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.
Connie Thorngren

By Ann Finley

Pale winter sunshine streamed through the windows of the southwest corner office on the second floor of the BSU gymnasiun. Longtime athletics instructor Connie Thorngren was packing up in preparation for retirement, and memories were as thick as the golden dust particles swirling through shafts of sunlight above stacks of boxes.

Connie's tenure at Boise State had coincided with the most 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 me. 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 teething 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 throughout 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. But there was a wave of activism 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 shuffling 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 1970's 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.
(Reprinted with permission from an article by Ann Finley in the Boise Times.)

Cindy Clark

By Melissa Westover. Melissa, originally from Ohio, is the Coordinator of the BSU Women's Center. She has her B.A. in English and her M.Ed. in higher education. She has been working full time at colleges for the past 12 years and loves the field of education.

Intercollegiate Women's Sports

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(Reprinted with permission from an article by Ann Finley in the Boise Times.)
a heightened level of self-esteem in gangs.

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

"This is the only place where my violence is acceptable," she 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 darn." 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 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 Messenzehl, an Austrian woman who survived her experience as a child in a German concentration camp. She was my clinical supervisor. She was intrigued with the psyche of a child and dedicated her life to studying and helping children by becoming an adolescent psychiatrist and advocate. "Hildegard, what a wonderful name," Cindy squeezed 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 continue."

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 stark silence that remained, "adolescents... the voice box of the nation..."
Gay Tisdale

By Evelyn Lembke. Originally from California via Germany, Evelyn is a 27-year-old Boise State student, working on a double major in pre-medicine and philosophy. Her future plans include goals 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, without much 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 things 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 ran 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 academe. 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!"

Joanne Mitten

By Lort Jo Leonard. Joanne Mitten is 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. It’s okay to help each other."

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.

Leslie Owen

By Leelah Parsons. Leelah 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 lonely 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 feminine column "F-Spot," for the BSU student newspaper, The Arbiter, says in her own unique voice, "Every morning, thousands of Idaho women gather, slide, and uncloture 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, HAH! 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 paused to question, "Why on earth would anyone willingly go through this on a daily basis?" One of my questions. That is exactly the point. Without realizing it, she has us asking ourselves why we think we are any more beautiful with nylons than without. What about nylons makes us 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 wraps up solid issues and ideas with humor, sort of like chocolate covered raisins; we are drawn to it because of the chocolate, but at the same time we unknowingly consume that which is good for us, the raisins. With what’s inside, Leslie attempts to get us to examine ideas and become progressive in our thoughts and actions, until finally it becomes a part of us.

I asked Leslie to tell me in her own words about some of her favorite articles. Here is what she told me.

Last year, I published an article on the toxic chemicals that the makers of feminine hygiene products pump into their products. I entitled it 'Killing Us Softly' because the manufacturers are aware of the toxicity of their products but have denied any knowledge and have indeed struggled to keep the information quiet. I discussed the prevalence of toxic shock syndrome among rayon tampon users and how it almost completely eradicated, cotton tampons (available at the GoOp). I researched the hell out of that article and when it was published, I had a few women contact me in surprise and outrage. One woman even wrote me a wonderful email, in which she thanked me profusely for highlighting such a hushed topic. Her daughter, she told me, had nearly died from toxic shock; their family was currently embroiled in a lawsuit with the company who manufactured the tampons. I wrote her an email back telling her she was a hero for fighting the good fight.

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
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 their fortresses. 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 NIE Press 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 to comfort her, her long beautiful black hair down, 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 for English classes. Thus she went on somebody’s desk step—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 a book 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 of 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 about 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 Petah, 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 our women's studies class, the teacher aide went around the room, pointing her finger at each of us in turn and asking us to recite 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 history texts to shove our foremothers into the roles of housewives and saints. "I got my Bachelor's in Kotex 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 strong woman. "Babies" is evident in her face as she talks about them. She goes beyond the traditional spoiling of grandchildren that most grandparents do and strives to be an educational force in their lives. She takes them on outings where they can learn about Idaho history and different cultures within the state.

On one trip to Baker City, "Granma Jane," explained to her grandchildren, Justin, 3, and Mike, 5, that they were going to learn about pioneers on that trip. And they were going to see lots of old things that pioneers used.

I know what pioneers are, Granma Jane," Mike clarified in a simple and excited voice. "We studied them in school. And there's this park we went to and saw a real old wagon, and we got to climb on it." "Oh, very good," replied Jane. "So you know that the pioneers are very old," she continued. "They lived over 100 years ago and moved across the country, pushing west to settle this area." Mike scratched his head and wondered out loud, "Granma Jane were you a pioneer? That led to a math lesson and a relationship with numbers."

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 after her father at the university and earned her master'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 rural Idaho for a population often all 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."

Jane Moore

By Melissa Wittlow.

"Knowledgeable, resourceful, conscientious, thorough and dedicated..." These are the words that were used to describe Jane Moore in a nomination letter for the award she received for her service to the Silver Sage Girl Scouts in 1998. The letter continues to say that Jane "is a shining example for all Girl Scouts, youth and adults alike. Her dedication for the Girl Scout movement far exceeds the average and her impact has made a difference..."

Jane Moore continues to make a difference in many people's lives; she diligently serves as a role model and guide for youth. She creates a supportive and fun-filled working environment on the job and she proves to be a powerful mother and grandmother. Her love for her 'babies' is evident in her face as she talks about them. She goes beyond the traditional spoiling of grandchildren that most grandparents do and strives to be an educational force in their lives. She takes them on outings where they can learn about Idaho history and different cultures within the state.

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"Oh, very good," replied Jane. "So you know that the pioneers are very old," she continued. "They lived over 100 years ago and moved across the country, pushing west to settle this area."

Mike scratched his head and wondered out loud, "Granma Jane were you a pioneer?" That led to a math lesson and a relationship with numbers.

Maybe not the pioneer that her grandson Mike considers, but Jane is a pioneer in so many ways. The first born in her family, a girl "supposed to be a boy," Jane was a silent disappointment to a father looking for a boy to pass on his name. She battled repeated sickness as a youth and missed much of school and college. But she never gave up. Her elementary school years brought a younger, "smart," sister and a brother ten years younger than she. As time passed Jane became involved in Girl Scouting, getting badges in cooking, sewing, childcare and first aid. And as high school was ending, her future seemed set. In the 1960's there were narrow career choices open for women: secretary, nurse or teacher.

However, her family moved from New Jersey to a rural northern California town where jobs were scarce. Attending college became an acceptable default. After several semesters of working at a credit core requirements, Jane dropped back in credits and worked nearly full time and only took several electives. She worked in a local business and was taught the in's and out's of bookkeeping and retail business; "Instead of being scared of all the unknowns, I saw this as a challenge," Jane noted. "It was finally
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 job after graduation 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 become 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 disadvantage - 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 got 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 millennium and particularly that women have moved forward from some of the obstacles of the 1950's, 60's and 70's. There are new and ever changing challenges, but we are contributing and helping to mold individuals to better handle all situations."

Jan Salisbury

Jan Salisbury is a woman who takes her "privileges" and works to leave the world better than she found it - for everyone. Jan's pursuit of equality is marked for four muffler shops and a service station. While it was exciting work, there was growing.

She built. What would this professor be like and what would this class bring?

As she put her papers on the table and got organized, I was quickly struck by her physical presence - athletic and strong. She looked up from the table and addressed the class. As she moved in front of the group, introducing herself and the course, her eyes moved to each face and a sense of warmth, honest confidence spread throughout the room.

Then without a pause - even though a pause exists in my own mind - she slipped off her jacket and draped it around a chair, revealing a lovely sleeveless vest and strong arms. As she lifted her arm and began to write on the board, I noticed that she didn't shave under her arms - a realization that rang in my head. "She knows who she is," I thought as my body relaxed in my chair.

"You never know what you're going to get....I was relieved.

I know plenty of women who shave their bodies without thought. It's just something that we've learned to do without questioning why, even if it does present some painful moments for our bodies. Then there are those women who don't shave in order to make a political statement against popular culture. This initial meeting still sticks out in my mind, but it doesn't stand alone in who she is. Jan is a woman who doesn't go out of her way to do things to make a statement. She is so comfortable in her skin that she doesn't have to make a statement. In that day and in the way I have come to know her, she matter-of-factly communicates all that she is through her eyes, her language and her actions.

Jan Salisbury is simply remarkable. She is a woman who takes her "privileges" and works to leave the world better than she found it - for everyone. Jan's pursuit of equality is marked.

In our culture, work defines who we are, and how we define ourselves. When discrimination, harassment, and victimization occur on the job, it carries a tremendous impact; we can never escape work. I love the workplace. I love to see people get together, produce, fulfill and develop themselves. I love to see women, people of color, and other marginalized groups communicate and achieve, and I want to help make that happen. But nothing could have ever prepared me for the level of trauma and pain that people have suffered. I want to change that. Jan truly feels it is her responsibility to help people navigate their socialization and live lives of health, equality, and justice.

What is next for Jan Salisbury? Between her consulting firm, providing expert testimony in discrimination cases, teaching, and being dedicated to her family, who she credits for a substantial part of her success, she is researching the globalization of the workplace and the challenges that changes present. When asked what word she felt would sum up who she is in this moment, she took an extended thoughtful and reflective pause. "Searching, I am searching" she said.

Whatever Jan is searching for, she will find it, and because of her - so will we. Thank you, Jan Salisbury, for all you do. Your life is a celebration and a challenge to all of us to be better than we are.
Katherine Pavesic

"All the flowers of all the tomorrows are the seeds of today."

-The Woman's Strike 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 program for supporting financially disadvantaged children through education. Katherine found employment at 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 Aberdine 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 Movement. 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 can accomplish with a degree in psychology. Her political involvement is very extensive in Aberdine by counting all of its seventeen 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.

At age twenty-one, Megan Sorvaag 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 atwhaches back down into this quaint world that is 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. 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 "an interactive tool that assists students in planning their degree with ease, keeping in check the student's individual goal of graduation needs and timelines." 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. Rohlfing 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 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 Boise 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 belly, 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 reasoning if rabbit discussion persuaded her to expand the effort to achieve a Ph.D.Timings 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. Rohlfing 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 foremothers 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 humbly 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 Anita 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. Rohlfing is serious about her role as a teacher and an activist. She has been named an Honorary Faculty member by one of the University's Top Ten Scholars and received honors for her work in 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."

Mary E. Rohlfing

By Maribeth Connell: Maribeth was educated by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in Baithe, Montana. In her life they made all the difference. Maribeth loves reading, studies in writing, and is hoping to master the basics of arithmetic any day now. As Conference Services Coordinator for the Boise State Student Union she is adept at multitasking, which she first learned by having four children in five years. Although her readiness in mathematics derailed the rhythm method, the Sisters of Charity would be proud!*

Angela Newell

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

"Angela 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 something about them." Angela freely extends her heart and mind to the community which is a lot a 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 ninety members to this coalition which includes 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
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). “I heard about 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 within a year of college graduation, she was working with children and teens that have survived 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.”

“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 notice 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 survivors. So I’ve inherited that rabble rouser spirit and my brother reminds me that I’m supposed to be that way, according to my lineage.” A smile parts her lips.

Chris believes strongly that opposition and conflict can lead to productive change. Complicity and “going with the flow,” won’t change anything, she said with certainty. “Life is in constant change; change is natural. As life is evolving, new problems arise and we must find resolutions,” she continued. “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.
much loved and admired by her peers. Her tireless advocacy for cultural diversity and equality has made her a student leader that many seek out.

Leah considers her greatest achievement to be "finding herself" and knowing that she can succeed at life's challenges on her own. She discovered this when she moved to Boise with no family or friends nearby. For the first time in her entire life, it was up to her to handle whatever came up, and she did. She discovered her true inner beauty and strength as an independent person in that journey.

Leah is making history by using her newfound personal strengths to help form bonds between people of different cultures. Her efforts towards educating the community about the different cultures and their beliefs and customs will help bridge the gap between races and help people realize that there is beauty in every individual. Leah believes that Idaho really is too great for hate and has dedicated herself to serving her community.

Amy Haak

By Melissa Winans

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 trash and garbage collecting around the site, and the beautiful field I had played in slowly became an eyesore, a cluttered dumping ground. I felt so badly. I couldn't believe this beautiful spot was turning into a trash heap. So I just started to clean it up...

Memory: I remember a time when my parents I went to an auction. An old, black woman living near our town was selling her house and most of her belongings. There were beautiful quilts and antique furniture labeled with price tags. I wondered why she was selling all these wonderful things. My parents explained that she was being forced out of her house. The county government had taken her home and her land because there were plans for a highway to be built on this site. I was outraged. How can anyone do that to her? I just couldn't understand how anything like this could happen. What would she do? What would become of her?

Memory: I was the only 13-year-old kid in my school wearing a George McGovern pin as the election approached. I remember fellow classmates calling me names and knocking my books out of my hands sending them spilling onto the floor. I really cared about these issues. Most of my classmates made fun of me, but there were some wonderfully supportive teachers who encouraged my efforts...

As a child growing up, Amy possessed a powerful, internal drive to question things. Never accepting the status quo or company policy, she pushed the envelope and called other people to question their actions and policies, too. This passion, nurtured by her family upbringing, has sprouted into a valuable asset, nurtured by her family upbringing, and has sprouted into a valuable asset, and has sprouted into a valuable asset, and has sprouted into a valuable asset.

Amy is currently the co-owner of Spatial Dynamics, a full service Geographic Information Systems (GIS) consulting firm which uses 3D visualization to support and illustrate projects and information for clients. She is on the board of directors of Idaho Rivers United and the Idaho Conservation League and is also the founder and executive director of Conservation Geography, a non-profit group that provides technology support, including GIS mapping, to conservationists. These maps, which represent vast amounts of data, have been presented to members of Congress, before the President's Council on Environmental Quality, on the desk of the Secretary of Interior, in a variety of courtroom settings, and countless meetings conducted by conservation groups.

Amy uses remote photography and forest service data to analyze human impacts on the environment. For example, on the Clearwater National Forest, Amy used Forest Service databases and aerial photographs to demonstrate that the agency had vastly over-inflated its estimates of old growth habitat across the forest. Amy's analysis demonstrated, particularly using mapping overlaid on photos, that the Forest Service had wrongly claimed extensive areas of clear cuts, rocks, and saplings as 'old growth.' Her work contributed to a court-ordered halt on old growth logging on the Clearwater, saving a beautiful habitat in Idaho.

Amy certainly is passionate about what she does, but the data she analyzes has little to do with passion. She simply uses existing data and information to scientifically analyze human impact on the environment. She relates the truth of the matter in scientific terms. What does become passionate is how our political leaders and we, ourselves, use that information. We are now faced with making choices and policy decisions about how to use resources and how much we value them.

"Science is separate from policy,"Amy notes. "People decide how to use scientific information; that is value driven." Do we value clear-cut mountainsides or the habitat that lives in the forest? If we value hunting elk, we must also value the environment where they live. There is no separating that.

"Idaho is really that last great state in the lower 48,"Amy reminds us. We are a people proud of its wilderness, proud of the wild and scenic rivers, proud of its wildness. But what value do we place on our environment? Amy asks, "What do we value? Clean rivers? Clean air? Beautiful scenery? What are the quality of life issues that are important to us?"

She challenges us to get honest with those values. So many of us want to fish in clean rivers, for example, but we aren't always willing to confront and accept how humans and domestic livestock, negatively impact water quality and what that means in the bigger picture. If we want to fish for trout in downtown Boise, we must examine what is happening in the habitat upstream. How do dams and deforestation affect salmon habitat? Can we dam rivers, clear-cut forests and expect that we will have the same fishing yield? We need to decide what we want and then take action. Let's stop blaming the messenger about about presenting scientific information that is hard to hear. Let's accept it and then decide the course of action according to our values. Dams or fish? Then be honest. We can't always have it both ways.

"Everything is interconnected,"she says with determination in her eyes. "Sometimes, we lose sight of that. We need to think globally and act locally." How we act today will impact our lives tomorrow: with every action comes reaction. Her words echo in my ears...

"Idaho is the last great in the lower 48...Have we ever regretted saving an environment? Have we ever regretted the creation of the Frank Church Wilderness? Why rush into things?" "Idaho, the last great in the lower 48...Have we ever wished that we had more dams? We certainly have wished for more salmon. Why take the last tree? Why not preserve our options?"

"The last great, in lower the 48...we can't predict the future; we create it. I want to create a future that protects the things that I care about. The future eventually becomes history. "The last great..." her voice drifts beyond me and it slowly dawns on me; Amy Haak, an environmentalist, who has a keen eye and a noble spirit, shares her last name with a bird of similar qualities, a hawk.

Alicia Hochhalter

By Kenny Truax: Kenny is a senior English, technical communication major at Boise State. His involvement includes ASBEC, 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 worries of adapting 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
Susan Pedde
By Maribeth Coulter

Most women who make the decision to be involved in scouting sign up to help with the Girl Scouts' annual cookie brigade or they volunteer to transform a herd of Cub Scouts into a den. Susan Pedde is not like most women as she has chosen to fly with the eagles. As the advancement chair for the Capital District at the Cathedral of the Rockies she plays a crucial role in the promotion of the scouting program in Boise. Susan's commitment to scouting began in Billings, Montana where she signed up for the Cub Scouts. She continued her involvement when the family moved to Amarillo, Texas. A move to Boise didn't deter her one bit. When her husband, who was a scout leader, died, she assumed the duties of advancement chair. Keeping track of the progress of those registered scouts in the largest troop in the council in their attempt to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout requires patience, determination, and far more than simple calculations. The nature of Eagle projects over which Susan has to plan can vary from the field of conservation, civic improvement, and community health. Her efforts have assisted over 300 young men to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boise area. Susan sees scouting as an opportunity to "meet the best boys in town." Her contribution to the growth of leadership potential and self-confidence of those young men is immeasurable. To appreciate her dedication one would have to walk a mile in her shoes. Actually, Susan has participated in twelve fifty-mile hikes with her boys, which adds up to a lot of shoe leather and a lot of love.
to explore social diversity further, so that she might increase her community involvement. Although Marta works full time at Idaho Power Company, attends college classes, and attends to her family and her involvement with the Hispanic community, 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: Originally from Hillidale, Nova Scotia, Dayle is a junior at BSU majoring in mass communications with an emphasis in journalism. She's on the soccer team, likes to read and watch movies.

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 there 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 sitting. 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 reattach the back. "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 it.

"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 out anything right now," she said. "My finger is blurry and everything in the background is a blur."

"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 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 said, "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 very bony note, the way kids will do," to lawyer Tony Park, who was then Idaho Attorney General.

"Why aren't women treated equally to men?" he asked point blank. 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. Through 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: Implied 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.

Nicole LeFavour

By Kenny Trueax:

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 middle with my own thoughts. Her voice became a dull background noise to the images I was conjuring up as she told her story...

Imagine a cool, October afternoon in Boise, Idaho. (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 INEL 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 as it passes. And it's gone.

"Stop the Nuclear Waste Shipments." Nicole passes time with imaginations of the greatest things about Boise tonight – maybe the rest of the sleepy Treasure Valley residents, but not Nicole.

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

"Better tomorrow 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 is spearheading the group tonight. The people out here tonight not only 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 blow 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 that 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.

"Better tomorrow than not at all," Nicole replies with a smile on her face. "Thanks for calling the station!" he pipes.

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.

Susan Qualls

By Kenny Trueax:

"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 the 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 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."

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### Opal Dickson

By Dayle McNabb

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."
Sonya Rosario

By Melissa Wintrow and Brad Schmick: 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 of the road. She held two bags, both full. “Where was she going?” I wondered out loud. An unsettling feeling washed over me. Suddenly, I felt adopted 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 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.

Sisters in Action:

Pat Clark and Virginia Sarriugarte

By Rebecca 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; her mother is of Philippine descent.

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 Sarriugarte 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 “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 Armory. This 1932 building sits on Reserve Street. She was rewarded in this issue when the Boise City Council voted to save the Armory 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 of the 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 Jane 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 is a very special woman who does not look for work with the elderly as an Idaho state certified in-home caregiver. She 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. Shelly 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 for doing these things that are totally uncharacteristic of their former selves. She listens to them, involves herself with their memories and their families that come to visit. She listens to the same stories and understands 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 is one of the many special "grannies" and "grandpas" in which to improve the quality of time they have left. Everyday she faces the possibility of death. For most of us death tends to be shrouded by a mist of fear and mystery, but she seems to be able to stand, she carries on. In fact, she thrives.

Tegwin Millard

By Doyle McNab

If you could go back in time and ask some of Tegwin's high school teachers what Tegwin would be doing in her life in 2001, 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 needed 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 not see?"

Tegwin 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."

Tegwin considers one of her greatest blessings to be that people can come to her whenever they just need a place to be: "It's a comfort to me that I'm living my life and all of a sudden at midnight there's a knock at my door of a young woman who needs to sleep on my couch," she says. "Thank god I can be that person for them."

Tegwin has gone from being a person who was looked down upon by her teachers to someone who is looked up to by all who know her, although she would never admit it. She
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 Winterrose and Brad Schmitz

As Coordinator of the Multicultural Center at Boise State University, Tam is making history everyday in her work. 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 connect to the Vietnamese people. She shares stories of how her father 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 the 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, wow, 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 Lumsden

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

Letters 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

- 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 (1600 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
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.

Anna Deavere Smith

"Race in America: Crossroads in Ambiguity"

Wednesday, March 7
7:00pm
Jordan Union Jordan Ballroom
Book signing after the performance
Co-sponsored by Boise State Theater Dept.
Free, Free Parking

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.