

2-16-2006

Arbiter, February 16

Students of Boise State University

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The Arbiter

opinion p.7

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Arbiter sponsors ASBSU debates

White Gold

sports p.8

ASBSU Senate passes student fee increase resolutions

BY JESSICA CHRISTENSEN & DUSTIN LAPRAY
Arbiter Staff

The Associated Students of Boise State University Senate met Tuesday to discuss a dozen pieces of legislation, most dealing with student fee increases.

With a deadline looming and the student fee hearings set for 1 p.m. today in the Lookout Room atop the Student Union Building, Tuesday was the Senate's last chance to input their views and lend their support to the groups asking for more funding.

The Senate, in its haste, had trouble remaining organized. The changes made to the fee resolutions in the ASBSU Budget and Finance Committee were not updated on the copies handed out at the meeting.

Confusion reigned as some senators talked about one resolution and others thought they were talking of another. Two resolutions were numbered incorrectly.

In the past two weeks, the Senate has introduced more pieces of legislation than it has in the rest of the 2005-06 school year combined.

It is somewhat surprising to see where the Senate lent its support. That is all the Senate can do about increases in student fees (a yearly necessity). The Senate has no power to raise fees. That is up to the Boise State Budget and Finance Committee hearing Tuesday. The BSU administration then makes their recommendations to President Kustra who then presents his recommendations to the State Board of Education.

All the Senate can do is suggest and

support. The student fee hearings today are a chance for students to do the same, to let the administrators know what they truly want.

What follows is a list of the resolutions passed, defeated and tabled on Tuesday.

- SR-19 passed unanimously. The resolution supports the hiring of 18 full-time faculty members (\$1,314,000) and would create more than 30 new graduate assistantships (\$451,583), as well as hire new librarians. 16 of those faculty positions originally would go to the Engineering Department, one to Art and one to Fine Arts. The Senate suggested spreading those hirings through the colleges, to increase the numbers of courses students can take campus-wide.

- The Senate tabled two resolutions indefinitely. These were in

support of student fee increases for Intercollegiate Athletics and for the BSU Forensics. Both programs have won championships in the last year.

- The Senate also tabled SR-25, asking for increased funds to the Cultural Center. The Senate was worried that if it gave extra funds to the Cultural Center, then it would be getting funds from the Senate and the SUB, an action the Senate termed, "double-dipping."

- The Senate unanimously passed SR-13, which supports a \$5 increase for full-time students and \$0.50 for part-time students. The fee would help pay for the upkeep of the SUB. It will also pay on the bond for the building of the SUB, dating back to the 1990's. The bond now is taking on balloon payments and the SUB needs more funds to pay its bills.

- Senators passed SR-14, support of the Strategic Facilities Fee Increase, which funds construction of campus buildings. BSU administration asked for \$75 and the Senate suggested \$60, on the condition that the expansion of the Student Union take precedence over any other construction. It passed 8-2-0.

- SR-18 passed unanimously. The resolution supports a \$5 increase in funding to the Health and Wellness Center. Students pay a \$40 fee to finance the construction of the new center. The new fee is to help build infrastructure and programs within the center, so that when the building gets erected, the transition into the new complex may be seamless.

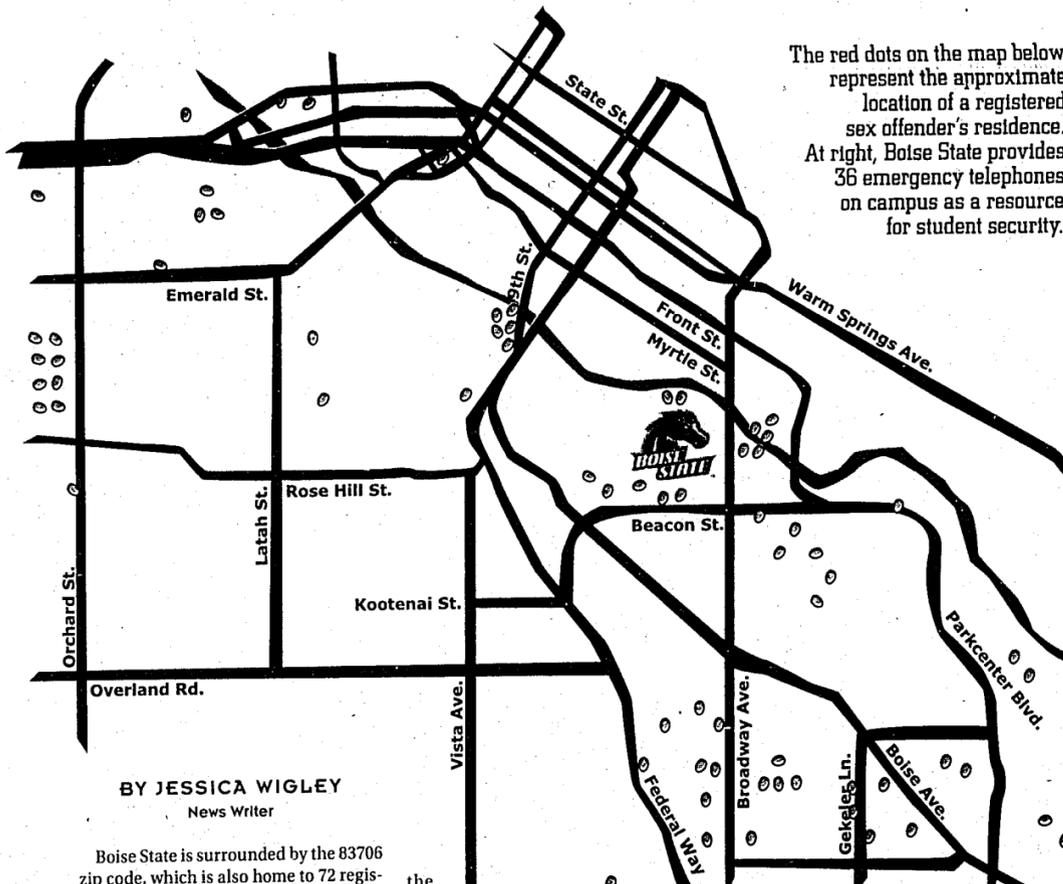
- The Senate passed SR-12 8-3. The resolution supports a \$1.50 increase to the BSU Student Programs Board.

The board offers concerts and many other events to BSU students at little or no cost. The increase would allow the board to expand its programs.

- The only resolution that made it to third reading and failed was SR-11, lending support to the Service Learning Program. Service Learning offers students the opportunity to mix in-class work with community service, preparing them for the 'real world'. The resolution failed 6-5.

Ironically, the senator who sponsored the resolution, Antonio Bommarito, left the meeting at 6 p.m. to go to class. But he did not proxy his votes before he left. His vote would have tied the vote on SR-11 and the tiebreaker would have gone to ASBSU Vice Pres. Texie Evans. As is, he left, his votes didn't count and the resolution failed.

More than 70 registered sex offenders reside near BSU



The red dots on the map below represent the approximate location of a registered sex offender's residence. At right, Boise State provides 36 emergency telephones on campus as a resource for student security.



PHOTO BY SEAN PRALL/THE ARBITER

BY JESSICA WIGLEY
News Writer

Boise State is surrounded by the 83706 zip code, which is also home to 72 registered sex offenders. Currently 29 registered sex offenders attend BSU, who at the time of enrollment are required by state law to register with their county of residence. Their personal information, including information about the crimes they have committed and their addresses, is then provided to the BSU office of Campus Security and Safety.

Although these individuals are allowed to attend classes at BSU, they aren't allowed to live on campus. Blaine Eckles, student conduct officer, said that sex offenders are restricted from living in

the campus dorms or apartments. "When we are aware of any sexual offender, they must immediately move out and register at a new address. Student housing is very concerned about safety."

One sexual offender moved into student housing at the beginning of the spring semester, but was kicked out once his sexual offense history was discovered.

"He was there for less than one week," said Rick Rogers, a civilian supervisor at BSU Campus Security. "He's actually in jail now."

Idaho currently has no regulations on where registered sex offenders can live. Some states, such as Iowa, restrict offenders from living within 2,000 feet of a school zone. Sheriff Gary Raney said implementing such a law in Idaho would be an interesting challenge because the

barriers would create more problems.

"If that law was to go into effect, no offenders could live in Boise because of all the school zones," said Raney.

Another downfall might be a higher non-compliance rate due to the strict rules. Raney said that law enforcement would have to work harder to find offenders who aren't registering.

Idaho State law requires anyone convicted of a sex crime to register at the Sheriff's department of the county that they reside in

See Offenders (page 3)

BSU student arrested for attempted rape

BY SARA BAHNSON
News Editor

20-year-old Boise State student Jeffrey Ringle was arrested Sunday in connection with attempted rape of a 16-year-old woman in the Taylor residence hall on campus, according to university security reports.

At press time, Ringle was in the Ada County Jail, charged with felony rape and felony sexual battery, according to the Ada County Jail roster.

Boise Police Department Sgt. Stan Niccolls said Ringle and the unidentified female went back to a dorm room and that Ringle tried to push himself further. The female said no and got away, Niccolls said.

Niccolls said Idaho law states that even if a sexual act between an adult and a child under the age of 18 is consensual, it is considered rape.

"Guys should know that if the girl is under age, it is rape even if it is consensual," Niccolls said.

"Emergency sanctions can be evoked to ensure the safety of all students [at BSU]," said BSU Student Conduct Officer Blaine Eckles. Eckles said sanctions to deal with a case like this could range from a warning to expulsion from the university. No final decision has been made regarding Ringle's status at BSU, Eckles said.

"It's a case by case basis," Eckles said. "We're looking at all scenarios."

Safety Tips

Find these stories at www.ArbiterOnline.com

Miami-based rappers find success with DIY label

DJ Sidda "Sid" Philip and Justin "Fre" Cozler, CEO of Redemption Records, hold the new CD and 12" inch single.

PHOTO COURTESY KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE

Internet gambling is latest campus craze



Penn senior Ari Paul plays three poker hands simultaneously in his dormitory room.

PHOTO COURTESY KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE

3-day forecast

Friday High: 30F Low: 14F	Saturday High: 35F Low: 15F	Sunday High: 34F Low: 16F

FORECAST COURTESY WEATHER.COM

the headlines

2 THE ARBITER February 16 2006

World/National/What the? stories courtesy of KRT Campus Wire Services unless otherwise credited. Local/BSU stories are courtesy of the Boise State Web site at www.boisestate.edu. All stories are compiled by News Writers.

world

Al-Jaafari named as prime minister

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Shiite lawmakers Sunday named interim Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a devout Iranian-backed politician, to be their new prime minister.

The move solidifies Iraq's transition to a religiously based democratic government, although Sunnis, Kurds and sectarian Iraqis all faulted the choice. Many feel al-Jaafari did too little to quell Iraq's growing sectarianism and violence and failed to rebuild the country's crumbling infrastructure during his nearly one-year interim tenure.

Many Sunnis and Kurds preferred al-Jaafari's more moderate and progressive Shiite opponent, interim vice president Adil Abdel Mahdi. But Mahdi lost by one vote, 64-63, among Shiite electors. Although still only their nominee, al-Jaafari will likely win support from the full parliament because his slate holds 128 of the governing body's 275 seats.

U.S. officials hope that al-Jaafari can assemble a coalition government that draws in enough Sunni support to drain backing for the Sunni-led insurgency that threatens to ignite a civil war. Were the insurgency to fade, American and allied troops could leave.

That hope seemed distant Sunday as leaders of the Sunni Iraqi Islamic Party said they did not rule out walking away from an al-Jaafari-led government.

The mild-mannered al-Jaafari, 59, is a physician and his Dawa Party is one Iraq's oldest and most aggressive opponents to Saddam Hussein's regime. For many, the party represents the most oppressed and tortured during the

dictatorship.

Al-Jaafari may have caused some trouble in his acceptance statement, however. He vowed in it to uphold the country's constitution, a non-controversial position normally, but some Sunni leaders are insisting on changes in the constitution because it was written largely without their input.

"The main basis for dialogue will primarily be the constitution, respect for the constitution and its contents," said al-Jaafari, noting that Iraqis had ratified the document in a referendum in October.

Among Iraq's Sunni populace, disappointment was clear.

"We said to ourselves, 'Let's give Adil Abdel Mahdi a try,' because al-Jaafari did not accomplish the needs of the Iraqi people," said Mohammed Ayad, 48, a Sunni and former Army officer. "We have tried Jaafari already and the security situation got worse, the economy is weaker and there are more random raids."

national

Cheney's companion at fault in shooting, White House says

WASHINGTON — The White House blamed the 78-year-old man whom Vice President Dick Cheney shot during a weekend quail hunting trip in Texas for the incident, as officials struggled Monday to explain why they waited nearly 24 hours before making the news public.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan tried to absolve Cheney of blame for shooting wealthy Austin lawyer Harry Whittington, saying that hunting "protocol was not followed by Mr.

Whittington when it came to notifying others that he was there. And so, you know, unfortunately, these types of hunting accidents happen from time to time."

Several hunting experts were skeptical of McClellan's explanation. They said Cheney might have violated a cardinal rule of hunting: Know your surroundings before you pull the trigger.

"Particularly identify the game that you are shooting and particularly identify your surroundings, that it's safe to shoot," said Mark Birkhauser, the incoming president of the International Hunter Education Association, a group of fish and wildlife agencies. "Every second, you're adjusting your personal information that it is a safe area to shoot or it's not a safe area to shoot."

Safe-hunting rules published by the National Rifle Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department echo Birkhauser's advice.

Cheney has a Texas non-resident hunting license, but he failed to get a \$7 stamp that's required to hunt game birds, the vice president's office said in a statement Monday night. He has since sent a check to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to buy the stamp, the statement said.

Whittington was listed in stable condition Monday at a hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, with bird-shot wounds to his face, neck and chest. The shooting occurred about 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the Armstrong Ranch, a 50,000-acre spread in south Texas owned by friends of the president.

White House and Texas law enforcement officials haven't provided a detailed account of the incident. Katharine Armstrong, one of the ranch's owners, said Cheney, Whittington and another hunter

got out of their vehicle to shoot a covey of quail. The third member of the hunting party was the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, Pamela Willeford, a Texan and a Bush family friend.

Whittington shot a bird and went to get it, breaking from Cheney and Willeford. Armstrong said Whittington then came up from behind without signaling, and as a covey flushed Cheney wheeled and fired his .28-gauge shotgun, hitting Whittington.

Whittington was tended at the scene by Cheney's medical detail before being taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Though the shooting happened Saturday afternoon, it didn't become public knowledge until Armstrong notified the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, her local paper, at midday Sunday.

local/bsu

Boise State hosts Autism Education Conference

Boise State University's Center for Health Policy presents a day-long conference aimed at autism education from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday, March 10, in the Special Events Center. Cost for the conference, administered by Princeton Autism Technology, is \$129 for professionals, or \$99 if registered by Feb. 15. Cost for parents is \$60, with some scholarship funds available, or \$50 for satellite participants. Register at www.autismevents.org or by calling (208) 426-3861 or e-mailing cpdinfo@boisestate.edu.

According to recent studies, as many as one in every 166 children born today will be on the autism spectrum. Autism is increasing at

a rate of 10-17 percent each year, leaving schools and therapists in need of specific support and training. The event will provide educators and professionals with current information on best practices and methods of teaching and working with individuals with autism.

Topics include: Curriculum for Early Elementary Aged Children: James Ball; Curriculum and Enhancing Social Skills Throughout the Educational Years: James Ball; Positive Behavioral Support Systems: Julie Fodor; M.I.N.D. Institute's State of Autism Research 2006: Robert Hendren; Current and Emerging Autism Technologies for Classroom and Home: Gregory Abowd.

The Idaho Autism Conference will be broadcast via videoconference to locations including Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Grangeville, Twin Falls and Pocatello. In addition to the Center for Health Policy, the conference is presented by the Idaho Department of Education and Autism Cares.

Software created at BSU gains national attention

Software created by the Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University has garnered national attention. The Environmental Protection Agency's January 2006 Nonpoint Source Newsletter features a spotlight on Plan2Fund, a financial management tool developed to assist with "how to pay" challenges of environmental protection.

Plan2Fund is a watershed planning tool that helps organizations better track their workflow management within their budget. The software is designed with four user

interfaces: program planning data, financial information, contact list and reports. The program not only identifies budget shortfalls, but also the parts of the watershed that need the money. To help in the search for additional resources, the Environmental Finance Center offers another resource, "The Directory of Watershed Resources," to help people search for and identify funding sources.

More information on these programs is available at <http://efc.boisestate.edu>.

In addition, Plan2Fund will be the topic of a national Watershed Academy Webcast presented from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 15 by center director Bill Jarocki and the EFC's Amy Williams. The EPA Webcasts generally register 500 participants. More about the Webcast can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/webcasts>.

what the?

Nice to see you again too...now step out of the car

A few days after police in South Elmsall, England, arrested him for driving without a license, his tenth motor vehicle conviction, a man was back driving through town once again. He was arrested for the eleventh time when he waved at the officers who recognized him.

Funny, you don't sound like Dave

A man who stole a car from a pizza deliveryman in Des Moines, Iowa, called his buddy to brag about it. Unfortunately, he accidentally dialed an undercover policeman. His arrest was swift.

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MATT POND PA	TUE 2-28
SHURMAN	FRI 3-3
PAT MCGEE/STEPHEN KELLOGG	WED 3-8
THE ACADEMY IS...	SAT 3-11
UNWRITTEN LAW	SUN 3-12
SHANNON CURFMAN/LENNON	MON 3-13
AQUALUNG	WED 3-15
ANTI-FLAG	THU 3-16
GHOSTFACE KILLAH	SUN 3-19
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Offenders [from page 1]

within 10 days of establishing residence in a new county.

Ada County has a 4 percent non-compliance rate, which is significantly low compared to other states such as California that has a 30 percent non-compliance rate.

Based upon the amount of hits the Web sites receive and how many tips they get about sex offenders in the area, Raney said that Boise is a very informed community. Citizens, detectives and law

enforcement sharing information is how non-compliant sex offenders are usually caught.

"Knowing your surroundings makes a big difference, they [sex offenders] can't come into Boise and hide," Raney said.

Although Boise is considered a tight-knit community, extensive safety precautions are strongly recommended by law enforcement and BSU Security.

Idaho State Police Bureau of

Criminal Investigation manager, Dawn Peck, said she doesn't think one area of Boise isn't safer than the other.

"It all goes back to awareness and taking the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their children," Peck said.

Registries are only one tool to rely on because offenders convicted before 1993, when the registration law was enacted, aren't required to register in their areas. "It doesn't take the place of good safety precautions," Peck said.

In 2004, four sexual offenses on campus were reported and two incidents of forcible rape occurred in residence halls.

Rogers said BSU is a safe campus. In a typical 12 month period, Rogers said only one or two rapes occur on campus. An attempted rape was reported on campus Sunday, and Rogers said it is the first rape reported on campus this academic year.

To access information on sexual predators in the area, including their name, address and photo, visit

Hall pleads guilty to felony charge

ARBITER STAFF

Former Boise State football player Cam Hall plead guilty on Wednesday to the felony charge of leaving the scene of an accident, according to Pat Owen, the prosecutor who handled the case.

Hall pleaded guilty to the felony charge in exchange for prosecutors dropping the reckless driving charge.

Hall now awaits sentencing, which is scheduled for April 10.

Owen said he expects there will be a jail sentence for Hall, but that will left up to the court.

Owen also said withheld judgment is appropriate, which means his felony charge could be dropped if Hall completes the sentencing requirements, such as successfully completing probation.

Hall, who is still enrolled at Boise State, was part of a deadly accident on May 6 of last year that killed a family of three.

Hall, along with Mark Lazinka, were part of a 'road rage' race down Highway 55 between Ho.eshoe Bend and Eagle when Hall's Mustang was able to swerve out of the way of the Subaru driven by Tony Perfect. Lazinka's pickup

truck then hit the Subaru, which was turning onto Highway 55 from Beacon Light Road, killing Mr. Perfect and his wife Stephanie and infant daughter Zoe.

Lazinka pleaded guilty to three counts of vehicular manslaughter on Monday.

Hall completed his football career at Boise State this past season. Hall was not part of the team for the first two games for Boise State before being re-instated. He also was declared ineligible for the MPC Bowl game on Dec. 28.

Hall recorded 23 tackles and one sack in 2005.

BSU to host regional college bowl

BY EMILY POITEVIN
News Writer

Boise State University will hold the Regional College Bowl Tournament Championship on Feb. 24 and 25. The event takes place in the SUB and features teams from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Five BSU students will compete in the championship. They were selected based on their top performance in the campus College Bowl Tournament. Kersti Harter is an Anthropology major, Simon Billinge is a Criminal Justice major, Trevor Farlow is a Chemistry major, Justin Shank is a Political Science major and Matt Mayer is a

Bio-Chemistry major. All five were named to the BSU All-Star team.

Catherine Naillon, assistant to coach Mahi Takazawa, said she is confident about their chances of success.

"Trevor, Simon and Kersti are three time regional College Bowl competition veterans, and we have the home field advantage, so we hope to finish in the top four," Naillon said.

The competition format consists of either a full or modified round robin arrangement, with a four team double elimination play-off. BSU finished six out of 12 at the last regional championship.

Winners of this year's regional tournament get the chance to travel to the University of Hartford in

Connecticut, where the national championship will be held. In addition, the top eight players are named to the National College Bowl All-Star team, and become eligible to win the Pat Moonen Sportsperson Award. Naillon said she hopes to have a good turnout at the event.

"This event will be fun to watch, the teams will have to quickly buzz in their answers, and the questions are tough," she said. "Everyone is invited to come and support our team."

On Friday, the event takes place in the SUB from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. More information about the College Bowl can be obtained through their Web site, www.collegebowl.com.

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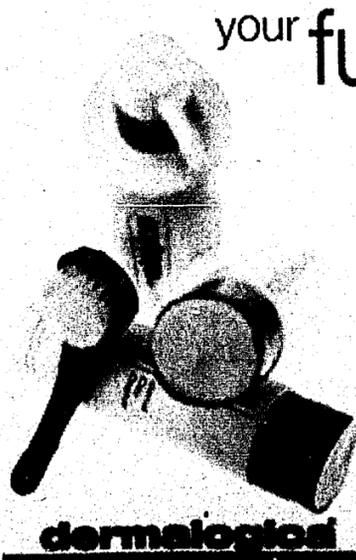
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culture

EDITOR: Mariana Bekker
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**EDITOR'S PICK:
NEW DVD RELEASE**

significant others
the complete series



"Significant Others"

Were you single on Valentine's Day? Here's what you are(n't) missing. Originally airing to arguable fanfare on Bravo, the sitcom "Significant Others" follows four couples in and out of marriage counseling as they deal with affairs, children who know too much, extended adolescences, sexual displeasure, unemployment and other marital highs. The show is improvised, a la "Curb Your Enthusiasm," and it's often hilariously funny and dead-on, plus it has the best use of a doctor's couch since "The Sopranos." Who knows how many takes they had to do to get it right, but they definitely got it right. Two questions, though: Why only two seasons of six episodes each? And why didn't Bravo (or parent NBC) promote this more? "Queer Eye" is a fine show, but one show does not a cable channel make, and "Others" is significantly more entertaining anyway. The DVD includes 12 episodes (five with commentary).

CELEBRITY NEWS:



Sweating the finish

Comedian Conan O'Brien, who helped the re-election campaign of Finnish President Tarja Halonen with mock campaign ads, wants to be named inspector of saunas.

Halonen, 62, won a second six-year term as Finland's president two weeks ago. She is the first woman to hold the post.

"I'd like to be the inspector of saunas, mostly women's saunas," said O'Brien, who arrived in Helsinki on Saturday.

O'Brien claims that his talk show is popular in Finland because he bears some resemblance to fair-skinned, red-haired Halonen. "Why do I support Tarja Halonen? Because she's got the total package: a dynamic personality, a quick mind, and most importantly, my good looks," the comedian told The Associated Press.

HEALTH & BEAUTY TIP:

Don't let your workout get caught in a time crunch

Here are five tips from Global Health & Fitness to keep in mind as you get your body in shape:

Focus, focus, focus: Have a routine plan before you walk through those gym doors. Write it down if you have to. You'll only waste time maneuvering around machines trying to figure out if it's something you want to try.

Fill 'er up: Bring your own bottled water. You'll stay hydrated and won't waste time hitting up the drinking fountain every 15 minutes.

Peak this: Gym attendance typically peaks from 4 to 8 p.m. So, if you can, try to schedule your workout earlier or later in the day. You won't have to wait for machines or listen to lots of folks yammer, and you can finish your workout in a timely fashion.

Bench time: If the machines are full, head for the nearest bench and get your workout on. You'll need barbells or dumbbells. Then, start your regimen with bench presses, shoulder presses, crunches, curls, upright rows and more.

Aerobics: Many gyms institute a 20-minute limit on aerobic machines (bikes, treadmills, etc.). When your time is up, hop off the treadmill and head for the elliptical machine for another 20 minutes. You'll keep your workout going without leaving the area.

Compiled from
Knight Ridder Tribune wire services

A work of art



From the Chinese Porcelain Collection, Ginger Jar and cover with Famille-Verte Enamels.

PHOTO COURTESY BOISE ART MUSEUM

BAM features 'Daily News' exhibit and others

BY LINDSEY PARKER

Culture Writer

Here's an activity that's both intellectually stimulating and requires no out of pocket money. The Boise Art Museum is a great place to spend a Friday afternoon.

The BAM, "presents approximately 16 exhibitions annually, addressing a wide spectrum of historical periods, artistic media and styles. From nationally significant exhibitions of historical and ethnographic work to contemporary art of the Northwest, BAM exhibitions programs reflect diversity and excellence in the visual arts."

The museum is only a five-minute drive from campus, displays an interesting balance of oil paintings, acrylic paintings, ink drawings, film, photographs, ceramic works, large sculptures, and a vast private collection of Asian art. Touring the museum's 16 exhibitions is somewhat soothing if not time consuming.

The BAM's free guide handed out at the front desk gives a general overview of the collections, histories for each, and an easy to follow map on the back.

The first five galleries themes are "The Daily News," displayed through March 19.

According to the BAM exhibition facts sheet, "This section is home to pieces created by eleven American-based artists who appropriate the form and content of newspapers in their art. Print is a powerful instrument for expressing opinions and a major generator of American popular thought and culture. The print media, most notably the daily newspaper, plays an important role in the cultural, political and social history of the United States."

The first painting in gallery five induces a comical reaction. It's a bright pink acrylic painting by Derek Boshier named "Los Angeles Times Clinton Acquitted." The contrast of a black and white photograph of former President Clinton next to the bright pink background nicely complements each other. Boshier's other works, such as "Salt Lake Tribune" ink on paper, is hilarious. The whole piece makes a mockery

of the saltiness of Salt Lake. Al Souza's "New York Times Spitballs," causes a momentary gag reflex as the thousands of wadded up spitballs come into focus behind the glass frames. After mental composure is regained, a sigh of relief comes. The nameplate lists the materials used to create the piece as glue and newspaper, not spit and newspaper.

Maybe someday these very words will end up as "spitballs" in an art collection. Xiaoze Xie's "March 2003, O.T." oil on canvas is so detailed and precise; at first glance it looks like a photograph, not a painting. Continuing through the galleries, a video is play on a television in front of some empty chairs. This is another of Xie's pieces titled "October-December" This eight-minute video is a documentary-style film showcasing Asians on a subway reading the daily news.

Nancy Chunn's "Front Pages" is original if not childlike with the 30-framed newspapers with multiple drawings all over the headlines. There are unfortunately two of these exhibits. The first one was original, but the second was like "Speed 2," a sad attempt to get two good movies out of one good theme. Christopher Firche's "30 degrees" is sporty, sassy and sexy, while Firche's "Fine Art Funnie" is abstract. Al Souza's "Car Ads" is extremely nauseating. There are too many colors and too much activity within the frames.

Continuing through "The Daily News" it's nice to arrive at galleries 6-8, the "Clyde R. and Helen M. Bacon collection of Asian Art," on display until June 18.

The BAM exhibition facts sheet states, "this collection of Asian ceramics, primarily consisting of Chinese porcelain from the Qing dynasty, is the gift of Clyde R. and Helen M. Bacon to the BAM. The collection varies from 17th-19th century and represents the culmination of Chinese ceramic art. Many of the pieces are decorated with intricately drawn landscapes, birds, flowers, and genre paintings. Of the 77 items on display there are imperial porcelains, Chinese export ware, and objects of daily use." This collection is vast and impressive.

See BAM (page 6)

SO, ANYWAY...

After four years of repeated frustration, Monday finally really was MY day.

BY TRAVIS ESTVOLD
Culture Columnist

Have you ever driven down Fairview Ave. or State Street, past the glowing sign for the Flying Pie Pizzeria, and groaned because you looked up at the black plexiglass letters, arranged to spell out, "Know a So-and-so (but instead of So-and-so it said a person's first name)? Such-and-such date is their day." Well, I've passed by both of those locations' signs hundreds of times. And every time, without fail, I've glanced up (or made a friend in the passenger seat whip their head around and tell me what name it says), and continued down the road, annoyed. Every day, that is, until Monday! I woke up with a message waiting online from a friend that said "Dude! You can make yourself a free pizza today at Flying Pie... your name is on the board!!!!" Within about three seconds after absorbing these words into my consciousness, I was making plans to visit the eatery at precisely 2 p.m.

If you are unfamiliar with the Flying Pie's deal - and if you are, I'm aghast; where have you been?! - let me spell out their offering. Every day, the restaurant puts a new name up on their board, such that if it's your name up there (which they will ask you to verify with identification), you can stop in at a set time. If you are one of the first five people to do so, blammo! Not only do you get a free pizza, but they bring you into the kitchen to make it for yourself.

I, on my special day, was the first such individual to tread through the doors with my ever-so-special name. I whipped out my driver's license, and they ushered me into the back.

My thought, when I arrived, was that I would make a simple pie and spell out my friend's Web site in pepperonis on top of a mountain of cheese. A secondary choice was to put all kinds of

toppings on it that I don't like so I would be forced to give it away. After a long winter, I'm by no means a fit individual, but for once, that same afternoon, I used my Christmas present treadmill and after legging out three near-cardiac-arrest-filled miles, pizza wasn't the first thing my body was craving. But just you get taken into the kitchen of a pizza joint and see how well you do - especially a good one, with a ton of sauce choices, buckets and buckets of cheese and mountains of fresh toppings.

No, I'm not intentionally making this sound like a pizza commercial, but imagine if you went on a diet for a month, eating nothing but healthy food. Then, magically, you are whisked away to some fantasy land where every type of pizza topping is available to you. Like you are in Willy Wonka's factory, but instead of candy, there is pizza. And Papa John is in charge, but it's not his brand of slop, but actual, honest-to-goodness good pizza. Get it now? That's kinda how I felt.

Not wanting to waste the opportunity, I slathered alfredo sauce on, added spinach and Canadian bacon, four kinds of cheese, pepperoni, olives and little balls of cream cheese. Then, they shoved it in the oven for me. And I documented the whole thing with my camera phone, because an experience like that is just for naught unless it can be thrown into a picture blog.

So, anyway, this entire column may read like some big bout of gloating, but maybe I unknowingly wanted it that way. The way I see it, I've been waiting four long years for my name to get up on that damned pizza sign, and I'm not going to let anyone forget that Monday was my day. MY day.

And if you don't believe it, I've got a huge pizza to prove it. Or had. Now you can look at my gut.



**KNOW A TRAVIS?
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TO MAKE A FREE PIZZA!**

Travis Estvold writes a weekly column for The Arbitrator, carrying a camera phone with him to document his misadventures.

Poetry Corner

Drought Season

BY COLIN HOWARD
Special to The Arbitrator

Ascending across the
desert sands
Parched
Breached
Altogether unsatisfied
Once again, a foolish pride
A feeling of abandonment
A feeling that is anything
but heaven sent
Exhibiting signs of a lifeless
life

My most familiar
comrades,
pain and strife
A hopeless wound
Assuming the role of bliss
One thousand oceans deep,
An unconquerable abyss
I promised myself I would
not
A pain that surpasses your
greatest lot

I know nothing of this love
I feel as if I will never fly
As high as a dove
I have lost track
Of the diamond in the
rough
Is this supposed to be easy
So far, it's only been tough.

Submit your poetry to
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African drummer shows Boise some moves

BY THOM GARZONE
Culture Writer

With the pulsating rhythms of beating drums and dancing feet, Obo Addy's Okropong amazed Boise State with a unique performance native to the African country of Ghana. On Saturday night, Master Drummer Obo Addy and his Okropong performed at the Special Events Center in the Student Union Building.

Okropong means "eagle" in Addy's native language, Ga. Using a variety of hand and stick drums, talking drums, bells and shakers, the performers in Okropong take their audience on an acoustic journey through the different landscapes of Addy's homeland.

The group visits the various ethnic cultures in Ghana including Ga, Ewe, Ashanti, Dagomba and Dagarti.

The drummers entered, coming down one of the aisles and banging their powerful drums loud to begin the event. They ascended the stage while one drummer swung his drum and spun about. Then the dancers entered with bells or chimes strapped to their ankles.

During the performance one of the dancers led a young girl onto the stage where she danced along, then the dancer lifted her up as he danced. Later, Addy explained that the first segment was to celebrate the birth of Mohammed.

Some of the dancers joined in playing the percussion instruments, such as cowbells or a type



PHOTO BY ALICE SCULLY/THE ARBITER

One of the drummers from Obo Addy's Okropong plays an African drum from Ghana Saturday night at the SPEC.

of maraca with beads around it. Addy played an instrument that resembled a primitive vibraphone or xylophone. He explained the origins and the background to the

songs they played. Since Addy and his group were displaying styles of their drumming and dancing from all over the region of Ghana, he also added that was why all of the drums

were different sizes and shapes.

The performers' clothing was colorful with many hues of orange, red and green. At one point Addy recalled a humorous story about playing in Europe where he had opened his eyes and saw that everyone was undressed. One segment they performed was about how one will always find someone who is stronger and a better fighter. The dancers acted the dramatic story as they danced along with the beating of the drums and other instruments.

Much of the dancing consisted of leaping, some flipping, and lots of hip movement.

In one segment, the dancers had a clacking instrument secured to their fingers. As Addy's group concluded, the drummers tried their hand at dancing and Addy even did a little demonstration.

Overall, the performance was spirited with much rhythmic excitement, and quite a diverse cultural experience. There were people of different races, ages and social classes present. It was rare to see something like Obo Addy's Okropong in Boise.

The great thing about having these performers here is the much-anticipated hope to see them again. Addy lives in Portland, Ore., - only a hop, skip, and a jump away - so that is probably a strong possibility.

With their exotic expression of drumming and dancing, Obo Addy's Okropong was truly a captivating occasion that brought a different side of the world to Idaho.

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Cult classic 'Repo Man' comes to DVD



BY GREG WALLACE
Culture Writer

Recently released on DVD for the first time is the 1980s cult classic "Repo Man."

This dark comedy is chock full of ironic metaphors about Reagan's America, and Cold War era fears. It is a tale of alienation twisted in cultural mythology, with elements of sci-fi, road movies, westerns, and the teenage film genre all thrown into one.

This is Director Alex Cox's ("Sid & Nancy," "Straight to Hell") first film. He defines the era with a punk rock soundtrack that adds to the feeling of desolation in the suburban sprawl of early 1980s Los Angeles.

The movie stars Emilio Estevez, ("Mission Impossible," "Young Guns," "Breakfast Club," "The Outsiders") as Otto, a young punk rocker who suddenly finds him-

self fired from his job and dumped by his girlfriend on the same day. While wandering the desolate streets he is conned into helping Bud (Harry Dean Stanton) with a repo job (repossessing cars). From there Otto is lured into a seamy underworld of characters who call themselves repo men.

The film centers on a 1964 Chevy Malibu and the contents of its trunk. The car is driven by a fictional character based on Sam Cohen, inventor of the Neutron Bomb.

The Chevy is entered into the repo database as a \$20,000 job. As Otto and his co-workers search for the car, they soon find that they are not alone.

FBI agents, UFO enthusiasts, revolutionaries and rival repo men all search for the same car. And they all seem to have completely different motives and ideas about what is in the car.

The contents of the Chevy's trunk are a mystery to the viewer, a little movie trick that Quentin Tarantino may have borrowed for the briefcase in "Pulp Fiction."

The car seems to symbolize freedom, while at the same time the trunk's contents are pointing a finger at all of society's downfalls, with the Cold War and fears of nuclear destruction being number one.

The cultural metaphors in this film go as deep as replacing every product label with the generic blue stripe packaging; from "Beer" to "Mixed Drinks," to what maybe the funniest of them all "Food." The route sign on the front of buses reads simply "Edge City," and the daily paper is the conspiracy rag "The Weekly World News."

As all the different groups work against each other for the same goal (the Chevy Malibu). Ironically, the only one who seems to see the big picture is Miller (Tracy Walter), a dirty dimwitted maintenance man who works in the repo yard.

In a conversation with Otto he claims to know the secret to all the conspiracies, and lays out his in-

sane sounding theories in this rant. "They don't realize that there's like a lattice of coincidence that lies on top of everything. I'll give you an example.

Show you what I mean. Suppose you were thinking about a plate of shrimp. Suddenly, someone will say 'plate' or 'shrimp' or 'plate of shrimp'. No explanation. No point in looking for one either. It's all part of the cosmic unconsciousness."

"I'll give you another instance. You know how everyone is into weirdness these days? Books in all the supermarkets about the Bermuda Triangle, UFOs, how the Mayans invented television?

Well, the way I see it, it's exactly the same. There ain't no difference between a flying saucer and a time machine. People get hung up on specifics and miss out on seeing the whole thing."

Are UFO's time machines? Did people from the future bring nuclear technology to our world and are they responsible for all of society's ills?

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Alyson Hannigan feels the 'Date Movie'

BY HANH NGUYEN
Knight Ridder Tribune

LOS ANGELES • "Date Movie"

star Alyson Hannigan might be happily married, but she can still identify with the agony and uncertainty of being single.

"Until you find it, you're always pining for the 'Where's my one? Where's my one true love?'" muses Hannigan. "It was easy to know that feeling. You

know, I didn't meet (my husband) when I was born. I had some years without him, looking for him."

The perky actress therefore jumped at the chance to play lonely Julia Jones in "Date Movie," which spoofs popular romantic comedies. Thanks to a "Pimp My Ride"-style makeover and winning the "Extreme Bachelor" reality show, Julia has met the man of her dreams, Grant Funkyerdoder (Adam Campbell).

But before achieving her happy ending, she has to get past Grant's best friend/ex-girlfriend Andy (Sophie Monk), a hot blonde with a tendency to reenact Paris Hilton's steamy hamburger commercial. How can sweet, but shy Julia compete with that?

Like her character, Hannigan understands insecurity and the need to feel desirable. During the early years portraying brainy Willow Rosenberg on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," the redhead decided to pose for lad magazine FHM.

"Because Willow is sort of the wallflower in the beginning (of the series), I think it was more of a 'Hey guys, look. I'm a girl,'" she confesses. "Would I do that now? No. I'm married, and it just doesn't feel like I need to. Back then I definitely needed to sort of express that part of me. Those (photo shoots) are so uncomfortable anyway. You're in underwear. I was like, 'What am I doing? It's so stupid. Just put some clothes on and be funny.'"

These days, Hannigan gets all the validation she needs from her husband, actor Alexis Denisof, whom she met on "Buffy."

And while Julia and Grant's courtship endures a few "Meet the Parents"-type hiccups, Denisof turned out to be the perfect man to bring home to mother.

"I did something unintentionally, but very smart. I dated somebody that was completely wrong for me before I started dating my husband," says Hannigan. "So I think that (my parents) were so relieved that I wasn't going to marry that (other) guy, they were like, 'Awesome. You're fantastic.'"

As a diehard romantic, Hannigan felt it was her duty to watch most of the films spoofed in "Date Movie." One reference is to her personal favorite, "Say Anything," and features Campbell mimicking John Cusack serenading his love by holding aloft a boom box.

Thanks to her husband, Hannigan is no stranger to such romantic gestures.

"He's always carrying a boom box for me. When I brush my teeth, he just stands there with the boom box. It's really romantic," she says with a laugh before adding, "Yes, he's incredibly romantic, just the sweet little gestures, like breakfast in bed, and not just on Valentine's Day. It'd just be out of the blue. He's so very sweet about all these little wonderful things that just make the day better."



BY GREG WALLACE
Culture Columnist

Guns N' Roses: The Reunion, The Drugs, The Record, The Shocking Truth



Will a reunion of Guns N' Roses' original line-up coincide with the highly anticipated "Chinese Democracy" record release? More pieces of the puzzle were revealed this week from Axl Rose, former guitarist Slash, and photographer Ross Halfin.

On Feb. 12, The New York Post's page six reported Axl Rose and friends showing up

at the nightclub Stereo around 5:30 in the morning. The club was closing, but Rose was so eager to keep his 44th birthday party going he offered an exclusive listening party for the new CD to keep the club open. The owners agreed, Rose had his driver go back for the CD and the party continued until eight in the morning.

Two days earlier Slash spoke about the record release on the UK's Virgin Radio Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show.

This is the second time in a month Slash has gone on the radio to talk about a new record by a band he is supposedly not in anymore.

Here is a piece of the conversation, Slash said, "Yeah, it's going to happen. I've been made aware it's been heard. I'm really excited. It's been a long time waiting to see what the next step around the corner was going to be for him (Axl Rose), we know where everybody else is, but we were wondering what he was going to be doing. It's coming out in March."

Guns N' Roses photographer Ross Halfin may have revealed Slash's motivation for the publicity campaign Feb. 3 on his Web site. Halfin stated that the original lineup of Guns N' Roses and Metallica will perform in England at the Downloads Festival in June.

With Axl Rose having recently talked about a possible festival date, this post has the music world anxiously awaiting the next word on the situation.

And with both of Guns N' Roses' former drummers in the news this week, the question of who will be pounding the skins at the reunion show is looking like a mystery.

The Web site Metal Sludge.tv, recently did a 20-page interview with original drummer Steven Adler. He talked extensively about his drug problems and the bitterness he still feels since being thrown out of the band 15 years ago. Ironically, a couple days later, Adler fired his entire band in the middle of a European tour.

This erratic behavior is nothing new. Just a few months earlier, Adler had brought in all new people and fired all the original members of his band Adler's Appetite. He has continued his European tour with a Guns N' Roses tribute band as the replacements and according to former bandmates on Metal Sludge.tv, Adler has relapsed back into drugs.

Steven Adler's replacement Matt Sorum seems to be the more stable choice. And have the inside track considering he plays drums in the band Velvet Revolver, with former Guns N' Roses members Slash and Duff.

But Sorum's original band, The Cult, will kick off an American tour with an appearance on the CBS Late Show Feb 24. With this prior obligation will Matt Sorum be available to play drums for a reunited Guns N' Roses?

Will Steven Adler be given a second chance?

Will Guns N' Roses play a reunion show this year?

And will we ever see "Chinese Democracy" get released? All these questions and more will be answered; stay tuned.



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"Date Movie" opens nationwide on Friday.

BAM [from page 4]

Galleries nine through 13 are the permanent collection of BAM. There are 2,350 paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, ceramic works, sculptures and ethnic objects. Many of the photographs displayed are black and white. Craig J. Barber's "Boboli Stairs" is interesting and very beautiful. There are various crochet pieces within the permanent collection as well. The most interesting is a circular tablecloth/table cover with 30 crochet skulls surrounding the edge. The Art Experience Gallery, located next to gallery 16, is an interactive gallery designed especially for children 12 and under with wooden blocks, interactive puzzles, chalkboards and other such hands on exhibits for children. The Sculpture Court, in-

cludes different metal works such as a life size metal sculpted horse titled "Democrat, 1995" by Deborah Butterfield. Many ceramics are displayed in the permanent collection consisting of pots, bowls, pitchers and other household ceramic items. They're countless with brilliant colors and textures.

Kumi Yamashita's "Untitled" (Walking Woman), 1997, is wood, light and cast shadow. It's wooden blocks glued to the wall. At first glance it looks like chaos. After reading the nameplate, the theme is clear. The art is the shadow cast by the blocks of a walking woman. This piece is excellent, and by far my favorite. Overall, a trip to the Boise Art Museum is a worthwhile experience. Don't go because of the price, but for the cultural enrichment.

The BAM is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Sundays from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. Admission prices are \$5 per adult, \$3 per senior (over age 62), \$3 per college student, (free with a Boise State student I.D. card,) and \$1 per student (grades 1-12.) For those who don't want to drive to the museum, the Web site is www.boiseartmuseum.org/ and provides a small glimpse of current exhibits.

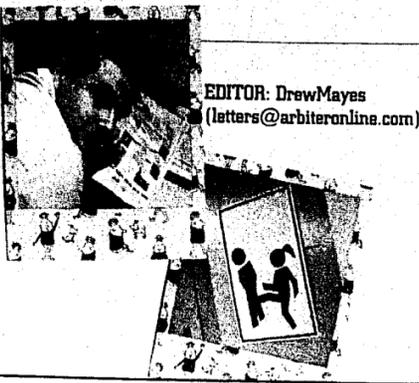
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EDITOR: DrewMayes
(letters@arbiteronline.com)

opinion

Bells are for ding dongs

BY DREW MAYES
Opinion Editor

Let me apologize right from the start because there is a good chance I'm just going to repeat "A bell ... \$4,000 for a bell? Are you freaking kidding me" several times.

When I heard that an Associated Students of Boise State University senator proposed a \$4,000 bell system I had to check my calendar because I thought it was April Fools day. Nope, we're still in February and I'm still saying, a bell ... \$4,000 for a bell? Are you freaking kidding me?

Should we break out the Zach, Kelly, Slater and Screech saved by the bell jokes right now to get them out of the way, or save them for later?

We're talking about a bell here, right? Like the same kind we had when we were in high school? Trust me, nobody reminisces about the glory years of high school more than me. But nowhere in my delusions of yesteryear do I miss the shrieking noise that went off every hour on the hour, herding us all like cows from one class to another.

ASBSU Sen. Antonio Bommarito was quoted as saying, "Nothing I found, to date, can change the campus for the better more than this."

Really Sen. Bommarito, nothing? Nothing will have a more positive impact on campus than a bell ... a \$4,000 bell? Are you freaking kidding me?

There's not a club on campus that could send a couple extra students

to an out of state conference? Not a pay raise to be had for campus leaders so they don't have to work a second job? No student scholarship programs in need of a little bit more funding? No popular guest speakers ASBSU can bring in?

According to the ASBSU code of ethics, "The principle purpose of student government is to promote educational, social, and cultural activities; to act as the official voice of the student body, to facilitate participation in the university community, and to work for the betterment of the university." Which category above would an obnoxious bell going off when I'm taking my stats exam fall under?

Who knows, maybe I'm being a little on the negative side and not thinking about how this could re-

ally benefit campus. I mean, what self-respecting university wouldn't love a tardy bell?

Maybe we can have a student ring the bell each day like they do at the New York Stock Exchange. That's a pretty impressive thing to put on your resume, right, "Bell Ringer, Junior Year."

Props to the rest of the ASBSU Senate for interrupting Sen. Bommarito and his ridiculous bell proposal when every campus group and their brother is asking for an increase in student fees. Let's see, should we discuss yet another increase in student fees, or a bell?

Yep, I bet that was a tough one to prioritize. I mean, a bell? We're talking about spending \$4,000 for a bell?

Are you freaking kidding me?



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Military called inaccuracy an 'oversight'

BY THE ARBITER EDITORIAL BOARD

Last month, The Arbiter printed an article stating that local soldiers preparing for deployment to Afghanistan were learning Arabic in their training exercises.

The story used information based on several sources from within the U.S. military at Fort Hood, Texas. Other local media, such as the Idaho Statesman, reported the same information.

The same false information. A reader of The Arbiter pointed out the mistake but because the information was derived from several military officials, The

Arbiter stood by the story.

At Fort Hood, members of the media, including The Arbiter watched a training drill where soldiers practiced searching a home for explosives and later questioned its occupants. A lieutenant colonel said the language in the drill was Arabic, as did several other military officials.

However, in order to clarify that the information given was indeed accurate, The Arbiter did follow-up research.

A military spokesperson said the soldiers are not learning Arabic, but rather, languages spoken commonly in Afghanistan. They will not be going into a country ill prepared to

speaking the local language.

Lt. Col. Stephanie Dowling said it's likely that because soldiers at Fort Hood deploy for Iraq and Afghanistan, the false information was simply an "oversight."

With thousands of soldiers flying in and out of the base, apparently some minor details may be mistakenly reported sometimes.

Yet at a time when many distrust the U.S. Government, especially its Middle Eastern meddling, truth matters.

The Arbiter would argue that mistakes like this are not minor, but rather, that accuracy counts, even in the smallest details.



Blame the master, not the tool

I would like to clear up Mr. Trent Cutler's misleading and misguided anti-gun propaganda. I really enjoy how people like Mr. Cutler say "guns kill" without thinking about it and use limited statistics to try and back up their unwarranted assault on weapon owners like myself.

He calls for stricter gun legislation as if it would solve the problem overnight. How ignorant are you?

People who obtained those weapons illegally cause over 90 percent of those deaths caused by handguns in the United States.

Calling for stricter legislation on handgun owners who are obeying the rules and punish us because we use our weapons responsibly is ludicrous.

How many people were killed in auto accidents last year? Why don't we have stricter legislation in regards to licensing drivers? Personally, I don't think people should be able to drive until they're 18 years old and all drivers should be tested more frequently.

Mr. Cutler, and all of you who drank the anti-gun "cool-aid," when will you get it through your thick heads that guns don't kill? When are you going to realize that people kill!

Does the sight of a handgun make you feel violent Mr. Cutler? A pistol, a knife, even a shovel can be used as a tool to kill a person.

That's right, weapons in any form are only tools.

It takes a person to operate that tool regardless of what it is. If that isn't simple enough, let me ask you this. Does art happen by itself? No, it takes an artist to use the tools available to create a work of art. The brushes don't paint the painting; it's only a tool.

I think you should rethink your argument and get you facts straight Mr. Cutler. Come back when you have something tangible to say.

Gregory K. Funk
Boise, ID

The DREAM Act is a nightmare

I can't believe the Senate would unanimously approve the DREAM Act, guaranteeing every illegal immigrant a chance to pay in-state tuition for a university.

When I moved to Boise I needed to wait one year before I was recognized as a citizen of Idaho, and my friend, as an international student, needed her green card before she could switch to in-state tuition.

Are we worthless in the eyes of the student government and the US Legislature than an illegal immigrant?

Jacob Good
Boise, ID

you should know

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 to letters@arbiteronline.com. The Arbiter cannot verify the accuracy of statements made in letters to the editor; they reflect the opinion of the writers. Opinions expressed by guest and staff

columnists reflect the diversity of opinion in the academic community, and often will be controversial, but they do not represent the institutional opinion of the Arbiter or any organization the author may be affiliated with unless it is labeled as such.

The Arbiter

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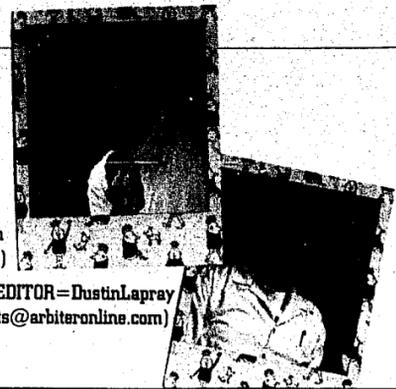
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[THIS WEEK IN SPORTS]

Men's hoops

Saturday
Cal State-Northridge @ BSU,
7:30 p.m.

Women's hoops

Thursday
New Mexico St. @ BSU, 7 p.m.
Saturday
La Tech @ BSU, 2 p.m.

Men's golf

Mon-Tues
Thunderbird Classic
St. George, Utah

Gymnastics

Friday
Utah State/ Seattle Pacific @
BSU, 7 p.m.

Wrestling

Friday
BSU @ Iowa, 7 p.m. (CT)

[SIDE LINE]

Braden earns award

Forest Braden, who broke the Boise State University record in the men's indoor 5,000-meter run this past Saturday, has been named the XBOX Live WAC Male Track and Field Athlete of the Week.

A senior from Bonners Ferry, Idaho, Braden ran a NCAA automatic qualifying time of 13:47.73 at the Husky Classic in Seattle. His time breaks the previous record of 14:08.76 set by Jose Uribe in 1997. The time also smashes Braden's previous best 5,000-meter time of 14:12.23 set last year.

Braden finished seventh in the race which saw 10 runners surpass the automatic qualifying standard of 13:50.00.

This is the second school record Braden has set this year. On the same track at the University of Washington on January 28, Braden broke the Bronco 3,000-meter indoor record with a time of 7:58.08.

Braden is a two-time NCAA All-American and three-time WAC Champion. His All-American awards came at the 2004 cross country national championships and the 2004 indoor national indoor championships in the 3,000-meter run. His WAC championships are in the indoor mile and 5,000-meter runs and the outdoor 10,000-meter run.

This is the third time this indoor season a Boise State student-athlete has received the WAC's weekly award. Senior thrower Mattias Jons earned the other two honors on Jan. 23 and Feb. 6.

Gymnasts home for two weekend meets

Bronco Gymnasts Host Two in Next Week - Utah State and Seattle Pacific Friday, Feb. 17, and Brigham Young on Monday, Feb. 20: The Boise State Gymnastics team hosts two meets in four days coming up. The Broncos first host WAC opponent Utah State (ranked 30th nationally) and Div. II Seattle Pacific (ranked 49th among Div. I schools) Friday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Taco Bell Arena.

Monday, the Broncos ranked 25th
Friday, the Broncos ranked 30th

Boise State's season average is 190.425. Utah State's average is 192.108. Seattle Pacific's average is 190.095. Brigham Young's average is 192.756.

Boise State's leaders include senior Katie Dinsmore (season high of 9.875 on vault and 9.775 on beam), senior Kea Cuaresma (9.825 on vault, 9.85 on floor), junior Lindsay Ward (season high 9.85 on bars and 9.875 on beam), and freshman Taylor Jacob (season high 9.75 on bars and 9.775 on floor).

Begay gives Broncos boost off the bench

BY MIKE SHARP
Sports Writer

When women's basketball head coach Gordy Presnell picked up the clipboard for the Boise State Broncos for the first time, he wasn't completely sure how things would pan out. And one specific player, Nadia Begay, really surprised him.

"(Begay) has really been a surprise," Presnell said. "She had a lot of confidence in herself. I think she averaged like three a game last year, now since our opening exhibition game, she's done a great job." Begay has really increased her abilities this year, and surprisingly, off the bench. The junior from Kirkland, NM, has started

just eight of the 22 games this season for the Broncos, but is third on the team with 12.9 points per game.

Begay is also ranked 10th in the conference in scoring, leads the Western Athletic Conference in three-point shooting percentage (40.3 percent) and three-pointers made (64).

"She's had a really good sea-

son," Presnell said. "It's really been a breakout season. She's battled injuries all season, but she's a pure shooter and she's made it a good year." The Broncos (12-11 overall, 4-7 WAC) host New Mexico State (7-15, 4-7 WAC) tonight at 7 p.m. and Louisiana Tech

See W.Hoops (page 9)

'It's the syrup!'



Silver medalist Gretchen Bleiler, left, and Gold medal winner Hannah Teter, both of the United States, celebrate in the winner's area after the ladies' halfpipe.

Teter leads 1-2 U.S. finish in halfpipe

BY LINDA ROBERTSON
Knight Ridder Tribune

BARDONECCHIA, Italy—Betty's rock! The American women were totally awesome riding the halfpipe Monday. Hannah Teter, fueled by her family's homemade Vermont maple syrup and psyched by a powder run just before the finals, grabbed the gold.

"Sick!" Teter and her big brother Amen shouted simultaneously as they high-fived and hugged.

Colorado's Gretchen Bleiler dialed up Green Day on her iPod, then dialed in a silver medal performance.

"Sweet!" Bleiler screamed.

It would have been a U.S. snowboard sweep at the Winter Olympics except that 2002 gold medalist Kelly Clark, launching into unprecedented amplitude on her final run - 13 feet above the lip, three stories above the ground - fell on her last trick to finish fourth.

"Bummer!" the announcer yelled.

One day after the U.S. guys went one-two, the Betty's did the same. They were absolutely mocking the pipe. Surfing the frozen chute, they soared to huge airs and nailed phat tricks. It was, like, the

coolest day ever!

And it would have been if they had lost. Snowboarders laugh even when they wipe out. In this sport - shhh, don't say that word too loud - it's as much about irreverence as the uptight definitions of failure and success. It's about style and throwing down. It's about stomping your landings and your neuroses.

For Teter, riding in front of the four older brothers who taught her to always go big, this was the flipping, flying winning run: Frontside 540 melon (three rotations); method; frontside 900 (five rotations) stalefish; backside indy; frontside 360 grab and a cab 540 switch stalefish.

Got that?

Radical!

"She was stoked," said Teter's father, Jeff, a former hippie.

Bleiler's second of two final runs wasn't enough to outscore Teter, who got to turn her last run into an exhibition for fans, some shirtless on a sunny afternoon in the Alps.

"Gretchen threw down so hard, I thought she had it, but then our coach said, 'Victory lap, and I was, like, no way!' said the irrepressible Teter, 18, who says everything with a wink and a giggle. "On the last run, I wanted to totally represent my brothers. For fam! It's the syrup!"

Wouldn't it be great to be a snowboarder? Your life is one big exclamation point! You live it to a continuous soundtrack of your favorite music. You have your own lingo.

Whether you're a goofy footer or a regular footer, an Olympian or a backcountry filmmaker, a rail rider or an X Games star, you belong to a subculture that emphasizes camaraderie over competition. Teter and Bleiler were battling for the gold, yet they were doing the Macarena at the top of the course.

Don't stress out. Be as loose as your pants!

Your day revolves around the quality of the snow. Your biggest concern is whether to do a crippler or a chicken salad, a rodeo or a popart.

Oh, and, avoiding crashes. Like the totally scary one Teter's brother Elijah did when he crashed into a boulder in Whistler, Canada, in November. He was in critical condition for five days.

"Yeah, that was a good one," he said. "I was pretty much on the brink of death."

Teter got her fearlessness from her brothers. Their nonconformist parents encouraged them to seek

See Teter (page 10)

Different tournament, same result for DeLaet

BY SHAWN ASHBY
Sports Writer

Boise State men's golf opened the spring season this week in the Thunderbird Invitational in St. George, Utah.

This was the first tournament for the team since late October, but the Broncos haven't missed

a beat with two golfers finishing the first round in the top-10.

Boise State senior Graham DeLaet won the invitational, and is staying on the same track that helped him finish the first half of the season with two individual victories, two Western Athletic Conference Golfer of the Month Awards, and being named a Mid-

Season All-American.

"Overall I was pleased with my performance, there were some things that I could have done better, but I came through with some big putts and that really helped me out," DeLaet said.

After the first round of play, DeLaet was tied for the overall lead by recording a six-under 66,

which included a 31 on the back nine.

Boise State senior Jake Sestero finished the first round tied for sixth place with a two-under 70. With the help of DeLaet and Sestero, Boise State finished the first day of play tied for sixth place

See Golf (page 9)

Refreshing 'Flying Tomato' takes stage

COMMENTARY BY
DAVID WHITLEY
The Orlando Sentinel

TURIN, Italy—GrandMaster Flash was about to perform Monday night. With any luck, Barbara Bush would rush the stage and trigger an international incident.

The president's daughter was supposedly in the crowd at the invitation-only party. From the spotlights to the red carpet, the night felt like a Hollywood premiere.

It would be enough to make a young man's head spin. Thankfully, Monday's guest of honor does 1080-degree spins for a living.

"Look at this," Shaun White said. "It's crazy."

About as insane as the thought that a pasty, 5-foot-8, 140-pound kid who looks like a young Carrot Top is the best athlete at the Olympics.

And it's not just what he looks like. It's what he does.

Halfpipe?

They used to arrest people for trying some of those tricks. Now they give them gold medals. White earned it Sunday by snowboarding his way into Olympic history.

Just that phrase is enough to make Baron Pierre de Coubertin do 1080s in his grave. The father of the modern Games envisioned Paavo "The Flying Finn" Nurmi, running to five gold medals.

Now we have "The Flying Tomato," a 19-year-old from San Diego who calls everyone, including his mother, "Dude."

But he means it with all respect. "He's just a regular kid," Roger White said. "He doesn't diss anybody."

The fact White's 56-year-old father uses terms like "diss" and "gnarly" fits the snowboarding stereotype. It was cemented in 1998, when the first gold medalist in a snowboard event was disqualified for having drugs in his system.

He claimed it was from second-hand marijuana smoke. That's what he got for hanging out with the half-piping crowd.

It's easy to assume White is carrying on that piping tradition. But the kid who looks the least like a Greek statue of anyone in Turin is actually the epitome of what an Olympian should be.

Party hound?

"I'm not really a drinking guy," he said. "I just like to hang out."

Funny?

"I am hoping that Sasha Cohen digs gold medalists," he said after winning on Sunday, joking (sort of) about his come-on line to America's latest figure skating cutie.

You want a classic inspirational story? White needed two heart operations before he was a year old. He plans on giving one of his Olympic snowboards to his cardiologist.

When White won his gold, he didn't light up. He broke down crying and spent the night celebrating with his entourage.

"My mom and dad," he said.

As for the standard Olympic move of cashing in on every offer thrown a champion's way, White says he'll only endorse what he believes in.

"If you don't say no," he said, "you eventually wind up in a panda suit saying, 'Buy This.'"

Actually, he'd already cashed in quite nicely. White is a skateboard/snowboard prodigy. It's as if the cardiologist installed a gyroscope that allows him to pull off tricks that would stop every other human's heart.

White was already renowned in the X-Game universe, had a clothing line, a DVD and made \$1 million a year. But that was before the Olympics.

"He was here," Roger said, holding his hand at eye level. "Now he's here."

White's dad is reaching to the sky.

The ceiling far above him was starting to thump to the music. His

See White (page 9)

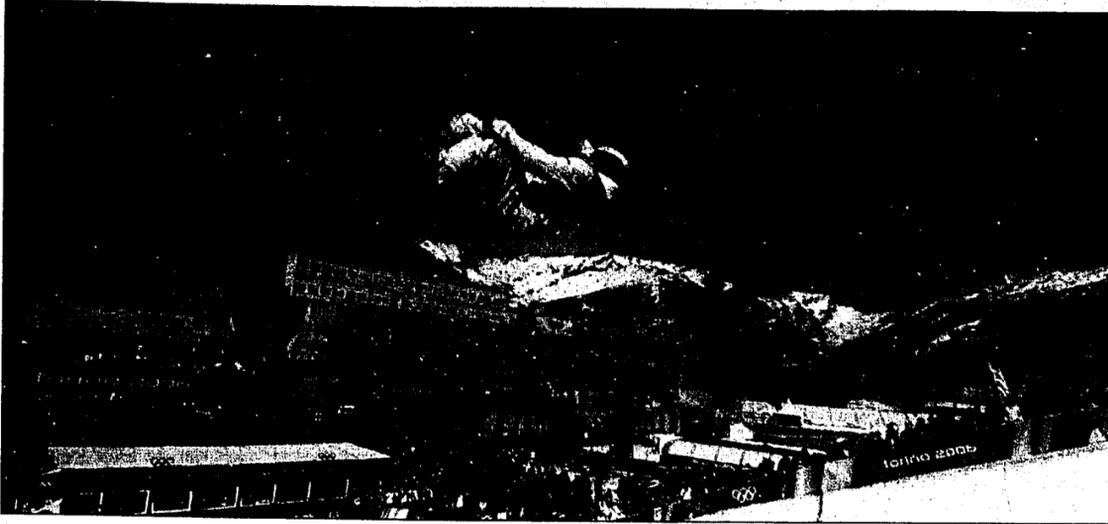


PHOTO BY MARK REIS/COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/ART

Shaun White catches air on his Gold Medal-winning run Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006 in the Olympic Men's halfpipe snowboard competition.

White

[from page B]

son had been whisked to the VIP room to hang with Nancy Kerrigan.

Long-term, you hope it all doesn't change White. The Olympics need more Flying Tomatoes. Short-term, you hope he met

Barbara Bush on Monday night and they hit it off.

Once he gets to know White, the First Dude will love him.

Phelps prospers in wrestling lifestyle

BY DUSTIN LAPRAY
Assistant Sports Editor

"It's a lifestyle; I love it," Casey Phelps, a Boise State senior wrestler said of his sport. "Football and baseball, those things, they're more of a game. I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, but wrestling is a completely different sport altogether. We take care of ourselves year 'round. You're always thinking about what you have to do and it somehow involves wrestling. There's kind of an off-season, but not really."

Wrestlers must remain in shape the majority of the year to keep with their weight ranges. The offseason training repertoire for BSU wrestlers is what Phelps described as "hell." "During the summer we usually lift, or workout or do wrestling camps for other coaches," Phelps said. "We run. Most of us are pretty active. You have to lift year-round."

The preseason is usually the worst part of the year. You do a lot of running and start wrestling hard. That's usually when I'm the most sore."

Phelps made mention of the team's stadium runs. The football team makes a big adó every spring when they have to run up the steps of Bronco Stadium. The wrestling team does the same thing, but they do bud-balls (piggy-backrides) up those same steps.

"They (the football team) sit there and laugh at us," Phelps said.

The Broncos are 8-4 on the season in duals and Phelps is 23-7 thus far this season. He is ranked No. 11 in the country, but has been inside the top-10 this season.

"I have wins against people ranked above me," Phelps said. "Rankings don't mean a whole lot. I've had some good tournaments and some not-so-good tournaments overall I've been improving a lot."

"The season kind of started bad for me," Phelps said. "I wrestled bad at my first tournament, but after that I started racking up a lot more wins against good opponents. I started making my way into the top 10 in the rankings."

Now, with the season coming to

its finale, Phelps and his team are on the road at Iowa, the No. 11 team in the country. Iowa is 10-7 in duals this season and 4-4 in the Big Ten.

Phelps is in the 197-pound weight class and will face a freshman (Dan Erekson) from Eagle, Idaho in the Iowa dual, the Broncos' last dual before the Pac-10 tournament.

BSU senior Ben Cherrington (No. 11) will face No. 6 Joe Johnston at 147 pounds.

Phelps is one of eight seniors on the Bronco wrestling team this season. He is an Idaho native and he has already graduated from BSU. He earned a bachelor's degree in English Teaching.

He is currently working on his master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

"It's been a growing experience," Phelps said. "I've made a lot of friends, made a lot of good connections. I've learned a ton about myself and what I'm capable of."

Raised in Rathdrum, Idaho, Phelps is an outdoor enthusiast. He plans to work at a ranch in Montana this

summer and possibly work in New Zealand in the near future.

"I flyfish as much as I possibly can," Phelps said. "I bowhunt. Part of the reason I wanted to go to school here, was to stay in Idaho, close to the mountains, to be able to do that kind of stuff and we have a great wrestling program, so it worked out."

Phelps plans to guide flyfishing trips this summer outside Great Falls, Mont. on the Missouri River.

He plans to live at the lodge and guide fishing and horseback riding trips.

He hopes to later end up teaching English and coach wrestling at either the college or high school level.

"There's no way I can walk away from this sport," Phelps said.

He may end up back in Boise.

"I love it here," Phelps said. "It's been one of the best things I could do, going to school in Boise."

As for now, Phelps is focused on wrestling.

"Coach has been trying to get us into tip-top shape, both physically and mentally," Phelps said.

W.Hoops

[from page B]

(18-4, 10-1 WAC) on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Because of a nagging ankle injury, Begay has had to play somewhat limited minutes.

"There were a couple things that kept her from starting," Presnell said. "Mostly it was injuries. It was that and trying to get a rotation down. Sometimes we have a lull where we can't score, and it's nice to get a scorer in there. She's really a starter. We've had to shorten her game a little bit to get her in there, but she's a very good player."

But with Begay returning next year, Presnell isn't worried about his "pure shooter." "The first time I saw her play I could tell she's a player to help build around," Presnell said. "I knew even before the first exhibition that she could shoot by watching her shoot at practice. She's really got a textbook shot, and it makes things easier."

But with Begay hurting her ankle in practice on Tuesday, Presnell said it'll be hard to see her get to that starting spot she deserves this season. Right now Presnell said the worries are pretty basic. "We need her to, first of all, get healed," he said. "She has a lot of ankle injuries. I hope that we can get her and the rest of the team healed, and they can have a summer working out so they can get stronger and so they can get a great year. "It's definitely still our goal to win 15 games. We're going to give it a shot. These next two games are really important for us."

But don't count the Broncos out yet.

"I think we're pretty resilient," Presnell said. "And I think our kids are all fighters. We could have been down and out a number of times this year. But we have a lot of fight. Other than our game at Fresno State, we haven't been blown out all year. That's a tribute to the work and fight of this team."

Golf

[from page B]

with Weber State.

Host school Southern Utah concluded the first round with a seven-stroke lead over Denver (285), Washington State (286), and Utah (287) rounded out the top-five.

With the second and final round of the tournament falling on Valentines Day it was fitting that the love of the course fell on DeLaet.

Working with a three-stroke lead, DeLaet was able to answer any challenges that came his way. The challenge came in the form of Matt McArthur of Southern Utah, who fired two sub-70 rounds to keep the pressure on DeLaet.

DeLaet followed up his low round of the tournament with a two-under-par 70 to finish the tournament at eight-under-par, two strokes better than McArthur.

Sestero finished with three-under-par, and tied for eighth place. Jason Williams rebounded from a two-over-par opening round with a four-under 68 to move him into 12th place, giving him his fourth consecutive top 20 finish.

DeLaet's victory is his third of the season, and 10th of his college career. While winning tournaments is nice, it's not what's on DeLaet's mind.

"We have a great group of guys, and a lot of talent," DeLaet said. "We hope to be the first BSU team to make it to the post-season," DeLaet said. "As a team we had flashes of brilliance, but didn't perform how we would of hoped to going into the tournament."

The Boise State team moved up two spots in the final round of play by shooting the second lowest score of the round to finish alone in fourth place. Southern Utah retained their first round lead to win their tournament with a 563.

Both Denver (571), and Weber State (577), were also able to stay on track in the second round to finish behind Southern Utah.

The Broncos will not compete again until March 6, as part of the Braveheart Classic in Beaumont, Calif.

The next time The Broncos play in Boise will be for the WAC Championships beginning on May 1.



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Downtown Next To Hangar Bar

After Miller is DQ'd, teammate Ligety snares the combined gold

BY KEN STEPHENS
The Dallas Morning News

SESTRIERE, Italy - After the downhill portion of the Alpine combined Tuesday, the gold medal was Bode Miller's to lose.

And that's exactly what he did when he straddled a gate and was disqualified in the first of two evening slalom runs.

Fortunately for the struggling and wounded U.S. Alpine ski team, Ted Ligety, a 21-year-old slalom and giant slalom specialist from Park City, Utah, was there to claim an improbable victory and become the first American skier ever to win the

Alpine combined in the Olympics.

"It's great to be where I am, but it's definitely unexpected for sure," said Ligety, who had never even won a World Cup race.

Ivica Kostelic, the older but far less accomplished brother of top woman skier Janica Kostelic, claimed the silver medal for Croatia, and Rainer Schoenfelder of Austria got the bronze.

All three owed their medals in part to early leaders who missed slalom gates.

After the downhill, Miller held a .32 second lead over his closest rival, Didier Defago of Switzerland, 2.06 seconds over Austria's Benni

Raich, the reigning world champion, and 3.06 seconds over Ligety, who was in 32nd place.

Defago, former Olympic champion Lasse Kjus and 10 other skiers missed gates and didn't finish the first slalom run.

Raich skied fourth and Miller 10th. After Miller crossed the finish line, the scoreboard showed that he still led second-place Raich by .97 seconds. But soon an asterisk was added.

About 20 minutes later the scoreboard showed Raich as the leader. Then in huge letters the scoreboard announced that Miller had been disqualified for straddling a gate.

"I didn't protest. It's totally out of my hands," Miller said. "Jesse (Hunt, the team's Alpine program director) said on the video it's clear. If it's clear, it's clear. It's not the first time. I've fallen more times than most people finish slaloms."

"... At least I won't have to go down to Torino to the medals plaza tomorrow."

Ligety was with Miller when he learned of the disqualification.

"I was pretty bummed for him," Ligety said. "I don't think there's any way I could have surpassed him."

Ligety had already turned in what proved to be the fastest of the

first slalom runs, 44.09 seconds. But with Miller gone, Ligety's deficit was down from 1.83 seconds to just .86 behind Raich and .46 behind second-place Kostelic going into the second slalom run.

Ligety's solution was to go even faster on the second run, 43.84 seconds, giving him a total time of 3 minutes, 9.35 seconds and first place among those who had skied so far.

Kostelic skied next and finished .53 seconds behind Ligety.

Raich, the only other skier remaining with a chance at the gold, was next.

More than two-thirds of the way

down the run, he also straddled a gate, setting off a finish area celebration in which Ligety's teammates tackled him and hoisted him on their shoulders.

"I didn't think I was going to get gold at any place," Ligety said. "I didn't think that until Benni went out."

"I was kind of in disbelief when he went out. That was definitely the moment when I realized obviously that I was the gold medalist. I was extremely happy to be in that position, to win the race."

But at the same time, I want to beat the other guys while they're skiing."



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Teter (from page 8)

adventure as kids in Belmont, Vt. Jeff is the town's construction foreman. Pat is a nurse and midwife and runs the town's volunteer rescue squad.

"With four boys, it was pretty rambunctious," Pat said Monday, wearing her Team Teter T-shirt. "Then came Hannah, and she tried to outdo them."

Teter first went airborne at age 4, when her brothers bounced her off the trampoline and onto the roof of the car. They also had contests to see who could hold their breath longest underwater.

She became the first woman to land a 900-degree jump when she was 16.

"Hannah sparked a revolution," said coach Bud Keene. "The other women said, 'Whoa. I got to get it going.'"

Today, she is a wealthy Burton and Mountain Dew endorser. But still as unbreakable as the ice on the pipe. She rides with a permanently separated left shoulder.

She nursed a sore knee through the Olympics "by doing yoga and lighting candles at night."

And she's still thick as syrup with her bro. She and Amen (also her manager) went to the



Hannah Teter of the United States soars her way to the gold medal during the ladies' halfpipe final in Bardonecchia, Italy Monday.

Teter was one of two Americans to medal in the women's halfpipe at the XX Olympic Games this week.

PHOTO BY JOE RIMKUS JR./MIAMI HERALD/KRT

male gold medalist for the U.S. at the Turin Games "America's sweetheart." No way. She's a tomboy at heart.

"I like lip gloss," Teter said. "But really I just want to be a positive figure if I'm representing for girls."

"I don't think I'm going to change. Maybe I'll smile a little more. Get my teeth whitened. I might actually be able to buy a boat so I can go wakeboarding."

What does she plan to do with the gold medal?

"I think I'll put it in our playhouse in Vermont and staple it to the wall," she said.

And next she's going on vacation in Kauai. She wants to practice surfing. From big air to big waves.

Shred life!

top of the mountain before the final round to ride some powder and relax.

"She had some butterflies, then she got into the groove," Amen said.

In the start house, she put in her earphones and listened to "Communique" by Strive Roots. She reminded herself of the snowboarder's mantra: "Have fun, or do a face plant

trying!" She did a little shimmy on her board, then slid into her run. The crowd whooped as she flipped and grabbed to a 44.6 score. So dope!

What about being famous? Isn't that contrary to the ethos of snowboarding? Does she worry about becoming a poseur?

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Business & Tech

House of broken phones

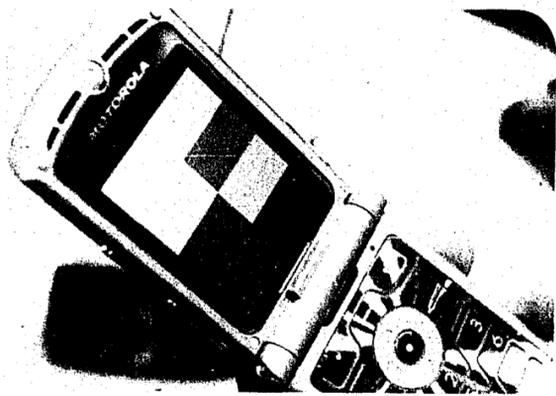


PHOTO COURTESY KNIGHT RIDER TRIBUNE

BY TERRY MAXON
The Dallas Morning News

FORT WORTH, Texas - The technician dispassionately turned my cell phone from front to back, side to side, as she looked it over. She scanned its bar codes. She looked at the white dot under the internal battery.

I'm sweating it as I wait for her decision.

I'm visiting ATC Logistics & Electronics' sprawling plant near Alliance Airport to personally follow my phone through triage, diagnosis and verdict. It's more than professional curiosity - it's potentially more than \$200 out of my pocket.

I liked my 7-month-old Motorola RAZR. But the RAZR's keys aren't raised, making the backlights on the keyboard essential if I wanted to use it in the dark. And my RAZR's keyboard quit lighting up shortly after I got it in June 2005.

The device is covered by a one-year warranty, but that assumes I've been a good boy. If the five-minute evaluation concludes that I had dunked, punted, crushed or otherwise abused my Motorola RAZR, I'll

have to pay \$210 to Cingular.

My replacement, which I received a few days earlier, is free if the technician decides I wasn't responsible for the damage.

High stakes indeed for a little phone and its owner.

Technicians at the Fort Worth facility put tens of thousands of phones through the same process every day, separating the working phones from the nonworking, those covered by warranty from nonwarranty, the phones returned within 30 days from the ones that came back later.

The plant is a tremendous Santa's Workshop, except the elves are about 1,450 area employees and the toys are cell phones from a variety of clients, including cellular companies Cingular Wireless LLC and T-Mobile USA and manufacturers Motorola, LG Electronics, Nokia and Samsung.

The facility, which handled more than 3 million phones in 2005, will receive, ship, inspect, repair and otherwise handle nearly 4 million phones this year, new and used, perfect and irreparable.

ATCLE leases more than a half million square feet of space. It moved its

triage and repair facility into a new building less than a year ago, and already president Bill Conley is talking about the need to expand this year.

When I finally decided to get a phone replacement, I had gone online with my carrier, Cingular Wireless, and reported my problem. After I had agreed to pay the \$210 if it turned out to be my fault, I clicked a few buttons on the computer screen and ordered a replacement.

That order quickly turned up at a 200,000-square-foot ATCLE building that ships out orders for new phones to individuals, retail stores and other warehouses.

"We handle about 50,000 orders a day, and up to several hundred thousand phones are actually shipped out of here on a given day," Conley said.

I ordered my replacement on a Thursday night. The next Monday, my new phone arrived, minus battery and battery compartment cover. I moved 71 photos and a dozen ringtones off the old phone onto a computer. Then I transferred my SIM card, my battery and cover to the new phone, added a few of the pictures and ringtones, and I was in business.

Normally, I next would put my old phone in the same box in which my replacement had arrived, and mail it to the ATCLE plant.

However, I had arranged with ATCLE officials to let me follow my RAZR through the maze, with the understanding that my phone wouldn't get special treatment. If my phone was rejected as broken by the owner, so be it.

The phone inspections are done in a bigger facility, with 350,000 square feet. Technicians there check to see if there are obvious problems in the phone and then route them to different areas, depending on what's wrong with the phone.

Instead of taking my box off a conveyor belt, the technician was handed the phone. She scanned the mailing labels inside the box, scanned the bar codes in the battery compartment and took a look at a dot that normally is hidden behind the battery.

That dot, about the diameter of a pencil eraser, is very important.

"This little dot here?" Dickson said, pointing. "If you had water damage, it would be red. It pretty much takes a submerging. But if it's red, it voids the

warranty."

White dot, good. My RAZR's dot was white. Nearby at the workstation was a RAZR just like mine, except for the red dot. That's the end of the line for that phone and about 3.5 percent of the returned phones that pass through ATCLE's hands.

"The first thing we do is we try to clarify customer damage vs. normal damage," Conley said. "If it's dripping water, it's going to be your fault."

Finally, the technician finished her work and noted "no damage" on my worksheet. And that was it, no \$210 bill.

My old phone eventually wound

up in a bin of identical RAZRs to be shipped to a Motorola plant in Mexico for further forensics and repairs. Motorola's technicians may find, hypothetically, some bat guano inside my phone. But once the ATCLE employee said "no damage," it meant "no liability" for me.

That's typically the decision for phones in warranty with no visible damage. Phones in which the owner is blamed for the damage (think red dots, big dents, cracked screens and separate piles of phone pieces) are returned to the owner, with a note that he or she can expect a charge on their bill.

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Easy

1	2	9	8		5
3			5		
4			3	2	
	1		5		
2	9				4 7
		1			3
		8	4		3
			1		8
9		3	6	7	2

Hard

9		1	2	4	
	7	4		2	6
		6	7		
					2
		2	9	3	5
	6				
			2	5	
7	5			6	9
	3	6	8		4

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Hard

2	3	9	6	5	8	1	7	4
7	8	5	3	4	1	6	9	2
8	4	1	2	7	2	5	8	3
3	6	8	2	1	7	4	5	9
4	1	2	6	3	5	7	8	9
5	5	6	3	2	1	7	4	8
1	2	6	8	7	4	9	3	5
8	7	4	5	6	3	2	1	9
9	5	3	1	6	2	8	4	7

Easy

9	4	1	8	3	6	7	5	2
7	3	6	5	1	2	4	9	8
5	2	8	4	9	7	6	1	3
8	7	4	1	2	5	6	9	3
2	7	4	6	8	1	4	7	5
6	1	3	7	4	5	8	2	9
4	5	6	8	7	3	2	1	9
3	6	8	7	2	5	1	9	4
1	6	2	8	4	3	7	5	9

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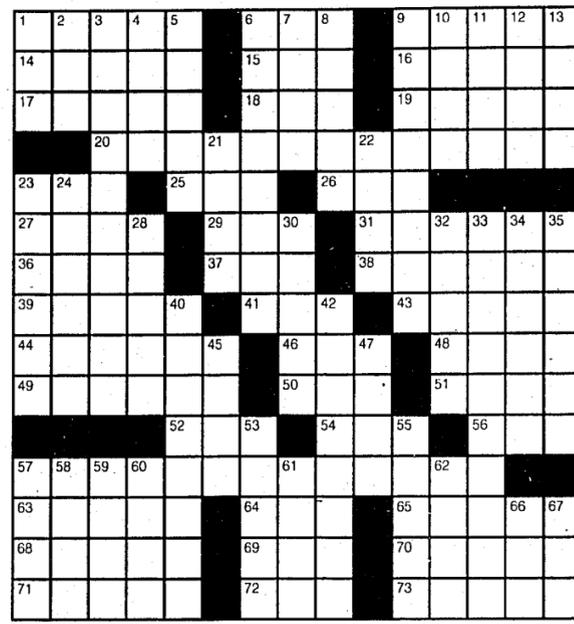
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Crossword

- ACROSS
- Ta-da!
 - NBC weekend show
 - Stood up
 - Moved a dinghy
 - Converse amorously
 - Actor Burton
 - Japanese guard dog
 - Shrew
 - Total
 - Different from all the others
 - Fire residue
 - Indian title
 - Argument against
 - Church seats
 - Performance
 - Man's title
 - Stage item
 - Word before boot or jump
 - Whole
 - Madagascar primate
 - Shepard or Cooke
 - "_ Shelter"
 - Tooth coat
 - Eminem forte.
 - Singer Young
 - With reason
 - Exist
 - Vocal inflection
 - Tax shelter letters
 - Horse morsel
 - Govt. agent
 - Done up to the nines
 - Potting soil
 - Attila follower
 - Cacophony
 - Dispute
 - PAT value
 - Terrible
 - Redbone and Russell
 - Heel
 - Visionaries



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2/16/06

Solutions

6 Comics' gimmicks
 7 Ark patriarch
 8 Reasoning
 9 Making true
 10 Actress Russo
 11 Track shape
 12 Maglie and Mineo
 13 Perry's creator
 21 Important times
 22 Alaskan port
 23 Romes and pippins
 24 Williams of tennis
 28 Froth
 30 Crownlet
 32 Tour of duty
 33 Particular age
 34 Weasel with a black-tipped tail

- DOWN
- Intl. broadcasters
 - Sturdy tree
 - Sinead O'Connor, e.g.
 - Apollo's mother
 - Ansel or Abigail

- Turner and Louise
- Private arrangement
- Few and far between
- It follows that
- Dumbfound
- Bluefin or yellowfin
- Edmund or Rob
- Big __, CA
- Ernie of golf

comics

Panel 1: Dilbert: I CAN DO THIS FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS IN TWO MINUTES. Boss: IT'S THE WORST IDEA IN THE WORLD. NUMBERS DON'T LIE.

Panel 2: Dilbert: OUR CEO LOVES THE IDEA. Boss: LUCKILY ASSUMPTIONS DO LIE.

Panel 3: Dilbert: I NEED HELP MAKING UNREALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS TO SUPPORT A BUSINESS CASE FOR A BAD IDEA. Boss: EASY.

Panel 4: Dilbert: THERE'S A HOLE IN THE BACK OF OUR WARDROBE CLOSET THAT LEADS TO A MAGICAL WORLD OF PREPOSTEROUS BUSINESS ASSUMPTIONS. Boss: WE DON'T HAVE A WARDROBE CLOSET. ASSUME WE DO.

Panel 5: Dilbert: THE LAND OF UNREALISTIC BUSINESS ASSUMPTIONS. Suddenly I feel as if anything is possible. Boss: HELLO! WE'RE THE CONSUMERS WHO HAVE EXTRAORDINARILY BAD JUDGMENT!

Panel 6: Dilbert: I NEED MORE THAN THREE OF YOU. Boss: THE HOLE'S A THOUSAND MILES DEEP. THE OTHERS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO COME EARLY.

Panel 7: Dilbert: THE LAND OF UNREALISTIC BUSINESS ASSUMPTIONS. WE NEED TO FIND SOME ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT FUTURE SALES. Boss: DANG! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY ACROSS AND IT'S BLOCKED BY AN INEBRIATED HILLBILLY.

Panel 8: Dilbert: IN THE LAND OF UNREALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS, THIS GUY IS YOUR ONLY COMPETITOR.

horoscopes

BY LINDA C. BLACK
 Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (02/16/06)
 You'll find all sorts of new opportunities this year, and adventures. Expand your area of influence, and see some new turf while you're at it. 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 - Others suggest a compromise. Don't disregard the idea. It won't be hard to arrange one that's to your advantage.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 Today is a 6 - Get your attention back into the job as soon as possible. Don't worry about the money that'll come naturally.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
 Today is an 8 - Fantasies lead to good conversations about what you'd like best. Believe a loved one can get there, and accept the support you get back. That's how it's done.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
 Today is a 6 - You'll be happiest now pattering around your own place. If you don't have one, it's also a good time to shop for real estate.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
 Today is an 8 - The more you read, the more you'll respect and admire your opposition. You'll also be able to present a much better argument.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Today is a 6 - Finally, you're getting reimbursed for all the work you've done. Don't be shy about mentioning if the accounting isn't right.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 Today is an 8 - You're especially charming now, and understanding. Help a child solve a difficult problem, and make a friend for life.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 Today is a 6 - You're good at keeping secrets, and you're getting better with practice. Make sure what's said in the family stays in the family.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 Today is an 8 - The opportunity arises to upgrade your skills. Upgrade your technology, too. Make your life easier.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Today is a 6 - Important people have noticed work you've already done. They're feeling generous, so ask for what you want.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 Today is an 8 - Don't hesitate to make your living space more comfortable. You'll want to be entertaining a special person, soon.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
 Today is a 6 - Go over your lists one more time, before you go out shopping. It's important to only buy the stuff you simply can't live without.

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