

Paper names Kustra, Rainford among 'Most Extraordinary'

A memorable year at Boise State finished on a high note as *The Idaho Statesman* selected two members of the university community for inclusion on a list of five of the Treasure Valley's most "Extraordinary People of 2007."

President Bob Kustra was named the Treasure Valley's Most Influential person of 2007 and Will Rainford, a social work professor and activist for the rights of the homeless, was selected as the Most Devoted person of the year.

They were among the five Boise-area residents selected by the *Statesman's* editorial board "who showed extraordinary leadership or positive influence over the past year on issues we care about."

Kustra was lauded for "leading the state's largest university to unprecedented growth and expansion" and as someone who "reshaped higher education in the valley" in 2007. He was praised by the paper for launching Boise State's \$175 million fundraising drive, leading the university during a period of profound growth in enrollment and campus construction projects, and improving the school's overall reputation by enhancing and developing its research profile and graduate programs.

Rainford, the legislative advocate for the Catholic Diocese of Boise, was recognized for his efforts to rally leaders from various faiths to address Boise's homeless problem. One result was the creation of Interfaith Sanctuary, a service for the homeless that today has a permanent building staffed by full-time employees and volunteers.

Rainford, who teaches Boise State graduate students about welfare and poverty in America, was recognized by the *Statesman* as the driving force to secure the Interfaith Sanctuary building, develop working relationships with neighbors and police, and organize a massive amount of volunteers. "His commitment has not wavered ... his expertise matches his charity and church work," the *Statesman* said.



KUSTRA



RAINFORD



Bill Carman (above) will receive his award from the Society of Illustrators in New York this March. Larry McNeil (inset with first lady Laura Bush) was honored by the Department of State at a reception in Washington, D.C., last fall.

Art professors receive national honors

Two faculty members in Boise State's Department of Art were recently recognized for their creative work with national honors. Bill Carman, a professor of illustration and drawing, received a gold medal from the Society of Illustrators for his illustration "Fine Dining," and Larry McNeil, an associate professor of photography, was selected to contribute his work to the federal government's Art in Embassies program.

The Society of Illustrators, based in New York, holds one of the top illustration exhibitions in the country. Carman received his award after "Fine Dining" was included in the society's 50th anniversary exhibition.

Carman has been invited to the Society of Illustrators' awards presentation this March in New York. His work has been exhibited extensively around the country and is regularly featured at the Basement Gallery in Boise. His illustrations have appeared on CD covers, in magazines — including eight FOCUS covers — and on numerous posters. Carman is also the author and illustrator of a children's book *What's That Noise?* that was published by Random House Books.

The Art in Embassies program places works by American artists in embassies around the world. McNeil was selected as one of five artists nationwide to contribute to the program. This past fall, he attended a reception that honored the contributing artists and met first lady Laura Bush. Established by the U.S. Department of State in 1964, the Art In Embassies program is a global museum that exhibits original works of art by U.S. citizens in the public rooms of approximately 180 American diplomatic residences worldwide.

In 2006, McNeil was given a National Geographic All Roads Award, which recognizes select indigenous artists from around the world.