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Extra, Extra! Arbiter

eventy years and counting. That's how long *The Arbiter* and its predecessors have been reporting on the comings and goings at Boise State. Launched in 1933 as *The Roundup*, the student newspaper has been witness to an array of triumphs — such as Boise State's transition from a junior college to a university — and tragedies — including the 24 students who left for World War II and never returned.

In the Oct. 23, 1933, inaugural edition, university President Middleton Barnwell expressed the hope that the paper would

become a "binding influence upon the student body." And indeed it has.

From football triumphs and homecoming festivities to student activism and budget cuts, the paper was there. When a yellow jacket disrupted professor Eugene Chaffee's political science class in

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1933, a *Roundup* reporter captured the students' amusement as they watched the future college president dodge the persistent insect's attacks.

As world events took a more serious turn, *The Roundup* offered meatier fare. A March 1942 article informed students of a new course on chemical warfare, which promised to "enable college students to play a greater part in the preparedness program of our country." And the Jan. 29, 1971, issue ran a full-page editorial deploring the 335,000 deaths and injuries to American soldiers in Vietnam.

Its pages have also been sprinkled with jokes, editorial cartoons, amusing photos, lighthearted spoofs and even color: The March 17, 1942, edition was printed on green paper, while the 1963 April Fool's edition was orange.

As the school evolved, the paper grew from a small sporadic publication to a 20-

celebrates its 70th

page weekly, and finally to its current twiceweekly format. In 1968, The Roundup became The Arbiter. According to editor Art Galus, the change reflected the paper's commitment to "stand between factions on campus as a witness or judge, arbitrating matters."

Current general manager Brad Arendt says the name The Arbiter is a better representation of both the school's and the paper's purpose. "As Boise State grew from a junior college to a university, The Roundup was no longer really representative of what the school, and Boise, had become," he says.

But not everyone felt the name was a good fit. In the 1980s it became The University

Arbiter, followed by *The University*



Boise State's official student newspaper has appeared under several banners over the years and even had short-lived competitors, such as Contraband, which was published in the early 1990s.

News, and finally The Arbiter once again. In late 1991, when The Arbiter was temporarily shut down while its board was reorganized, an independent underground paper called The Contraband filled in. The Arbiter returned in 1992. Through it all,

The Arbiter has served as a hands-on learning lab for students. "It's a studentrun paper," Arendt says, noting past uproars over controversial subjects cov-

ered by staff writers, such as an article on Ebonics, and choices made by editors, such as the decision to run an insert from the Holocaust denial movement.

As the paper continues into the 21st century, the following tribute from the Idanha Hotel published in its inaugural issue still applies: "Success to The Roundup and may it grow to the glorious heights of molding public opinion as well as serving the needs of the [university]." Happy Birthday, Arbiter.

--Kathleen Craven



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