

COLLEGE OF ED REACCREDITED

Boise State's College of Education has met the rigorous standards set by the teaching profession and the public for continuing accreditation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The largest college of education in Idaho, Boise State received renewed accreditation this spring following an extensive review of its programs by the Idaho State Department of Education and an on-site visit by a national team of specialists who examined practices and procedures in six areas: candidate competence, assessment, field work, diversity, faculty qualifications and resources.

NCATE, one of two accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, currently accredits professional education units in 575 institutions, which produce two-thirds of all new teachers in the nation.

CHURCH CONFERENCE TO LOOK AT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY

The 21st annual Frank Church Conference on Public Affairs will look at the role and office of the United States presidency.

Slated for Oct. 7 and 8, this year's conference is titled "The American Presidency: Principled Leadership in a Time of Turbulence" and includes two panels: "Character and Competence" and "Presidential Leadership in Time of War." More information on the conference will be posted at <http://sspa.boisestate.edu>.

BSU HOSTS CAMPUSWIDE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

About 100 Boise State undergraduates displayed their research at the Undergraduate Research and Professional Practice Conference in April. Representing disciplines from across the campus, the students performed, gave poster presentations and answered questions about their research in various locations in the Student Union. Several students were recognized by their departments or colleges for outstanding research achievements.

This year marked the first time the conference encompassed the entire university. BSU provides undergraduates with the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research with professors in a wide range of subject areas.



On campus

Rabbi Harold Kushner

Best-selling author

Guest lecture "Living a Life That Matters," April 20, 2004

"Expecting the world to treat you with justice because you are an honest person is like expecting the bull not to charge you because you're a vegetarian."

Castle treasure found in junk box

The box of tattered books and catalogs purchased for \$10 at a Caldwell estate auction didn't look like anything out of the ordinary. But what Pat Coey and Patti Bowyer, owners of The Early Attic antique store in Idaho City, found upon closer inspection was a lost treasure — four undiscovered books illustrated by Idaho's self-taught autistic artist James Castle.

The books' authenticity has been confirmed by Tom Trusky, BSU English professor, Idaho Center for the Book director and Castle book expert. Coey and Bowyer purchased the box for the



catalogs, which contain the type of old advertisements that sell well in antique stores. At first glance, the contents looked "pretty rough," Coey says. "We thought a kid had drawn in the book. We're lucky we didn't throw it in the wood stove."

On closer examination, something didn't look quite right — the number of drawings, the detail, the rough frame around the sketches. Although neither one of them was familiar with Castle's work, they both remembered hearing about him and his penchant for found objects. A thought began germinating in their heads — What if these drawings were the work of James Castle?

It took several more months before their suspicion was confirmed. During that time, the books were displayed in their shop, labeled as "possible works by James Castle" and tagged at \$3,500, a price Coey said was "off the top of our heads." The price has since been rescinded.

Trusky estimated the value of one of the books, a U.S. history textbook from Idaho Territory days, at more than \$25,000. "The young artist has altered the

book that once belonged to his aunt, Agnes Scanlon, illustrating it with scenes from his parents' Garden Valley general store and post office, circa 1915," Trusky says.

How the books got to the auction is a mystery — the

family that sold them has no recollection of any ties with Castle or his family. But for Coey and Bowyer, the find is every antiquer's dream come true.

"When [Trusky] told us how much they were worth, our jaws just fell to the floor," Coey said. "I've been doing this for a little over 30 years and this is the first time I've found anything that could potentially be worth a lot of money. This is everybody's dream, but you never think it's going to happen to you."

The four books join a rare collection of 20 Castle works known as Icehouse Books, the earliest and only datable Castle works known ("Silent Genius," *FOCUS*, Spring 2000).

On loan to the Idaho Center for the Book for a traveling Castle exhibit, the books, now known as The Early Attic Collection of the Works of James Castle, are being stored in the climate-controlled archives at BSU's Albertsons Library. They will be unveiled at an international conference this fall on the East Coast.

— Kathleen Craven