

12-11-2006

Arbiter, December 11

Students of Boise State University

Although this file was scanned from the highest-quality microfilm held by Boise State University, it reveals the limitations of the source microfilm. It is possible to perform a text search of much of this material; however, there are sections where the source microfilm was too faint or unreadable to allow for text scanning. For assistance with this collection of student newspapers, please contact Special Collections and Archives at archives@boisestate.edu.

THE ARBITER

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT VOICE OF BOISE STATE SINCE 1933

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2006

arbiteronline.com

ISSUE 32, VOLUME 19, FIRST ISSUE FREE

BIZTECH

PAGE 4

Check out Santa's list of odd gadgets and learn three easy steps to lasting wealth.

OPINION

PAGE 5

Who would win in a street fight, pirates or ninjas? Who would win it on a boat? Who is the better swordsman? We have all the answers.

CULTURE

PAGE 7



Indulge in the newest slice in town at The Cheesecake Factory while getting some food for thought.

SPORTS

PAGE 10

Find out who the first Bronco Belt Champion is and also how the Fiesta Bowl is helping Boise State football in recruiting.

ARBITERONLINE.COM

Shannon Morgan and Amy Bowman discuss what makes a guy a man-whore in the latest episode of "Notes from a Former Soccer Mom."

WEATHER

MONDAY
High: 45F / Low 29F

TUESDAY
High: 41F / Low 34F

WEDNESDAY
High: 44F / Low 36F

ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY

Toy and Clothing Drive. Boise State University Volunteer Services Board is requesting toy and clothing donations to help bring cheer and good tidings to 285 children. Collection bins are located in the Student Union Building, Albertson Library and the Multi-Purpose Building. Donations accepted through Dec. 14.

FRIDAY

Winter Commencement. Taco Bell Arena. 10 a.m. The ceremony will include the processional and recessional of graduates as well as individual recognition of each person and the hooding of four doctoral candidates. No tickets needed for family and guests to attend.

Let the *celebration* begin

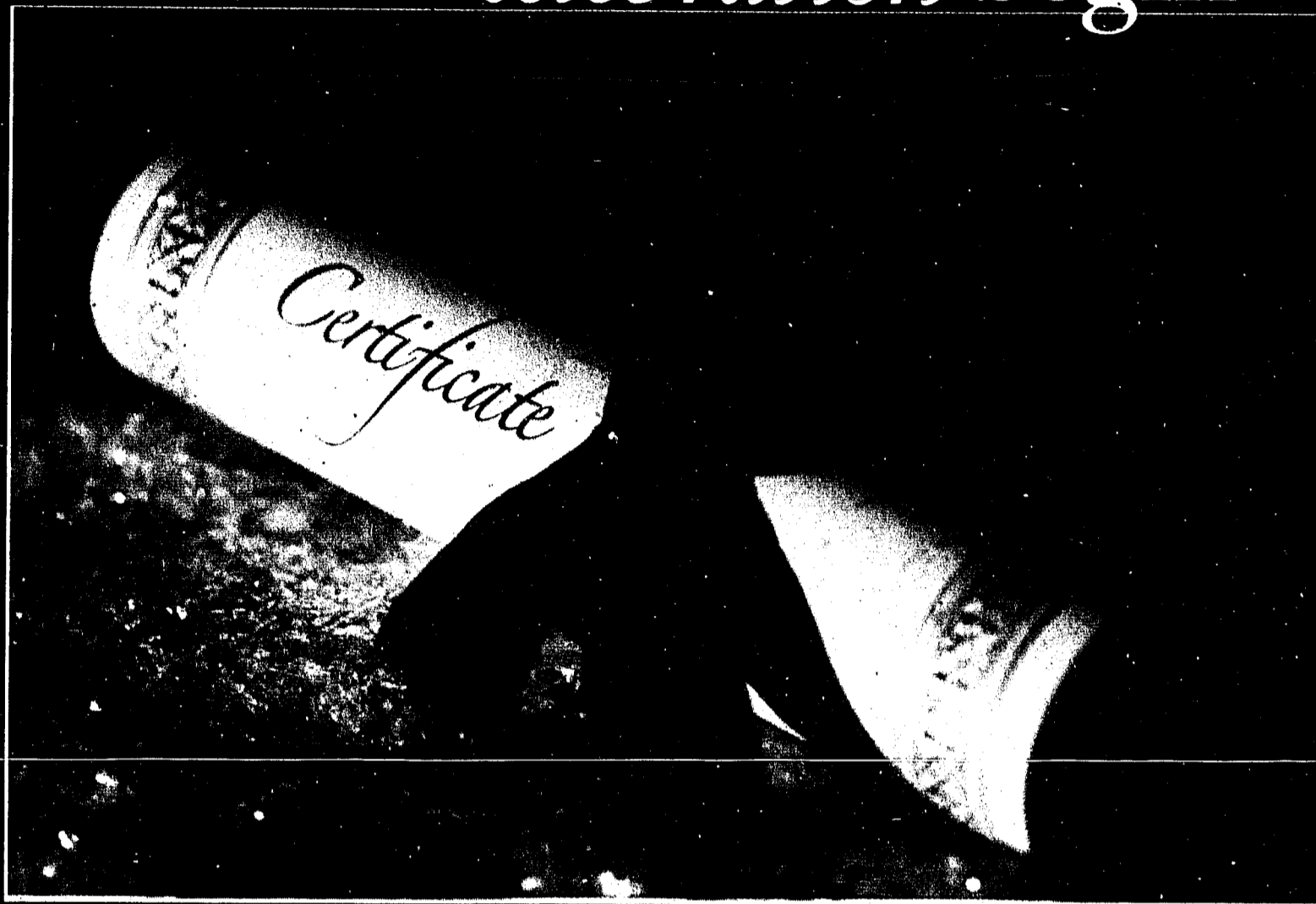


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RICHAE SWANDECK

BY MARTEE ORTIZ
News Writer

Boise State has scheduled the 2006 winter commencement for Friday, Dec. 15 at the Taco Bell Arena. President Bob Kustra will officiate the graduation, which starts at 10 a.m. Friends, family and other guests may attend, and no ticket is necessary for admittance.

For this event only, BSU will allow free parking. Due to the limited number of handicapped parking spots, handicapped patrons may be dropped off at either entrance one or two, where volunteers will greet them with friendly smiles and assistance while drivers park their cars.

An estimated 600 students are expected to participate in commencement, but 1,394 students have earned the credits to graduate.

Since the May commencement, graduating students have qualified for 1,478 certificates and degrees. Among the students, two students have earned doctoral degrees; Marc Leonard Buursink and Timothy Chad Johnson have earned their doctorates in philosophy and geophysics. Teresa Lynn England and Rebecca Celia Maria den

Hartog-King have merited their doctorate with education in curriculum and instruction.

Two large screens will display the graduates receiving their certificates for attendees who cannot adequately see the ceremony.

The screens will hopefully capture the reactions of the graduates as they pass through the line. The ceremony will include recognition of each individual and the hooding of the four students receiving their doctorate degrees.

The Associated Students of Boise State University has chosen LaTisha Clark as student speaker for the ceremony. Clark was a senator in student government for two years, and volunteered services to help ASBSU this year. BSU will honor her this year for her bachelor degree in computer science. Clark graduated from Meridian Charter High School where students voted her student body president. Clark demonstrates strong leadership skills and a great work ethic; she also holds a spot on the dean's list at Blackburn College.

Clark currently serves as an intern at Micron and recently accepted a position as a software engineer with the company. She

also spoke a little about how senioritis has been weighing her down, but urges students to continue their education.

"Just don't give up... as long as you don't give up," Clark said.

The Bronco Gym will host a pre-ceremony shindig for the graduates, their parents and friends. This will begin at 8 a.m. The Bronco Gym is located in the Kinesiology Building directly across from the Taco Bell Arena.

The Boise State Alumni Association has offered to host this event and will also offer a continental breakfast. A professional photographer will also be present at the breakfast for those who would like pictures to commemorate this very special day.

The reception directly following the commencement will be held in the Student Union Building Jordan Ballroom. Since people may get lost, each college will have their own section for friends and family to meet after the ceremony.

For the traveling moms and dads or people who would like to see the ceremony but will be out of town, BSU will broadcast the commencement on the Internet. Public Access Television will also air the ceremony at 10 a.m. on Dec. 23 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 24.

Public service helps winter drivers

BY RYAN RASMUSSEN
News Writer

Traveling during the wintertime is hazardous for everyone.

Travelers are advised to always call 5-1-1 or go to www.511.idaho.gov before going out on the roads.

The 511 system replaced the road report system last year.

The Website or phone number will offer users information about road closures, highway and weather conditions, mountain passes and the interstate highway system.

Callers use a voice prompt in order to minimize eye distraction off the road.

However, motorists are encouraged to put safety first by asking a passenger to call 5-1-1, or log onto 511.idaho.gov prior to departure.

The Website and telephone systems are updated in real time. Highway maintenance calls in the changing conditions so that travelers have the latest information provided to them.

"We are committed to do everything possible to improve the safety of motorists who use Idaho highways," Dwight Bower, director of the Idaho Transportation Department, said.

"The evolution of our 511 reporting system, both on the Web and on the telephone, improves the delivery of information that motorists need to make wise, safe decisions on winter travel."

The American Automobile Association advises that all motorists have a mechanic check the battery, antifreeze level, wipers, ignition system, thermostat, head-

lights and hazard lights, windshield washer fluid, exhaust system, defroster, heater, brakes and oil level, and obtain winter tires.

ITD advises motorists to slow down, allow extra time to get to their destinations by leaving early, be aware of icy areas and drive below the speed limit if conditions warrant.

It is also advisable to keep emergency supplies in the car, carry a fully charged cell phone, drive around snow plows safely and never drive through the snow being ejected from the plows. The force of the spraying could put the car out of control.

Since July 2000, when the Federal Communications Commission designated 511 as the national traveler information phone number, a growing number of states have

adopted the initiative to improve travel within and among states. Idaho became the 22nd participating state and 28th participating region when it introduced the Idaho Traveler Service in Nov. 2005.

Idaho now is part of the largest contiguous block of 511 participating states, a Pacific Northwest block that also includes Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming and Nevada.

It now is possible to travel throughout the region and receive timely information about highway conditions.

"As people become more familiar with the system and learn about its capabilities as a safety tool for winter travel, we anticipate the use to continue to grow," Manager of ITD's system Alison Lantz said. "We made a number of signifi-

cant changes during the first year of operation and have some exciting changes in the process that will make the system even more responsive to client demand."

In its first 11 months of operation, the 511 Web site was accessed more than 3.9 million times, including 846,015 times in Dec. 2005.

The telephone system received nearly 330,000 calls from Nov. 2005 to Sept. 2006. Last December the 511 services were called 89,638 times.

511 is a public service from ITD. Calls are considered local when called from a land line, cell phone users are responsible for normal air time and roaming charges in conjunction with service plans.

The old hotline of 888-IDA-ROAD can still be used; calls are transferred to 511 from there.

THE HEADLINES

WORLD

Tanzania is latest African country to ban plastic bags

The fabled marketplaces of this East African island once lured traders from across the Indian Ocean with soft ivory, exotic spices and slaves. Now Zanzibar is taking a stand against a staple of modern-day commerce: the plastic bag.

Last month the nation of Tanzania, which includes semi-autonomous Zanzibar, banned cheap plastic bags, becoming the latest African country to crack down on what's increasingly seen as an environmental menace.

The flimsy polyethylene bags favored by merchants throughout Africa have a thickness of less than 30 microns - far weaker than the bags used in American supermarkets. Just a handful of tomatoes or a couple of paperback books can easily rip through the bags, which then are just as easily tossed in the streets and bushes of towns and villages across the continent.

With no public trash collection or recycling in most of Africa, the bags' remnants clog gutters, stick in the mouths of animals and pollute waterways. Or, picked up by the wind, they catch in the branches of trees, where they flutter like tatty flowers.

The capital city of Bangladesh, Dhaka, banned all polyethylene bags in 2002 after authorities said that devastating floods had been caused in part by plastic waste-blocking drainage systems. A year later, South Africa imposed laws requiring merchants to hand out sturdier bags, which environmental officials said has helped cut the country's use of plastic bags in half.

Tanzania's law is among the stiffest: Anyone caught importing or selling a bag thinner than 30 microns could face up to six months in jail and a fine of 1.5 million Tanzanian shillings, or about \$2,000.

"The place had become an eyesore," said Tanzania's Environmental Director Eriki Kamoga Mugurusi.

The ubiquitous thin black bags can unleash harmful chemicals like cadmium into the air when they are burned, a common method of trash disposal. Scientists say the mate-

rial can take up to 1,000 years to degrade.

In Zanzibar, where tourism fuels the economy, the bags add to the problem of trash collection. Authorities can dispose of only a fraction of the 200 tons of trash produced daily, and Mugurusi said the banned bags still blighted the island's historic section, noted for its labyrinthine streets, coral stone architecture and intricately carved wooden doors.

NATIONAL

Former U.N. ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick dies

Jeane Kirkpatrick, a political science professor whose support for Ronald Reagan conservatism catapulted her into the post of U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, has died at age 80. She was the first woman to hold the post.

"She defended the cause of freedom at a pivotal time in world history," President Bush said Friday. "Jeane's powerful intellect helped America win the Cold War."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called her a role model, "an academic who brought great intellectual power to her work." UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan praised "her commitment to an effective United Nations" and said Kirkpatrick was "always ardent and often provocative." Kirkpatrick was a major architect of U.S. policy in Latin America, with a reputation for sympathizing with regimes that clamped down on leftists.

LOCAL/BSU

Construction would widen freeway to three lanes

Constructing a third lane in both directions on Interstate 84 between Nampa and Meridian won't be simple. The busy road takes tens of thousands of motorists each day to and from work. A stalled car on the side of the road can back up traffic for miles. The Idaho Transportation Department will explain the widening project. ITD Spokeswoman Mollie McCarty said the comments could affect how the project is done.

The first meeting is from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Idaho Center in Nampa. The next one is from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Meridian Police Department, located at 1401 E. Watertower Road.

ITD and the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), finished a study of I-84 in 2001 and recommended expanding the road from two to three lanes in each direction from Caldwell to Meridian. Traffic officials agreed on the need, but had no way to pay for the project. The state legislature adopted a plan earlier this year to pay for a road construction package across the state in a plan called Connecting Idaho. The plan uses bonds that will be paid back by federal highway funds. Legislators dropped the stretch from Caldwell to Nampa and other projects during last-minute debate. Higher costs for road-building reduced the scope of the project dramatically.

In May the state authorized sale of \$200 million in Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds and later picked CH2M Hill and Washington Group International to administer Connecting Idaho. The parts of Connecting Idaho relating to I-84 include the following projects: Ten Mile Interchange (2008), widen the Eagle Road westbound off-ramp (2007), study I-84 from Five Mile Road to the junction of Idaho 44 (2007-2010), third lane on I-84 from the Garry Interchange to the Meridian Interchange (2007-2010), replace the existing overpasses at Black Cat Road and Robinson Road (2008), third lane on east and westbound I-84 from the Franklin Interchange to the Garry Interchange (2010) and widen the Garry Interchange bridges to allow for the third lane on I-84 (2010).

Courtesy Idaho Press Tribune

WHAT THE?

This is not a stick-up

While a man waited in line at a gas station in Shreveport, La., intending to rob the cashier, another guy got in line behind him. The second guy was wearing a shirt that said "Shreveport Police Department." You write the rest of this one.

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BOISE STATE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



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Ride-along gives insight to students, public

BY RYAN RASMUSSEN
News Writer

Students face decisions on which career path to take in life.

The law enforcement industry offers many different careers, such as a patrol officer, detective and crime scene investigator.

Patrol officers respond to many different calls throughout the day. Calls can range from illegal parking and minor accidents to homicide and weapon involvements.

Patrol cars are equipped with a computer and radio system to work in conjunction with dispatch to help calls be efficiently communicated.

Dispatch informs officers of incidents and together they work as a team and respond as soon as possible. Officer response time depends on information from dispatch and location.

Dispatch can receive multiple calls at one time. To assist with prioritizing, dispatch informs the officers of important details so they know they know just what they will be dealing with. They receive all this information via a computer messaging system or over a radio channel. Calls are prioritized by a one, two and three system, one being lowest priority and three being highest priority.

Low priority calls are things such

as parking infractions. Examples of high-priority calls are incidents like armed robbery or assault with a weapon.

Officers rely heavily on community members to assist with problems. It is very helpful when people report crimes and give concise descriptions, since officers appreciate any and all information to assist them. Citizens can pay attention, for example, to a robbery case by noting vehicle type, color, license plate and direction in which the car went.

"We really rely on people to give correct information - its vital for us," Officer Sherri Cameron of the Boise Police Department said.

The capture of Allen Brant, who robbed several Boise banks, was due to a good witness account.

"We rely heavily on citizens," Cameron said. "I want to make this place safer for my kids. I want to protect everyone in this city."

When on patrol, Boise is divided into two major districts, each with about five sub-districts. Each officer is assigned to a specific district to patrol.

This way, an officer is in every area. However, some of these areas are large, so it can sometimes take time for an officer to get to the scene.

Officers in the CSI field take photos of crimes scenes and victims.

They also gather evidence such as blood, hair, semen and other particulates.

Part of evidence gathering is taking photos of victims in the days after the incident occurred. Officer Cameron said that they do this because people bruise differently, and it may take a couple days for the bruises to appear. In one of her cases, she took photos of the victim everyday for a week after the assault to chart the damage.

Cameron has been a part of the patrol force for eight years, and she has been apart of CSI for seven of those.

A career in law enforcement has multiple benefits, including pro-

motion opportunities, numerous fields to work in, retirement and medical benefits.

Students have the opportunity to learn what it would be like to be a police officer or CSI. There is a citizen's academy in which participants can go on ride-alongs, out to a shooting range, learn how to search a building and investigate a mini crime scene. It is a 10-week course in which participants meet once a week. The course has been in operation for eight years and Cameron said it has been very successful.

For more information on the citizens academy or police training, contact the Boise Police Department at 577-3000.

New campus buildings in the works for Boise State

BY CASSIE GUTIERREZ
News Writer

Two new building projects were approved for Boise State on Thursday, Nov. 30 at the State Board of Education meeting at Idaho State University - the expansion of the Student Union Building and the construction of a Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center/Nursing Department Building.

The SUB expansion will take the place of the parking lot between the Liberal Arts building and SUB and the SCHWCCND building will be located on Beacon Street, just behind the Recreation Center, between Michigan Avenue and Vermont Avenue.

According to Vice-President of Finance and Administration Stacy Pearson, in order to eliminate parking hassles, the new parking garage on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and University Drive will be opening next summer, just after the SUB construction will be beginning.

The construction and expansion

of both buildings is expected to take between 12 to 18 months to complete.

The SUB expansion is not expected to be finished until August 2008 and the SHWCCND until the end of the 2009 calendar year, due to the difference in planning and designing stages.

"These two buildings are going to compliment the Rec. Center and the College of Engineering nicely, and that whole area [will be] looking very university-like," Pearson said. "I'm very pleased that we're moving forward. I think that this is where we're really going to start to see a transition of this campus to more of the metropolitan feel."

According to Pearson, the SUB expansion should be starting this spring, but the SHWCCND building will not start construction until late summer or early fall, due to its stage of design.

The two building projects just received a second approval, but Boise State is waiting on one last approval for financial bonds to fund the con-

struction, which will take place in early January 2007.

The construction of the SHWCCND building will cost approximately \$25 million and will be about 70,000 square feet.

The plans for the SHWCCND building started in 2004, due to the inadequacy of the current Health and Wellness Center. According to Pearson, more students are relying on the health service and space is too limited.

At first, the building plans were only going to consist of a Student Health, Wellness and Counseling Center, until the idea to also build more space for Nursing Education came into play.

"We got into the discussions about the dire need for increasing Nursing Education," said Pearson. "And that's when we made a decision to try to combine the facilities so for a couple of reasons. We already had this building already in the planning stages. [Also, because of] it would give nursing students the opportunity for clinical experience in

the Health Wellness Center." Boise State raised 5.1 million dollars for the Nursing section of the building.

The construction of this building will allow the number of nursing graduates to increase by 30 percent.

The SUB expansion will cost Boise State about \$30 million and add on about 66,000 square feet.

The plan for the SUB expansion have been around since 2001 but has been put on hold, due to a financial budget hold back from the state.

Boise State had to restart the plans and received a new planning and design approval in October 2005.

The SUB expansion is also a necessity to Boise State, according to Pearson.

"[The last time I went to the SUB] I saw at least six student groups kind of clustered around doing a project," Pearson said. "For that reason and for the fact that we've grown so much over the last decade, we've simply outgrown space. And I think [the expansion would] give them a spot to centralize in."

Getting meeting space in the SUB has also been a challenge, which is another reason some Boise State students, faculty and staff have found the expansion to be necessary.

Boise State tuition includes a stra-

tegic facilities fee that was started a few years ago, to help fund buildings in the campus' master plan of expansion.

Right now, the strategic facilities fee is \$100. But there are other facility fees that students currently pay.

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BIZTECH

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Dow Jones Industrial Average
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Nasdaq Composite
2,437.36 (+9.67)

S&P 500
1,409.84 (+2.55)

NYSE
9042.19 (+0.21)

LOCAL

Albertson's (ABS-)
25.32 (+0.07)

Bank of America (BAC)
51.66 (-0.83)

Micron Technology (MU)
14.64 (+ 0.04)

Hewlett Packard (HPQ)
39.64 (-0.22)

Washington Mutual (WM)
43.72 (-0.90)

Qwest Communications (Q)
7.66 (-0.03)

TECHNOLOGY

Apple Computer, Inc. (AAPL)
88.26 (+1.22)

Google Inc. (GOOG)
484.11 (+1.47)

Microsoft Corporation (MSFT)
29.40 (+0.55)

Motorola Inc. (MOT)
21.09 (-0.35)

Yahoo! Inc. (YHOO)
26.34 (-0.29)

FUN

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67.03 (+0.07)

American Eagle (AEOS)
47.57 (+0.03)

NIKE, Inc. (NKE)
97.04 (-0.90)

Wal-Mart (WMT)
46.35 (-0.02)

McDonald's Corp. (MCD)
43.76 (+0.48)

CURRENCY

USD to Euro (EUR)
0.7575

USD to Yen (JPY)
116.2950

USD to Swiss Franc (CHF)
1.2060

Gold (Bid)
626.80 (-4.70)

Silver (Bid)
13.75 (-0.12)

Numbers printed as of press time

Santa's odd gadgets for your humble abode



PHOTO COURTESY ATECH FLASH INC.

"What college student's bathroom is complete without the Atech Flash iCarta stereo dock on a toilet-paper holder? The iCarta accepts most recent iPod models and all brands of toilet paper, and its electrical adaptor recharges the iPod while its four integrated speakers turn your bathroom into a boom-room."

BY BARRY C LEWIS
Opinion Writer

If you're on a college student's budget, Santa will have to shop for these gadgets for you. But first he'll learn a new word: Nabaztag, which is Armenian for "rabbit" — in this case, a talking rabbit. You can wake up and educate your roommates every day with this talking toy bunny.

Set it anywhere, hook it up to a wireless network, and Nabaztag recites the morning weather, news headlines and announces the time, all while you get ready for class or work.

It even lights up in different colors when you receive a new e-mail. Bunny 1.0 first arrived in the United States from Paris last spring and a new model will take your verbal commands through a microphone in its belly button while streaming Internet radio and podcasts. Nabaztag goes for \$180 or less, just send Santa to nabaztag.com.

Another gadget allows you to learn about current weather conditions and forecasts while brewing your first morning cup of coffee. The Melitta Smart Mill and Brew's built-in L.C.D. screen,

using the MSN Direct wireless data-cast network, costs you nothing for the weather function because an Internet connection isn't required.

Santa can do his shopping homework on this at yourgrindredredefined.com, or point him to amazon.com, where the Melitta runs \$200 or less.

What college student's bathroom is complete without the Atech Flash iCarta stereo dock on a toilet-paper holder? The iCarta accepts most recent iPod models and all brands of toilet paper, and its electrical adaptor recharges the iPod while its four integrated speakers turn your bathroom into a boom-room.

This conversation piece goes for about \$100. Santa can find the nearest dealer by looking at atechflash.com/products-icarta.html.

Keep those photos coming from home and friends directly to your digital picture frame next to your bed with the 7-inch eStarling wireless frame.

You can dedicate an e-mail address to the eStarling for ever-changing picture shows from family and friends, or input pictures from your memory card or a Flickr RSS feed. Have Santa pre-order at thinkgeek.com/electronics/cameras/7edc/

Three money lessons that will make you rich

BY SANYIKA CALLOWAY BOYCE
Young Money Magazine

Lesson number one: Rewrite your money story

Rich people aren't smarter than "average" people, but they do make different choices on how to spend their time and money.

In fact, according to Dr. Thomas J. Stanley, author of "The Millionaire Mind," there are five "success factors" that more than 80 percent of millionaires agree on as main ingredients to their success, two of which are discipline (applying self control) and hard work (more than most people).

Ok, so neither of these choices seem exciting, and they sure aren't in line with the "win a million dollars on a reality show contest" school of thought.

But have you ever really thought about what it'll take to be rich? I'm not talking about "hit the Lotto" rich, I'm talking about the Steve Jobs do-it-yourself kind of rich.

Read on to get some lessons on what you've got to do today to be rich tomorrow.

We each have a money story, I like to call it our "money map." It's the path you were unconsciously taught follow that leads you closer to or further away from money.

For most of us who grew up hearing things such as, "We can't afford that" or "I'm not made of money" or "You can't be rich and happy," our "cash compasses" are pointed to "broke."

But it doesn't have to stay stuck at zero, you just might need to re-program yourself to dismiss money myths you were taught that no longer serve your goal of becoming financially independent.

If a change in the way you think about money and the way you think about people who have money is in order, T. Harv Eker, author of "Secrets of the Millionaire Mind," suggests that you make several powerful declarations.

Why declarations instead of af-

firmations? Because, according to Webster's dictionary, a declaration is, "To state an official intention to undertake a particular course of action or adopt a particular status."

So, if success is the status you seek then start by re-writing your money story using positive declarations.

It might seem strange at first, but you decide - would you rather be strange and rich or really cool and cashless?

Lesson number two: Curb your craving for credit

The average undergraduate has \$2,200 in credit card debt, according to Nellie Mae, the nation's largest college loan lender.

That figure jumps to \$5,800 for graduate students. Since so many student credit cards have high annual percentage rates, so the longer you wait to pay your cards off the worse it gets.

It's hard to get out from under the

weight of debt once it starts to pile on. While you don't have to literally go cold turkey on credit, you will have to curb spending and boost your balances in your favor.

Credit isn't cash so when you borrow money today you'll have to pay it back tomorrow with interest.

Generally, your minimum payment due each month will be about four percent of your outstanding debt.

If you owe \$5,000 at 18 percent interest, your monthly payment would be \$200.

Now, if you only make the minimum payment, it will take 12.5 years to pay off your credit card debt - but the best part (for the credit card companies) is you'll pay back that money plus an additional \$2,916 in interest - that's more than half of your original balance.

Of course, the amount you'll pay back assumes you don't make any new charges on the card.

Visit youngmoney.com/calculators to calculate just how long it will take for you to pay off your outstanding credit card debt, and then put a plan

in place to reduce your debt.

Lesson number three: A penny saved ...

The time value of money says a dollar earned and saved today will be worth more tomorrow than a dollar earned and saved in the future.

If you're serious about getting rich you'll need to tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went.

And if you're not sure where to put your money, don't let that be an excuse for not opening a savings or investment account.

Every day, week and month that goes by while you're thinking about how much to save your money could be working for you, earning interest that'll be worth thousands - if not hundreds of thousands - in years to come.

Even if you start with only \$50 to \$100 the amount doesn't matter, the important thing is not to wait any longer.

GAS PRICES

Least Expensive:

- \$2.16 - Costco (Cole Rd.)
- \$2.19 - Flying J (8000 Overland)
- \$2.19 - Maverik (7350 Victory)
- \$2.19 - 7-Eleven (Curtis & Overland)
- \$2.22 - Flying J (Federal Way)

Most Expensive:

- \$2.33 - Chevron (Cole & Ustick)
- \$2.33 - Sinclair (Five Mile)
- \$2.34 - Chevron (Warm Springs Ave.)
- \$2.34 - Chevron (State)
- \$2.34 - Jackson Foods (State)

NATIONWIDE AVERAGE \$2.29
IDAHO AVERAGE \$2.49

[HTTP://WWW.CHARITYNAVIGATOR.ORG/INDEX.CFM](http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm)

Web site of the week: Charity Navigator

BY ERIC GOODWIN
McClatchy-Tribune

In addition to financial analysis, Charity Navigator also features articles with tips on charitable giving. They cover topics such as how to identify online scams, questions to ask charities before donating, and more.

Need it. To help you make informed decisions, visit the Charity Navigator Web site (<http://www.charitynavigator.com>). Charity Navigator analyzes the expenses of nonprofit organizations, breaking them down into those on programs and those on administrative costs. The site also provides information on how to find charities that are a good fit for your interests.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR

ARBITERONLINE.COM POLL RESULTS

How big is the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl for Boise State University?

votes

a) It's just another football game!	13
b) It's the biggest thing to ever happen to BSU.	93
c) What's the Fiesta Bowl?	6

The way we see it ...

The way we see it ...

Don't let stressful holiday shopping turn you into a jerk.

It can easily occur. The stress that inevitably accompanies the holiday season, provoked by the need to find gifts, attend parties, send cards, plan meals, etc. This is the time of year when a person's true colors can show, and everyone can see how you deal with stress.

If attempting to shop for gifts at the mall, plan on becoming agitated. No matter when you wander out there, it isn't going to be easy to find a parking spot. Plan on it. Screaming obscenities at the car that just stole your spot isn't going to fix anything; it will just leave you more upset and susceptible to other stressors once you finally park and embark on a journey through the insane crowds of shoppers.

Throwing elbows in an attempt to get the last Hickory Farms beef stick isn't necessary. Complaining about having to wait 20 minutes to get a table at a restaurant where all of the other crazy shoppers decided to eat won't get you in faster. Knocking people over with your monstrous shopping bags will only make enemies out of potential friends.

Generally, being a jerk won't get you what you want. And even if it does grant you some small gain (cutting in line at the grocery store check-out may save you two minutes), the long-term effects don't make any aggravated assaults worthwhile. Rude behavior ruins other people's days.

During a time of year that's supposed to be about caring, generosity and love for fellow human beings, it's remarkable how many people allow the little things in life to put them in a negative mood. Put what's truly important at the forefront of your mind - it's not shaving a few minutes off of your shopping time, guaranteed.

Putting a \$5 bill in the red Salvation Army donation bucket doesn't make up for purposely doordogging the person next to you that parked too close or running over someone's foot with your grocery cart to get the last Christmas ham. Genuine generosity and caring holds no monetary value.

So when an aggravated shopper steals that front-row parking spot from you, don't verbalize every swear word that you know. Instead, flip them the bird in your mind and smile - they aren't nearly as enlightened as you are, and karma always comes around. Enjoy the holidays as they should be enjoyed - in a stress-free manner with the people that matter most.

The way we see it is based on the majority opinions of The Arbiter editorial board. Members of the board are Drew Mayes, editor-in-chief; Troy Sawyer, business manager; Heather English, production manager; Dustin Lapray, managing editor; Brandon Stoker, opinion editor; Harsh Mantri, online editor; and Sheree Whiteley, lead copy editor.

Students more oppressed for political ideology than for race or sexual orientation

BY JONATHAN SAWMILLER
Opinion Writer

What's the number-one reason for which students report harassment or intimidation at Boise State? No, it's not race, sexual orientation or gender. It's not even disability. The number one reason, listed by 43.2 percent of students who reported harassment, was political ideology - closely followed by faith/religion at 41.8 percent (students could select more than one reason for harassment). These numbers come from the Campus Climate Survey, released by the provost on Dec. 1 and available online at <http://www.boisestate.edu/vpaa/campusclimate/>. This survey was taken last year, and included about 3370 students and more than 1000 faculty and staff members.

A look at the survey data brings about some interesting conclusions. For years, certain groups on campus have played the victim card, claiming the oppression they face on campus means they need special treatment. Boise State responded enthusiastically, creating and funding such things as the Cultural Center, Women's Center and Martin Luther King Jr. Board (there's even been hush-hush talk among administrators of creating a Lesbian-Bisexual-Gay-Transgender Center) I believe that funding to help equalize oppression is money well spent, but it appears that the money has been spent in the wrong places and focused on the wrong groups. According to the Campus Climate Survey, politically vocal and religious students are the most often victimized. When the CCS breaks student responses into subgroups, it becomes apparent that students of conservative political ideologies are oppressed much more than students of moderate or liberal views. Conservatives (many of whom are also oppressed for their religious beliefs) are also more oppressed than groups that traditionally claim victim status, namely racial minorities and homosexuals. From the questions, it also becomes apparent that much of the harassment, intimidation and oppression comes from BSU faculty and

staff.

Students were asked "At BSU, I have received lower grades because of my ... (insert your group here)." 18.4 percent of conservatives answered yes, 10.9 percent of moderates and 15.9 percent of liberals. Compare that to a measly 5.6 percent for the non-heterosexual category, or 12.5 percent for non-white/Anglo races. To the question, "At BSU, my participation in class is valued regardless of my ... (insert your group here)," 37.8 percent of conservatives answered no, 20.6 percent of moderates and 25.3 percent of liberals, while only 23.1 percent of non-white/Anglo races and 24.4 percent of non-heterosexuals answered no. The question "I have encouraged others to avoid taking a class from a faculty member on campus because I believed that the faculty member would treat students differently due to the student's ... (insert your group here)" was also asked. 21.5 percent of conservatives answered yes, as did 14.1 percent of moderates, 14.8 percent of liberals and only 14.6 percent of non-white/Anglo races.

Of course, surveys can be skewed. In the CCS, transgender students appear to be the most discriminated against, but since only two - five transgender students answered the various questions on the survey, the data is statistically unreliable. Students with disabilities claimed an extremely high rate of oppression, typically around 50 percent, while students who were not disabled thought that disabled students had an oppression rate more typically around five percent. What the CCS brings to light is the ugly climate of oppression toward political conservatives that exists among BSU's faculty and staff. It's unconscionable that the very professors and staff members who espouse open-mindedness and tolerance among students are themselves discriminatory and bigoted. BSU needs to move toward intellectual diversity, and that movement must start with the faculty and staff. It wouldn't hurt if we spent some money and created another center to address the rampant oppression, either.

What's so great about December 25?

BY FREDERICK AREHART
Opinion Writer

As a date, there's not much, really. Jesus most certainly was not born in the winter. However, in seeking to establish a day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Dec. 25 was chosen. This was very neat in that the date offered an alternative to the generally wild, pagan Saturnalia celebration that occurred at this time.

In our world today, it may be hard to believe it, but as a deity Christ is more concerned about what spirit is in a person's heart than what is on the calendar. Christmas, as we celebrate it today, is just plain narcissism. It is as far from the free salvation message of hope for which Jesus Christ was born and for which he sacrificed himself as the East is from the West.

The birth date doesn't matter - the Christ in Christmas is first and foremost about the value of the individual and the arrival of unconditional, divine love.

For non-Christians, the birth

and life of Jesus should still be a celebration of a singularly worthy person. Jesus put love for your neighbor above love for yourself. He literally gave his all to the poor and the poor in spirit. Divinity aside, what would we lose if we pushed Christ out of the public domain? Actually, a lot.

The historical Jesus is unique as a philosopher. He was born into poverty yet refused wealth, was rich in spirit and died an actual (documented by several non-Biblical sources) sacrificial death for the sake of his enemies. Hinduism doesn't seem to have a specific originator. Jesus wasn't a rich prince (as was Buddha) and he sure as heck didn't raise an army and start more than 1,000 years of warfare as Mohammed did.

A recent Arbiter opinion article about Iraq asked, "Where's the Prince of Peace?" He's not on the Internet or television, that's for sure. The greatness of Jesus the man lies in his profound real-world love for all people.

He simply taught his followers

that we are all equal in both nobility and unworthiness. His message to the truly oppressed and impoverished men and women of his time was to sacrifice even their pitiful amount of material goods, and their very lives if necessary, for the sake of others.

His followers did just that. There was no jihad, no fighting and no resistance (read "Pliny the Younger"). They were simply known for how they loved one another. How strange - how different - this is from our indulgent materialism?

Even taken just as a narrative, Jesus's life was an example of the ultimate in humility, sacrificial love and commitment. He willingly and peacefully allowed himself to be unjustly and illegally executed by the civil authorities as a scapegoat for the sake of a nation.

Everyone of any perspective would do well to celebrate such a man and such a philosophy.

With all our self-inflicted, seemingly unsolvable problems today, dare we ignore the example of this man and this life?

What the heck ever happened to 'dead week' at Boise State?

When I first came to Boise State it was explained to me that "dead week" is a time set apart during the semester before finals for studying and final lectures. Supposedly, exams and major assignments are prohibited as to not obstruct students' ability to study and focus on finals.

But in my three years here, I must have missed "dead week" every semester. Without exception, I have most of my major projects and final pre-final examinations during the week preceding finals.

Has our university given up on dead week?

Did it ever exist, or is it something of a hopeful legend? I have friends at other universities that actually cancel class for the last week before finals.

If dead week does not exist, then Boise State should consider it. Many of us work full time and need as much time as possible to study for finals. A real break before finals would help a lot.

Alan O'Sullivan
Boise, ID

Intellectual diversity should be more of a priority for our university

I am writing in response to Frederick Arehart's article titled, "Demand Justice In Diversity of Thought." I am writing to echo Arehart's sentiments.

The lack of BSU sponsored conservative speakers at our university is sickening. I am appalled at the showcase of liberalism in the Spring: Al Gore, Al Franken and the Reverend Jesse Jackson, and the fact that there aren't any conservative speakers that will bring a balance to our university.

Isn't higher education about being exposed to diverse perspectives? How can we be a "university of distinction" if we aren't educating students on all sides of the issue? If students are constantly indoctrinated by one branch of thought, they will soon think that way.

Shouldn't that student have access to various intellectual resources that better allow them to come to their own conclusions?

Why are liberals on campus so defensive of their ideology that they will block any other ideas from existing here - even going as far to label them "hate speech?" Shouldn't their "truth" be able to defend itself?

I wish to see liberal and conservative speakers at BSU. Conservative speakers that will echo my beliefs, and liberal speakers that will challenge my way of thinking. I hope that BSU agrees and will follow suit.

Annie Lowry
Boise, ID

You should make room in your life for constructive dialogue

Being a white male, married to a white female, a Christian, a pastor, a conservative on some issues and a liberal on others, I often find myself holding a "different" opinion. It is so easy for me to think of anything outside of my worldview as more than simply different.

Am I speaking for more than myself when I confess that I have often looked at the "other" opinion as the one representing the side of evil? Over a year ago, I opened a dialogue with my friend. I discovered that he had "come out of the closet" and was moving to another church where he could be accepted as a homosexual pastor. I was a bit puzzled, so I started talking with him, and more importantly, listening to him. We didn't argue - we talked. More than a year later, and we are still talking.

No, I have not persuaded him to make any changes in his life, and he has not persuaded me to change my theological position. However - and this is a big however - I have grown immensely in my understanding of the importance of dialogue, sharing, listening, and loving. My friend recently wrote to me: "I'm humbled and honored by your thoughts and prayers. I know we may not agree on everything, but our dialogue has been marked by graciousness, peacefulness, and compassion. That, more than anything else, speaks to the presence of the Holy One in our conversations." The church comes together to simply worship God. We do not debate theology - we just praise God together.

Be a part of the dialogue - you may be amazed by what you hear.

Bill Westfall
Boise, ID

You should know

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Not all Arbiter staff are the same

BY KATRINA L. SAVITZ
Arbiter Staff

Since I started writing for The Arbiter back in summer 2005, I was automatically classified as evil and could not be trusted. I knew about The Arbiter's reputation, but I never thought that I would be subjected to the unfairness and presumptions made by readers.

Unfortunately, the inevitable occurred and I was turned down for interviews. When I told people I was writing for The Arbiter, some individuals would say, "No offense, but we just can't trust The Arbiter." I understood their precautions, but I couldn't comprehend why they would not trust me, especially when they didn't even know me or read my stories. I was a brand new culture writer and yet I was being treated as if I had intentionally offended people.

I knew about some individuals who had written some distasteful stories on serious issues, but I am not those people. In fact, I often disagree with the material published.

As a first-term writer, I didn't know the ins-and-outs of the business and tried to tell people that I would never write anything that would deliberately hurt anyone. I just wanted to get some hands-on experience in journalistic writing. I knew The Arbiter was the right venue to learn and experiment, but in 2006, I noticed that The Arbiter's reputation was worse than ever.

Mid way into my second term at The Arbiter, new writers spoke to me about their concerns with The Arbiter's reputation and how it is affecting their work. I knew something had to be done, but what?

Some journalism professionals might say that in this business you are not often liked and we should just suck it up. But what if we had nothing to do with the people who had contributed to The Arbiter's tarnished status?

It was that very question that prompted me to realize that I and others at The Arbiter were just as guilty as those offensive writers. Why? I stood by while they hurt my friends and my fellow classmates. I never once voiced my disagreement and I even smiled in the faces of those writers, even though I held feelings of contempt for them.

As a graduating senior, I am here to break the silence, in hopes of convincing Arbiter readers that not all Arbiter staff is like the ignorant individuals who are so small-minded they would rather wear blinders than look into the eyes of the future and embrace the diversity around them.

The number of these people who write as though they have been living under a rock in the heart of Idaho that has mysteriously been stuck in the '50s are significantly few. The only reason their voice is more often heard by readers is because they find joy in hurting people in order to compensate for their own shortcomings and they get off on the rise they get out of you.

The majority of The Arbiter staff is great people who share the same views as you and me. They are a group of people that I take great pride in calling my friends. These people are extremely talented and creative. They deserve a chance to work at The Arbiter without being automatically categorized as haters.

I was once asked by a classmate why these arrogant writers were not fired for the content they submitted for publication. I explained, "They can write whatever they want, that's the right afforded to them under the freedom of speech section of the first amendment".

What can you as readers do? Stop reading the garbage written by those pompous individuals. The more page views they receive on The Arbiter Website, the bigger their heads get. If no one is reading their stories, if nobody shows that they care about their archaic ideals, maybe they won't write them. Maybe that's just wishful thinking, but what happens to television sitcoms when they have low ratings and viewers? They get cancelled!

My last suggestion is accompanied by a quote from the novel by Oscar Wilde titled "The Picture of Dorian Gray," "There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about."

Maybe the writings by these egotistical cowards are a good thing? They must care a lot about the people they hurt, if they take time out of their lives to offend them. Or maybe they have nothing better to do? I'm betting on the latter.

Farewell Broncos!

Pirates would decimate landlubber ninjas on land or at sea



BY BRANDON STOKER
Opinion Editor

The question of superiority between pirates and ninjas has perplexed many a nerd throughout the years. Indeed, these formidable opponents rank among the fiercest of combatants in nerd-lore mythology. The time has come for The Arbiter to weigh in on the epic battle. For me, it seems obvious that pirates would make mincemeat of ninjas in any battle of equal numbers — if not for their superior firepower and tactics, then for their brute force.

The first factor worthy of our attention is weaponry. Ninjas certainly had an impressive armory at their disposal — impressive, that is, for the 14th century. While throwing stars, bows and arrows, and swords make for fun play toys, they are no match for the formidable firepower of pirates. The marauding buccaneers of yesteryear could fence, sure, but they also brandished muskets, pistols and canons. Face it — there is no competition between swords and guns. To illustrate this point, I refer to a scene in the classic film "Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark" where Indiana engages



a man brandishing a gargantuan scimitar in a street battle. After his opponent displayed some mighty-intimidating swordsmanship, Indiana calmly drew his pistol and blew him away. Need I say more?

Second, pirates employ far superior battle tactics. They are the true inventors of blitzkrieg. Before attacking an enemy vessel or city, they would bombard it with cannon balls and fodder. Hundreds of seasoned buccaneer-warriors would then sweep in for the kill, swords slashing and guns-a-blasting. Their calamitous noise and flashy apparel would intimidate any unlucky foe standing in their way. Furthermore, they are experienced in all forms of battle—sea warfare, besiegement, attacking fortifications, even stealthy nighttime invasions. Ninjas, on the other hand, know little of large-scale invasions and offensive battlefield tactics. They work in the shadows, often on small assassination projects or kidnappings. An aggressive pirate army would overwhelm them.

Third, pirates adhere to a structured hierarchy with easily identifiable leadership. Captains and petty officers marshaled the forces of a pirate army in a strategic fashion while their opponents scurried in terror. Ninjas, on the other hand, were more like hired mercenaries — hit-men, really — with no organized leadership. Individually, they were quite effective, but en masse rather chaotic. The worst foes in battle are disunity and lack of leadership, and ninjas suffer from both; ratchet up another point for the pirates.

Next, pirates benefit from the "drunk" factor. Drunks are amazingly resilient to injury and death, that's why "drunks always survive" fiery auto crashes. Rum-induced delirium and beer-blubber allow pirates to sustain extensive injuries without dying. Ninjas, however, are lean and sober — they die from wounds otherwise insignificant to pirates. While nimble and stealthy, they cannot sustain the sort of abuse pirates regularly endure.

It's clear that pirates would own the ninjas in any battle. The differences in style and weaponry are too significant to ignore.

While ninjas are highly disciplined and stealthy, they could not hold back the mighty force of a pirate invasion.

Ninjas would slice pirates to pieces

BY DUSTIN LAPRAY
Managing Editor

In the cosmic controversy for battlefield prominence, the pirate stands no chance against the ninja. Sure the battle would be interesting to watch: a drove of ninjas raiding a pirate ship, or the pirate bombarding a ninja port would be an awesome spectacle.

But in the end, the ninja would certainly prevail.

Think about it. In basic combat, the ninja's swordplay would win over. Most pirates use their swords in half-cocked, mock battles, with cheesy action sequences where they get their swords stuck in walls or go rolling around the deck looking for anything to throw in a pathetic attempt to get back to his weak steel.

The ninja uses a samurai sword, tempered and beat into hundreds of layers of steel. A ninja never loses his sword in a battle. The ninja sword would shatter the brittle pirate steel in one strike.

The ninja is nimble and prides himself on stealth. The pirate, rum-drunk, lounging on the deck wouldn't even realize he was under attack until his guts were lying next to him. A group of ninjas could take a pirate ship before anyone could even raise the alarm.

It is the pirate ship which gives the scalliwag his only true weapon. The pirate is a sea-going villain. The ninja is a man of the land. I honestly see no reason in which the ninja would even waste his time fighting pirates.

Both ninjas and pirates fight against governments and corrupt politicians, but the pirate does it for personal gain, to loot and rob those who cannot protect themselves. The ninja is a fighter for the public good, usually. It is important to realize that there are good ninjas and bad ninjas and there are some good pirates, but at the base level most pirates are vile human beings set on plunder of gold jewels and the feminine form.

Pirates do have wenches, but I think a ninja could score a geisha and they are so much better than wenches. It's about class.

There are, remember, female ninjas and female pirates. These are both male-dominated cultures, but we cannot forget that women are some of the best fighters when it comes to swordplay. If you're looking at the movies, think of Uma Thurman in "Kill Bill." She could totally take Captain Jack Sparrow in a one-on-one fight. Johnny Depp's character is wily, I'll give him that. His lust for fortune and rum are insatiable, but no one on earth could defeat Beatrix Kiddo on her drive toward revenge.

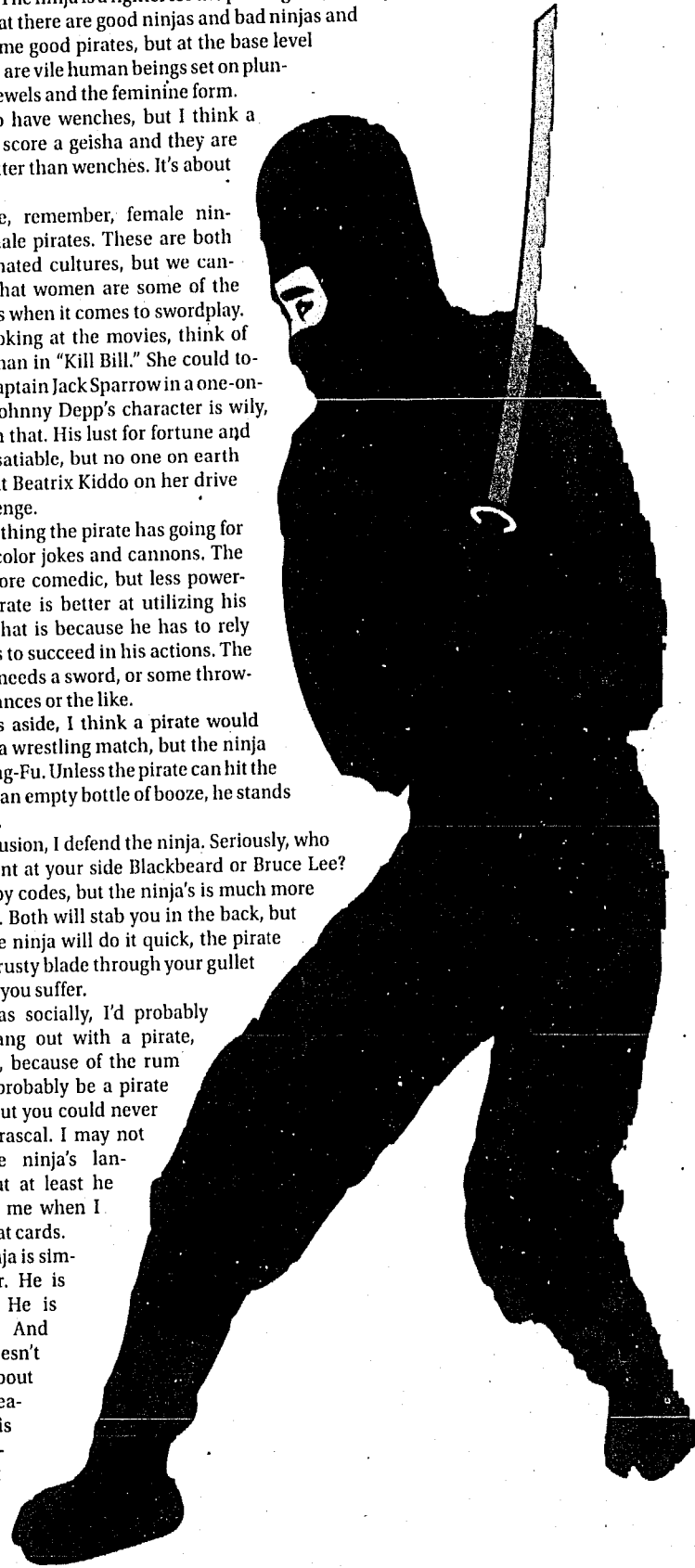
The only thing the pirate has going for him is off-color jokes and cannons. The pirate is more comedic, but less powerful. The pirate is better at utilizing his tools, but that is because he has to rely on his tools to succeed in his actions. The ninja only needs a sword, or some throwing stars, lances or the like.

Weapons aside, I think a pirate would do well in a wrestling match, but the ninja knows Kung-Fu. Unless the pirate can hit the ninja with an empty bottle of booze, he stands no chance.

In conclusion, I defend the ninja. Seriously, who do you want at your side Blackbeard or Bruce Lee? Both live by codes, but the ninja's is much more honorable. Both will stab you in the back, but at least the ninja will do it quick, the pirate will use a rusty blade through your gullet and make you suffer.

As far as socially, I'd probably like to hang out with a pirate, you know, because of the rum (I would probably be a pirate myself), but you could never trust the rascal. I may not know the ninja's language, but at least he won't kill me when I beat him at cards.

The ninja is simply better. He is cunning. He is stealthy. And he doesn't worry about getting seasick. He is respectful, but deadly.



Disagree with their verdicts? Respond online at www.arbiteronline.com!

We're all responsible for ending oppression

BY MAHI TAKAZAWA
Guest Opinion

Let us take a moment to reflect on this past semester... What lessons have we learned? What changes will we make? Boise State is a miniature of the world-at-large that tolerates violence and oppression.

Violence is not limited to individual acts of aggression (discrimination). It also includes speech and thoughts (prejudice) against other humans based on differences. Individual violence accumulates, leading to oppression - the systematic suppression of a group of people, the result of which benefits one

group of people over the other. It is maintained by social beliefs and practices, leading to some groups feeling disempowered and often internalizing this oppression.

This in turn reinforces prejudice, which reinforces discrimination and keeps the cycle of oppression in motion. Whether we like it or not, we all contribute to this destructive cycle. Violence through words or actions can never be condoned as a means of advocating one's beliefs.

These principles should never be misconstrued as being liberal. Standing up against oppression is an act of humanitarianism (caring for the welfare of others), not

liberalism. Maintaining a culture of intolerance is oppression, not conservatism.

We praise the efforts of our students who rallied against oppression and who speak out against injustice. Universities have a critical role in developing global citizens who will stand up for the rights of all human beings.

University staff and faculty, as educators, should advocate against oppression. This should not be misconstrued as a political act, rather an educational undertaking. Staff and faculty are not merely here to provide services, but to promote the ideals of true democracy - life,

liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all human beings.

As the year comes to a close, it is important that we reflect. What can we do to end oppression at Boise State?

What do we want future generations of Broncos to say about how we addressed this issue? What can we do to make a difference? We challenge all students to engage in dialogue - to have the courage to respect each other regardless of our differences and begin a conversation. True dialogue involves listening and mutual understanding - it is not debate. This is not easy for humans because we are basi-

cally self-centered. Patience and humility is key to understanding others. Through dialogue, we gain an awareness and respect for the "other" and awaken to the fact that we are all interconnected.

Overcoming oppression is extremely tough, but we must challenge ourselves. Just imagine the brilliant Boise State we can create by engaging in dialogue and developing friendships with people who are different from ourselves. Reflect on your experiences and those of others. Listen, learn and live!

Mahi Takazawa is a member of the student involvement team

LOCALLY
TO
GLOBALLY

WHAT'S HOT
WHAT'S NOT
IN ENTERTAINMENT



BY DANIEL KEDISH
Culture Writer

Globally

HOT
Disney and music charts

No matter what one may say, there is no denying the power Disney has on the music industry.

In the past we've seen celebrities such as Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake to Hilary Duff and Lindsey Lohan - all of whom gained popularity starting with the pre-teens working toward older, more mature audiences.

The list doesn't end there. An up-and-comer to the scene is Miley Cyrus, known as Hannah Montana on the Disney show "Hannah Montana."

Now this girl has got a voice. With high-quality musicality, this singer may be just another name to add to the list of hot young stars.

The only thing we can hope for is that she gets rid of that annoying lisp.

NOT
Stamos wants Aniston

Reportedly, Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston spent this last holiday apart, bringing back the rumors on whether the couple is still together. While many may be disappointed about the breakup, just as they were in the movie with the same title, one man is smiling.

When John Stamos heard the news he was overjoyed. Apparently when Aniston and Brad Pitt called it quits he tried to call the star to ask her out, but his nerves got the best of him, along with feelings of not being good enough.

In reality, Stamos, you're not! She is a movie star and your days ended back in 1995 when "Full House" went off air. While you continue to drag your feet, holding on to the past, Aniston is moving on to even larger projects and film festivals. While the notion is nice, get real Stamos.

Locally

HOT
Find the late-night grub

It's late and you just finished round five at the bars. Now it's time to eat - but where?

A great place to grab a bite downtown is The Front Door, located at Sixth and Main (below the Reef). This pizza place serves up some of the best with a variety of original blends that can fix any person's hunger.

In case you end up on the other side of the bar scene, there is always The Pie Hole, offering a few of its own slices well after the bars close.

Let's also not forget, that for those that don't crave the pizza there is always the healthier avenue with Pita Pit, or the highway to heart burn with the street vendors.

Can anyone say, "top me off with some sauerkraut please?"

NOT
Beware of live music

Live music: sounds appealing and seems harmless, however, live music can also mean "sounds like crap."

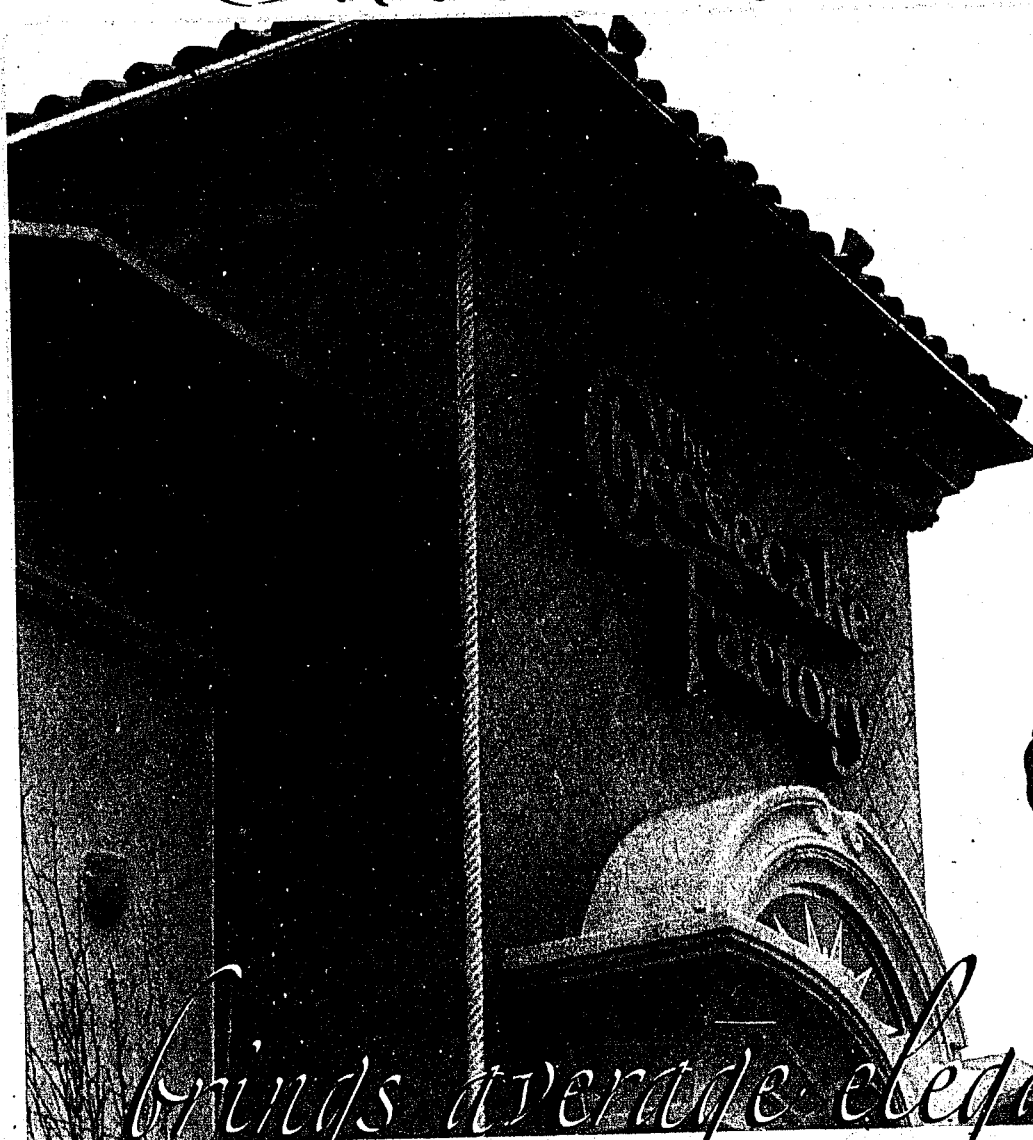
Take some words of advice from someone who fell into this trap last weekend.

After inviting some friends to a local bar for drinks because of the live music, I was embarrassed to find that night entailed an 80-year-old man singing a slow acoustic rendition of "Susie Q."

Talk about a nightmare.

Remember when selecting the scene: What type of bar is it and what would you expect to see there? Who is telling you to come (an employee will rave about the band or singer)? Lastly, when all else fails, there is always the karaoke alternative.

The Cheesecake Factory



Brings average elegance to Boise

BY KATRINA L. SAVITZ
Assistant Culture Editor

I received a coupon from a good friend for a reservation for two to dine gratis at The Cheesecake Factory at the Boise Towne Square Mall.

This special invitation served as a way for the restaurant's staff to get some experience serving customers.

I jumped at the chance to be a part of it, not to mention indulge in a free meal.

The last time I ate at one of The Cheesecake Factory's restaurants was back in 1998 at the Woodland Hills, Calif. location.

I remember the food tasting ok and the cheesecake being absolutely scrumptious.

I hoped that The Cheesecake Factory had changed over the years (perhaps it has in some aspects) but unfortunately that wasn't the case over all.

The look

The contemporary exterior of the restaurant behind the dated exterior of the Boise Towne Square Mall makes the restaurant stand out like a person with a mo-

hawk hairstyle in church.

As guests walk through the two sets of double doors, they enter the bright and elegant open floor plan.

I was greeted by a nervous young woman dressed entirely in black, whom I could barely hear.

She directed us to the left of the tall, dark counter, where I was greeted by another woman and shown to my table.

Initially I was seated at a table in the direct range of the beaming sunlight through one of the top windows.

Unfortunately, that particular mechanical blind was jammed and wouldn't close, so I asked for another table.

The larger, more comfy table turned out to be much better than sitting inches away from the couple next to us and having to make my menu into a sun visor in order to engage in a conversation with my companion.

The food

As I sipped on a fruity cocktail and waited for our meal, my friend noticed other tables had baskets of bread and butter.

I asked the waiter if we could get a basket of bread like the other tables.

He said that the bread was part of an appetizer plate and would bring one right over. "Why weren't we offered an appetizer plate?" I wondered.

The Tex-Mex egg rolls arrived and they were delicious.

The egg rolls were accompanied with a guacamole cream sauce and pico de gallo.

The pico de gallo had an authentic and fresh taste.

It was definitely one of the best in Boise.

I ordered the chicken marsala and mushrooms, not that I had much of a choice since my friend and I had to select from two items and we couldn't have the same entree.

The thin marsala sauce completely covered the large chicken breasts and bow tie pasta.

Beside the brown hair I found in my food while stirring the marsala sauce and pasta (which I returned for another) and the enormous chicken breasts.

The meal was as good as a 25-minute boxed entree you can find at a local grocer.

I didn't even finish it.

The cheesecake

Nearly two hours later, it was time for dessert. I chose the chocolate chip cookie dough cheesecake. After my first bite, I was in heaven.

The cake was rich and smooth. Each bite had an equal amount of ingredients. The crust wasn't too crispy or underdone. I could slice right through it with my fork; there was no need for a knife. The crunchy walnuts on top made this an extra special treat.

The verdict

The restaurant has an open floor plan and with this comes the loud bangs and clangs of dishes and pots coming from the kitchen.

The chatter from other diners can make the restaurant even louder. So if you're looking for a quiet dinner at The Cheesecake Factory, bring ear plugs or take your meal to go.

I recommend this restaurant for diners looking for a place to eat appetizers with friends or going out for dessert and drinks with a date.

PHOTO BY ALICE SCULLY/THE ARBITER

SOMETHING FOR ROCKETS 'KEEPS IT SEXY' WITH NEW EP

BY FRANCY MARCOTTE
Culture Writer

"Keep it sexy." Aw, words of wisdom from Something For Rockets.

The band released an EP called "Wake Up" this year, following its 2005 self-titled album.

The six new EP tracks blend techno and rock beats with poetic lyrics.

Hailing from Los Angeles, Something For Rockets combines Rami Perlman (lyrics, vocals and guitar), Josh Eichenbaum (keyboard), Barry Davis (drums) and Jacques Braulbar (bass).

The band's official Website describes its collaboration as "Evocative, intelligent and stylish, the result is a sound that is both vintage and future, dark and playful..."

The group started out playing gigs at various L.A. venues and clubs.

These gigs gave the band a substantial fan base and prompted its first full-length album.

Now (a year later) Something for Rockets scores high with "Wake Up." The EP opens with a track called "I Never Know."

A jazzy keyboard number begins the song, followed up by the guitar and Perlman's vocals.

"When you go away/ You can go astray/ When you go astray/ Will you know the way?/ Cuz I never know/ I never asked you/ I don't know/ I never tried to." "That's a Lie" comes next. This track provides a more mellow sound that emphasizes the lyrics.

"If love is but a feeling/ The only thing that gets us through from day to day/ Then why you keep repeating this phrase?/ That's a lie/ You can do anything you want to do/ It's not going to change my mind."

After "That's a Lie," there are two remixes of songs from the previous album. The EP then wraps up with two new songs: "Do me on the Dancefloor" and "Everybody Loves A Lot." "Do Me on the Dancefloor" may sound like a party, but slow, steady keyboard and percussion play throughout, making it a good song to chill to. On the other hand, "Everybody Loves A Lot" has an upbeat electronic sound.

The vocals take a backseat, letting the bouncy keyboards, drums and guitar take over.

"Wake Up" contains a variety of songs. Some call for a dance party and others soothe the listener with low-key vibes.

But no matter what the tempo, each track stays true to the band's motto: "Keep it Sexy."

To find out how you can keep it sexy like Something For Rockets (or if you just want more information on the band) check out their Website: <http://www.somethingforrockets.com> or their Myspace profile: <http://www.myspace.com/somethingforrockets>. "Wake Up" and the full-length CD can be purchased at the band's online store: <http://www.merchdirect.net>.

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making connections

'Food for Thought:' History from someone who lived it

BY JULIA C. ARREDONDO
Culture Writer

Everyone learns about history, and we're all writing our generation's history right now. Yet it is those individuals who experience, first-hand, the atrocities and victories of History that can relate and share their encounters most vividly and fully with younger generations.

On Dec. 7 at the Student Union Building Lookout Room the last "Food for Thought" of the year was held — "Poland: From Solidarity to Democracy's Mess." The guest speaker was author and journalist Konstanty Gebert, who witnessed first-hand the most significant social movement of the twentieth century — Poland's Solidarity Movement which brought down its Communist government.

After a short introduction by Lynn Lubamersky — professor of Women's Studies and History at Boise State — the middle-aged, pensive-looking revolutionary began his story.

He first reflected on his introduction by Lubamersky — who shared with the audience how significant Gebert's contribution to the movement was and how his early writing pseudonym (Dawid Warszawski) in some cases can be more recognized than his real name.

"I'd like to meet that character,"

he said. Gebert wore a charcoal-colored tweed jacket and dark blue slacks. He had a full black beard with a white patch on his chin. Overall, Gebert looked like a professor.

He stood with both his hands grasping the sides of the podium and began to explain how Poland's present troubles are rooted in its past: a past he helped create.

In the early morning of Dec. 13, 1981 Gebert escaped being thrown in jail with the 5,000 other revolutionaries and companions who had been working hard with the Independent Trade Union. He overslept and was spared because he no longer lived at the address the Communist government had him recorded at.

In the one-hour speech, Gebert managed to paint both bleak and grand pictures of hope about his country's past, involving Communist raids on a gloomy December morning and strong, courageous men pulling large bags of underground newspapers through the streets of Poland.

He described a history rich in detail — a behind-the-scenes with someone who was there.

They was a non-violent movement, some ten million members strong, rising against the government, working underground and risking their lives for freedom.

It finally paid off when the Solidarity Party met with the Communist government.

"It was probably one of the weirdest times of my life," Gebert said. The Communists and underground leaders negotiated the future of Poland.

The result: two-thirds of Parliament seats had to be approved by the Communists and Allies and one-third could be filled with those elected in a free election. Almost all of the seats were filled with reformers after the first election.

Still, Gebert pointed out, Democracy failed and after the first term, the country voted the Communist party back in power. Voting back and forth when one administration failed to fix the country.

It's why the country is in the condition it's in today, when a policy of lustration (a form of publicly denouncing individuals to civic death) is working against those who took a part in its past.

A consequence, perhaps, of the insistence for non-violence by the Solidarity party, Professor Lubamersky surmised.

But Gebert was very clear about the non-violent tactics. "It is not better to die fighting, than to live on your knees. Life is an absolute value," he said. Gebert knows that he had the choice.

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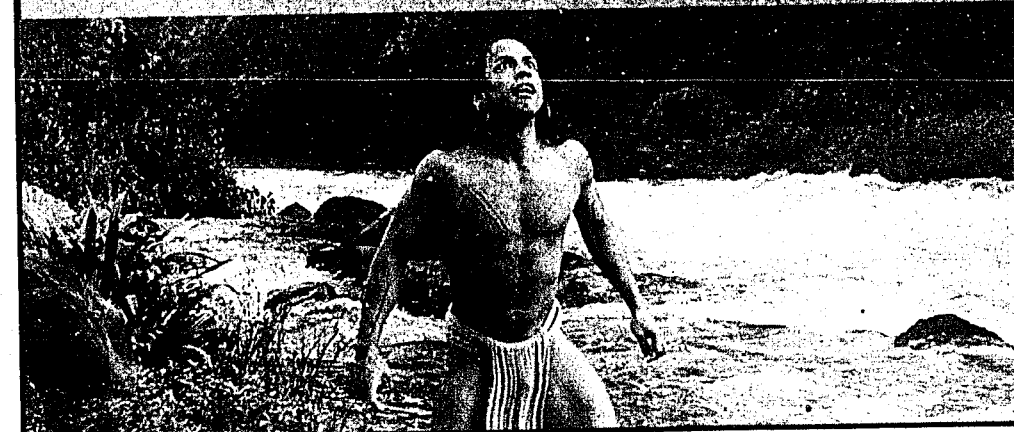
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another violent Mel Gibson blockbuster



BY COLIN COVERT
McClatchy Newspapers

Degenerate societies on the verge of extinction hold a powerful grip on Mel Gibson's imagination. From his performances in the dystopian "Mad Max" films through his directorial efforts in "Braveheart" and "The Passion of the Christ," he often returns to graphically violent variations on the theme.

Are the films warnings to modern viewers, object lessons on the process of civilization's collapse? After viewing his ambitious, audacious Yucatan chase movie "Apocalypto," the answer is clearly yes. It's a stern message picture in the trappings of an action-packed adventure.

As in "The Passion," Gibson's actors speak in a subtitled dialect while he tells the story in almost purely cinematic terms. Where there is talk, it doesn't drive the action but characterizes the protagonists precisely what effective dialogue should always do but rarely does.

After a slow, tense zoom into the jungle's emerald underbrush, the film starts with a bang, as a group of hunters dash after a fleeing tapir. A footrace through dense vegetation could become incoherent unless it's skillfully directed, and Gibson proves his command of the

material swiftly and decisively. The pursuit is exhilarating, dizzyingly claustrophobic and suspenseful. It establishes a sense of the teammates' individual personalities and their dinner's terror as they lure the animal into a spiked trap.

Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood), who divvies up the meat, is a natural leader. The successful hunt ends with Jaguar resting his head tenderly against the swollen belly of his wife, Seven (Dalia Hernandez), as their unborn child kicks along with the fireside drums. Life is harsh and uncertain here, but there is community and an Eden-like beauty, as well.

A raiding party from a neighboring Mayan metropolis shatters that tranquility, turning the hunters into prey and prisoners. The combat is lurid, with Gibson pushing the special effects art of the arterial spray to new heights.

After much bloodshed, Jaguar and a dozen others are tethered together and led away to the city. Their captors are vicious and sadistic, but even they are shaken when they encounter a young girl, half mad with smallpox fever, who delivers a prophecy of their doom. There's a supernatural authority in her huge, dark-as-death eyes.

The captives' entrance to the capital is chilling. The huge blood-stained pyramids that dominate the skyline are a fantastic meta-

phor of evil, hallucinatory altars of destruction and death, prehistoric weapons of mass destruction. As the crowds cheer, heads literally roll down the pyramid steps as each victim is sacrificed.

The terrified Jaguar and the others are ushered up the main pyramid's steps to have their beating hearts cut out in an offering to the sky god, who they hold responsible for a ruinous drought around their dusty metropolis. Gibson masterfully conjures a sense of insane fantasies fueling satanic levels of violence.

Jaguar miraculously escapes, setting off a frantic chase. He must outrun, outwit and outfight a dozen of the city's toughest warriors to rescue Seven, a battle that Gibson films with rough-and-tumble grace. Although there is little dialogue and the simplest of plots, the narrative is a steady stream of breathtaking images that not only set the ever-wilder pace of the film but the perilous mood as well.

There's a savage magnificence to "Apocalypto," with visuals worthy of Fellini or David Lynch, and the kind of relentless excitement that only a few filmmakers can deliver. No matter how extraordinary the characters and their actions, the experience has a raw, authentic intensity. This, declares Gibson, is how it was. This is how more films should be.

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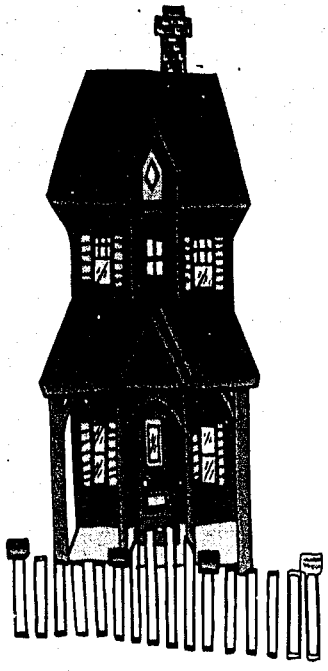
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Jesse Jackson

The lost art of the house party



BY DUSTIN LAPRAY
Managing Editor

Keep it inside, it can change your life.

In these modern days the house party is still a way to create your own recreation, party safely and keep the crowd friendly.

This is important. There are more than 100 drinking establishments in the Boise area. Each brings with it the danger of travel, drunk driving and irresponsible tendencies. But a house party can offer a safer alternative to the binge and splurge lifestyle of downtown Boise.

Benefits

The cost. If you plan correctly, you can save a ton of cash by staying at home. Alcohol at a bar simply costs more than it does at a liquor store. How many times have you paid \$5 for a beer and thought, "I can buy a case for 10 bucks!"

Safety. Although house parties can be dangerous (problems can arise anytime alcohol is involved), if you trust the people you are with, it is more safe to crash at a house

than it is to get behind the wheel of a car and take your chances.

Atmosphere. We are often so caught up in the rigmarole of this chase of hedonistic tendencies. It can be refreshing to kick back with a handful of your best friends, playing cards and actually conversing about the things that challenge us in our lives.

There is rush you feel when you walk into a bar, because you can never foresee what may confront you. The house party can have a rush, but it has more of a "feel" to it, a resonance of private culture. The "out life" can be an empty enterprise. The important thing is to determine what you want out of your social life, and to then choose how to use your nights.

Negatives

Anytime you mix humans and mood-altering substances, there is the possibility of things going haywire. People will drink too much - be careful. Even when you are in what you consider a "safe" situation, remember to be responsible for your own wellbeing. Watch your drink (in the bar or in a home) because some people are far from honest, can be downright evil and choose selfish wants over courteous customs.

Monotony. The house party can become a subscription to the "same-old thing." How many times can you hang at one place? We've all been in that trend where we chill at one spot for a week, a month, an excruciatingly long time and a few of your buddies never want to go anywhere else.

It is vital to the survival of modern man to introduce himself to the varieties of culture in the streets and homes of the people in his life. Monotony can be a soul killer.

The fear. Every time you throw a party, you spend half the time wondering if the roof will still keep out the rain in the morning. You wonder, "How did the table get outside? And why?"

Someone, some day, is bound to urinate or vomit somewhere they should not. Chairs will be broken, as well as glass containers and I

once saw this kid shove his head through a sheetrock wall, narrowly missing the stud. Issue plastic cups and clear a dance floor. Warn your neighbors; invite them if they're cool.

Flair

To throw a great party, you really only need three things: a place, people and purpose.

Variety in places to party is a great way to keep a group of friends together and expanding; people love to see things differently.

Of course you need people. But what you really need is good people. You have that friend, who is cool in his or her own right, but doesn't seem to have the party gene. They are awkward or make it so for others.

You don't have to abandon your friends, but offer them situations in which they can prosper. And you don't always have to invite all your friends to go everywhere you go. Variety most greatly exists within the ranks of humans. Each one adds or subtracts a dynamic to a group. Test those dynamics.

Purpose is power. Throw a party because it feels like a good time. Never let a friend not have a birthday party. Celebrate changes in life. Throw one for the buddy who just moved back to town.

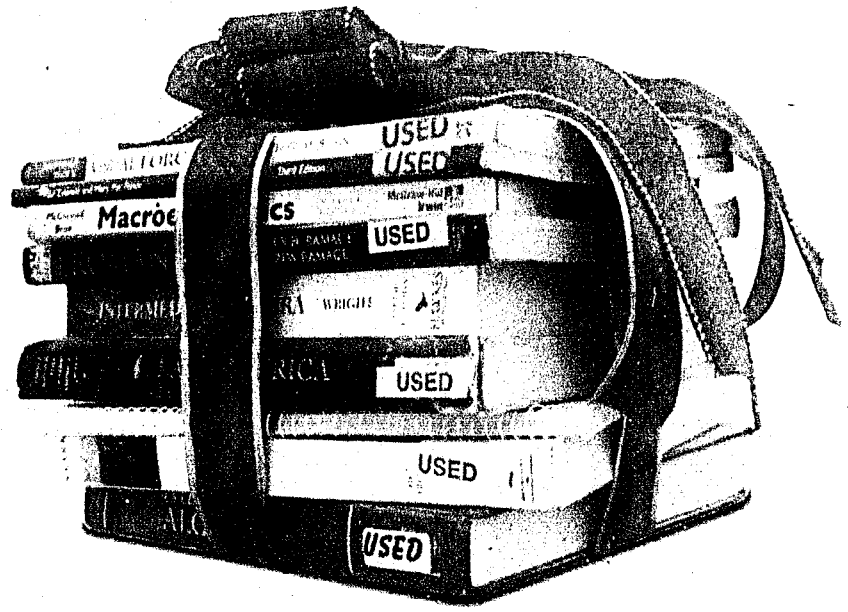
White trash parties sound terrible, but when you're wearing oil-stained cutoffs and so is everyone else, you find commonality and that helps a party groove.

Light a bonfire, if it is safe. Don't go starting a fire in your driveway because you haven't dug a pit yet. Toga anyone? '80s? I detest the '80s, but I had grade-school hammer pants. Invite three friends to come play asshole, because the game works most perfectly with four players.

Fin

Whatever you do, be careful. Know when and how to pace yourself. Enjoy the company of friends and challenge yourself to find fresh ventures in this world.

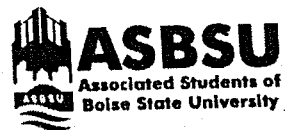
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7 p.m.
Boise

[SIDE LINES]

Johnson earns first-team All-American awards

For the first time in the school's 10-year history as a Division I program, Boise State has a first-team football All-American. Running back Ian Johnson was named SI.com first-team All-American, while offensive tackle Ryan Clady was named to the second team.

CBS has also release its team; Johnson has also been named to the CBS SportsLine.com All-American team and is one of two running backs on the first-team.

Clady is the third second-team pick. Quinton Jones was named second-team All-American by The Sporting News last season and Tyler Jones was named a second-team All-American in 2004 by the Associated Press and the Walter Camp Foundation. Boise State's only other All-America picks are Quintin Mikell (third-team, The Sporting News) and Brock Forsey (fourth-team, The Sporting News) in 2002.

Clady, also a first-team All-WAC selection, was instrumental in the Broncos' finishing the regular season second in the country in scoring, sixth in rushing and 11th in total offense. He was also named first-team MidSeason All-America by SI.com and second-team by CollegeFootballNews.com.

Men's basketball wins first road game

Junior Matt Nelson scored a season-high 21 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to spur Boise State to a 84-75 victory over Cal State Northridge on Saturday.

Coby Karl added 19 points for the Broncos (4-4), which earned its first road win of the season.

Boise State took advantage of its size as Cal State Northridge (5-4) was without its starting center Thomas Shewmake.

The Broncos scored 32 points in the paint and shot 54 percent from the field.

Troy Smith wins Heisman

Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith was named the 2006 Heisman Trophy winner on Saturday night. Smith won the award with 801 first place votes and a total of 2,540 points. It was the second largest landslide victory in the 71-year history of the prestigious award.

Smith defeated runner-ups Darren McFadden and Brady Quinn. McFadden is a sophomore running back for the University of Arkansas. Quinn is a senior quarterback for Notre Dame.

Correction

The Arbitrator would like to clarify a statement in an article about the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame that ran in the Dec. 4 issue. In the story "Finkbeiner's dreams come to fruition", The Arbitrator stated Boise State University was building a \$10 million, 50,000 square foot Hall of Fame on campus.

While Boise State is working with the WSHHF, all the fund raising for the project would be done by the WSHHF.

As proposed, BSU would donate land for a new complex near Bronco Stadium but the WSHHF would like to emphasize that BSU holds no responsibility to fund the project. The WSHHF is planning on working with BSU to develop an education system to coincide with the new Hall of Fame facilities.

Tennis greats grace Boise



Tennis legend Pete Sampras played rising star, Robbie Ginepri, in Boise Friday for an exhibition fund raiser.

BY JAKE GARCIN
Sports Editor

Although Boise tennis fans were given only an hour to enjoy one of the greatest tennis players of all time, the experience may live on forever in the hearts of Idaho's youngest tennis players.

Legendary tennis player Pete Sampras played an exhibition game against one of America's top professional players, Robbie Ginepri, Friday night to raise money in the St. Luke's and Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Services Tennis Shootout. The match was played at Qwest Arena in downtown Boise.

Sampras, who retired in 2002, agreed to play the 24-year-old Ginepri in a three match series, which started in Houston earlier last summer. Ginepri got the best of Sampras the first time around, beating him in two straight sets. This time, however, Sampras shook off the rust to defeat the youngster in straight sets, 7-5 and 6-3.

The pair flew to Atlanta, Ga., Saturday for the final exhibition of the series. Sampras competed for 15 years as a professional and captured 64 titles during that time. He also won 14 Grand Slam titles in his illustrious career. Ginepri qualified for the semi-finals at the U.S. Open a year ago and is considered one of the top five American professionals on tour.

Both players actually have a similar connection to Boise State University. BSU's Head Tennis Coach Greg Patton coached Sampras on the junior national team in the mid-1980s and also coached Ginepri in 2000. Although

the two differ 11 years in age, both men were excited to participate in a fund-raiser like the one in Boise.

"I'm glad to do it and I'm glad to play tennis again," Sampras said. "I still have a lot of passion for the sport. I'm having fun with it and tonight is what it's all about, giving back to the sport that's been really good to me."

Because of Coach Patton's ties to both players, he was happy to help promote the event. Coach Patton has been recognized in the tennis world as one of the top collegiate tennis coaches in the country. For Patton, the event was a great way for him to help give back to the Boise tennis community as well.

"For the City of Boise and Boise State it means everything," Patton said. "To bring the guy that, he's the Michael Jordan of tennis, to bring him there and to showcase tennis is a dream come true for me. It's a dream come true for a lot of people. It's bringing the magic to our home. So that's the great thing."

While the Sampras-Ginepri match headlined the evening, there were numerous other festivities that led up to the main event. Coach Patton directed some junior tennis drills earlier in the night to give local tennis players a chance to step on the court before one of tennis's all time greats.

"For the players on my team and for the kids in this community, you've got to bring the heroes to them," Patton said. "It's different when you watch it on TV. When they look you in the eye, that's basically what it does; that plants your seed for that plant to grow and blossom."

There was also an exhibition



Boise State football coach Chris Petersen presented Sampras (above) and Ginepri with BSU sweatshirts prior to the Sampras-Ginepri exhibition match Friday.

college tennis match just prior to the start of Sampras and Ginepri. Boise State played a double's match against Brigham Young University. Piotr Dilaj and Steve Robertson, of BSU, were matched against Dominik Kaufhold and James Ludlow of BYU. BSU won the first tiebreaker exhibition between the two teams. BSU would fall in the second game and leave the match a 1-1 split.

Everyone in attendance received a treat prior to the start of the Sampras and Ginepri match. Boise State Football Coach Chris Petersen took the microphone at center court and presented Sampras and

Ginepri with BSU sweatshirts to show the university's appreciation for both men coming to Boise.

The final match lasted just under one hour and was played in a normal-scoring best of three set match. Sampras and Ginepri is the second major tennis match-up to come to Boise.

Last year Andre Agassi faced James Blake in a similar fund-raising event.

Following Friday's match Sampras said this trip was his first to Boise but he wouldn't mind another invitation to Idaho.

"If they want me back I'd be more than happy to," Sampras said.

BSU faces long road to bowl game

BY ADAM ADER
Sports Writer

'Twas the weeks before the Fiesta and all through the stadium not a creature was stirring, not even a Bronco.

The players were run by the sidelines with care in hopes that St. Fiesta soon would be there. They all got down in their positions while Oklahomans danced within their visions.

In the recent past there hasn't been anything "jolly" about the Christmas season for Boise State. Last year BSU lost in the MPC Computers Bowl to Boston College.

In 2004 the Broncos lost to Louisville in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl. This year BSU Head Coach Chris Petersen is attempting to make sure his team doesn't "settle down for a long winter's nap."

What has Petersen been doing in these weeks leading up to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl?

The past few days he has been down in Arizona heavily involved in recruiting.

With the recent success of the Broncos it's no surprise that convincing prospects to play for BSU hasn't been too difficult.

"It's awesome," Coach Petersen

said. "The buzz at Boise State is really out there right now. It's a good day to be a Bronco."

In years past, recruiting hasn't been as easy for Boise State.

Now people are starting to know and respect Boise State. An eighth-ranked BCS team is much easier to recruit for than a regular team that plays in a small town like Boise.

"There's no question we're talking to some players that we weren't talking to before, even before the season started," Petersen said. "Kids that really weren't giving us the time of day before the season started now were all about it and now, at this point, we've moved past those guys. It's kind of good to turn the tables a little bit and have that flexibility."

Petersen is really just now getting into his film study of University of Oklahoma.

There he will see a team with a solid defense, a strong-run game and a quarterback that completes over 60 percent of his passes and has a passer rating of 144.6.

"I haven't gotten too deep [into the film study]," Petersen said. "Our coaches have started to look at it. I've seen enough to know that I'm very scared. This is definitely a different type team than we've

certainly seen all year. You put that tape on and you go, 'Okay I see why they've won so many games, not only this year but (in) the history of their program.' They roll a lot of different guys in there. They got depth. They're big, they're fast, they're strong, it's different."

On their way to the Fiesta Bowl the Broncos will have to persevere through many heightened expectations as they represent all of the non-BCS teams on a major national stage.

"I don't think we feel any extra pressure," Petersen said. "Do we want to represent Boise State, the State of Idaho and this university in real good way? No question about it. And do we want to make a showing for all the other teams? Heck yeah. But there's going to be enough pressure on this team as it is, so the one thing we're going to do for sure is not add any pressure to these guys."

Not only do the Broncos have to fight through the added pressure this game puts on them but they also have to battle several other factors like the long lay-off between games, the distractions of the holiday season and the time they will spend preparing for finals.

After all, they do not want to re-

peat the mistakes that they have made in the past.

"We were talking to them about 'be here now,'" Petersen said. "When they come out to practice we need everything they got, their total concentration and focus. When we go in the film room we need them not thinking about Christmas and the girlfriend and those types of things and when they're not with us we're good. Go have fun and do the other things."

Right now the Broncos have three main objectives: one is to not get distracted, two is to condition and the last is to not get overwhelmed.

"I think this is a pretty mature team," Petersen said.

"I think they understand those things. We went out there and just ran yesterday. No football, nothing, just ran 'liners,' the worst thing in college football. Not a bit of fun in it. And those guys went hard. These guys get it. I think they can have fun but show a focus for that game."

Petersen will really start the heavy game planning after finals are out of the way.

Right now the coach is just enjoying giving the young guys most of the reps in practice.

In the meantime the players are just taking it one day at a time.

The view from up here



'The big flake' starring Dennis Erickson

BY JAKE GARCIN
Sports Editor

The University of Idaho hasn't exactly returned to football prominence but legendary head coach Dennis Erickson does have the Vandals believing a turn-around is on the horizon.

U of I entered this year's game against Boise State with a 4-3 record and a tie with BSU for first place in the WAC.

Despite keeping things close with the Broncos, Idaho eventually fell 42-26. U of I fans found a cocky swagger after the nearly upset bid over BSU. However, all that would fade quickly as the Vandals were stomped 68-10 by Hawaii a week later.

Idaho went on to lose the final four games of the season and finished with a lowly 4-8 record.

Still one light remained bright in the Kibbie Dome, which is the Coach Erickson is shining in the direction of success. It seems that light is gone forever, as the great savior has now become the great bailer once again.

Saturday it was announced that Erickson would be the newest head coach at Arizona State University. After firing former BSU coach Dirk Koetter, the Sun Devils began courting Erickson in hopes that he could be their quick fix.

As he has done all too often in his coaching career, Erickson is looking for something fresh and new to keep his football interests. The lord of the "fly" has spread his wings and flown the coop just five months after making plans for new facilities in Moscow and a complete over haul of the football program.

Apparently the king of Coaching A.D.D. has no interest in proving his legacy by turning around the lowly U of I program.

Or maybe that says volumes for how bad off things are in Moscow.

If Dennis Erickson doesn't have confidence, or interest, in making a winning program it may just be an unfixable problem.

Either way it doesn't matter, the end result is the same.

If you take a look at his track record, it's no wonder he is looking to move on already. Erickson began his head coaching career at Idaho in 1981.

Erickson spent four seasons with the Vandals before taking the head job at Wyoming in 1986. In 1987, just one season later, Erickson split from the Cowboys and moved onward and upward to the University of Miami. Erickson spent his longest coaching tenure at Miami, which was a six-year stint that included two national championships.

Erickson got his big call to the NFL in 1995 to coach the Seattle Seahawks.

He would only last another four seasons with the pros before being replaced by Mike Holmgren.

The next move for Erickson would be Oregon State, where he coached a surprising four seasons before moving on to the San Francisco 49ers.

After two poor years in the Bay Area Erickson was fired in 2004 and spent 2005 out of coaching.

The story comes full circle to Moscow, many Vandal fans hoped it would be a fairy tale ending where Erickson would start and finish his career at Idaho.

It seems they should have known better, however. For a guy like Erickson the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Maybe not literally, but the Arizona sunshine should make up for the sagebrush and rocks.

Bronco success

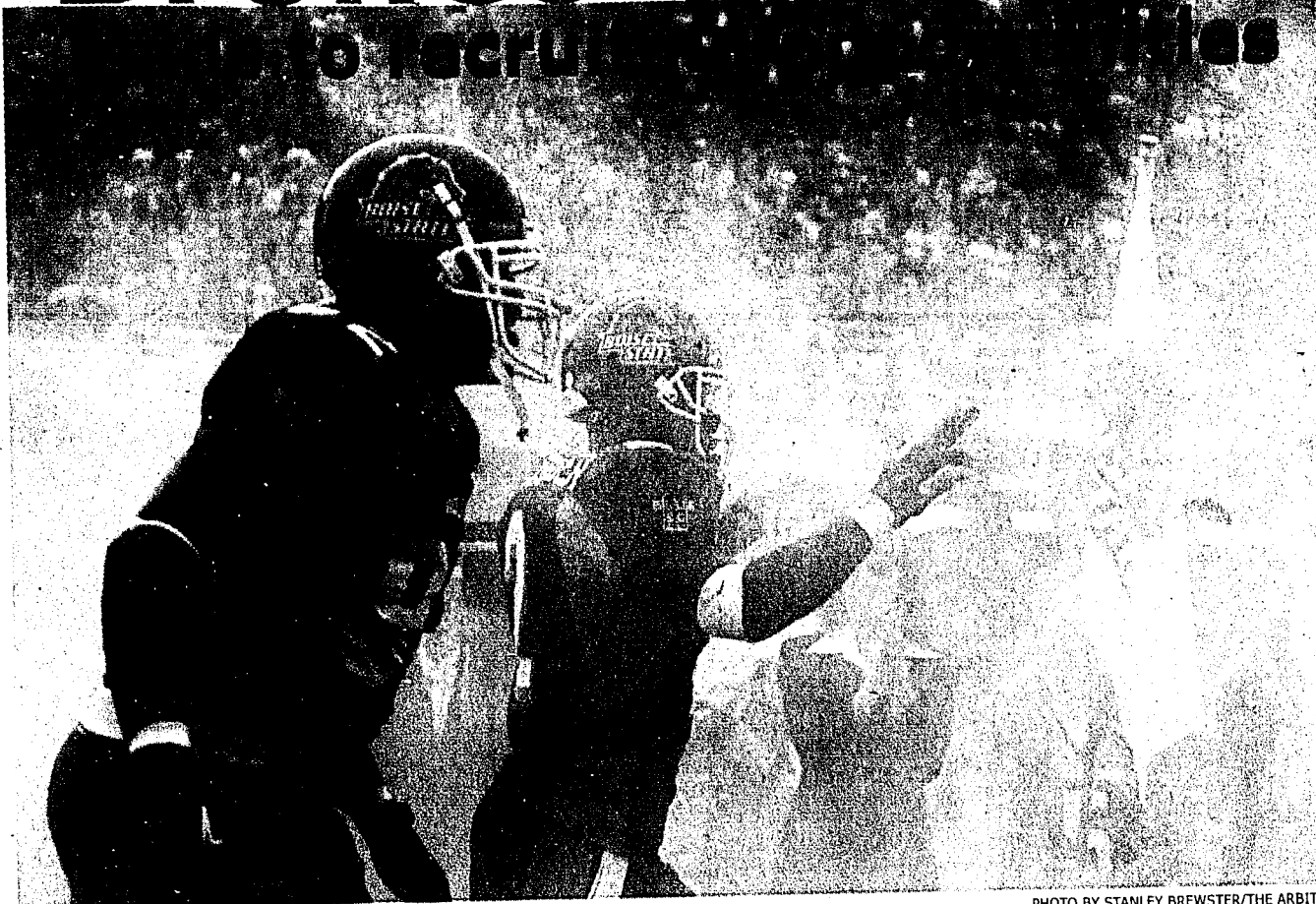


PHOTO BY STANLEY BREWSTER/THE ARBITER

Boise State football Coach Chris Petersen spent his first week of the bowl season break meeting with recruits around the country. The Broncos have earned more national credibility after qualifying for the Fiesta Bowl.

BY KYE JOHNSON
Assistant Sports Editor

Now that the regular season is over Boise State Head Football Coach Chris Petersen and his staff are dealing with a slightly different schedule. Slightly different from what had become routine during the regular season that is.

With the biggest bowl game in school history looming ahead, interviews and press conferences all over the place and the recruiting process hitting full-stride Petersen has been a busy man to say the least.

Thanks in large part to a tremendous 12-0 regular season Petersen is feeling very confident about BSU's recruiting so far.

"Well there's no question we're talking to some people we weren't talking to before," Petersen said. "We had a couple calls from kids the other day who weren't giving us the time of day before the season

started and now they're all about it. And at this point, we've moved past those guys. We just feel really good about the people we've been talking to all along."

With all of the recent national recognition the Bronco football team, staff and players have gotten, it's hard to imagine why high school prospects wouldn't want to start giving Boise State a better look.

"Everybody asks, 'Are you recruiting a better guy?'" Petersen said. "Well let me tell you this, I want the same guy. I mean these guys have won a lot of football games. You know maybe a guy that's an inch taller, or a step faster, a little bit heavier, but we need to make sure we get the same guys that's won a lot of games for us in the past."

National exposure and media attention has become a big part of Boise State football as of recent, including their cover spot on the front page of "USA Today" last week.

"I think it's awesome, I think it's a

great thing," Petersen said.

That is really where all the media attention begins to benefit Petersen and the program.

"When I get in a recruits home, they kind of know the football program already," Petersen said. "So very shortly after I get in that house, the conversation turns to what is the city of Boise like? What is your university like? What is your academic set up there? That's what we spend all of our time talking about."

When asked at how a guy like Ian Johnson ended up at a smaller school like BSU, Petersen replied with a chuckle.

"Well, it's just good scouting on our part," Petersen said. "That's the beauty of recruiting, it really is. It's an art, not a science. And it's all in the eyes of the beholder."

Petersen also said he feels the exposure is vital to the other improvements that are taking place all over campus.

The football team has stressed

all along that the trip to the Fiesta Bowl is important to the entire state of Idaho, not just Boise.

"It's great exposure and we've been talking with Dr. Kustra and all the great things he's got going on this campus," Petersen said. "All the buildings that are being built, all the faculty that's coming, all the professors he's stealing from other universities. That's extremely important to this program as well. And I think people overlook that, it's just not all about football."

With the Broncos bowl game still nearly a month away, things have been a little bit slower for the players than normal. Petersen even talked about how the team just had a running-session the other day rather than practice, so the exposure is a nice reward for them at this point.

"I'm happy for our players to get that kind of recognition. I'm thrilled for our program, that kind of stuff starts turning heads."

Ledford captures Bronco Belt

BY BRIAN LUPTAK
Sports Writer

Before Friday night Nate Ledford had only been in one official boxing match. It was for a high school fundraiser and he had no idea what to do. He had no boxing experience and he wasn't trained. The conclusion was a loss by points. He hasn't been in a boxing match since.

His second fight of was a little different and this time it had a specific meaning: the Bronco Belt. Ledford, who is a sophomore secondary education major, is actually a student who left and then returned to Boise State.

After high school in his hometown of Aberdeen, he attended BSU for two years before deciding he wanted a break. He obtained his commercial driver's license and started truck driving. Later, he decided again that he wanted something different and returned to pursue his original goals.

Ledford also added a new goal to his agenda: He wanted the confidence and courage that he would need if he ever found himself in a fight.

Therefore, he began to box. He has trained in the BSU Boxing and Kickboxing Club since April, acquiring the skills he desired as well as a chance to fight for the first-ever Bronco Belt. He got his chance Friday night against fellow club member Shane Larson in a bloody, highly contested match for the Belt.

"This is just a fight like any other fight," Ledford said. "The Bronco Belt was just one match between me and Shane. If Shane had won, he would have the Bronco Belt. I'm just exhilarated that I won; I did a good job and it's over."

The fight started fast with both boxers landing quick punches. Those thrown by Ledford contained more force and though Ledford made contact on more punches, Larson's mobility was his strongest factor to stay in the match.

"Shane's arms a little bit longer than mine are," Ledford said. "But he crouches over to protect himself which takes off your reach. He's more mobile than I am too and I got him in the corners but he could always escape."

Later in the fight, Larson took a few shots to his face that drew blood. He was wiped clean but it didn't last for long. His nose continued to bleed through the end of the fight. Larson was bloody but he was still getting in punches of his own.

"He did land some good punches on me," Ledford said. "He was landing them on my jaw and I was landing them on his nose. The jaw is the better place to hit because it jars your skull more. An even better place to hit is in the belly but neither one of us are very good at body shots. I also never got that chance because of his mobility."

Since both boxers are part of BSU's Boxing and Kickboxing Club, they had occasionally trained together. However, Larson says Ledford was

a different caliber of boxer Friday than he ever had been before.

"He came out a lot faster tonight than he ever has in sparring," Larson said. "It was really unexpected. He did a lot better tonight than he used to in sparring. There was a lot more intensity."

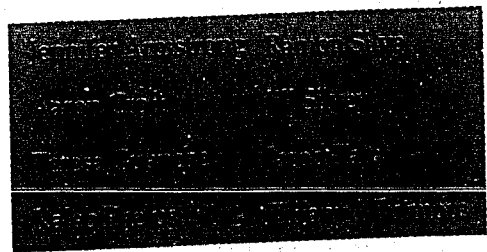
Both amateurs had an empty record prior to the Bronco Belt event and they are both happy to have their first fight out of the way.

"I'm a little sore," Larson said, "but it's good to get it over with and get the first one done."

Ledford is also glad to have a different outcome and attitude toward his second boxing experience. Being an even match made the efforts put forth by both fighters highly respectable.

"I'm just glad that I was able to do a good job," Ledford said. "The worst part of it would not have been losing; it would have been losing and being totally humiliated. Neither one of us suffered that ultimate disaster."

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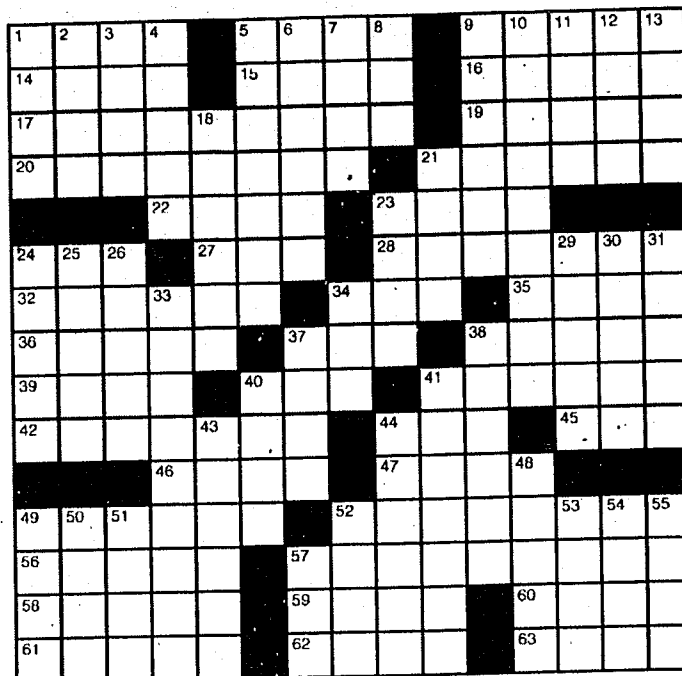
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5 Part of U.A.R.
9 Itemizes
14 Equestrian game
15 French mother
16 In a dominant position
17 Business partner
19 Missouri river
20 Oxford fastener
21 Third-party contract
22 Red ink
23 At any time
24 Chop off
27 "Kidnapped" auth.
28 Videotaping device
32 Glacial epoch
34 Be indisposed
35 Cotton bundle
36 Bird or Linville
37 Place
38 Streisand film
39 vera
40 Derek and Diddley
41 Joined in marriage
42 Appetizers
44 Org. with maps
45 Decade divs.
46 Walking stick
47 Baltic capital
49 Flynn and others
52 More vigorous
56 Bea Arthur sitcom
57 Wretched
58 "King Solomon's



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12/11/06

4 Bellowed like Bossy
5 Good-natured
6 Bounces back
7 Comic Johnson
8 Busy insect
9 Free up
10 Engraved
11 Deneb or Vega
12 African nation
13 Pour out
18 Priesthood
21 Bad to the bone
23 Send forth
24 Flowering shrub
25 Florida city
26 Evita or Juan
29 Sweet treat
30 Refashion
31 Card-game displays
33 Some three-digit numbers
34 Neighbor of Ger.
37 Sit for a shot
38 Test-pilot Chuck
40 Blue and Stiller
41 Deferments

Solutions



43 Least colorful
44 Faces the day
48 Crockett's Waterloo
49 Actress Samms
50 Drizzle
51 Ladder part
52 In ___ of
53 Footnote ditto
54 Model
55 Cincinnati nine
57 Grand Casino letters

HOROSCOPES

BY LINDA C. BLACK
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (12-11-06)
You'll have the opportunity this year to get a promotion. You can have more money if you take on more responsibility.

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7. The work requires intense scrutiny. You'd rather be outside playing. Luckily, conditions are changing in favor of career advancement. Don't overlook a thing.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is an 8. Conditions have changed. It's not just yourself that you're thinking about. You care deeply for the wants and needs of your loved ones. Don't let them spend your money.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Today is a 6. There's no use in resisting. Let yourself be talked into a good offer. If you're dealing with a trustworthy person, you have nothing to fear.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Today is a 7. You're a perfectionist but you can't get stuck in the details. Delegate that stuff or tell folks you'll get back to them later.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Today is an 8. The difficulty is in figuring out how to spend the money. Resist the temptation to throw it around; that would be worse than foolish.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 7. Just as promised, you're starting to laugh and joke around more often. You're feeling more in control, and less concerned. You're lookin' good.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). Today is a 7. Figure out how to run those computer programs you've been saving. Working at home, or on something that pertains to your home, is most fun.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7. More research is required to figure out your next move. You also need to have enormous self-discipline. Which, of course, you do.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8. You're interested in giving things away, no questions asked. Amazingly, when everyone does this, everybody ends up with more.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is an 8. Travel's exciting but not really favored. There are too many complications. Wait until next month, if possible.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 7. It's back to counting and sorting, and putting things in order. It's good to know how much you have before you go shopping.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7. It's OK to let somebody else pitch in on part of the chores. Make sure they do a good job, though, or you'll catch the flak.

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COMICS

COMIC 1: I NEED YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS BEFORE I SUBMIT IT.

COMIC 2: JUST LEAVE IT HERE AND HOPE I BECOME THE SORT OF BOSS WHO GETS AROUND TO DOING THAT SORT OF THING.

COMIC 3: DID SOMEONE TELL YOU THAT HOPE WORKS?

COMIC 4: FLASHBACK: INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. YOUR TELEKINESIS GRADES ARE VERY GOOD, YOUNG ASOK.

COMIC 5: ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR POWERS IN FRONT OF THE UNGIFTED.

COMIC 6: PRESENT DAY. WHAT THE...? I JUST BLINKED AND THE LAST DOUGHNUT DISAPPEARED!

COMIC 7: I WORKED ON MY OWN TIME TO INVENT A ROOM-TEMPERATURE SUPERCONDUCTOR THAT COULD ELIMINATE OUR NEED FOR OIL.

COMIC 8: YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FINDING A NEW VENDOR FOR TONER CARTRIDGES. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT?

COMIC 9: MUST... NOT USE... TELEKINESIS... WHY DOES MY NECKTIE SEEM SO... ERK!!!