Everyone loves a good story. On the surface, stories provide entertainment, opportunities to escape everyday routine, to meander wistfully in and out of distant places and times, as easily as Walter Mitty and his secret life. Stories open doors to colorful possibilities for understanding, much like Dorothy's entrance into Oz. A good story invites the reader into the thoughts, feelings, and decisions of its characters. It is through the story that the reader can individually come to her own conclusions about its meaning.

Historically, storytelling provides a powerful voice to the players in culture and colors our view of what and who is valued and praised. For centuries in our own culture, the stories and voices of women were not always heard: a significant and rich part of our culture not always realized.

The purpose of this year's Women's History Month Celebration is to document and honor some of the stories and voices of women in our own community as well as the rest of the world. Boise State University invites you to celebrate Women's History Month by listening to the stories of ordinary women doing extraordinary things. This newspaper, as well as all the month's events, celebrates women's stories through song, theatre, art, lectures, and writings. From the keynote performance of Anna Deavere Smith to the Divas of Boise to the art exhibit in the Hemingway Center, you are invited to get involved in the lively stories of a variety of women. In April, after the celebration, join Ellie Mckinnon at the Log Cabin Literary Center to learn more about writing your own stories and memoirs.

This newspaper is a compilation of interviews done with 36 women who were nominated last fall as "Women Making History" in Idaho. There are many more women among us who are working hard every day for our community, and we hope that we can continue this project and include them all someday.

Along with the stories, we have included some artwork found in Akan culture, an African culture in Ghana, West Africa. These symbols were chosen in particular due to their strong design presence and meaning. They represent some powerful messages that we are trying to communicate about women, history and the art of storytelling. Bringing different cultures and symbols together provides an enriching framework to view women, their stories and the importance of passing their wisdom along.

There is nothing wrong with learning from hindsight.
By Ann Finley

Thorngren was packing up in preparation for retirement, and memories were as thick on the second floor of the Longtime athletics instructor Connie's gymnasium. The athletic director had coincided with the tumultuous thirty years in the history of women's sports at schools and colleges throughout the country. It was a classic instance of the right individual being in the right place at the right time.

Connie was a sophomore in high school when she met her first woman physical education teacher. It was as if she'd encountered a space alien. "I'd never seen one before," she said. Like many young female athletes in the '60s, Connie had no role models. The new teacher introduced new vistas of possibilities. She was excited about athletics. It all came to life for her. It was a brand new world.

A few years later Connie came to Boise with her husband, and when a job opened up in physical education at Boise State, she applied and got it. The year was 1970. Women athletes on campus yearned for recognition and a chance to show what they could do. Their enthusiasm resonated with Connie's feelings from her own student days. Soon she was coaching field hockey during off hours. She ended up coaching four sports that year.

There was no money budgeted for women's extramural sports, as the new teams were dubbed. Gym time for practice had to be worked around the men's programs. Yet Connie recalls those days fondly. "We had to really want to do it in order to do it," she said. "We'd be at the gym at 5:30 A.M. to practice. We traveled in our own cars and made our uniforms. We had fun. And the students were really very good."

So good, in fact, that in the first year the fledgling basketball team won a regional tournament. By 1975 the team had won the right to represent Boise State at the national tournament of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

TITLE IX. Meanwhile, equity for women in high school and college sports was federally mandated under Title IX of the Education Amendment Act, established in 1972.

Title IX was the Civil Rights movement's neglected stepchild that, after a long slumber, started trembling in 1988 when Congress enacted the Civil Rights Restoration Act. The latter Act, passed over President Ronald Reagan's veto, closed a loophole that had allowed gender discrimination to simmer along pretty much as it always had through educational institutions receiving federal funds.

In the early '90s, a new breed of feminists emerged—male coaches of women's teams, and fathers of daughters. The coaches and fathers were willing to go the whole nine yards, if that's what it took to achieve gender equity in sports. In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to permit students to sue for monetary damages for sex discrimination in schools and colleges. The ruling paved the way for a spate of court decisions favoring women athletes, and was a wake-up call for virtually every U.S. institution of higher learning that fields a sports program. The challenge for administrators was to fund new opportunities for women, without shifting opportunities from men to women.

Intercollegiate women's sports at BSU were officially recognized in 1974 when Connie Thorngren was named women's athletic director. She held the post until 1978, then stepped down to resume coaching and teaching. In 1984, athletics and physical education were divided into separate departments. Connie elected to stay with teaching. She's proud of the accomplishments of former students and athletes; one became Boise's first woman firefighter, another coaches at the University of Utah, another is a neighborhood activist, many are in the midst of successful careers in business, teaching, and counseling.

In 1993 Connie edited a special issue of the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance that was centered around gender issues in sports. After retirement, she plans to continue advocacy work. An issue she feels is especially important in today's high-pressure sports world is that only 45% of women's athletic teams are coached by women—down from 80 to 90% in the '70s and early '80s. The reverse is true: relatively few women coach men's teams. One reason for the disparity, Connie said, is that women tend to be more hesitant than men about applying for coaching jobs in sports they've never played. She'd like to see women gain more confidence in their own abilities.

She'd also like to see more female athletic directors. And more club sports and intramural programs in high schools and colleges.

And though she wouldn't want to return to the 1970s when coaches of women's teams didn't think much about money because none was available, she doesn't want to see women's sports completely commercialized. There still needs to be a focus on the athlete as a person. She likes to see young teachers and coaches willing to try some of the ideas that worked in the old days. She admires flexibility and a willingness to incorporate past experience into new experience.

The athlete she would choose as role model for today's young women? Marion Jones at the 2000 Olympics, for her ability, sportsmanship and graciousness. "She's a very genuine person," said Connie.

It takes one to know one.

—Ann Finley, with reporting by Shawna Hodges.

(From an article by Ann Finley in the Boise Times.)

By Melissa Westmore. Melissa, originally from Ohio, is the Coordinator of the BSU Women's Center. She has her B.A. in English and her M.F.A. in higher education. She has been working full time at colleges for the past 11 years and loves the field of education.

Intercollegiate athletics are a focus on the athlete as a person. Melissa admires flexibility and a willingness to incorporate past experience into new experience.

The meaningful contributions we make with people are more important than any award, any certificate of a good deed. History is in the making with every interaction and every patient response. With a slow nod of the head and a smile, her eyes communicated the same belief.

Cindy left Illinois in her mid-twenties, with degrees in nursing and substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation. Cindy is a certified alcohol and drug counselor. She moved to Colorado to work on her Master's degree in human development and family therapy and specialized in adolescent behavior and development. She spent nearly 15 years working in the trenches with adolescents and their families as a mental health nurse and psychotherapist.

In her time in Colorado, Cindy focused her research on disconnected youth: adolescents who were violent gang members, skinheads, and Satan worshippers. While her credentials sound formal, there's nothing formal about Cindy and her rapport with people. She met one-on-one with teens as a therapist, working through problems of substance abuse, poor self-esteem, and violence. She helped regularly with teens going through the court system and worked hard to help them get reconnected in society, instead of allowing them to simply waste away in jails. Cindy dedicated herself to an intense emotional journey as she worked hard to represent the voices of teens, voices seldom heard.

With a professional colleague, she puzzled over the question of why teenagers get involved in violent adolescent subcultures. They wanted to "get into the hearts and souls of these kids" to better understand them and their choices. So they took to the streets and talked to kids and asked them hard questions about their involvement in gangs and other groups. The answers they found made a powerful statement about their needs and about ways that our society may not always meet those needs.

"We called this group of kids that got involved in gangs, disconnected youth," Cindy said as she repositioned herself in her chair. "And they were disconnected. They reported feeling alienated, no sense of belonging anywhere. The gang was a place where they fit in. But what was more interesting is that a lot of the kids we interviewed had tried to get involved in a mainstream group prior to the gang. But they didn't fit in. With no sense of belonging, they looked elsewhere and many of them found that sense of a belonging and
a heightened level of self-esteem in gangs.

"I once asked a skinhead, 'Why? Why this?' Cindy said as her forehead scrunch and her head tilted, recreating that distant moment for me.

"This is the only place where my violence is acceptable," he responded matter-of-factly.

"That's what we call the clinical nightmare," she said with a heavy sigh. "Perhaps for the first time in their lives, these kids have found a place to belong.

A place where they feel valued and accepted. Many of these groups provide structure, rules and sense of respect within a hierarchy. Asking them to leave and pursue a socially acceptable lifestyle, becomes an incredible challenge," she continued.

One solution that has had favorable results is to connect teens to a "mentor;" someone who cares and can be a stable force in their lives. And in some cases, it's "anyone who gives a damn." That's how bad it is for some of them. As she talks to her college students now, she urges them to find ways to connect people with meaningful role models - something that strikes a strong chord for Cindy. Repeatedly she stressed, "You've got to live what you are doing and take responsibility for your personal choices. I take being a role model seriously. You've got to walk the talk." she continued. "But it can be very taxing. That's why it is so important to have support and people to process things with."

I asked her how she managed to deal with such an intense lifestyle at that time; working day in and day out with issues of violence and the emotional struggles of these teens. With a smile and an abbreviated laugh, she said, "I had a great support person. Hildegard Messenbaugh, an Austrian woman who has survived her experience as a child in a German concentration camp. She was her clinical supervisor. She was intruged with the psyche of a child and dedicated her life to studying and helping children by becoming an adolescent psychiatrist and advocate. "Hildegard, a wonderful name," Cindy squirmed out with a giggle, "was my clinical supervisor; my mentor, the person who helped to keep me mentally healthy and prepared, and most of all my friend."

Then suddenly, Cindy lurched forward in her chair, her elbows jutting quickly to her knees, her hands stiffly outstretched and in the voice of her old mentor she cried, "Adolescents are the voice box of this nation and we must listen to them!"

I was taken aback for a moment with the animated sound of her voice ringing the deep tones and thick accent of her mentor. And then I thought for a moment in the stark silence that remained, "adolescents... the voice box of the nation..."

"There's an urgency to this life," she said, her face tightening as if she were chewing her words. "There's an urgency to reach out, get in the gutter with people and walk with them."

"And walk with them is exactly what she has done. Over the past 25 years, Binky has provided assistance and support to many members of the Vietnamese Community in Boise. Although she doesn't speak Vietnamese, she is able to bridge communication gaps and helps them with the challenges they face in American culture. She helps people apply for citizenship, file taxes, buy homes, study for driving tests, and find employment. She works hard to help people get through medical exams and treatments all the time bridging communication between doctor and patient. Still actively providing assistance with a full heart she recognizes that "you have to be flexible in this life." When the phone rings, Binky is there, steadfast even though she's not sure what the next call will bring: a hospital visit? a new birth? an invitation to a wedding? helping finding a new home?

Her involvement in the community is no additional chore to her; instead, it's a part of her and who she is in this journey of life. "She is a woman of incredible personal strength, faith and love," an anonymous friend told me. "In spite of the adversities she has faced, she does not complain. Instead, she reaches out to others."

Binky possesses an honest and simple outlook on life. She doesn't see that she's doing anything out of the ordinary and makes it clear that "you live in a given moment and you must respond in that given moment." Respond. Respond. Those words echoed in my head as I thought how so many of us don't respond in any given moment and how much there is to learn from the modest, yet noble woman.

In 1970, just a year after she and her husband and five children moved to Boise, her oldest son, John, then 20, was murdered by two men burglarizing his apartment. Along with her husband, it was through her personal strength and faith that she was able to cope with such a terrible tragedy. Even in their own grief, she and her husband reached out to others. In the years after John's death, Binky and her husband found little ways to support other people who were experiencing the loss of a child. "Oh, sometimes, when we'd read about a tragedy in the paper, we might send a letter to a grieving family as a small way to offer support... it's the little things in life that matter and begin to add up," she reminded me with a quiet and reverent voice. With the help of funeral directors, a counselor, and support from St. Alphonso's Hospital, Binky and her husband helped gather together over 100 grieving parents in a meeting to talk about their losses.

"I'll never forget that first meeting," Binky recounted slowly as she readjusted in her chair. "Bob and I were among a panel of four couples on stage. We had worked with the counselor ahead of time to develop a set of questions to get group discussion going." She hesitated a moment, then, "Our question: when you lose one of your kids, what do you say that first time someone asks you how many kids you have." She blushed hard. "I mean, what do you say? I have four or five."

"The reality of the question struck me. The silence in that moment was suddenly pierced by the click of the old furnace kicking on and then the dull roar of the fans breathing a sigh of warm air into the room. Maybe she realized by my solid stare that it was time to move on and quickly she made it clear that the success of that first group and those that followed was in the strength of the people in the group - not her. Through the efforts of Binky and her husband and the loving committment of so many people, they founded the Boise chapter of Compassionate Friends, a national organization whose mission is to assist families in the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child.

Along with Compassionate Friends, Binky has offered assistance to the local authorities that investigate violent crimes. She knows from experience how hard it was to read newspaper articles about her own son and be in the dark about the process of investigation and prosecution. As she watched other people endure some of the same struggles, she went to the authorities and shared with them the grief she experienced and the importance of communicating with victims' families. Due to her efforts some years ago, the prosecutor's office journeyed down the road of developing a victim assistance program. "Out of our own wounds are gifts to be given," she said in a slow, rolling voice.

"Binky is a woman making history in so many simple and simply meaningful ways. A woman of deep faith and love for God, she recognizes the history to be created in the joy and love shared in the moments of a single day. "What good is a day that goes by without love and joy?" she makes me wonder.

So many things can happen in any given day that can impact things later. "There seem to be threads that run through our lives," she noted. As she recounted so many stories that afternoon, I saw her weave in and out of adversity and love, pain and forgiveness, accidents and opportunities. Binky's threads are tied together with God's love, depth of feeling and simplicity of her stories with each other. Her involvement in the community is no additional chore to her; instead, it's a part of her and who she is in this journey of life. "She is a woman of..."
Gay Tisdale

By Evelyn Lemke: Originally from California via Germany, Evelyn is a 27-year-old Boise State student, working on a double major in pre-med and philosophy. Her future plans include going to work in orthopedic surgery and to continue to serve her community.

In a world where kindness and generosity aren’t as common as we would like, it’s nice to know that there are people like Gay Tisdale. Gay is someone that changes people’s lives without even realizing it, the definition of a true hero.

When Gay worked for a large corporate firm, she had the opportunity to train four high school interns wanting to experience the world of business. One girl in particular was about to be touched by the loving and caring philosophy that embodies Gay. Jenny started to work for Gay at age seventeen, with almost no knowledge of corporate America. She was timid and overwhelmed. Gay noticed her apprehension, but more importantly noticed her potential. She gave Jenny challenging projects and assignments, knowing she could handle them. All she needed was a little help and encouragement. They worked together on a very meticulous and tedious project that took months to finish. Jenny grew to like the project less and less due to all the overwhelming details and changes, but Gay kept encouraging her, showing she believed in her. Jenny often sacrificed her Saturdays and spent countless hours lost in her spreadsheets, trying to ensure that the computer programs would be Y2K compliant.

After months of work their team’s efforts finally paid off. Their work and attention saved the company a large sum of money. In fact they saved the company so much money that all the full time employees received a hefty bonus check. Gay thought about the hard work of her intern; she realized that Jenny would not receive a bonus check. She remembered the long hours, the frustration, the details. Then without another thought, Gay unselfishly gave Jenny half of her bonus check. In a world where money and material objects seem to be at the center of all things, Gay proved to Jenny what was more important in this world – simply doing the right thing, because it’s the right thing to do, not because it’s the profitable thing to do. Gay makes us think hard about ethics. How many people would have seen the fair thing to do in this situation? How many people would have made such an offer? For Gay, it took no soul searching or deep thought. Her values and sense of fairness run so deep, that what seems out of the ordinary for us, is in the ordinary realm of life for her.

Gay has achieved much in this life. One of her most impressive achievements comes in the world of academia. As a single mother, working full time, Gay decided to go back to college, and after fifteen years of hard work and juggling, Gay was graduated from Boise State University with a degree in Business in May 1988.

As her nominator notes, Gay is someone that everyone should meet. “She’s a fireball of a woman, nothing can stop her from doing the things she wants to do!”

Leslie Owen

By Leith Parsons: Leith is an accounting major at Boise State and works as an office assistant at the Women’s Center and Multi-Cultural Center. She has four lovely children, who are the joy of her life.

Who ever thought that pantyhose were such a big deal? Many of us strap them on each day without realizing why. Leslie Owen, who writes the feminist column “F-Spot,” for the BSU student newspaper, The Arbiter, says in her own unique voice, “Every morning, thousands of Idaho women gather, stick, slide and undulate their clothing and bodies in a ritual dance of immurement. At the pinnacle of our performance we carefully balance the opposing forces of desire, curvature and fingertip pressure, all this while avoiding ragged fingernails, cat claws and jeweled rings.” Fred Astaire, Isaac Newton, HA! I’d like to see them put on a pair of pantyhose at 7:00 in the morning!

Anyone who has put on pantyhose can relate with the truths wrapped up in the humor of this description from her article, “Bound To Agree.” Anyone who reads this has to keep the information quiet. I discussed the prevalence of hormone replacement therapy and the importance of including the third hormone, estrogen. The pharmacists I talked to said “Great! They’ll all rush out and buy estrogen!” I was able to find a few women who understood estrogen was a natural hormone and should be replaced when levels were low. Another area of discussion was the challenges each one of us to examine our ideas about ourselves why we more beautiful with nylons than without. What about nylons makes you more beautiful? Is it really worth the ordeal we put ourselves through?

In this unique way Leslie challenges each one of us to examine our ideas about issues ranging from pantyhose to politics. In each article she talks about her own experiences, and how she has been able to overcome obstacles and gain insight into the lives of others. Leslie’s articles are a great resource for anyone who is interested in challenging the status quo and exploring new perspectives.

Joanne Mitten

By Lori Jo Leonard: A native Oregonian, Lori Jo is a graduate student of social work at BSU. She loves the outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her husband BJ. Lori Jo looks forward with great anticipation to having a desk top. This is a no-nonsense type of woman.

I’m not photogenic,” Joanne comments, in her matter of fact tone. She can barely be seen above the stacks of papers piled high on her desktop. This is a no-nonsense type of woman. She does not have the need to make excuses for herself or to seek the approval of others. She is confident and comfortable with the woman that she is—openly acknowledging her strengths and her limitations. Her personal insight and honesty is refreshing.

When asked to tell me about herself, a large grin spread across her face like wildfire. She speaks to me of her nine year-old son, her aging father, and dedicated husband. “My family means a lot to me,” she states emphatically. She willingly admits, however, that it is difficult to maintain a balance between work and family. “I work really hard and focus when I’m working, and then try to leave it at work. When you go home and your kid says ‘I love you, mom’ it’s pretty easy to let the rest go.”

Her scant free time is spent assisting with and attending her son’s athletic events, teaching community education classes, and volunteering at her son’s school.

Joanne is currently the Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Health Promotion, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health. In her 13 years of work there, she has never been bored.” She is responsible for writing grants to access resources for primary health prevention campaigns in Idaho. Joanne oversees programs such as, adolescent pregnancy prevention, women’s health check, tobacco prevention, diabetes control, sexual assault prevention, oral health, arthritis, and injury prevention. Her vision and hard work have moved the Bureau of Health Promotion from an office to a bureau, from a staff of two to a staff of eighteen, and from a budget of $500,000 to a budget of more than $5,000,000. You can see the zeal in her eyes as she states, “So little funds go to prevention. Our lives and health are things that we want to have a long time—and yet as a society we value them so little.”

Joanne’s passion for primary prevention extends to a national level. Aside from her duties at the department, she has also served as the Health Promotion Director for Idaho for the past twelve years. She ensures that Idaho’s issues are kept in the forefront nationally. “For me it’s something I feel in my heart,” she reflects. “Someone’s life is going to be saved; they’re going to be healthier and happier...many of us take that for granted.”

Of the many rewards her job brings, Joanne is quick to recognize her relationship with co-workers and staff. “I love what I do and the people that I work with directly. We need to work together as a team. I know that I can’t do any of this by myself. We need to depend on other people and work with them.”

Although Joanne has been instrumental in bringing countless programs and funding to Idaho, perhaps the greatest resource she offers the community is herself. As one of her co-workers noted, “Joanne has the unique ability to combine analytic and technical skills with vision...and to turn vision into reality.” Joanne’s passion and energy make her a tireless advocate and role model for healthy Idahoans.

One of my favorite articles was one in which I tackled the ever-taboo gynecological exam. I discussed the rates of cervical cancer...and the role of pap tests in almost...
completely eliminating these dangers. I use that article more than any other in lecturing women about the importance, the essentialness, of subj ecting ourselves to the stirrups and the duckbill. Incidentally, 80% of cervical cancer can be detected and prevented with regular checkups."

Lesleigh is a graduate student at Boise State University. Aside from writing an editorial column, Lesleigh also works full time at the Idaho State Historical Society and is an officer in the BSU student organization Student Advocates for Gender Equality (SAGE).

Lesleigh Owen is making history by challenging the men and women in our community to stop doing things without understanding why. Many of us continue to repeat unhealthy actions and behaviors without once stopping to wonder why we do what we do. She encourages us to educate ourselves, educate others, and adds that it is okay to do things differently, just know why we do it that way.

Gaetha has been motivated to give her service to the people of her community for most of her life. Recently, Gaetha has begun to pursue her writing again. Although she was accepted into Montana University in 1990, her mentor told her to "just go write somewhere." She has been writing with the support of an editor who worked for Hemingway in Sun Valley. She writes mysteries and a genre she refers to as magical realism, and is hopeful of getting her work published.

Gaetha is highly involved in the small town community at Bellevue, where she now lives. She visits with the older women in her town who do not get out much, and she encourages the girls in the town to grow and find theirfortes. Gaetha holds firm, "The best thing for a woman to do is become excellent at what she does." Gaetha has built a wonderful relationship with her granddaughter from whom she learns the motives of youth. After playing in Gaetha's clothes and extraordinary collection of nightgowns one night, her granddaughter said, "Come on Gaetha, let's fall in love and dance!" The two danced and laughed the night away. Gaetha says, "Now all I want to do is fall in love and dance and write books for a living."

Gaetha Pace

By Nicole Force

Nicole, a student at Boise State University is seeking degrees in English and in art, and she plans to graduate in the spring of 2001. She enjoys writing creative nonfiction and plans to become more involved with multimedia works.

Gaetha Pace is known for the varied and extensive public work that she has accomplished in Idaho. She is the executive director for the Idaho Heritage Trust, which often involves her in the political realms; she is the former director for the Idaho Arts Commission under Governor Evans, and she is on the board for Confluence Press in Lewiston, a press run out of the Nez Perce Reservation. After all of her success, Gaetha relates still to a story from her childhood to reflect on her life.

Gaetha had her first experience in dealing with people and their motives when she was a little girl. While growing up, she went to a small fundamentalist community church with her grandmother. Gaetha was appalled when the minister of the church told Gaetha that her mother would go to hell because she had been divorced when Gaetha was young. Gaetha of course ran home and cried in her room. Her mother came in, her hand covering her face, and said to Gaetha, "What's the matter with you?" When Gaetha related the horrible consequences that her mother might have to face, Gaetha's mother told her that the minister of the church was a failed nightclub saxophone player. She said, "That saxophone player made many a young girl go wrong." Gaetha discovered a thing that she called "the other motive," a thing that runs contradictory to outward intentions. People aren't always what they seem to be.

Originally, Gaetha followed her grandmother and her mother's footsteps to a college education. Gaetha trained as a printer and a journalist because she didn't want to be a teacher or a nurse, as was generally expected of her generation of women. She wanted to write, but quickly found that she wasn't cut out for English. She tried journalism because she liked the idea of making a difference - waiting to find out how they felt about their bad news. She worked with her husband at the state penitentiary in corrections, and then volunteered to run Idaho Volunteer and Ada County Employment. Governor Evans saw that Gaetha had a talent for administration. He appointed her to Press Secretary and Special Assistant. Soon, Gaetha was also running the Arts and Real Talent program.

Gaetha's mother had been an artist and so it followed that Gaetha had a love of artists. Even now, Gaetha lives in a house that was renovated by a pair of artists. "The thing I've discovered," Gaetha remarked on the arts, "is that there are three things people can do to get ahead: sports, politics, and arts. If you can communicate, and/or if you are good, you can make a living at it."

She feels that art (as well as the two other occupations mentioned) is a way for people to transcend poor or bad living situations. She feels that the people who pursue art are people who "have no other way out, or are in love with the art scene, or are so damn determined...that they have a passion and a vision of the future." These are the people that Gaetha loves, because they are driven by pure desire, pure motive.

Jyl Hoyt

"Your stories give me a dose of inspiration," writes a fan of Jyl Hoyt. Each year, Jyl collects the bulk of her fan mail into a folder that thickens to at least an inch in width by December. Jyl has created a sort of legacy during her life. Her stories and radio broadcasts are most often focused on sharing women's stories. Currently she is writing about women in Northern Idaho, who are teaching other women to write. She believes that the chain of women helping one another will confirm to every woman that she is not alone. Women can take guidance from other women's stories and learn from them. It has become a legacy of knowledge, compassion, and understanding.

Although Jyl began her college education by training to work as a journalist, she joined the Peace Corps after she received her degree. In Africa, she was a schoolteacher and ran a well baby clinic in 1968 and 1969. In 1974, Jyl went to Guatemala with the Peace Corps for another year. Here, she ran the gardens and the nutrition program. However, Jyl has been continually involved in working with women in and out the Peace Corps. Throughout all of her experiences, Jyl was amazed to discover that "we [women] are known as the weaker sex, but we're not weak at all." The kind of womanly wit and strength that inspires Jyl was exemplified in Peru just after the country's civil war was ending. While Jyl was there on a Fulbright fellowship in 1995, she observed women whose husbands died in the war; they were widows left with children to care for. The women formed lending banks known as "penny cooperatives" in order to start small businesses, a task that none of these women had ever tackled. With their resources combined, the women could take loans from their bank to form businesses that became successful and were adequate for supporting their families.

Courage such as this inspired Jyl to write about the women she has known and worked with. Jyl has been touched by the strength of women to endure grief and hardship; she has witnessed the wit of women as they have found ways to support their families even in the aftermath of a war.

After she left the Peace Corps, Jyl moved to the University of Montana and began her career with radio journalism. She completed an M.A. in journalism while in Montana in 1988. She moved to Idaho that year and began working with Boise State Radio. Jyl has been writing the women she has known, interviewing new women, writing their stories for In Print, and producing these stories for NPR. Jyl is a "one-woman show" traveling all over the northwest to interview women through the numerous grants she has been awarded for her work.

One of Jyl's greatest prides is her daughter, who is following in Jyl's footsteps. Jyl's daughter Peelah, who will join the Peace Corps in a year, has also become a radio journalist with a Bachelor's degree, also from the University of Montana. The legacy of women sharing their stories is validated by their relationship. The two share their experiences, learning from each other. They share together their writings and drafts, they share about the right people to interview, and they share all of the best angles to take.

The amazing thing about Jyl is that she is making history in such a literal sense. There has been a lack of documenting women's stories in the past and it is encouraging and refreshing to find Jyl working with the stories of other women. She writes incredible pieces of history that are often skipped over by other people. She clips the women's voices into her program so that everyone can hear their truth out loud.
In Memory of Jo Anne Russell

By Lesleigh Owen

Lesleigh is a graduate student at Boise State University. Aside from writing an editorial column, Lesleigh also works full time at the Idaho State Historical Society and is an officer in the ISU student organization SAGE, Student Advocates for Gender Equality.

To introduce us to her women's studies classes, the teacher aides went around the room, pointing to a small stack of each of us in turn and asking us to make up our names and explain whether or not we considered ourselves feminists. When at last the finger of doom swung my way, I nervously mumbled something about valuing gender equality but not actually applying the "F" word to myself. "It's just too loaded," I concluded.

"Huh uh," the TA said.

"Huh uh? I asked.

"Huh uh. Female or male, if you strive for women's rights in this culture, you'd better accept the unity, community and refuge of the label, because social justice proves a very bumpy ride." Okay then," I said. "I guess I'm a feminist.

This was my introduction to Jo Anne Russell and the birth of my identity as a feminist. Looking back, I'm not surprised that I associate Jo Anne with new beginnings, never have I met someone so capable of reinventing herself and sparking that same passion in others.

Hooked on women's studies after that semester, I kept returning to the classes, registered or not. I'll never forget sailing into the classrooms, familiar with most of the faces but zeroing in on Jo Anne and waiting for her to greet me with a warm hug.

Of course, hugs weren't all she dispensed. Jo Anne was a local treasure, a woman devoted to educating and empowering other women. In a community in which women's issues remain relegated to the sidelines, she spoke loudly and proudly of the role of women in shaping our past and our present.

In so doing, she became a hero herself. In addition to helping found the Boise State Women's Center and stocking its library shelves with radical literature, she inspired a community with her educational pursuits. Through her groundbreaking, invaluable and much-quoted thesis on the history of prostitution in Boise and her undergraduate work on the history of feminine hygiene products, she refused to allow our foremothers into the roles of housewives and saints. "I got my Bachelor's in Koxet and my Master's in prostitution," Jo Anne used to quip.

As a member of her community, I honored her hard work. As her friend, I adored her. When I wasn't sure how to define my endeavors and myself, she provided the perfect role model as a comforting and reliable person who proved herself unrelenting in her pursuit of social equality.

So, when she died several months ago, I mourned not only her passing but the loss of someone so capable of reinventing herself and sparking that same passion in others.

Memories of Jo Anne Russell

By Brad Schmitz

Brad is a senior social work major. He believes that life is not worth living unless you are living for something you are willing to die for.

Members of the gay and lesbian community face discrimination and oppression every day. Living in conservative rural areas of Idaho can be difficult for gays, lesbians and their families. As a citizen of McCall, Gwen Kimball is making history every day by creating rural support groups for these people throughout Idaho.

Before 1987, Gwen Kimball's life was home, family and church. During that year, she began spending time on herself, enriching her own experience. Gwen enrolled at Boise State University and earned her bachelor's degree in English in 1994. Through her university experience she received much more than a classroom education. Gwen gained a springboard and support system to begin a life in community activism. When Gwen's daughter came out as a lesbian in 1994, Gwen seized the resources at Boise State to learn about gay and lesbian community organizations throughout Idaho. Gwen wanted to become an ally for the gay and lesbian community.

Gwen wanted to learn how to speak to people about gay and lesbian issues so that she could find more allies for this group. She became involved with the Young Family, Friends, and Neighbors Speak Out Idaho Program as a first step in educating herself about this process. The next step in her work was setting up house parties in the McCall and Cascade area to speak with other families about gay and lesbian concerns. Gwen gained more skill and support by joining the Idaho Women's Network and the American Association for University Women. These venues allowed her to work on the issues of women's reproductive rights and gay/lesbian issues on the national and local levels.

"Through these organizations, after getting my degree, I felt like I could make a difference. Without these sources I would continue to be focused on cooking, house making and baking. This is another stage, a chance for me to grow." In 1998. Gwen and husband Earl became representatives in the New Meadows/ McCall area for PFLAG (Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). As representatives they could get PFLAG information and resources from the national office in Washington DC for their area. Two years later, Gwen and Earl founded a PFLAG chapter temporarily located in Cascade. This organization is a mobile unit offering resources and support for families in McCall, Cascade, Donnelly, and New Meadows.

Gwen is building a new support system in rural Idaho for a population often so isolated in these areas. As a revolutionary advocate for rural gays and lesbians and their families, Gwen Kimball is making history. As her nominator noted, Gwen, a humble woman, possesses a "commitment to social justice and is dedicated to her community and state."
something that I enjoyed and did well." So she changed her major to accounting, combining her strong math skills and the newly discovered world of business and retailing.

Jane’s first real challenge came in the form of an office manager for four muffler shops and a service station. While it was exciting work, there were few challenges and the tasks became too routine. So in 1966 she returned to school to work on a Master’s degree, where an accounting systems class proved to be a turning point for her.

The professor of the class happened to be the accounting and finance officer for an Air Force Base. The accounting division on base was in need of some attention, so Jane was hired into a trainee program to smooth the bumps. She became very successful and grew in experience and knowledge. "Of course, there were some that complained that I was keeping a male out of work by having my job," she reminded me. But that didn’t keep her self-esteem from growing. With the help of some of her co-workers, Jane finally learned to spell and read, which was necessary for the reports she would have to draft.

"Years and life went on..." Jane reflected. Her career was going well, promotions and then marriage. But she was still in the family’s disfavor—where are the grandchildren? Finally after six long years of trying, she had her first child, a beautiful ten-pound girl.

"Another detour," she said. Since mothers didn’t work back then, she quit her career position and moved to Nampa, her husband’s hometown. Another child came and finally after many years, first grade was upon her daughter Jane...

get involved in her children’s school, an acceptable use of time for a mother. She, also, became more and more interested in volunteer work and her community.

Jane became a leader in the Girl Scouts, PTO president, Cub Scout Committee Chair, and a Webelos Den Leader. She was taken with the Girl Scouting program and all that it emphasized in contemporary issues: valuing differences, literacy, math and science, substance abuse, preventing youth suicide, teenage pregnancy and child abuse were openly discussed.

"Helping girls to develop self-esteem, to find themselves, to help them develop the I can do it attitude, and to provide a safe environment for them, even to fail in this all fit together. I saw the difference in values from my parent’s home and my childhood."

Without formalizing it, Jane developed a life mission statement "to help youth grow and to make a difference in their lives." And the rest is history, as they say. Girl Scout Cadettes, senior advisor, committee work, teaching leadership skills and raising, running a Cub Scout pack, helping at camps, chairing auctions, and planning events, all aimed at making a difference.

"My life has gone from seeing the light with Girl Scouting for young girls."

Jane continued, "to running the AV room at Nampa High to working at BSU in the Student Union. Though trained and competent as an accountant, being around students and helping them grow is the real pleasure. So maybe my story is about giving back some of what I gained, but it has also served me well through difficult times when life seemed to crumble. A sense of involvement and helping youth has given me more strength and inner peace than I could ever give to the youth I touch. I am truly thankful that the youth of the 70’s.

obstacles of the 1950’s, latch-hook rugs. I never give to the youth I touch. I am truly thankful that the youth of the nation.

Lee kept thinking, "This will never pass, it’s a woman’s constitutional right to choose!" But she was wrong; it did pass the house and the
senate. She was shocked as were many others. This volatile bill was left in the hands of the Governor at the time, Governor Cecil Andrus, to either sign it into law or to veto it. If he did not act by deadline at the end of the week, the bill would simply roll over and become a law. Organizations started forming nightly vigils at the statehouse steps; as the deadline approached the crowds grew. Each night, more people arrived to protest the bill. By the end of the week, thousands of people marched around the capitol with candles, pressuring the governor to veto the law.

Melted wax covered the steps (which is partly the reason why candles are no longer allowed at the state house). Looking on as the crowds grew, listening to the voices of Idaho’s voters, Governor Andrus vetoed the law—thousands of people celebrated.

Lee realized that she had to start being active politically for the issues she believed in.

Lee believes it is crucial to understand multiple issues and to get involved. She was introduced to political activism by reproductive rights, but Lee works on many different fronts and is not just involved in issues that affect her personally. As a feminist she sees feminism as a struggle for liberation of all people, and believes the movement has to combat all forms of discrimination. Women fall under so many categories of discrimination (race, class, sexual orientation). So if we do not examine all forms of oppression, we are leaving out large numbers of women.

Lee is one of the most modest people I have ever met. As she talked about other projects in which she is involved, she was sure not to leave anyone out. For example, last December she and several others came together to organize “Take Back the Night,” a march to protest violence against women. Six different organizations worked on this event and the Idaho Women’s Network was one of them. Lee has worked as a political organizer at the Women’s Network for five years, so she was deeply involved.

The event was organized in response to what was happening in the Boise community. Within a few months several women had been raped and murdered. Lee was part of a group of people who wanted a public response to challenge these actions. They organized “Take Back the Night,” to speak out against violence against women and girls. It was a very emotional experience for Lee because it forced her to deal with these issues closely instead of pushing them into the background. On the other hand it was very empowering and encouraging because it brought together so many people, including men and children, for the fight. One of the messages of “Take Back the Night” was that these are not random acts, women are targeted everyday and this is a community problem that everybody has to address.

At the end of the rally Lee was gathering her things and a little boy of about nine or ten stopped up and said enthusiastically, “Hey you guys, great job!” It gave Lee hope that maybe as a culture we can, and are changing, and that men are realizing their part in the fight.

**Katherine Pavesic**

“All the flowers of all the tomorrows are the seeds of today.”

-The Woman’s Strife for Peace

Katherine sows the seeds of strength and joy everywhere she goes. Her community involvement mainly stems from her employment at Head Start, a state for supporting financially disadvantaged children through education. Katherine found employment with Head Start after completing her Bachelors in social sciences and a three-year R.N. degree. Her job was to fulfill two positions as both nurse and social worker, although she had originally applied to the organization for a position as welfare rights organizer. Katherine found that her background in nursing and social work turned out to be very advantageous, allowing her to become quickly involved with human interests. She completed her Masters of Fine Arts in adult education while working at Head Start.

Katherine spent her childhood in Aberdine, a community-oriented town in Eastern Idaho, consisting at that time of 1,400 people. Katherine described the surprisingly extensive cultural diversity in Aberdeen by counting all of its seventeen different churches. Although Katherine’s family was not involved with diversity issues, they were accepting of different cultures. Her father was Greek-German and her mother was Italian. Katherine learned the acceptance that leads to cooperative interaction with different cultures. Because her uncles were miners and steel workers and were active in unions, she realized the necessity of political efforts to protect a hard working people. Katherine’s understanding of these two social elements and juxtaposing them together inspired her growth as an activist.

“I am a stubborn person with the desire to make things right,” Katherine says of herself. During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s, Katherine got involved with the Peace Movements. She found at this time in her life a passion for advocacy, although she does not view herself as a liberal. Rather, she describes herself as always doing whatever she can to make things better. Perhaps this is why Katherine was inherently drawn to protect the Vietnam Conflict. She seems to have a sense of issues in a global manner. It is interesting that the motto quoted above speaks of the seeds of today in reference to peace. Katherine’s flowers bloom from the seeds of peace; her flowers of today are the freedom of the disenfranchised youth to become educated with as many opportunities as possible.

Katherine’s current work for the Head Start program involves everything from children’s issues to family issues. She is amazed by the few resources that some families have access to, what these families are capable of, and what they accomplish when given the opportunity. The people who are helped by Head Start are chosen according to state regulations that aid only twenty percent of the most disadvantaged families from a group of families that already fall under the definition of disadvantaged. She has worked to expand the qualifications for receiving aid. Katherine trains the parents who come to Head Start to use lobbying and the state legislature to help disadvantaged children and their families. She helps the parents to find confidence and strength within themselves, and she helps children get excited about their education. Two examples from many: Katherine trained a parent to lobby for children’s rights and that parent is now a main Head Start employee; another trained parent now owns her own realty company.

Katherine works as an advocate because “it is easy... and it is rewarding.”

Katherine’s work has helped the Head Start program of Idaho to acquire funding and recognition from state and federal agencies. Her state proposals often make a second appearance on a national level at Washington, D.C. Her proposed programs are “innovative” and she has proven their practicality through administering them in Idaho.

Katherine has a long list of accomplishments, titles, recognitions, honors, and awards, each equally impressive. Yet, Katherine marks one of her greatest honors as accepting a peace quilt in 1985 from the Boise Peace Quilters for her advocacy and work for young children of Idaho. “The Boise Peace Quilters honor people who are children’s advocates on a national scale, such as Mr. Rogers. Years ago, Katherine had been a member of the Peace Quilters, but had left the group because she “wasn’t a great seamstress.” However, she was inspired at that time by the group’s projects enough to involve one of her children’s group in making personalized quilt patches. Years later she received these patches as a birthday gift. Katherine has a long list of accomplishments, titles, and awards that she can be proud of. However, her pride is most evidenced by the following statement: “All the flowers of all the tomorrows are the seeds of today.”

Katherine is retiring on October 14, 2001. Idaho will surely miss her generous work and contribution to our society. She wants to spend time with her husband so that they can travel. They plan to rent out their home to people lobbying the legislature while they are away.

**Megan Sorvaag**

By Nicole Force

At age twenty-one, Megan Sorvaag is already starting to make her mark. Megan is a young student at Boise State University finding time to make the lives of people around her better. She has been vice-president and president of the BSU Association of Psychology Students, the webmaster for the corresponding psychology department, and received the honor of Homecoming Queen for Boise State University 2000, among many other roles; she receives several scholarships for her education as she currently holds a perfect 4.0 GPA, and recently received a provisional patent for new Advising Software that she designed. She says of herself, “I have just always seemed to become naturally enthusiastic and motivated at whistles back down into an adult with the understanding that this is not about Megan; it is that she is so vital, so full of life, that this motivation seems to overflow to people around her.

Megan grew to love Idaho and Idahoans during her childhood as her family repeatedly traveled to Idaho. She decided by the time that she was in her mid-teens that she wanted to attend BSU. She relocated as a freshman entering college to Boise from Northern California and began working towards a degree in psychology. Her original aspiration was to learn how to help people to be better involved in organizations and to help them to work more efficiently and productively. ‘I love people and finding out what makes them tick,’ Megan said at her interview and then laughingly admitted, ‘but more
than that, I always look for the best in people and keeping to that philosophy has never let me down; people really can be so much more than they appear."

After she entered into the university system, Megan discovered an interest in educational psychology. She found that the university system of registration and graduation requirements are often difficult for people to understand and that many students often "fall through the cracks." She turned her focus to researching these problems and found alarming results about academic advising in all universities and its impact on student retention. Using her research and own experiences, Megan began sketching out a solution to academic advising problems with a potential software program. As she discovered how complex her solution was becoming, she adapted her ideas to a real-life project, and took it upon herself to team up with a software programmer to put it all together.

For the past year they have been collaborating to get the software up and running which would come to be named the Academic E-Planner. Megan, along with a professor from the psychology department, began using psychology majors as their pilot subjects for the usability of the software applications; they have found amazing results. Megan sees the software as "as an interactive tool that assists students in planning their degree with ease, keeping in check the student's individual goal of graduation needs and timeliness." She has designed the program to assist advisors so that the advisors and the students can spend more of their advising time discussing careers and academic issues, selecting appropriate classes, and when it is appropriate to take those classes.

Megan received the provisional patent for her software in May 2000. She will be presenting her research findings on the student use of advising technology to the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago this May; she will also be presenting the software to the National Academic Advising Associations Convention held in Canada this October. Megan's wish for the software is that it would eventually be integrated into a university wide advising system, and she adds with a smile, that she will stop at nothing to see that it is able to reach its fullest potential to benefit all college students. For herself, her wish is to continue her education someday by obtaining her Ph.D. in the field of psychology so she can continue doing research focusing on the education system and technological issues.

Megan feels that "happiness is giving back; it is helping people without exception." Meeting Megan, it becomes impossible not to feel her sense of helping in the presence of such vitality. But more inspiring, it is as if her vitality has such a strong current that one can see the river just beginning.

Mary E. Rohlfling accentuates the positive. While she may not always eliminate the negative, she does manage to move it out of her line of sight. As a teacher and human rights activist, Mary brings determination, hard work, and a wild sense of wit and wonder to the classroom and to the political arena.

It seems fortuitous that a girl born in Media, Pennsylvania would find her niche in the world of communication. As the third of four children, she learned the importance of establishing a point of view and the necessity of mastering the strategies to defend her territory. The Quaker beliefs of her grandmother and the receptive attitude of her family fostered her natural inclination toward acceptance and tolerance.

Women who make history don't get there by accident. Mary's mom assumed the role of the non-traditional student before the empty nest syndrome became contagious and the displaced homemaker took up residence at many urban colleges. In the early 1970's Mary's mother made the transition from kitchen to campus. Ironically, because the student population at Cheney State Teacher's College where she enrolled was primarily African American, time spent coloring by a young Mary in the back of the college classroom offered her a unique perspective on the world.

Mary's personal initial collegiate experience in New Hampshire found her living in a commune and rocking to the rhythm of some "good ole rock 'n roll."

Convinced that her future lay in the world of audio engineering, Mary was persuaded by a friend to take a look at Idaho before she locked herself into a path, which would lead toward the sound booth and the recording studio. The nineteen year-old adventurer loaded her worldly possessions and headed west. When a promise of financial aid proved as elusive as baseballs in a belfry, Mary settled into the life of a minimalist in Idaho City. With no electricity or running water to divert her attention, Mary expanded her resume by pumping gas, running the county dump, and doing odd jobs. Five years later she was ready for the city lights.

Once she was enrolled at Boise State, Mary found her focus shifting from that of an audio engineer to that of a communication professional. The intricacies of critical thinking challenged her inquisitive mind. The rigor of logical discourse and reasoned if rabid discussion persuaded her to expend the effort to achieve a Ph.D. Timing can be everything! Mary's doctorate was awarded just as a faculty position at Boise State was announced. The rest, as they say is history... women's history.

Dr. Rohlfling seems to have an extremely accurate internal gyroscope that allows her to remain centered when the rest of the world seems out of sync. Her stance as a feminist in a state most comfortable with the exploits of its forefathers than the achievements of its forerunners is refreshing. She allows her students to hear new voices telling fresh stories. Not that she is incapable of raising her voice if the situation calls for it. Offering a class called "Sex, Gender, and Rock and Roll", Mary positively resonates. She allows her students to examine the structure of the musical genre; its history and primarily male cast of characters, while she encourages them to nurture any spark of rebellion music might kindle in their lives.

As a teacher Mary is demanding and demonstrative. She rewards creativity and diligence. Her patience with those struggling to master difficult concepts seems ironic when compared with her unflinching opposition to the intolerance and lack of compassion of those who attempted to pass Proposition One in 1994. Echoing the sentiment of her friend and mentor, Brian Bergquist, "Democracy is not a spectator sport." Mary continues to identify and revitalize the connection between civil rights, gay rights, and human rights. As Lori Owen, the person who nominated Mary wrote, "Mary challenges students to think more comprehensively and humanly about their world."

This spring, Mary will deliver a presentation at James Madison University entitled: "The Communication Scholar's Role in Advocacy and Activism." Her efforts in the classroom and in the community make it clear that she fills that role with integrity and grace. As a board member of the Idaho Human Rights Education Center, she worked for the creation of the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. Because of her interest in the environment she has served on the board of Women's Voices for the Earth.

Dr. Mary E. Rohlfling is serious about her role as a teacher and an activist. She has been named an Honored Faculty member by one of the University's Top Ten Scholars and received honors for her work on human rights from Idaho Voices of Faith, the Northwest Communication Association and The Community Center. In her letter of nomination, Lori Owen, described Mary's perspective: "By valuing others, we touch their hearts, and that is the first step in teaching people something that lasts beyond the text."

Angela Newell

Angela Newell is a leader of tomorrow..."

At age twenty-five, Angela Newell, working in the Boise City Mayor's office has set her sights high. She says that one day, she'll be President; the people who know her, believe her. As her nominator notes, "Angela is knowledgeable about issues important to people," issues that range from diversity to social security. And more importantly, "she listens to people and does what is best for them." Angela freely extends her heart and mind to the City, which is a lot to say considering her busy schedule. She seems to be able to slow the moment down and create meaningful relationships with those she serves.

Angela was nominated as a woman making history through community service and "personal impact." She has been an advocate for youth organizations for some time and helped implement a community coalition, Healthy Community Healthy Youth in Boise. There are over 100 young people involved including city officials, government, area school districts, major non-profits groups, hospitals, and recently some private businesses. The members also include every major media network and station, and in the past eighteen months it has worked directly with over 400 young people.

The goal of the group is to implement the "assets philosophy." Last year, 6,000 Ada County students took the 40 Developmental Assets Survey. They were asked questions about how they thought their community valued them, how safe they felt, how they felt about school support, parental support, integrity, responsibility; and community service to name a few of the
Volunteer work, she has been the voice of children in the judicial system, advocating giving a child up for adoption. "The kids that I worked with didn't give up, even in the greatest pain I have ever had to endure. When I'm up against other problems, I think the face of terrible odds, with the classes in college. I began to wonder had I had Chris as a professor, maybe within a year of college she would have seen it differently. The ad represented kids, once abused or neglected by family members or legal guardians, and then placed in the court system as authorities tried to determine this process.

Angela is well on her way to personal and community successes. The recipient of a fellowship awarded by the Corporation for National Service, she is among only eight people in the nation to receive it. Angela earned her Bachelor's degree in literature and theatre from St. Edward's College in Austin, Texas and hopes to begin graduate school in the fall to begin work on her Master's of public administration.

Chris Loucks

By Melissa Wintrow

A native Idahoan, Chris attended Capital High School and Boise State University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in economics. Her faculty noticed that she had a special head for economics and encouraged her to attend graduate school where she could put her gifts to use. Chris considered their advice and decided that she would return to school if she didn't have a job within a year of college graduation. "Well, I didn't really look too hard," she admitted with a laugh. She attended Washington State University and earned her Ph.D. in economics in 1983.

Chris loves the field of economics. Her eyes lit up and she could barely sit still in her chair for her excitement for the subject: "Econ is not about making money," she explained. "It's so much more. It's exciting; it's the study of choices. It's all about posing meaningful questions and providing a framework to look at answers.

I had never thought of economics as an exciting field. I remember struggling with the classes in college. I began to wonder had I had Chris as a professor, maybe I would have seen it differently.

Chris Loucks is a woman of action and high ideals, and even a "rabble rouser," to use her own words. A woman of integrity dedicated to her life's work and community service, she stands up for her beliefs and for the rights of others. In her volunteer work, she has been the voice of children in the judicial system, advocating for their needs and rights.

"I was reading the Someone Needs You column in the paper," Chris began as she told the story of her involvement in CASA (court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children). "The ad for CASA spoke to me." The "someone" in this ad represented kids, once abused or neglected by family members or legal guardians, and then placed in the court system as authorities tried to determine where the child would be safest. Chris felt an instant connection with this cause, and called the number. She had known people close to her who had been sexually abused by family members and she felt that she could be a strong voice for children in this process.

"I believe that we must give back to our communities. We owe it; we have an obligation," Chris said with conviction. She believes in the soul of the survivor and has worked with children and teens that have survived great conflicts: abuse, rape, giving a child up for adoption. "The kids that I worked with didn't give up, even in the face of terrible odds," she continued. "They were survivors."

"Are you a survivor," I asked.

"I think I can go through a lot of adversity and survive," Chris chuckled and then got serious. "My brother died when I was in grad school," she said. "That was the greatest pain I have ever had to endure. When I'm up against other problems, I think about that pain. I think about how terrible it was and ask myself if what I'm currently experiencing is that bad. Almost always, I note that it's not. That's part of surviving."

"My family is a family of survivors," she said. "My mother's parents emigrated from Russia to the U.S. in 1919 because of the persecution they were suffering. One of my uncles went back to Russia after World War II to look for remaining family, but no one who stayed in Russia had survived. My grandparents and their relatives who immigrated to the United States survived."

"On my father's side, my grandparents, French Huguenots, escaped France and moved to England and then the United States in the 1700's. As Protestants living in a Catholic country, they would have been killed had they stayed in France. They survived."

"My brother teases me that we come from a long line of dissidents, a lineage of rabblerousers.

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself." Therefore, all progress depends upon the unreasonable man or woman, as the case may be. Change comes from unreasonable people, people willing to think in different ways and challenge the status quo.

Chris is active in making positive changes in her community and her own life. An avid runner, who takes care of herself physically and mentally, Chris volunteers for the Komen Boise Race for the Cure, and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, both of which raise money for cancer research. And on campus, she has worked hard to represent women's voices on the Women's Center Advisory Board and is involved in many other campus committees. Chris Loucks is making history with each interaction and each question she raises to challenge the status quo.

Leah Taala

By Leah Parsons: Leah is an accounting major at Boise State and works as an office assistant at the Women's Center and Multi-Cultural Center. She has four lovely children, who are the joy of her life.

"Is Idaho too great for hate?" That's a question that Leah faced as she hung signs for a Boise State University program on ethnic diversity. As she fought the icy wind that day, struggling to post signs on a few poles on campus, the wind snatched the paper out of her hands. She ran after the paper sign, retrieved it, and weighted it down. Then she went to locate something to fasten it more securely. As she came back, she noticed a man had walked up and was reading the sign, which said, "40% of Idahoans do not want their neighborhood to be ethnically diverse."

After he read it right before her astonished eyes, the man's face contorted with anger and he began to kick the sign. Not knowing what to say to him, Leah carefully approached him and simply said, "Thank you," and collected her sign. The next day when a guest speaker for Dialogue on Race Week was escorted to the quad, all the signs that she had put up had been torn down and ripped up.

Later in the Student Union, Leah joined others who were working towards raising community awareness of discrimination on campus. They had set up a booth with information and questionnaires. The booth was surrounded by colorful signs that displayed controversial statements in order to generate discussion. "Racism remains a powerful and persistent barrier to the full and equal..." and "58.1% of Americans would oppose a close family member marrying an African American." An elderly gentleman stopped by the booth and looked at all the material, "Does this [discrimination] really happen?" he asked. "I've never seen it..."

Unfortunately, Leah Taala, assistant to the director of the Multi-Cultural Center, has seen it - hate and racism. However, she works hard to create a fair and safe environment for people of all cultures. A solid student role model, she maintains a solid GPA alongside her campus activities: Homecoming, Volunteer Services Board "Into The Streets," and the Martin Luther King Celebration Committees as well as involvement in Hugh-O-Aloha and the Organizacidn de Estudiantes Latino Americano. She has played a major role in making Hugh-O-Aloha one of the most recognized clubs on campus. Leah is always giving her time and assistance to any students or clubs in need. Her caring and friendly personality is..."
Amy Haak

By Melissa Wintrow

As I peered tentatively into Amy's office, I saw a tall modular desk littered with maps and stacks of papers. The walls were covered with photos of her and her dog in the great outdoors. The surroundings were almost overwhelming as I gazed on this small and simple woman, dressed for comfort in her kaki's and fleece. She almost disappeared behind the mountain of paperwork. But her presence grew as she eased away from the desk and into a chair to talk.

Memory: As small girl, I used to play in a beautiful meadow behind our house. Trees surrounded it, and there was a particularly large oak that gently cradled me in its branches whenever I pleased. I loved this spot. One day I was startled out of my play by the loud rumblings of trucks and bulldozers from behind the row of trees. Housing developers had moved in and were beginning to build more homes near our neighborhood. Each day as the project progressed, I noticed more and more of my play by the loud rumblings of trucks and bulldozers from behind the row of trees. Housing developers had moved in and were beginning to build more homes near our neighborhood. Each day as the project progressed, I noticed more and more of my belongings. There were beautiful quilts and antique furniture labeled with price tags. I wondered why she was selling all these wonderful things.

Leah is making history by using her newfound personal strengths to help form bonds between people of different cultures. Her efforts towards educating us on the environment. She

My

Alicia Hochhalter

By Kenny Trueax: Kenny is a senior English, technical communications major at Boise State. His involvement includes ASBSU, ASABE, as the chief of staff, and the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Upon graduation in May, Kenny plans on attending law school somewhere in the southeastern United States.

Many of us know the feelings associated with moving away from home for the first time. Imagine, moving into a college residence hall with the hope of new friends and adventures, accompanied by the anxiety and nerves of getting used to a new routine. Imagine that first day, the parking lot overflowing with cars that are bulging with belongings: the beehive of activity; the logistic challenges of how to get all those boxes crammed into an elevator (if you're lucky enough to be in a building that has an elevator); and then the discussion between roommates about whose stuff stays and whose will...
Americans were exposed to different cultures and values beyond the call of duty.

Alicia Hochhalter, an RA in Chaffee Hall goes above and beyond the call of duty. Alicia is responsible for overall operation on her floor of academic life of students along with serving as a role model, coach, and mediator for about 50 residents. She provides social and educational programs to enhance the academic life of students along with serving as a role model, coach, and mediator for American students. Alicia Hochhalter, an RA in Chaffee Hall goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Establishing a home where everyone feels welcome is part of the job, but not always very easy. Alicia, comfortable with herself and others, extends her genuine spirit to so many people, even in the face of confrontation. Alicia is responsible for overall operation on her floor of academic life of students along with serving as a role model, coach, and mediator for American students. Alicia Hochhalter, an RA in Chaffee Hall goes above and beyond the call of duty.

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to explore social diversity further, so that she might increase her community involvement. Although Marla works full time at Idaho Power Company, attends college classes, and attends to her family and her involvement with the Hispanic committee, she feels that she owes time to helping the community. She teaches her children to be active in their community and that we "have so much that we can share. We can do so much, everywhere."

Rocci Johnson
By Dayle McNabb

I met Rocci on January 3rd at "The Flying M" downtown. It's a cool little coffee shop with friendly workers. I sat down with a hot chocolate looking around, wondering if someone here was Rocci. I'd never seen her before and didn't want to miss her. In her nomination her friend described her as someone who exudes power from within herself, and no one seemed to fit the bill.

Then Rocci entered. She had long blonde hair, a huge folder filled with papers and a cell phone. She looked over and said, "Are you Dayle?"

I nodded my head and she walked towards the table.

Two men sitting by me called out to her, "Hey Rocci, how you doing?" She greeted them with a smile on her face and continued to my table where I was nervously waiting. She sat down and showed me her cell phone. She was laughing saying she had dropped it and the back had fallen off.

"It better not be broken," she said, trying to rearrange the backing. "I need my cell phone." And she does, more than any other person I know to keep up with her busy life.

Rocci is the lead singer of the "Rocci Johnson Band," which performs at "Hannah's" on Main St. three nights a week. She is the chairperson for the Catch a Steelhead Benefit for the Make A Wish Foundation, vice president of the Steelheads Booster Club, and founder of the Celebration of Women in the Arts.

Rocci started the Celebration of Women in the Arts six years ago. It is a celebration, as Rocci puts it, of women coming into their own and getting out of abusive households. The event takes months to plan, organizing around seventy-five visual artists and sixty performing artists for a one-night celebration that proves to be a major fund-raiser for the Women's and Children's Alliance.

Rocci was also the chair of Idaho Earthfest for eight years. In the end, the event had turned into more of a party than a concern for environmental issues, so Rocci stepped down. It was a struggle to make the decision because she didn't want Earthfest to disappear and was worried no one would take up the job. She was right. Earthfest ended, but Rocci already has ideas in mind for the next one!

Rocci's grandfather was one of her biggest influences when it comes to preserving the earth. While growing up in Montana, she would spend summers at her grandfather's ranch in Wyoming, a ranch he spent his whole life working to preserve. An historic battle was fought on the land his ranch occupied, the Battle of General Crook at Rosebud. The same tribal warriors that fought there clashed with Custer two weeks later. Crook had enough sense to hole up and retreat after massive losses, although he was court-martialed for this later, as a scapegoat for the Little Bighorn debacle.

A coal line was found underneath the ground and her grandfather was made an offer to sell the land. Had he sold it, he would have become a very rich man. However, he didn't want history to be lost, so he fought to keep it. The ranch is now a national monument and will one day be a national park. Rocci's grandfather taught her that money is not as important as fighting for what you believe in, and that's how she lives her life.

Rocci spoke to me about her spirituality and this was what touched me the most. She explained her strong faith and how she meditated about people she loved. She pictures her sister with God's arms wrapped around her for a few minutes and then she lets it go. Letting go of the image is the key, because you can't control what happens. Rocci believes that we choose our problems before we "come into our lives." Once she realized that, she could deal with tough situations.

"All things happen for a reason," she said, something I'd heard from many different people a million times before. I used to hate that saying because I guess I really didn't want to believe that when something horrible happened it was because it was supposed to. I thought this was a way people fooled themselves into not being upset, but Rocci explained it to me in a way no one had before.

She told me that while we're in the midst of a terrible experience we ask why it's happening. We can't see any reason for it; we may just be angry or devastated. It's only after time that we can find the reason.

She held up her index finger a few inches from her face and focused on it. "I can't make anything right now," she said. "My finger is blurry and everything in the background is a blur." She slowly moved her finger away from her face, and continued. "As time passes the image becomes clearer, and everything in the background falls into place; you can see the big picture, clearer than you could before."

I was speechless for a second as what she said sunk in. I felt like I was a part of a fairy tale, talking to a character who was three thousand years old and was the "wise old woman" of the village because of all she had experienced. Then I looked at her and asked, "How old are you?"

Forty-five, she responded, and suddenly I was back in the Flying M, talking to Rocci Johnson, one of the most amazing people I'd ever met.

Pat Dorman
By Ann Finley

In 1975, when Pat Dorman's son was 12 years of age, she recalls, he wrote a ten-page note, the way kids will do, to lawyer Tony Park, who was then Idaho Attorney General. "Why aren't women treated equally to men?" the note asked pointblank. In his reply, Park assured the boy that the future would bring new laws and new opportunities for women, which in turn would lead to a more egalitarian society. Now chair of the department of sociology at Boise State University, Dorman related this incident when asked to name the accomplishment of which she is most proud. "I raised a son who is sensitive to issues of equality," she said.

She believes that her own sensitivity to issues of equality began at the age of six, when her father died. Growing up in a single parent family, Pat witnessed her mother's struggles and success in raising two children alone.

Awareness struck home when, having completed her bachelor's degree and been accepted into graduate school at the University of Utah, Pat applied for a job as a graduate assistant, only to be told that graduate assistantships were not available to women. At that point her mother was very much on her mind.

"I knew that women can make it on their own," she said. "My mother was my role model." Taking jobs in a library and in real estate, Pat worked her way through graduate school. In 1967, with a master's degree in sociology, she joined Boise State University. In 1971 she earned a doctorate, again from the University of Utah. Throughout her tenure at Boise State she became recognized as an advocate of equitable opportunities and salaries for female faculty members. With Jane Buser and Herb Runner she served on a BSU Affirmative Action Planning Committee. As a researcher she contributed to the knowledge base of women in the workplace through publications such as "Maternity Benefits in Idaho" (1994) and "Idaho Benefits Survey: Impaired compliance with the pregnancy discrimination act" (1995). Findings from such studies are used in policy formation and evaluation.

Today, in addition to her duties as chair and faculty of the sociology department, Dr. Dorman serves as director of the women's studies program and teaches a course in feminist theory. She leads the women's studies section of the Western Social Sciences Association and has coordinated that section's offerings and activities.

"Pat is a thoughtful person," says a colleague, Ingrid Brudell. "She brings a wealth of experience and is an excellent critical thinker. Her independence and judgment have contributed to an increasing presence of women at Boise State."

Dr. Dorman acknowledges that positive changes have occurred in the more than 25 years...
since her son wrote the letter to Tony Park. Within the past few years, especially she has seen considerable improvement in opportunities for women faculty at Boise State, a development that she credits to university President Dr. Charles Rusch. "The President sets the tone that tends to affect the way in which recruitment and selection occur," she says.

In the future she wants to see more women and people of color in the higher echelons of administration.

"I think all of us in our own way may be making a little bit of history. It's when we put it all together that it has an impact," she said. "The next step has got to be getting women and men to accept one another at face value. To realize that women can accomplish whatever they choose to accomplish."

She would encourage more women to enter nontraditional fields such as engineering, "where they can maximize their human potential." A truly equitable salary distribution is still a goal.

For working mothers, Dorman would prioritize quality (rather than simply adequate) childcare.

And what of fulltime homemakers? Is that an option any more?

"Those women who choose not to work outside the home should be recognized for their contribution to society... through social security credit for women who choose to stay home..."

"We all can have access to the full range of life's needs, if we just get our priorities straight and think of the value to society of everyone in our human population," she said.

By Kenny Trueax:

Nicole LeFavour

Names and faces mean different things to different people. To Nicole LeFavour names and faces mean issues. Nicole has a passion for helping people bring names and faces together with issues that are sometimes ignored. As I spoke to Nicole about an issue some years ago, I found myself getting lost in her words as she spoke. She told me about a dark night and a train with nuclear waste rolling through Idaho. Her words began to meld with my own thoughts. Her voice became a distant background noise to the images I was conjuring up as she told her story...

Imagine a cool, October afternoon in Boise, 1993. (No matter if a few details get lost in my own imagination; it's the end that's important.) Jack O' Lanterns placed on doorsteps, the leaves danced and twirled through the streets and rested in soggy piles in the gutters. I imagine Nicole is edgy today. She spoke with a guy on the phone from Bremerton Washington earlier this afternoon; he said that a train had left the Naval shipyard in Bremerton about 4:00 p.m. headed south. She suspects the train is headed for the INEL (current INEEL to avoid confusion). Nicole knows the departure time would place the nuclear shipment passing through Nampa at about midnight tonight. There's no way the Department of Energy is going to sneak another train load of nuclear waste past Nicole tonight -- maybe the rest of the sleepy Treasure Valley residents, but not Nicole.

As I continue to lose myself in her own story, I find myself standing next to Nicole that night, helping her expose the train and its cargo. Eight or so other people gather in a gravel clearing not too far from the train tracks, holding signs that speak to the exposure: "Stop the Nuclear Waste Shipments." Nicole passes time with another woman as they talk about going backpacking with her sister in the Frank Church Wilderness next week. Their conversation is interrupted by the sound of gravel flicking and stinging metal hubcaps; a news crew pulls into the lot. Nicole leaves her conversation, and strolls over to the car. A cameraman extends his hand.

"Thanks for calling the station!" he pipes. "People will really buzz about this story tomorrow."

"Better toarrow than not at all," Nicole replies with a smile on her face.

As I look on, I'm impressed by Nicole's confidence and matter-of-fact attitude. It's clear she's spearheading the group tonight. "The people out here tonight not only believe in the cause, but they're here because Nicole is here. People want to be around her; she is intuitive and involved. They follow her just to see what she will do next."

Suddenly our heads rise. We hear the sound of a locomotive whistle blowing faintly in the distance, as if it's warning us it's coming. I turn and see a dark gray van with tinted windows. It's been here for twenty minutes now, but I haven't seen anyone get out of it. The distant whistle of the locomotive is getting louder and closer with each minute. The bright headlight of the train is dancing in the invisible horizon hidden in the cold, black night. Here it comes, faster than we know - Idaho's shipment of nuclear waste.

No one has gotten out of the gray van yet; I wonder why it's here. Not even a window cracked open; it's kind of eerie. I glance back at Nicole as she hands out a stack of pamphlets to someone, who cuts the stack like a deck of cards and hands the rest to someone else.

The gray van, it's still just sitting there. As the train gets closer, some fifty yards away now, I realize what this is all about. I feel the vibrations entering my body as the train approaches closer than ever. The drone of the engine coupled with the warm diesel wind soothes my chilled bones for a moment. Then I remember what this train is transporting. I look around at everyone standing out here tonight as the train rushes by. Nobody's yelling or throwing rocks, just holding their signs as it passes. And it's gone.

The gray van turned on its headlights and peeled out in the gravel, flicking rocks and clouds of dust into the midnight air. Everyone chuckled as the van sped down the rural road, exceeding local speed limits, to catch up with its nuclear mother.

Slowly I became more aware of the sound of Nicole's voice as I tried to re-focus on her voice instead of my own imagination. Her solitary image, the last to leave that night, began to fade from my mind as I reconnected with the present time and reality of our discussion.

Nicole noted that the next day in the papers and all over the news was a story about a shipment of nuclear waste passing through the Treasure Valley, as its residents slept. Many people were angry with the midnight train to the INEL. Just as Nicole probably said to the reporter on that night long ago, "better tomorrow than not at all."

If it were not for Nicole and her efforts, the train would have snuck by us all, like it was intended to do. She informed the media and helped put faces and names to an underexposed issue here in Idaho. It is easy to be ignorant to an issue just by lack of knowledge. But it is much more difficult to be ignorant to people supporting and advocating an issue. Nicole helped to raise our awareness about dangerous waste being delivered throughout our state; awareness paves the way for action.

Nicole has a tireless work ethic. She works for the Log Cabin Literary Center as a writer in schools - a program that places writers in schools that have higher numbers of low-income students who wouldn't otherwise have this opportunity. Nicole also works with Your Family Friends and Neighbors (YFFN), a local organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Boiseans and is a past organizer for Pride Week in Boise. Nicole is well versed in political issues, and helps train organizations to advocate issues that go un-addressed in Idaho. She is currently a board member for the Ada County Human Rights Task Force.

Nicole LeFavour has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She has her Masters of Fine Arts degree from the University of Montana. She currently resides in Boise, where she is self-employed as a graphic and web designer.

By Kenny Trueax:

Susan Qualls

"All the major religions are the same at the core; they promote love of god, self, and our fellow humans. What causes disagreements between religions is just in the details."

-- Susan Qualls as quoted by a friend

If Susan Qualls were given a title, it would be "Spiritual Counselor." A very special and unique person, Susan has been involved in assisting men and women with their spiritual and physical needs most of her adult life. She has always promoted tolerance and love of others. She spent three years as minister of a local Goddess church, Phoenix Rising. The Goddess faith is a spiritual, pagan religion that focuses on the feminine aspects of life and the earth.

One of the greatest things about Susan is her knowledge of all religions, not just her own. Susan helps people find their own vision of their Deity instead of persuading them to buy into her own beliefs, a true spiritual counselor. She guides people as they come to their own conclusions of spirituality.
their own answers to their own questions. In other words, true spirituality cannot exactly be taught. Susan’s understanding and respect for others’ beliefs is a rare quality that she models for all who meet her.

Susan has strong views about faith and church involvement: “People should not belong to a church because they are afraid not to, because something bad is going to happen to them if they do not. But rather, religion should be uplifting, and bring you closer to your Deity, not spare you from a horrible punishment.” No matter what our religion she inspires us to explore how we think about it and how we feel in connection to our higher power.

Susan not only shares her insights, but also actively seeks out the views of others and truly listens to them. She opens herself up to people she meets and takes them into her heart. Due to this receptivity she finds it difficult to identify any one person that has impacted her own development. “Every person that I meet, I look at as a teacher.” But of all those “teachers” she ultimately relinquishes and gives credit to the one most impactful - the Deity.

Susan’s peaceful and genuine spirit moved me as we spoke. I was so compelled by her honesty and compassion, that I shared a few of my own questions with her. By the end of our conversation I had come to some sense of resolution about some of my own questions.

According to her nominator, “Susan promotes love not only of our fellow humans, but also of our Mother Earth and all her creatures. Susan lovingly offers all she can to care for those in need. Probably her most desired goal is to be able to assist everyone she can who is in pain because of poverty, emotional abuse, spiritual loss, or any of the many ailments that afflict the inhabitants of this earth.”

Susan teaches classes on subjects such as meditation, the healing power of stones, and the Chakra. She is also fielding a yearlong course on personal growth and discovery. As her nominator emphasized, “Susan is one of the most giving and selfless people I have had the honor to know.”

Opal Dickson

Opal Dickson is 94 years old and has led a very productive life. Opal is a mother of three daughters and a grandmother to eight grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. She was a schoolteacher for thirty years and taught piano lessons for an unbelievable seventy-five years!

Opal’s passion is music and she never feels alone when she’s playing an instrument. Opal says that anything explained with words can be described by music, and she finds the finest qualities of life within it. Besides finding music inspirational and uplifting, Opal thinks it helps develop a good character of honesty, thoughtfulness and kindness.

This Christmas, Opal opened a gift from one of her former piano students who is now a teacher at a special music school in Miami. Inside was a music tape of her class and a poem she had written for Opal. Opal loved the gift but with it came something even greater: the knowledge that what she had taught was being passed on for many generations to come. This means that the character traits that go along with playing music are being passed on so that Opal is not only making history; but the future as well.

Opal gets the most out of doing things for other people and wishes that other people could concentrate on helping others too, because “there is a lot of room for good in this world.” Opal teaches this to her children whenever one of her former students calls to thank her for how she has affected their life in a positive way it makes her feel great. So she tells her daughters to think of someone they can call.

Opal grew up in a Christian home and feels very strongly that the key to leading a good life is to include God; if you have God in your life, you have the beginning and end of the reason you’re here. She believes we should all live by the golden rule: “Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you.”

Opal’s activities have been curtailed recently because macular degeneration has left her almost completely blind. She can no longer teach piano, but she plays it everyday from memory and still attends church regularly. Opal’s husband of nearly seventy years passed away almost two years ago and she finds it hard to be alone sometimes, but her friends and her optimistic nature help her a lot.

Opal and her husband raised three daughters to be “fine citizens” and out of her tremendous list of accomplishments, this is the one of which she is most proud. Her family is also proud of her; her granddaughter, Maggie, nominated her and said, “I think her entire life is an achievement. She has been an inspiration to generations of women and men who have come to know her. Whenever I hear the phrase ‘strong women,’ she is always the first person to enter my mind.”

The gal in the deli began loading all the chicken and other prepared foods that hadn’t sold that day onto a large platter.

“What are you going to do with that?” Sue asked as she peered over the glass display case.

“Throw it away,” replied the deli worker in a matter of fact way.

To Sue something about this did not sound right - all that food thrown away. And then it clicked. Sue’s mind began to spin with the possibilities. She was flooded with images of the homeless people she had met: men, women, and children who are living day to day, not knowing where their next meal was coming from. Discovering that perfectly good food was being thrown into the garbage while so many were going hungry gave birth to an idea - Chefs to the Rescue.

Sue Colby knew there was a problem. She had seen families and individuals struggling, not having enough food to feed their children and had experienced it herself. For Sue, homelessness had become a shocking reality. She went from being a married, middle class wife to being homeless in a matter of months. Following a messy divorce, Sue and her five children lost everything. She was on a waiting list for the Community House so they stayed in hotels with the money she made from her cleaning job, and lived out of a small car a friend gave her. Each day became an uncertainty, and she feared losing her children because she was homeless. Sue attempted to maintain a normal environment for her children, making sure that they continued to go to school and had clean clothes. She created a routine of reading and doing homework at night after dinner. In light of the uncertainty of their lifestyle, their routine helped alleviate the stifling depression that had settled around them.

Sue’s discovery that perfectly good food was being thrown away gave her new hope. In curiosity, she started making inquiries to see if area merchants might be interested in helping feed people who weren't getting enough food. The first company she called, Flying Pie Pizzeria, participated right away. She received a positive response from most people she contacted. Every day she and her children went to three or four places, picked up the food that otherwise would have been thrown away, and delivered it - first to wherever the homeless gathered, then to soup kitchens. Being able to help in spite of their own situation has given Sue and her children something positive to look back on about their time there. When they look back on that time, they can see a reason for all that had happened.

A year later, the Idaho Food Bank became interested in her program, wanting to begin a prepared foods program. Eventually they came to a mutual agreement and she began to work from the Food Bank, giving her access to trucks to help pick up and distribute more food for the hungry.

Sue Colby took a terribly daunting situation and conquered it. She continues to work tirelessly to help those of us that find ourselves in similar situations. She is making history with each man, woman, and child to whom she gives hope - hope that things can get better and the knowledge that someone understands and cares. One person can make a huge difference.
We got into the car and shut the cold winter day outside as we started on our way to Hailey. She shared with me the pain she was feeling and talked about the circumstances that led her down that road that morning. Our drive started in the pain of her story, but slowly melted into the music we enjoyed from our younger days.

When I look back on that time of my life, that day was a turning point. I began to examine my despondency and loneliness. I had touched so many women through my work, but there were so many more like me that I had not touched or been touched by.

I think that’s why I started the Women of Color Alliance. It was always in me; it was always there, dormant, but ready to be built. I knew there were women just like me searching, looking for self worth, wanting to connect, wanting to have a support system. As a woman of color, I didn’t have that support system. So I went to Fort Hall; I sat with a spiritual woman known as an elder. I looked deep within myself and imagined how to create a safe haven not just for myself but also for other women of color. As we interacted I seemed to awaken; it was clear that whenever there is a woman in trouble, I must never, never look away...

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Sonya Rosario

By Melissa Wintrou and Brad Schmitz: Brad is a senior social work major. He believes that life is not worth living unless you are living for something you are willing to die for.

The following story is told in the voice of Sonya.

I had been living in Mountain Home for five years, working at Head Start as a family advocate worker where I helped families find food, clothing, and even jobs at times when they were in need. After I left Head Start, I moved onto Mountain Home Air Force Base and worked there as a family advocate worker for the domestic violence unit on the base. The problems I helped people face were staggering.

After being on base for a while, I found myself becoming very depressed and feeling unhappy. There wasn’t a lot to do in Mountain Home to relieve the stress I experienced at work; on top of that, my position offered little in the way of a promotion. I was feeling a little stuck and out of harmony. I began to notice that I was adopting the outlook and some of the behaviors of the people I was serving; I felt despondent, isolated, alienated, lonely, and desperate as I searched for hope only to find it in the wrong places.

As I listened to the women around me, the emptiness in their voices, my despondence grew. These women were so lonely; they were in search of a better life, one with meaning. They weren’t in jobs that would progress them in a fulfilling career. Self-esteem was low and self-worth had no meaning.

Then a pivotal day for me: Christmas Day 1997. Feeling down and a little restless, I called home to San Antonio. My mother’s house was full of family. The human noise of the celebration was deafening through the receiver. Coming from a large family, hearing the joy resounding with each laugh and cheer, I felt disconnected and out of touch. The isolation of the cold, gray, winter’s day, closed in around me.

The restlessness grew as I gently placed the phone in its cradle. “Let’s not stay home; let’s go have breakfast or something,” I blurted out. “Let’s just go somewhere.” I could hear the urgency in my voice.

As we drove down the road to breakfast – to anywhere – I noticed a woman walking on the side the road. She held two bags, both full. “Where was she going?” I wondered out loud. An unsettling feeling washed over me.

Suddenly, my stomach lurched. “Stop the car, Freddy,” I cried. “I want to stop. I have to see this woman,” I said as I started to climb out of the car. “Don’t back up. I don’t want to alarm her,” I continued as I gently shut the door.

As I slowly walked toward her, I started to have a familiar feeling. Do I know her? Then her face released and I saw that we did, indeed, know each other. I had worked with her at the base in the advocacy program. Her body began to shudder and the tears streamed down her face. As I ran towards her, the cold wind burned the tears on my own cheeks. We ran into each other’s arms and just held onto each other as our bodies shook.

On that cold Christmas Day, two women came together – one seeking her self-worth, the other feeling worthless.

As we gently released a bit to look at each other, through the sobs she said, “I am walking to Hailey. As I started to walk out on the road I asked God to send me an angel. I asked God to send me someone who would help me because I was afraid I would get hurt” she cried.

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Sisters in Action:

Pat Clark and Virginia Sarrigarte

By Becky Nebelide: Becky currently finishing her BS degree in biology at Boise State University, and will graduate in May 2001. She has lived in Boise for 21 years, is the mother of two children, Cable and Rachael. Carter who are 18 and 16 respectively. She is employed with the Idaho Conservation League.

The next time you’re in downtown Boise, Idaho, wander over to the corner of Idaho and Eighth Streets. As you inspect the buildings that surround this intersection, you will see the Simplot Building on the southwest corner and the Mode building on the northwest corner. A new structure that is part of the Capitol Terrace parking garage sits on the southeast corner, and finally to the northeast sits the Fidelity building that is a part of the Union Block. At one time these buildings were all slated to be either torn down or incorporated into a large covered mall in downtown Boise. That is, until Pat Clark and her sister, Virginia Sarrigarte decided to raise their voices in action.

From the spring of 1977 to May of 1978, Pat and Virginia worked with tireless energy to create access for citizen input regarding downtown re-development. After several months of gathering signatures on a petition calling for a citizen vote on the Boise-Chinden Connector and downtown redevelopment, they formed a group called “Voters Choice by Boise” (VCBB). They became the spokeswomen for this group and attended every meeting of the participating agencies that had those two issues on their agenda. Pat and Virginia’s efforts escalated in response to the amount of information they progressively amassed and the number of agency meetings they were able to attend and speak as a listed ‘item’ on the agenda.

At one point in Pat and Virginia’s petition campaign, having participated in a number of Boise city council meetings, they gained enough notoriety that an article appeared in the Idaho Statesman referring to them as “Two Boise Housewives.” They had already titled themselves as “the Mothers of Boise,” using this title to jokingly suggest that the city fathers had had their turn, now it was time for the city mothers to give their direction.

Their efforts culminated in success with the press release by the Idaho Department of Transportation. On May 25th, 1978 it was reported in the Idaho Statesman that the “Broadway-Chinden connector had failed to make the U.S. Department of Transportation’s priority list for interstate funds.”

Unfortunately this victory was short-lived. In September of 1978, with the instrumental assistance of then Congressman Steve Symms, a rider was attached to a transportation appropriations bill and the funds were released to build the Boise-Chinden Connector.

During my interviews with Pat, she refers to their campaign as an inclusive, valiant effort; as more of a proving ground experience for the following years. While Virginia moved out of state sometime during the 1980’s, Pat continued to be an important voice in the community on many city and statewide issues. Her sense is that people were empowered to access their role in the democratic process, and that it was a motivating experience versus a disillusioning one. As evidence, Pat points to the fact that although the connector was built, the covered mall option was never implemented nor were the
buildings in its path altered or destroyed.

Pat has continued to be a voice of reason on issues such as downtown redevelopment, transportation and nuclear waste, by carrying petitions, writing letters to the editor and guest opinion columns. In 1995 she took to the streets of Boise again to gather signatures on a petition to save the Armony. This 1932 building sits on Reserve and Avenue H Streets. She was rewarded on this issue when the Boise City Council voted to save the Armony and the land on which it resides.

Pat Clark has quietly displayed a tenacious, perseverant spirit, focused on the idea that people can and do make a difference. I have known Pat to be a steady, purposeful woman, ready to lend a hand to the Snake River Alliance or write a letter to the editor who local paper or stand downtown day after day to gather signatures. Her desire to educate herself and others about issues that affect the quality of life has been a lifelong characteristic. She offers us the example of hope and determination. Watch for her on the editorial page of the Idaho Statesman.

Shelly McDonough

By Lisa Parsons

Always the gentleman...he always wore cardigans, his hair always perfect, and he shaved every morning since he had been part of Shelly McDonough's family. He became sick for two or three days, beginning to slowly slip away. He was distressed at not being able to keep himself up, so Shelly offered to shave him, to make him feel better, but the vibration of the razor was too much.

He shared with her that he was afraid to die. In private dialogues with Shelly, his wife, offered her advice on how to calm him: "He has friends in both places, so he will be in good company wherever he goes." In an effort to soothe his fears, Shelly talked to him about death and what his expectations were. She shared her own thoughts with him and focused on what you have to look forward to, not about whether you are going to hell or heaven, but the much bigger picture.

Her gentleman passed away a couple of mornings later; she was still right there with him holding his hand as he took his last breath. She washed him, shaved him, put clean pajamas on him, and combed his hair, giving him dignity even in death. She then called his family and told them he had passed.

He was one of the many special 'grannies' and 'grandpas' Shelly has walked through the phases of death, holding their hands, soothing their fears, up day and night, always right there with them as they take their last breath. Shelly's work with the elderly as an Idaho state certified in-home caregiver has been an in-home caregiver for the 'grannies' and 'grandpas' for the past eleven years. She brings them into her home and makes them part of her family. She cares for up to three people, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. She has at different times played the role of physical therapist, respiratory therapist, occupational therapist, nurse, taxi driver, confidante, short order cook, and the list goes on.

The daughter of one of her 'grannies' told us that Shelly 'puts up with their frustrations, their anger, their physical and emotional upheavals. They have hit her, called her names, swore at her. She has dried their tears of shame and sorrow, shared with them their memories and their families that come to visit. She listens to the same stories over and over and over. She continues to accept them with understanding when they can no longer use the correct words for what they are trying to say. She laughs with them and cries with them, and soothes their fears, as well as their physical discomforts.'

In the face of all these challenges, challenges that many of us would never be able to stand, she carries on...In fact, she thrives...She has accepted the task of examining and working to eradicate racism, and other forms of discrimination, as part of her responsibility. It is a goal she strives to achieve everyday. As one of her friends describes, "Her life, her breath, her spirit, are an inspirational commitment to what being an ally to ending racism, sexism, and homophobia is all about.'

Although Tegwin is involved in many public demonstrations on human rights, she believes that the real work is done in her personal relationships where she can change her life, and the lives of others, through interaction. Patricia Hill-Collins' book has helped Tegwin seek truth in her relationships, and she has come to know her friends for who they really are because of that. Tegwin considers her friends a blessing and the greatest group of people she has ever known: "I just learn so much from them and we all give each other a lot of support.'

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Tegwin Millard

By Doyle McNab

If you could go back in time and ask someone of Tegwin’s high school teachers what Tegwin would be doing in her life in the 2000’s, they would most likely respond, "not much." After all, that is what they told her, but she’s proven them wrong. Tegwin is currently working towards her Master’s degree in the public administration program at Boise State University and is changing the lives of the people around her everyday.

Tegwin grew up in a working class home. Her mother and father were divorced, and she moved around the country thirteen times, living with each parent off and on. Then, at 16, she couldn’t handle it anymore. Her father had to leave Idaho but Tegwin decided to stay behind. She dropped out of her high school in Nampa and soon after attended cosmetology school. Graduating from the school gave her self-confidence that she could be successful, but it wasn’t what she chose to do with her life. Instead she chose to earn her GED and began attending classes at BSU, eventually earning her Bachelor’s degree in sociology with a minor in women’s studies.

It was five years ago, during the course of her studies, that Tegwin obtained a book by Patricia Hill-Collins, entitled Black Feminist Thought. She knew once she read the book she would be accountable for what she had learned and have to work to change her life. This terrified Tegwin, and so the book sat on her night table, untouched, for nearly a year. When Tegwin couldn’t stand just staring at the book any longer she began to read. She devoured each chapter feverishly, consumed with an insatiable hunger for the next word and another page. So much energy was spent on each chapter that she’d need to take a break at the end, breathless and awakened.

Tegwin learned a lot about people of color by reading the book but more importantly she learned about what it is to be white: "Just because I read a book doesn’t mean I understand what people of color experience, but it does mean that I know what being white means. The reality of my whiteness began to ring in my ears as I read that book. It was something I was able to remain oblivious to for so long. White people are told they are the norm and everything else and everyone else is judged against that white or Caucasian norm. Until then, my attention had never been called to think of it that way, and to think of it in the way people of color have to think of it every day. "In my home there is a picture I keep on the wall as a reminder of this. In the picture are two little girls. One is black, the other is white. They are both dressed like Cinderella. They are staring at a television screen and on the set is the image of a white Cinderella. That picture sums it up for me. Imagine what each girl thinks about as she looks at that picture. What does the white girl see? What does the black girl see?"

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is gracious and understands that her success is linked to the many lives that helped her along the way. Tegwin doesn't take credit for her success, but gives thanks to those who challenge her and support her everyday.

Tam Dinh
By Melissa Wintrow and Brad Schmidt
As Coordinator of the Multicultural Center at Boise State University, Tam is making history everyday in her work. As she works with students, she stresses the importance of perpetuating culture and taking pride in who we are. She affirms the experiences of students and offers genuine support in an environment of emotional safety.

Tam is loved and valued by students, who have finally found someone they can trust; they let down their walls and feel free to be who they are when she is around.

Along with affirming students' experiences, she works to raise our awareness about differences and provides many opportunities for the larger community to approach different cultures and freely experience them. Bringing people together paves the way for interaction and understanding, removing biases and misinformation.

"Once bias is removed, we’re on our way to creating a more open and accepting community," Tam notes.

While Tam is highly involved in the lives of many students, she has worked especially hard to help Vietnamese students on campus form a Vietnamese Student Association. Vietnamese, herself, Tam has proved to be a strong role model and support for this group. With her vision of shared leadership, she has allowed them to come forward, find their voices and share their culture with others. Recently, for the first time, Boise State University hosted its first Vietnamese Lunar New Year, which was quickly sold out.

As with many Vietnamese students, Tam was deeply influenced by her family and in particular her father. Tam takes great pride in her heritage and strives to mirror her father, Thien.

Living in Seattle in March of 1999, Tam received a disturbing phone call while she was at work at SafeFutures Youth Center. That day was more hectic than usual. "Kids were everywhere, wanting my attention," she said. Tam worked as a social worker, a case manager for kids who found themselves in gangs. "It took my sisters a couple of hours before they could get a hold of me," she continued. "The drive to the airport that afternoon was a blur; all I remembered was how the gloomy, rainy weather was slowing me down from getting to my father."

Her father, Thien, had collapsed from a brain aneurysm and was comatose at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. Tam was at her father’s bedside in three hours, comforting her family and keeping watch over her dad. The room was full of people all there to support her family; they began telling stories about their memories of her father.

The Vietnamese people shared stories of how he would bring them vegetables, how he was always there to clean up after an event. He was so physically strong, honest, and carefree. Their stories piled up, nearly crowding Tam out of the room. At this time also, a Caucasian co-worker of her father, gave Tam a short transcript of a conversation he had with her father about his time in the concentration camp.

"I always knew he spent time there," Tam began, "but I had not fully realized what it was about. He was a lieutenant in the South Vietnamese Army. When Saigon fell in 1975, anyone with ties to South Vietnam, including its soldiers, was put in concentration camp to indoctrinate them into the Communist belief. These people lived in the middle of a forest, in isolation and in horrible conditions. Words cannot express the physical and emotional abuse they suffered in order to break them down.

"One time my father was put in a metal box outside for a month because they thought he was working for the CIA; as a Catholic, the communists saw him much more likely to be connected to the West. They punished him, trying to squeeze the truth out of him. But there was nothing to squeeze out.

"People have different images of their fathers. Yes, he was kind and nice; people respected him. He was dad to me, but when I hear of war stories, oh, that’s Dad.

A war hero. Our dad went through all that; he was part of the Vietnam history that other people read about. It brought another perspective to me."

Tam’s voice trailed off. How curious that her story has turned to her father’s story. I questioned her about this.

"When you ask me about being honored as a woman making history, it is really about honoring my family. My story doesn’t mean anything unless it is connected to the whole history of my family. I am the continuation of what my father has done to allow me to be here today. I can’t take credit.

"In our culture, as a person does good deeds, it reflects on the children. My dad did so many good things; that is why I am leading a good life. We must honor the whole lineage. So my story is connected to my father’s story, which is connected to my grandparents, and so on.

"I realize that this project is for Women’s History Month and maybe I should talk more about my mom, who is a very important woman and influenced my life in many ways. However, as the oldest girl in the family of no sons, I take on the role of being the ‘man of the family and certainly find more connection to my dad in that way. I must honor him and my family in this way."

As Tam teaches us, we don’t make history on our own. We make history together. The vibrations of so many lives finally create the song.

Sally Craven
By Evelyn Lemke
Bikes for Kids, MADD Dash, Operation Wish Book, Zoo Daze, Little Mirrors, and Dress for Success are just a few of the countless programs and events that Sally Craven has coordinated as the Director of Community Affairs at Channel 7KTVB. There is one project, however, that Sally holds especially close to her heart – the drug prevention program Enough is Enough, which targeted our youth.

With a tear in her eye and hand on her chest, she reflected upon the mothers, fathers, children, husbands, and wives that are affected each and every day by drug use in this community. Like many of us, Sally wasn’t aware of the propensity of the drug problem circulating throughout Boise. The difference between Sally and the masses, however, is that when she realized what was happening to our community, she did not turn her back. Instead, she decided to help. Whether it was comforting a mother who had just lost her son to an overdose, or helping an addicted teen seeking recovery, Sally was there to lend support. Early on in the program, she recognized that the road to recovery was lonely. Sally made every effort to love and sustain those she served, keeping in mind that "all are God’s children."

Some would excuse Sally’s contributions, stating that she merely carries out her job description. Her efforts go above and beyond the confines of her job. Sally loves what she does; she puts her heart and soul into her work – and it shows. For her, this work isn’t a job; it’s a privilege. Anyone can throw a function together, but Sally has the ability to turn any function into Cinderella’s Ball. She has two regional awards to prove it!

Sally is a woman whose quiet and sincere demeanor touches those with whom she comes into contact. It is a rare commodity to find an individual who lives by the values and principles she believes in. She is a woman of high integrity and ethical standards. Her reputation speaks for itself. She is truly an asset to our community and to her profession.
Women’s History Month Activities

This year’s theme will draw us into the stories of ordinary women that put extraordinary power into our lives. All of the proposed activities relate to story telling and how history is impacted through the process of creating these stories. A woman is not merely the sum of her tangible achievements. The Women’s History Month Committee wants to recognize and celebrate the person who achieves along with her achievements.

Juried Art Exhibit “The Sleeper Must Awaken”
February 23 - March 16, 2001
Boise State University Hemingway Center Gallery
Hours for gallery: 10am - 5pm Monday through Friday, Noon - 5pm on Saturday
Friday, March 9 5:30pm
Open Reception in conjunction with the Boise State University Gallery Stroll: gallery openings for the Mexican American Studies juried art exhibit in the Liberal Arts Building and in the Student Union Gallery. Free; Free Parking

Letter from Ruth
Wednesday, February 28 7:00pm
Boise State University Special Events Center
Tickets through Select-a-Seat, 426-1766
Presented by Boise State Multicultural Center

Rosalie Sorrels and The Divas of Boise
Monday, March 5 7:00pm
Boise State University Special Events Center
Admission: $5.00 general, $3.00 students, staff, and faculty
Tickets available through Select-a-Seat, 426-1766
For more details, see back cover.

Lemonade, a play by James Prideaux
Thursday, March 1
Gallery 601, during First Thursday, performances at 6:30pm and 7:30pm
Thursday, March 8
Lunch and Lemonade, Student Union Bishop Barnwell Room
11:00am performance followed by lunch at noon and another performance at 1:00pm.
Monday, March 12
Lunch and Lemonade, Student Union Farnsworth Room
11:00am performance followed by lunch at noon and another performance at 1:00pm.

These are entertaining 30 minute performances that you can enjoy on the go!
Free; free lunch on days noted

Anna Deavere Smith, Keynote Performance
Wednesday, March 7 7:00pm
Student Union Jordan Ballroom
Book signing after the performance Free; Free Parking.
Co-sponsored by the BSU Theater Department.
Hailed by Newsweek as “the most exciting individual in the American theater,” playwright and performance artist Anna Deavere Smith uses her singular brand of theater to explore issues of gender, race, community and character in America.

International Women’s Day Celebration
Wednesday, March 8 5:30pm
The Flick’s Theaters in Downtown Boise, 646 Fulton Street
Cost: $15. Tickets purchased at The Agency for New Americans (1614 Jefferson) or Ten Thousand Villages (1609 N. 13th Street) or The Flick’s (646 Fulton Street) Presented by the Agency for New Americans and Ten Thousand Villages.

“Breaking Ground in the Wilderness:
Mary Baker Eddy, Pioneer in Spiritual Discovery”
Saturday, March 10 7:00pm
Student Union Jordan Ballroom Free
Presented by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boise, Idaho

Earth Thunder, Traditional Shaman Mother Drum Drumming
Tuesday, March 13
11:30am in the Fireside Lounge of the Student Union
Free

Award Winning Boise State University Speech Team
Teaser Performance
Wednesday, March 14 Noon
Student Union Public Forum Lounge

Dessert Theatre with the BSU Speech Team
Tuesday, March 20 7:00pm
Student Union Bishop Barnwell Room, Free. Elegant dessert served.
Enjoy an in-depth plunge into the many intriguing ideas and stories spun about women and the issues they face

Quilling Exhibit and Workshop
Thursday, March 15 9:00am - 7:00pm
Student Union Fireside Lounge
Friday, March 16 9:00am - 1:00pm
Student Union Fireside Lounge. Free

Memoir Writing Workshop
Saturday, April 14 9:00am to noon
Log Cabin Literary Center
Students Free; $21 for members of Log Cabin Literary Center, $41 for non-members.
Reserve your spot by calling 331-8000

Sexual Assault Awareness Week
Presented by the BSU Nursing Department
March 19-23

Self-Defense Demonstration
Thursday, March 22 Noon-2:00pm
Student Union Jordan Ballroom
Presented by Officer Doug Schoenborn from the Boise Police Department
BSU senior nursing student Stacy Schoenborn

Sexual Assault Prevention Seminar
Thursday, March 22 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Student Union Jordan Ballroom
Featured speaker is Curtis Clay, Sexual Assault Prevention Specialist. This workshop features a panel with expertise in preventing sexual aggression and providing support victims of violence and assault.

Free parking will be provided in the Student Union Visitor Lot, the Student Union Annex parking lot, on Bronco Lane, and in the General Bronco Stadium Parking Lot.

Akan Symbols

SANKOFA - GO BACK AND RETRIEVE:
symbol of wisdom, knowledge and heritage, there’s nothing wrong with learning from hindsight.
This symbol is based on a mythical bird that flies forwards with its head turned backwards. This reflects the belief that the past serves as a guide for planning the future, or the wisdom in learning from the past in building the future. There must be movement with times but as the forward march proceeds, the gems must be picked from behind and carried forward on the march.

MATE MASIE/NSASIE -
I HAVE HEARD AND KEPT IT:
symbol of wisdom, prudence, knowledge and learning. This symbol tells us that the preservation of a people’s culture has its basis in oral tradition.
The symbol reflects the love of and quest for knowledge, and also respect for the wise person. It originates from the belief that a people without knowledge of their history are like a tree without roots. The symbolism is borne out during story-telling sessions and ceremonial occasions when moral lessons and social values of the community as well as family histories are articulated.

OBAA NE OMAN – WOMAN IS THE NATION:
Based on a religious symbol for god, this symbol depicts the belief that when a boy is born, an individual is born; but when a girl is born, a nation is born.
The Divas of Boise were created as a celebration of the talent and creativity of women for the first Celebration of Women in the Arts in 1995. From the theater to visual arts to the nightclub scene, these writers, entertainers and musicians come from many backgrounds and walks of life. The Divas, performing as a cohesive, loving and respectful group, are living proof that we are all connected and that the differences between peoples should be but a celebration of life's richness. They have come together for the promotion and respect of each other, thereby enriching themselves. Upon hearing these women lifting their voices together in song, one can only describe the feeling as spiritual and as evidence that we as inhabitants of this planet have more in common than we ever dreamed.

Hailed by Newsweek as “the most exciting individual in the American theater,” playwright and performance artist Anna Deavere Smith uses her singular brand of theater to explore issues of gender, race, community and character in America. In creating her show, Smith combines the journalistic technique of interviewing subjects from all walks of life with the art of recreating their words and stories in performance, ultimately, presenting controversial events from multiple points of view. In 1996, Smith was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Foundation “genius” Fellowship for creating “a new form of theater - a blend of theatrical art, social commentary, journalism and intimate reverie.”

In her lectures, Smith presents selected characters from her plays, giving audiences rare insights into the attitudes and perceptions of ordinary people on race, class and gender. In addition to her theatrical work, Smith has appeared in films Dave, Philadelphia and The American President. The film version of Twilight premiered at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. Smith also teaches at New York University and Stanford University where she is the Ann O’Day Maple Professor of the Arts.

Join Anna Deavere Smith as she takes us on a story telling journey examining the characters and lives of Americans to which all of us can relate.

SEATING LIMITED

Admission pass available at the Women’s Center, Front Desk and Student Union Information Desk. Pass will reserve the holder a place in the Student Union Jordan Ballroom up to 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the event.

MARCH 1
First Thursday and Lemonade, Gallery 601 in downtown Boise 6:30 & 7:30 performances. FREE

MARCH 8
Lunch and Lemonade, Student Union, Bishop Barnwell Room 11:50 am performance followed by lunch at noon and another performance at 1:55 pm. FREE

MARCH 12
Lunch and Lemonade, Student Union, Bishop Barnwell Room 11:00 am performance followed by lunch at noon and another performance at 1:50 pm. FREE

These are entertaining 30 minute performances that you can enjoy on the go!