out what you need. Make your place more comfortable. Libras don't live by bread alone.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 Today is a 7 - You like nice things, but you won't let that passion destroy your savings. Use your own talent to make what you can. It'll have more character, too.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 Today is a 7 - There's a lot of repetition required, to do what you love really well. You can't settle for anything less, however. Keep at it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Today is a 7 - You're past the most difficult part. Include more rest, relaxation and romance in your schedule today and tomorrow.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 Today is a 6 - Insider information can help you get the very best deal. Ask around, especially among those who have access to wholesale. It couldn't hurt.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
 Today is a 7 - Don't worry about being lonely at the top, you won't have that problem. You will have to figure out how to protect your private time. This you can do.

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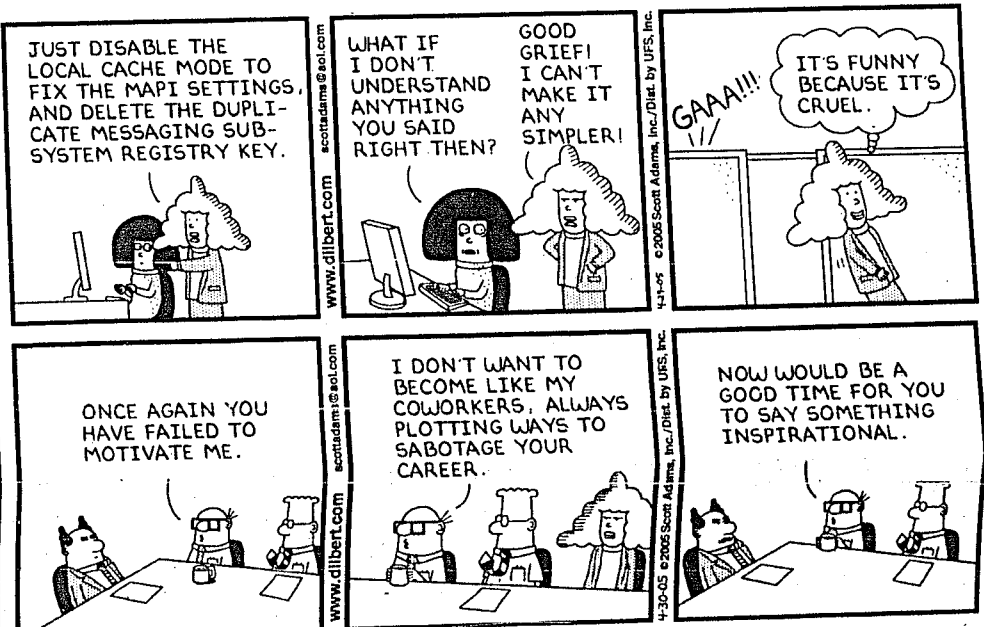
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Underdogs [from page 8]

my life," Bady said. Carr knew he was going to get a shot in the NFL this summer, he just didn't think it was going to come with the Raiders.

"I was surprised that the Oakland Raiders called me, because I hadn't been talking to them," Carr said. He also noted that he was in contact with the New York Giants, Tampa Bay, Atlanta, and Chicago.

Now that Raiders former punt returner, Phillip Buchanon, has been traded, Carr has the opportunity that if he makes the team, he should be the starting returner come this fall. Carr averaged 19.6 yards per punt return, and 25.7 yards per kickoff return, scoring two of the punt returns for touchdowns despite missing half the season with a broken collarbone.

"I have a unique opportunity as most rookies make the team, but have to wait their turn," Carr said.

"If I make the team, I'll probably be the starting punt returner."

Carr's best friend is looking to break onto a team in the same state and the same division. Franklin will be taking his shot with the San Diego Chargers. Monday, Franklin was one of just 19 rookies the Chargers signed as undrafted free agents, and the only cornerback, as they will be in mini camp next weekend.

The fourth player signed this week is Jones. The All-American kicker is headed to the Bears with high hopes that he can take

over as their everyday kicker as soon as this season.

The current kicker for Chicago, Paul Edinger, missed nine of his 24 field goals last season, and does not have the leg strength Jones has. The Lou Groza Award finalist was a bit worried about not being drafted, but is ready to start a new chapter.

"Towards the end of the draft, I got a little bit nervous, but things have worked out, and I'm excited to get out there," Jones said.

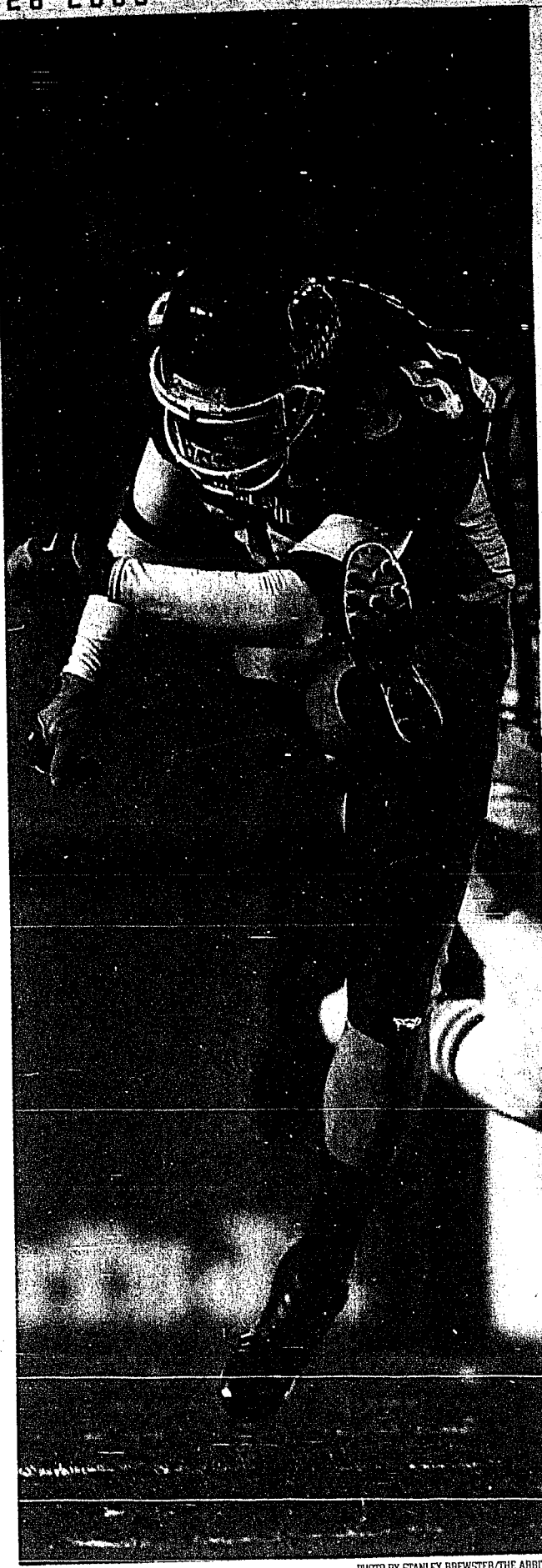
Four players taken is quite an accomplishment for a team that went undrafted through the seven rounds. All four players agreed that there may be a biased look at the Broncos because of the conference that they play in, but it never really bothers them to much.

"We are all used to that. We are used to playing at Boise State. People are doubting us. We can't beat this team. We play in the WAC," Carr said. "But we want to show that we are very confident."

Jones also agrees with the thought that this is something that as a team, Boise State has always dealt with being underdogs, but the NFL still gives these players a chance to prove themselves.

"I think the NFL sees the work ethic, and that's why they are so willing to give guys a shot," Jones said.

Carr said it best, "We just want to represent Boise State in the best light as we can."

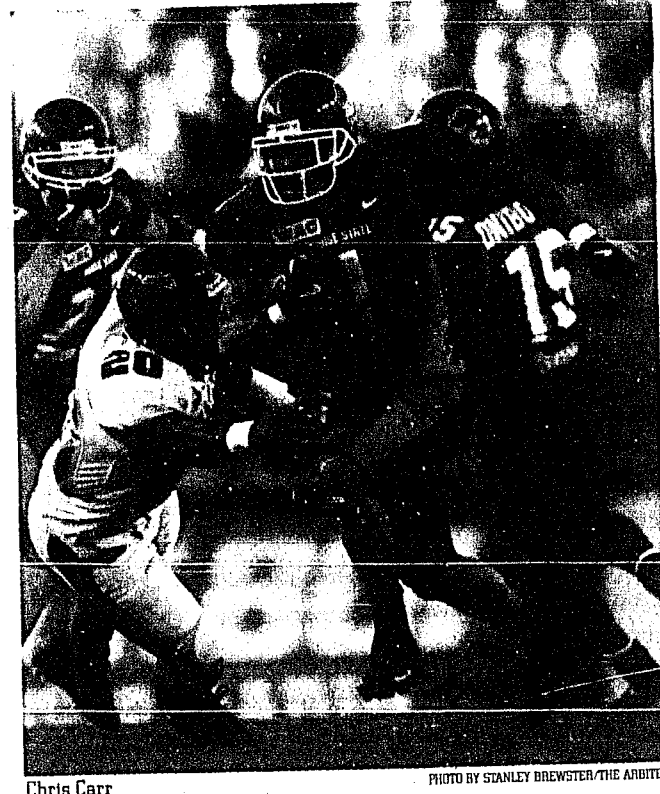


Tyler Jones



Gabe Franklin

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Chris Carr

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