Meeting fails to stir enough faculty

Council's final decision on replacing grades remains unchanged

Michelle Kalbeltzer

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO—MOSCOW, IDAHO

VOLUME 98 NO. 40

Video moves students to tears

Black History Month raises awareness of multiculturalism

Erin Schulz

Tuesday, February 11, 1997

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO—MOSCOW, IDAHO

VOLUME 98 NO. 40

Forestry students help plan college's future

Margaret Donaldson

Students in the College of Forestry at the University of Idaho have taken on a new role. Graduate and undergraduate students have become the teachers and information providers. The college is in the process of gathering information to use in developing their strategic plan. The plan will outline what the college will emphasize as far as teaching, research and other college activities for the next decade.

Gathering information about the college and its services is where students become an important part of the process.

"In some ways we see them as partners," said Bill McLaughlin, professor of resource recreation and tourism. "It's really the interaction between faculty and students that makes teaching happen."

McLaughlin's job is to coordinate the effort for gathering information about the college from within, as well as information about how it is viewed from outside.

A section of hallway in the basement of the College of Forestry is lined with giant sheets of paper labeled according to the information they are looking for from students. For example, "dept. of forest resources, strength," is written on the top of one sheet.

The intention is for undergraduate students to critique and give ideas about their own departments, as well as other services the college provides (copy services, computer labs, job placement, etc.).

The papers have been placed in a high-use part of the college, outside the student lounge and a large lecture room, so as many students as possible will see them and write down ideas.

The large sheets of paper are only for the undergraduate students to comment on. The graduate students decided to have a meeting where they gathered in small groups to discuss and list college and department strengths and weaknesses.

When we talked to undergraduate leaders they said, "Oh no, not another meeting." said McLaughlin. They decided the large paper method during a student's undergraduate career at UI.

Even though the faculty present at Thursday's meeting could not make changes to the regulations, a few members expressed their agreement with the decisions.

"I like the idea. I think they should be given at least one chance," said Maria Myers, assistant professor of accounting.

Faculty Council Chair Bill Voxman would like to remind students that many graduate schools recalculate the GPA using every letter grade.

The effective date for the regulation changes is still unknown. A motion to set the date for fall 1997 is scheduled for consideration at today's Faculty Council meeting.

In the future, general faculty meetings will only need one-sixth, instead of one-fourth, of the faculty present for a quorum. Ironically, there were not enough faculty present to vote on this issue either.

• SEE BLACK HISTORY PAGE 2

Weather

Today — mostly cloudy with snow flurries and highs in the 30s.

Tomorrow — more snow likely, with highs around 35.
BLACK HISTORY

no less real for UI minority students, as many responded to following discussion questions
with tears and deep-rooted concerns.

One called the idea of being a part of the black experience of being a part of the black race
what it means to be “white.” While most minorities spend their life being identified with a group
of their same ethnicity, it hardly crosses the typi-
cal white American’s mind to think about his or
her race or the concept of what his or her ethnic-
ity means.

“When you say let’s all be human beings, what
you are really saying is let’s all just be white... While is how [Whites] do [Whites] don’t have to worry.
They step into a world that is theirs,” said one African-American participant on the video.

While the thoughts and feelings articulated in
the video might seem for some to be outdated
as civil rights movements of earlier decades, students who viewed the film said it accurately
portrays the feelings of many minority students at UI.

“I wish everyone could see this video. It gets
hard to express to a white student how a minority
student feels,” Penney said.

Participants in the Color of Fear also pointed
out how racism is often not obvious, but instead
comes in the form of unspoken, unintended
assumptions.

“Most of the lethal racism I experience comes from
mostly, fair-minded people. It is there that I
find my fear,” another participant of the video
said.

When minority students in the audience were
asked if they had similar feelings today at UI,
most nodded their heads.

“I get tired of it too,” one UI Native American
student said.

Angela Smith, vice president of RAACE hopes
that Black History Month promotes edu-
cation and awareness. One upcoming event
scheduled for this Thursday is an African-
American food sale, taking place on the “I” car-
pet in the SLUB from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

One frustration Smith cited in conjunction
with the planning and organization of activities
for this month was that students are often on their
own, with little or no help from administration and faculty.

“If we wouldn’t have done anything, nothing
would have been done,” Smith said.

Penney also added, adding, “There is a need
for training staff and faculty in diversity educa-
tion.”

As recorded in the UI Fact Book, the peren-
num of minority students at the UI in fall of 1995
was very small: Native Americans make up 1.9
percent of student population; Asians, 1.5 per-
cent; African-Americans, 0.5 percent; and Hispanic, 1 percent.

Smith, Penney and other minority students
hope to do a diversity workshop in the future to
show the video Color of Fear and have a fol-
low-up discussion.

Most of the minority students agreed UI is
failing in the area of multi-cultural education.

When speaking of Thursday’s video and discus-
sion, Penney called it a “small step” toward
larger goals of education and awareness.

The presentation will take place as part of the UI Campus Bahá’í Club’s
weekly meeting Friday at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union Pent Ostille Room.

Ongoing:

Do your part
Sojourner’s Alliance is looking for donations of antiques, appliances, art
and furniture for their first annual fundraising auction to be held March 9.
The auction provides food, cloth-
ing and shelter to the homeless and poor. Call 885-3438 to donate items.
Arrangements can be made to have them picked up.

Take the plunge
The UI Enrichment Program is offering
a scuba class on Tuesdays and
Thursdays, Feb. 25, 27, March 4, 6
and 11, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Five
sessions will be taught. You must be
18 years and older, able to swim 220
yards, tread water for 15 minutes, and
swim 20 yards under water. All
scuba equipment is supplied. For
more information or to register call 885-
6456.

Upcoming:

Taste the world
The International Friendship
Association will host the Fifth Annual
Festival of Cultures, Customs, and
Cuisine in the Student Union Ban-
lroom on Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. The pro-
gram will feature dances, music,
ceremonies and traditional dress from
countries around the world. Tickets
are $5 for general public, $4.50 for
students and will go on sale Feb. 3 at
Ticket Office.

Help with housing
Palouse Habitat for Humanity invites you to
a celebration of “Heart and Home,” Saturday from 10 a.m. to
6 p.m. in the Palouse Empire Mall.
Regional craft’s people and artists
will show you how to re-decorate your
home. There will also be hands-on
demonstrations for kids. HFH is a
non-profit organization dedicated
to building low-income housing for
people on the Palouse.

Need a massage?
The Moscow School of Massage is hosting
an open house Feb. 22 from 1 p.m. to
3 p.m. School directors, instructors
and graduates will be on hand to
answer questions about careers in
massage therapy. For more informa-
tion call 882-7867.
Lecture features former national science adviser

Renowned physicist to address science, politics

Robert Hall

D. Allen Bromley, the nation's first Cabinet-level science and technology adviser, will speak at Washington State University Feb. 18.

He was invited to present on behalf of the Distinguished Laming Lecture series, which, in the past, has dealt with such topics as ethics, communication, leadership, business and professional development in the engineering field.

Bromley worked for President Bush from 1980 to 1993.

He is a nuclear physicist of national repute, a past-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and holds the National Medal of Science, the country's highest scientific award. He now is engineering dean at Yale.

The program, "Science, Technology and Politics," will be presented by the College of Engineering and Architecture from 4:10 to 5 p.m. in WSU's CUB Ballroom.

"Scientists, technologists and engineers are woefully unaware of how politics affect them, how to interact with politicians, and how the system works," Bromley said from his Connecticut office. "The most basic advice I can give students and academics is to get to know your senators and representatives before crises hit."

"The general impression that the relationship between science, engineering and politics is recent on the world scene is totally wrong," added Bromley, who refers to six major revolutions in technology that have impacted world civilization. "They are the print revolution of the 1600s, the industrial revolution of the 1700s, the nuclear revolution of the 1940s, the green revolution in the 1960s, the information revolution in the 1980s, and the biotechnology revolution in the 1990s. The information revolution's effect on the average citizen in this country today is unmuted," he said.

The connection between science, technology and politics and their relationship determines how and where university research and education fit into the nation's political agenda. It determines which projects receive federal funding, how projects receive funding, and how people or groups can best promote their work.

"Anybody who's interested in research and the funding of that research should attend the lecture. Bromley is definitely one of the top of his field," said one researcher at WSU.

Other students were equally excited to get the former adviser here. "We're lucky to get him, he should be very interesting," said student Dia Meyer.

"It's clear that the man is talented, he's special. I'm looking forward to going," added Marc Hanks, also a student in the engineering field.

The Laming Lecture was established in 1968 by alumni Jack Dillon, 1941, of Gig Harbor, in honor of his wife Frances Laming Dillon, 1942, who died that year.

Dillon is a retired engineer from the Bosch Corporation, and a former rear admiral in the Civil Engineer Corps of the U.S. Navy. He received the WSU Alumni Achievement Award in 1981 and the WSU Outstanding Service Award in 1984.

These attending the lecture are invited to stay for refreshments at a reception following Bromley's presentation.

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Senate considers funding rape survey

Also takes on alcohol policy, course repeats and UI license plates

Andrew White
Staff

New University of Idaho license plates, revised guidelines for repeating a course, and an update about what Gov. Phil Bryant had to say about UI's alcohol policy were among a few of the issues discussed at Wednesday's ASUI Senate meeting.

Assistant Noise represented the UI Women's Center in an effort to gain statistical analysis about rape cases occurring at UI. Noise requested $500 for the ASUI Senate to fund a random survey that would be administered in the classroom.

She said Dean of Students Bruce Pitman was willing to match the funds appropriated by the Senate.

"We know what the statistics are for the nation, but not for the UI," she said.

ASUI President Jim Dalton supported the $1,000 appropriation to the Women's Center for statistical survey purposes.

"It's going to be a tight year regarding the budget," Dalton said. He encouraged all senators to take a look at the finances of the ASUI, general budget, and talk about budget considerations. He said that Sexual Assault Awareness Week will be held April 18 through 20. The $511 appropriated the $1,000 to the Women's Center was sent to the Finance Committee.

Shanna Plaster, co-curricular coordinator of Student Activities, gave the Senate a status report of the Men's Weekend events and the Awards for Excellence applications.

"It's going very well," Plaster said. The Men's Weekend events are coming together, and applications are now available for the Student Awards for Excellence.

Faculty Council Representative Julie Dickson gave the Senate a review of what the Faculty Council approved regarding repeating a course of a D or F.

The council passed the new regulation that now limits a student to only being able to repeat one course of a D or F. All other courses that a student receives a D or F in will be averaged into their grade point average.

Dickson said the Faculty Council is also considering changing the UI grading system to a plus or minus system — despite student opposition — and a refusal of the Faculty Affairs Committee to even consider it.

Opponents of the plus or minus system have said that on average, the plus GPA will drop considerably.

"It statistically lowers grade point averages," Dickson said. "It's almost impossible to get a 4.0."

Students who would like to voice their concerns about the plus and minus system can send Dickson an e-mail at dick9461@uidaho.edu, or write Representative Katie Talley at jtal9331@uidaho.edu.

President Dalton briefed the Senate on the events of the legislative reception in Boise. He said Gov. Butt showed substantial interest in UI's approach to the alcohol policy.

Butt was determined that the UI "get something done" with regard to the alcohol policy. Dalton told the Senate that the Intrafraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council are making measurable progress in the adoption of a new alcohol policy.

Dalton encouraged all students who are in support of the new UI license plates to write to their Idaho Legislative representatives and senators.

Dalton appointed David Hisel the new chief of staff.

InAnTrail, the International Programs coordinator, encouraged all students to get involved in the international activities that are taking place at UI. If any student has questions about activities regarding international activities, they are encouraged to contact Trail.

The Internet has become too much of a good thing.

Clearly, educators need an alternative to what has turned into a commercial network...

— Robin Rendar, Director of the University of Cincinnati's Computer Center

"There was quite a bit of excitement about the project," she said. "When you get the top 100 research universities in the country together, it demonstrates how serious everyone is about Internet 2."

Developers say the new net will be the fastest network in the country. It is ten times faster than the current Internet and much more versatile.

Universities are especially interested in "distance learning," where students can be in one part of the world and teachers in another. However, to make that work requires immense electronic transmission capacities like the ones planned for the new net.

"The last time we tried something like this, we spawned a multibillion dollar industry," said David Parke of the University of Pennsylvania.

Internet 2 developers hope to have the first sites connected within six months and expect operations to really get rolling in 18 to 24 months.

"It's going to be a tight year regarding the budget," Dalton said. He encouraged all senators to take a look at the finances of the ASUI, general budget, and talk about budget considerations.
Boise — The Idaho Legislature began the second half of the 1997 session Monday, and the tough decisions remain ahead for lawmakers — including how to balance the new state budget.

After a series of closed-door strategy sessions last week, the majority Republicans have decided to make a serious effort to trim GOP Gov. Phil Burt's bare-bones budget even more.

That's bad news for state employees and public schools.

Republicans have decided to skip planned 2 percent pay raises for state workers to save $8 million. And in an almost unprecedented action, lawmakers at week's end were talking about trying to cut $10.7 million from state public school funding.

"There's not much else we can do with the money we have," House Speaker Michael Simpson said.

Lawmakers fear even Burt's extremely conservative estimate of state revenues in the 12 months starting July 1 is too high.

With the additional prospect of serious spring flooding, leaders want to put about $10 million into a reserve account just in case.

Simpson acknowledged it would not be easy for lawmakers to cut further into a proposed public school budget that provides only minimal increases to start with.

"It is a very, very hard decision," he said.

"We're looking at everything — and the school budget may be smaller.

But the actual cutback in public school support may be smaller. About $7 million is expected to be available from surplus cash earned from state lands — money that can be used only for education purposes.

Reducing school support by $3.7 million from the original aid package reflects smaller-than-anticipated enrollment growth and a larger number of newer, less experienced teachers. That reduces the state's required contribution to school district salaries.

Lawmakers have been advised that public schools can get through without serious harm being done by a cut that size — at least for the next year.

Burt had to impose across-the-board spending cuts of 2 percent and 2.5 percent during the past two budget years when tax revenues failed to live up to projections, but public schools have been protected.

After hearing new budget requests for the last five weeks, the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee is cutting actual budgets this week. Agencies have been warned that they can expect little in the way of funding for equipment purchases or new employees.

Besides tight finances, the Legislature has many other issues to decide during the sixth week of the session.

On Friday, two bills on employee drug and alcohol testing were approved for introduction in the House Labor and Human Resources Committee. They will have to compete with a measure sponsored by the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry introduced in the Senate.

J. Baird Collicott, professor of philosophy at the University of North Texas, lectured on conservation concepts including biodiversity and ecological integrity Thursday at Washington State University.

Survey: UI must give public new perception

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The University of Idaho is perceived by the public as a "hot tier" institution of better learning, according to a survey.

But the school's overall image was likened to a "vague shadow that begs for substance." What is more, the only clear public perception of Idaho was that of an isolated party college in which 60 percent of college-bound Idaho students will not enroll.

The bittersweet results were unveiled Thursday to school officials and student leaders by Kristy Olavesson of the Boise-based Popular survey firm. The school hired the firm to assess the school's image among the general public and some target groups.

To improve its image, Olavesson recommended, the school must build on its many strengths and its relationship with the public. As for the negative party college image, she suggested school officials directly counter the image, but instead focus on the commitment to academics and a safe living environment.

"You're a university and by virtue of that you can expect that there is some partying going on," she said.

Even if reality shows the partying to be no worse than other Western schools, the survey shows the public perception to be otherwise, she said.

When residents interviewed were asked what is the first negative thing that comes to mind about the Moscow school, 15 percent volun-
teed it has a wild reputation.

In comparison, 2 percent said Idaho State has such a reputation and just 1 percent confided Boise State with the image.

A total of 711 people statewide were interviewed in December. In addition to the general public, the target groups were school alumni, high school guidance counselors, parents of students who opted not to go to Idaho, and state leaders.

As for the negative image of being isolated, Olavesson suggested that in reality "it's not so much physical as it is a psychological distance."

The biggest problem related to higher education at Idaho was affordability, the survey said.

Olavesson said the university must "demonstrate incredible value for the expense."

Despite its perceived problems, Idaho ranked fifth among 27 institutions from best to worst. Stanford University ranked highest, with Eastern Oregon State College at the bottom. Idaho State came in 15th, Boise State 20th and Lewis-Clark State College 23rd.

Academic programs at Idaho also received high marks, with 34 percent rating the school for its programs and major, compared with 15 and 8 percent for Idaho State and Boise State, respectively.

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Idaho Power tests computer control of home appliances

Associated Press

BOISE — Idaho Power Co. has started a six-month experiment in controlling home appliances with personal computers.

The goal is to find out whether consumers will pay for such a service.

Idaho Power Resources Corp. has purchased rights to a system manufactured by Tampa, Fla.-based TeCom Inc., and it has asked its employees to test the concept.

It works like this: A box containing a microprocessor is mounted outside a house near the power meter. Inside is a power line modem that transmits signals from a power line to a personal computer, a meter module that stores information and several "smart devices" attached to the cords of appliances.

No rewiring of the house is needed to make the system operate. The modem simply plugs into a socket.

The computer then communicates with the appliances by sending signals over the wiring in the house.

"When the system is installed and working, your home actually becomes a local area network," Mike Youngblood, a strategic planning associate for Idaho Power Resources, said Friday.

The system can be programmed by the homeowner so lights, water heaters, air conditioners and other appliances come on and go off at selected times. It can be used by vacationers to control house lights at night. Or it can be programmed so the coffee maker and hall lights come on just before a person gets up in the morning.

Youngblood said, "We think this system will end up costing between $1,000 and $2,000 to install in a home."

Youngblood said, "But at this point, we really don't know."

Youngblood believes the system can be integrated with electronic billing on the Internet. And at some time in the future it might also take the place of meter readers in the field.

"We're married to the concept, but not necessarily to the product," Youngblood said. To test the system, Idaho Power had to pay TeCom $250,000 for its market access program.

States get school Internet

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Claiming great strides toward the promise to link every American classroom and library to the computer Internet, the Clinton administration is releasing the first of $200 million in grants for equipment and training.

In his weekly radio address, Clinton also said a new survey by the Education Department found that 65 percent of schools were connected to the Internet as of last fall,

compared with 35 percent in 1994.

"We are making a lot of progress," he said. But the survey also found that just one in five public school teachers used advanced telecommunications for teaching, and only 13 percent of public schools required teacher training in the technology.

Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, who joined in the radio broadcast, had pledged in their re-election campaign to help wire every American classroom and library to the Internet by 2000.
Change Hello Walk to Ignore Us Walk

Here’s a little something to remember next time you’re sitting in a computer lab... An individual easily described as socially unstable began ranting at a computer lab assistant last week and punched him rather roughly in the face for no other reason — or so the assistant, those at the lab and the attending police officers say — than a white.

While this is greatly laughable, isolated incident, it makes one wonder who the next person to blow up like that is going to be, and certainly makes one wary in one’s everyday dealings with others who may look normal on the outside but on the inside are two kites past the end of their rope.

A friend pointed out to me last semester an individual he’d seen many times on- and off-campus but never with a smile on her face. Being conditioned that one does not try into the mental well-being of a total stranger, we have never bothered to find out why she is so outwardly unhappy, or indeed if she were unhappy at all. Her unhappy face became a mere bit of Minneapolis background, like dirty car parks in the side of the road or mountains of dirty snow covered with gravel. Maybe a hello would have brightened her day if only for a few seconds, but why take that chance when that hello could be the one last straw to snap the camel’s back?

The University of Idaho Hello Walk is a mute testament to our increasingly inward-thinking mentalities. So much so that, in fact, few incoming students know where exactly the Hello Walk is. (So as not to add another exception to the file of the apocryphal, the Hello Walk is in the sidewalk from the Administration Building to the corner of University and Elm Streets.) Formerly where students exchanged if not necessarily heartfelt at least loud helloes, students of today pass each other straining to avoid eye contact, feigning a sudden interest in nature or sidewalk concrete in order to avoid the chance event of actually exchanging a brief meaningless word with another human being.

It’s as if we fear individual communication. We’re more friendly with our “Friends” from television; hold longer discussions with distant siliconized individuals than we do speaking to our neighbors.

I feel sorry for some of my professors. Some literally beg us to talk, to discuss, to answer questions, but we prefer to sit mute or exchange cute little words with our buddies than actually try to say anything which would contribute to our education or the education of someone else. We don’t fear failure as much as we fear the sounds of our own voices.

Part of growing up, part of becoming educated is occasionally slipping out of our communication comfort zones and actually taking a chance with the spoken word. The fear of randomly being the one to push someone’s hair out of their face or of sounding like something wrong should not stop us from taking that chance to expand our minds and perhaps have a positive effect on another person. Our generation consumes information like no other generation before it. With the unprecedented availability and variety of television, newspapers, magazines and books, we find our days filled with the clamor of others wishing to communicate their thoughts and opinions with us. Then, when offered the rare chance to communicate with them, the majority of us simply say, “Oh, um, yeah, it was neat,” or another such ready-made sound bite as our information-saturated brains lust after. The only human command to activate that dusty speech center are those dusty vocal chords. Simple helloes simply stick in our throats.

—Brian Davidson

Why Rush is right, wrong, but mostly just narrow

W

you, all you dittoheads. Ease those vital signs back into the normal range. This isn’t just your average one-sided anti-Rush rant. And your “Rush” types can relax, too. I’m not exactly here to sing his praises, either. Not that the ranting one needs little of the me to do either. Limbaugh is, of course, the most listened to radio personality in the history of the medium. His broadcasts have been both hallowed and hated all over the country with only one predictable result: His ratings keep going through the roof.

The story’s so different locally according to Ash Ernst at KQOQ 1150 AM in Pullman. Ernst said the Limbaugh Show, which airs live from 9 a.m. to noon locally is the “breath and butt” of his station’s business. According to: Willliams Research, Inc, KQOQ has the top audience share among listeners in the 35-plus age bracket for the 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. time slot. That’s thanks mainly to folks, a top ten on Limbaugh, and then tend to stay tuned to the programs which follow his noon sign-off.

Of course, Limbaugh is much less popular with the younger, more music-oriented age groups. But the loyalty and relative influence of the Limbaugh audience gives his show irreparable appeal to advertisers. So obviously one of the major failings for the Rush phenomenon is economic. His show sells, and after all, that’s what the radio biz is all about. But there’s much more to it than just bucks. What are the other secrets of such unprecedented staying power?

Most importantly is it professionalism and extremely high production standards that make Limbaugh work. Rush’s slick package of mainstream corporate conservation contains a few elements that make it truly groundbreaking. Combining metal and garage-bumper music with extended dia-

Log

—Opinion Gap

Tim Lohrmann

Limbaugh uses on his opponents the same skills to which [democrats] had formerly had exclusive rights: wit and worldliness

and of it. The situation resembles nothing so much as the Nixon Administration’s epic face-off with out-for-blood Congressional Democrats. Supported by the press and legions of formerly radical liberal activists, the Democrats did the right thing in exposing Nixon’s crimes and misdeeds.

Now the liberals have the unenviable chore of defending a Clinton Administration whose misdeeds — including blatant influ-

tence-peddling (which used to be known as simple bribery) and illegal use of supposed-ly confidential FBI files — would make even Nixon and his felonious cronies blush.

So let’s face it. Now the liberal activist crowd has allowed their worst fears to come true. Now that they’re part of a corrupt elite almost identical to the one they came of political age rebelling against, they don’t have much self-respect any more. All they’ve got left is a diminishing pretense at occupying moral high ground. And now this Limbaugh is exactly what they want.

So yeah, Limbaugh is funny. He has defi-

initely got the big time resources to put out a commercially attractive product. The prob-

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The Argonaut welcomes reader letters and guest columns. Letters must be typed, double spaced, signed and include the phone number and address of each writer. Letters may also be submitted by e-mail to argonaut@uidaho.edu or by fax to (208) 885-2222. The Argonaut reserves the right to refuse or edit letters. Guest columns must go through the same editing and approval process as our staff columns. Letters submitted in the Opinion section are those of the writers. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Argonaut or the Associated Students of the University of Idaho.

*SEE RUSH PAGE 9
UI’s tough choice: elitism or extensionism

So, the University of Idaho wants a better image. Like any commodity — fast food burgers, athletic shoes, bubble gum or sinus medicines — education must be pre-packaged and tailored to attract customers who aren’t really sure what they want to do in life or if there’ll be any jobs around when they’re ready for them but sure as heck know they want their MTV.

Free with your bachelor of arts or sciences degree, and without obligation to you, you will receive the following exciting items: golf courses you’ll never use, image consultants to tell you which brand of pop-diversity to adhere to and statewide surveys which tell you 13 percent of those polled think UI is a “party” school and they’re not talking about the red star Latah County Grain Growers puts up the silos every Sparkle Season. (Christmas, for the euphemistically challenged).

Enrollment at UI is dropping, and marketing will tell you that any drop in the use of your product must mean your product is bad, stagnating, or — heaven forbid — this ever be thought of any institution of higher learning — “uncool.”

Time to unveil UI’s version of New Coke.

What do Idahoans want from their flagship university? A simple re-reading of the numbers and inferences gathered in a recent statewide survey conducted for the university would tell a lot.

The survey says enrollment in Moscow is falling, which of course incites our collection of administrative and academic Chicken Little into bureaucratic frenzy and idiot institutional loyalty before they realize the sky isn’t actually falling.

Enrollment at UI’s extensions in Coeur d’Alene, Boise and Idaho Falls are going through the roof, more than making up for the perceived “drop” in overall enrollment. If the university is sincere in its promises to answer to consumer demand, they will notice enrollment trends are pointing towards more accessible community-based instruction rather than an elitist collection of the best UI can offer on the parent Moscow campus which like it or not is on the other edge of a major physical and psychological gulf from the bulk of the state’s population.

Elitists sneer that UI’s enrollment figures are barely ahead of those at Mormon church-owned Ricks College in Rexburg and disdainfully remark that’s because Ricks is where all the little Mormon boys and girls go to college. This is said as if Ricks does not contribute in a positive way in educating Idaho’s students and as if Mormonism was not a religion but the newest social disease. What seems to be aside the point is that Ricks fills with quality instruction and unpretentious commitment to students a beneficial niche in Idaho’s higher education ladder.

The state of California established one of the most extensive and well-respected systems of higher education in the world by massing the best programs at a few select universities but by sharing the wealth with communities in every corner of the state. A small state such as Idaho cannot hope to meet California’s tax base, but the state’s higher educational system could easily — with many programs already in place — put together a system similar to California’s but on a much more modest scale.

Idaho’s four state colleges and universities ought to compete in sports venues, but competing and bickering with each others as if they were Wal-Marts and Targets over funding, programs and which school has the best image statewide is counterproductive to what should be each institution’s goal and a goal of a cooperative higher education system in Idaho education.

Idaho needs less petty “my pop’s bigger than your pop” arguments between the administrations, faculties, students and alumni of ISU and UI and more following in the footsteps of ISU and LCSC where worry seems placed less on image and more on education. I want a degree from UI so I can get a job, not as I can put a little sticker on my window and razz anybody I see with Ada county license plates. I came to UI because of its communication programs, not because

• SEE ELITISM P14

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len is that it requires all this fancy window dressing to hide his own ugly little agenda. That seems to be effectively reducing all political discourse to a black and white labeling process. If someone doesn't subscribe to his own personal brand of sanitized conservation, then that person is one of two things: either a liberal (read Democrat of any leaning) or a third-party wacko.

Limbaugh's "third-party wackos" are everyone else. That simplifies things, doesn't it?

No need to think the issues through any more. If anyone had an original thought that doesn't fit one of two increasingly similar big money special interest agendas, just pin on the wacko label and forget 'em.

A recent caller got a taste of this when she protested Limbaugh's labeling her as a liberal. This time he didn't even remember to fall back on "wacko" as a way out. He just insisted she had to be a liberal because she disagreed with him on some minor point.

A new Rush trend, perhaps? Does he believe allowing even a third viewpoint label to be used would be too confusing, or tempting for his busy listeners? Maybe he has considered the matter and has come to the conclusion that liberal/conservative, conservative/liberal on and on ad nauseum is all ditoheads can handle, even with all the evidence to the contrary.

Evidence is that such vacant overgeneralization is killing your political system. Look at the last election, when only 49 percent of registered voters voted — many holding their noses to the point of pain — showed up at the polls. So if Rush is right, the vast majority of eligible voters, both registered and unregistered, must be "third-party wackos." After all, they refused to qualify for either the liberal or conservative labels. What other explanation could there be?

Maybe they've decided to take the famous advice of one of Limbaugh's heroes, Ronald Reagan, and "vote with their feet" by staying home on Election Day. Maybe they just don't see the use in buying into the liberal/conservative, left/right debate any more.

Rush Limbaugh is a talented, powerful fellow. It's a shame he doesn't have more respect for his audience. Respect enough to allow wide-ranging debate instead of more labeling. It may be that those dissatisfied voters, all the ones that are crammed under Limbaugh's narrow wacko flag might find someone or some movement they can agree on. If they do, the steeping giant will awake, and the political earth will move. Then the Limbaugh "conservatives" and the Clinton "liberals" who rule by default, will be revealed as the irrelevants political fringe they really are. Rush is entertaining. He makes some happy and others furious. But what if you want to discuss the fundamental change our political system really needs? Too bad. Rush just doesn't want to talk about it.
Vandal women split at home, beat Cal-Poly

Damon Barkdoll

T he Alli Nieman Show, starring Idaho’s true fresh-
men sensation, didn’t start until the end of inter-
mission Monday afternoon’s clash in Memorial
Gym.

When it did, though, Cal-Poly SLO could only
play the part of a spectator.
The Sandpoint native scored a cure time 27 points,
in the second half to lead Idaho (10-1, 5-1)
to a 79-59 Big West Conference win over the Mustangs
(12-17, 8-9) in front of 2,822 excited fans.

“I think a lot of Alli Nieman,” said Cal-Poly coach
Karen Booker, who tried recruiting Nieman out of high
school. “She’s a wuasfully talented player and I know
her best years are ahead of her — which is scary.”

Truly scary.

Although, the horrific part of Sunday’s game was the
Vandals almost allowing the Mustangs to make the
game interesting.

At halftime Idaho held the slim 31-25 lead and
looked big slapping in the first half, showing just 28 points
from the field. Nieman was even benched by UI
eocal coach Holt because her young pupil was out of sync.

Nieman responded, not with frustration or anger but
with six straight Idaho points in a 1-2 run.

“I wasn’t really pleased,” Nieman said. “I
knew it was too off at halftime and came out and played
better in the second half.”

During the 12-2 run, the Vandals led by 16 twice
and hoped to put up the Mustang menace. However, the
second half Cal-Poly would again challenge the Vandals.

With 8:12 remaining, Idaho led by 18 after a
Nieman three-point bucket. The Mustangs then began to
climb back. Cal-Poly used five three-pointers in a six
minute span to bring the Mustangs within 10 at the 2:24 mark.

Although, in order to get the ball back Cal-Poly
forced to foul and Idaho’s Art Skorpic and Kelli
Johnson connected to score on all seven free throws to
secure the Idaho win.

In the second half Idaho shot 36 percent from the field
improving to 37 percent from the field.

Besides Nieman, Idaho received help from a behind
the scene star, junior Lauren Newman.

Newman, who came to Moscow this season from
Ontario, Calif., pulled down 12 rebounds. Her help on
the boards gave Idaho the 57-37 advantage in the
rebounding department.

Newman’s effort won Holt’s approval.

“She (Newman) was the only player to really spark
this team,” Holt said. “She got people firing up. She
did a great job of on the boards for us. She led our team
in rebounds, that’s why she’s here.”

Skorpic Idaho’s second-leading scorer with 16
points respectively.

Cal-Poly was led by Kristine Barnes’ 12 points.

This was the second Idaho didn’t play until Sunday
at home against Nevada and receive some must needed
points.

“It’s great timing, we need it,” Holt said.

“Most kids had a few points, they’re a little too stressed.
That’s the tough part of playing Friday and Sunday.”

UC-Santa Barbara against Idaho (Friday)

Not to be outdone Idaho have the task of taking on the
Big West Conference bully and their all-conference
center.

Nate Peterson

Two

Although it is early in the season, the 1997 men’s
indoors track team is on pace to make this one
one of its most memorable and successful seasons
with a win over Washington State this weekend.

“It was a nice win,” said UI coach Mike Keller.
“After we didn’t impressively go out they to start
with beat them.”

The Vandals may not have had initial intentions
of defeating their Palouse rival but their actions quickly
created a new narrative of defeating a team they had not beaten since a 1946 outdoor meet.

“I just think everything kind of came our way so to
speak,” Keller said. “Everybody competed in the
season a few weeks early.”

Keller was quick to point out that the Vandals
may have been easier to beat in the future.

“The Vandals didn’t dominate the competition by
any means but they did win eight events including
seven track events,” Keller said.

“Nobody performed fantastic,” Keller said. “I just
thought our team had a much better performance around.”

Idaho came away with four field events, winning in
the high jump, triple jump and 35-pound weight
throw.

Nate Petersen

200

Nels Knoller won the long jump with a mark of
24.7. Geoff Judd blew the high jump competition away
finishing at 6-10.5. Chris Kwakwamba set a mark of
5-10.1. Kyle Daley won the weight throw handily
with his 38.3 toss.

In the long distance field, Bernd Schroeder placed
second in the mile with a time of 4:14. Frank Bruder,
also placed second in his 3,000-meter run with a
time of 8:33.

Most impressively were the short distance runners
competing in the 50-, 200- and 400-meter races.

Jason St. Hill and Knoller came first and second
place in 200 with times of 21.48 and 21.55.

The two tied the same in the 50-meter. Only
this time with Knoller in first place and Hill in
second with times of 6.36 and 6.41.

Tawanda Chiwewe and Koji Kamagari dominated
the 400 heat, placing first and second with times of
47.22 and 48.30.

Kamagari’s presence was felt in the 400-meter relay,
in which the team raced to a time of 3:15.35, scouring the closest competitor.

At this point, Keller and his team will be focusing
on the goal of qualifying athletes for nationals. This
next meet may be the time that a few of them reach it.

Especially for Chiwewe and Kamagari.

Amy Smith but the Vandals were playing in front of the
biggest women’s basketball crowd in program history.

In Memorial Gym, 1,846 made their way to Moscow
for a conference matchup between the UC-Santa
Barbara Gauchos.

The big draw on this night was Gauchos freshman
Stacy Cilimont, a Spokane native who invited a
portion of her hometown to come watch her play.

However, the key that stopped was freshmen Nieman
matching her youthful play against Gauchos Amy Smith, a
sophomore. In the end, experience won out as 65-
63.

With 8:19 remaining, Nieman hit a three-pointer and
edged the Vandals closer to their nemesis on the way
to 53-49.

But UC-Santa then went on a 13-0 run sparked by
Smith’s inside play as the Gauchos distanced them-
severs from the home team.

“We didn’t play to win and that’s not like our
team,” Holt said.

Nieman finished the outing with 11 points, much to
the credit of the Gauchos defense. Several times in
the game, Nieman was picking herself off of the court
and didn’t get the officials whistle in the process.

The Sandpoint native went to the foul line twice and
missed both shots.

Idaho’s leading scorer in the game was guard Ari
Skorpic who finished with 13 points, three assists and
three steals.

“We felt we could beat them,” Skorpic said. “We
felt to hold them to 67 points when they’re averaging 86. It’s
disappointing — hopefully we can meet in the Big
West Championship game.”

Vandals Kelli Johnson added 12 points respectively.

Rebounding played a major role for the Gauchos
for the Vandals. The Gauchos grabbed 53 boards com-
ing to the Vandals 21 boards.

Gauchos center, Amy Smith led all scorers with 21
points.

Idaho shot 33 percent from the field.

10 Tue, Feb. 11, 1997
TUEssay
Vandals lose two on the road

Byron Jarnagin

The Cal-Poly Mustangs crushed the Vandals 72-51, putting an exclamation point on Idaho's 0-2 record on the road this weekend. On Thursday night, the Vandals fell to UC Santa Barbara, losing 69-54.

In a must-win situation, the Idaho Vandals folded under the pressure Saturday afternoon. Idaho (10-3, 3-7) needed to win at least one game on the road to give themselves a better chance to stay within contention of a Big West Tournament berth.

"Our team really took some major steps backwards this trip and we have really competitive throughout the year," said UI coach Kermit Davis. "Our guys tried today but our quality of play was just horrendous. We just have not been executing any offense at all. We get the three-point shots and all, we talk about is how we are switching hard to guard against the three.

"The Vandals didn't get a good start against the Mustangs and once again the Idaho turnover problem has returned, killing any chances of winning Saturday.

The Vandals were living of Kevin Byrne's two foul shots for the first few minutes as the Vandals trailed 11-2 early. The Vandals got off to an inadequate start with the turnovers and not keeping Cal-Poly in check from the three-point line.

With 14:00 left in the first half the Vandals recorded nine turnovers and the Mustangs tallied up five three-pointers. Off of Eddic Turnes' trillion, the Vandals were on a 7-2 run.

The Vandals were having problems all over the court throwing the ball away, making bad shots and not capitalizing on the free-throws. With 9:30 left in the first half, the Vandals lost one of their main starters, the specialist. Jason Jackman, who usually filled his team in total points, got into some foul trouble and watched most of the game from the bench with the first five fouls. All three calls were for elbows down low.

Cal-Poly usually not known as a team who takes the ball to the hole, had a three-point parade the entire game and with Jackman unable to counterbalance the Mustang offense, the Vandals worked themselves into a hole.

With 2:27 left, Cal-Poly's Ben Larson made his mark in the first half hitting 5-6 threes. At the end of the first period, the Vandals only had 10 points from the line, 13 points from the field, and Jackman had no points.

The Mustang's big numbers came in the three-point department nailing 8-15 and only 12-31 from the field.

Idaho started the second half with a turnover, bringing the total to 19 and Jackman found his first two points of the game. With 13.00 left in the game, Jackman was called for his fourth foul. With the permanent loss of Jackman and the continued success from behind the three-point arch, the Mustangs were starting to take the Vandals out of the game. Ben Larson was on fire hitting two more three-pointers.

The Vandals turned the ball over 26 times and the Cal-Poly Mustangs went 13-23 from three-point range, helping to break their lose. • SEE CAL-POLY PAGE 13

Let's get ready to rumble: Cougars come to Moscow

Damon Barkdull

Anytime Washington State takes the eight-mile trek to its little brother university, you can be assured tensions will run high, attendance is up par and any outcome is possible.

This is especially true of men's college basketball whereas the Vandals hold the 6-4 series edge over the Cougars when the games are played in the Kibbie Dome. Overall, the series record is 147-104 in favor of Washington State.

Thursday at 7:05 p.m. in the Kibbie Dome, Washington State (11-11, 3-8) will duke it out with the University of Idaho (10-13, 2-7) in the Vandals final non-conference home game of the season.

These two teams met earlier in the year in Pullman. Idaho raced out to a 5-0 lead but the Cougars outscored the Vandals 33-10 in the rest of the first half. Washington State had 15 points in the first half.

Washington State had just 21 points as Idaho had a hard time defending All-American Isaac Fontaine. Fontaine finished the outing with 27 points.

The Cougars went on to win 69-57.

Since then both schools have gone their own route — similarly, both schools lost important conference games on the road on Thursday and Sunday. Idaho died in California, losing to both UC-Santa Barbara and Cal-Poly SLO while WSU fumbled against Oregon State and Oregon.

Neither team has had time to rest.

"You would like to after this trip have two or three days of good practice," said UI coach Kermit Davis. "While you're trying to correct some of your problems now you're trying to put out another opponent. It's a real difficult opponent for us."

In essence, tonight's battle gives both teams little time to prepare. "We're a little tired," said WSU coach Kevin Eastman. "We need the day off. It's hard to find open dates on the schedule that are mutual."

Although UI and WSU are both a tight jat and a bit of the conference blues (both teams have only three wins in conference), don't expect the Vandals-Cougar brawl to be a walk in the park.

"We never felt playing them was easy," Eastman said, in light of WSU's 12-point victory earlier this season. "We know it's going to be hard. It wasn't easy here. It should be a pretty good game — we know they'll have a pretty good crowd."

And one of the Cougars are dragging behind the rest of the PAC-10, Davis knows how close WSU is to having more wins than losses.

"I thought they played really well and really hard
Gussett adds personality to women's basketball team

Kindra Meyer
Assistant Sports Editor

The diagnosis? A team brimming with potential — simply asking to be used.

The Gussett candidacy is following a number of testing ingredients including determination, style and attitude in a Vandals team that continues to tear apart Big West foes.

Let's talk determination. A transfer from Lassen Junior College, this athlete won over coach Julie Holt due to her competitive drive.

"Having her as a part of this team has really been positive," Holt said. "One of the things that the coaching staff liked about her in recruiting was how competitive she is and how she can make things happen on the floor."

At Lassen JC, she averaged 17 points and eight rebounds a game, which helped her team to the conference title and a birth in the regional final. Now she is aiding the Vandals in their quest for a Big West championship.

Adjusting to Idaho's team wasn't the hard part. In fact, Gussett felt somewhat at ease because so many other players were in her shoes.

"It was easy becoming part of the team because there were six other people like me who knew where I was coming from," Gussett said.

With such a diverse group, Gussett had no trouble blending in. The challenge was in her position. Recruited as a forward, where she had played all her life, she was notified that Idaho needed her as a guard.

"When she played high position — going from the four to a three — that's where we needed her due to injuries and a shortage in depth," Holt said. "It took her a while to get adjusted to that position but now she really has come into her own."

Gussett admits the change challenged her but feels at home now.

"It was hard because at my JC I had a lot of freedom, it was my team and I could do what I wanted," Gussett said. "When I got here I knew I would be on the outside all the time and it pulled me out of the comfort zone."

"Gussett's role on the team is not only putting numbers up on the board. Although she is a new addition, leadership and inspiration are all part of the package."

"I think I am the emotional spark-plug of the team, I bring in a lot of hard work and competitiveness," Gussett said. "I may not do a lot of things on the floor but I'm very emotional and positive."

Modesty must also be a quality that Gussett possesses because she does plenty on the floor. Gussett's work ethic grows from the heart and springs out of necessity. Her size does help defend lower on the boards but all those years trained as a post did not side her quickness.

"I know I'm not fast. But if I work harder than everybody else on the floor I can make up for anything I lack," Gussett said. • SEE GUSSETT PAGE 13

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DOMINIC DE LUCA
OF PAGE 12

Due to her speed deficit, defense is one weakness Gussert is determined to improve. Because she has been playing out of her element, her guard defense is not in top shape — with a little help from her team members she hopes to raise it.

"I really have to rely on my teammates when I get beat and they have done a great job helping me," Gussert said.

It’s difficult not to notice the 5-11 guard’s game personality. Excellent and full of energy, she is neither shy nor timid — always quick to fluster a competitor or pick up a teammate in her daily life though, she refrain from being quite so vocal.

"It’s really comfortable out on the floor with my teammates. Around my closer friends I’m outspoken like that but I’m pretty quiet most situations. The basketball floor is my home," Gussert said.

There is no way to write a feature on Gussert without mentioning her style. If you’ve ever attended a Vandals game you would know why. Donning everything from tiny brasids and crazy shoes to shaved eyebrows, she always stands out. And although her eclectic additions (or removals) are for fun, they do sometimes serve practical purposes.

"It gives me a little individuality but I also think it takes away from their game. When competition work out on the floor I get reactions and when they are reacting to me they are out of their game mentally," Gussert said.

Stirring up the enthusiasm of the players and the spectators is all part of her game. The bask-
ketball floor is Gussert’s stage and she gives the court is a merely a thank-you to the sport she loves.

"Basketball has given me everything," Gussert said. "It has given me the opportunity to get an education which will eventually help me get a job. The lessons I have learned about hard work, desire and never giving up will prepare me for anything in life.

With a solid number of Big West wins in their picks, Gussert believes her team is nearing the top of their game and she has both one focus and one goal.

"There’s no doubt in my mind that we should win the Big West Tournament," Gussert said.
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